



LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943

DECEMBER 2010

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.

Message from The President

As we near the end of 2010 I would like to thank the executive and members who all work so hard to make our Club special. We have had a busy year with many interesting speakers and lots of opportunities to see other gardens and events. It was very nice to see our own members' garden tour reinstated. I believe this was the highlight of the year and has been sadly missed in years past. The variety of gardens was excellent and we had beautiful weather.

Next year we are looking forward to another successful plant sale which helps to fund local organizations. Our new format for disbursement of these funds, after the year end statement has been finalized, will put us in a very comfortable position.

Our mail box is once again in Lynn Valley. Our website is up and running very successfully. The collaboration between the Website and *The Leaf* work well to keep our members constantly informed even when they are unable to attend a meeting. We are well insured with the BCCGC and appear to be in a solid position to enter 2011 with a full executive.

Next year will see most of the executive positions end and so I hope you will give serious thought to taking up one of the positions for the 2012/2013 term.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and may 2011 be a wonderful year for you. See you at the December 16th Party.

Bonnie

December 16, 2010

Christmas Party

Craft and Nibbles

January 20, 2011

Paige Woodward

Native Plants

February 17, 2011

David Sellars

How to Build and Plant
Rock Gardens

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2010 Executive

President

Bonnie Noakes

Vice President

Lynn Batt

Secretary

Lorraine Robson

Treasurer

Jan Lockmuller

Membership

Teresa Reid

Rosanne Matheson

Members at Large

Inga Steinebach

Rosemary Wagner

Brian Didier

Jan Valair

Newsletter Editor

Diane Allison

COMMITTEES

Plant Table

Audrey Dewan

Bernie Robb

Christel Glaser

Hospitality

Doreen Wakefield

Pat Phillips

Bright Spots

Laurie Parkinson

Leah Younger

Sunshine/Door Prizes

Rosemarie Adams

Sound System Set-up

Maurice Jones

Hartwig Rother

Next Executive Meeting

7:30 pm, Thursday January 6th

The Leaf Deadline:

Sunday, January 9th



Treasurers Report

Jan Lockmuller



Tea Time

Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips

For our Christmas social, we will be supplying all the mugs and plates. Don't forget to bring a sweet or savory appetizer – there is no sign up, just bring your favorite.



Sunshine Report

Rosemarie Adams

Please let Rosemarie know of any of our members who have been ill or have lost a loved one. Please phone her at 604-988-9757.

Donations of new items for door prizes are always appreciated.



Membership

Teresa Reid, Rosanne Matheson

The deadline of December 31st is fast approaching for you to renew and secure your membership for 2011. We offer our many thanks to the 63 members who have already renewed their memberships. We have been able to confirm 5 new members from the waiting list that will be joining in January 2011. After December 31st of each year it is the policy of LVGC to provide those on the waiting list with a membership when seats become vacant - so if you do not renew by the deadline your seat will be given to the next person on the waiting list.



from the Editor

Diane Allison

It is hard for me to believe I have been doing this newsletter for an entire year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members who contributed to the newsletter - whether it was profiles, articles or ideas for me to follow up on. I have always believed that many hands make light work and this type of support proves it. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas season and that next year is your best gardening year ever!

Gardening is a kind of disease.
It infects you, you cannot escape it
– Lewis Gannit

Christmas Party Craft

This is a reminder for those that are making the Christmas Bell.

Please bring your pot, greenery, clippers, and any accessories that you might want to add.

More detailed information is in the November Leaf. Surgical gloves are useful when handling the greenery.

If you missed signing the sign up sheet you can phone Anne Frey at 604-987-8946. She still has a few bells available.

Anne and Judy



Help Needed!

Park and Tilford Garden Friends of the Garden (FoGs) require volunteers. Please come out on Thursday mornings, from 9am to 12 noon, starting in mid-January 2011. We really need you.

Please see Ann Pentland for more information.

Perennial Trials

The Royal Horticultural Society runs a continuing series of trials on perennials. Reports on the trials and notice of awards are now up on their website. There's an excellent report on the trial of *Lamium maculatum* (including a key) as well as reports on perennial anemones, Oriental poppies and salvia. Start at:

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/trials/trippf.asp>.

The Man Who Planted Trees

Van Dusen Gardens recently aired the film *The Man Who Planted Trees*, an inspiring fable about the differences a single person can make in the environment. This film was first published in 1954 in Europe. *The Man Who Planted Trees* melts cynicism and is very uplifting. Created with 20,000 images by an eco-activist, in 1987 it won an Oscar. This impressionist film has inspired many around the world (I believe they mentioned, shown in 60 countries) and is truly an inspiration. Following the film we heard some interesting facts about trees—a 30-foot tree by house can lower heating and cooling costs by 30%. There are 180 species of trees in all Canada, while in contrast Indonesia has over 200 species in one hectare (one hectare = approximately 2.5 acres).

The screening of the film also served to publicize celebrations of Vancouver's 125th anniversary, the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival, and the 3,000 new flowering Birthday Blossom cherry trees being made available to property owners throughout the city for only \$40 each for planting of private land. The Cherry Blossom Festival runs from March 26 to April 22, 2011.

For more information about purchasing one of these trees, please see:

<http://www.vcbf.ca/birthdayblossom/birthday-blossoms>

submitted by Judith Brook

My Green Thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view." H. Fred Dale

Executive's Annual Reports

from your Members at Large:

On May 8, 2010, we held our annual LVGC Plant Sale. Thank you to all our members who contributed such healthy plants in clean pots. Thank you also to the 49 of us (including 2 strong young lads) who signed up and volunteered our time on Friday to set up and on Saturday to run the sale. Thank you also for those who did not sign up but came anyway. It was due to all the members that the sale was a huge success.

Congratulations, everyone!

On July 10, 2010, we held our Members' Garden Tour. It was a lovely sunny day and we enjoyed lunch in the shade of Laurie Parkinson's garden. Thank you Laurie and also to Ann Pentland, Bonnie Noakes and Illa Jackson who provided us with the other beautiful gardens for viewing. This Tour is one of the delights for the club members. Please do not be shy to offer your garden for the tour next year because you will have an appreciative audience at whatever stage your garden is at.

This year we tended to the plants so kindly donated from West Van Florist, and we purchased a dozen new lawn signs. Thank you Maurice Jones for over-wintering the plants.

Brian Didier, Inga Steinebach, Jan Valair, Rosemary Wagner

from your Membership Committee:

At the end of 2010 there are 119 members, including 6 honorary members. Membership is down from the 125 members we had at the end of 2009.

There were 13 new members join in 2010.

Sadly, 2 members passed away this year; *Ruth Kasher* who was a member since 1991 and became an honorary member in 2007 and *Willy Kelderman* who joined the club in 2008.

Illa Jackson who had looked after Sunny Spots since 2006 left the club during 2010 to take on a new adventure in India.

We start 2011 off with a new honorary member *Maurice Jones* and 5 new members joining.

Summary:

Year-end Membership 2009	125	members
	(16)	did not renew
	(2)	passed away
	(1)	moved during the year
	<u>13</u>	new members joined in 2010
Year-end Membership 2010	<u>119</u>	members

Teresa Reid and Rosanne Matheson

North Vancouver mayor pushing for urban agriculture Darrell Mussatto wants front yards to turn into gardens

NORTH VANCOUVER (NEWS1130) - The mayor of North Vancouver wants to turn lawns into urban farmland. Mayor Darrell Mussatto is pushing for front yards to be turned into gardens for fruits and vegetables. He's asked staff to come up with an urban agriculture strategy to avoid wasted space. Mussatto tells the Vancouver Sun that if more people used their yards to produce food, there would be no need to spend cash on things like expensive rooftop gardens.

submitted by Judith Brook

Food Security and Urban Agriculture

On Friday afternoon, November 5, 2010, a meeting was held in West Vancouver, titled *Table Matters* – a North Shore discussion about Food Security and Urban Agriculture. I attended and thoroughly enjoyed a portion of this event, as did several other Lynn Valley Garden Club members.

The event was structured as follows.

- Welcome and Introductions with T'Uy'Tanat, Cease Wyss, from Squamish Nation; Margaret Broughton, from Vancouver Coastal Health, Heather Johnstone from Edible Garden Project.
- Keynote Speaker Mark Holland, topic 'Agricultural Urbanism: Great Food System Opportunities for the North Shore'.
- Mayor's panel discussion – included Mayor Brenda Broughton, Village of Lions Bay; Mayor Darrell Mussatto, City of NV; Counselor Trish Panz, District of WV; Mayor Bob Turner, Bowen Island; Mayor Richard Walton, District of NV.

Written questions were accepted from those attending and the panel responded. Following a break and viewing of displays, the audience broke into a number of different groups for discussion purposes. The broad topic categories, one per table, were:

- Neighbourhood Networks
- Community Kitchens
- Beyond Farmers' Markets
- Food Hubs & Precincts
- Food Social Enterprise
- Residential Food Production
- Continuing Education
- Mentoring Model
- Municipal agriculture strategies
- Metro Vancouver Regional Food Strategy
- Food Recovery

Each table (each topic) was requested to identify 3 recommendations that a food security/urban agriculture planning committee could take forward for action. These would summarize and target 3 specific opportunities for the North Shore related to that topic.

Notes on the overall meeting:

Keynote speaker Mark Holland's background is in city planning.

He spearheaded early sustainable urban planning initiatives in Vancouver that resulted in the development of Southeast False Creek and prompted the City of Vancouver to adopt its green strategy. His work also encouraged real estate developers to build LEED-certified buildings and helped the City of Vancouver win a national honour award from the Canadian Institute of Planners for the False Creek neighbourhood. Following two years as city planner for City of Vancouver in late 90's, Mark left to found a private consulting firm where he remains today.

Mark Holland referred to 'food hubs' – where everything is done in one place; there is a potential now for developing a strategy on this, for production, processing, distribution. (this was topic of one of discussion tables, see above). He reminded us that a community's reputation is affected by food, where you have a strong food brand and food experience. We can develop a strategic approach for food system opportunities. Community gardens have proven very popular; the Lower Lonsdale location has 130 on the waitlist, and over 50 on the Queen Mary Community Garden waitlist. The Lillooet Community Garden near Lillooet Road opened this fall and already has a waitlist. There are 24 plots planned for West Vancouver city hall; likely just for residents of West Vancouver. (from *Judith: Kin's Market in Park Royal South offers local fare, currently peppers, potatoes, cucumbers; in the summer there are more local items.*)

The North Vancouver District Official Community Plan (OCP) includes an urban agriculture section; estimated finish within the next year. NVD would like to hear from the public; we should write emails, come to council (Monday nights), form working groups. In the District 20% of residents are apartment-dwellers but we have lots of land. Opening up more land for community gardens would benefit many.

A book titled "*Edible Estates*" was recommended; (Metropolis Books) has been released in an expanded second edition in Spring 2010, featuring all eight completed gardens and new essays from Will Allen of Growing Power and Eric Sanderson of the Mannahattan Project. (from *Judith: book is available for \$30 thru 32 Books in Edgemont Village, North Vanc.*)

'Mayor Bob' from Bowen Island referred to their two heritage gardens on the island, one of which is tended by two sisters in their 80's. West Vancouver is considering gardening/farming on their boulevards and staff is looking into this. Residents of the North Shore who cannot or do not want to garden their yards themselves, can enter into an agreement with others who will do the gardening and share the produce. Mayor Walton referred to there being only two days worth of produce on our grocery shelves. If inter-state transportation shut down due to no oil supply, we would be in trouble –

this shows the importance of local food. We need advocacy groups for different municipalities to bring forward the discussions as we're in a different climate now (both weather-wise and politically-speaking).

Mayor Walton commented on urban agricultural approach and water rationing – our cost is in disposing of it, not obtaining it (from Judith: likely a reference to the proposed new sewage treatment plant to replace the aging and inadequate Lions Gate sewage treatment plant). In Australia, your home must have a water cistern as feature of your home. Bermuda homes collect roof water for storage in basement; each home has its own water supply. West Vanc water is now metered and they encourage other municipalities to do likewise.

We can make *Table Matters* -- local food, community gardening a priority with the municipal council with progressive, forward thinking, in a respectful, but 'noisy' manner....we need to request, demand and plan for a wide-spread food policy across all the North Shore. City planning to date has not considered planning for food. What you feel you want, that's what you need to bring forward! I liked this comment – "Make the personal, political. Make your stomach, political!"

The follow-on meeting from the November 5 *Table Matters* gathering was held in early December, where all summaries from the November meeting were reviewed and prioritized by those attending. Four major areas were chosen for further work.

1. Food Production, Recovery and Processing

To increase capacity of food production; to encourage and support these actions.

2. Increase access to nutritious food. Take excessive food to Food Bank, consider storage, drop-off, etc.

3. Education and Awareness

To promote the concept to adults; encourage homeowners gardening for food.

4. Promote Agricultural Education to children and youth

Thru mentorship, and integration of gardening as part of school curriculum. One member, a teacher in West Vancouver and a bee-keeper, spoke of plans for next year of an urban agricultural course for West Vanc students.

The next planning session will be January or early February 2011. **Get involved. Change is by design or by default. Let's ensure the change coming is the one we want** . To be notified of next planning session and to be part of the working group, please contact Margaret.Broughton@vch.ca.

- submitted by Judith Brook

