



# THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

First established 1943

Spring is here! We have two large Pieris outside our kitchen that are in full bloom at the moment. I'm compelled to pause each time I'm by the window and watch the huge bumble bees and occasional hummingbird making their rounds of the flowers. It seems so therapeutic, and reassuring that the circle of life continues once winter is over.

My bee identification skills are far more limited than I'd like, currently falling into the categories of 'Bumble Bee', Yellow-Faced Bumble Bee and 'Not a bumble bee'. However, I'm fairly confident I made my first mason bee identification today while photographing our cherry blossoms. This was closely followed by sighting of another solitary bee perched in a nesting tube in one of our mason bee houses. Last year we only had one tube of our 3 mason bee houses filled so we're excited to see one in use already this year. Hopefully all our new fruit trees will encourage them.

It seems such a busy time in the garden now, especially when the rain has coincided with so many weekends lately. I'm always hesitant cutting all the old fronds off our swordferns as the garden suddenly seems so bare without them. However, I'm reassured by the proliferation of plump new fronds waiting to unfurl that it won't be long until they're lush again. Last year I planted lots of spring bulbs and am enjoying that the garden looks far less bare now than it has in previous years.

Last week, I spent some sunny evenings trimming all the dead leaves and stalks off the plants I have potted for the sale. Now they just have their fresh new growth and look so enticing lined up with their labels on. I'm still hoping to divide and pot up a few more things before the end of Easter so they have a chance to get established. It's hard to believe the sale is only a month away now. There's still a couple of weeks to get a few more things potted up if you have a proliferation of something. As a costume designer I once worked with would said, "More is more".

A reminder that our Mother's Day gift workshop is 10am on April 12. At 1191 E 15 St, West off Mountain Highway. It should be a fun opportunity to socialize and create some lovely masterpieces for the sale. Everyone's welcome and if you have any plants or trimmings that you think would look nice in the glass containers, please bring them along. We'll be potting outside, so please dress appropriately. Have a lovely month enjoying all the new growth and see you on the 24<sup>th</sup> for our general meeting.

April 2014

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.

## Meetings Schedule

April 24, 2014

Elke Knechtel  
Shade Perennials

May 9 & 10, 2014

LVGC Plant Sale

May 15, 2014

Reinier van de Poll  
Hardscaping

June 19, 2014

Jackie Morris  
A Botanical Garden in an  
Unexpected Place

**Mailing Address:**  
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North Vancouver, BC  
V7J 3S9  
<http://www.lynnvalleygardclub.org>



**Tea Time** *Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillip*

**Please bring your own mug**  
The coffee we serve is decaffeinated.



**Sunshine** *Carol Ferryman*

Please let me know of members who are ill or have lost a loved one.  
Donations of new items greatly accept for door prizes

## 2014 Executive

### President

*Tara Findlay*

### Vice President

*Chris Pharo*

### Secretary

*Audrey Beugger*

*Carol Bell*

*Nancy Gelin*

### Treasurer

*Norma Buckland*

### Membership

*Rosemary Wagner*

*Frances Moorcroft*

### Members at Large

*Jan Valair*

*Yvonne Kabata*

*Tom Davis*

### Newsletter Editor

*Irene Dudra*

### Committees

#### Plant Table

*Christel Glazer*

*Marie Pringle*

#### Hospitality

*Doreen Wakefield*

*Pat Phillips*

#### Bright Spots

(volunteer needed)

#### Sunshine / Door Prizes

*Carol Ferryman*

#### Sound System Set-up

*Maurice Jones*

#### Website

*Brian Didier*

### Newsletter Deadline

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### Next Executive Meeting

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

### TREASURER'S REPORT

*Norma Buckland*

Bank balance on March 31, 2014 - \$4,009.17

### VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEAKER REPORT

*Chris Pharo*

Elke Knechtel and her husband have been growers of interesting plants for over 25 years. Their business (Red Barn Plants and Produce) started as a mail order business transforming into a retail walk-in Nursery with display gardens when they moved to Maple Ridge 23 years ago. For the past 7 years they have changed their business format again by offering plants that do well in the lower mainland with an emphasis on shade plants. They have also expanded the business with their son, who now farms the property in Cawston. They market his vegetables and tree fruits, plus their plant starts in the Vancouver area.

## Lynn Valley GC Bus Tour - Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> 2014



If you wish to go, there will be a sign up sheet at the April meeting. Diane Sekora and Doreen Marbry will be keeping track of sign-up; Call either Diane or Doreen for further information or to register.

Cost \$20 per person – Bus will leave at 8.30am. promptly and return approximately 4.30 pm.

### Black widow knows her potential mates by the way they shake their thing.

A team of Vancouver based researchers has uncovered the dating secrets of the male black widow spiders \_ specifically, how they avoid being eaten by their mates. A group at SFU, found that the male spiders shake their abdomens to produce distinct vibrations to indicate they are a potential mate and not dinner. In contrast, house flies and crickets produce short, high pitched vibrations, which signal to the female spider that food is waiting. The process is described as "twerking". National Post, January 2014

## May 10, 2014 - Plant Sale

### Volunteers:

- Thank you for signing up to help at our sale! Please find yourself on the Volunteer page further inside the 'Leaf'. If you have not signed up, it is not too late! We still need help in several areas.

### Advertizing:

- Please help advertise our sale by putting the green sale poster in your car window. You will receive these at our April General Meeting on the 24th.

### Lawn Signs:

- Please sign out one of our plastic yellow signs for your lawn. These signs will be available at the April General Meeting.
- Put the Lawn Signs up at the end of April and return them at the next General Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, so we can clean and store them in the church cupboard before we close for the summer.

### Plants:

- Please bring your plants to the Church on Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> between 3pm & 7:30pm. This is when the pricing and Plant Sale setup is done. If you can't drop off your plants on Friday call a Member at Large. Please clean your pots & label your plants - common name is fine. If possible note sun/shade tolerance and flower colour on label.

### Sale Rules:

- There will be no reserves or sales of plants on Friday.
- Everyone on the first shift on Saturday may set aside two plants in holding prior to the start of the sale. Those on the second shift may line up and purchase plants with our other customers.
- No one may set aside plants during a shift
- Remember to wear your name tags and your green shirts on Friday and Saturday.

Thank you - we look forward to seeing you at the Sale !!

## July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - Garden Tour

We are hoping that some of our members will consider opening their gardens for our Annual Garden Tour. We always have such a lovely day. If you have any questions please call any of your members at large.

*Thank you - your Members at Large - Jan, Tom and Yvonne*

*Scrub your garden pots with baking soda, water and a stiff brush, and rinse them thoroughly. If you're worried about diseases lingering from last year's plants, soak the pots in a mixture of 10 parts water to 1 part bleach for 30 minutes. Then soak them in fresh, clean water for another 30 minutes. Be sure all the bleach is rinsed away, so you don't harm your plants. Let the pots drain and air dry before using them.*

**A plant labeling idea:** Cut up soda cans, just lop off the top and the bottom. Uncurl the rectangle, cut it making pretty rounded plant tags out of the rectangle. Put the tags on a soft surface (back of the phone book), write on them using a ball point pen to etch. Write on the side that was once the inside of the can, not the red Coke side.

Stick the tag down into the soil. If unable to later read the etchings, pluck the tag out of the ground and "plant" it upside down, Then pluck it up again, brush off the dirt, The soil remaining in the etchings makes the writing stand out.

**Seeds of Diversity Canada:** If you need more information about seeds, a good website is [WWW.seeds.ca](http://WWW.seeds.ca). The website has a number of resources listed. Canadian Seed Catalogue, Heritage Seed Resources, "Adopt a Seed" program and the Great Canadian Garlic Project, etc.,.

Please when gardening be on the lookout for European fire ants. The alert has been sounded that colonies of these stinging insects are now being found throughout Victoria and Vancouver. Fire ants are an aggressive species that are red-brown in color and measure about four millimetres in length. They were found in British Columbia for the first time three years ago. It has now been determined that they have established colonies in two dozen different areas of our province. .Check any soil or potted plants you bring home.

## BC Garden Council Meeting Report - March 22, 2014

Thank you to the membership for sending me as the Club's representative. It was a great day which began in the new venue in Burnaby at Metrotown Centre. Except for the 4 hour parking restriction, it is a perfect venue - centrally located for everyone. Hopefully the parking issue can be dealt with by issuing passes. The resident caterer was excellent and the room was bright and large enough to hold a big turnout of 59 clubs.

The meeting moved smoothly with four positions being filled. A motion was passed to include Floral Arts and Design organizations as Affiliated Club Members. The financial business is getting in order with a new computer program and the records have been audited.

Scholarship recipient, Paul MacDonald, gave us a nice presentation on the work he's doing for his degree. There was a short talk by Alice Huang who spoke on the *Green Your City* project which is actively seeking mentorship for anyone interested.

The feature speaker was Thomas Hobbs who showed us pictures of his former home in Point Grey. This has been in many articles and books. Sadly this beautiful Spanish style home was sold by Thomas and his partner Brent and the state of the property is abysmal. Try and remember how it was and don't torture yourself by driving past as the slides he showed looked like the property had been hit by a tornado.

On a brighter note, they now live part time on 20 acres in South Langley just across from the USA border and then they have a pied- \_\_ terre next door to Van Dusen Gardens, looking out towards the Rhododendron garden.

Thomas can be seen most days at Southlands Nursery with their new dog Corona by his side. The dog came with the new Langley property which was a former grow-op. Ever a comedic person, Thomas talked about the huge transition in their lives of moving from a palatial home to concrete apartment mostly populated with senior citizens. Apparently the crowd is getting younger and they really like the apartment. The Langley project caused him some depression as it was very trying at first to get rid of the former tenants and fix up the little 1200 sq. ft. home while leaving the larger home vacant. They have no intention of living or using the larger home on the property so they just store used furniture in it.

They have installed a large pond – more like a small lake, a vegetable garden, a daylily garden and the buildings are taking on a French look with cedar shingle siding left untreated so it has a silver/grey effect with black trim and eyebrow details. The plantings in front of the small home are Hidcote Superior lavender and other heat lovers giving this a Mediterranean look. The paths were to be gravel but he has chosen Burnco Peach Shale to give them a warmer tone. There is an interesting link to an iris nursery which is highly recommended by Thomas. Just look at the beautiful pictures!

Thomas likes Toto white daffodils and tosses them on the ground before planting to give a natural appearance when they bloom. He likes Sedum Purple Emporor, white Peony Emodi, Euphorbia Fire Storm. He reminds us not to forget Dicondra as an annual as it is a superb trailing plant. Some slides were on planting up planters with a thriller, spiller and filler. This means a tall dramatic plant, then filler plants and finally something trailing over the side preferably in a complimentary colour scheme.

Thomas advised us that with a little arm twisting we could persuade him to include his garden in one of our tours. Just a note to keep in mind for the future.

The LVGC Club gift was helleborus and each of us won something in the draw. See photos of the clubs' gifts which, by the way, were the best table ever, bringing in over \$900. The other photo is of a plant seller's display but I thought it was a pretty picture.

<http://beardedirisflowers.com/MidAmericaGardenCatalog.pdf>

<http://southlandsnursery.com/index.html>





a plant seller's display

**Powdery Mildew:** is a very common fungal disease that affects many plants. Two summer blooming perennials that are especially prone to this disease are Phlox paniculata (Summer Phlox) and Monarda (Beebalm). There are several things you can do to minimize your chances of an infection.

Buy mildew resistant selections. Just like people and the flu, some plants are more prone to a disease than others. To be clear "mildew resistant" does not mean mildew proof, but to get this designation the plant has shown a lower probability of infection in trials.

Properly space your plants. Crowding favours this disease while good air circulation hinders it.

Water low. If powdery mildew is present, water droplets may disperse the spores. Additionally watering the foliage increases the humidity here and favours the disease. If none of this prevents an infection treat the plant when you first notice the mildew. Commercial preparations containing sulphur are useful. Some home gardeners swear by a 1:10 solution of milk to water sprayed on the infected plant.

## Speakers' Corner

### "Notes from Conway Lum, February 20"

Conway's book recommendations:

American Horticultural Society Pruning and Training (American Horticultural Society Practical Guides) by Christopher Brickell and David Joyce (Aug 1, 1996)

Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning, 3rd Edition: What, When, Where, and How to Prune for a More Beautiful Garden [Paperback]

Plant recommendation:

Bush honeysuckle - Winter Beauty *Lonicera X puposii*

### "Notes from Marilyn Holt, March 20"

- Use a colour wheel to get complementary or opposite colours that will work well together
- Put a handful of crushed clam (oyster) shells in the planting holes for tomatoes, peppers, squash and cucumbers to prevent blossom end rot
- Use an organic meal fertilizer mix (10 parts canola meal, 1 part bone meal, 1 part kelp meal, 1 part lime [but omit the lime on potatoes as it causes the skin to scab]). Can also be used at planting/transplanting time.
- Choose pots carefully to ensure plants thrive
- Don't lime and fertilize at the same time because the combination results in a caustic reaction that kills beneficial soil microbes: lime in the Fall, and fertilize in the Spring - in all the garden, not just lawns. Check soil pH before liming - pH should be between 6 and 7 for fertilizer to become available for root absorption

Marilyn's plant recommendations

- Cucumber Piccolino - small and abundant
- Albion Strawberries - day neutral, tastiest
- Top Hat Blueberry - compact and loaded with fruit

## COMING EVENTS

Cultivate ([www.cultivateprojects.com](http://www.cultivateprojects.com)) advertised a 12 week **VEGETABLE GARDENING COURSE** this coming summer. With some minor grammatical corrections, here is most of their ad: "Cultivate is offering a 12 week vegetable gardening course this summer. Learn all things about food growing from soil amending to tomato pruning to harvesting and preserving. After every class each participant will take home the tools and information required to begin vegetable gardening in their own space. The course runs every other Saturday morning, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, from April 12th to September 13th, 2014. Cost is \$200 for all 12 classes, or \$25 per class. The Queensbury Garden is located at 644 Queensbury Avenue, behind the S'wich Cafe, in North Vancouver. Visit [www.cultivateprojects.com](http://www.cultivateprojects.com) for full details, or email [queensburygarden@gmail.com](mailto:queensburygarden@gmail.com)."

**OPEN GARDEN AND RHODODENDRON SALE** Sunday, April 27, 2014, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Fearing's Farm Rhododendrons, 5376 Ross Road, Abbotsford, BC

This is a private garden, rarely open to the public. There are some 1500 rhododendrons, 1100 of which are species, distributed in an informal way around a patch of woodland. Some pictures of the garden can be found in the Picture Gallery section of [www.fearing.ca](http://www.fearing.ca). Rhododendron sales: The nursery will be open for sales and local growers Les Clay and Sue Klapwijk will be there also offering some of their very special plants, varieties not available at local nurseries.

The SFU Urban Studies program is pleased to announce the following public talk by Paul Burton, Professor of Urban Management and Planning, Griffith University, Queensland, Australia: **"Making Space for Urban Agriculture"**  
April 28, 7:00pm, Room 1700 (Free; downtown campus) RSVP at: [www.sfu.ca/reserve](http://www.sfu.ca/reserve)

*Australia sees itself as a food secure country, able to help feed a growing global population. However, it continues to build national and local food systems that rely on increasingly complex distribution systems. Extreme weather events and other existential threats to food production and distribution are prompting greater attention to the re-localization of these systems and planning regimes can help or hinder these process. In this talk, Professor Burton critically reviews Australian practice and explores what might be learned from*