



LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943

JUNE 2011

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

Now that our plant sale is over we can take a well-deserved break for the summer. All things considered, with the unusually wet and cold spring, I believe the sale went very well. I wish to express my thanks to the committee who worked tirelessly in the poor weather and to the many volunteers who just seemed to fall into their various roles on the two days of the setup and sale. Well done!

Before we vacation for July and August I want to remind members about the Members' Garden Tour on July 16th. We resurrected this tradition last year after a lull of a few years when members were not comfortable putting their gardens on tour. Last year was a wonderful day and there were many compliments and appreciation that we were having this tour again. Members should remember that your gardens are an oasis of calm in our lives and not a competition. Putting your garden on tour is a great way to receive helpful comments and perhaps offers of plants that would be a terrific addition to your garden. Think about moving outside of your comfort zone and sharing your garden so that others might enjoy viewing all of your hard work.

We have one more meeting before we break for the summer and the member's tour. If I don't see you at either, have a well-deserved rest over the summer and come back ready to start the Fall season in September. Please remember to bring in lots of items for bright spots.

Have a great summer,

Bonnie

June 17, 2011

Christine Miller
Bears

July 16, 2010

LVGC Member's
Garden Tour
(details on page 3)

YWCA rooftop garden tour

June 21st, 5:30pm, 535 Hornby Street

sign-up at the June meeting or contact katsura@shaw.ca

<http://www.ywcavan.org/sandbox/UserFiles/files/Social%20Change/Sustainability/Final%20brochure%20version%20final%20web2.pdf>

Mailing Address:

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<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>



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

Cari Weinberg

Nancy Gelin

Jan Valair

Newsletter Editor

Diane Allison

COMMITTEES

Plant Table

Audrey Dewan

Bernie Robb

Christel Glazer

Hospitality

Doreen Wakefield

Pat Phillips

Bright Spots

Laurie Parkinson

Leah Younger

Sunshine/Door Prizes

Rosemarie Adams

Sound System Set-up

Maurice Jones

Hartwig Rother

Website

Brian Didier

985-8506

Next Executive Meeting

7:30 pm, Thursday, Sept. 1st

at the home of Inga Steinebach

The Leaf Deadline:

Sunday, September 4th



Treasurers Report

Jan Lockmuller

As of April 30, 2011: Operating funds
Committed o/s to date:
Reserve:
Bank account:



Tea Time

Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips

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



Sunshine

Rosemarie Adams

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

Donations of new items for door prizes are always appreciated.



Membership

Teresa Reid, Rosanne Matheson

Membership is at 122 as of the end of May and there is one person interested in joining in June. Our capacity is 125 so we have room for 2 more members! We had 3 new members join last month please welcome and introduce yourself to:

Lori Boyd -

Pat Fitzwalter -

Chris Pharo -



Members at Large Report

Just a brief note to reiterate what I said at the last general meeting: thanks again so much to all for your support and hard work that made the plant sale such a success; the number of plants was amazing, as was the evident effort that so many of you made in presenting them so well, with detailed labels; and the fact that so many die-hard members showed up on Friday for set-up was particularly appreciated, because of the horrid weather. We got it all done in possibly record time (unsurprising, perhaps, as many would have wanted to get home to a hot bath!). The sale did really very well considering the poor weather, not only on sale day but for the whole so-called spring we endured. So thanks again everybody; next year's sale will probably be even better (at least the weather can't possibly be worse...can it?)Cari



This Month's Speaker

Lynn Batt

Christine Miller is a former school teacher who has found her "dream job" as the Executive Director of the North Shore Black Bear Society. Christine develops and delivers a variety of black bear education programs for all ages – from preschool to adult groups. Christine coordinates the Society's volunteer activities and participates in them all, such as providing information booths at community events, canvassing door-to-door where there is bear activity, and looking for garbage containers at curb side on the night before Collection Day. Christine has actively participated in the development of effective working relationships within the three North Shore municipalities, including with the North Shore Recycling Program and the District of (cont. on p.3)

July 16, 2011
Lynn Valley Garden Club
Annual Members' Gardens Tour

This year the garden tour is taking place on Saturday, July 16. We have a line-up of at least five gardens, some spectacular, and all with treasures to admire and enjoy. The tour will wind up at Inga Steinebach's lovely oasis, where we can relax with our lunches and coffee and dessert. Please bring your own lunch and mug (and a folding chair if you have one); the club provides the beverages and sweets.

Meet at the church at 9:00 am for carpooling; we shall depart at **9:15 sharp.**

This Month's Speaker... (cont. from page 2)

North Vancouver Bylaws Officers, and the provincial Conservation Officer Service. The collaborative work has been rewarding and mutually beneficial.

Christine's presentation to the Lynn Valley Garden Club on June 17, 2011, will include: bear biology and bear behaviour so that we have a better understanding of the species; bear attractants and how to manage them; and how to compost effectively in bear country.

Christine Miller, North Shore Black Bear Society
604.990.BEAR(2327)

BLACK SPOT & MILDEW CONTROL

Roses are one of the most beautiful flowers that we can grow. Unfortunately our climate is usually less than cooperative. Langley's Select Roses is promoting a new fungicide on their website. Serenade Garden is made from a common soil bacteria, *Bacillus subtilis*. It is safe to use – it does not harm beneficial insects, pets or wildlife. Apparently farmers have been using this fungicide for years to treat plant diseases in food crops. The product website, www.serenadegarden.ca, claims to 'provide protection against a broad spectrum of the most common fungal and bacterial garden disease'.

If anyone tries Serenade Garden, please report in on its success and or failure. I wonder if it will work on tomatoes to prevent late blight.....

REMOVING TOMATO SUCKERS

Each gardener is a monarch in their own patch. Not only is removing suckers from tomato plants extra work for the gardener, but also may be hard on the plant. Plants need leaves for photosynthesizing, producing energy for root, leaf and fruit development. Moreover, leaves protect fruit from

sunscauld, destroyer of fruit. Dr. Carolyn Male, tomato hobbyist who has collected and introduced many wonderful open-pollinated new tomatoes to America, says she wouldn't "dream of" pruning tomatoes (removing suckers) in her book, "100 Heirloom Tomatoes for the American Gardener." What about you – do you remove suckers?

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

Catalogue descriptions are open to interpretation-these are offered with tongue planted firmly in cheek:
Disease Resistance – all the leaves drop off, but it will survive

Easy to Grow – quickly takes over your entire yard
Fast Growing – similar to 'easy to grow,' but takes over your entire neighbourhood
Wildflower – a common weed
New Introduction – less common weed
Tough – squeezes out the other weeds
Grows Anywhere – there goes the lawn
Delicious – starving ruminants may deign to eat it only if their life depends on it
Virtually Foolproof – the only plant in the catalogue you're likely to be able to keep alive
Hardy – can survive the coldest winters (in Florida)
Distinctive– uglier than sin
Intensely Fragrant – you'll need a gas mask to tolerate the stench
Long Blooming – can last for days – if you pickle it
Good Cut Flower – it looks so insignificant in the garden you might as well bring it indoors
submitted by Bogna Ross

In anticipation of the presentation about bears, here are some links to bear videos:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbONk59p13Q

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kQ8quUbRmc

submitted by Rosemarie Adams



Plants



WANTED

Bogna Ross - red (dark) *Astrantia*, Japanese Iris, interesting grasses for the sun.

Robin Timms - old fashioned garden perennials, shade plants, hummingbird flowers, and any free advice in helping me in my garden.



Anna Marie D'Angelo - trailing Rosemary.

TO SHARE

Bogna Ross - *Arum italicum*, yellow Loosestrife, Siberian Iris

Robin Timms - purple and yellow Irises, some shade/ground covers (unknown), other items to be determined.

Shirley Barber - orange Daylilies and pink Cranesbill

Bonnie Noakes - Lily of the Valley and dark pink Japanese Anemone

Autumn is a great time to divide and share plants. If you have a special request or any extras, send it in for the September newsletter.

INVASIVE PLANTS

Below is a summary of a presentation that was given by Jennifer Grenze of the Greater Vancouver Invasive Plant Council, to the Master Gardeners at their monthly meeting. LVGC member Doreen Marbry thought it would be of interest to our members – thanks Doreen. There is a lot here to think about!

The group was shown a PowerPoint presentation of photos of various plants including English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudoacorus*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), and Knotweed (*Polygonum spp.*). Jennifer explained that to be considered Invasive the plant in question causes economic harm, environmental harm or harm to humans. Dandelions therefore are not considered Invasive, the other 3 plants are.

Invasive plants can spread in many ways, by roots and rhizomes, plant parts, and seeds. For example: 1 m of Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus ulmifolius* or *R. discolor*) can produce 13,000 seeds which may be viable for 25 years. Seeds can spread by wind and water: Yellow Flag Iris shoots seeds 3 m away. These seeds can float on water for up to 1 year. Invasive plants thrive where other plants can't; in light deficient areas and in any type of soil. These plants also have quite a growth strategy. Ivy grows up trees, Bindweed grows on Blackberry. Superweeds have the best strategies: no natural controls.

Jennifer reminded the group that exotic/non- native species did not mean invasive and showed the basic IPC classification of plants – see website listed below for details on this classification.

Jennifer reported Vancouver area faces increasing problems while explaining the various impacts of Invasives: Ecological: Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) can become a fire hazard. A recent study showed song birds do not frequent blackberry thickets as they do other plant species. Health and Safety: Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegassianum*) contains phyto-toxins where exposed skin burns and can become sun sensitive for up to 10 years. The sap may also cause blindness. Knotweed can grow through concrete; it is a threat to infrastructure. A budget is needed at municipal government level to stem the spread. Jennifer noted Metro Vancouver has not got a large budget to deal with Invasive plants. Economic Impact- invasives can cause reduction in agricultural yield, and are a threat to forestry. BC estimates are in the \$100's of millions of dollars per year.

Pathways of Invasion: Within the Horticulture industry, there is recognition of plant problems but compliance is not mandatory. The majority of invasives in the U.S.A. were introduced for horticulture purposes. When introducing a new plant, we should continually ask ourselves: where does it grow naturally, and what is its growth habit? Unintentional spread such as weed infested soil is also problematic. There are approximately 485 invasive plants in Canada and we lose 4600 acres each day to invasives.

Jennifer really discouraged invasive species in our home gardens such as English Ivy, English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Lamium (*Lamium galeobdolon*), agreeing it's true we can manage them temporarily, but what if we get sick? This was the case of a woman who cultivated Giant Hogweed as she liked how the plant looked. The plant became a forest-like thicket in her yard - Giant Hogweed can produce 100,000 seeds per flower head.

Removal methods used by GVIPC include: mechanical, manual or machine digging, chemical (stem injection with herbicide) – a technique for extreme cases such as knotweed. .5 gram of knotweed left in the ground can re-grow. Trials show it cannot be smothered; it grows through concrete. The word 'cosmetic' before a municipal pesticide bylaw is therefore very important.

We were reminded the folly of bare soil which usually equals more weeds. Jennifer urged us to have a plan in place for soil, once we removed weeds.

Knotweed (*Polygonum spp.*) - We currently have 3 species of Knotweed in our region. Giant and Japanese knotweed mingled to create a 3rd species: Bohemian. The rhizomes can go to 3 m deep and travel 15-20 m. laterally. Currently there is legislation in England requiring residents to manage it on their property. 2.7 million seeds can be available from each plant. Defoliation in winter contributes to soil erosion.

Scotch Broom - This plant can be traced to 4 seeds brought from Scotland. Seeds are toxic and can be viable in soil for up to 30 years.

English Ivy – can act as a sail and topple trees

Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) – up to 800 seeds per plant, seeds can travel 3m from the plant.

Lamium - is as invasive as ivy; it can grow up to 1m. per season. This plant can attract ants which help disperse the seed. It smothers the forest floor, out-competing even the toughest native plants. The remedy is complete evacuation followed by mulch.

Daphne Laurel (*Daphne laureola*) - all parts have toxic compounds, which can lead to dermatitis or poisoning. Seeds are disbursed by birds. Tap roots of this plant are very difficult to remove once established

Bindweed – roots are up to 6.6 m long and travel deep into soil. Seeds are viable for 55 years; one hectare can contain 20 million seeds. Avoid letting this plant flower.

Holly– hogs water and soil nutrients. Birds eat the berries then fly miles away to drop perfectly fertilized seeds

English Cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*) – changes the chemistry of water, removes oxygen from water, a 2mm piece of the plant will allow a new clone to grow.

Future invaders of this region : Diffuse Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), Dalmation Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), Mullien (*Verbascum thapsus*), Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

Jennifer noted the GVIPC spends a lot of time on Giant Hogweed, they believe it is eradicable. Please contact the IPC to report. 1 888 WEEDSBC or 1888-933-3722 or gvipc 604-880-8358 or info@gvipc.ca

Disposal of Invasive Plants - We were advised NOT to put invasives in the compost OR into Green Waste, as testing has been done and composting processes are not hot enough to kill weed seeds. We were advised to put invasives into tied black or green garbage bags and to set out with regular waste. Jennifer agreed it is not an ideal solution but until a proper method is found it is our only route.

What we can do: Visit the council's website and join the list-serve. <http://www.gvipc.ca>. Educate others about invasive plants. To report an invasive plant such as hogweed call 1-888-WEEDSBC.

NEW WAYS TO MARKET PLANTS

It seems that growers have discovered the QR (quick response) code, a high tech graphic. It is showing up on plant tags and looks like a pixelated square. If you have a smart phone, you can point the phone at the code and get product information. The phone will go to a website where one can get plant care information, photos, planting instructions, lists of companion plants, a hardiness map or garden designs... a plethora of information that would never fit on a tag.

ABOUT TOWN

Friday, June 17 – **Pruning and Training Fruit Trees** - 12pm-3pm. UBC Botanical Garden Reception Centre, 6804 SW Marine Drive. \$40 public, \$33 garden members 604-822-3928

Sat. June 18 – **Managing Bees** – 1-2:30pm - join Beekeepers Ric Ericson and Sharon Lisette in the Queen Mary community garden as they delve into the hives and into what it takes to manage honeybee hives. - \$5 - register 604-990-3755. More info at gardensmart.ca

Wed. June 22 - **Loutet Farm Workbee** - tools and gloves will be available for you to use and no experience is necessary. Join in building pathways, weeding beds, building fences, and more - 14th St & Rufus Ave - contact Emily at volunteer@ediblegardenproject.com if you are planning to attend

June 25-26 – **Coquitlam Annual Rose Festival & Show 2011, Roses Over the Rainbow**. Admission \$3,. Dogwood Pavilion, 624 Poirier St., Coquitlam. Saturday June 25, 1pm–5pm. Sunday June 26, 11–4pm.

Saturday, June 25 – **Chilliwack Rotary Garden Tour** - The world-famous Minter Gardens as well as eight diverse private gardens and are yours to explore on this self-guided tour. All proceeds to Rotary projects. ticket information can be found at www.rotaryclubofchilliwack.org or 604-792-9556.

Sun June 26 - **Maple Ridge Garden Club – Country Garden Tour** – June 26 is to raise funds for the Sunshine Foundation “Dreams for Kids”. Tickets \$15.00 each. Information or to purchase tickets contact Gayle @ 604-467-2956 or Margaret @ 604-467-1885

Wed. July 6th - **Patio Veggies: Growing Great Food in Containers** - 7:00pm – 8:30pm - join Heather Nielson for an introduction to the flexibility and simplicity of container gardening. Learn how food gardening can be for apartment dwellers, too! John Braithwaite Community Centre - \$5, to register 604-990-3755

Sunday, July 17 - **Vancouver Shade Garden Society's Annual Show** - 1:00pm to 4:00pm - in the Floral Hall at VanDusen Botanical Garden - no charge.

Wed. July 20th - **Maximize your Space: Learn how to increase your Veggie Harvest in Small Spaces** - 7:00pm – 8:30pm - Join garden expert Sharon Hanna in learning about ways to extend the season as well as succession planting methods to ensure bountiful harvests of vitamin-packed veggies year around - Lillooet Community Garden, north of the Holiday Inn between Lillooet Road and Old Lillooet Road, NV - \$5, to register 604-990-3755

Tues. August 9th - **Gardening on a Budget: Grow a Great Garden without Breaking the Bank** - 7:30pm – 9:00pm - be inspired by thrifty gardener Heather Schamehorn as she shares the secrets to cutting costs without cutting corners. Leave with tips and tricks for getting the most out of your money this gardening season, Harry Jerome Recreation Centre, \$5, to register 604-990-3755

Thurs., Sept. 15 – **VanDusen Botanical Garden Bloom Gala.** 6 - 9 p.m. in the new Visitor Centre. A fundraiser in support of VanDusen Education. Details, prices and tickets: www.bloomgala.com



Residential lawn sprinkling hours have changed!

We are now restricted to 4 to 9 a.m. – no more evenings. These restrictions are in place from June 1 to September 30. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday for even-numbered addresses and Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday for odd-numbers.