



# THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

First established 1943

May 2014

This time of year is such a busy and social time for the club. As I write this, it's less than a week to our plant sale and only a month until our bus tour. What a great month we have ahead!

I'm very excited that the sale is nearly here, it looks like we have almost enough plants potted up at our place to start a plant nursery. Although it hasn't been the nicest weather this weekend, I was glad to get almost everything cleaned and ready for the sale. It's very satisfying having them sorted into flats, labeled and 'groomed'. Uncovering the two vegetable beds they've been residing on for the last few months was an added bonus as we will now be able to sew our lettuce seeds. Thankfully, while I was focused on the pots James took pity on our potatoes, sprouting out of the corners of their boxes, and the tomatoes still in their 2" pots and planted or repotted them. It seems to have been a busy month at our place.

With so much going on, it makes me appreciate how lucky we are to have such active members. Offers of help from many members make our preparation and activities so much easier. Thanks to all who have volunteered to help before and during the sale, it's sure to be a great event. I was pleased to hear the lady second in line for the rhododendron sale on the weekend commenting that she couldn't wait for our sale too!

I paid a visit to the Wild Bird Trust this week and was treated to a tour through their new building, Corrigan Nature House. It's a beautiful, simple building with natural wood and lots of glass to emphasize the Nature Reserve just outside. It will be an excellent facility for them. They are excited that it's nearing completion and were very appreciative of our contribution. It's lovely that the success of our plant sale allows us to donate to such important causes in our community.

With many of us focused on the plant sale, the bus trip arrangements are almost complete thanks to Rosemarie, Doreen and Diane's efforts. If you haven't paid for your spot yet, please be sure to get your money to Doreen and Diane at the May meeting to secure your seat. It's a fabulous line up of gardens and nurseries and always a fun day.

I hope your gardens are flourishing with the warmer days and I look forward to seeing you all at the sale.

LYGC 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.

## Meetings Schedule

May 15, 2014

**Reinier van de Poll**  
Hardscaping

June 19, 2014

**Jackie Morris**  
A Botanical Garden in an Unexpected Place

September 18, 2014

**Satya Brown**  
Colour in the Shade

October 16, 2014

**Todd Major**  
Topic to be determined

### Mailing Address:

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North Vancouver, BC  
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<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.or>



 **Tea Time**

*Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips*

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



**Sunshine** *Carol Ferryman*

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

**Donations of new items greatly accept for door prizes**

## 2014 Executive

**President**

*Tara Findlay*

**Vice President**

*Chris Pharo*

**Secretary**

*Audrey Beugger*

*Carol Bell*

*Nancy Gelin*

**Treasurer**

*Norma Buckland*

**Membership**

*Rosemary Wagner*

*Frances Moorcroft*

**Members at Large**

*Jan Valair*

*Yvonne Kabata*

*Tom Davis*

**Newsletter Editor**

*Irene Dudra*

**Committees**

**Plant Table**

*Christel Glazer*

*Marie Pringle*

**Hospitality**

*Doreen Wakefield*

*Pat Phillips*

**Bright Spots**

(volunteer needed)

**Sunshine / Door Prizes**

*Carol Ferryman*

**Sound System Set-up**

*Maurice Jones*

**Website**

*Brian Didier*

**Newsletter Deadline**

June 12th, 2014

**Next Executive Meeting**

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**TREASURER'S REPORT** *Norma Buckland*

Bank balance on April 31, 2014 - \$ 3663.55

**VICE PRESIDENT'S SPEAKER REPORT**

Reinier van de Poll's interest in garden design can be traced back to his grandmother's beautiful garden in Arnhem, The Netherlands. Reinier's parents brought this Dutch garden heritage to the North Shore of Vancouver. Here Reinier witnessed a transformation of a tired city lot into a wonderful family garden while taking part in the weeding and raking.

The landscape career started with a job at a garden centre, where weekends and after school hours were spent serving customers whose plant and garden knowledge challenged Reinier to start a formal education in the field.

At the Mothers' Day Gift workshop held at Tara Findlay's on April 12, there were 15 glass dish floral arrangements made. Shown here are three of those arrangements..



**May 10, 2014**

## **Plant Sale**

The Plant Sale is almost upon us, only a few more sleeps! Thank you to all the volunteers who have signed up so far. A few more helpers would still be welcome, in particular a person to sell the **Raffle tickets!** Please don't be shy, pick up the phone and call or e-mail any of the MALs.

A few last-minute reminders:

### **Plants:**

- Please bring your plants to the Church on Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> between 3pm & 7:30pm. This is when the pricing and Plant Sale setup is done.
- Please clean your pots & label your plants - common name is fine. If possible note sun/shade tolerance and flower colour on label.

### **Sale Rules:**

- There will be no reserves or sales of plants on Friday.
- Everyone on the first shift on Saturday may set aside two plants in holding prior to the start of the sale. Those on the second shift may line up and purchase plants with our other customers.
- No one may set aside plants during a shift
- Remember to wear your name tags and your green shirts on Friday and Saturday.

### **Lawn Signs:**

- Thank you to those who picked up a Lawn Sign. Please remember to return them at the next General Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Garden Tour**

Even though we are all preoccupied with the plant sale right now, please consider opening your gardens for our Annual Garden Tour. This is always such a lovely day and a great way to socialize. If you have any questions please call any of us.

Your Members at Large - Jan, Tom and Yvonne

## **Lynn Valley GC Bus Tour**

**Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> 2014**



The date for the event is Saturday, June 7 and the meeting place is St. Clements Church parking lot. Cost \$20.00. Please arrive at the Church by around 8:10am to get your name tag and trip details. **The bus tour will leave promptly at 8:30am.** Please bring a lunch, also bring a carry bag (one only) for your plants.

The tour will start at The Glades, then to Select Roses (Brad Jalbert), Thyme on 43rd (where we can eat lunch) then last Stop is Devan Greenhouses. Expect to be home by around 4.30 - but of course this will be subject to traffic conditions.

There are still seats available. We have 42 paid members for the bus tour, we are allowed 54 on the bus. If you wish to attend, Diane and Doreen will continue to register members and collect \$20 at the May meeting. After that, any remaining seats may go to non-members or others on a waiting list.

It's going to be a fun trip, one that we always look forward to and appreciate all the efforts Rosemarie Adams has put in to organizing it.

### **Snowdrops, Daffodils, Crocuses. Tulips**

**Deadheading:** Cut back spent flowers to the base of the flower stalk if seed is not required for propagation. This will prevent the plant spending energy on seed production conserving resources in the bulb for next year's display.

**Cutting back bulb foliage:** Wait for a minimum of six weeks after the end of flowering before cutting back the dead foliage, and ideally only remove foliage when it is yellow and straw-like. Until this time, the bulbs should be watered and fed. Also, do not tie or knot the leaves.

**Lifting and storing bulbs:** Only lift and store bulbs where this is practical. Those naturalised in areas of grass, or planted in borders or containers where they are under-neath and coming up through shrubs or perennials may be left in the garden during the dormant season.

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Once the foliage has died down, carefully lift and clean the bulbs. Trim back roots and the outer layers of loose, flaking tunic. Only healthy bulbs of a good size should be kept. Damaged or diseased bulbs must be discarded. Lay bulbs on a tray to dry for 24 hours to help prevent fungal rots developing in storage.

Put the bulbs in labelled paper bags or nets and store in a dry, cool place.

Other problems that can affect bulbs include [aphids](#), [slugs](#), [narcissus basal rot](#), [narcissus bulb fly](#), [snails](#), [tulip fire](#) and [tulip viruses](#).

## Speakers' Corner

April 24, 2014 - Shade gardening with perennials  
Advise given by Elke Knechtel

Work out the intensity and duration of shade – plants respond differently.

Be careful of which trees are causing the shade.

Watch out for root masses causing competition for water and nutrients.

Spring ephemerals thrive under deciduous trees.

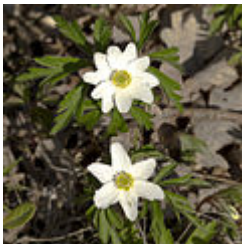
Huge variety of (small) plants that thrive in shade, giving either or both shades of foliage or colourful flowers.

Soil type and drainage are important controls of plant expression.

Most shade perennials bloom in the Spring, some in the Fall, but few in Winter. And there are those that disappear in Summer but flourish in Winter.

Red Barn plants are available from Dykhoffs, Maple Leaf and Capilano Gardenwork

*Anemone nemorosa* is an early-spring flowering plant in the genus [Anemone](#) in the family [Ranunculaceae](#), native to [Europe](#). Common names include [wood anemone](#), [windflower](#), [thimbleweed](#), and [smell fox](#), an allusion to the musky smell of the leaves. It is a [perennial herbaceous](#) plant growing 5–15 centimetres (2.0–5.9 in) tall.



*Anemone nemorosa*

a Spring Ephemeral

Flower with ten tepals

## The latest tips and tricks from Paul James, host of *Gardening by the Yard*:

To prevent accumulating dirt under your fingernails while you work in the garden, draw your fingernails across a bar of soap and you'll effectively seal the undersides of your nails so dirt can't collect beneath them. Then, after you've finished in the garden, use a nailbrush to remove the soap and your nails will be sparkling clean.

To prevent the line on your string trimmer from jamming or breaking, treat with a spray vegetable oil before installing it in the trimmer.

Turn a long-handled tool into a measuring stick! Lay a long handled garden tool on the ground, and next to it place a tape measure. Using a permanent marker, write inch and foot marks on the handle. When you need to space plants a certain distance apart (from just an inch to several feet) you'll already have a measuring device in your hand.

Little clay pots make great cloches for protecting young plants from sudden, overnight frosts.

To turn a clay pot into a hose guide, just stab a roughly one foot length of steel reinforcing bar into the ground at the corner of a bed and slip two clay pots over it: one facing down, the other facing up. The guides will prevent damage to your plants as you drag the hose along the bed.

To create perfectly natural markers, write the names of plants (using a permanent marker) on the flat faces of stones of various sizes and place them at or near the base of your plants.

Got aphids? You can control them with a strong blast of water from the hose or with insecticidal soap. But here's another suggestion, one that's a lot more fun; get some tape! Wrap a wide strip of tape around your hand, sticky side out, and pat the leaves of plants infested with aphids. Concentrate on the undersides of leaves, because that's where the little monsters like to hide.

The next time you boil or steam vegetables (without salt), don't pour the water down the drain, use it to water potted patio plants, and you'll be amazed at how the plants respond to the "vegetable soup."

Use leftover tea and coffee grounds to acidify the soil of acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, gardenias and even blueberries. A light sprinkling of about one-quarter of an inch applied once a month will keep the pH of the soil on the acidic side.

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Use chamomile tea to control damping-off fungus, which often attacks young seedlings quite suddenly. Just add a spot of tea to the soil around the base of seedlings once a week or use it as a foliar spray.

single layer, then roll up the windows and close the doors. Your herbs will be quickly dried to perfection. What's more, your car will smell great.

On a sunny day, the quickest way in the world to dry herbs: just lay a sheet of newspaper on the seat of your car, arrange the herbs in a

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### **Knotty Garden Twine.**

The spring is the best time to have twine to stake and tie plants up.

The Knotty Garden Twine was recommended to our club by Ann Pentland. This twine can be purchased at Maple Leaf or Dykhof Nurseries or through West Coast Seeds. You can also order it through Ann. From Ann the cost is \$15.00, from the nurseries the cost is higher plus GST.

If you wish to purchase twine, call Ann Pentland 604-985-8266.

Does anyone have the following plants in their garden and would be willing to share some:

**variegated Solomon Seal**  
**Clematis armandi (evergreen)**

If so please call Norma Buckland, Phone 604 987-5083

### **Yellow leaves on rhodos**

**One member would like to know why the leaves of her rhodo are turning yellow. One website said it could be the rhodo was too close to a cement sidewalk. Here is the answer from a master gardener.**

*It is possible that the sidewalk is causing the problem, but often people neglect to fertilize rhododendrons or plant them in the sun. My plants that are in full sun do have a small number of leaves that yellow and fall off every year*

Plants use iron to help form green pigment in leaves; an acidic soil has iron in a form that plants can easily absorb. If there's an iron deficiency, the leaves will be yellow rather than green.

### **HONEY CUTTINGS**

In an issue of the Begonia News of the Canterbury Begonia Circle of Christchurch, New Zealand, Ian Thorn talks of using honey for grape cuttings, which he learned about from a woman who used it on her rose cuttings. He dipped some of the grape cuttings stems into some honey. He could not believe the difference of the growth between those dipped in honey and those not. Now that he has harvested the grape cuttings, the proof is really there, with the root structure being much larger, and the cuttings stronger and healthier than those which were not treated.

Why not give this a try on some fuchsia or begonia cuttings, see what happens and let club members know.



## Coming Events

Gavin Wright, gardener with the **Edible Garden Project** will be giving a lecture and demonstration on winter seeding on Thursday, June 26th at 7:00 pm at the Seniors Activity Centre in West Vancouver.

Barry Roberts is the owner of **Heritage Hydrangeas**, a collection of award-winning hydrangeas. His business is located at 13970 - 34th Avenue in South Surrey and is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday from April 1st to September 30th.  
At peak blooming time everyone is welcome to view his 80+ hydrangeas.

### **Heritage Vancouver Garden Tour**

June 21 & 22, 2014 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

A self-guided tour of enchanting, hand-picked Vancouver Gardens - fund raiser for Heritage Vancouver Society.  
Be inspired by a variety of gardens and neighbourhoods. Tickets \$30 early-bird online before May 15th  
After May 15th \$35 online and in selected Garden Centres. For Information & tickets: [www.herit](http://www.herit)

### **Vegetable Gardening Secrets**

James Spears is a vegetable gardener extraordinaire. Come learn his secrets for keeping a vegetable garden full, even in the more difficult months, from fall to spring in this area. James has pushed the envelope in his garden where he grows Spanish saffron, wasabi, olives, okra, figs, quinoa and grapes. He has even been able to harvest tomatoes in June.

Drop in Wednesday June 25, 11:30am – 1:30pm at the West Vancouver Seniors Community Centre.  
Drop-in \$7>50

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Our President has her plants  
already for our coming plant sale

Have you got yours ready?