



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943

December 2012

Message from the President

Executive Notes for December

Rosemarie Adams

I am looking forward to our December meeting and seeing all the wonderful swags which I know will go home with all. It always amazes me how different, and beautiful, every swag looks.

I guess we can finally say Winter is here. A couple of frosty mornings and a light dusting of snow one morning – and my fall clean up still not done ! I actually don't feel too guilty now about getting into my clean up as quickly as I should. I know that by later Spring clean-up I won't disturb any bees still in their winter nests, and by leaving dead flowers on plants in the fall I am looking after the birds who eat the seeds. My excuses for not so prompt garden housekeeping ! I did however get all my non-hardy plants put into the garage, my husband, bless his soul, is well conditioned to the fact that in the winter garages are for plants, not cars!

I think as Gardeners we all look forward to first signs of early spring, bulbs peeking through and those early spring perennials showing new growth.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas with family and friends, a time to reflect on how fortunate we all are to live in a peaceful and beautiful country.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy and Bountiful 2013.

Rosemarie

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.

**December 13, 2012
Christmas Party**

**January 17, 2013
Gerry Gibbens
Pruning**

**February 21, 2013
Gary Lewis
Hellebore Hurrah**

Mailing Address:

Lynn Valley Garden Club
P.O. Box 16053
1199 Lynn Valley Road
North Vancouver, BC
V7J 3S9

<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>



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

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:

January 3, 2013

The Leaf Deadline:

January 6, 2013



Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips

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



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.



Doreen Marbry, Diane Sekora

We are in the process of finalizing our Membership Registration (the due date is Dec. 31, 2012). To date, **65** people have registered

BUT we need to hear from **60** more.

PLEASE either:

1. Bring your \$20 membership fee to the Dec. 13 Christmas gathering (we will have extra forms).
2. Send your membership fee in the mail asap to an address below.
3. or Call/E-Mail Doreen or Diane to let us know if you will not be continuing in the New Year.

We need to get this completed before the New Year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Doreen Marbry

Diane Sekora



Merry Christmas

Looking forward to seeing you all at our annual Christmas party!

Please bring your greenery cut to size in preparation to make door swags.

We have made up decoration bags in a few different colours, pick them up at the door on your way in.

Don't forget to bring a plate of finger food, sweet or savoury.
There will be plates and mugs provided.

Pat Holmes



The Poinsettia, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, is the most popular indoor potted plant in North America. What makes the Poinsettia unique is the fact its flowers are not the brightly coloured petal-like leaves, or “bracts”, we are so fond of. In fact, the true flowers are the yellowish-green button-like objects at the center of the bracts. Fresh poinsettias will have tightly closed flowers, while older ones will have opened. Poinsettias come in hundreds of varieties ranging from the ever popular red, the pretty in pink, the classic creamy-white and a wide range of newer marbled, speckled and tinged varieties. All share similar preferences and growing characteristics with subtle differences between varieties.

Poinsettias should be placed in areas that receive bright, but not direct sunlight. Too much sunlight can discolour the bracts. Keep Poinsettias away from cold drafts such as those from windows or outside doors. Also take precautions to keep them away from heat sources like vents, radiators and fireplaces. Average temperature of 15-21 degrees Celsius is optimal.

Poinsettias dislike moisture extremes. If the soil dries out, the plant will wilt and drop its leaves. Keeping a gravel filled pan with water underneath the plant is a good way to increase humidity. Do not overwater or allow the Poinsettia to sit in water or the leaves may yellow, drop and root rot may occur.

While Poinsettias are technically perennials, they often decline in appearance within 6-8 weeks. As a result, most people choose to discard them early in the New Year. To maintain your Poinsettia, you will need to give it regular attention. In April-May, cut back the stems to within 3-6 inches of the soil. Starting in spring, fertilize every 3-4 weeks with a complete fertilizer. As it grows, pinch it back to encourage more growth. In order to re-bloom in the winter, Poinsettias require 8-10 weeks of days with less than 10-12 hours of sunlight. Regulate the amount of light it receives beginning in October to make it colour-up by Christmas. Even after all this, very few poinsettias look as good as new ones grown by professionals.

adapted from an article in Art's Nursery newsletter by Rebecca Van der Zalm

Floral arranging tips

Assemble the materials one day before you work with themso you can wash them (garden greens) and cut them on the diagonal (creating more surface area for water absorption) and put the stems in cool water overnight so they will be well hydrated.

Choose an assortment of greens....think texture, size, shape, fragrance, and berries. Gather as much as you think you will need for two or three projects. More is better because no one wants to see the cut edges from lower branches in the finished product.

If you are making a centerpiece....cut the foam to be ½-¾ inch taller than the container to allow the greens to drape over the container, and soak the foam in cool water overnight. Decide in advance the shape of your arrangement....low and wide is popular for centerpieces. Other shapes to consider would be triangle or globe. Then take a look at similar shaped plants in your yard for inspiration on how to place your greens in your arrangement. Define the shape with each placement of materials. Be careful to only push pieces into the foam...if you must pull it out...make a new hole....so the plant material will be able to drink. When the arrangement looks complete with just greens, then it is time to add flowers and other decorations.

While I'm out in the garden...I intend to cut some young red twigs from my vine maples and some extra evergreen boughs to stuff into my outdoor containers.....outdoor cut greens stay fresh for a very long time...

Gardening Tours for 2013

During our last meeting on November 15th, I mentioned some gardening tours that are being offered for next year. Due to the exclusive partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society the programs will feature unique and exclusive access to some of the world's most prestigious gardens, and private gardens that individuals would not be privy to. For example:

- After hours private tour of the famed Wisley Gardens, led by a horticulturist
- Cocktail party hosted by the owners of a private garden estate
- Members only access to the Chelsea Flower Show

The tours are designed with the garden enthusiast in mind, however, they will also feature many attractions for a non-gardening companion.

At this point I would like to emphasize the "Gardens of London" tour, featuring the Opening Day and the 100th Birthday of the Chelsea Flower Show. As this is a one-time only tour, May 18 to 25, space is very limited and the tour is likely to book up quickly.

Registration dead line is January 10, 2013.

Please refer to the enclosed link for more details regarding itinerary and pricing. I should also have some flyers available at our December meeting. Please note that the price shown does not include the flight, as people sometimes opt to use their points. However, I will be happy to make flight arrangements for you.

www.collettevacations.com/link/541177

Should you be interested in this exclusive tour or if you have any questions, please contact me at:

Yvonne Camenzind Kabata
Prime Travel
1852 Marine Drive, West Vancouver
Tel: 604-925-1212
e-mail: yvonne@prime-travel.com

PS: Details are currently still being worked out for some of the other tours which I hope to include in future editions of The Leaf.

In the Spirit of Giving

St. Clements Church recently held a Fundraising Dinner and Auction, with proceeds going partly to local north shore food banks and also church building maintenance and upkeep. Cari Wineberg very generously donated two prizes to the Silent Auction on behalf of Lynn Valley Garden Club, a voucher for 4 free hours garden work and for a Garden Consultation. Big "Thank You" Cari your generosity is much appreciated by our members, St. Clements Church, and the local food banks.

Rosemarie Adams

Bulb Forcing

Wouldn't we all like to have spring bulb colour and fragrance in our homes this winter?

The easiest bulbs to force into bloom are Paperwhite Narcissus (not hardy outside in this area, but don't require pre-chilling). In general, smaller bulbs like crocus, grape hyacinths, miniature daffodils, iris, and tulips are easy to force. Large, fragrant hyacinths are also easy. Whatever type of flower you decide to force, buy the largest size bulbs you can find. The bigger the bulb, the more flowers it will produce. Also, be sure the bulbs are firm, free from nicks and bruises, and that the roots haven't sprouted yet.

Paperwhites grow easily in pebbles and water. Paperwhites started in September will be in full bloom in 6-8 weeks. However, Paperwhites started in November and December will take only 3-4 weeks to come into bloom.

Fill 2/3rds of a shallow bowl with pebbles. Place bulbs on the pebbles and add water so that the water barely reaches the base of the bulbs. Fill the bowl with pebbles. Put the bowl in a cool dark spot for a few weeks (garage, cellar, or refrigerator... but monitor the temperature if the weather turns extremely cold, don't let them freeze.). As soon as growth appears, place in the light at room temperature. Mist the foliage. If your room is above 65 degrees, move the bulbs to a cooler spot at night until they bloom. Keep adding water, especially once the bulbs are rooted. You can also grow paperwhites in soil. Just plant the bulbs in good potting soil and follow the directions for the paperwhites in pebbles.

Hyacinths in a Glass.

Fill a glass with water, and place the bulb on the glass so that the water barely touches the bottom of the bulb. Place in a cool, dark spot (cellar, garage, or refrigerator). Check periodically to make sure that there is enough water in the glass. The glass should fill with roots, and the stem should begin growing out of the bulb. When the stem is about two inches out of the bulb which is usually in six weeks, move the glass into a warm, bright room. If you do this in your refrigerator, you can watch the roots develop every time you open the refrigerator door.

Note: Keep all bulbs away from apples and other (ethylene gas producing) ripening fruit that can damage the bulbs.

Forcing Hardy Crocus, Daffodils, Grape Hyacinth, Iris reticulata, Snowdrops and Tulips in Soil.

For an interesting display, layer more than one kind of bulb in the same pot; place larger bulbs on the bottom and they'll grow around the smaller ones. Always start with clean pots and fresh good potting mix. Fill a bulb pan to about 3 or 4 inches from the rim. Place the bulbs about 1/2 to 1 inch apart and about one inch from the edge of the pot. Add more soil until the tips are just under the surface of the soil. Water well. Place the pots in a cool, dark place; for example, in an unheated garage or cellar. Most bulbs need about 90 days of cold for the roots to develop. Wherever you put your bulbs for rooting, be sure to check them periodically to make sure the soil is moist. After about 90 days, bring your pots into a cool, bright room for a week or two. When the shoots are about 4-6 inches high, place the plants in a sunny window. When the buds show color, move the plants out of the sun so that the flowers will last longer. If your room temperature is above 65 degrees, your blooms will last longer if you place your plant in a cooler spot at night. After your bulbs have bloomed, place the plant in the sun and water until the foliage dries and the bulbs go dormant. Plant outside when the weather is warmer (2nd week of May).

Chilling and Blooming Times

- **Daffodils:** 12-15 weeks of chilling; 2-3 weeks to bloom after chilling.
- **Tulips:** 10-16 weeks of chilling; 2-3 weeks to bloom after chilling.
- **Crocus:** 8-15 weeks of chilling; 2-3 weeks to bloom after chilling.
- **Grape hyacinth (Muscari):** 8-15 weeks of chilling; 2-3 weeks to bloom after chilling.
- **Iris reticulata:** 13-15 weeks of chilling; 2-3 weeks to bloom after chilling.
- **Snowdrop (Galanthus):** 15 weeks of chilling; 2 weeks to bloom after chilling.

Adapted from articles at: www.thenatural-gardener.com & <http://www.bhg.com/gardening/flowers/bulbs/>



Tools, Tips and Tomes

Rufous hummingbirds have left us to winter in Mexico, but the Annas have returned to spend the winter with us. (Many stay here year 'round) With cooler temperatures at night, we increase the nectar solution to one cup of white granulated sugar to three cups of water to provide more carbohydrates for energy and warmth. During freezing temperatures, we suggest you bring the feeder in at night and put it out early in the morning to give them a warm breakfast to start the day.

From Wild Birds Unlimited Newsletter

Living frames.....I love this idea!

Living Frames : \$990 – 2,990 made by [Urban Foliage](http://lxry.ca/2011/11/living-frames-by-urban-foliage/) is a great new modern picture frame that has beautiful plants growing from it to create a nice, unique piece. Made in Vancouver, these '**Living Frames**' are beautifully designed and a great addition to any home and only require watering after every 2-3 weeks. The colours, textures, sizes and overall design of the **Living Frames** give the ability to customize and compliment any space . The materials used to manufacture these frames are high quality, durable, and recyclable....

<http://lxry.ca/2011/11/living-frames-by-urban-foliage/>

Living Succulent Picture

Of course we can make our own for very little cost.....

<http://www.bhg.com/gardening/container/plans-ideas/make-a-living-succulent-picture/#page=1>

ABOUT TOWN

Van Dusen Gardens 2012 Festival of Lights:

December 7, 2012 through January 1, 2013, 4:30 to 9 p.m. each evening, except December 25th when the Garden is closed. Avoid the line-up and purchase advance tickets through [Tickets Tonight](http://www.vandusen.com/tickets) 604.684.2787 (service charge applies) or in person at the Admissions Desk in the Visitor Centre (no service charge) as of November 1.

Admission: Adult (19-64): \$14.25 Senior (65+): \$10.50 Van Dusen Members: \$11.25 (members bypass the big line-up)

More information or see the pictures at: <http://vancouver.ca/vandusen/events/fol.htm>

Park and Tilford Gardens Holiday Hi-Light Festival

December 2nd - 31 Family Friday Nights: December 9th & 16th, 4pm - 9pm

The entry to the gardens during the month of December is "by donation". Proceeds from this year's light-up will go to support the following charities:

- North Vancouver Kiwanis Club
- North Vancouver Girl Guides
- North Vancouver City Firefighters Charitable Society
- North Vancouver District Firefighters Charitable Society
- FOG's - Friends - Of - The - Gardens

More information at: <http://parkandtilford.com/gardens-events.html>

December 16, Sunday Family Fun Day 10am-4pm Gardenworks Lougheed

Just drop in when you want and leave when you're done! Come create something fun or memorable! We will have an assortment of crafts and projects that you can work on together. Try making a swag, or a festive planter, glitter up a poinsettia....Cost will be based on supplies used.

December 23, Sunday Potpourri Centrepiece 1pm or 6:30pm Gardenworks Lougheed

Add scented cones and pods to your arrangement this year! Frasier fir will fill the air with the fragrance of a just cut tree; and no needles dropping on the floor! \$35 For more information or to register e-mail croberts@gardenworks.ca.