



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
First established 1943

May 2013

Executive Notes for May



Membership May report *Doreen Marbry, Diane Sekora*

Our club continues to be full with a membership of 125 and 11 on the waiting list. We have a few members remaining who need to pay their \$15 to reserve their places on our June 8 Bus Tour. There will be 4 wonderful places to see and it should be a great day. Looking forward to it!



This Month's Speaker

Pat Holmes

Emily Budinski – Herbs

Gardening has been a passion since moving to a one acre site in 1976 and herbs have remained a constant passion due to their various horticultural uses. They are used daily in the kitchen as well as medicinally and decoratively.

Gardening has become an addiction over the years and most of my days are spent puttering in the garden, greenhouses or reading horticultural literature – my favorite RHS's The Garden, but also have a large number of books and periodicals focused on herbs.

I enjoy discussing herbs and hope you will enjoy the presentation.

Thank you for the invitation.



Members at Large May report

Rita Marshall, Jan Valair, Tara Findlay & Chris Pharo

Members' Garden Tour July 6th

We already have 2 gardens arranged for our members' garden tour. We are hoping that a few more of our members will volunteer their gardens too. We always have such a lovely day. Please don't think that your garden has to be a big "show garden", there are delights to see in small spaces, too! The variety of gardens, and methods people use to deal with challenges, is what makes the tour interesting and fun. If you're considering volunteering your garden, please contact Rita to let her know as she'll be planning the day and creating the tour booklet.

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.

May 16, 2013
Emily Budinski
Herbs

June 20, 2013
Patricia Fleming
Gardening for Wildlife

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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

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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:

June 6, 2013

The Leaf Deadline:

June 9, 2013



Treasurers Report

Harvey Lawson

Bank balance at \$



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.



Plant sorting photo by Tara Findlay



Executive Notes for May

Rosemarie Adams

Happy to report on one of our best Plant Sales ever. We had an amazing selection of plants, perfect weather and a wonderful group of club volunteers to make this all come together. Big Thank You to our Members at Large, Tara Findlay, Chris Pharo, Rita Marshall and Jan Valair who organized the sale. Tara and Chris and several other club members also spent a lot of time digging plants donated from a neighbour of Chris. Special Thank You also to Doreen Wakefield and Pat Phillips who kept us all well supplied with juice, tea, coffee and snacks, and of course our thanks go to the many members who donated plants, carried them into the hall, sold them, acted as cashiers and carried plants out. Worker bees all! I'm sure some members put many miles in carrying wheelbarrow loads into the hall. It really is wonderful to see what a dedicated group of volunteers can accomplish.

We were also able to donate some nice plants to St. Clements Church for their new flower beds – they are hoping to be able to grow flowers to cut and use to decorate inside the church.

Next big event on our Club Agenda is our Field Trip on June 8th.

Please be at Church Parking Lot by 8:15 am.

Bus will leave promptly at 8:30 am.

We have a busy schedule and don't want to have to cut short any of our visits.

Bring your lunch, wear comfortable shoes and be prepared for all types of weather.

If you plan on purchasing plants, bring your bags to accommodate.

We will have a few more Ikea bags available if you don't have one - \$2 each.

Our June meeting will be the last meeting for a few months – we will have Members Garden Tour in July, but don't meet again for regular meetings until September.

We will in the fall also be looking for candidates for next year's executive. It really is a very worthwhile thing to do, you will make new friends, learn new things and contribute to the ongoing success of our Club. Please think about taking on a position, and don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions about anything.

Rosemarie





THANKS FROM THE MALS

We had a fantastic variety of plants for this year's sale. Thanks to all our members who nurtured them along to look so lovely plus those who helped pot, label and transport from our special donor garden. The mature tree and terrific line up of draw prizes formed a great impression before our customers even got inside to the sea of greenery.

Our thanks to everyone who turned out to help prepare for the plant sale on Friday – clearing the hall, laying the tarps, transporting plants, sorting, labelling and pricing, and arranging them in the hall. And to those who helped at the plant sale on Saturday – guiding people, helping them with their decisions, selling draw tickets, cashiers, keeping the helpers provided with coffee, tea and delicious goodies. And, of course, to those who helped with the clean-up after it was all over. The hall ended up the way our mothers had insisted we leave things: cleaner, tidier and neater than we found it. With your help the sale ran smoothly, effectively and resulted in lots of happy customers.

Thank you all.

Tara, Rita, Jan and Chris



Customer lineup entering the Plant Sale photo by Tara Findlay

Favourite Annuals

In the spring I like to use pansies in different places and they often last a long time in cooler spots. Also, obconica primulas are long-lasting and come in beautiful shades.

For the summer nothing can beat impatiens in semi-shaded areas for a long-lasting pop of colour. Torenia (blue or white wishbone) are lovely as well.

Big-leafed begonias (Dragon Wing Begonias) are large, make an instant impact with their shiny leaves and red or coral flowers in shade or sun. Great! As does gartenmeister fuchsia for semi-shade.

Tuberous begonias, though not annuals are also invaluable for colour in a semi-shaded garden. Love them, always get a few new ones but bring back many older ones, too. Trailing Illumination begonias are great in hanging baskets.

In larger pots and in borders, I love using the smaller supertunia, Silverberry. They fill in areas with a whitish/pink flush.

In my garden shed window box, a favorite combo is a lacy white marguerite, with yellow butterfly marguerites, trailing geraniums, and blue ageratum (smells like baby powder) and sometimes coral geraniums. Fillers like brachycome (swan river daisy), coral diascia and white or mauve trailing bacopa, trailing mimulas and lime potato vines are useful, too.

And sweet-smelling sweet-peas! I had to take down my netting last year so I'll have to find a new place for them. Maybe I'll try a tee-pee in a big pot. I've probably missed a few that I can't think of right now.

.....from Diane Sekora



Some of my favourites.
Tried and true, rather than new.
Mimulus, Lantana, Pansies and
Petunias (love the smell) with
Geraniums in background.

.....from Rosemarie Adams

Here's my favourite annuals and some reasoning behind them.

In the veggie garden, I use French marigolds (Westcoast Seeds Sparky mix) to suppress 'bad' nematodes, lobelia between rows as a living mulch and alyssum on the edges for bees. I set aside a sunny section of garden bed each year for annuals to attract pollinators: cosmos (hummingbirds, butterflies and bees) and a wildflower blend from Westcoast Seeds.

For hummingbirds, I also have a hanging basket of Dark Eyes fuchsia and a big planter of Gartenmeister bronstad fuchsia and begonias.

.....from Tara Findlay



Anagallis blue

I love it and get it every year!.....from Pat Holmes



Nicotiana alata 'Hummingbird Lemon Lime' (flowering tobacco) for hummingbirds and beautiful evening scent.

Lobularia maritima (Alyssum)

White Alyssum is best for attracting beneficial insects.

Begonia semperflorens 'Vodka' (fibrous begonia)

Burgundy leaves and red flowers shares a border with;

Lobelia erinus compacta "Crystal Palace".



GRAFTED TOMATOES

This is the latest innovation in vegetable gardening. There has been a huge increase in the growing of heirloom tomato plants in the last few years but wouldn't it be nice if you could reduce pest and disease problems and increase yields. Now you will be able to with the new grafted tomato plants. Commercial cultivation of grafted vegetable plants began in Korea and Japan at the end of the 1920s. Today, produce growers worldwide are adopting the use of grafted tomato stock, particularly in Asia, Europe, New Zealand and Australia. Grafting vegetable plants, which fuses a desired variety onto special rootstock, helps to ensure huge harvests from healthy plants, whether hybrid or heirloom.

Here are some of the promised benefits to growing grafted tomatoes:

- Extreme vigor for improved quality and quantity of fruit
- Tolerance to environmental stresses like extreme temperatures or poor soils
- More abundant harvest over a longer period of time
- Resistance to soil borne pathogens and pests
- Increased disease resistance including resistance to early and late blight and blossom end rot



<http://graftedvegetables.com/wp/>

I wanted to wish you a very Happy Earth Day!

In celebration of this beautiful day I baked a pie this morning, made from local Japanese Knotweed (that invasive plant that is causing so much trouble around the DNV – and the world) and strawberries.

I did eat some last night to make sure I wouldn't double over in stomach pain and I had no issues. The Knotweed is similar to rhubarb in its consistency and taste. There is one month of the year that it is suitable for eating, mid-April to mid-May. Here is the recipe I used: <http://www.yankeemagazine.com/recipe/for/strawberry-knotweed-pie/2531>

Some other websites I came across (I haven't read through all of them – Official Disclaimer - use your judgement about what is suitable for you):

<http://www.selfsufficientish.com/main/2011/03/eating-and-drinking-japanese-knotweed-by-andy-hamilton/>

http://www.ehow.com/about_5431864_medicinal-uses-japanese-knotweed.html

What a beautiful day for us to celebrate!

Courtenay

Blue Orchard Mason Bees

From the BCCGC Bulletin's temporary Editor, *Beth MacLaren*:

I attended the Pacific Northwest Garden Show in Seattle this year and one of the speakers was Jim Ullrich from Wild Birds Unlimited, Gig Harbor, WA. I had only a passing curiosity in mason bees previously, but after I heard Jim talk about them I became smitten. I have put up 3 nests this year, but don't yet know if I have any tenants. According to the gardener/beekeeper, Bruce Little, from my community garden, if you want to put out nests this year, they should go up in the next week or so as the mason bee year is over by June.

I contacted Jim to get his permission to publish his handout on mason bees here. He agreed and was very enthusiastic about mason bees, saying, "They are so much fun to watch, as they pollinate your backyard." Here's the handout:
What are Mason Bees?

Orchard Mason Bees are our native pollinators. They populate all of North America. They are bluish black in colour. The female mason bee is a solitary, nonaggressive bee that will only sting if handled roughly. If stung, their sting is mild. The males do not have stingers.

Why support them?

Having trouble with getting produce? A lack of bees may be to blame. The Orchard Mason Bee is the best pollinator of apples, pear, plum, and many other plants. They can pollinate better than the non-native honeybee because of their hairy bodies. This hair gathers the pollen, transferring it from flower to flower.

What do the bees do?

In spring, the male bees come out first, and start pollinating right away. About two weeks later, the female bees emerge. Within minutes the male bees will have mated with the new females, and she starts her life's work making homes for the eggs. Mama bee searches for holes to lay eggs in (5/16" is ideal). After filling the hole with 1/8" mud, she will fill the hole with nectar and pollen to be used by the larvae as a food supply. After filling one cell with food, she will lay an egg; cell by cell, she will fill the 6" tube. By the end of September, the bees will have become adults.

What happens next?

The bees should be kept within the temp of 35-45 degrees in a dry location. A great place for storing them is in your garage or basement as long as it is unheated. They may be stored in a refrigerator for a short while, but will dry them out if left in for too long. Don't leave them outside because of predators, such as woodpeckers and driller wasps. The bees will hatch out in spring when the weather is about 55 degrees fahrenheit for more than 3 days, usually from late March to the middle of April.

Where should I put them?

You should place your bees in a weather-sheltered location in full sunlight. Female bees will wander up to 300 feet to collect pollen, so make sure they can reach your flowering plants. You will need to have clean nesting holes available to them each year. The best system to use is the 6" cardboard tube system.

In short ...

1. Put bees and a housing system in a sunny, wind/rain sheltered location in March.
2. Provide a nice, small mud-puddle (misted daily) close to the nest.
3. In late June, bring the bees inside a cool area (garage, shed, etc.)
4. Late January, transfer bees to the refrigerator (to prevent early hatching).
5. If you have a cardboard liner system, buy replacement straws and/or liners.
6. Take the full liners out of the cardboard tube, replace with new liner.
Put bee-filled paper straw in another container close by.
7. Watch your late winter/spring weather.

Once you have 3 to 4 consecutive days of 55 degrees or more temps, put your bees out.

commercial Mason Bee nest; Blue Orchard Mason Bee; Mason Bee nest of PVC piping filled with 6" cardboard tubes.



ABOUT TOWN

Saturday, May 25 **Small Space Garden Design** 9:30 am -1:30 pm Van Dusen
Explore the challenges and opportunities in small-space design, with an emphasis on patios, balconies, and small yards in condominiums and townhouses. Learn about site analysis, the use of walls and ceilings, colour, and plant choices ideal for the small garden. Bring two colour photos, rough measurements of your site, and lunch.
Instructor: Estelle Bogoch Cost: Member: \$45 / Non-member: \$55
<http://vancouver.ca/vandusen/adultEducation/adult.htm>

Saturday, May 25 **New** **Shade Container Workshop** 2:30 pm -4:30 pm Van Dusen
Plant a beautiful straw basket filled with shade loving flowers and bright foliage to lighten up a shady spot in your garden. Learn general tips on growing in the shade and characteristics of shade loving plants, and then plant your own basket to take home. All supplies are included, including a sturdy basket. **Instructor:** Estelle Bogoch
Cost: Member: \$65 / Non-member: \$80 <http://vancouver.ca/vandusen/adultEducation/adult.htm>

Wednesday, May 29 **New** **Softening the Hardscape** 6:30 pm -9:00 pm Van Dusen
Do you love the walls, fences, walkways or patio around your house? If not, then learn how to use plants, containers and art to transform these functional aspects of your garden into spaces you will enjoy and find more welcoming. There are positive and negative aspects of the hardscape, and this course will give you plenty of ideas to work with what you've got.
Instructor: Janis Matson Cost: Member: \$30 / Non-member: \$40
<http://vancouver.ca/vandusen/adultEducation/adult.htm>

Sunday, June 2 The Lions Gate Gogos (Stephen Lewis Foundation) is hosting a fundraiser:
 a garden tour at Henry and Mary Loewen's house, at 3505 Emerald Drive, Edgemont Village
 on JUNE 2nd, from 11 - 4 pm. Tickets are \$10 at the door with children under 12 free.
 There will also be a table of baking and crafts and a donated painting on auction.
 Tea, coffee and homemade cookies will be served free. <http://greatervangogos.org/>
All donations will go towards the "Grandmother to Grandmother Campaign" of Stephen Lewis Foundation

Wednesday, June 5 **Growing Veggies in Containers** 6:30 -9:00 pm Van Dusen
Which vegetables, and specific varieties, grow best in containers and when should they be planted? What soil mix is best and how should you water your plants? Learn how to get the most out of your balcony or patio by using vertical space resourcefully, selecting appropriate plants and containers, and more. **Instructor:** Janis Matson
Cost: Member: \$30 / Non-member: \$40 <http://vancouver.ca/vandusen/adultEducation/adult.htm>

Saturday, June 8 **LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB BUS TOUR** 8:30 am -5:00 pm

Saturday, June 8 **New** **Growing Superfoods** 1:00 pm -4:00 pm Van Dusen
Grow your own Superfoods at home, for the freshest and healthiest veggies, fruits, and herbs. Learn what a Superfood is and which are the best of the best to grow when considering wellness, ease of growing and culinary perspectives. With our climate in mind, learn which cultivars are best, how to integrate them into your landscape or patio pots, and how to maximize your harvest. **Instructor:** Senga Lindsay Cost: Member: \$35 / Non-member: \$45
<http://vancouver.ca/vandusen/adultEducation/adult.htm>