



# THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

December 2014

First established 1943

*Merry*  
  
*Christmas*

Wishing you all a  
**Merry Christmas**  
And  
**A Happy New Year.**  
May 2015 bring you good health, happiness  
and a great garden.



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.

### Meeting Schedule

**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Christmas Party

**January 15, 2015**

**Margaret Cadwaladr**  
"A day in Wisley Garden".

**February 19, 2015**

**Mike Nassichuk.**  
Mason Bees

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

<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>



## 2014 Executive

### President

Tara Findlay

### Vice President

Chris Pharo

### Secretary

Audrey Beugger

### Treasurer

Norma Buckland

### Membership

Rosemary Wagner

Frances Moorcroft

### Members at Large

Jan Valair

Yvonne Kabata

Tom Davis

### Newsletter Editor

Irene Dudra

### Committees

#### Plant Table

Judy Stringer

Marie Pringle

#### Hospitality

Doreen Wakefield

Pat Phillips

#### Sunshine / Door Prizes

Carol Ferryman

#### Website

Brian Didier

### Newsletter Deadline

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### Next Executive Meeting

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 7:30pm

Home of Tara Findley

**Sunshine:** Carol Ferryman

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

Donations of new items greatly accept for door prizes.

Our New Sunshine come January  
Maggie Davis



## Speaker's Corner - Tara Findley

Our November speaker, **Egan Davies**, gave a fascinating talk:

Pink Mountains and the Foothills of the Northern Rockies. Arctic tundra species drop down to the region and alpine tundra species overlap. The mountains are folded layers of rock, including sandstone and limestone, so layers with different nutrient levels have been exposed in folding. The rock has been broken down by glaciers and wind to create rich soil deposits. The west side is steep and glaciated, the east side prairie. Topography influences the soil deposits, with fragments collected in windy areas and deposited in still areas.

*Dryas octopetala* commonly started growing on rock, breaking it down to soil and allowing other plants to start growing.

Frost bubbles have rich soil pulled up from deeper in the earth. *Silene acaulis* loves to grow on the bubbles and gives the appearance of bright pink beacons.

There are no bees in the area. The primary pollinators are flies, then butterflies and mosquitoes. Many of the flowers are flat and disc like as a strategy to attract pollinators; the flies like to warm themselves on the yellow flowers. Many flowers are also highly fragrant to attract more than 50 species of butterflies in the area.

*Pedicularis labradorica* and *Rhododendron lapponicum* grew in the harshest exposed conditions on Pink Mountain where nothing else would.

Egan's testing of soil collected in the area showed pH 6-7 where most plants were growing. Where almost nothing was growing, the soil had pH 3; highly acidic from the seas that the mountains had arisen.

### TREASURER: Norma Buckland

The bank balance as of November 30, 2014 was: \$5,777.95

Petty cash 197.14

Total \$ 5,975.09

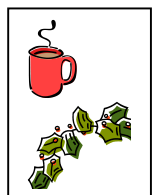
**MEMBERS AT LARGE** Tom and Yvonne are happy to welcome their new partners in grime, Whitney McMillan and Doreen Dew, and to thank them for accepting the position as Members at Large for the next two years.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the volunteers and secret helpers out there who make our job so much easier, it is much appreciated!

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
from your Members at Large  
Jan, Tom and Yvonne**

**Tea Time** Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips

*As it is our Christmas meeting,  
members are asked  
to bring a plate of goodies.*



**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**Have you renewed your membership.**

Thank you to the members who have renewed membership for 2015. 47 members have still to renew. A reminder to please send in your cheques before December 31st (post-dated for Dec 31st accepted). Cheques will not be deposited until after January 1st, 2015.

**An opportunity to 'pay in person' will be the next Club meeting on December 11th.**

Also, to those who receive the Leaf by mail please consider receiving the newsletter by e-mail to save on the postage. Thank you,

**Frances Moorcroft and Rosemary Wagner**

**WARMING: Poisonous Hemlock**

The poisonous Hemlock plant has taken root in the Victoria Area. It is an invasive species from Europe that is becoming more common in and around Victoria. It is a relative of parsley, if ingested the plant can cause paralysis and potentially death in people and animals. In 2002 two people cooked and ate hemlock - possible mistaking it for parsley.

The Invasive Species Council has reported that just 16 species in the agricultural and forestry industries has cost an estimated \$7.5 billion a year. Those species include giant hogweed and Tansy ragwort



Tansy ragwort



Giant Hogweed



Poisonous Hemlock



Digitalis 'Illumination Flame' (syn. Digiplexis™ Illumination™ 'Flame') shown on the left produces continuous spires of blooms from summer through fall. \_  
  
*For more information on Digitalis:*  
<http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/digitalis-illumination-flame/#sthash.Cika7kTJ.dpuf>



Going Bananas

**Thanks to Bonnie Noakes. Her sister loves the digitalis "Going Bananas"**

He who marvels at the beauty of the world in summer will find equal cause for wonder and admiration in winter.... In winter the stars seem to have rekindled their fires, the moon achieves a fuller triumph, and the heavens wear a look of a more exalted simplicity. ~John Burroughs, "The Snow-Walkers," 1866

## Plastic foam, Plastic bags & Overwrap.

Starting May 19 2014 the District of North Vancouver has accepted the following in our **Blue Boxes**.

*All items must be cleaned before putting them in the Blue Box.*

- Hard Plastic Containers,
- Spiral Wound Paper Cans.
- Empty aerosol cans,
- Paper cups,
- Gable Top & Aseptic Cartons,
- Frozen Dessert Boxes

**Christmas Craft - Do not forget to bring to the December meeting a clay or plastic plant pot and some greenery for making your Christmas bell.**

## At drop off Depots:

- Plastic Foam
- Plastic Bags & Overwrap.

Recycling Drop-off Depot, 29 Riverside Drive



## Northwest Flower and Garden Show

Bert Garbuio has organized a trip to the Northwest Flower and Garden Show in Seattle on Wednesday, February 11th. Cost is \$95.00 and includes entry into the Show and Dinner. Bus leaves St. Helen's church at 7:00am. Be sure your name is on the list to secure a seat.

## How to yield gifts from your garden

In the run-up to Christmas it's easy to neglect the garden. There are more pressing things on your mind – ordering the turkey, sorting out who's coming to you and when you are going to them. Sending off the cards. Buying the presents... gardening? Who has time for that? But maybe the garden can be a help at Christmas, not least by yielding things that are suitable as presents and as Christmas decorations.

You'll find pot-grown hollies in garden centres and instead of cutting great swathes of it from the countryside, or buying branches from the greengrocer, why not grow one – or two – in a hefty pot or tub. Plonked by the front door they look suitably festive at this time of year when they are laden with scarlet berries, while in summer they can be trimmed into simple topiary shapes – pyramids and spheres.

Fir trees will yield cones that can be sprayed silver or gold and piled up in baskets to look festive, and naked stems of birch can be sprayed silver and hung with glass icicles by the way of a change from a traditional pine Christmas tree.

If you are struggling with Christmas present ideas, don't forget that there are few people who will not be happy to receive a bowl of fragrant hyacinths (you'll be surprised how often men are grateful for flowers once they've got over the initial shock), a poinsettia or a Christmas azalea.

You could send friends an early present of a potted Christmas tree that they'll be able to plunge in the garden on Twelfth Night and bring in again next year.

And when you are completely stumped, don't forget garden centre gift vouchers, available in all denominations, that can be spent at garden centres all over the country – a bit like book tokens.

When you come to think of it, the garden can play a huge role in the Christmas festivities and can do much to add to the Yuletide glow.