



LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943

JANUARY 2012

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

I'm back ! Happy to be presiding over our Club for another couple of years, and looking forward to working with a great group of members on our executive.

Hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with special friends and family.

I'm sure those of you who attended the December social enjoyed making your wreaths. They were all so beautiful. They all looked so individual, beautiful works of art, and they will last for months. Thank you to Anne Frey for organizing this and purchasing all the supplies. Thank you also to Christel Glaser for supplying our spiced punch and Doreen Wakefield and helpers for coordinating all the treats.

As I am writing this, we are still looking for a secretary for our Club. This position has sometimes in the past been held by two people, sharing duties, so if you have a friend in the Club please consider helping us out. No special computer skills are necessary.

Please remember that our Executive is always open to suggestions and new ideas for improving our Club. We want to keep things lively, informative and interesting for all our members, so please pass on any ideas/requests to me or any member of the Executive.

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy 2012, and a productive gardening year.

Rosemarie Adams

**January 19, 2012
Ric Worthy & Sharon
Lisette
Native Bees**

**February 16, 2012
Bill Bischoff
Tufa**

**March 15, 2012
Charlie Sale
Bucket Hill**

Mailing Address:
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<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>



2012 Executive

President

Rosemarie Adams

Vice President

Christine Gooch

Secretary

vacant

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

COMMITTEES

Plant Table

Audrey Dewan

Bernie Robb

Christel Glazer

Hospitality

Doreen Wakefield

Pat Phillips

Bright Spots

Laurie Parkinson

Leah Younger

Sunshine/Door Prizes

vacant

Sound System Set-up

Maurice Jones

Hartwig Rother

Website

Brian Didier

Next Executive Meeting:

February 2, 2011

at the home of Rita Marshall

The Leaf Deadline: February 5, 2012



Treasurers Report

Harvey Lawson

Operating funds: \$3,142.12

Reserve: 2,500.00

Bank Balance: 5,642.12



Tea Time

Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips

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



Sunshine

vacant

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

Donations of new items for door prizes are always appreciated.



Membership

Doreen Marbry, Diane Sekora

The membership response is progressing positively as of January 1. Of our 125 members, including 6 life members, 88 paying members have renewed their memberships for 2012. We are still, however, waiting for quite a few members from last year to respond. 3 members have had to cancel and 5 new members are waiting to sign up. Please renew your membership this month by contacting the Membership Committee or renewing at the January 19th meeting. We would greatly appreciate your co-operation.



This Month's Speaker

Christine Gooch

Ric and Sharon are Honey Bee-Beekeepers at the Queen Mary Community Gardens in North Vancouver. We are keenly interested in the preservation and conservation of our declining Native Bee populations here on the North Shore. Ric and Sharon have operate a "BeeFriendly" Native Bee Conservation program to help inform local residents, students and gardeners about the value, importance and status of our declining North Shore Native Pollinators. Our presentation will help to you identify our native bees species and explain their basic annual life-cycles, as well as demonstrate some of the things that you can do in your garden to help provide the forage and habitat needed by our local pollinators. Visit their website at <http://beefriendly.ca>



Members at Large Report

Our Annual Plant Sale May 12, 2012

It's time once again to start thinking about the club's annual plant sale, which takes place as always the Saturday before Mother's Day Sunday. Please make a note of these dates on your calendars:

Friday, May 11, afternoon into the evening—organization and set-up

Saturday, May 12, morning to about 1PM—the sale itself

The annual plant sale not only pays our rent, pays for speakers, and facilitates club events, but also allows the club to make charitable donations in the community. As always, the club relies on its members to donate plant divisions, seedlings, all kinds of plants; in addition, the sale relies on the members' volunteering to help set up and manage the sale.

It's important to start thinking about this now because plant divisions need time to root into their pots well before the sale, so that they appear vigorous and healthy. Last year the club supplied one yard of soil emender for members to share, picking it up from the church parking lot. This definitely can be done again, to make it easier for members to pot up those divisions. This can be discussed at the January general meeting. Also, Cari would like to remind members that she has lots of extra pots (some can be left for pick-up with the soil in the parking lot), and, if there are members having any difficulty, she would be available to help with that and the potting up if necessary. (Cari's phone #:604-984-4433)

Sign-up sheets for volunteer time slots will be circulated at the March and April general meetings. It's very helpful if members can select one slot for the Friday and one for the Saturday. There's always a very convivial atmosphere on both days; it's a lot of fun and the time flies by. Even in the rain, as we found out last year!

So—please get out there as soon as you can, and dig up and divide those perennials—you know it's good for your garden anyway, rejuvenating the plants you have, and, cleverly, creating room for more! If you're planning on seedlings, if you have the room, try to get them going by mid-March at the latest. Any annuals, vegetables, fruit canes or bushes, shrubs—all can come to the plant sale. It's important to label your plants as clearly as you can with either the common or the botanical name, sun/shade, moist/dry, mature height, etc. Just before the sale, perhaps while you're preparing to transport them to the church parking lot on Friday, it would be so helpful if you'd tidy up the pots and plants themselves, so they appear trim and healthy; clean pots also make less of a mess in the church.

We can be quite confident of having better weather this year than last, because it couldn't be worse. Despite the downpour, there was a very healthy turnout, of both volunteers and customers for the sale. Our annual plant sale seems to be a happily anticipated event in our community, and that's a very nice thing.

Your Members at Large—Cari, Chris, Nancy, and Rita

Winter Flowers

These winter flowers are reliable bloomers (sometime between mid-November and late March), are easy to grow, and are durable enough to brighten the garden for many winters to come. All have good foliage and hold interest through striking leaves, sepals, and stems during other seasons, giving them great garden value above and beyond their unique flowering period. Naturally, they manage a better show, with fewer spoiled blooms, if grown in a sheltered spot. As it happens, many of the best thrive in partial shade, and cutting back on watering and feeding in late summer encourages better flowering.

The small yellow flowers of **Jasminum nudiflorum** open continuously throughout winter. The slender green side branches of this sprawling, trailing shrub climb walls and gracefully tumble over rocks. Tiny leaves replace the flowers in spring. It's adaptable but performs best in sun with moderate water.
(Winter jasmine)

Hamamelis are terrific ornamental trees all year, with rounded leaves that colour in fall on elegantly flaring branches. In winter, branches are lined in small, spidery flowers in shades of yellow, copper or ruby red. A witch hazel is just the thing to bring colour and structure to a courtyard or entry.
(Witch hazel)

Small white, pink, or rose flowers nod from the short stems of **Cyclamen coum** in winter or earliest spring. These clumping, evergreen perennials hold their place all year with heart-shaped, 2-inch-wide leaves ornately marbled in silver. Spreading by tubers and seeds, they form lovely colonies in shady humus but need to go dry in summer. Where summers are moist, a well-drained spot beneath trees or rhododendrons will suffice. (Hardy cyclamen)

Eranthis hyemalis has goblet-shaped golden flowers opening on short stems in late winter. Clumps of deeply cut leaves spread into colonies in moist soil beneath deciduous trees, and though easy to grow under such conditions, this tuberous perennial should not be moved or divided while dormant.
(Winter aconite)

Sarcococca hookeriana.....evergreen, low shrub with tiny fragrant flowers in winter, and spherical black fruit later.

Slightly less hardy at Zone 7:

Iris unguicularis.....evergreen foliage and lavender-blue flowers in late winter (Algerian iris)

Camellia sasanqua.....roses of winter (Sasanqua camellia)

Erica darleyensis.....slow-growing, tidy, masses of tiny blooms for months (Winter heather)

Adapted from an article by Mike Lee for Fine Gardening magazine and The Gardener's Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers by Reader's Digest

BEE SMART and Help Save our native Bees

Our native and Bumble bee populations are declining drastically in numbers (in some cases by 50% or more) and struggling to survive. According to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation at University of Davis in California several species are now becoming extinct. Reasons for the declines are mainly attributed to loss of habitat, pesticide use and climate changes. Ground-nesting bumble bees are particularly affected by pesticides used on lawns and soil disturbance.

Urban gardens tended by BEE SMART gardeners are a great way to help our native bees to thrive.

5 SIMPLE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE BEES

A.D.A.P.T

-ALLOW a more natural garden by adding native plants and accepting a few weeds. Many flowering weeds provide food for bees. Many species of bumble bees nest in old burrows, stumps, or clumps of grass. Tolerate bumble bee or wasp nests if you find them.

-DO NOT use insecticides. Use herbicides very carefully, and only when absolutely necessary.

-ASPIRE to stop digging, cultivating or mowing in areas where bumble bees might nest from fall to spring. Look for tunnels in favoured areas such as lawns, beside walkways, and soft sandy soil until you see them flying in spring and know they have emerged

-PLANT a wide range of native flowering plants to provide nectar and pollen to bee colonies. Plants such as lupines, clovers, asters, bee balm, and other mints, lavender, borage, hyssop, early flowering Ribes (currant), blueberries, rhododendron and Oregon Grape are all favoured by bees and provide food over a long season.

-TAKE TIME to learn more about them and their life cycles. Support conservation organizations such as Xerces Society. Learn to identify native bees and their favorite plants with the help of identification guides which can be downloaded for free from www.xerces.org/bumblebees/

Westcoast seeds is offering a free packet of Sunflower seeds with every order in 2012. They encourage you to plant them in the spring and take part in The Land Conservancy of BC's Pollinator Stewards Program. Help them to promote the health and abundance of BC's bees! Here's what you can do:

1. Ensure there is adequate pollen and nectar available from February to November for bees to feed on.
2. Learn to identify bees and their habitats.

Observe the diversity of the bees that visit for 15 minutes twice a month. Then send your observations to www.BEETLC.ca

New Years Resolutions

This article appeared in Steve Whysall's column in the Vancouver Sun in 2007, he listed his Resolutions for 2008. They were published in our January 2008 Newsletter, but are still timely. and worth sharing again.

- Save time and money by putting the right plant in the right place;
- Remove ugly eyesores – badly pruned or cut down trees, perpetually unhealthy rose bushes, spindly shrubs that never bloom – If you have give them a chance, and they haven't responded, then get rid of them;
- Do not plant invasive species – i.e. ivy, lamium, holly, broom (although I think there is sometimes a place for some of these plants, if planted in controlled places);
- Water more wisely – don't leave those sprinklers on to water driveways and sidewalks – mulch, and plant sedums and grasses that need less water;
- Get your garden off drugs – Stop or reduce use of artificial fertilizers, instead, improve your soil by adding natural organic products and by using mulches;
- Buy better plants – I didn't realize that some plants are bred in a test-tube, and lack the vitality to perform well in the garden. Go back to the tried and true favourites;
- Be merciful to more creatures – Don't kill everything off. Remember, without a small colony of aphids, you won't get any ladybugs, kill all the caterpillars, and you won't get butterflies. Make room for a few unwanted guests.
- Feed the body as well as the mind. Even if you don't have a lot of space, grow some vegetables and herbs in pots;
- Don't buy every trendy plant that comes along – don't give in to the desire of the plant producers to buy whatever current curiosity they have come up with;
- Help your friends and neighbours with their gardens – take time for friends, neighbours and communities who could use your time and talent;

Submitted by Rosemarie Adams

Rethink Food & Waste Film Night: Dirt! The Movie

Dirt! The Movie tells the story of Earth's most valuable and under appreciated source of fertility, from its miraculous beginning to its crippling degradation.

Please join us to watch this award-winning film, inspired by the book: "Dirt, The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth" by William Bryant Logan. Learn about how the dirt that recycles our water, gives us food and provides us shelter can be used as a source of medicine, beauty and culture. Admission is FREE.

- **Wednesday, February 8**
- 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Kay Meek Center, Studio Theatre
- 1700 Mathers Street, West Vancouver

For more information contact Karen Morton: info@ecourbia.org or go to www.ecourbia.org or www.dirtthemovie.org.

Art in the Garden Tour 2012

Saturday, May 26 & Sunday, May 27

12-5pm, rain or shine!

Applications for Gardeners are now available

Deadline for garden submissions is **Friday, February 24 at 5:00pm**

<http://nvartscouncil.ca/>

ABOUT TOWN

February 8, Wednesday **Dirt! The Movie** 6-8:30pm, Kay Meek Centre, Free

February 9, Thursday **Hellebores – Jewels of the Winter Garden** 7:30, Van Dusen Visitor Centre
Admission is \$15 for non-members and \$10 for members.

February 8-12 Wednesday-Sunday **Northwest Flower and Garden Show** www.gardenshow.com

February 11&12, Saturday & Sunday **Metro Vancouver Gardening Society Spring Flower & Penjing Show**
Van Dusen Floral Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m both days. Admission is \$2. Info tonychwu@gmail.com

February 25, Saturday **Seedy Saturday**, in Van Dusen Floral Hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Presented by the BC Master Gardeners Association A celebration of heritage varieties and organic gardening featuring more than 30 growers, seed companies and exhibitors and Heritage Seed Swap. Admission by donation.

March 24 & 25, Saturday & Sunday **Vancouver Orchid Society Show and Sale**, Van Dusen Floral Hall,
Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Admission - \$7.00. Info knakatani247@yahoo.co.jp

MAY 12th

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE