



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943



*Have a wonderful holiday
filled with joy, peace
and the people you love*

Merry Christmas



December 2009

Meetings Schedule

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

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

December 17th, 2009
Christmas Party
Craft Night

January 21st, 2010
Heather Edwards
Eco-Sculptures

February 18th, 2010
Kerrie Hart
Gardening With Ease

March 18th, 2010
Spring Gillard
Feeding Ourselves:
How Do We Fare?

April 15th, 2010
Pamela Erikson
Daylilies

Lynn Valley Garden Club
website <http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>

Mailing Address
Lynn Valley Garden Club
C/o Office Services Etc.
110-223 Lower Mountain Hwy
North Vancouver, BC
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2009 Executive

President

Maurice Jones

Vice President

Bonnie Noakes

Secretary

Kathy Stubbs

Treasurer

Sandra Smith

Membership

Diane Allison

Carole Rapp

Members at Large

Jackie Morris

Pat Holmes

Jacqueline Lamont

Joyce Page

Newsletter Editor

Irene Dudra

COMMITTEES

Plant Table

Audrey Dewan

Bernie Robb

Christel Glaser

Hospitality

Doreen Wakefield

Pat Phillips

Historian

Carol Ferryman

Bright Spots

Laurie Parkingson

Leah Younger

Sunshine/Door Prizes

Illa Jackson

Sound System Set-up

Maurice Jones

Hartwig Rother

Next Executive Meeting

Thursday, January.7th, 2010,
7:30pm, at the home of Maurice
Jones

The Leaf Deadline:

January issue: Jan. 11th, 2010



Treasurers Report

Sandra Smith



Tea Time

Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips

Please bring your own mugs, the coffee served is decaffeinated.



Sunshine Report

Illa Jackson

Please let Illa know of any members who have been ill
or have lost a loved one. .

Door prizes are always appreciated



Notes from the Editor

Irene Dudra

This is my last issue of the Leaf. In many ways I am grateful my term is over but then again I know I will miss it. I enjoyed working with the executive and I am very grateful for their input and their encouragement.

I also would like to give a big thanks to all the members who sent me gardening articles. Not only were they very informative, it often was what I needed to fill in an empty space - just waiting to be filled.

Diane Allison is your new editor. I know she will be an excellent one. All the best Diane

Sincerely, Irene Dudra

2010 Executive Members

President- Bonnie Noakes

Vice-President - Lynn Batt

Secretary - vacant

Treasurer - Jan Lockmuller

Membership -Teresa Reid and Rosanne Matheson

Members-at-Large - Inga Steinebach,

Rosemary Wagner, Brian Didier and Jan Valair

Editor - Diane Allison

Many thanks to all of you for volunteering to be our next executive.

Please note that after Secretary it says **vacant**. Vacant is not a name, it means – *not occupied by an officer*.

Is there anyone who is willing to fill this position?

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts

Care of Poinsettias.

A number of factors can affect the flowering time of poinsettias. The variety has a quite large effect on flower time. Some start changing colour sooner than others. Finding a poinsettia that hasn't fully changed colour is one way to have it last longer since you know some blooms are yet to come.

The second major factor in poinsettia lifespan is the temperature. Poinsettias hate the cool temperatures. They don't like any drafts at all and even a very short time in the cold will cause the plant to deteriorate. Keep the poinsettia away from heat registers or ducts and away from drafty windows or doors. And of course, never transport an unwrapped poinsettia, regardless of how warm it is outside!

Poinsettias like even moisture. If they dry out, they quickly drop leaves so trying to keep a poinsettia evenly moist is your best bet. At the nursery, pots are lifted and judge as to the amount of water by the weight of the plant. Don't let your poinsettia dry out, and also be sure it doesn't sit in water. If you have a saucer, water the plant thoroughly so the water runs into the saucer, but empty the saucer within 15 minutes of watering so it's not sitting in water.

Drooping leaves are a sign the poinsettia has gotten too cold. Curling and dropping leaves happens when a poinsettia gets too dry. Poinsettias will often survive these conditions, but they will defoliate and not look as nice for the holiday season.

With those few simple rules, you can keep your poinsettias over the holidays quite easily and often into mid-January or even February and beyond.

A few Hints for the month of December

During the rainy fall and winter we often assume all our plants are getting enough to drink, but plants growing under other things, for example plants under evergreens or under the eaves of your home can be dryer than you might think. Don't over-water plants that are actually drinking in the rain, but pay attention to smaller hidden plants.

If you're taking cuttings to make some of your own holiday wreaths, boughs, or other decor be careful. Making homemade decor using nature items is a green choice and a great way to save money. However you should always use sharp tools for cutting, and pay attention to how you're taking cuttings (it should be like pruning) so you don't cause damage to the tree's shape.

Sponging off glossy leaved plants such as Rubber plants and Palms is a good idea in December if for no other reason than to make you feel like you are still gardening. Doing this allows your plants to breathe and being indoors during the time of year when indoor pollution is at its' height makes it a great time for this chore.

Give your houseplants extra humidity by grouping plants together. The indoor climate during the winter tends to be dryer as we heat our homes.

Decrease water and fertilizer on Christmas cactus if the buds are developing. Keep potted amaryllis in a cool (60 degrees) shaded location until buds open. Then move it wherever you like. Cyclamen prefer cool temperatures, so keep them back from south-facing windows that heat up during the day.



Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall. ~Larry Wilde, *The Merry Book of Christmas*

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree. ~Roy L. Smith

Things to do this Winter while We wait for Spring

For those of us who garden Winter comes with mixed emotions. On one hand we are glad to see the garden go to sleep. On the other, we start counting the days until we can be out in the garden again. The latter often leads to human nose prints on the sliding glass door along about the end of January.

However impatient we can get waiting for spring, winter is really a gardener's friend if we approach it properly. First think of all that snow shoveling (hopefully we will not get much) as exercise to stay in shape for spring. Each pass with the shovel is the same as shoveling dirt. Sliding around on the ice is really a form of flexibility exercises.

If you miss your tools or you sense they are getting lonely, go out and give them a good brushing with a wire brush and a rub down with some oil. Sharpen hoes, shovels and other cutting tools so they will be ready for work in the spring. Change the oil and filters in power equipment or take them in for service. Your shop guys will love you for giving them something to do in between fixing snow blowers and you won't have to wait for it in the spring.

Take some classes. Catch up on some reading. Order seed catalogs and plan next year's garden. **Pat Muntz**

Should you have any more questions for our November speaker, below is his website, e-mail address and his telephone number.

Ryan Nassichuk, **Bicycling Horticulturist**
<http://www.ryansgarden.com> ryan@ryansgarden.com 604-970-9033

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.

~Norman Vincent Peale

