



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943

Mailing Address:
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December 2013

Lynn Valley Garden Club President's Annual Report

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as your President for the past two years, and it really has been a rewarding experience for me. I know from speaking to many people that our Club enjoys an enviable reputation as "the one to belong to" and with so many other gardening clubs declining in membership, Lynn Valley Garden Club is flourishing. A Club is really only the sum of its members – so thank you all for making our Club the great club it is.

I think 2013 has been a very good year for us. We have had interesting and knowledgeable guest speakers, a very successful plant sale, celebrated our Club's 70th birthday, a great bus trip, and a very successful Members' Garden Tour – even the weather co-operated for us this year for all our events.

Although all these events are organized by your Executive team, the support from general membership is always there – we are a great club ! I know every year the members at large worry about the Plant Sale – Spring is cold/late, plants are scarce, and always, on the day before the sale, our members come in droves, delivering their treasures. It is always a wonder to behold for me seeing trays after trays of beautiful plants come in. Our Plant Sale is our basic fundraiser, and I believe this serves our purposes very well – it enables gardeners in our community, who may not be able to afford expensive nursery plants, to obtain beautiful and often unusual heritage plants, at a very reasonable price, it enables us to make donations to some very deserving causes, and it also helps fund some of our Club activities and guest speakers.

It's a win/win/win situation !

Although it's me you hear speaking at our meetings, I could not have done anything without the wonderful support of the Executive, and I truly want to thank them all for their continued and unwavering support – they made me look good !

Vice-President Pat Holmes stepped in in early 2012 when the V-P elected was unable to take on her duties because of family commitments. She has done a super job booking our Guest Speakers and taking on many other duties.

Bernie Robb and Norma Buckland were our super-efficient secretaries, recording all our meetings and typing up all the Minutes. They didn't miss a thing, and kept us organized.

Harvey Lawson kept good track of our finances, paid our bills on time and looked after floats and deposits for our plant sale;

Our membership ladies, Doreen Marbry and Diane Sekora are super-efficient ladies; they greeted and welcomed new members, kept track of attendees and payments for our bus trip, and already more than half of our members are signed up and paid for 2014. Need I say more!

Meetings Schedule

LVGC meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at St. Clement's Church. 3400 Institute Road

Please note that meetings start promptly at 7:15 pm.



**December 12, 2013
Christmas party
and craft**



**January 16, 2014
Mike Wakefield
Photography**

**February 20, 2014
Conway Lum
Spring is coming.
Is your garden ready?**

Lynn Batt, our intrepid Leaf Editor has done a super job – constantly comes up with interesting articles, finds out what is going on in the gardening world and has provided us with some beautiful photos of our club events. Many thanks Lynn – you have done a super job.

Members at Large – Rita, Chris, Tara and Jan – Thank you all – we had one of our best ever Plant Sales and appreciate all your efforts – members Garden Tour was summer highlight for many of our members.

Carol Ferryman our Sunshine lady is the person who provides most of our door prizes at our monthly meetings, and she was also busy this year sending out cards to our members who were not well – even when she was also undergoing her own surgery !

Marie Pringle and Christel Glaser look after our Plant and Book table every month, and have generated some good cash proceeds;

Last, but not least, Doreen Wakefield, Pat Philips, Betty Pion and many other helpers who provide our refreshments at meetings and events and especially the Plant Sale – that cup of tea tastes awfully good after an afternoon of packing plants into the hall.

Although I have named the “official” helpers, there are many, many other members who regularly help out with meeting set-up, plant sale, etc. - your help is noticed and appreciated.

I know that many of our members are also actively involved in many other volunteer community undertakings – kudos to you for the work you do to make North Vancouver and especially Lynn Valley the great place it is to live. I truly believe that volunteer work, in its many forms, and the example it sets for our younger people, is the foundation for our future, and the lifestyle we all seek.

I know that with our new Executive, our Club will continue to thrive. Our outgoing executive are all willing to help out. Don't hesitate to go to them if you have questions or need assistance.

Thank you all for all your kind words and support – I really appreciate them, and hopefully I will be back on the Executive in the not too distant future.

I wish all of you a wonderful Christmas and good health and happiness for 2014.

Rosemarie



Lynn Valley Garden Club Vice-President's Annual Report

First of all, I would like to say that it has been a pleasure to be on the executive these last 2 years. They are a great bunch of people, the meetings have been fun and informative and I've learned a lot. Also, I found it much easier to plan the speakers this year; there is a reason that the jobs are for 2 years!

Not that there haven't been a few hiccups. Managing the digital projector took a bit of time as did figuring out the set-up and take-down of the projector screen - originally Hartwig was the "keeper" of the screen and I did nothing, but once he got sick I was on my own! He was terrific and I miss him. I lost some sleep over who to get to speak at the last minute in March, because of Marilyn Holt's car accident. Luckily, my daughter Emma stepped into the breach and gave a talk on compost (which I missed because I was out of town).

Some of the other highlights included: Gary Lewis, from Phoenix Perennials and his Hellebore Hurrah, what a charming informative speaker he is; and Paul Edwards, from Select Maples, who fell in love with our club and gave us all the maple trees that he brought so the proceeds could go towards our garden sale. The plants were fabulous and I have never seen you folks move so fast!! When the dust settled, there were about 3 or 4 trees left from the 20 or so that he brought, and my fists were full of \$20 bills. We saved the last few for the sale itself. Thanks to Paul, who is a good speaker and a really nice guy.

This year we have also been privileged to get a masters class on pruning, we've learned about bees and sustainable gardens, herbs, and gardening books, We also had a super talk about mushrooms from Brian Didier (I saw a few of you at the mushroom show a couple of weeks later) and next up we have Margaret Nakahara to teach us about orchids.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me face my Christmas craft fears! I'm looking forward to helping my successor " learn the ropes " .

Pat Holmes





2013 Executive

President

Rosemarie Adams

Vice President

Pat Holmes

Secretary

Bernie Robb

Norma Buckland

Treasurer

Harvey Lawson

Membership

Doreen Marbry

Diane Sekora

Members at Large

Rita Marshall

Chris Pharo

Jan Valair

Tara Findlay

Newsletter Editor

Lynn Batt

theleaf@lynnvalleygardenclub.org

COMMITTEES

Plant Table

Christel Glazer

Marie Pringle

Hospitality

Doreen Wakefield

Pat Phillips

Bright Spots

vacant

Sunshine/Door Prizes

Carol Ferryman

Sound System Set-up

Maurice Jones

Website

Brian Didier

Next Executive Meeting:

January 2, 2014

At the home of Doreen Marbry

The Leaf Deadline:

January 5, 2014



Treasurers Report

Harvey Lawson



Tea Time

Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips

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



Sunshine

Carol Ferryman

Please let us know of any members who are ill or have lost a loved one.

Donations of new items for door prizes are always appreciated.



Membership

Doreen Marbry, Diane Sekora

MEMBERSHIP :

ATTENTION

We are trying to finalize the renewals for the 2014 year so that our new Membership ladies, Rosemary Wagner and Frances Moorcroft will start off with a completed list. To date, the large majority of our members have renewed and we are really appreciative of their promptness. We still, however, need to hear responses and receive cheques from about 20 members. We have phoned or e-mailed these members and would like to hear from them as soon as possible as we are allowing people on the waiting list to join in the new year if others are unable to continue. This all takes time and we would appreciate your help.

We have enjoyed our "greeting positions" this past term and getting to visit with many of you. We have a great group of people in our club.

Thanks and Merry Christmas
Doreen Marbry and Diane Sekora



Christmas party

Pat Holmes

Rosemarie and I have been busy getting all the ingredients together for the terrarium planter craft that we will be doing at our Christmas party this year. We have plants, glass jars, soil, gravel, and sand plus assorted special items to go into the planters. Please feel free to bring any items that will make your planter unique, such as shells, very small Christmas decorations or any other little things that you can think of.

The party starts at 7:15 and it will be potluck, please bring a savoury or sweet "finger food" item to share. Also, Christel is making her special Christmas apple cider, which is such a treat, so bring a mug!

Looking forward to seeing you all.

Pat

Plants of the Month - December 2013

Mahonia × media 'Winter Sun'

This statuesque, evergreen shrub is a stellar specimen for the winter garden. It has dramatic, frond-like leaves that grow in whorls along its coarsely branched stems. Great sprays of soft yellow flowers appear in winter, developing into clusters of black berries by late summer and fall. Its beautiful foliage and upright growth habit make this selection a strong focal point in the garden.

This hybrid mahonia is tough. It will grow well in full sun to dappled shade. It prefers a well-drained soil, but will tolerate sandy sites and clay. Once established it is drought tolerant, although plants in full sun can yellow if kept excessively dry. Occasional watering during dry weather will help plants in sun to maintain a rich green foliage color. Prune the tips in early spring, while the plant is young, to make a fuller bushier specimen. Older plants need little pruning other than the removal of dead, broken or poorly formed limbs.

Height 7ft. Spread 4ft.

<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/979>

Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit



Sarcococca confusa

This shrub has so many outstanding qualities, almost every garden should have one! First, there is its superb winter fragrance, that floats on the breeze in January and February. This intoxicating perfume of sweet vanilla, which is never cloying, comes from the tiny white flowers hidden among its evergreen leaves. The foliage is glossy and dark green, with a little twist to each leaf that adds texture to the shrub. Sweet box thrives in shade, where its leaf color is deepest green. It tolerates dry conditions once it is established, making it a good choice for under eaves and in dark, dry locations. Keep it out of hot afternoon sun or the leaves will scorch. If *Sarcococca confusa* is happy, its seedlings will germinate beneath-transplant them or give them to friends. Sweet box also makes a lovely, low hedge

Height and Spread 3-5 ft

<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/plantlists/view/1410>

Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit



Orchid Media Recipe

- 4 parts medium-grade fir bark
- 1 part medium charcoal
- 1 part horticultural-grade perlite

& Gardenworks orchid caresheet

http://www.gardenworks.ca/sites/gardenworks/files/caresheets/Orchid_Care.pdf

In Our Gardens

My Meyer Lemon plant has had a lot of lemons on it this year. I've had it for about 5 or 6 years, it has fruited every year, but seems to have more than usual this year. I'm wondering if it is because I put it outside for a couple of months in late spring this year, close to my front door, so it got some extra pollination. Co-incidentally, some bumble bees had built their nest in a tiny bird house nearby, so there were a lot of bees around.

I have used some of the lemons, they have quite a different taste to the lemons we buy in the supermarket, sweeter and less acidic.

The Meyer lemon fruit is rounder than a true lemon. The skin is fragrant and thin, coloured a deep yellow with a slight orange tint when ripe. They originated in China and are thought to be a cross between a lemon and an orange or tangerine.

Interesting, how these citrus trees can have both flowers and fruit on them at the same time. The flowers are very fragrant. My plant has full southern exposure, and gets lot of light and sunshine.

Rosemarie



Heucherellas do not get Heuchera rust. *EM*

I have a large sedum that in the Spring and early Summer grows into a lovely large ball shape - then it begins to open outwards until in later summer it looks like a large, empty fruit bowl. What causes this? What can be done to prevent it?

Thanks, Chris

One suggestion from <http://gardening.about.com/od/plantprofile1/p/Sedum.htm>

Too much heat or too little sun causes leggy (weak) sedum limbs. Prune back in early July.

Cymbidium orchids, free to good home, call Bonnie

The beautiful fall weather has created some unusual plant behavior. December 1st bloom search found rose, daphne, rhododendron and schizostylus.. My *Vaccinium ovatum* has beautiful spring foliage now. This delicate new foliage hasn't had time to become winter hardy. *LB*

Vaccinium ovatum Evergreen Huckleberry

This is one of the most versatile and underused native plants of the Pacific Northwest. Typically thought of as a woodland plant, it performs equally well in full sun. In spring its small, leathery leaves have tones of copper and bronze, and they mature to shiny dark green. Small, urn-shaped white flowers hang under the foliage in spring, transforming to succulent blue-black berries by late summer. These make delicious jam or jelly. The small leaves of this shrub create a fine texture, but its slightly irregular growth habit keeps it interesting. It contrasts well with plants with larger leaves, such as rhododendrons. Use evergreen huckleberry in informal groupings or as a natural low screen. Or shear into a dense formal hedge.”

<http://www.greatplantpicks.org/>



Any Questions ?

We would like to add a Question Period to our monthly Bright Spots feature. If you need to identify a plant, are wondering how to look after it, need advice on how/what/why, just bring your question to our Bright Spots session. You can either stand up and ask, write your question on a piece of paper, or ask a member of the Executive to present it.

We have a wealth of knowledge and information in our members, and somebody will likely have an answer/advice for you. Remember, no question is too small or silly, if you are needing advice, chances are somebody else in the Club is asking the same thing.

Rosemarie

St. Clement's Community Garden by Alicia Greenfield for Vancouver Anglican Journal "Topic"

Back to the Neighbourhood Mission

St. Clement's needed to identify what the neighbourhood actually needed. We created a list of potential projects that highlighted our internal strengths and values and surveyed the congregation to confirm their commitment. These projects were then taken to the neighbourhood and community leaders were asked which elements best met the needs of Lynn Valley. The response was unanimous; every leader sat forward in their seat and tried to talk us into a community garden. They enthusiastically indicated their support and identified potential sources of funding and partners.

This was a neighbourhood need we could meet!

This spring we installed the first phase. Nine boxes: 3 allocated to the neighbourhood in general, 2 to neighbourhood children (the local elementary school and our daycare group) and 4 to St. Clement's (these were finished a little later and all but one will be allocated to folks from outside the St. Clement's faith community next year).

What Worked

-Neighbourhood

- The nearby elementary school were keen to participate and adopted a box for their kindergarten class to nurture — the first contact with the school for many years.
- Recently Lynn Valley Life, the go-to guide to what's happening in our neighbourhood showcased our garden... and we didn't even have to ask!

-Partnerships

- We use the North Shore Community Garden Society's contract with the plot holders. We used their waiting lists to assign the plots to ensure our allocation process was transparent. It is important to us that the neighbourhood understands how the plots are assigned and that there is no sense of insider trading.
- Members asked for, and received from local businesses, great discounts on the materials to build garden boxes.
- We have already donated our plot's first harvests to the North Shore Harvest Project which will distribute the produce to those in need.

-Volunteers

- Our amazing volunteers designed and built fantastic boxes.

What We Struggled With

-Timing

- We missed the opportunity to apply for external funding as the volunteers enthusiastically jumped on the project before external deadlines could be reached. There is a lot of funding for community gardens right now.
- The growing season dictated our program. While we did get the plots to the gardeners in time for a spring planting, we missed great opportunities to announce to our neighbourhood what we were doing.

What Next?

We hope to grow the community garden. Right now there are long wait lists for all the North Vancouver community gardens and our limited number hardly makes a dent in the need. We are currently considering a proposal for more boxes. This time we will better manage our timing so our whole neighbourhood takes pride in the St. Clement's Community Garden.

http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/Portals/0/November%202013/011_2013Topicforweb-1.pdf



Submitted by Carol Ferryman

Sum of us...fighting for people over profit

Even while tens of millions of bees die, Health Canada isn't doing anything.

On December 1, the European Union imposed a two year ban on neonicotinoids, the pesticide manufactured by Bayer that scientists have tied to the massive global bee die-off. It's a bold step and not a moment too soon. With up to a third of all honeybees vanishing each winter, beekeepers are saying that we are "on the brink" of losing our crops' vital pollinators.

The Canadian government agency in charge, Health Canada, has been dragging its feet for years. But we need a pollinator-friendly policy now, to ensure a safe, sustainable environment for future generations.

[Tell Health Canada to protect the bees, and enact sensible restrictions on bee-killing pesticides now.](#)

It's not an exaggeration to say we owe our prosperity and even our survival to millions of bees. Bees are responsible for pollinating over 30% of world's food supply, and they help generate over hundreds of billions to the global economy. And bees are dying worldwide. This summer, a shocking 37 million bees were reported dead across a single farm in Ontario. Bee die offs aren't one off incidents -- in China, the situation has gotten so bad that farmers are forced to hand-pollinate their trees.

SumOfUs.org have been right at the front of the global campaign to save our bees. Over 360,000 of us have already demanded that Bayer drop the lawsuit to stop the two-year neonicotinoid ban in Europe. We also came together to fight Bayer at a huge independent garden store show in Chicago, where the German chemical maker was out in force. Tens of thousands from the Canadian SumOfUs community also took action to demand that big stores Home Depot and Lowe's stop selling the bee killing chemicals. Now, we need to ask Health Canada to take action to save the bees.

You can bet the pesticide manufacturers are shovelling cash at lobbyists in order to continue selling their poisonous products in Canada. But we're not here to protect corporate profits, we're here to protect our ecosystem to ensure our future. Join in today to protect Canada's ecosystem.

[Demand that Health Canada take action on protecting our bees.](#)

<http://action.sumofus.org/a/save-bees-canada/?akid=2984.815956.Mgl0J9&rd=1&sub=fwd&t=1>

[Bee die-offs: New tests find bee-killing pesticides in 'bee-friendly' plants from garden centers nationwide](#), Friends of the Earth, August 14 2013.

Submitted by Harvey Lawson

Killer pesticides are wiping out the honeybees. As Europe takes a big step to protect bees, Canada is dragging its feet. **Tell Health Canada to enact sensible restrictions on bee-killing pesticides today.**

SIGN THE PETITION

here is a link to a March 2012 article on Bees and neonicotinoid pesticides.

<http://www.motherjones.com/tom-philpott/2012/03/bayer-pesticide-bees-studies>

In the United States, a group of beekeepers from North Dakota is taking (from Judith: *don't know the timeframe of this comment; may already have occurred*) Bayer to court after losing thousands of honeybee colonies in 1995, during a period when oilseed rape in the area was treated with imidacloprid. A third of honeybees were killed by what has since been dubbed colony collapse disorder.

also this link to youtube video is very educational http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_XnvZAcM0U

France banned some neonicotinoid BUT... it was banned ONLY for use on sunflowers. It has continued to be used in France on wheat, barley and sugar beets.

Submitted by Judith Brook

<http://www.xerces.org/beyond-the-birds-and-the-bees/>

<http://www.agriculture.com/news/policy/bee-health-debate-heats-up-over-4-ar35972>

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has".

Margaret Mead

ABOUT TOWN

Van Dusen Festival of Lights 2013 Hours & Admission

December 11, 2013 through January 4, 2014, 4:30 to 9 p.m. each evening, except December 25th when the Garden is closed. A magical experience for the whole family with 1.4 million twinkling lights.

For the duration of the Festival, the Garden, Garden Shop and Truffles Café will be open 10am to 3pm.

The doors will re-open at 4:30pm for the show for Festival of Lights patrons only.

www.vandusengarden.org or call the Information Line 604-257-8335 press 12.

Avoid the line-up and purchase advance tickets through **Tickets Tonight** 604.684.2787 (service charge applies) or in person at the Admissions Desk in the Visitor Centre 2012 video <http://youtu.be/kF--83rIjSE>

Park and Tilford Gardens Holiday Hi-Light Festival December 2nd - 31st

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

The entry to the gardens during the month of December is "by donation".

Proceeds from this years light-up will go to support the following charities:

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

Saturday, January 18, 2014 New! **Best Apps for Gardeners** 10:00 am - 12:30 pm Van Dusen

Discover the best gardening apps for iPhone and iPad, and how to use them. There are apps for garden planning and design, best organic gardening practices, permaculture, soil management, planting guides, companion planting and identification tools for plants, garden pests and diseases. Participants will receive a list of apps to install before class. Course fee does not include price of apps. Instructor: Claire Smith Price: Member: \$32 / Non-member: \$42 [Register Online](#)

Saturday, January 25, 2014 New! **Tree Grafting Fun** 10:00 am - 12:30 pm Van Dusen

Learn how to add a new variety onto a tree in your yard, repair damage to tree trunks, or graft a pollinizer branch on a non-performing tree. Get hands-on practice of safe grafting techniques including chip, whip and tongue, bridge, thread and bark grafting. This course will also explain the basic botany behind grafting, and will demo tools and machines used by the pros. Bring a sharp, thin bladed knife (a grafting knife if you have one) . Instructor: Richard Hallman Price: Member: \$42 / Non-member: \$52 [Register Online](#)

Saturday, February 1, 2014 New! **Plant Lab: Roots are Radical** 10:00 am - 12:30 pm Van Dusen

Have a look underground and explore how roots grow, absorb nutrients, and associate with beneficial fungi and bacteria. Always thinking like a gardener, Egan will relate the discoveries to gardening practices and ecosystems. Zoom in on root hairs, learn about the different types of root systems that plants have, and how this impacts their growth in a garden. See the root nodules (containing the nitrogen-fixing Frankia) on alder trees and learn which BC native orchid connects to hemlock trees through mycorrhizae. Instructor: Egan Davis Price: Member: \$32 / Non-member: \$42 [Register Online](#)

Saturday, February 8, 2014 New! **Grow Tree Fruits in Containers** 10:00 am - 12:30 pm Van Dusen

Learn how to grow apples, pears, plums, apricots, peaches, figs and other tree fruit in containers on your balcony or patio. Topics will include selecting trees (including rootstocks, varieties and size of tree), containers, soils, pruning and training including espalier training, trees with multiple fruit, and winter protection of your trees. Instructor: Richard Hallman Price: Member: \$32 / Non-member: \$42 [Register Online](#)

Wishing you all a happy, healthy 2014!