



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

November 2014

First established 1943

On the last weekend in January with the rest of lower mainland fogged in, Lynn Valley was enjoying beautiful sunshine, and I took advantage of the lovely weather to spend most part of two days working in my garden. Always so much clean up to be done, although I do try to leave flowers with seed heads for the birds and large hollow stemmed plants intact, in case they are housing over-wintering bees.

Two flats of \$1 per plant bright primulas brought some cheery colour to my garden. Although I work full time, usually two days a week I work from home. My office, (which is actually my kitchen table), is adjacent to a large window overlooking my back garden, and as I am frequently on the phone, I get to spend a lot of time looking out at the birds and animals which constantly come and go. I remember reading an old book some years ago, written by well known gardening author Marjery Fish. She suggested planting your garden so you look through it, rather than at it, and her thoughts and suggestions have stuck with me over the years, even though I cannot honestly say I have yet carried out her suggestions. I am still thinking about it..... one day !

Went to check on my lovely new-last-year Rosemary Hellebores a few days ago, only to find most of it was gone, eaten by deer I suspect, even though they are not supposed to like Hellebores. I have covered it with a wire frame, and hope it at least can produce a few flowers. I was so looking forward to seeing those lovely reddish/pink blooms. Of course the white Hellebores in full bloom was untouched ! Grrrrrr.....

Just back from the Garden Show in Seattle – thought it was very good this year. Edgeworthia bushes in full bloom seemed to be in just about every display garden, lots of beautiful plants for sale at very reasonable prices, but of course not all could be brought back to Canada, although the phyto people were very good at advising what could be brought back.

There was an excellent accommodation special for the show – Overnight at Crowne Plaza for \$129 for two people. Included two two-day passes to the show (worth \$31 each), complimentary buffet breakfast, 20% off any other meals in the hotel restaurant, and half price parking. Brought the cost of the hotel room (and it's a very nice hotel) down to about \$20. Only available on-line through the garden show web-site, so look out for this next year if you plan on going to the show. Hopefully they will offer it again.

Well it will be interesting to see what happens to those plants already coming through, after this recent cold snap.

I have a couple of Viburnum bushes in full bloom, snowdrops are fine, Sarcococca look and smell wonderful.

I think we get the best of both worlds where we live – able to grow cold hardy plants and many warm weather varieties, providing we take care of them in winter.

Will be calling for nominations for President and Vice-President at the February meeting – hopefully these positions will be filled soon.

Rosemarie Adams

Meeting 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 meetings start promptly at 7:15 pm.

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

March 20th, 2014
Marilyn Holt
Vegetable Container Gardening

April 24, 2014
Jim Morris
Pruning Trees Bonsai

May 10th, 2014
Plant Sale

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 (temporary)

Rosemarie Adams

Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

Audrey Beugger

Carol Bell

Nancy Gelin

Treasurer

Norma Buckland

Membership

Rosemary Wagner

Frances Moorcroft

Members at Large

Tom Davis

Yvonne Kabata

Jan Valair

Tara Findlay

Newsletter Editor

Irene Dudra

COMMITTEES

Plant Table

Vacant

Marie Pringle

Hospitality

Doreen Wakefield

Pat Phillips

Bright Spots

vacant

Newsletter deadline March 12th, 2014

Treasurers Report *Norma Buckland* January 31, 2014 - \$8,399.28, \$188.80 in petty cash. After donations - \$6,199.00

Tea Time *Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips*

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

Sunshine *Carol Ferryman*

Please let us know of any member who is ill or has lost a loved one.

Donations of new items for door prizes are always appreciated.

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Membership *Rosemarie Wagner & Frances Moorcroft*

We have contacted three people on the waiting list to bring our total Membership to 125. Please welcome our new members:

Harmony Bjarnason, Maggi Nicholas and Jemilia O'Brien

Vice-President's Report *Thanks to Pat Holmes*

Conway Lum has worked for GardenWorks@Mandeville

(located at corner of Nelson St. and Marine Drive, Burnaby) since 1988. He started out in the nursery, now garden supplies/information desk, conducting most of the in-house seminars/workshops.

- Recipient of the "Garden Communicator of the Year Award" by BC Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA) for 2012.

- Past recipient of the "Garden Communicator Award" by BC Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA) for 2006.

- Past recipient of the "Environmental Star Award" by the City of Burnaby for European Chafer public education. -

- Honorary member of "South Burnaby Garden Club".

- Contributor to the "Ask-the-Pro" column in BC Living (GardenWise) Magazine.

- Evening instructor for New Westminster Continuing Education for gardening classes.

- Currently serving on the provincial certification committee for BCLNA and Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association (CNLA).

- One of the first three candidates to receive the "Certified Horticultural Technician for retail" in Canada (CNLA).

- Recently obtained "Landscape Industry Certified" technician for ornamental and turf maintenance (CNLA).

- Professional agrologist.

- Graduated from UBC with Bachelor of Science in plant science (ornamental horticulture and botany).

If you have any questions regarding gardening be sure to ask him, he is an encyclopaedia of knowledge. Mr. Lum is bring a door price for our raffle.

Bright Spots

February may be a fairly quiet time for plants in the garden but we all know spring isn't far away. It's a great opportunity to share some of our favourite tools, tips and tricks with other members while we're planning for the season ahead. Here's some suggestions of things to bring for Bright Spots this month: great gardening tools, diaries and calendars, methods for storing seeds, planning crop rotation, tracking planting times, veggie garden planting plans, a list of your

Yet Another Reminder

Our Annual Plant Sale May 10, 2014

Dear members, please remember, as if we'd let you forget, that our Annual Plant Sale is approaching, and we're hoping you're all getting ready to pot up divisions of perennials and sow seedlings and perhaps even divide up some overgrown houseplants to donate. This sale allows us to be a positive force in the community with our donations to different organizations.

Please remember also to label your donations as clearly as possible, with as much pertinent information (sun/shade, flower colour, etc.) as you can manage. There's lots of interest right now in pollinator plants, and drought tolerance, so customers may appreciate this information too. For those of you who are new at this, you can use cut up white or yellow plastic pots or old venetian blinds. I also save all price labels from nurseries which have plain backs and can be repurposed for our uses...

It is proposed that the club will supply one yard of soil amender for club members to use for potting up for the sale. This soil will be available on Saturday, March 1st at Tara Findlay's house, 1191 East 15th Street in North Vancouver (turn West off Mountain Hwy), from 9.00am to 11.00am. Bring buckets or sturdy bags to collect it with. If you have any pots left over please bring them along for members who don't have any.

Soon sign-up sheets for job slots for the sale will be circulated. Please remember we'll need people for both the Friday afternoon and early evening for set-up, and for the sale itself on Saturday. It would be ideal if people could volunteer for one shift on the Friday and one on the Saturday. If you're new to the club, you'll find this is a good chance to connect with other members. And it's always fun. Even in the rain.

Mother's Day Gifts Workshop

There were a lot of glass jars left over from last year's Christmas crafts. We propose to hold a workshop to make Mother's Day gifts which can be sold at the plant sale as well. The workshop will be held on April 12. Further details will follow. This will be a fun event and a great opportunity to mix and mingle with other members.

We would like to remind you that the club is on Facebook. Please go there often to find out about events and other up-dates. Tara is doing a great job and there are lots of wonderful pictures to be found. Feel free to pass the link on to friends and family so they can "Like" us. The more the better! <https://www.facebook.com/LynnValleyGardenClub>

**Your Members At Large -
Tara, Tom, Jan and Yvonne**

ART IN THE GARDEN

CALL FOR GARDENS:

**Saturday, May 31 & Sunday, June 1,
2014**

The North Vancouver Community Arts Council is seeking beautiful and unique North Shore private gardens to feature in the **15th Annual Art in the Garden Tour**. **The 2014 Art in the Garden Tour is a two day event that will take place Saturday and Sunday, May 31 & June 1, 2014 - 12:00-5:00 pm (rain or shine!)**

Gardeners who participate are offered an enjoyable opportunity to share a love of gardening with enthusiastic fellow aficionados and art lovers alike. This self-directed tour brings together visual artists, musicians and gardeners from the North Shore for a collaborative feast of the senses. Two to three artists are paired with each gardener and display their art in the garden for the weekend, while musicians perform in each garden for two hours each day. Gardeners and artists are on-hand for the entire event to answer the public's questions.

If you are interested in submitting your garden for this wonderful event, please call 604.988.6844 or email info@nvartscouncil.ca, download a garden application form or complete an online application form on the website <http://nvartscouncil.ca/events/art-garden>.

Deadline for submission: Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 5:00pm

Megan Koch: Events Coordinator,
North Vancouver Community Arts Council

If you need a specific plant for a particular situation in your garden, you will find the Royal Horticultural Society plant selector helpful. The database provides descriptions, growing information, advice and photographs for thousands of plants.

<http://apps.rhs.org.uk/plantselector/>



Cors de Lint will be coming to Lynn Valley Garden Club with a truckload of his "Unique" soil amendment, Thursday March 20th, around 6:30pm, in the parking lot - cost is \$10 per bag – sold on first come first served, while supplies last.

UNIQUE – soil amendment from Down to Earth Ltd.

History & Introduction - In 1992 Down to Earth developed and built a novel barn system for pigs: the Eco Barn.

This barn design received the "Farmer of the Year Award" from the S.P.C.A.

In this environmentally and animal friendly barn the pigs are housed in roomy pens and kept on a thick layer of sawdust bedding. All the soiled bedding and the animal waste is removed from the barn on a daily basis and moved into a sophisticated composting system. An aerated floor system maintains oxygen levels between 8-12%, which is essential to stimulate the development of aerobic micro-organisms. The temperature is kept between 55 and 65 C. All pathogens and weed seeds are killed during the composting process. The composting process itself takes about 7 weeks. After that the compost is stored for at least 8 weeks for curing; the finished product is a very stable product. After the curing process it is ready for bagging and shipping. The bags are biodegradable and are woven from coarse fibers, which allows air to penetrate into the bags, so the bacteria flora stays aerobic.

The Product - UNIQUE is a micro-biologically active, organic soil amendment, which is produced under closely controlled conditions and marketed by DOWN TO EARTH Ltd.

The only ingredients used to produce UNIQUE are: pig manure and sawdust/shavings.

Beneficial Properties - UNIQUE has properties which are highly beneficial to maintain and enhance a healthy ecosystem in soils. Although UNIQUE is in it self an organic fertiliser, the main benefits for soil and plants are the high concentrations of aerobic micro-organisms and fungi. UNIQUE contains very high concentrations of *Pseudomonas* (6.5x 100 milj CFU/gdw.)

The Agriculture Research Centre in Agassiz has conducted a number of trials in 2002- 2004 and has shown the significant benefits in disease control from *Pseudomonas* species. *Pseudomonas* bacteria are especially beneficial in controlling root diseases. UNIQUE also contains fungi species, which produce antibiotic like substances, which are able to kill soil pathogens. The fungi also enhance the soil structure and water holding capacity. In short this all will result in a healthy, balanced soil, loaded with a broad spectrum of beneficial micro-organisms, in which plants develop a healthier and more extensive root system .

Nutrients - UNIQUE is an organic fertilizer. Its N:P:K(Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium) ratios are: 2:4:2. These values have to be multiplied by a factor 3 to make a fair comparison with chemical fertilizers. The value of an organic fertilizer like UNIQUE is far higher than a chemical fertilizer, since almost all of the fertilizer stays in the soil and will be taken up by the plant's root system. A large % of chemical fertilizers will drain from the soil to the ground water and can not be utilised by the plants. An added benefit of UNIQUE is the availability of many beneficial micro elements, like: Calcium, Iron, Sulfur, Phosphorus, Manganese and many others.

Trials - Down to Earth has conducted a number of trials in commercial greenhouses. The results of the trials has proven significant improved performance of flowers and vegetable plants, UNIQUE was also able to control root rot. Root rot is caused by *Pythium*; a root fungus which has infected all soils used for commercial crop production in the Fraser Valley. Many garden soils are infected with the same root fungus.

Markets - UNIQUE is mainly sold to the commercial greenhouse industry, but many gardeners have seen the benefits of UNIQUE and are using it year after year. UNIQUE is available in 40 l. bags, which weigh about 35 lbs. Many garden clubs place orders for their members in the early spring.

Application - Easy application : top dress a layer of 1-2 cm (= ... inch) thick around the plants.

1 bag of 40 litres covers about 4 sq. meters (30 – 40 sq. feet).

Application should be done in the early spring or late fall. Application should be repeated at least once every year; an extra fall application will give your garden a head start in the spring. UNIQUE can also be mixed with potting soils; do not mix more than 5% UNIQUE with potting soils. Application for vegetable gardens. Before seeding or planting one may mix the top soil (rotorvating) with a layer of about 1 inch of UNIQUE . After germination of the young plants top dressing, once /month should be done during the growing season. This practise will add sufficient nutrients to the soil to grow a variety of vegetables.

For more information, please phone: 604-856-6929 or 604-996-7240 or e-mail: delint@shaw.ca

Ask for Cors or Ann de Lin

It seems 2013 was the end of a golden age for impatiens. They have succumb to a killer downy mildew. The disease first started in Europe in the late 1990s, spread to Britain in 2002. By 2011 the disease was rampant and unstoppable. Last year the problem hit for the first time in BC .

The impatiens story is a sad one. We do not have any varieties of *Impatiens walleriana* that are resistant to downy mildew.

Some alternatives to Impatiens are the following:

New Guinea Impatiens

Downy Mildew resistant. A great range of colours! Does best in shade, but can tolerate more sun if abundantly watered. Compact plants with upright stems and lovely dark green, lance-shaped leaves. Stunning, easy care plants for beds, containers, and hanging baskets. Grows 10 inches high and wide. They establish quickly when planted in the garden, should bloom all summer.



Ipomoea

is the largest genus in this flowering plant family Convolvulaceae, with over 500 species. It is a large and diverse group with common names including morning glory, sweet potato, bindweed, moonflower, etc.



Ipomoea Plant

Calibracho



Calibracho Mary Moore

Calibracho is a profusely blooming annual which flows over the edge of planters, providing a soft edge and plenty of color. Calibracho is available in a wide range of colors, from soft pastels to deep oranges and reds. The red flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and can help to draw hummingbirds to your garden. While this plant needs regular watering, it is a resilient plant and may recover even if it was forgotten for a few days. Soak the planter in water for an hour or two if you allow the plant to dry to assist the recovery.

The nursery industry believes this plant will surpass geraniums and everything else.

Bedding Begonias feature thick foliage dotted by abundant blooms. Also called Wax Begonias, these plants are smaller and bushier than Tuberous Begonias, which are grown from Bulbs. Dwarf varieties grow about 6 to 8 inches tall and bear blooms less than an inch across. Averaging 10 to 16 inches in height, the tall varieties offer 1 ••• to 2 inch wide flowers.

All are prized for their vivid hues of deep copper, salmon, mahogany, coral or yellow. Foliage colors range from light green to deep bronze.

Begonias are adaptable plants. Although they prefer partial shade, they can bloom well in the deep shade of a tree, or in a sunny container. For hanging baskets, opt for begonias with bronze foliage which tend to be more heat resistance.

Begonias are a reliable alternative for gardeners to consider to replace impatiens. They are easy care bedding plants for shady areas.

*Quotes from Steve Whysall's column
Friday, January 31, 2014*



photo (c) Alex White

European fire ants are spreading through the gardens in the B.C.'s Lower Mainland and unleashing stinging attacks on the unwary.

The ants are considered highly invasive and have shown up in a number of locations, including a community garden in Burnaby, where caretaker Abdul Majid said he set out traps after he was stung.

"It turns red and swells up," Majid said. "I think different people have different reactions to them."

Gardeners using the site had tests performed and learned the garden has been overrun by the fire ant, which means certain precautions now have to be taken.

"They can make using lawns or gardening almost impossible when they get quite dense

Tendency to swarm

It's hard to tell the difference between types of ants in B.C. just by looking at them, but the European fire ant behaves differently from others.

Unfortunately, the behaviour often isn't apparent until they attack.

"It has a tendency to swarm when the nests are disturbed — and sting."

This ant first arrived in Eastern Canada about 100 years ago, but has not been seen in B.C. until now. The species appears to have been imported in bedding plants.

The good news is the ants do not appear to get into houses, but once they are in a lawn, they are extremely hard to get rid of.

With the arrival of the May's long weekend - a traditional time for planting - gardeners are being urged to watch what they're bringing home from nurseries and garden sales. If they do see any evidence of ants, it's recommended that the root wads be immersed in water for a minimum of one hour

Stokes Seeds their website: <http://www.stokeseeds.com>.

They have a very good article about starting seeds indoors, now is the time to start. Many of the seed varieties have unique requirements so the key to success is to do a little research on your seed before you start.

To start seed just about any 3" deep container will work. If yogurt cups or egg containers are your preference it is recommended you use a high quality soil mix. This will improve germination. To beat chills use a heat mat or fluorescent lighting

Mark your calendar

March 1st, 2014: Potting soil for planting plants for our May sale. It will be available on Saturday, March 1st at Tara Findlay's house, 1191 East 15th St., North Vancouver (turn West off Mountain Hwy), from 9:00am to 11:00am. **March 20th** : Cors de Lint will be coming to LVGC with a truckload of his "Unique" soil amendment, 6:30pm. Cost \$10.00 a bag.

April 12th: Mother's Day Gifts Workshop. Further details will follow.

June 7th: Bus booked for tour to Thyme on 43rd. Holds 56. Cost \$20.00 Further details later.