



THE LEAF

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LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943

January 2013

Message from the President

Happy New Year to you all – hope you all had a joyful Christmas. Now the days are already getting longer (or rather the daylight is) and as gardeners we all look forward to Spring. Those bulbs start peeking through, seeds are started, and we look forward to seeing those early perennials showing up. I love Spring and the anticipation it brings. Also a busy season for garden shows, seminars, other garden events. Seems every weekend there is something on – The Flower Show in Seattle and the BC Home & Garden Show are both on the same weekend this year – Feb 20 – 24, the Vancouver Hardy Plant Group Spring Study Day is Saturday February 16th, BC Council of Garden Clubs Spring Meeting is on March 23rd and Master Gardener Spring Clinic is Sunday March 17th. All these events provide a wealth of interesting and informative speakers in the company of fellow gardeners. Get a group together, car pool and enjoy a fun day !

If you didn't get to see the light show at VanDusen this year, put it on your list of must-dos for next Christmas. It really was spectacular – I think I can say it is probably the best garden light display I have ever seen. Hard to find parking, long line up to get in, but worth every bit of waiting – if you are a member at Van Dusen remember to take your card as members get express entry.

I'm looking forward to learning about pruning from our January guest speaker, Gerry Gibbens. I find pruning a very difficult thing to do, and my garden would provide many examples of what not to do ! One good idea I did come across for deciduous trees was to take a photo in winter when all the leaves are off to see the branch structure. Its then easier to see what branches need to come off. If you can print off a photo, you can actually mark on it what branches to remove/reduce.

I'm also excited about our February speaker, Gary Lewis, talking about Hellebores. (Reminder to self – bring your wallet !) If you want to see some spectacular pictures of Hellebores check out Gary's web site – www.phoenixperennials.com. Fraser's Thimble Farms on Salt Spring Island also has a huge selection – check out the web-site for photos – www.thimblefarms.com

Last spring I did a Garden Tour with Vancouver Hardy Plant Group featuring Hellebores. It was very impressive, and a wonderful display of colour before even the spring bulbs are in bloom. Too bad Heronswood Nursery in Washington closed down, as they were on the leading edge of Hellebores cultivation and propagation but fortunately a lot of their stock did end up in the lower Mainland and lives on.

Don't forget to bring in your Bright Spots each month, and check out the plant table for interesting and inexpensive plants, books and magazines.

Happy Gardening
Rosemarie Adams

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.

**January 17, 2013
Gerry Gibbens
Pruning**

**February 21, 2013
Gary Lewis
Hellebore Hurrah**

**March 21, 2013
Marilyn Holt
Vegetable Container
Gardening**

**April 18, 2013
Paul Edwards
Japanese Maples**



2013 Executive

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Pat Holmes

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Membership

Doreen Marbry

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Jan Valair

Tara Findlay

Newsletter Editor

Lynn Batt

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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

Hartwig Rother

Website

Brian Didier

Next Executive Meeting:

February 7, 2013

The Leaf Deadline:

February 10, 2013



Treasurers Report

Harvey Lawson

The bank balance as of December 31 is \$.



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

We have nearly completed the 2013 registration.

Thank you to all the members who got their registrations in on time it certainly made things easier for us.

As a few members have had to cancel their memberships we will begin inviting those on our waiting list to join and attend our January meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the January meeting and to welcoming the new members to our Club. Happy New Year to all!



This Month's Speaker

Pat Holmes

Gerry Gibbens has been the gardener of Van Dusen Botanical garden Sino-Himalayan garden since its inception in 1980.

Gerry is a recognized rhododendron expert, speaker and educator. He is Past President of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society, and the Alpine Garden Club of BC, as well as the Director of District 1 of the American Rhododendron Society.

Gerry received his garden training at Windsor Great Park in England.

Bright Spots – Christmas Gifts

I forgot to put a Reminder in the December Leaf to ask members to bring in any interesting gardening related Christmas gifts to show us.

For those of you who get this newsletter prior to January meeting, please bring in and share any interesting items received.

Those of you who get the Leaf at the meeting or after, please bring to February meeting.

Rosemarie

Our Annual Plant Sale May 11, 2013

Please make a note of these dates on your calendar:

Friday, **May 10, 2013**—plant sale set-up, afternoon into the evening.

Saturday, **May 11, 2013**—plant sale, morning, to about 1pm.

It's time once again to start thinking about and preparing for the annual plant sale, held the Saturday before Mother's Day Sunday. The sale brings in considerable revenue, which allows us to keep going (e.g. pays the rent!), and to make various charitable donations in the community.

Members are strongly encouraged to pot up as many divisions of plants from their gardens as they are able. It's a good thing for your gardens, as you know—rejuvenating your existing plants (and coincidentally, making room for new ones). For those of you new to the club and the sale, please remember to label as clearly as possible: include either or both the common and botanical name, sun/shade, moist/dry, flower colour if applicable, and mature height. To those who have done it for years, thank you so much in advance for the meticulous level of labeling.

Last year, to help members with this task, the club supplied one yard of soil amender for members to share. Would the members like this to be repeated? We can discuss it at the general meeting. Also, for anyone experiencing any difficulty digging dig stuff up, or potting it, ask for help at one of the meetings. Transportation of large or unwieldy items can be arranged too.

Please remember to set aside time on both Friday and Saturday for the sale. The more members who show up to share the work, the quicker it goes! (And the sale itself, a hubbub of fun.) A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the March general meeting for both times.

It is quite clear our plant sale is happily anticipated in the community, and that's a really nice thing.

Some things to keep in mind for the sale:

- First, pot up as soon as possible, so that divisions are well-rooted by the time of the sale. Fortunately, we're having a mild-ish winter so far; if you can face it, get out there and do it! (Please!) Seedlings of all sorts are also welcome; they should be started indoors by the middle of March at the latest.
- All kinds of plants are welcome: perennials, annuals, vegetables, fruit canes and bushes; anything at all. Houseplants too. (I'm going to try some leaf cuttings of my Rex begonias.)
- Please use good soil.
- Please remember to bring your plants on the Friday before the sale in clean and trim condition. This will save time and make for a more favourable impression to the customers perusing the goods.

In the Weekly Guardian, Tom Philpott for [Mother Jones](#), part of the [Guardian Environment Network](#) guardian.co.uk, Friday 21 December 2012

Meet the weeds that Monsanto can't beat

Instead of the supposed revolution in agriculture that Monsanto's GM seeds were meant to bring, the opposite effect has occurred – a rise in herbicide use

When Monsanto revolutionised [agriculture](#) with a line of genetically engineered seeds, the promise was that the technology would lower herbicide use – because farmers would have to spray less. In fact, as Washington State University researcher Chuch Benbrook has shown, just the opposite happened.

Sixteen years on, Roundup (Monsanto's tradename for its glyphosate herbicide) has certainly killed lots of weeds. But the ones it has left standing are about as resistant to herbicide as the company's Roundup Ready crops, which are designed to survive repeated applications of the agribusiness giant's own Roundup herbicide.

For just one example, turn to Mississippi, where cotton, corn, and soy farmers have been using Roundup Ready seeds for years – and are now struggling to contain a new generation of super weeds, including a scourge of Italian ryegrass.

"Fight resistant weeds with fall, spring attack," declares a headline in Delta Farm Press, a [farming](#) trade magazine serving the Mississippi river delta. The article's author, a Mississippi State University employee, lays out the challenge:

In 2005, Italian ryegrass resistant to the commonly used herbicide glyphosate was first identified in the state. Since then, it has been found in 31 Mississippi counties and is widespread throughout the delta. This glyphosate-resistant weed emerges in the fall and grows throughout winter and early spring.

The solution: "Fall residual herbicide treatments followed by spring burn-down applications, where a non-selective herbicide is applied to fields before planting." Translation: to combat the plague of resistant Italian ryegrass, Mississippi's cotton farmers must hit their fields with a "residual" herbicide in the fall – meaning one that hangs around in soil long enough to kill ryegrass for a while, and then come back with yet another herbicide in the spring, to make sure the job has been done.

This multi-poison approach to weed control, apparently, is what passes for "integrated pest management" – purportedly a system of low-pesticide crop protection – these days.

The integrated pest management program we recommend uses fall residual herbicides to help reduce the overall population and numbers," [Mississippi State University extension professor Tom] Eubank said. "Fall tillage can also reduce weed numbers, but it is generally not as effective as residual herbicides. Producers should come back in the spring or late winter with an alternative herbicide program that attacks the plant using a different mode of action.

In lieu of crop rotation and biodiversity (the non-toxic way to control weeds), the MSU extension service promotes what the article calls a "diversified herbicide program". And thus we get a clear look at why, since the introduction of Roundup Ready seeds in the 1990s, herbicide use has spiked.

Submitted by Judith Brook

"It is with sadness that I advise that Francisca Darts passed away peacefully in her sleep at 3 a.m. on December 26 and joins many gardener friends from her past, in what must surely be a heaven brimming with flowers." www.dartshill.ca/

Francisca was a plantswoman beyond compare, fortunately her name lives on in the beautiful garden she and her husband created and planted over the past 70 years, which will now be administered by the City of Surrey and volunteers from South Surrey Garden Club - maybe we will put Darts Hill Garden on our bus trip visit list this summer.

Rosemarie

A Star is Born.....by Proven Winners

Winter seems an apt time to talk about a **Frosty Knight™** and a **Snow Princess®**. We introduced **Snow Princess®** *Lobularia* three years ago and due to all summer flowering and fragrant blooms it has become a garden favorite. Now, along comes **Frosty Knight™** a more compact plant that, along with abundant blooms, features yellow and green variegated foliage. They are annuals and perform best with full sun and consistent moisture.

Royale Highness combination

In addition to being a great landscape plant, **Frosty Knight™** is wonderful in larger containers. Combine it with the royal purple of **Superbena® Royale Chambray** and you have a beautiful and fragrant combination for your deck, patio or porch.



Savvy gardeners know that January doesn't have to be a lonesome, desolate time in the landscape. Take a page from their book and grow your own cheer in the form of **Berry Nice® winterberry holly**. This super hardy (down to USDA zone 3!) shrub is easy to grow –after all, it's a North American native that graces our spectacular woods with no help from anyone but Mother Nature.

We selected it especially for its heavy crops of extraordinarily bright red berries. Plant just one and you've got a jaw-dropping specimen...plant a hedge and you've got a veritable spectacle! **Berry Nice®** winterberry holly reaches 6-8'/1.8-2.4 m high at maturity but can be maintained shorter through pruning; it will require a pollinator ('Jim Dandy' is an excellent choice) to set fruit reliably.

Submitted by Lana Wightman

Winter Flowering Shrubs

Jasmine nudiflorum are open now and will continue to flower until mid-March. These shrubs are actually a semi-vine and look smashing against an old wall or rustic fence, and if you can provide a south or west exposure, the blossoms will appear earlier and bloom more reliably throughout the winter.



Chimonanthus praecox, or Wintersweet, is in bloom now, and its fragrant, light yellow/stained purple flowers are a delight few gardeners have enjoyed ... probably because it is so hard to find. If you can find one, grab it! Its perfume alone is worth the price.



Rhododendron rirei, with its beautiful mauve-purple blooms crowning 4 to 5 m tall shrubs, is usually open soon after the New Year. Not long after that, the white Dahurian azalea (*R. dauricum* f. *album*) from northeast Asia and the similar, but evergreen Korean azalea (*R. mucronulatum*), which has bright violet-purple flowers, open their sizable blooms.

One of the less known winter gems is the series of winter flowering Oregon Grape; Mahonia 'Winter Sun' is in full bloom right now and is just as beautiful in sun or shade.

Sarcococca confusa and Sarcococca hookeriana. These small broadleaf evergreens don't look much like boxwood, nor smell like them either. The sarcococcas are known for the intensely sweet fragrance of their little white winter-borne flowers. While the flowers might not even be visible, visitors are always aware that these plants are in bloom.

Erica carneas, or winter heathers are very important to all our gardens and are being used more frequently now. They perform beautifully in perennial borders, but don't forget, they make sensational ground covers too! Have you ever seen a bed of white birch clumps surrounded by 'Springwood' white heather? If not, try planting one because winter will never look better. Plant them in groupings of threes or fives for more impact. Interesting dwarf conifers also look better when planted with such companions. Keep your ericas well drained though, or root rot will put an abrupt end to your display.

Viburnum 'Pink Dawn' Its fragrant clusters of tiny pink blossoms just never seem to quit. It will throw out a few blossoms in fall, but from early February onward, more and more blossoms will open until this shrub is a mass of pink through to April. We too often overlook a distant cousin of Viburnum 'Pink Dawn', the evergreen Viburnum tinus 'Spring Bouquet'. It is full of white blossoms now that look exceptional when contrasted with its bronze buds and steel blue berries. If it is located in a protected, sunny location, it never seems to quit blooming.

Witch hazel, especially the fragrant yellow 'mollis'. Although they don't have a great perfume, the orange variety, Hamamelis 'Jelina' and the red Hamamelis 'Diane' are a must for the home garden. By the way, surround the red ones with Snowdrops, and you will have the makings of an award-winning combination.

Corylopsis pauciflora, or Buttercup Winter Hazel. It is not yet in bloom, but it looks so neat in any landscape situation. Bell-shaped, primrose yellow flowers droop gracefully in clusters throughout this low spreading shrub, and if you plant some purple 'Wanda' primulas or miniature blue Iris reticulata around the base, you'll create another great combination.



Cornus mas, or the Cornelian Cherry, is a February bloomer, and although its blossoms are smaller than the Chinese witch hazel, I think it is well worth a spot in your garden. I am not going to mention its edible red fruit or charming reddish purple autumn foliage either.

Daphne mezereum, or February daphne blooms faithfully each year after Valentine's Day. Its rosy purple flowers appear along its branches before the leaves, and their perfume rates a '10'!

Arbutus unedo or strawberry tree

Read Brian Minter's complete article at: www.gardeningbc.com/page/brianminter64.html

Read Bob Tuckey's complete article at: <http://www.thenatural-gardener.com/December2012.pdf>



Sign at the William Street off-ramp from the TransCanada Highway

Knotweeds (*Polygonum* spp.) are invasive perennials, with four species found in British Columbia: Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*); Bohemian knotweed (*Fallopia x bohemica*); Giant knotweed (*Fallopia sachalinensis*); and Himalayan knotweed (*Polygonum polystachyum*). The primary knotweed species found in BC is Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). Knotweeds thrive in roadside ditches, low-lying areas, irrigation canals, and other water drainage systems. They are also found in riparian areas, along stream banks, and in other areas with high soil moisture. Knotweeds occur in the southwest coastal region, the Shuswap, Kitimat, Stikine, Skeena, Columbia, Okanagan, and Kootenay areas, as well as the Queen Charlotte Islands. Additional plants may exist in many gardens across BC.

“Japanese knotweed is an invasive species that thrives in temperate climates like the Lower Mainland's. While knotweed can be found across the Metro Vancouver area, the North Shore is ground zero for the tough, noxious plant.”

<http://www.theprovince.com/technology/Invasive+Japanese+knotweed+raises+alarms+North+Shore/6918234/story.html>

Knotweeds have small white-green flowers that grow in showy, plume-like, branched clusters along the stem and leaf joints. Hollow stems stand upright and are bamboo-like with reddish-brown speckles and thin, papery sheaths. Leaves are heart or triangular-shaped on all species except Himalayan, which are elongated and tapered. Stems grow 1-5 metres in height at maturity, with leaves 8-10 centimetres wide and 15 centimetres in length. Giant knotweed leaves are generally twice the size of the other 3 species. A distinguishing feature of Japanese knotweed is the zigzag pattern in which leaves are arranged along the plant's arching stems. Production of fertile seeds is rare in most knotweed species due to a disproportionate ratio of female to male plants: Japanese being female; Giant being male; and Bohemian being the offspring of the two. Bohemian knotweed produces viable seeds that are dispersed along riparian areas via the water column.

Warning: Giant hogweed stem hairs and leaves contain a clear, highly toxic sap that, when in contact with the skin, can cause burns, blisters and scarring. WorkSafe BC has issued a Toxic Plant Warning for Giant hogweed that requires workers to wear heavy, water-resistant gloves and water-resistant coveralls that completely covers skin while handling the plants. Eye protection is also recommended.

Knotweeds are perennials that spread rapidly through rhizome (root) systems that may extend from a parent plant up to 20 metres laterally and up to a depth of 3 metres. They thrive on freshly disturbed soil in moist locations and are able to grow in partial shade or full sun. Root and stem fragments as small as 1 cm (or 0.7 grams) can form new plant colonies. Fresh stems produce shoots and roots when buried in a soil medium or floated in water. Stems submerged in water can produce viable plants within 6 days. Knotweeds are dispersed by human activities or by water to downstream areas, and are of particular concern in riparian areas and areas prone to seasonal high water or flooding. Plants emerge in early spring and produce large leaves that can shade out other plant species. Infestations can dominate stream banks and reduce sight lines along roads, fences, and rights-of-way.

Prevention

- **Monitor for knotweed** on both disturbed and undisturbed sites.
- Do not purchase, trade, or grow knotweed. Instead, grow regional native plants as they are naturally adapted to the local environment and are non-invasive.
- **Ensure soil, gravel, and other fill material are not contaminated.**
- **Minimize soil disturbance during activities and re-vegetate exposed soil as soon as possible.**

Mechanical Control

- Cutting may be effective if done close to the ground, twice per month between April and August, then monthly until the first frost. Repeat this treatment for at least 5 years to exhaust root reserves.
- Digging up and removing the entire knotweed is difficult because the root system is extensive, and deeply rooted.
- Mechanically controlled areas should be monitored throughout the growing season to ensure new infestations do not develop from root fragments.
- Disposal: All cut plant parts should be incinerated or undergo deep burial at landfill. **Take special care in disposing of knotweed.** Bag or tarp plants, plant parts, and seeds before transporting to a designated disposal site (e.g. landfill). Care should be taken to ensure that plant parts are not distributed during transport.

<http://www.shim.bc.ca/invasivespecies/private/Knotweed.htm>

really good identification information and pictures!


www.bcinvases.ca to report invasive plants, or for more information.
[http://wiki.bugwood.org/Polygonum cuspidatum](http://wiki.bugwood.org/Polygonum_cuspidatum) repeat cutting is best control method for un-established stands of knotweed.
www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/weedguid/jknotweed2.htm Field guide to noxious weeds and other selected invasive plants of British Columbia. BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

ABOUT TOWN

February 9, Saturday **Mason Bee Workshop** 10 am -12:30 pm Van Dusen

Discover mason bees, including how to attract them and keep them in your home garden. Learn why and how to wash the cocoons, what kind of nest they prefer and how to make one. The focus will be on hands-on demonstrations and useful information that can be applied immediately in your backyard. **Instructor:** Brian Campbell

Cost: Member: \$30 / Non-member: \$40

February 15, Friday  **Plant Nutrition for the Informed Gardener** 10 am -12:30 pm Van Dusen

You may know your plants need nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and many micronutrients, but do you understand why? This course will explore the roles of specific nutrients in plant growth (the botany behind the N-P-K), and how to recognize nutrient deficiencies in plants. It will also touch on the differences between organic and inorganic fertilizers including the accessibility of nutrients and the best natural sources of nutrients for your plants.

Instructor: Jackie Chambers Cost: Member: \$30 / Non-member: \$40

February 16, Saturday **“SPRING IS IN THE AIR”** 9:30am* - 3:00pm at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre the Vancouver Hardy Plant Group Spring Study Day *Remember to allow time to sort out the parking meters. Members pre-registered \$40; non-members pre-registered \$45. ALL tickets at the door \$45.

<http://www.vancouverhardyplant.org/index.html>

February 20-24, Wednesday-Sunday **25th Anniversary Northwest Flower & Garden Show**

At Seattle Convention Centre some of the display gardens. featured are: “Audrey’s Roman Holiday”, “Alien On Vacation”, “A River Runs Through It”, “A Hobbit’s New Zealand Garden”, “Honey I Shrunk the Yard”, “In a Garden Far, Far Away – An Edible Forest Sanctuary”, “It’s Never Too Late to Learn to Dance”

Tickets are \$20, but early bird (before February 20) tickets are \$16.

<http://www.gardenshow.com/>

February 20-24, Wednesday-Sunday **BC Home & Garden Show**

Tickets range in price up to \$15. Save \$3 online

Seniors (60+) \$5 before 5pm on Thursday, February 21st & Friday, February 22nd

<http://www.bchomeandgardenshow.com/BCHGS/EventsHome.aspx>

February 23, Saturday  **Companions in Containers** 10 am -12 noon Van Dusen

Growing your garden in containers requires thoughtful planning if you want your plants to thrive while maximizing use of space. With a focus on vegetable companions, this course will look at what plants are best grown together, resulting in fewer pest problems, maximum nutrient uptake and general plant health. Part of the course will include some time to purchase seeds during the Seedy Saturday sale, with Janis joining you to offer her advice while you shop.

Instructor: Janis Matson Cost: Member: \$25 / Non-member: \$35





Christmas Party 2012 photos by Rosemarie Adams