



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

December 2016

President's Message - Penny LeCouteur

If you didn't already know it is December (plantwise) by looking out the window, the surfeit of poinsettia in the shops would indicate that Christmas was approaching. Of course poinsettia, a *Euphorbia*, is a native of Mexico and has become a symbol of Christmas because of its brilliantly coloured bracts, usually shades of red but also other colours – orange, pale green, cream, pink, white, or marbled. Poinsettia bracts require specific periods of light and dark to develop the colour which probably accounts for why I can never get these plants to “bloom” again the next Christmas, so I have stopped trying. But this did get me thinking about other plants that are considered to be “Christmas” plants. I expect you all know that hellebores are sometimes called the Christmas Rose, that amaryllis are known as the Christmas lily, and that you probably have a Christmas cactus (*Schulmbergera* from southern Brazil) flowering now. And thanks mainly to Mr. Wikipedia and Ms. Google I have come up with a number of other examples of Christmas plants. Carved radishes are used in parts of Mexico, the bulrush signifies prosperity in Taiwan, pomegranates also mean prosperity in the Middle East but in Bulgaria you would use wheat sheaves for prosperity and plenty.



There is a Christmas fern, a Christmas moss, and of course we use a variety of evergreens as decoration and as Christmas trees. But I think the most spectacular (and I admit to bias) is the Pohutukawa tree (*Metrosideros excelsa*) a member of the myrtle family and known as the New Zealand Christmas tree. They grow along the shoreline, cliffs and beaches and can reach up to 80' high. In early summer (*ie* Christmas in the southern hemisphere) they are covered in brilliant scarlet flowers – actually stamens not petals as you can see in the accompanying photo. Quite a sight at Christmas.

One Christmas sight I do not want to see on Thursday 8th Dec – our Christmas party date – is snow. It can snow later but not this Thursday evening.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and their families – and did I mention what I'd like for Christmas? **One more MAIL for the club, please!!!**

LVGC MEETINGS

3rd 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

SPEAKERS

December 8
PARTY!

January 19
SAM COUSINS
INVASIVE SPECIES

Mailing Address:

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

<http://www.lynnvalleygardclub.org>

2016 Executive

President

Penny LeCouteur

Vice President

Judith Brook

Secretary

Susan Huber

Treasurer

Jennifer Sydenham

Membership

Joy Paulson

Bonnie Noakes

Members at Large

Doreen Dew

Whitney McMillan

Gillian Morris

Catharine Winstanley

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa

Plant Table

Judy Stringer

Irene Turner

Hospitality

Kitty Castle

Carole Cobbett

Mimi Kuhl

Susan Nicholls

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Maggie Davis

Website

Aline Burlone

Executive Meetings

1st Wednesday of the month

Next Meeting: Jan 4 7:30 PM

Next Newsletter Deadline

January 11, 2017

If you have material to delight your fellow members - please submit it *via* the time-honoured routes or email to

<mailto:lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com>

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition: and to Bruce Tennant for this photo!



REPORTS

VP Report for 2016 – Judith Brook

We had a year of wonderful speakers who talked about a wide range of subjects. Here is your stroll down memory lane – and you can remind yourself of details on the website.

January 21	James Spears	Veggies
February 18	Emma Holmes	Sustainable Agriculture in Cuba
March 17	Malonie Hewstan	Hydrangeas
April 21	Ronald Knight	Rhododendrons
May 19	Catherine Dale	Land Conservancy
June 16	Gwen Odermatt	Great Plant Picks
September 15	Harmony Bjarnson	Climate Change and Gardening
October 20	Satya Brown	Plantaholic in a Small Garden
November 17	David Tracey	Ecological garden Design

Membership Report for 2016 – Bonnie Noakes

Membership is at 125 with a wait list. We average 60 members at each meeting. The largest turnout was 74 in April and the smallest was 42 in September. We are accepting membership renewals for 2017 anytime now. Please make cheques payable to the Lynn Valley Garden Club. So far, about a quarter of our members have renewed their memberships.

You are asked to fill out the renewal form included with this newsletter

Plant Table Report for 2016 – Judy Stringer

As you may have noticed, the Plant Table is now located across from the Membership Table in our meeting hall. This spot is a little more in the centre of our gatherings and hopefully, more likely to catch your attention as you arrive and leave our meetings.

Your Plant Table Committee – Judy and Irene – will be stepping down at the end of this year. We've had a good time over the last two years meeting and talking with people who have brought plants and gardening items for the table and with those who have purchased them. Your contributions have been appreciated and have added to the club's coffers.

If garden club members still feel the plant table is a fun and useful part of our meetings, **volunteers are needed to keep the Plant Table going.** Perhaps this is something you would like to do to contribute to the club's activities.

There will be no Plant Table at the December and January meetings, and after that, it will be up to the membership to support it by volunteering their time and talents.

All the best of the season to everyone!!

Hospitality - Kitty Castle & Carole Cobbett & Mimi Kuhl & Susan Nicholls

Besides our ever-constant reminder to try and remember to bring your own mug to meetings, this is your reminder that the **CHRISTMAS PARTY** is **December 8** and it is a **POTLUCK** – **please bring yummy finger foods to share!** To feed the body....

– and to feed the soul - if your heart is in it, please bring some items for the Food Bank. There will be a box to fill and Maria has promised to deliver it. Non-perishable items are best, but \$\$ donations are also gratefully accepted. If you want a tax receipt, then use a cheque with your name on it.

SPEAKER – Thursday, January 11, 2017

SAM COUSINS

Invasive alien species are a threat to biodiversity, agriculture and infrastructure. With early detection, reporting and rapid response the impacts can be reduced before they get out of control.

Sam Cousins is the West area Stewardship Research Technician for Metro Vancouver. His work focuses on connecting the public with ecological restoration events within the regional parks system and the management of invasive species. He has gained a wealth of invasive species identification knowledge and treatment options experience from working for Brandywine Provincial Park, the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council and Stanley Park Ecology Society.



Calling for Volunteers to organize LVGC 2017 Bus Trip

– Rosemarie Adams

The 2017 Bus trip to Sunshine Coast/Sechelt is scheduled for **Saturday May 27th**. Unfortunately I will not be able to organize it this year, as I will be away on vacation, but fortunately we have some help on hand.

Sheila Watkins, a longstanding former LVGC member, Master Gardener and Gardening Journalist moved to the Sunshine Coast several years ago, is a member of the Botanical Garden over there, and has

offered to line up gardens for our Club to visit.

Voilà! – the work is done !

I will help you with bus booking *etc.*

This will be an easy job, so **please somebody, volunteer!**

You can call me at 604-988-9757 if you want more info.

– Rosemarie

What's new on the Lynn Valley Garden Club Website?

–Aline Burlone

- Under the heading **Guest Speakers**

David Tracey (November 17, 2016 guest speaker) can be found under **Past Speaker by name**

(<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-name/>) or

Past Speaker by topic – Ecological Garden Design (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-topic/>)

- Under the heading **Newsletter - 2016** - the November 2016 newsletter has been posted.

(<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/newsletters/2016-2/>)

- Under **Bulletin Board – Announcements**

Information and link to the Hardy Plant Study Weekend – Sidney, BC –June 23-25, 2017

(<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/bulletin-board/announcements/>)

- Check the December and January calendars for up-coming events (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/calendar-2/>)

Click on the date of the event to find out further information and useful links.

Please email good links and PDF articles or photos to be posted on the website to lvgcwebsite@gmail.com

Useful internet find on the UBC Botanical Garden website

– sourced by Judith Brook

This is a CBC radio interview with Egan Davis from October 2015. To hear the full interview with Egan Davis listen to the audio labelled: [Tips for getting your garden ready for winter, from an expert horticulturalist](#). In case the link doesn't work: cut and paste this link into your browser. <http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2677226400>


Mark May 13, 2017 on your calendars for next year's Plant Sale!!


An Invitation from

- Rima Gardner and Sue McKay, Co-Chairs, Victoria Hardy Plant Group 2017 Study Weekend

Dear fellow gardeners,

We are excited to announce that *The Victoria Hardy Plant Group* is hosting a Study Weekend in June 2017. We have attached an article below, our poster and our conference logo. Would you be so kind as to share with your gardening friends.

Registration begins February 1, 2017 and typically this event sells out very quickly. If you have any questions or need any additional information please don't hesitate to contact me.

The Victoria Hardy Plant Group is thrilled to be hosting the Hardy Plant Study Weekend in Sidney, BC next summer, June 23-25, 2017.

What is a Hardy Plant Study Weekend? It is a three to four day conference that rotates among the Hardy Plant Groups in the Pacific Northwest, including the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon in Portland, Northwest Perennial Alliance in Seattle and the Hardy Plant Groups of Vancouver and Victoria.

All gardeners are invited to join us for total immersion in the wonderful world of gardening. It's your chance to indulge your passion for everything gardening. We will be offering the opportunity to see and hear international and national speakers, tour local gardens open especially for this event, shop for plants, garden art, and beautiful books. We are also planning a Saturday evening fete at The Gardens at HCP.

The theme for the 2017 Hardy Plant Study Weekend is Flourish: Celebrating People, Plants and Progress. It will be held at the popular Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney.

The Study Weekends are very popular, most conferences sell out in less than a month after registration began.

We are updating our website regularly so check often to find the latest news.

<http://www.victoriahardyplantstudyweekend2017.org>

Registration begins February 1, 2017. Mark your calendar now!



Don't forget the Food Bank ...and other needs... help wherever you can!

This year I'm giving/getting an organic garden via OXFAM Unwrapped

<https://secure.oxfam.ca/unwrapped/byprice.php>



The OFFICIAL LVGC 2016 Christmas Craft – Penny LeCouteur

This year our Christmas craft at the *Dec 8th Christmas Party* will be fabric balls which can be hung on your Christmas tree, dangled from a door wreath, adorn conifer swags *etc.* Although these balls look elegant and sophisticated (see photos) they are very easy to make and you should have no trouble making your ball while you eat goodies, drink hot cider and chat with other members.

The club will be supplying the main the materials and equipment but we would like each of you to bring the following:

A pair of scissors (fabric cutting scissors) labeled with your name.

A measuring tape (cloth, not metal!) – labeled if you want to.

Fabric remnants (minimum size: 2" x 25" or 5" by 12")

Ribbon remnants (minimum length: 10" Best widths are between 1/2" to 1")

Don't go and buy fabric or ribbons – this is a craft that will use up your remnants (and those of us who sew or craft have lots of remnants!) Cotton fabric works best although I have used shiny lamé and silk but that requires a bit of practice. Avoid thick fabrics like knits and woolens – again, can be done, but more difficult and cotton is so much easier. Christmas printed cottons are great, red or green are obviously Christmassy, but other solid colours can make great balls as do other patterned and coloured fabrics. Usually you will use three different fabrics for a ball. You can use only your own fabric or choose from the general pile – so if you have lots of fabric remnants bring lots to share in the pile. Bring fabric ribbons – not the papery parcel wrapping ribbons: gold, silver or patterned ones are great. Again, if you have lots, bring them to share. The more fabrics and ribbons we have to share the better!



You will receive written instructions, there will be samples of each step on display, and Exec members will be at each table to help you get started. (We have decided to turn the Dec Exec meeting into a "Ball Making Meeting" so that there will be plenty of "trained" people to help.) If any members already know how to make these balls – your expertise and participation at the Christmas party would be much appreciated!



Of course if you're on a roll – here's another one (from Rosemarie Adams)

Supplies:

- Terracotta flower pot (with hole in bottom) – 8" size is good, but you can also use 6" (You can also use plastic flower pot, but terracotta does look better)
- Half or third block of Oasis florist foam; (you need to pre-soak this in warm water)
- Approx 48" cord or strong ribbon – red looks nice – or you can use jute string;
- Small gold or silver bell or ball – approx 1"
- Washer (larger than hole in flower pot)
- Ribbon, bows (optional)
- Greenery – Cedar, Fir, Ivy, Berries

Make a loop in the cord about 36" long, and tie together firmly with washer.

Tie bell or ball on bottom of remaining length (which is approx 8").

Thread the double loop of cord upwards through the empty upside down pot and through the center of the block of oasis which sits on top of the pot – you may need a piece of wire coat hanger as a needle to do this, or push the cord or ribbon into a straw and push the straw through the oasis.

The washer will keep the lower 8" of cord hanging inside the pot.

Poke sprigs of greenery into the oasis in layers around the pot, so all the oasis is covered. Put sprigs of berries or flowers around the top. You can either cover the whole flowerpot, or just use shorter sprigs so the bottom half of the pot shows.

Add bows or decorations if you wish:
Looks best hanging above eye level, and best hung under an eave or on a porch.



Occasionally mist the oasis with water to keeps it fresh for months.



Lynn Valley Garden Club

Registration Form

- Annual membership Fee is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple.
- Renewals must be received by December 31, 2016. After this deadline, new members will be accepted from the waiting list.
- Payment by cheque is preferred, payable to 'Lynn Valley Garden Club'. Post-dated cheques (December 31, 2016) will be accepted. Please note - cheques will not be cashed until after January 1, 2017.
- Please make sure to fill out this form and bring it, along with your payment, to the next meeting or mail them to: Lynn Valley Garden Club, P.O. Box 16053
- 1199, Lynn Valley Rd., North Vancouver, BC. V7J 3S9

Last Name: _____ First name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____ [to receive the newsletter via email]

Would you consider helping with a committee
or taking an executive position in the future? Yes _____ No _____

Do you want your phone number
included on the membership phone list? Yes _____ No _____

Do you need a receipt? Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic? _____

***** All LVGC email addresses & phone #'s are private information and only to be used at the discretion of the executive.**

It was a usual cloudy day in North Vancouver, just after the LVGC Members' Garden Tour, when a laden car arrived at ST Mary's. Linda hopped out, and she and her husband started to unload a never-ending stream of grey bins... Remember Lewis Carroll's *The Walrus and the Carpenter*? "...thick and fast they came at last, and more and more and more...." And they were all filled with an assortment of *hemerocallis*. Seemingly hundreds of them.

- "Thought you could use these. Take your time planting," - she said, "just get the bins back to me when you're done. Maybe at the September meeting? These were from the school I taught at, they're still labeled with "science" and "math"... but they have found new uses."

- "Oh wow! Thanks! No problem," quoth I, as I grabbed for the nearest shovel.

I was done in a few days, with nice "groupings" around blue hydrangeas, as Linda had suggested. I swished the dirt out of the bins, piled them up in the shed, and summer slowly disappeared.

As life would have it, it turned out that we were going to Alsace for September, and I would not be able to return the bins personally at the September LVGC meeting. I had a solution for that: pass the buck to someone else. Easily done, as Penny-the-Pres was a close and unsuspecting victim. There was an Exec meeting just before we left, so on a dark and stormy night, I transferred the bins from my trunk to Penny's trunk, extracting a promise:

- "Make sure you take them to the September meeting for Linda."

I went merrily off on my travels, and forgot the bins. Penny had them: everything was cool.

Time passed, the November LVGC happened – and I found myself nose to nose with Linda who looked enquiringly at me. Panic struck. Didn't hear most of what she said, as the word "BINS" tolled in my head. Where were the god-forsaken bins? What had I done with them?

- "Penny, did I give you some grey bins in August, or did I just imagine that I did?"

- "Remind me when and where you might have done that?"

- "It was a dark and stormy night..."

We finally worked out that I had indeed passed the buck/bins, and that Penny had indeed taken them to the September LVGC meeting. Here the trail grew cold. Apparently, at the meeting, Penny announced that she had the bins, someone had volunteered that she would get them to Linda... and the bins duly vanished. Without a trace.

So now we have a mystery on our hands: the Case of the Grey Bins Vanished on a Dark and Stormy Night. If anyone knows the whereabouts of said grey bins, please put me out of my misery and guilt.

Miss Marple, where are you? I need a good ending to this one....

BTW: The *hemerocallis* are doing very well!

PAX

