



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

April 2019

President's Message – Anna Marie D'Angelo

I am amazed at what plants do in my yard. Not one day after the snow finally melted, the early bloomers did just that--hellebores, primroses and *Pulmonaria rubra*, all in color. The *P. rubra* with small bell-shaped pink flowers would have been blooming since February if the plants hadn't been covered in snow. My winter jasmine has been blooming by my front door with scant delicate yellow flowers since December. I love that winter jasmine's real name is "*Jasminum nudiflorum*," and has "nude flowers" by blooming before growing leaves, as its name explains. What really got me last week was hearing a bee's deep drone as it went from bloom to bloom in a *P. rubra* patch. After about five dives, the bee was impaired by pollen and on a blissful, staggering flight path. It finally got itself together, took a quick buzz around a non-blooming shrub as if to make sure it didn't miss anything and zoomed off. Delightful.



I really enjoyed Jim Morris' talk on bonsai last month. He made gingerly transplanting a beautiful bonsai onto a piece of slate look easy. We were all mesmerized. I haven't seen a more intense, quiet group since they handed out popsicles at the daycare. [and the Leaf received a number compliments on the talk! – ed]

Don't forget to bring your T-shirt order (form in this Leaf) and exact cash to this Thursday's meeting. We need to get the orders out so the T-shirts can be printed and ready before the plant sale. Also thank Susan Huber for all her work on this task and Maria Issa for her hosta design. Great job, Susan and Maria!

I will keep you posted on the UBC Botanical bus trip for Thursday, June 6. Rosemarie Adams and I are working on the details. After the garden tour and lunch, we plan to visit Thomas Hobbs' Southlands Nursery in south Van. Southlands is a wonderful nursery, in case you have never been.

On Saturday, July 6, --another 6-- is our members' garden tour so please mark that date on your calendar.

The plant sale is just six weeks away. See the MALs' report for the latest on the dirt and other exciting news. Also, please sign up for plant sale tasks at the meeting, if you haven't yet.

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LVGC MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August) at

St. Stephen's Church
1360 E 24th Street

Please note that meetings start promptly at 7:15 PM

SPEAKERS

April 11

2nd Thursday because of Easter at St. Stephen's

MIKE LASCELLE
Beauty and the Feast

May 16

PAM ERIKSON
Hostas and Daylilies

LVGC Plant Sale May 18!!!!

June 20

AFFINOR GROWERS
Vertical Gardening

Mailing Address:

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

<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>
lvgc.membership@gmail.com



Pop Quiz: "What other plant blooms before growing leaves? Hint: it is in bloom now."



2018 Executive

President

Anna Marie D'Angelo xx

Vice President

Penny LeCouteur xx

Secretary

Jackie Morris xx

Treasurer

Ginette Handfield xx

Membership

Susan Huber xx

Sue Callahan xx

Members at Large

Daphne Page xx

Doreen Dew xx

Hiromi Matsui xx

Linda Howe xx

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa xx

Plant Table

Norma Buckland xx

Hospitality

Carole Cobbett xx

Susan Nicholls xx

Maggie Davis xx

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Shirley Lawson xx

Website

Aline Burlone xx

Executive Meetings

1st Wednesday of the month

Next Meeting: May 1, 7:30 PM

Chez SUSAN HUBER

North Vancouver

Next Newsletter Deadline

May 8, 2019

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, Carole Cobbett, Sue Callahan, Anna Marie D'Angelo, Wayne Smith, for photos!



REPORTS

VP Report

Penny has a number of interesting speakers lined up and has a query for you: would you be interested in a hands-on workshop on maintaining your garden tools (cleaning, sharpening, oiling etc). Please indicate your level of interest.

Treasurer's Report - Ginette Handfield

Our finances, as of the end of February -

Cash on hand:	521.70
Bank balance:	8435.77
Total:	\$8957.47

Membership Report - Susan Huber & Sue Callahan

At the March meeting, you voted with an overwhelming majority to increase the maximum number of LVGC members from 125 to 150 (a 17% increase). However, it was noted that a few members voted **against** this motion. If you were among the "against", the Executive would like to hear from you in order to understand and to be able to address your concerns. Please talk to them.

Our club now has 123 members and welcomed two new members in March, Brenda Reid and Marjorie Ross - please say hello when you see them at meetings.

If you are looking for the telephone list for members - it was in last month's LEAF - so hunt there.

Celebrate the Club's 75th anniversary and buy a T-shirt for \$12.00 - Please note: orders must be received by Thursday night, April 11 - as the group order is due at the vendor right after the meeting so that the T-shirts can be produced in time for the Plant Sale. The T-shirts will be available for pick-up at the May 16 meeting. *****If you can pay cash, please try to bring the exact amount - it will be a huge help with the payment process!***** You have already received the order form by email - and it is attached to the back end of this Leaf - again! - for your convenience. [at this price, why not buy 2 or more...?-ed]

Please consider coming a few minutes early to facilitate the order process.

A reminder: the fee for attending meetings as a *Guest* is now \$5.00 per person - this was effective as of the January meeting.

Hospitality - Carole Cobbett & Susan Nicholls & Maggie Davis

.... our ever-constant reminder to try and remember to bring your own mug to meetings!!!!
[...and as you think of your own treats, think of something to treat the foodbank.-m]

MALS - Doreen Dew, Linda Howe, Hiromi Matsui, Daphne Page

The Spring Switch has been turned on and we can enjoy the warm sunny weather! So now is the time to start preparing your perennials etc for our Epic Plant Sale!!

THE PLANT SALE PROMO: is booked for May 11 at the Lynn Valley Library Square from 9:30 AM - 1.00 PM. Sue and Susan, our Membership Team, have volunteered their time, but it would be great if other members could pop by and help to get the message out about the **Plant Sale**. We intend to hand out bookmarks. Jackie and Doreen D. are growing basil to give away.

The **FABULOUS Soil** has arrived – see separate section and instructions.

The **Room Planning Committee** is doing a great job, with lots of ideas to make the most of such a large space. I am sure that the Sale will look fantastic. Here are some new things this year:

With the change in venue, we are able to have a few extra tables of different interests. Daphne is co-ordinating the *Table of Funky Garden Memorabilia and Recycled Garden Tools*, so if you have an old garden gnome, gargoyle or other paraphernalia lurking in your bushes that you want to lose permanently, she is the lady to call! We are happy to *pick up/clean up* your donations. You can sign up to work at this what promises to be a very interesting table at the April meeting.

We are also planning a *Birthday Table* showing memorabilia from the Club's archives together with membership information. At this moment, we still need two volunteers for this table – preferably someone who can answer questions about our history - and to sign up new members.

The *Invasive Plants Table* will have some brochures and LIVE EXAMPLES (contribute your favourite **small** samples!) Sign up to be at this table if you have a burning annoyance with a particular invasive that you wish to see eradicated.



SIGNS & POSTERS: All of the Garden Signs are ready and can be collected and signed out at the April 11th General Meeting. We also have the posters to put in the window of your car. *As you know the Garden Signs are very expensive, so great care should be taken with the!*

RAFFLE DONATIONS: If anyone would like to donate to the *Raffle*, please let the MALS know. We would be happy to pick up your donations. We already have a beautiful quilt

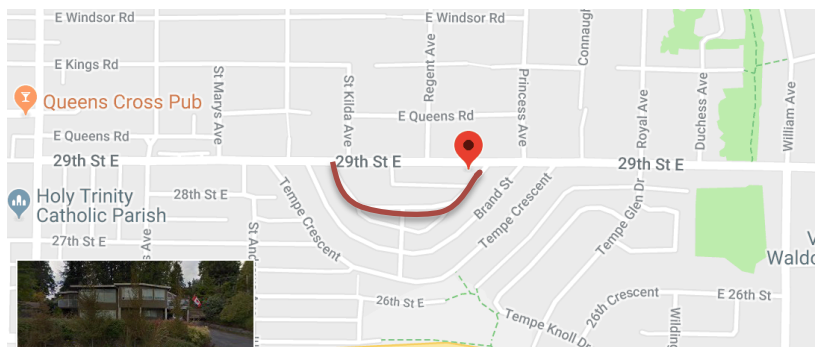
“Climbing rose and trellis” donated by Connie Willoner and her Seymour Quilting Guild, which is a fabulous start. We have also received a painting by Deborah Stephen entitled “Cornfields”.



PLANT SALE PROTOCOL: As you know, LVGC members *who have signed up to work* at the Plant Sale can reserve/buy TWO plants before the horticultural hordes arrive. As a special deal this year – because we are always short of cleaners at the end – if you **sign up** and **show up** and **clean up** – you can claim a **third plant** early, but collect it only at the end of the day - in other words, once you have actually cleaned up. No claiming, buying, setting aside *anything* on Friday: nothing, zip, zero, nada, rien, niente... don't even bother asking. If you really, really want something – memorize it – then sign up to clean!

BEER FLATS: Lastly, a friendly reminder to start collecting the beer flats...we need *at least 300* [so start drinking now!].

A big *Thank You* to the members who have signed up to help on the Friday and Saturday, and also to all those members who just turn up and give their amazing help.



The Fabulous Soil has arrived at Doreen's (as per last year)

xx

There is easy access and the soil is under a blue tarp. There are pots and bags if you need them. If you have extra pots, please leave them - in nice tidy piles - beside the soil.

There is also wood chips/mulch to be had across the street.

SPEAKER
Thursday, April 11, 2019
MIKE LASCELLE

Mike Lascelle has a 38-year background in horticulture including experience as an estate gardener, landscape foreman, garden designer and his current position as the nursery manager at Amsterdam Garden Centre in Pitt Meadows. He holds a Diploma of Horticulture in urban forestry from the University of Guelph, is an ISA certified arbourist and a BC Red Seal landscape technologist. Mike has written three gardening books including his latest, *Extraordinary Ornamental Edibles*.



Assorted Garden Detritus



"I told you it didn't smell."

POT SWAP AT THE APRIL 11 MEETING: If you have pots to give away – and don't want to take them to the soil pile – you can bring them to the meeting and offer them to your fellow gardeners. Jackie is in need of SQUARE 4-inch pots and so are many other people. The only caveat is that if you were not able to fob off your pots on someone else, then you will have to take them back home.

WHO HAS THE LAMINATED PAPER SIGNS??? – the ones used at the plant sale which say "SUN, SHADE, HOSTAS etc." These signs seem to have gone walkabout. Please put the MALS out of their misery... many thanks!!

U-DIG: If you are interested in lovely, orange lilies – send a note to the lynnvalleygardenclubnewlsetter@gmail.com and magically, you will be connected to someone who has lots for you to dig up. These are tall, easy to grow, are virtually impossible to kill but don't spread – and make a wonderful, long-

flowering backdrop: and easy fix for a difficult spot.

OVERHEARD AT THE EXEC MEETING: If you have nasty hardpan under hardly any topsoil, there is a slow but effective fix for it. Drill some holes in the horrid stuff and pour in your compost-tea. The bacteria will slowly, but surely infiltrate and loosen the hardpan. Since I thought that this was almost too good to be true, I checked Uncle Google and hit the US Ag service: <https://www.ag-usa.net/hardpan.php> "The best way to improve soil tilth is to activate carbon sequestration. MycorrPlus is the best and fastest way we know of to do this. [...] In response to a balanced soil and active mycorrhizal fungi, plants manufacture and secrete huge amounts of sugars into the soil (carbon sequestration) to feed our microorganisms. Our bacteria use the sugars as gums and glues to bond soil particles together, creating a cozy living space for themselves." OK – so they are selling their good stuff, but – their rationale validates the one above: just add the right critters!



Vegimates' Vegetable of the Month: BEETS

- Tom Davis

Beets have a long history of use in Europe. A two-in-one plant, beets have nutritious tops that can be used as a green vegetable, and a colourful root that can be used in many recipes. Garden beets come in two basic shapes: globe shaped and cylindrical. The long carrot-like shape of cylindrical beets is great if garden space is limited and they are also faster cooking, easier to peel and cut into uniform shapes. Miniature beets are also ideal for small gardens and gourmet gardeners.

Beets are one of the few root vegetables that can be successfully transplanted. Take advantage of this by starting seedlings inside in February. Beet seeds are composite seeds so there can be as many as 3-4 beets per seed. Using a light starter mix they are very easy to separate and to transplant. There is nothing very complicated about growing beets (*even Bruce can do it*). If you have not started them indoors earlier, plant them outside in moist ground from mid April to mid July. They take about 60 days to mature.



Although they are easy to grow, they do have some specific growing conditions and are sensitive to nutrient and trace mineral deficiencies. They favour a light, fertile, sandy soil. A sprinkling of wood ashes will help condition the soil and give beets the potash they need. Where the soil is acidic, spread dolomite limestone as well. A lack of boron causes beets to show internal browning or dark spots on the flesh and irregular root size. This is easily resolved by preparing a weak solution of household borax, one tablespoon in 6 quarts of water. (DEATH VALLEY 20 MULE TEAM BORAX).

Some gardeners water their gardens with one part seawater to 5 parts fresh water, or a solution of one quart water, one teaspoon salt one tablespoon Epsom salts (for magnesium), 1/2 teaspoon borax, 1/2 tsp iodine and 1/4 teaspoon permanganate of potash. I only use the borax and Epsom salts because I don't know where to get the other stuff and it works just fine. Do not over-use the borax because it is a powerful soil sterilant.

The best way to make sure you have the proper soil is to maintain high humus levels by adding lots of organic material and turning under a green manure crop. Beet seeds will germinate outside at 7°C, so for a continuous supply plant every 2-3 weeks until mid July. Beets have few pests, but leaf miners can ruin foliage. Use of Reemay will help prevent this. [Reemay - non-woven polyester garden blanket - ed].

Beets can be harvested at any stage of their growth. You can harvest beets in the autumn. After a light frost, trim the tops 1/2 inch from the roots brush off the dirt and store them close to but above freezing in a dark humid place. Alternately, you can layer them in damp sand, or peat, in a container like a barrel or trash can.



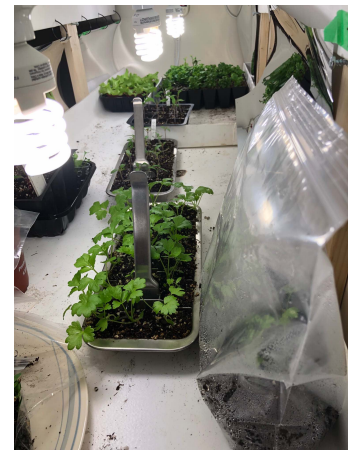
Greenfinger

- Wayne Smith



Here's that late fall crop of greens I planted in the greenhouse. I did cover them with a double layer of clear plastic in February. I've been eating and showing them off for a week now and will start greens again in the late summer and fall. Their hairy white roots are roaring into the damp sand below.

I had to try starting seeds in these ice cube trays. I found a lost box of these trays on the side of the road. What do you do with thirty metal ice-cube trays? The celery and peppers like them and the plants come out easily. The lights are 100 watt equivalent daylight fluorescent. I tried 100 watt daylight LED bulbs but the plants got leggy.



These are some lettuce starts I got from the seed exchange a few years ago. These plants are growing without soil and will soon go into a hydroponic trough I made. In the back is lobelia, which is loving that high-priced hydroponic nutrient I got from Jon's Pot shop on Hastings. What a fun tour that was. A goofy looking kid with earrings the size of mushrooms told me more than I ever wanted to know about hydroponics. He claims to grow tomatoes as well as the unmentionables in his nutrients.



When the garden nibbles were few this winter, I grew pea sprouts, sunflowers and mung beans in the house. I did get some mould problems with the sunflowers but hydrogen peroxide helped keep that down. I think growing without soil and rinsing often would reduce mould growth. I noticed on the that someone added a bit off salt to their rinse water.



Bonsai Bonanza in Viet Nam

-Anna Marie D'Angelo



My recent trip to Vietnam had a stay at a wonderful boutique-hotel homestay in Hoi An that was crawling with bonsai. Hoi An is a charming colonial waterfront town, about an hour's drive from Da Nang. Besides the homestay having a beautiful pool, lovely rooms, nice staff and incredible Vietnamese/Western breakfasts, the place was filled with bonsai. The most amazing was a **banyan tree**. It was growing in all its gnarled glory inches deep on probably a 4 feet by 2 feet table. The banyan bonsai had a safe location as far as guest traffic went but I did warn my travelling companion that one false move with our luggage or beach towels could send several other bonsai sitting on the steps to their death. Fortunately, all were fine during our stay. My big regret was not having the chance to talk to the gardener or owner about the amazing plants.



...and while we are on the subject of amazing gardeners doing amazing things with plants... here are a few images sent in by Wayne Smith. ... Images are also probably from Asia.

Talented Gardeners with Time on their Hands!

- found by Wayne Smith



Coreopsis

- inspired by Sharon Carabetta

"I have a spreading plant that I believe is called Tickweed (according to Google). Is this an invasive plant that I should NOT dig up chunks for our plant sale in May?" – came the question to the *Leaf*.

Thus began a hunt. Wikipedia promptly produced too many results while Google wanted to forcibly redirect me to "tickseed". First up was "*Cleome viscosa*, the Asian spiderflower or tick weed is an annual herb that grows up to a meter high..." Hmm: sounds interesting... Next was "*Hedeoma pulegioides* is a species of *Hedeoma* native to eastern North America, from Nova ... Other names are mock pennyroyal, squaw mint, tickweed, stinking balm, mosquito plant and American false pennyroyal." Great. What on earth is a "hedeoma"? I wasn't any further ahead. Certainly "stinking" and "mosquito" didn't inspire the usual plant envy. Then came "*Coreopsis* is a genus of flowering plants in the family *Asteraceae*. Common names include calliopsis and tickseed, a name shared with ..." and that brought us back *Cleome* and *Hedeoma*. At least, *Coreopsis* was something that rang a bell...



"It is *Coreopsis* that I have..." came the next reassuring email.

Ooof.

OK - so what, exactly, is *Coreopsis* - and would people want some? First check the invasive species list: it's NOT on there. Ooof #2.

Sooooo - Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce you to "*Coreopsis*" - the poor plant with a horrible name, if you happen to speak Greek: "tick looking". It comes from the combination of two Greek words: "*koris*," meaning bedbug, and "*opsis*," meaning view - almost as enticing as *Hedeoma*'s "stinking" and "mosquito". However, from my idle Google searches, *Coreopsis*, it turns out, is a perennial and international favourite.

"Growing natively throughout the Americas are varieties in bright and pale yellow, white, red, and all sorts of combinations thereof. Most are characterized by attractively toothed petals. Commercial breeders have extended the color palette of this butterfly favorite by developing varieties that display a rainbow of colors: pink, deep red, orange, purple, and lavender." Says Gretchen Heber in this link to *Gardener's Path*.



<https://gardenerspath.com/plants/flowers/how-grow-coreopsis/>

Pat Chadwick of the Piedmont Master Gardeners writes, "If asked to name the top 10 perennials likely to be found blooming in my mid-summer ornamental garden, my list would include *Coreopsis*. Why? There's something profoundly appealing and upbeat about seeing its masses of yellow blossoms scattered throughout the landscape. Commonly known as tickseed (because the seeds vaguely resemble ticks), this native plant is one of the best-selling



perennials in garden centers. Its list of attributes is long: in addition to being very attractive, it tolerates heat, humidity, drought, deer, rabbits, and shallow, rocky soil. **Bees and butterflies love its nectar***. Goldfinches and other small birds love its seeds. It blooms profusely and has a longer bloom time than most perennials. It makes a great addition to container gardens and is a long-lasting cut flower in floral arrangements.

There's only one drawback to *Coreopsis*: It tends to be short-lived and unreliably perennial. Many gardeners complain that it dies out after just two or three years. Other gardeners note that some selections self-seed all over the garden and pop up in unexpected places every spring. Despite these issues, this old favorite continues to be well loved and is widely planted or replanted year after year.

<http://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/coreopsis-a-top-10-favorite/>

Bottom line - *Coreopsis* looks like a great **Plant Sale** item!

* more on this below!



Answer to Pop Quiz: *Magnolia*



A Shakespearean Botanical by Margaret Willes - reviewed by Courtney Mitchell

Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, 2015, 200pp. Available through Amazon.ca

Maria purchased this book while on a narrowboat trip with Penny through Shakespeare Country and she asked me to review it for The Leaf. In short, I loved it!

This is a beautifully laid out small book (11.4 x 2.3 x 18.4 cm) and its 200 pages are packed with fascinating botanical and cultural information about 49 plants cited in Shakespeare's plays and poems. Shakespeare was very knowledgeable about botany, especially flowers, herbs, and fruits. Each plant is introduced with a Shakespearean quote and the explanatory text is full of relevant information regarding Elizabethan cookery, medicinal advice, orchard practices, animal husbandry, as well as gardening information. Each plant is accompanied by a beautiful hand-coloured illustration from *The Herball* by John Gerard (1545-1612) published in 1597. Some historians believe that Shakespeare and Gerard knew each other.

The 37-page introduction is crammed with historical information about botanical content in Shakespeare's plays, gardening in Elizabethan times, as well as the controversial origin of Gerard's *The Herball*.

Poppy: Gerard notes the use of opium and "warned that it mitigated 'all kindes of paines, but it leaveth behind it oftentimes a mischief woorse than the disease it selfe, and that hard to be cured...'" p.142.

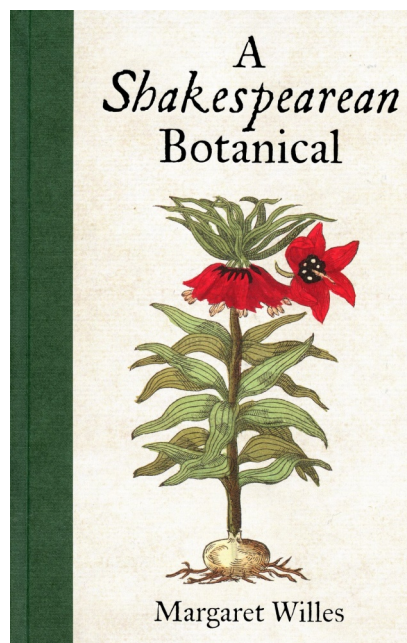
Pumpkin: Shakespeare compares Falstaff to a pumpkin, and "in Greek 'pompion' means a weak and soft-headed person, and in English we see the term 'bumpkin'" p. 150.

Rhubarb: was introduced to Europe from China *via* the Silk Road and was more valuable than opium and saffron. p. 158.

Sweet marjoram: "The earliest English recipe for salad that has survived comes from a manuscript, *The Forme of Cury*, compiled by the cooks of Richard II at the end of the fourteenth century: *Take persel [parsley], sawge, grene garlec, chibolles [spring onions], oynouns, leek, borage, myntes, porrettes [a type of leek], fenel, and toun cressis, rew, rosemarye, purslayne.*" The text further suggests to add vegetables and flowers in season and that oil, vinegar and salt be used for a dressing. p. 179.

The entries for **Fig** p. 89, **Medlar** p.120, and **Pear** p.138, each contain sexually explicit language that could make a fair maid blush. It gives another whole meaning to the expression "I don't give a fig ..." [and that is for you to look up! -ed]

This is a very enjoyable book and I recommend *A Shakespearean Botanical* to anyone with an interest in Shakespeare, gardening history, or just plain thought-provoking knowledge.



How to Create a Pollinator Friendly Garden

- David Suzuki Foundation

Manicured lawns are a desert for pollinators (and most wildlife). But you can make your yard or garden a pollinator paradise!

In spring, leave twig piles and bare ground. Come summer, let veggies bolt. Provide a source of water and don't rake all the fall leaves. Build homes where pollinators can lay eggs or overwinter. Protecting pollinators means not using harmful pesticides and providing welcoming habitat. Even a small pollinator garden will bring in many species, especially native

bees. It's easier than you think!

Chances are you're already taking steps to help pollinators — bees (wild and honeybees), butterflies and birds. That's great! Not sure? Check your actions against these tips.

1. Keep your yard messy

Transform your yard into a pollinator paradise. The secret? Keep it untidy!

Let veggies bolt and flower: besides being a great way to witness a plant's full life cycle, it is a great way

to watch pollinators work.

Collect twigs: Collect twigs, bundle them up and leave them outside for bee nesting habitat. Brush piles and dead or dying trees also make great homes for pollinators.

Leave a patch of ground bare: About 70 % of Canada's native bees nest underground. Leave a patch of ground dry, uncultivated and unmulched.

Offer a source of water: Some pollinators also need muddy patches and stones to perch. All bees need a source of water with a perch.

2. Grow a wild bee sanctuary

Fill your yard with flowers: Bees rely on blooming wildflowers, shrubs and trees to provide food – nectar and pollen. Flowers should blossom over the seasons, from early spring to late fall. Choose a diversity of native species of all shapes and sizes. Plant big patches (think bull's eyes) of each for more efficient foraging (less distance for bees to travel). [Coreopsis!!! – ed] Mow your lawn less and avoid herbicides that kill nectar-producing plants such as clover, creeping thyme and dandelions.

Plant native: Native plants are species naturally found in your region. They provide bees with their only food source: nectar and pollen. Some native bees can only feed on pollen from specific groups of native plants. They're great garden choices, because they're adapted to local soil and weather conditions. If you plant them in the right spot, they'll thrive with no extra watering, fertilizers or chemicals. Many are available at local garden centres. Join a native plant society to find the best local plant lists.

Go organic: Bees are insects, so using insecticides on your lawn and garden will kill them. Avoid plant-killing herbicides and plants pretreated with insecticides, like neonics. Buy pesticide-free plants and try time-tested techniques, like hand-picking pests and using physical barriers to keep pests out.



Just add water: Bees and other beneficial insects – ladybugs, butterflies, and predatory wasps – all need fresh water to drink. But most can't land in open water. A creek, pond – even a bird bath – puts them at risk of drowning, crashing or being caught by predators. Instead, create a bee bath: Use a shallow plate (an old chipped one or the lid of a pail works great). Place at ground level where you've noticed bee activity.

Place a few flat stones in the plate to create landing pads or islands and safe places to crawl out should they fall in. Add fresh water but don't submerge the stones. Birds and butterflies will use it, too. Replace the water every few days to eliminate mosquito larvae. Your creation will also combat pests, so place the bee bath near sick plants to attract aphid eaters like ladybugs!



Offer nesting places: Honeybees and bumblebees live in social colonies, but most wild bee species are solitary. About two-thirds of solitary nesting bees use tunnels in the ground to lay their eggs. About one-third use hollowed out plant stems or tunnels in dead trees or fallen logs. Leave patches of bare soil in your garden for ground-nesting bees. Leave plant stems standing through winter and keep dead trees or fallen logs. You can also create bee hotels filled with replaceable nesting tubes.

3. Feed hummingbirds

Is your yard or garden red enough? Hummingbirds are guided by their eyes and many red coloured flowers provide good sources of nectar.

Try perennials like red or purple hollyhock, pink or red coral bells, bee balm, summer phlox or sage. Annuals that attract hummingbirds include begonias, cosmos, geraniums and petunias. Don't forget shrubs and vines like hibiscus, honeysuckle and flowering currant. These plants prefer full sun exposure with shelter from strong winds.

Didn't see much action the first season? Enjoy the flowers and wait a year.



Gardening with Native Plants in the Fraser Valley

- Joanne Nielsen

Are your members interested in having a thriving garden that helps local wildlife, including birds, butterflies and bees as well as being low maintenance and adapted to our climate? If so, I thought they might be interested in our latest publication *Gardening with Native Plants in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley*. It was developed based on the **Naturescape** program of the past; it is intended to help gardeners choose native plants that will attract wildlife and grow well in the conditions present on their property.

We are also holding a **Native Plant Sale** this spring, as we understand how challenging it can be to find the full range of native plants in the guide at retail nurseries. As we do a lot of planting on our habitat enhancement/restoration sites, we have connections with some really good wholesalers. We are coordinating this sale in an effort to support all the enthusiastic nature stewards out there looking for good native stock for their gardens, and to support our conservation work throughout the Fraser Valley.

The actual book is too long to add to this Leaf - but has been sent to Aline to be available from the LVGC website.



EVENTS

NATIVE PLANT SALE!



HOW TO ORDER

Take a look at our native plant selection, and place your order online at: www.fraservalleyconservancy.ca/plantsale19

Limited quantities available. First come, first served.
All orders must be completed by **April 30th, 2019**.

Plants are available for **pickup on May 4, 2019** in West Abbotsford.

Questions? Jon@fraservalleyconservancy.ca | 604-625-0066

*Saturday, May 4,
10AM-2PM*

**VANCOUVER
RHODODENDRON
SOCIETY**
*Annual Show and
Sale at Park & Tilford
333 Brooksbank Ave.,
North Vancouver*



June 15-16, 2019

DENMAN ISLAND HOME AND GARDEN TOUR

I am hoping you can help us spread the word to your membership about this great event - an important fundraiser for the Denman Island Conservancy - protecting rare ecosystems on the island since 1991. We welcome garden clubs from all across BC - many choose to carpool or rent a charter bus for the event. Thank you for your consideration! Tickets are now on sale for this enchanting Tour, deemed by the Globe & Mail "one of Canada's top six horticultural events." Every two years this idyllic island throws open its garden gates, inviting the public for a rare up-close look at the creativity, skill and passion Denman residents pour into their properties.

The Denman Conservancy has declared 2019 to be The Year of the Wetland, and many of our extraordinary properties offer natural and man-made water features, creating complex, lively ecosystems. The famous Des Kennedy Garden is a major attraction again this year, and other highlights include an organic vineyard (with tasting room!!), a home built from creatively recycled components, a modern homestead and market garden, a couple of oceanfront west-coast architectural delights, and an island-style chocolate factory. Bloom lovers will not be disappointed, either - roses, lilies, and a whole host of other blossoms will be found in abundance. This weekend event provides an unforgettable experience for lovers of gardens, homes and rural charm. Many people return year after year, and are never disappointed. Join them! Come for a day trip, or *book into a cozy B&B* and stay for the weekend.

Early bird tickets are \$18, and can be purchased online at <http://www.denman-conservancy.org/home-and-garden-tour/>.

You can also find us (and Like us) on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DenmanIslandHomeAndGardenTour. Please help us spread the word about this great event.