



LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB  
First established 1943

**Mailing Address:**  
Lynn Valley Garden Club  
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<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>

**September 2012**

## ***Message from the President***

Hope you all had a wonderful summer. It was a little late arriving, but finally settled into a lovely warm season, and appears to still be going strong. Our members garden tour was wonderful. Many thanks to those members who opened their gardens for us to visit, to our Members at Large who organized the tour, to Rita Marshall's husband for the lovely brochure he produced, and to Pat and Derek Phillips for hosting our lunch after the tour. It really was a lovely day, and each and every garden was beautiful – each so different, and full of new ideas for us. I had a lovely summer. Our oldest daughter was married on her husband's family ranch just outside Waterton, overlooking a stunning view of the mountains, we then did a boat cruise around Waterton Lake, with reception in old school house in Waterton, which has now been renovated into lovely banquet rooms. I found the area very interesting, abundant wildlife, and at the boundary where BC, Alberta and Montana meet, there are alpine plants, prairie wildflowers and woodland plants all growing in the same area. Just beautiful. After the wedding, we went on to Yellowstone Park – which is a real treasure.

Pat Holmes, our Vice-President, has some interesting speakers lined up for us for the fall months, and for Spring of 2013. Stay tuned.

Two of our members at large complete their term of office at the end of this year so we are looking for two new members to take on this role. This is a great way of introduction into the Club Executive, and it is a team of four people, so duties are shared. Please contact Bonnie Noakes at 604-984-6183 if you are interested in one of these positions. If you are considering this, why not come to one of our Executive meetings – they are most enjoyable and you can get a feel for what is involved. Executive Meetings take place on first Thursday of each month – we take turns to host – please give me or any of the executive a call if you would like to join us for an upcoming meeting.

Reminder that our December meeting will be the second Thursday of the month rather than the usual third Thursday.

Please remember to bring bright spots to our meetings.

Happy Gardening

*Rosemarie Adams*

## **Meetings Schedule**

LVGC meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at St. Clement's Church. 3400 Institute Road

**Please note that meetings start promptly at 7:15 pm.**

**September 20, 2012**  
**Ewan MacKenzie**  
**Glorious Grasses**

**October 18, 2012**  
**Larelle Oldford-Down**  
**Apples and Apple Tasting**

**November 15, 2012**  
**Steve Given of Given**  
**Waterworks**  
**Water Features**

**December 13, 2012**  
**Christmas Party**  
**Craft TBA**

Please submit articles, items, snippets and ideas for future editions of the Leaf to:  
[theleaf@lynnvalleygardenclub.org](mailto:theleaf@lynnvalleygardenclub.org)  
Thank you.                      £B



## 2012 Executive

### President

Rosemarie Adams

### Vice President

Pat Holmes

### Secretary

Bernie Robb

Norma Buckland

### 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](mailto:theleaf@lynnvalleygardenclub.org)

### COMMITTEES

#### Plant Table

Christel Glazer

Marie Pringle

#### Hospitality

Doreen Wakefield

Pat Phillips

#### Bright Spots

vacant

#### Sunshine/Door Prizes

Carol Ferryman

#### Sound System Set-up

Maurice Jones

Hartwig Rother

#### Website

Brian Didier

### Next Executive Meeting:

October 4, 2012

### The Leaf Deadline:

October 7, 2012



### Treasurers Report

*Harvey Lawson*

Club funds are: \$



### Tea Time

*Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips*

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



### Sunshine

*Carol Ferryman*

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

**Donations of new items for door prizes are always appreciated.**



### Membership

*Doreen Marbry, Diane Sekora*

Our membership is full at present with 125 members and we have 10 people on our waiting list. Included in this month's edition of the 'Leaf' you will also find your 2013 Lynn Valley Garden Club Registration.

It would be most appreciated if you could fill out this registration and bring it along with your **post dated cheque for January 1, 2013** to our October meeting.

You can also mail or drop off your registration to Diane or Doreen at the addresses listed on the form. This will assist your membership chair in the transition to the new year. It will allow any new members who might be joining to attend the January meeting and also allow us to have the members' "Club Cards" ready for our early spring shoppers! Isn't it nice to think about Spring! We look forward to seeing all of you.



### This Month's Speaker

*Pat Holmes*

#### Ewan MacKenzie of Exemplar Horticulture Ltd. Abbotsford

Ewan is the general manager of Exemplar Horticulture Ltd a wholesale nursery specializing in ornamental grasses and drought tolerant perennials. After graduating from horticultural collage in Scotland Ewan worked for 18 years at Speyside Heather Centre in the highlands where he gained experience in nursery production, landscaping and construction as well as retail garden centre management.

After moving to Canada in 1994 Ewan worked for Heritage Perennials doing various jobs including shipping, managing stock plant production, sales and creating many award winning landscapes for trade and garden shows. In 2003 Ewan worked with a specialist ornamental grass grower, when that business closed down in 2005 seeing a demand for ornamental grasses he and some friends set up Exemplar Horticulture Ltd

Exemplar Horticulture supplies retail garden centres and landscapers from Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, The Interior and Alberta.

Ewan is a keen gardener but does not get as much time as he would like to pursue his passion. Loves the outdoors and photography..



## Members at Large Report Cari, Chris, Nancy and Rita

Next year's plant sale will be on May 11, 2013. It is not too soon to be casting a critical eye at perennials that could be divided and potted up to provide material for the plant sale. As a matter of fact, September and October are really good times to do this, as the earth is still warm for the remainders that are planted back into your gardens, so the plants will re-establish easily.

If anyone still has plant sale signs at home, PLEASE return them to the October meeting, if you haven't brought them to the September meeting.

Two new Members at Large are needed to replace the two who are retiring from the Executive at the end of this year. Please consider taking up these positions, which are vital to the continuing health of the garden club itself. Our main job is organizing the plant sale, so there is a fair bit of communication work in late winter and early spring, but as always, the membership steps up magnificently to accomplish the physical organization on the Friday and Saturday, so it is not such a daunting task.

If any member has any questions about dividing perennials just ask one of your MALs—Cari, Chris, Nancy, and Rita.

Cari Wineberg, Member At Large



### *Rhodohypoxis baurii*

These little-known South African tuberous rhizomes grow easily and (stolons) spread quickly if happy. They bloom for about two months in shades of very light to deep reddish pink. *Rhodohypoxis* foliage is nice by itself, like designer plantings of rye grass (no trimming required). Best grown in shallow containers with well-draining, acidic, moderately fertile soil in full sun. Divide (after blooming) in the fall.



Try growing some *Rhodohypoxis baurii*

.....there is always room for something this beautiful.

Zone 9-10	protect from winter cold
Dormant	protect from winter wet

Picture courtesy of:

<http://www.plantzafrika.com/plantqrs/rhodobaur.htm>



### Food For Thought

Recently I received an e-mail from one of our own members about the plight of an American woman whose well-tended food and medicinal garden was destroyed by city employees without notice or process.

<http://www.treehugger.com/lawn-garden/gardener-sues-city-tulsa-cutting-down-her-edible-garden.html>

While reading through several similar (seemingly unprovoked) American stories I could not help but feel NIMBY .....until I came across the story of Dirk Becker.....Lantzville Farmer

<http://www.treehugger.com/green-food/british-columbia-man-faces-six-months-in-jail-for-growing-food.html>

<http://www.synergymag.ca/compassion-farm-update-july/>

My understanding of these stories is that one neighbor disliking what you do as a gardener in your own yard is all it can take to be in trouble with civic authorities for not having a front lawn (unkempt) or receiving compost/mulch (garbage dump)from neighbours, or giving away produce (farming in residential zones).

While I am certain there is more to every story, there always is, it is food for thought indeed. Thanks Lori.



## Naturalizing Spring Bulbs

This fall, consider creating a different kind of beauty with flowers cropping up as if by chance in drifts across your lawn or garden bed. Many spring bulbs naturalize well: alliums, *Anemone blanda*, *Camassia cusickii*, *Chionodoxa luciliae*, crocus, galanthus, muscari, narcissus, scillas, most species of tulips and many others. Look for the word naturalizing on the package or in the catalogue description. When planting; simply drop a bakers' dozen or so at a time and plant them where they fall. Usually it looks best if you use only one type of bulb in each "drift" and uneven numbers look best in informal groupings. Large numbers of bulbs would make a spectacular display without waiting a few years for naturalizing, but do allow room between bulbs as they will multiply.

About bulbs in lawns: Squirrels have a difficult time digging up bulbs planted deeply in tiny holes in the lawn. Inexpensive small bulbs like galanthus and crocus are finished and have died down by the time the grass is growing tall, and anemones are shorter than the tall blade height set on the mower in spring. Mow around the drifts of taller/late flowers to maintain a tidy appearance. Choose lawn areas with very light foot traffic, at least 6 hours of sunlight, and well draining. Plant the bulbs a little deeper than you normally would. Apply bulb fertilizer each year and always let the bulb foliage yellow and dieback.....don't cut off green foliage; it nourishes the bulb.

About bulbs in beds: Distract and/or avoid hungry animals by (inter)planting these less than tasty bulbs; alliums, chionodoxa, colchicum, fritillaria, galanthus, muscari, narcissus and scilla. Also consider disturbing the earth as little as possible, planting a little deeper than you normally would (especially tulips) and planting immediately before rain. For precious bulbs; plant the bulbs, top with 5 centimetres of soil, and cover with 1 centimetre mesh hardware cloth, bending and securing its edges into the ground, then top with more soil. Taller flowers look more natural with shorter flowers in front of them ie. species tulips with muscari in front. Consider planting bulbs away from the front of the border to allow other things to grow up in front covering the less than attractive yellowing foliage in late spring. Apply bulb fertilizer each year and always let the bulb foliage yellow and dieback.....don't cut off green foliage; it nourishes the bulb.

More information:

<http://www.almanac.com/content/best-bulbs-naturalizing>

<http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/naturalizing-bulbs>

LB

Here is a list (from Westcoast seeds) of flowering plants that will attract beneficial predatory insects:

### Carrot family (Apicacea)

- Caraway (*Carum carvi*)
- Coriander/cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*)
- Dill (*Anethum graveolens*)
- Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)
- Flowering ammi (*Ammi majus*)
- Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*)
- Toothpick ammi (*Ammi visnaga*)
- Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*)

### Aster family (Asteraceae)

- Blanketflower (*Gaillardia spp.*)
- Coneflower (*Echinacea spp.*)
- Coreopsis (*Coreopsis spp.*)
- Cosmos (*Cosmos spp.*)
- Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*)
- Sunflower (*Helianthus spp.*)
- Tansy/Phacelia (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
- Yarrow (*Achillea spp.*)



### Mustard family (Brassicaceae)

- Basket of gold alyssum (*Aurinum saxatilis*)
- Hoary alyssum (*Berteroa incana*)
- Mustards (*Brassica spp.*)
- Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*)
- Yellow rocket (*Barbarea vulgaris*)
- Wild mustard (*Brassica kaber*)

### Pea family (Fabaceae)

- Alfafa (*Medicago sativa*)
- Big flower vetch (*Vicia grandiflora*)
- Crimson clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*)
- Fava bean (*Vicia fava*)
- Hairy vetch (*Vicia villosa*)
- Sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*)
- White clover (*Trifolium repens*)

### Other species

- Buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*)
- Cinquefoil (*Potentilla spp.*)

Lady bug larvae (Coccinellidae larva)

drawing courtesy of: <http://www.bumblebee.org/>

Submitted by Judith Brook



## Tools, Tips and Tomes

### Help Requested: Identify the plant:

This plant that pops up in a shaded area behind some tall cedars in my yard. I am not sure if it is a weed or lungwort (*Pulmonaria*). I have been pulling it out and it comes back, which is a sure sign it is a weed. :) It produces small delicate pinkish flowers, in late spring.

Submitted by Anna Marie D'Angelo

Editor's note: Please contact Anna Marie directly to help identify her plant.



### THE PLANT EXCHANGE IS BACK.....

Please e-mail your plant wish lists and your plant giveaway lists **before October 1<sup>st</sup>** to [theleaf@lynnvalleygardenclub.org](mailto:theleaf@lynnvalleygardenclub.org)

[http://gardenworks.ca/sites/gardenworks/files/Grow\\_Your\\_Own\\_Fall\\_Winter\\_Harvest\\_web\\_handout.pdf](http://gardenworks.ca/sites/gardenworks/files/Grow_Your_Own_Fall_Winter_Harvest_web_handout.pdf)

### VertiCrop Update

The roof of an under-used parking lot in downtown Vancouver is being converted into an urban farm -- the first of its kind in North America.

The [Alterrus VertiCrop](#) Urban Farm System can grow up to 80 varieties, including leafy green vegetables and herbs. Work at the parkade at 535 Richards Street has already begun and the company plans to install the greenhouse next week. "That goes up very, very quickly," says Donovan Woollard with the company. "It's a set that's come from Holland and the growing system is also fairly modular and goes up fairly quickly as well."

He says seeds will be planted soon and the first harvest is expected in October. It will take only three weeks for the first crop to harvest.

"It's about 20 days from propagation, so it's a fairly high density, high rotation," he adds. After that first crop matures, it's a fairly continuous harvest.

"We'd be looking at 500 to 600 lbs of produce harvested about five times a week," notes Woollard.

The company expects to produce about 150,000 lbs of food annually.

The greenhouse will have a growing area of about 4000 square feet. Another 1,700 square feet is reserved for picking and packaging the produce.

The VertiCrop farm will include 3,000 growing trays, stacked 12 high and suspended from a conveyor. This conveyor will be in constant motion to provide even access to light, heat and irrigation.

"We're using a combination of natural light, and then we are supplementing with some artificial light to make sure we can be productive year round," says Woollard.

Excess water will be filtered and recycled. The roof facility will use blackout screens to prevent light pollution from bothering neighbours.

The greenhouse is a closed system, so Woollard says Alterrus will not be using genetically-modified seeds or chemical pesticides to control bug infestations. Instead, a technique called 'Integrated Pest Management' will be used.

"That's using beneficial insects," he explains. "So for example, if Whitefly might be a species that could impact a crop in a greenhouse from time-to-time, you would introduce another species [of insect] that would compete with [the pest] and not harm the plant."

This will be the company's first commercial site in North America. Alterrus has a test facility in the United Kingdom that has operated for three years, allowing them to research which varieties will grow best using the company's greenhouse system.

Woollard says the company negotiating with local retailers and restaurants to sell its crop. An announcement on that is expected at a later time.

The produce will be sold under the Local Garden label.

Submitted by Judith Brook

## ABOUT TOWN

**September 22 Saturday The Secret's in the Soil** 10:00 am - 3:30 pm Van Dusen

Healthy soils grow strong and healthy plants. So, what is healthy soil, and how can you improve the health of yours? Participants will get a hands-on introduction to the basics of the physical, biological and chemical properties of soil and how they relate to the home gardener. The benefits of different natural soil amendments (compost, manure, etc.) will also be looked at. Bring in a small sample of your soil (approx. 2 cups) in a clear glass/plastic jar with a good lid. Dress for the weather and bring your lunch. Instructor: Egan Davis Cost: Member: \$50 / Non-member: \$60

**September 23 Sunday Alpine Garden Club of BC - Annual Fall Plant Sale** 1.00 - 4.00pm Van Dusen Floral Hall 37th Ave. & Oak St., Vancouver Free Admission. A diverse collection of fall-blooming and other specialty, native, and collectible plants of all sizes suited to our local climate zones. Expert growers will be on hand.

**September 29 Saturday Winter Containers to Die For: Plant Up a Container to Create Winter Interest** 10am-12pm | \$14 | Phoenix Perennials and Specialty Plants Ltd. 3380 No. 6 Road Richmond Hands-on workshop for gardeners of all levels. How to successfully create gorgeous perennial containers that will provide months of winter interest. After some practical and design instruction each participant will plant up and take home their own container. Please bring your own large pot (at least 12-14 inches in diameter) or a large, black, seven gallon plastic pot can be provided at an additional cost of \$7 (order when booking workshop). Workshop price includes potting mix, not plants. Instructor: Shelley Brignall

**October 3 Wednesday GardenSmart - Growing Great Garlic** 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Fall is the ideal time to start your garlic for a summer harvest next year Join Mike Nassichuk in exploring all the best ways to maximize your harvest, and grow excellent garlic. West Vancouver Senior's Centre, West Vancouver Workshops are \$5.00 each. Call the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre at 604.990.3755 to register. More info at [gardensmart.ca](http://gardensmart.ca).

**October 6 Saturday Perennial Division** Van Dusen 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Fall is a great time to divide most perennial plants. They will respond with great vigor the following spring and you gain more of the plants you love! Join Egan for this discussion and demonstration class, where he will address the proper techniques and tools needed to divide perennials and why certain plants should be divided at different times of the year. Everyone will take home plants for their own garden. This is an outdoor class – please dress for the weather. **Instructor:** Egan Davis Cost: Member: \$40 / Non-member: \$50

**October 10 Wednesday GardenSmart - Transform your Lawn: Creating a Garden without Digging** 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m

Mollie Nye House, North Vancouver Sheet mulching, or "lasagna gardening", is the process of creating a garden through the layering of compostable materials. If you want to convert your lawn into a garden without the labour of digging up sod and the expense of buying soil, this workshop is for you! This classroom workshop will be instructed by Heather Nielsen. Workshops are \$5.00 each. Call the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre at 604.990.3755 to register.

**October 13 Saturday Winter Container Workshop** Van Dusen 10am-12 noon Plant up a beautiful basket of plants that will grow outdoors throughout the winter with colourful foliage and winter interest. This hands-on workshop includes a lesson on designing and planting your basket, as well as all the materials for you to do it, including a strong basket and a diversity of colourful evergreen plants. We will also discuss how to keep it healthy and growing well into the spring. Bring gloves and a large box to take your container home. Instructor: Estelle Bogoch Cost: Member: \$55 / Non-member: \$70

**October 13 Saturday Pruning with Confidence** off-site Van Dusen 9:00 am -1:00 pm

Learn from experience during this hands-on, outdoor course where everyone will prune a variety of plants including deciduous shrubs, cedar hedging, and broadleaf evergreens. An indoor presentation will cover the guidelines, logic, aesthetics, and basic botany of proper pruning before everyone heads outside to apply their new knowledge. Estelle will lead a busy morning of pruning, demos and sharing of clever tips and techniques. This course is limited to 10 participants and will be held offsite at a private residence in South Surrey. Participants must bring their own pruners, loppers and gloves. Instructor: Estelle Bogoch Cost: Member: \$65 / Non-member: \$80

**October 13-14 Saturday & Sunday UBC Botanical Garden – Apple Festival** 11am-4pm \$4 entry - cash only (children under 12 free) **Special Announcement for 2012:** Please join us on Saturday, October 13th at 1:00 p.m. at the Festival Main Stage as we host the naming ceremony for the very popular SPA493 apple! More than 25 years in the making, be one of the first to find out the name of Canada's newest apple. More info at [botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/apple-festival](http://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/apple-festival)

**October 17 Wednesday Low Maintenance on the West Coast** Van Dusen 6:30 -9:00 pm

A seasoned gardener in coastal B.C., Janis is well versed in the challenges and opportunities presented by our local conditions. In this course, she will enhance your understanding of our soils and climate and how you can easily grow an incredible diversity of plants. Janis will highlight plants that require little maintenance, including perennials, shrubs and trees. Instructor: Janis Matson. Cost: Member: \$25 / Non-member: \$35