



LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943

March 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

It's March now and the blustery weather begins but what a great patch of weather through the middle of the 2010 Winter Olympic weeks. As our City returns to a quieter pace we can be very proud of many North Vancouverites starting with Maelle Ricker, gold medalist. Margitta's Flower Boutique at the Quay won the contract for the floral bouquets and Sporty Jewels on Crown St. contributed to the events by providing sports themed jewelry available at many local shops, and that's just to name a few. Grouse Mountain played host to the NBC team and in general Metro Vancouver continues to be a fabulous host City as we continue with the Paralympic Games.

As we return to our normal Spring patterns I hope you are continuing to plant up any spare treasurers from your gardens as we are only two months away from our largest fund raiser.

The Northwest Flower & Garden Show with its new ownership was a big success. Although there were less display gardens, it was still a fun day. I've included a separate article in this newsletter.

Our February speaker talked about preparing our bodies for the start of the gardening season and in general paying attention to our unique bodies and how they respond to movement. She teaches classes at Mollie Nye House in case you missed her presentation or you would like further instruction. So, good luck as you begin the season (if you haven't already what with the early start) and take care not to have a back injury.

Happy Gardening
Bonnie

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, May 8

Plant Sale

Friday, May 7
set up

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

April 15th, 2010
Pamela Erikson
Daylilies

May 20th, 2010
Tom Baumann
Berries

Mailing Address:

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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 Parkingson

Leah Younger

Sunshine/Door Prizes

Illa Jackson

Sound System Set-up

Maurice Jones

Hartwig Rother

Next Executive Meeting

7:30 pm, Thursday, April 1

at the home of Inga Steinebach

The Leaf Deadline:

Sunday, April 4th



Treasurers Report

Jan Lockmuller



Tea Time

Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips

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



Sunshine Report

Illa Jackson

Please let Illa 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

Please welcome returning member Lynne Harvey.



Members at Large Report

We are looking for a few more gardens for the members-only garden tour on Saturday, July 10. If you would like to share your garden please phone one of the Members at Large.



This Month's Speaker

Lynn Batt

Spring Gillard, author and former compost hotline operator has branched into food security. What is food security? Is it a plot by terrorists to contaminate the food supply? Or what the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is supposed to do to keep your wieners safe? Find out this and more as Gillard recounts her exploration of the food system in her neighbourhood. "The lessons learned are transferable to other neighbourhoods," she says. "The first step is basically taking an inventory of the food system in your neighbourhood."

And what is a food system? According to Gillard, everything from table top to ground and back again. So the food we eat and how it gets to us, how it's grown, produced, processed, packaged, transported, sold, and how the so-called waste is managed, is it thrown out, composted, is some of the food recovered and redistributed? "I'll be talking about some of the specific issues around food security," says Gillard. "In my area it is access to fresh fruit and vegetables. We have a lot of low income seniors with mobility issues/and often there is no produce store close by. She will discuss the farm connection and why even in cities we should be concerned about preserving farmland as well as the charity/emergency food system and whether or not to give to panhandlers. And last, but not least, for the compost aficionado, waste management and food recovery. "I will link it all up with global issues as well. And give folks some

ideas to strengthen the food system in their own neck of the woods.” Hint: growing your own food is one of them! And just a wild guess, but composting is probably another.

After abandoning a successful advertising career, Gillard worked as compost hotline operator for City Farmer, an urban agriculture group for 14 years. Her book *Diary of a Compost Hotline Operator, Edible*

Essays on City Farming (New Society, 2003) recounts her adventures there. She has been published in numerous local and international media and is currently finishing up a second book; this one on the politics of food. She sat on the Vancouver Food Policy Council for two and a half years and now works with the Westside Food Security Collaborative.

Horticultural Judging School

Ten classes on 5 weekends (Apr 10/11, May 15/16, July 10/11, Aug 14/15, Sep 25/26). The course will include judging of roses, Dahlia, Lilies, Orchids, Cacti & Succulents, Pelargonium & Gesneriad, Bulbs & Tubers, Fruits & Vegetables. For information call Margaret Nakahara 604-980-4430.

BLACKENED CAMELLIA FOLIAGE

Are the leaves of your camellia looking a little unsightly? Perhaps covered with a brown-black powdery coating? This is a fungi (*Seuratia milardetii*), commonly called Sooty Mold, which grows on the surface of the leaf, feeding off the honeydew, or excrement, of a sucking insect. In the case of camellias, this insect is usually Cottony Camellia Scale. The fungus itself is not parasitic and does not feed off the plant. The only damage it does, other than looking unsightly, is to reduce photosynthesis within the leaf. This can cause the leaf to turn pale and if the infection is severe enough it may cause some plant decline.

The plant can be cleaned up by spraying the entire shrub with insecticidal soap (usually about one tablespoon per gallon of water but read the label), allowing it to sit and then using a hose to wash off the fungi. This only removes the Sooty Mold and does not correct the original problem.

Stressed plants send out an invitation to all the bad bugs in the neighborhood. The first defense is to make sure that your camellia is happy – right plant, right place. Camellias prefer part shade, avoiding mid day sun, in moist humus-rich, well drained soil. They are not drought tolerant and require supplemental watering both in the summer and winter if necessary. This means that if your camellia is planted under a larger conifer or under the eaves of your house (perhaps to protect the flowers) it is probably not in a good location. Siting your camellia properly is the first step in controlling the problem.

Scale is a difficult insect to control. The best way is to observe it and kill off the newly hatched crawlers by spraying them with insecticidal soap - usually in early July. Most insecticides will not penetrate the shell of the adult scale, so don't miss the crawler stage.

A Plethora of Plant Sales

March 27, **Vancouver Orchid Festival**, \$5
VanDusen, Wayne 604-868-8981

April 3/4, **Vancouver Dahlia Society Tuber Sale** 1-4pm, VanDusen, Wally 604-536-6878,

April 10/11, **Alpine Garden Club Annual Tuber Sale**, Van Dusen, Sat 12-4, Sun 10-4, Linda 604-526-6656

April 17, **BC Fuchsia and Begonia Society Plant Sale**, 10-3, VanDusen, Frances 604-591-3262

April 17, **Pt. Grey Chrysanthemum Plant Sale**, 10-1, VanDusen, free, Bernie 604-574-3015

April 24, **Park and Tilford Plant Sale**, 604-984-8200

April 25, **VanDusen Plant Sale**, 10-4, - admission to the garden is free

April 25, **Burnaby Rhododendron and Gardens Society Plant Sale**, 9-1, Burnaby Village Museum,

May 1, **Alpine Garden Club of BC Spring Sale**, St. David's United Church Hall, 1525 Taylor Way, 10-4

WHAT'S IN BLOOM

Pieris japonica 'Mountain Fire'

Lonicera fragrantissima

Epimediums sp.

Rhododendron 'Rose Elf' – dwarf, pink

Taraxacum officinale – Dandelion

Anemonella thalictroides – Rue Anemone

Tulipa kaufmania – dwarf, red species tulip

Magnolia stellata – Star Magnolia

Brunnera 'Jack Frost'

Chionodoxa luciliae – Glory of the Snow

Scilla siberica 'Spring Beauty' - Siberian Squill

Helleborus foetidus – Stinking Hellebore

Dicentra spectabilis – both the pink and white

Myosotis sylvatica – Forget-me-nots

Lathyrus vernus – Spring Sweet Pea

- thanks for all contributions, there wasn't enough room!

Seed Starting Seminar with Arzeena Hamir

March 28, 1-2:30pm,

Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre,

free, but must pre-register 604-990-3755

NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW



We were greeted this year with a very spring like garden featuring a wishing well and a potting table.



Once again the Show was a huge success. The most exciting new plant we discovered was *Acanthus Tasmanian Angel*.



A trend happening in the past few years is gardens going back to vegetable planting. The two photos are gardens entitled *A Family's Little Farm in the City* and *Crops for Clunkers*. A rain chain was made of blue bottles strung down to a rain barrel.



There were wonderful children's gardens but not enough room here to display all of the pictures. The show is well worth the drive. Some nice souvenirs were brought back to the February General Meeting.

Bonnie

MAY 8th, 2010
ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Donation of Plants --Don't forget when you are out doing your spring clean up to 'Split up and Pot' some of those nice perennials you have for our Plant Sale. If you need advice on splitting your perennials, just ask your Members at Large. The proceeds from our sale keep our membership fees low and support our community.

Lawns signs and posters -- We will have lawn signs and posters available for pick up at the April General Mtg. The posters can go anywhere to advertise our Plant Sale, but we often put them in our car windows. The signs are expensive and we need them back after the sale, so please look after them!

Volunteers and Sign up --Please see our Sign Up Sheet at the General Mtg. and sign up - we need to know where we have gaps to fill.

The past and present Members at Large could not do our jobs for this garden club without your enthusiastic help, support and knowledge.

The following rules were approved and carried out at the last sale successfully and will be continued in 2010:

1. There will be no reserves or sales of plants on Friday at all.
Reasoning: We are not ready for sales on Friday. Disruptions from people wanting to sell or purchase, slows down our set-up and pricing, which is unfair to the Friday volunteers and the "loss" of especially good plants is unfair to our Saturday buyers.
2. Everyone on the first shift on Saturday may set aside one plant in holding prior to the start of the sale. You may not set aside additional plants during your shift but can have family stand in line and purchase for you or buy after your shift is over.
3. Anyone on the second shift may line up with the public and purchase plants during the first shift. You may not set aside additional plants during your shift.
Reasoning for 2 and 3: If you look for plants during your shift, you are not serving our customers and making sure the sale goes smoothly. In previous years the holding table was clogged with plants set aside for members, making the table less available for our customers and the job of the volunteers at the table more difficult. A smooth-running sale makes happy customers who will return next year, raises the profile of our club in our community and encourages new members to join.

Thank you,

Your Members at Large