



LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB  
First established 1943

April 2012

## Meetings Schedule

LVGC meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at St. Clement's Church.  
3400 Institute Road

**Please note that meetings start promptly at 7:15 pm.**

## Message from the President

Hope you all enjoyed Charlie Sale's presentation at our March meeting. When you see how much work he and Margaret Charlton have put, and are still putting into Bucket Hill, it is amazing. All those rock walls - hand built. As Charlie mentioned, they are both in their eighties now, and need to take it a little easier - such dedication and plant knowledge, and a wonderful love story to add to the magic.

One has to wonder what will eventually become of their garden. As with Darts Hill, The Glades and the Dodds garden they really are an endangered species. Most of these properties were purchased many years ago, when land was reasonable to buy. In these times any sizeable lots are pretty well out of reach, both in price and availability, and many couples are busy working and just don't have the time needed to look after these large gardens.

Fortunately Darts Hill has been acquired by City of Surrey, so its future is assured.

Most of these gardens have a wealth of wonderful (and sometimes rare) plants in them - we just have to hope that somehow they will be preserved and maintained when present owners are no longer able to do this. Speaking of large gardens, there was an excellent article by Steve Whysall in the March 17<sup>th</sup> Vancouver Sun on the Dodds garden. This is the second stop on our bus trip. Steve says it is his favourite garden in all British Columbia, so it's going to be a treat to see.

Just had first sunny weekend of the year - was so wonderful to get out and garden in the sunshine. I had to ignore the dust bunnies who were staring at me from under my couch. At this time of year, housework gets done on a "need to" basis, and fortunately I determine the need level!

Plans for our June 9 Bus Trip are going well. We have pretty well filled the bus now. I'm asking that all people who have signed up bring \$15 cash to our April meeting to confirm and hold your space. I realize that those people who do not receive this Leaf by e-mail, will not be aware of this request until day of meeting, (although we will be trying to contact this group by phone) so if you don't have cash on you, we will collect from you at May meeting. We are asking for cash payment as we have a limit on number of cheques we can deposit without charges, whereas we can make one cash deposit at no charge. We will likely have a waiting list, so if you signed up and find you cannot make it, please let me know so somebody else can have your seat.

We had some lively discussion about pros and cons of keeping backyard chickens at our March meeting. I attended the City hearing on Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The mayor and councilors unanimously accepted the proposed change to by-laws to permit the keeping of hens, subject to a study by City staff. District hearing is scheduled for April 16.

Steve Whysall gave our Club a nice mention in his Vancouver Sun article about Plant Sales. So many interesting sales this time of year. I went to Alpine Garden Club plant sale on Easter weekend - so many wonderful plants, many of them just not available in regular nurseries. Just not enough days in the week this time of year!

Happy Spring gardening!

*Rosemarie Adams*

**April 19, 2012**  
**Elaine Senft**  
**Roses**

**May 17, 2012**  
**Judy Lashley**  
**Hypertufa**  
**demonstration**  
**&**  
**TBA**  
**Vegetable**  
**gardening.**

**June 21, 2012**  
**TBA**

**Mailing Address:**  
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North Vancouver, BC  
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<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>



## 2012 Executive

### President

*Rosemarie Adams*

### Vice President

*Pat Holmes*

### Secretary

*Bernie Robb*

*Norma Buckland*

### Treasurer

*Harvey Lawson*

### Membership

*Doreen Marbry*

*Diane Sekora*

### Members at Large

*Nancy Gelin*

*Cari Wineberg*

*Rita Marshall*

*Chris Pharo*

### Newsletter Editor

*Lynn Batt*

[theleaf@lynnvalleygardenclub.org](mailto:theleaf@lynnvalleygardenclub.org)

### COMMITTEES

#### Plant Table

*Christel Glazer*

#### Hospitality

*Doreen Wakefield*

*Pat Phillips*

#### Bright Spots

*vacant*

#### Sunshine/Door Prizes

*Carol Ferryman*

#### Sound System Set-up

*Maurice Jones*

*Hartwig Rother*

#### Website

*Brian Didier*

### Next Executive Meeting:

**May 3, 2012**

**At the home of**

**Diane Sekora**

### The Leaf Deadline:

**May 6, 2012**



### Treasurers Report

*Harvey Lawson*

We have written cheques for donations.

Leaving a bank balance of \$



### Tea Time

*Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips*

Please bring your own mug and remember the coffee we serve is decaffeinated.



### from the Editor

*Lynn Batt*

Thank you for the newsletter submissions. Please send more.



### Sunshine

*Carol Ferryman*

Please let us know of any members who are ill or have lost a loved one.

**Donations of new items for door prizes are always appreciated.**



### Membership

*Doreen Marbry, Diane Sekora*

This month we are pleased to welcome 4 new members to our club bringing enrollment to the maximum of 125 members. We will now start a waiting list. Our newest members are Yvonne Camenzind Kabata, Marie Pringle, Pam Bromhead and Judy Sullivan.

We appreciate the positive feedback we hear about our Lynn Valley Garden Club and the reasons why people want to join. Kudos to all!

Anyone wanting to come as a guest or bring a guest can sign in and pay \$3.00 per meeting.



### This Month's Speaker

*Pat Holmes*

Some of you may remember Elaine Senft, she was a Lynn Valley Garden Club member for many years. Elaine is very knowledgeable about roses and speaks about them all over the lower mainland. She has grown roses for 30 years and now has around 350 roses, mostly Old Garden beauties. Elaine has travelled extensively to World Federation of Roses events, this October to South Africa and she is a member of Great Rosarians of the World venue in California and other places. Elaine is a consultant on behalf of the VRS for the North Shore.

### Earth Day

**In support of Earth Day St.Clements Church is having a Clean Up day of the church grounds on Saturday April 21st - from 10 am to 12 noon.**

**In addition to Church Congregation, Church is hoping that local groups who rent the hall will support their efforts. Coffee will be served. Please bring gloves and rake, hand tools etc.**

**.....Would be nice if our Club could help support the Church in this project. Just a couple of hours work.....**



## Members at Large Report

### The Plant Sale

May 12, 2012

Thanks to those who have already signed up for their volunteer time slots for both the Friday set-up and the sale itself on the Saturday. There are still about half the slots to be filled, so please sign up. The success of the sale depends not only on the plants, but on the people to make it happen. As usual, the more the merrier, and the faster it all goes. Please remember to wear your nametags on both Friday and Saturday (and if your MALs fail to make them available to you, remind us!), and if you have them, your green club Tshirts for the sale.

We'll be handing out lawn signs at the April general meeting, and a sign-out sheet will go around. The signs should only be put out a week before the sale, and taken down promptly after the sale, and returned at the May meeting that week (the 17th). We'll also be handing round mini-posters to go up in car windows or wherever you have the inspiration or the permission to post.

Many thanks in advance to all those members who have potted up the plants for the sale. These can be brought to the church mid-afternoon on Friday, May 11. Those of you who are new to this: please remember to label your plants as clearly as possible with as much information as you can fit on. (Sun or shade designations are especially important.) Cari has tons of reusable label sticks if anyone needs any. If anyone needs help getting plants to the sale, call Cari on her cell: 813-3273. **\*Please note:** it's really important to ensure your plant pots are cleaned up, not all muddy, so that we keep the church clean! Also, please trim up straggly bits to make the plants look as attractive as possible.

Here's a recap of the sale rules for members: each person on the first shift of the sale day can reserve one plant in the holding area, and then is free to shop during the second shift. Family members or friends can line up for you during the first shift and shop for you if you wish. Second-shifters are free to line up and shop during the first shift. These rules are meant to keep everything running fairly and smoothly, and to provide a happy experience for our customers from the public, our supporters.

*Cari Wineberg*



### Zero Waste Challenge & Green Can Food Waste Disposal

Recently I attended a forum about the Zero Waste Challenge: How do we get people/industry to change their behavior? One speaker proposed taxing products and services to reflect the actual environmental cost (and the burden of the actual cost will force people/industry to change their habits). I think most people would really prefer to modify their behavior voluntarily so here is one way to significantly decrease waste:

The week of May 1, 2012 North Vancouver single family residents who receive municipal garbage collection will be able to include food scraps for weekly curbside collection with their yard trimmings. This is a big part of Metro Vancouver waste reduction program; almost half of our garbage is food waste."

Use a 77L garbage can with a "Green Can" decal for any food scraps (fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, bones and plate scrapings), food-soiled paper and yard trimmings.

More information at <http://nsrp.bc.ca/>

*Lynn Batt*

#### **Backyard Chickens**

**Request to change by-laws to permit keeping of chickens goes before District Council on April 16th.  
If you wish to support this, please attend council meeting at 7pm at 355 West Queens Road.**

# BCCGC Council Meeting

March 3, 2012

The BCCGC affiliation fee is staying at \$35.00. The Scholarship Trust is staying with Van City Community Foundation. The BCCGC wants to give Van City the authority to dispense of the funds. There will be a vote at the next AGM to draft the terms of reference. The Scholarship fund is looking to give up the Society status but it is very complicated. Membership is now 171 clubs with a quorum being 20% which is 34 clubs. At this meeting 50 clubs were represented. The Master Gardeners and the Fraser Valley Rhododendron Society did not renew their membership.

All paperwork from the BCCGC should be in the mail which will include our insurance, a membership list and a speakers list. We are welcome to pass The Bulletin on to our membership via email or an individual can purchase an ebulletin for \$5.00. Companies can advertise for 10% more than the member's price. We now have 52 certified judges.

Some constitutional changes are coming and the election saw Cindy Tataryn as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Christine Kobel for Treasurer, Marilyn Holt as Editor and Beverly Welsh for Scholarship Trust.

Ann Kent spoke on *Gardens That Heal* and said we were very much ahead of the trend when Riverview was built in 1949 with its therapeutic garden. Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria also has a nice garden. Doctors are now prescribing a walk in the woods as it has been scientifically determined that certain molecules are being released. She mentioned the 7 restorative attributes for the home garden which are:

- An aspect that provides good light and airflow
- Trees and shrubs that have seasonal interest throughout the year
- Plant groupings that provide habitat for small birds, butterflies, bees, etc.
- A balance between open and planted space
- Strolling paths that go around corners and lead to sheltered places
- Sensory elements that generate fragrance, sound, movement of shadows, etc.
- Small water features

Further information can be found at her website [www.catkingardens.ca](http://www.catkingardens.ca)

We then heard from Ron Long about Pink Mountain. This is located 180km north of Fort St. John. There are many blue and red listed plants in this area. As long as this is left as it is there will be rare butterflies taken and many plants damaged due to the vehicular traffic in the area. Although some of the plants are known in other parts of BC they have never been recorded at this elevation or in these soil conditions. I started to write down every plant he referred to but there isn't enough space in this report so I'm certain if you query Pink Mountain on the Internet you will find many interesting facts. The flora was cataloged in 2010 and a geologist identified this as a unique area due to the alkalinity of the soil on this particular section of the mountain. So it is not just the mountain but this specific area that he hopes people will write to the government about and try and have protected as a park or protected area.

We enjoyed a lovely lunch and Audrey Pye took home the centrepiece which was a pot of iris reticulata. No one at our table won a door prize but our LVGC donation of a basket of mixed bulbs was snapped up quickly. I can't wait for the fall meeting as we see so many gardening friends from around the province. Thanks for sending me.

*Bonnie Noakes*

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## Oh Deer !

I love our wildlife on the North Shore, but after over 40 years of living here this is the first time I have experienced such destruction in my garden by deer.

I purchased hundreds of tulip bulbs last year from the Senior Centre, and spent hours planting them – every single one has been eaten ! (Fortunately they don't seem to like the daffodils – they are fine)

Every Bergenia in my garden has disappeared, most of the primulas, and any day lily brave enough to poke up has also met the same fate. Pansies appear to be good for appetizers.

Is anybody else finding more deer damage this year ?

I am telling anybody coming to my house for dinner to expect Venison!

*Rosemarie Adams*



## **Tools, Tips and Tomes**.....Featuring Members' New Finds and Old Favorites

### **Seeds of Diversity (SoD)**

Is a non-profit organization based in Canada which promotes heritage seed preservation. An annual membership of \$20 supports these worthwhile efforts. You will receive three Seeds of Diversity magazines and online access to the Seed Directory, a listing of the grower members and their seed offerings. A membership of \$40 would include a printed copy of the Seed Directory, in addition to the online access. In the 2011 Member Seed Directory, there were 4831 Listings, 3380 Varieties and 134 grower members across Canada. Some of the SoD projects are:

**SoD's Canadian Seed Library** The goal is to build a permanent collection of heritage seeds, properly backed up in partner seed banks, accessible by the public, and financed by a perpetual fund. Seed samples are being backed up and tested for germination, and the plan is to engage qualified seed savers across the country to help grow out fresh seed samples. The library records are fully open to the public at <http://www.seeds.ca/sl>.

**Heritage Research** Through a partnership grant with the Garden Institute of BC, SoD produced scanned copies of 60 historic seed catalogues and posted 40 of them in a searchable format on its website at <http://www.seeds.ca/histricseedcatalogues> during 2011. These catalogs span over 100 years.

**Wheat Handbooks** SoD has provided scans of five historic wheat handbooks published by US Department of Agriculture between 1922 and 1949. These handbooks provide over 800 pages of priceless information and detailed pictures about heritage wheat varieties, from the people who bred and first tested and grew them. Much of the information is Canadian content, since many historic wheat varieties were bred and introduced in Canada.

**Canadian Seed Catalogue Inventory** SoD has updated their online national inventory of Canadian commercial vegetable seeds for 2010, a list that includes every vegetable variety sold by Canadian seed companies. The complete list is available to the public at <http://www.seeds.ca/csci>. It is an excellent resource for gardeners who are looking for sources of particular varieties. Canadian gardeners have about three times as many companies per population to choose from compared to the US, and offer more than 5,000 varieties of vegetables. However, of these varieties, 64% are available only from one company each, and 28% more are available from only two to five companies each, out of the 76 companies surveyed. It is important that SoD work with seed companies to back up seeds that are in danger of being dropped from commercial production altogether.

-From SoD 2011 publication.

Submitted by Judith Brook

### **Seed Monopoly**

- Ten companies control more than 55% of the world's seed market. They tend to commercialize only a few varieties and increasingly use patents to prohibit farmers from saving and exchanging seeds.
- About 75% of food biodiversity was lost in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

USC Canada, a registered charity, was begun in 1945 to support small-scale farmers and on-farm conservation around the world. These statistics are from a USC publication - see more at [www.usc-canada.org](http://www.usc-canada.org).

Submitted by Judith Brook

### **Got Pallets?** Hate weeding? Don't feel like turning up a bunch of grass?

Use a pallet as a garden bed - staple garden cloth on the backside of the pallet fill with dirt and start growing!

You can also place your pallet on the ground in a rocky location rather than a grassy area, this way you will not need the garden cloth to stop the weeds and grass coming through.

Please be advised: Use raw wood pallets!

Some that are shipped overseas may contain chemicals. Where I am from most are from raw wood - not saying that everywhere is!

And for those of you that don't know where to get pallets - look in industrial areas, hardware stores etc.

This was just an idea - some inspiration for everyone.

Enjoy!

Submitted by Rosemarie Adams

### **Rubber Gloves & Gardening**

If you wear rubber gloves for some of the muckier garden chores, try sprinkling some baby powder inside them before wearing. They will slip off so much easier when you are done.

Submitted by Judy Stringer

Another great garden activity in the spring....

Damp rubber gloves (that have not been in contact with cleansers or chemicals) are great for removing shedding fur on cats.

## ABOUT TOWN

April 16, Monday **Backyard Chickens** 7pm 355 West Queens Road. Request to change by-laws to permit keeping of chickens goes before District Council. If you wish to support this, please attend.

April 18, Wednesday **New! Growing Veggies in Containers** 6:30 – 9 p.m. Van Dusen. Which vegetables, and specific varieties, grow best in containers and when should they be planted? What soil mix is best and how should you water your plants? Learn how to get the most out of your balcony or patio by using vertical space resourcefully, selecting appropriate plants and containers, and more. Member: \$35 / Non member: \$45 Instructor: Janis Matson

April 21, Saturday **New! Companion Planting** 10:00 – 12:00 noon Van Dusen. Companion planting is the deliberate planting of certain crops in proximity to one another, because they benefit one another in pest control, nutrient uptake, pollination, and increased crop yield. With a focus on vegetable growing, learn which plants repel insect pests, which plants effectively share space (and resources) together, and which plants should never be planted near each other. Member: \$25 / Non member: \$35 Instructor: Karen Myshi

April 21, Saturday **St. Clements Church clean up of the church grounds - from 10 am to 12 noon.**

April 28, Saturday **Creative Containers** 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m Van Dusen. Get creative with container gardening, and enjoy beautiful, colourful plantings on your balcony, patio, or beside your front door. Topics include soil preparation, fertilizers, plant selection, design and maintenance of your containers. Member: \$30 / Non member: \$40 Instructor: Bettina Harvey

April 28, Saturday **The 14th annual Friends of the Garden plant sale at Park and Tilford Gardens**, 333 Brooksbank Avenue. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or shine, cash only. Our well-informed volunteers will tempt you with interesting and unusual plants that thrive in our climate. Master Gardeners will be available to answer all your gardening questions. Funds raised go towards enhancing our gardens – a wonderful community amenity. Contact Jocelyn at 604-988-6127.

### **MAY 12<sup>th</sup> LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE**

May 5, Saturday **Plant a Salad in a Basket Workshop** 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Van Dusen. Plant up a beautiful basket of herbs, veggies and edible flowers. Learn maintenance techniques to keep your edibles growing all summer. Nothing tastes better than your own salad, ready to pick just outside your door. All supplies are included. Member: \$60 / Non member: \$75 Instructor: Estelle Bogoch

May 5, Saturday **Backyard Bounty Gardening Course** 9:30am to 4:30pm UBC Botanical Garden, Reception Center, 6804 SW Marine Drive \$55 public, \$45 garden members (includes UBC students)

May 5 & 12, Saturdays **Small-Space Garden Design** 1:30 – 4 p.m. Van Dusen. This course explores the challenges and opportunities in small-space design. There will be an emphasis on patios, balconies, and small yards in condominiums, apartments, and townhouses. Learn about site analysis, the use of walls and ceilings, colour, and plant choices ideal for the small garden. Bring the measurements of your garden and two coloured photos of your house and garden area. Member: \$55 / Non member: \$65 Instructor: Estelle Bogoch

May 9, Wednesday **Integrated Gardening –Veggies and Flowers** 6:30-9 p.m. Van Dusen. Bring edible plants into your existing floral or ornamental garden and enjoy a new beauty and bounty. Learn how to incorporate vegetables and herbs using small spaces, alcoves, vignettes or well-placed containers. Although applicable for large landscapes, this course will be particularly useful to gardeners with a small garden space where they wish to have year round beauty and something to harvest. Member: \$30 / Non member \$40 Instructor: Janis Matson.

May 15, Tuesday **New ! Native Plants for Urban Gardens.** 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.. Van Dusen. Integrate B.C. native plants into your garden. Discover beautiful native species to add colour, texture, fruit and flowers while serving a key ecological role in our urban environment. Used correctly, native plants are easy to maintain and well adapted to our local growing conditions. Plus, they are great for our local pollinators, birds, and more! Member: \$25 / Non member: \$35 Instructor: Karen Myskiw

May 16, Wednesday **Keep Good Lawns from Going Bad**, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Van Dusen. A grassroots look at what it takes to control critters such as the European Chafer beetle, how to preserve beauty and turf without needless maintenance. This course will cover natural pest control, watering and selecting best turf grass and groundcovers for your site. Outdoor water-saver kits will be given free to each participant. Member: \$20 / Non member: \$25 Instructor: Maria Keating