



LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943

May 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

What a beautiful time of the year. It's finally warmed up and there couldn't have been a nicer day for the plant sale. It turned out to be a huge success thanks to so many volunteers and so many plants. Estimates are already coming in which show that we may have broken our previous record for sales. I don't like to single out anyone in particular as the plant sale always sees a huge turnout of members volunteering their precious time; however, to Maurice, I have to say thank you for storing so much of our material until the sale and storing the left over plants until we decide what to do with them. Not everyone would give up most of their yard to keep the plants over winter and still see some of them return until we decide what to do with them. And how convenient to just open the gate and bring them through. In the evening I went back to check security of the church and I found it hard to believe we had just had the sale as there wasn't a trace of us being there. Kudos to the committee for running such a well run sale!

With all of the plant sales around town, garden tours and gardening of our own to do there never seems to be enough time in the day. We should just consider ourselves lucky enough to be able to pick and choose which events we want to attend. Most of these sales and tours are only offered because so many people volunteer their services. Gardeners are a nice bunch of people and always willing to share their time, advice or plants.

Don't forget to bring lots of items in bloom in your garden to the next meeting's bright spots as there is no end to what is in bloom in the garden in May.

Bonnie

The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing better than they have ever done before.

~Vita Sackville-West

May 20, 2010
Tom Baumann
Berries

June 17, 2010
Arzeena Hamir
Winter Vegetable
Gardening

Saturday,
July 10, 2010
Lynn Valley Garden Club
Member's Garden Tour
*details to come in the
June newsletter*

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 Parkinson

Leah Younger

Sunshine/Door Prizes

Illa Jackson

Sound System Set-up

Maurice Jones

Hartwig Rother

Next Executive Meeting

7:30 pm, Thursday, June 3

at the home of Bonnie Noakes

The Leaf Deadline:

Sunday June 6, 2010



Treasurers Report

Jan Lockmuller



Tea Time

Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips

Please bring your own mug and remember 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

Welcome to our latest new member Cari Wineberg. Please introduce yourself to Cari and make her feel welcome!



This Month's Speaker

Lynn Batt

Comments from our speaker, Tom Baumann:

My question always was: How to combine work with fun? Early on, realising that biology and geography (my 2 favourite subjects) combined to applied biology, also known as agriculture. After long years at university and a completed Masters Degree in Plant Science, I put my knowledge and love for the environment to work, running research projects for the BC strawberry growers. Always concerned about the sustainability of production, I soon started teaching agriculture courses at UBC and later the University of the Fraser Valley. My love for the outdoors and teaching agriculture soon combined to produce special courses offered through the Continuing Studies Department at UFV. Starting with specialities of fruit and vegetable production (the stuff I teach full-time at UFV's agriculture department), soon we offered botanical hikes, winery tours, and much more. I will make sure that now and in the future, we keep on learning about the world around us and if it is fun for you to learn, it will be fun for me to teach and we can all learn together. Please bring lots of questions!

Erickson's Daylily Gardens Open House

July 3 & 4, 10:00am – 4:00 pm
24642 - 51 Ave., Langley,

This is a fun event at Erickson's. Pam's beautiful gardens are open for your touring pleasure. There will also be beautiful harp music and a selection of vendors on site. And best of all, there are lots and lots of daylilies, hostas and heucheras for sale! Hope to see you there.

Our Plant Sale was a Big Success !!

Thank you to those who donated plants and to West Van Florists for their generous donations. The plants were well potted up and very healthy. There were so many varieties to choose from and our customers were delighted with their purchases. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped on Friday: those who set-up, covered the floor, those who did the difficult task of pricing, those who sorted and carried and placed on the tables. Special thanks to those who helped on Saturday: the cashiers, the plant specialists, the holding area, the raffle, the plant movers and the clean up crew. Also thanks to the refreshment team who kept us going with coffee, tea and goodies. Our Club members should all be very proud.

Your Members at Large,
Rosemary Wagner
Brian Didier
Inga Steinbach
Jan Valair

Plant Sale Addendum - both literally and in reality!

There are still some special treasures left over from our plant sale. These will be available for you to purchase before the next meeting. So, please come early and be prepared to buy! Any question, please contact Rosemary or Bonnie.

Did you know?

The best time to pick flowers from your garden is in the early morning. For longer lasting arrangements, use a clean container, change your water daily and cut the tip off the stems every few days. Also, keep your flowers out of the kitchen! As fruit ripens, it produces ethylene gas, which can shorten the vase life of some flowers. Tulips and many bulb flowers are particularly sensitive to this gas.



Soil temperature is key to timing of vegetable planting

It is time to plan for planting this year's vegetable garden. And it is a good time to purchase a soil thermometer as soil temperature is the best indicator of when to plant each type of vegetable.

Crops that germinate in the coolest soil (down to 5 degrees) include arugula, fava beans, kale, lettuce, parsnips, peas, radicchio, radish and spinach seeds.

With a soil temperature above 10 degrees, Chinese cabbage, leeks, onions, Swiss chard and turnips can be planted.

When the soil warms to 15 degrees, warm season and many cool season vegetables can be sown, including beans, beets, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage,

carrots and cauliflower.

Wait until the soil warms to above 21 degrees to plant warm season vegetables including tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, cucumber, squash, corn and melons. Tomatoes, eggplants and peppers are slow growing and take many weeks to grow to the stage where you can plant them out in the garden, so you might want to purchase these as starts. Squash, cucumber and corn grown quickly and are easy to start from seed.

Other tips for a successful growing season include, buying cold tolerant or short season varieties, warm the soil with plastic, a cloche, a Wall-o'Water, spun fibre or fabric floating row cover, or a cold frame.



Wisteria - an elegant woody vine

The Wisteria are in bloom - their flowers are beautiful and what a wonderful fragrance. Did you know that *Wisteria sinensis* twines counterclockwise, while *Wisteria floribunda* twines clockwise? Check it out! Wisteria bloom more prolifically if they are pruned, and pruned hard! If your wisteria has not been pruned in a while it may need a renovation pruning. This can be done at any time, but it's easier to do when the plant is dormant – no foliage to deal with. The idea of renovation pruning is to get it into the appropriate shape and size for the space.

1. Start with the major vines/trunks – take out any that you don't want or has strayed into a space that they shouldn't – cut those completely to the ground.
2. Prune the remaining vines back 2-3 feet shorter than your desired final

plant dimensions.

3. Remove any established lateral branches that are overcrowded, shorten others to the desired length, but leave some as these will be the branches that will flower. Remove any small lateral branches that are not needed or that stray. Cut them back to their point of origin.
4. Once the plant has been reduced and thinned out, each and every remaining lateral branch should be pruned to 3-6 buds.

The response of the wisteria will be to 'fight' this pruning by producing lots of new branches. It will put on vegetative growth at the expense of flowering unless ongoing maintenance pruning is done.

1. Remove all unwanted branches right to their points of origin.
2. Prune back the others to 3-6 buds (leaves). Repeated pruning of these will eventually give you spurs of woody short laterals that in turn will provide blooms.
3. Maintenance pruning needs to be done all season – once every 2-4 weeks.

Do not fertilize wisteria – they do not flower well if there is too much vegetative growth. Over feeding also ends up with you fighting a constant battle with a monster of a plant. Maintaining a wisteria in good form is not easy, but it can be surprisingly relaxing and the flowering is well worth the effort.



Miniature Gardening

Is your garden full? No more room for new plants? Try miniature gardening! These are collections of small rocks, miniature furniture and small plants arranged into clever vignettes.

These arrangements can be done in almost any container – pot, bowl, boot, cake pan, etc – but can also be done in the ground. They are perfect for a hidden corner or a feature in a rock garden.

There are many plants suitable for this including dwarf hostas, dwarf conifers, sedums, some of the smaller alpines and even new starts of finer foliaged shrubs.

For more information and inspirations check out www.miniaturegardenshoppe.com

12 Easy-Care Favorites for the Cutting Garden

Matricaria 'White Wonder': Snow white, 1/2" diameter mum-like flowers in clusters on strong, 18" stems. Nice foliage. Long vase life.

Ageratum 'Blue Horizon': Purple-blue, fuzzy umbels on sturdy, 24" stems. Available in white and rose as well, but I find the blue to be the strongest performer.

Antirrhinum 'White Rocket': Every few years I try growing snapdragons in mixed colors, but I always go back to white. Elegant on their own, the flowers are also good mixers.

Zinnias: These are the backbone of any cutting garden. I usually plant several colors of the large and colorful 'Benary's Giant' (and always include the lime green 'Green Envy'). For smaller bouquets, plant 'Lilliput' or 'Sunbow'.

Ammi majus: This looks much like wild Queen Anne's lace, but it's more delicate and makes a fantastic filler, weaving most any flowers into a professional-looking bouquet.

Salvia horminum: A great plant that produces deep purple, pink, or white colored bracts. The stiff stems add a good vertical line when cut, the cut flowers last for weeks in a vase.

Phlox drummondii 'Tapestry': This mix includes

a dozen different old-fashioned color combinations that remind me of the faded, 1940s-era aprons worn by farm wives throughout the Midwest. They don't last very long in a vase, but you'll be hooked once you grow them.

Asters: Annual asters hate my heavy clay soil and often die out by mid-August, yet I always plant a few. If you can grow asters, you'll find they're one of the best cut flowers around.

Dahlias: Buy new tubers in the early spring or dig and save your own from year to year. Choose a variety of sizes and heights, and be sure to stake the plants well, as they're likely to reach 4 feet tall.

Euphorbia marginata 'Kilimanjaro': This annual is grown for its showy green and white foliage. Makes a great filler.

Centaurea 'Jubilee Gem': A deep-blue bachelor button with a stocky, upright form.

Sunflowers: If you don't have room for a row, just plant a few here and there around your garden. Since I grow sunflowers with cutting in mind, I usually plant multi-stem varieties with slightly smaller blooms such as 'Italian White'.

WHAT'S IN BLOOM

- plants for you to consider for your garden

- Ajuga reptans* - Bugleweed
Allium 'Purple Sensation' - Flowering Onion
Anemone nemorosa - Wood anemone
Anemone pulsatilla - Pasque Flower - red, white or purple flowers, long lasting seedheads
Aquilegia alpina - Alpine Columbine - a species columbine with purple flowers that seeds true
Armeria maritima 'Vesuvius' - Sea Thrift - a cultivar with dark burgundy foliage - wants good drainage
Arum italicum pictum - Lords and Ladies
Bergenia cordifolia - Pigsqueak
Caulophyllum thalictroides - Blue Cohosh
Convallaria majalis - Lily of the Valley - fragrant
Dodecatheon hendersonii - Shooting Star
Erysimum 'Bowles Mauve' - Wallflower - purple flowers
Geranium phaeum - Mourning Widow's Geranium
Leucojum vernum - Summer Snowflake
Lewisia sp - Cliff Maids
Lunaria annua - Silver Dollar plant
Trillium recurvatum - Purple Wake Robin, Bloody Butcher
Primula pulverulenta, luteum - candelabra type primulas
Paris quadrifolia - Herb Paris, True-lover's Knot
Polygonatum sp - Knotweed
Smilacina racemosum - False Solomon's Seal
Clematis montana var. rubens
Hydrangea anomala petiolaris - Climbing Hydrangea Vine
Wisteria sp
Enkianthus campanulatus 'Showy Lantern' - a narrow cultivar suitable for small gardens
Photinia fraseri - one of its best flowering in many years
Syringa vulgaris - Common Lilac - common, but fabulous
Rhododendron 'Hotei' - yellow, takes a lot of sun
Rhododendron 'Blue Boy' - a rich blue-purple with a darker purple throat, compact shape
Rhododendron 'Madam Masson' - white, yellow a throat
Rhododendron 'President Roosevelt' - variegated foliage with red/white flower
Rhododendron 'The Honorable Jean Marie de Montague' - one of the best red rhododendrons
Viburnum 'Summer Snowflake'
Viburnum opulus - Snowball Bush
Cornus florida - Dogwood
Laburnum waterii - although beautiful, this tree is a nastey weed in our area - now, while it is in bloom, you will be able to easily see where it has invaded
- oops, we're out of space - thanks for all the contributions!

ABOUT TOWN

May 29/30, **Art in the Garden Tour**, 12-5, 16 gardens, 30 artists and 19 musicians, brochures are available at district libraries, info 604-988-6844

May 29, **Natural Lawn Care: Tips and Tricks**, with Catherine Dale, May 29, 2:30-4 pm, at Maplewood Farms, free but must pre-register at 604-990-3755

May 29, **Composting in Bear Country**, May 29, 10 – 4, the N.S. Black Bear Society will have a table set up at the Lynn Valley Day festival

Watershed Tours – hosted by Metro Vancouver – free, 4-hour tours, June – Sept., registration begins May 12, info 604-432-6430 or www.metrovancouver.org

May 22, **Herb Containers**, at West Coast Garden Centre, 1420-172nd St., Surrey, free, info 604-541-1117

June 5, 10-4, **West Coast Bonsai Show**, Harry Jerome Rec Centre Courtyard, free, info 604-980-2088

June 14, 12-1, **Iris**, with Martha Bassett, UBC Garden, \$5, info 604-822-3929

June 18, 12-3, **Espalier Fruit Trees** with Tony Maniezzo, UBC Gardens, \$40, info 604-822-3929

June 20, 10-4, **East Vancouver Garden Tour**, gardens in the Commercial Drive area, self-guided, \$10, tickets at Figaros Garden Centre, info 604-253-1696

2nd Saturday of the month, 10:00 am - **Nature Walks** – Maplewood Flats – meet at the Site Office – hosted by the Wild Bird Trust, info 604-903-4471

Sept. 11/12 - **VanDusen Private Garden Tours** – 10-4 – self-guided tour of Vancouver gardens – for info and tickets call 604-257-8666 (included in this newsletter in case you were looking for the tour in June)