



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

March 2017

President's Message - Penny LeCouteur

If you have had to turn this upside down to read, it is the Editor's way of letting you know I am "down under". In last year's March Leaf, I think I was exclaiming over the wonderful signs of spring in our gardens. This year I am receiving emails with attached photos showing snow, snow and more snow. Snow in March! I know it is not unheard of but in these amounts? I am starting to worry what is happening to my garden. Do my more tender plants know not to stick their heads up until spring really arrives?

I was also planning on writing about the wonderful summer weather I had been having here; the sunshine, the beaches, the flowers etc. But all this changed three or four days ago when a series of storms moved in from the north. The weather map showed enormous circular lows heading towards the coast and an extreme weather warning was broadcast. The rain was torrential - many areas had more rain in 12 hours than their average March rainfall. Flooding was widespread, low lying areas were under water, and number of roads were impassable. As well there were numerous *slips* as waterlogged hillsides and cliffs gave way, often closing roads with great heaps of trees, rocks and clay.



I had gone to a beach up north (see attached photo taken on a sunny day) with friends to stay in their *bach* (Kiwi-speak for a summer cottage). We had expected heavy rain, possible flooding and as the bach is perched on a cliff above a surf beach, there was even the possibility of slips, but although there was some rain and one morning we got winds gusting to about 120 kph, we somehow missed the worst of the weather. What we did get was very high surf. We went swimming every day - the water was warm, in fact the rain and wind were warm as the weather was coming from the north. It was not really swimming, just trying to stay on our feet as the force of the waves kept knocking us over.

My friends have spent the last twenty years or so planting native trees and shrubs on the cliff below the bach to prevent slips and erosion. They have grown many of these from seed which is not an easy task. Unlike standard flowers and vegetables, the germination of native species can be slow - up to a year - and tricky. There are specific temperature, light and moisture requirements that differ from plant to plant and are not well known so trial and error is often the only way to go. They also went to a series of lectures on how to collect, germinate and raise native species. But it has paid off as the cliff is no longer a *slip* area; you can now hear and see birds in the trees and shrubs and native grasses and flaxes that are thriving there.

And the latest forecast is for a week of sunshine!

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

March 16

DAVID SELLARS
Alpine Plants,
Photography
April 20

EGAN DAVIS

Reducing Water Use and
Increasing Urban
Ecology
May 18

TREVOR TURNER

Water Conservation,
Drip Irrigation

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2017 Executive

President

Penny LeCouteur

Vice President

Judith Brook

Secretary

Susan Huber

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Jennifer Sydenham

Membership

Bonnie Noakes

Judy Sullivan

Members at Large

Catharine Winstanley

Rita Marshall

Maggie Davis

Daphne Page

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa

Plant Table

Norma Buckland

Hospitality

Kitty Castle

Carole Cobbett

Susan Nicholls

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Carol Bell

Eddie Rustemeyer

Website

Aline Burlone

Executive Meetings

1st Wednesday of the month

Next Meeting: April 5, 7:30 PM

Chez Jennifer Sydenham

Next Newsletter Deadline

April 12, 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 the photo below!



REPORTS

VP Report - Judith Brook

As listed on the front page - speakers are booked until May 2017 with plans for June.

The Brian Minter event - between two snowfalls - was full: 100 person capacity room; eight tickets were sold with the remainder used by members at no charge. Lessons learned were discussed at the Executive meeting and are available for consideration for future events with high-profile speakers.

Treasurer's Report - Jennifer Sydenham

Club equity: \$5000; Reserve fund: \$2000; Operating fund: \$2524

Our 2016 books are out for auditing. Budget projections were spot on.

Membership Report for March 2017 - Bonnie Noakes

As of this *Leaf*, LVGC membership stands at 113: a good time to invite your friends to join!

Plant Table - Norma Buckland & ???

Norma at the Plant Table needs a partner-in-crime: at the March meeting be ready to have your arm twisted.

Hospitality - Kitty Castle & Carole Cobbett & Susan Nicholls

From March onwards, there will be an insulated jug of hot water on the tea/coffee table in case you want bring your own teabags or just want hot water.... and try and remember to bring your own mug to meetings to drink it from! We supply about 10 disposable cups per meeting, and then haul them home for recycling. Thanks from your Hospitality team.

[Also from March onwards, while you are grabbing that mug and teabag - please also grab a *non-perishable item for the food bank!!* - Maria]

SPEAKER

David Sellars --- Thursday, March 16, 2017

"Photographing Alpine Plants: A Landscape Point of View"

David Sellars is an award-winning photographer and is the Past President of the Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia. Together with his wife, Wendy, he is developing an extensive alpine and woodland garden in coastal British Columbia. Their garden won the NARGS Millstream Garden Award in 2012.

<https://nargs.org/private-gallery/david-and-wendy-sellars-millstream-rock-and-alpine-garden>

He is an avid mountain hiker and maintains the website: <http://www.mountainflora.ca> David's particular interests are rock garden design and construction, alpine plant photography and using video to illustrate mountain landscapes and alpine plant habitats. His video page is here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/MountainFlora>

He has written articles on rock garden design and alpine plant explorations for the NARGS Rock Garden Quarterly, the International Rock Gardener, and the Saxifrage Magazine. A selection of his photographs were published in the recent book *Alpine Plants of British Columbia, Alberta and Northwest North America*. His images will also be included in a new edition of Arthur Kruckeberg's *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest*.

Pre Plant Sale Prep

- Your West Coast Seed Committee

Annual Plant Sale Saturday, May 13th 2017 - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Set up for the Sale: Friday May 12th early afternoon to evening (time TBA)

1. **TOPSOIL:** The MALs & Catharine Winstanley would like you to know that "the glorious soil has arrived on Bruce's driveway, and is available for those who want to start using it. So somewhere under the snow, a large pile of black gold, alias topsoil, lives on Bruce's driveway. Go get some - especially if you have a warm spot that is suitable for germinating

2. **WEST COAST SEEDS!!!** - read on!

This is a message from your West Coast Seeds Veggie Subcommittee:



Many of you picked up seeds at the Brian Minter presentation in February. That is great news: thank you to all of you. The following seeds are still available and can be picked up at the March meeting:

- 5 packs of cucumbers
- 5 packs of pumpkins
- 14 packs of peppers
- 2 packs of tomatoes

There are also some cauliflowers and bell pepper seeds left from 2014. They will be submitted to the germination test, and if they pass they will also be available.

How are your seedlings coming along in this rather unusual weather? Mine are not quite as quick to sprout as they were in other years it seems. Or maybe I am just impatient. I have a feeling they will all 'burst' at once when temperatures rise. Tom, Yvonne or Bruce would be happy to answer any question that anyone may have regarding starting veggie plants from seed. Call us or ask us at the next meeting.



Among the three of us we have already planted lots of onions, leeks, peas, lettuce, basil, tomatoes and some peppers.

I would also like to share another project with you. All you master gardeners and seasoned members of the club, you may want to stop reading now. The following is more for the start-up gardeners like myself, who learn by doing, and this may not be the 'right' way or 'best' way, but it does the job and works for me. Since I joined the garden club a few years ago and started growing plants from seed for the plant sale, I found that I ran out of room inside the house very quickly once the seedlings need to be repotted. I grow close to 100 tomato plants each year along with cucumbers and some other veggies. Every single sunny spot in the house is taken up with flats of plants



(including on the kitchen table and on my husband's kitchen chair so that he has to relocate to the other side of the table every spring ...). That's when we decided we needed a green house. This is a very simple model, some 2 x 2s, strong

UV-filter poly (the thin stuff gets brittle in the sun), a few shelves inside, angled brackets for the roof, and a hubby who follows instructions willingly ... ☺





It is important to allow for enough air circulation, which is why I attach the poly with tacks rather than nails. This way I can always fold it up or down as needed.

Early in the season, when temperatures allow, my greenhouse serves as keeper of the seedlings before they go to the plant sale in May. After that, I grow some of my own tomatoes in there, and they usually turn out much better than the ones grown in the open, because they are protected from the rain.

Some of the indeterminate tomatoes grow rather large and therefore the 'raise-able roof' was invented.

As I said, it is not the most professional model, but it works for me.

Happy seed starting!

P.S. Bruce would like you to know that there is still some "Potting up" soil in his driveway. If you have any extra pots you can drop them off at the same place and others can help themselves.

Tom, Bruce and Yvonne

After I sent out my blurb last week where I boasted that I grew about 100 tomato plants each year, I thought I'd better go and count them to make sure I am not telling a lie. Well, I



only counted 72 plants so thought I should sow some more this weekend. After checking again - you know what's coming - I realized that I had miscounted last week, and I now

have over 200 tomato plants on the go!!! Have I gone mad???? (It is probably the weather that makes me all gaga.)

PPP (Pig Poo Party!!!) coming to a parking lot near you - March meeting!

Please remember your gloves, tarps for your car, and **your money** for Kelly!! - as the beautiful stuff will be available at the March meeting. \$10/pre-booked bag.

PS: Saturday, the Party Poopers headed to Abbotsford, where in the pouring rain, we loaded 138 bags of the sh*t. We rewarded ourselves with a side-trip to Devon Nurseries (Bradner Road and Fraser Highway), one of Bonnie's secret sources. OH MY: the prices are incredible and worth the trip.

[Now say this as fast as you can: Pooper Party picked a pack of pig poo pallets...]

If You Missed "The Pig Poo Party" - you are still in luck.... Read on for more of the good stuff.



Hello Lynn Valley Garden Club,

The 15th Capilano Highlanders have been scouting on the North Shore of Vancouver since 1960. Our colony includes multiple generations of families and we are well embedded and active in our community through service. The vision of Scouts Canada is Canadian youth making a meaningful contribution to creating a better world. The mission is to help develop well-rounded youth, better prepared for success in the world.

A number of 15th Capilano Highlander Scouts are raising money to attend the Canadian Jamboree '17 in Halifax, Nova Scotia in July. CJ'17 will be one fun-filled week of adventure, challenge and friendship for youth aged 11-14 years old from across Canada and around the world. One of our annual major fundraisers is our **Spring Steer Manure Sale**. This year, a large portion of manure sales will go directly to help support the cost of the Scouts going to CJ'17.

Each bag of manure is \$5 for approximately 40 lbs. The manure can be pre-ordered and delivered to homes on the North Shore for a minimum donation of \$5 regardless of the number of bags in the order. Alternately the orders can be picked-up at the sale on April 1st or 2nd, 10:00 - 2:00 at Edgemont Village Chevron Station.

Please pre-order to reserve your bags now. Pre-payment is required.

Contact: arabella@telus.net to order and arrange for payment pickup. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to give us a call - Andrea Dropko 604-317-7897

Strawberries!!

- sourced by Judith Brook



<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2017/feb/27/strawberry-deals-forever-british-fruit-in-shops-two-months-early>

Strawberries, technically not a berry but rather an aggregate accessory fruit, have been eaten since Roman times when they were used for medicinal purposes. In 14th century France, Charles V had 1,200 strawberry plants in his royal garden, and early 15th century western European monks included the wild strawberry in their illustrations. In England, demand for the fruit rose regularly from the mid 16th century. Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, at the court of Henry VIII, has been credited as the first to create the timeless combination of strawberries and cream, which remains so popular five centuries on.



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

- Aline Burlone

- Under the heading **Guest Speakers** - Brian Minter (February, 2017 guest speaker) can be found under Past Speaker by name (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-name/>) or Past Speaker by topic - Garden Design, Special Interest Plants (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-topic/>)
- Under the heading **Newsletter** - 2017 - the February 2017 newsletter has been posted. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/newsletters/2017-2/>)
- Under the heading **Links**
 - Under the section Invasive Plants and Pests there is a new link to the Pacific Northwest Pest Management Handbooks - you input a plant name and a list of all possible problem appears with links to more detailed information (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/invasive-plants-and-pests/>)
 - Under the section General Gardening Information there is a link to the Unique Soil Amendment (Cours de Lint) information sheet (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/general-gardening-information/>)
 - Under the section bees, subsection bees and Neonicotinoids there is research article on the importance of bees. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/bees-and-neonicotinoids/>)
 - Under the section Fruit and Vegetable Gardening there is a link to a Fruit Tree Pollinator Compatibility checker. (<https://www.orangepippintrees.com/pollinationchecker.aspx>)
- Check the March and April 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

Update on the DNV Bins

Anna Marie D'Angelo

A little update on the green waste collection changes at North Vancouver District.

I noticed on the District website that it now says you can purchase two extra green waste bins, instead of one --- for a fee. I phoned the district to ask what the fee was. Reception said it would be determined later when council passed their new list of charges, but it would be in the vicinity of \$60 per bin per year-- so that would be an extra \$120 a year

for the two extra green waste bins. She said they were aware of a *very small minority* of people who were not happy with the green waste collection changes.

I am fine with the new bins with the locking lids--that part is an improvement-- but I am against reducing the quantity of green waste we can leave at the curb as part of our already-paid taxes for district services. It seems like a poorly thought-out cut in service.

...continue those calls - to show that the tiny minority is not so tiny.... -m



Members' Garden Tour:

"We don't want "Butchart Garden"s - we want variety!" Use this event as an opportunity to get expert help for your garden (I did last year - and I got LOADS of good advice and ideas - and have implemented them all to great effect.)



Thank you to Rosemarie Adams for finding and getting permission to reprint the following two articles from the *Alpine Garden Club's* Newsletter (<http://www.agc-bc.ca>).

Why grow *Kabschia* Saxifrages

----**David
Sellars**

If you are contemplating rock garden plants with floriferous tight buns, as many of us are at this time of year, then *Kabschia saxifrages* could be what you are looking for. Many alpine plants such as *Eriogonum* have nondescript foliage in the winter or no foliage at all. Saxifrages from the *Kabschia* series form attractive low mounds with year-round foliage interest and have flowers that are tight to the plant or extend skywards seeking out the sun and insects for pollination.

Many alpine plants do not perform as well in the garden as they do in the wild. For example, *Douglasia laevigata* puts on a magnificent show of flowers on the high ridges of the Olympic Mountains, but in our garden they have only a few, rather limp flowers. *Kabschia* saxifrages, by contrast, always seem to flower in the garden as vigorously as they do in nature. *Kabschia* are also long-lived, slug resistant and species-rich with lots of variation and flower colour.

What's not to like? Well, for one thing, they are rather particular about growing conditions. They must not get over-heated in the summer, but do not do well in the shade of overhanging trees. They need to be on north facing,



open slopes and protected from full sun by an adjacent rock. *Kabschia* saxifrages flower early, mostly in March, but sometimes in February. Drenching rains and frost can spoil the flowers unless some overhead rain protection is provided. Nevertheless they are well worth growing, even for the foliage, and do not need much attention once they get established. A few of the *Kabschia* cultivars that do well in the open garden in our climate are the light pink 'Allendale Charm' (see photo above), dark pink 'Jenkinsiae' and yellow 'Winton' and 'Marianna'. Forms of white *Saxifraga burseriana* and *Saxifraga marginata* also do well.

Remember Bruce Tennant's incredibly brave, foolish, hardy daffodil in last month's *LEAF*? Well, I received the following missive:

" Tom & Margaret Davis, Feb 18

Maria, I was at Bruce's yesterday: that daffodil of his is plastic!

Regards,

Tom "

[at the time of going to press, neither statement could be verified. Is this LVGC's own *fake news*? -editor]



The Four *Erythronium* of Vancouver Island

Did you know that there are four species of *Erythronium* growing wild on Vancouver Island? Yes. It's true. That charming little wild flower, so cherished by woodland gardeners all over the world, is well represented here on the island, yet they all come from very different habitats, presenting a welcome challenge for gardeners. The four species that occur on Vancouver Island are *Erythronium oregonum*, *E. revolutum*, *E. grandiflorum*, and *E. montanum*.

Erythroniums, one of our most beautiful spring ephemerals, belong to the lily family (liliaceae). Like many lilies, they stem from a deep underground bulb. In the springtime (summer for the alpine species), this bulb pushes up a pair of basal leaves, clear and unmarked in some species, and heavily mottled in others. Following almost immediately after the appearance of the leaves, the flower bud then rises above to open into a beautiful, reflexed flower.

There are roughly 20 known species of this genus. The great majority occur here in North America, with the greatest distribution in the West. Europe hosts three species, the best known being the Dog Tooth Violet (*E. dens-canis*), and Asia has only *E. japonicum*. They come from many different habitats, suggesting that one cannot assume they all want the same treatment. Like many bulbs, all *Erythroniums* have one common need: good drainage and varying degrees of humus if they are to survive in the garden. Gardeners may be familiar with the oft seen cultivars and selections 'Pagoda', 'White Beauty', and 'Lilac Wonder', but the purity of the true species is what enchants gardeners far and wide. Perhaps the most recognizable of the genus to Vancouver Islanders is the Fawn Lily (*E. oregonum*).



The reason for its familiarity is because of its tendency to grow in the Mediterranean rain shadow of the island's south-east coastal plain, where most of the population lives. This lowland species can be so abundant that it is not uncommon to find natural colonies right in people's rural backyards!

It is a plant associated with the Oak and Camas meadows of the island and so, naturally, it doesn't mind a slight drying period in the summer. That being said, the bulbs usually dig themselves so deeply into the

meadow loam that there is likely some moisture way down there. So they shouldn't be baked in summer. Like all bulbs, ample water during the growing

season is a requirement. This plant has mottled leaves and a creamy-white flower with the inside of the petals ringed with exquisite reddish-brown markings, and a yellow centre at the base.



Being native to where many of us garden, it is generally not difficult to grow, and with the right conditions of rich meadow loam, spring water and a summer rest, will thrive and even naturalize. Those lucky enough to be gardening on Garry Oak loam can have success by simply scattering seeds about and waiting. As mentioned above, this plant is so ubiquitous, that it can be seen in almost any of our natural parks and roadsides along the dry east coast of the island during its bloom period that typically happens in early to mid-April.

Another *Erythronium*, and probably the second best known to local gardeners is the exquisitely beautiful Pink Fawn Lily (*Erythronium revolutum*). This is also a lowland species, but contrary to the above white *E. oregonum*, this species inhabits the other side of the island, typically on the rainy and wild west coast, rarely far from the ocean. On Vancouver Island, this is most commonly found in valley bottoms along the riparian zones of rivers and streams. Gardeners can take a cultivation clue from this. These areas are much wetter than the east side habitats, often flooding in winter, and never really drying out in summer.

This is a plant for irrigated gardens where it will naturalize freely in gravelly, almost sandy soil with some humus that stays wet all year. Allow it to dry out in the summer and you will certainly lose it. I am aware of one colony in a Victoria garden where it has naturalized on the screenings of an irrigated pathway! Here the colony has increased



Paul Spriggs

quite rapidly. If the irrigation system were not covering the path, this would never have happened.



Last year I found a surprise. Deep down in an almost inaccessible canyon of a remote west coast river, a colony of pure white *E. revolutum*! There it

was growing alongside pink ones, and they had hybridized, resulting in all shades of white, pink and everything in between. One of the best places to see this on Vancouver Island is in Honeymoon Bay Wild Flower Reserve, 10 kilometres past the village of Lake Cowichan. There you will see acres of it carpeting the valley floor of the Sutton Creek watershed in late April.

As easy as the above two Erythroniums are to grow, the other two Islanders are sadly not so easy. This is mainly because they come from mountain habitats that are difficult to re-create in the garden. That the two hail from the mountains is reflected in their names: Avalanche Lily (*E. montanum*), and Glacier Lily (*E. grandiflorum*).



Glacier Lily is the most widespread of all four of our Erythroniums, ranging all the way from British Columbia south and east to the central Rockies of Colorado. This one is different because it is our only pure yellow species and unlike the aforementioned, its leaves are not mottled, rather a pure, shiny green. Vancouver Island forms also tend to be smaller than mainland forms, with usually only one flower per stem. It is a snowmelt species, inhabiting south facing slopes and appearing immediately after the retreat of the snowpack. Like the above species, it can grow in great numbers, often carpeting the ground. The difficulty in cultivating this species is due to its habitat requirements. Dry, cold, snow covered ground in winter, and hot, dry summers. It is not common on Vancouver Island, and many of its localities are difficult to get to during its bloom period since it blooms so early. So often I have seen the ripening seed heads and withering foliage of this plant peppering the herbaceous subalpine meadows and wish I had visited a month earlier. The steep, south-facing meadow leading to the saddle between Mt. Cokely and Mt. Arrowsmith is a relatively accessible location for this plant. However, its bloom time can vary greatly depending on the snowpack, usually in June or July.

The last of our four island Erythroniums is the Avalanche Lily (*E. montanum*). This is another un-mottled leaved species, and the only one of the four with a pure white flower. So pure is its whiteness, and so dense the colonies, that when it blooms, the ground can appear to be covered in snow! The centre of the flower is ornamented with yellow, similar to the lowland Fawn Lily.

Like the Glacier Lily, this is also a plant of the mountains, and consequently is difficult to cultivate. Though common in the mainland ranges of the Cascades and the Olympics, the Avalanche Lily is only known to occur in one place on Vancouver Island: the San Juan ridge behind Port Renfrew. Although only 1,000 metres high, this ridge receives an immense amount of snow, creating sub-alpine conditions at a fairly low elevation. What's interesting here is that it grows in the clear-cuts leading to the ridge, and the openings left by the tree harvesting has improved its habitat. Further up the ridge, where it grows in the mottled shade of the forest,



each plant hosts only a single flower. However, in the clear-cuts, some incredibly robust plants can be found, some with as many as ten blooms per specimen!! If only we could re-create this in our gardens. But alas, attempts to tame this wild child of the hills have proven to be fruitless, at least in my experience. Perhaps success may be had in highland gardens that experience colder winters, but for lowland island gardens this one is a no-go.

Kenton Seth views a colony in a clear-cut on San Juan Ridge. Fortunately, the colonies are easily accessed by car thanks to the logging roads that penetrate their hilly haunts. One cannot help but be charmed by this magnificent wild flower,



coveted by gardeners the world over. Whether growing in a garden, ornamenting a wild meadow, streamside or mountainside, it never fails to impress. It catches the eye of the casual passerby, its enchanting blooms calling out to be admired. How lucky we should be that our island hosts such a fine representation of the genus, and that we can visit with relative ease such a treasure.





W i n t e r Kitty Castle

F e a s t



I looked out down onto my veggie boxes in late January to see a strange, large grey object clinging onto one of my kale plants. What could it be? I hurried to get my binoculars and camera. To my surprise, it was a very large grey squirrel munching on the kale stalk! The end result was that all my 6 plants were devoured down to the last few inches, as you can see in the photos. As we all know it has been such a long cold winter that even these tough old kale stalks and leaves were a feast for this hungry squirrel!



EVENTS

Vancouver Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale (March 24)

The VOS Annual Show and Sale will be at the Floral Hall, VanDusen Gardens on March 25 & 26.

For more information: http://www.vancouverorchidsociety.ca/?page_id=530



Alpine Garden Club of BC - Spring Plant Show and Plant Sale (April 1)

The Spring Plant Show and Plant Sale will take place at the Floral Hall, VanDusen Gardens, 37th and Oak Saturday, April 1, 12:00 - 4 PM. There will be a wide variety of unique and special garden and container plants. (Cash and cheques only please.)



The 89th Annual Bradner Flower Show! - "The Birds & The B's" (April 7, 8 & 9th)

Join the fun as we take you on a whimsical journey through the garden!

April 7, 8 & 9th Daily: 10 am to 5 pm at Bradner Hall & School, 5305 Bradner Rd, Abbotsford.

Fun for ALL AGES, Admission is only \$2. Opening Ceremony, Friday @ 2 pm with special guest Scott Pearce (picture) of GardenWorks, Global TV's Saturday morning gardening expert. Decorating for this year's show will be done by the talented and creative floral designers from Simply Perfect Flowers. On Saturday/Sunday see chefs, local wineries, special speakers & lots live music. Loads of interesting displays, crafts, art, food and, of course, 100's of varieties of daffodils. All proceeds from cut flowers donated to the Abbotsford Regional Hospital.

For more info: Facebook.com/BradnerHall, bradnerhall.ca or bradnerflowershow@gmail.com



The 19th Annual Friends of the Garden Plant Sale at Park and Tilford Gardens, (April 29)

333 Brooksbank Ave, North Vancouver is coming up on April 29, 10 AM to 1 PM. Rain or shine, cash only. Funds raised go towards enhancing our garden, a wonderful community amenity.

*The Great LVGC Bus Tour!!!
the Bus Trip Committee*

- Jackie Morris



and

**SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2017
LVGC BUS TRIP TO SUNSHINE COAST**

Mark your calendars now: Jackie Morris and her committee are working on this year's *Garden Club Bus Tour!* We will be touring the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden (<http://coastbotanicalgarden.org/>), along with other garden(s) and nurseries. The bus will take us *via* the Horseshoe Bay, BC Ferries Terminal, drive us around the Sunshine Coast and return from Langdale Ferry Terminal back to North Vancouver. We will provide the times for pickup and drop-off and final cost after the bus & ferry reservations are finalized. *Sign-up for this exciting road trip will start at the March LVGC meeting.*

The "Compost Bin"

- Maria Issa

My usual assortment that doesn't really fit anywhere else.

1. Since the culprit still hasn't owned up - WHO has Linda's grey bins? This remains a major, unsolved mystery.

2. We will be trying a "*Speaker Evaluation*" system so that we have records of the real good ones, ones we would like to have again... and also to track the "close, but no cigar" talks for future avoidance. How else can we know whether we are meeting your expectations? The way this will work is as follows: There will be a bowl of chocolates (!!!!!) somewhere - location T.B.D. There will be 3 cups - labeled "loved it!", "so-so", and "why bother?" You will drop one chocolate into the appropriate box and one (or more) in your mouth. I will count the chocolates in each cup (= eat them) and will publish the results, as bar graphs, in the next *LEAF*. Any other comments can be emailed to the lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com.

3. Send your burning gardening questions to *The Leaf* - I will collect them, publish them - and maybe at the next meeting's Bright Spot we could all discuss them... ???

4. While they are not plants, I would like to draw your attention to **BATS**. They are disappearing - from a nasty fungus infection that's decimating their population. You could help out the little guys by building bat houses (I have 2 going!) and by reading the following:

Public help needed to monitor spread of deadly bat disease



WANTED: Reports of dead bats and bats flying during winter

Date: February 27, 2017.

White Nose Syndrome (WNS), a fungal disease responsible for the death of millions of bats in eastern North America, has moved to the West Coast and was confirmed in Washington State in 2016. The presence this disease on the West Coast is worrisome for the health of bat populations in British Columbia, as there is near 100% mortality for some species of bats exposed to the fungus. Although devastating for bats, WNS does not affect humans. For more information on WNS, visit our web page www.scbats.org or the official WNS webpage www.whitenosesyndrome.org.

WNS is caused by a cold-loving fungus called *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, and it affects bats during hibernation, when they are most susceptible to disturbance. Bats wake up more often from hibernation, thereby spending most of their energy reserves before the winter is over. The typical first sign of this disease is bats flying during the winter looking for food, an unusual sighting at a time of year when bats should be hibernating. Another sign of the presence of WNS is the appearance of dead bats as they succumb to the effects of the disease.



The BC Community Bat Program, in collaboration with the BC Government and local conservation organizations such as the South Coast Bat Conservation Society (SCBats) is requesting the public's help to monitor the spread of this disease. We are asking for the support of the community to report dead bats and any winter activity. Dead bats will be tested for the fungus responsible for the disease and will provide an early detection of WNS if the bats are infected. Early detection of WNS in BC and reports of winter bat activity will help focus research, monitoring and protection efforts. If you find a dead bat, please contact the South Coast Bat Conservation Society at info.scbats@gmail.com or 1-855-922-2287 ext. 11 as soon as possible for further information. Please remember, you should never touch a dead bat with bare hands. If you or your pet has been in direct contact with the bat, you should contact your local health unit.

Currently, there are no treatments for White Nose Syndrome. However, mitigating other threats to bat populations and preserving and restoring bat habitat may provide bat populations with the resilience to rebound. Here is where SCBats with the help of the general public can help. We are a non-for-profit organization, and our mandate is to improve our knowledge, generate awareness, increase stewardship and provide technical and scientific services for bat conservation.

Also, funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, the Province of BC, the Habitat Stewardship Program, the BC Community Bat Program works with the government and others on public outreach activities, public reports of roosting bats in buildings, and our citizen-science bat monitoring program.

To contact SCBats to know more about bats in Metro Vancouver see www.scbats.org, email info.scbats@gmail.com or call 1-855-922-2287 ext 11.

And since we have some space left over – here are some incredibly useful garden tips for you: They are from *Rosemarie Adams* – the source of much of the pertinent LEAF information.

Got Slugs?

Take any old plastic water or pop bottle. Cut off the front bit where it starts to slant, about 1/3 from the end. Place some granulated slug bait, beer, or sugar-water in the lower part of the bottle. If using a liquid, imbibe a paper towel and put that in. Take the top half and force it *backwards* (screw top inwards) into the bottom half. (Having removed that screw-top! – that I can't do with this image.) Plop it into the garden and stake it into the ground with a piece of wire hanger. The slug will crawl into the neck of the bottle, and will be stuck.



Do you rip the roots or delicate stems of your seedlings when you transplant them?

When you pry them out of the seedling tray... only half the poor plant comes along. Apparently, the secret of easy transplanting lies in preparing the trays *before* planting. Make some plastic strips, 8 to 10 inches long and 1 inch wide – by cutting up old plastic grocery bags. Line the bottom of each tray compartment with a strip, making sure that at least 1/2 inch sticks out at opposite sides of the compartment. Fill the tray with soil, plant your seeds, watch them grow. When it comes time to transplant them, pull up the seedlings by lifting the exposed ends of the strip.

