



# THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

November 2013

First established 1943

## Executive Notes for November

*Rosemarie Adams*

Well I guess Winter had to come, but we were very fortunate to have such a lovely October, albeit a little foggy.

I attended the Fall Meeting of the BC Council of Garden Clubs on October 19<sup>th</sup>. This was at a new venue - Executive Inn in Burnaby, as the church where it had been previously held is under renovation. Smaller location, so less people could be accommodated, and fewer vendors, but the lunch was excellent! My write up is enclosed in this Leaf. The BCCGC Spring meeting will be held March 22, 2014 and Thomas Hobbs will be one of the guest speakers. If you want to attend, suggest you register early. We should have registration forms by January, or at latest, our February meeting.

In this issue is a list of our suggested donations for next year. These will not be paid out until next year, so if you have any suggestions, please let us know. We are also publishing our proposed Budget for 2014. Both Budget and Donations will be voted on early in 2014 when our new executive is in place.

Brian Didier gave us a great presentation on Mushrooms in October. Wow, what an amazing selection we have growing right on our doorstep. Two major points Brian made which stick in my mind are to cook every mushroom you eat (even those little white button ones you get from Safeway), and if you are eating something you picked in the wild, as Brian put it "keep one for the hospital". Sage advice!

Reminder that our December meeting is **second Thursday of the month - December 12<sup>th</sup>**. This is our Christmas get-together, good food and a nice craft shared with good friends! Please mark this date on your calendar.

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.**

**November 21, 2013**  
**Margaret Nakahara**  
**Orchids**

**December 12, 2013**  
**Christmas party**  
**and craft**

**January 23, 2014**  
**Mike Wakefield**  
**Photography**

<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>





## 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*

[theleaf@lynnvalleygardenclub.org](mailto:theleaf@lynnvalleygardenclub.org)

### 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*

#### **Website**

*Brian Didier*

### **Next Executive Meeting:**

**December 5, 2013**

### **The Leaf Deadline:**

**December 8, 2013**

### **Treasurers Report**

*Harvey Lawson*

Bank balance at \$6,594.07

### **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*

#### **Year-end report**

The membership have had a lot of fun this past year. We are lucky to have a great club with 125 fun and enthusiastic members, who are always ready to help when necessary. We have almost half the membership renewed for 2014! We are hoping the rest of the members will please renew in November. The early renewal has really helped us get everything ready for the new membership ladies. A big thank you to these two ladies, who have kindly offered their time to look after the membership. They will take over January 1. So please keep the renewals coming in! We have recently had two members resign, these vacancies were filled by two members from our waiting list. We have 11 people on our waiting list. Diane and Doreen have really enjoyed their time as your Membership Chair and we would like to thank all the members for their support.

#### **This Month's Speaker** *Pat Holmes*

Margaret has been growing orchids for more than 40 years. She has done her own flasking and cross breeding of orchids. Margaret and her husband, Koichi, have been members of the Vancouver Orchid Society for many years and some of their plants have been shown and received ribbons. She participated in the World Orchid Conference held in Vancouver, in the Floral Art Division, and received the Gold and Bronze Medals. Presently they have over 200 orchids in their collection and are looking to expand their collection of garden or hardy orchids.



**Members at Large *Rita Marshall, Jan Valair, Tara Findlay & Chris Pharo***

**Annual Report**

On May 11, 2013, we held our annual LVGC Plant Sale. Thank you to all our members who contributed plants and other items and worked so hard during the event. We had a great volume and variety of plants with a substantial boost to the assortment from Chris' very generous neighbor. It was one of the most successful sales we've ever held!

July 6, 2013 was our Annual LVGC Members Tour. We had beautiful, sunny weather to tour the gardens of Elaine Senft, Judith Brook, Cari Wineberg, Ann Pentland and Elonna Mitchell. There was a fabulous array of roses, veggies and ornamentals. The Mitchells were also gracious hosts to a delightful garden party by the boulevard, which was a lovely conclusion to our tour.

**Report on BC Council of Garden Clubs Fall meeting - October 19, 2013**

Meeting opened with short reports from Executive of BC Council. 157 people were present representing 53 BC Garden Clubs. There are 182 clubs or associations belonging to the BCCGC. This meeting was held for first time at Executive Inn Hotel on Lougheed Highway in Burnaby - venue was a little smaller, so could accommodate fewer plant vendors, but catering was excellent.

BC Council Scholarship Fund, administered by VanCity Community Foundation, stands at \$191,955 as at June 30, 2013. Donations received this year total \$4,700 and \$7,750 was paid out in scholarships this year to students studying horticulture or related subjects at ten universities and colleges across the province.

First speaker was Catherina, a student from a Burnaby High School talking about "Green Your City Mentorship" This is an initiative by secondary school students with the purpose of encouraging students to develop, maintain and support gardening projects within their school district, either with a school garden project or a community garden project.

The students are in need of mentors - people who can advise and guide their efforts for a successful project. This is an excellent opportunity for experienced home gardeners to share their gardening knowledge and expertise with the next generation of gardeners. Currently, Green your City's primary focus is to get gardens into every Burnaby High School, although the ultimate goal is to reach out to all schools in BC to set up similar projects. If you would like further information on this project, you can e-mail [greenyourcity@gmail.com](mailto:greenyourcity@gmail.com).

Second speaker was Julia Common who operates Hives for Humanity - this was a heartwarming talk about the bee hives she set up in downtown eastside community garden at Hastings & Main. The following from their web-site, describes what they have attained.

The History of Hives for Humanity:

In the summer of 2012 we placed a colony of bees at 117 East Hastings in the DTES of Vancouver where, in 2007, the Hastings Folk Garden Society had transformed an empty lot into a beautiful garden space. With the mandate of providing therapeutic opportunities to community members and peaceful refuge from the chaos of the street, the garden was a perfect fit for our bees!

Though we were unsure how the bees would fare and how the community would respond, we believed that they would bring a general sense of well-being to the neighbourhood and that they would complement the many therapeutic and supportive activities already occurring in the garden.

We were right! The bees were respected by all: they were managed and cared for by a group of Portland Hotel Society staff, peer workers and community members, all of whom worked very closely with our Master Beekeeper.

The bees enhanced the community in the most gentle and natural manner. Something wonderful was happening: participants and the wider community traded stories and information as the bees did their work; people shared in the responsibility of and caring for the hives and marvelled at how the bees were thriving; and finally, everyone got to dip their fingers into fresh honey! It was a fitting reward for an incredible experience. There was a bumper crop of 140 pounds of raw eastside honey to be extracted, bottled, labelled and sold, with profits going directly back into the program.

"Hives for Humanity", a non-profit society established in September 2012, came about as a result of this project and our goal for 2013 was to establish 20 hives throughout the DTES and neighbouring communities. We currently have more than triple that number and have expanded to include more societies of the Downtown Eastside, societies out in the Fraser Valley, and schools in East Vancouver, West Vancouver and Langley."

This talk was more about humanity than bees and I would love to have Julia come and tell her story to our Club.

Third speaker was James Neufeld "Technical Talk" James teaches technology with Vancouver School Board and gave some interesting stats on advance of technology over the past 20 years, and tips on how our garden clubs can best communicate with members.

Last and main speaker was Brian Minter, who is always entertaining. Brian told us how many nurseries in the US have gone out of business in the last few years, 40% decline in growers. To stay in business nurseries now have to be relevant to what people want and get people excited. His advice - "Take your garden to the next level

- Don't do the ordinary. Make your garden fun, and think of your garden as your art gallery". He showed the following quotation - (not sure who the author is).

"In a garden anyone can be an artist without apology or explanation".

Next meeting of the BC Council is on March 22, 2014 and guest speaker will be Thomas Hobbs who owns and operates Southlands Nursery in Vancouver.

*By Rosemarie Adams*

## **Plants of the Month 'Profusion'**

### ***Callicarpa bodinieri***

Superb shrub valued for display of abundant clusters of long lasting violet berries along branches in fall. New growth has exciting bronze tinge. Small purplish pink flowers appear in summer amongst the large green leaves. Prune in late winter to early spring to encourage new growth. Deciduous.



### ***Cornus stolonifera* 'Artic Fire'**

It's a spectacular show in the winter sunlight.

This variety is dwarf in form, reaching a height of 3 to 4 feet. Beautiful red stems and compact, non-suckering habit. Deer resistant.. Excellent for cutting..

[http://www.monrovia.com/plant-catalog/plants/411/profusion-](http://www.monrovia.com/plant-catalog/plants/411/profusion-beautyberry.php)

[beautyberry.php](http://www.monrovia.com/plant-catalog/plants/411/profusion-beautyberry.php)

[http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/cornus/arctic-fire-red-osier-dogwood-](http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/cornus/arctic-fire-red-osier-dogwood-cornus-stolonifera)

[cornus-stolonifera](http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/cornus/arctic-fire-red-osier-dogwood-cornus-stolonifera)

Winter can be a drab time for gardens but interesting plants can be added for winter color and interest. Some key essentials for winter gardens are exfoliating bark, stem color, berries, foliage and texture.

<http://www.provenwinners.com/learn/shopping-winter-wonderland>

Naturally as the leaves falling from the trees.....our thoughts turn to planning next year's garden.....

David Culp, author of "The Layered Garden" recently spoke at the Hardy Plant Study Day about achieving maximum beauty by planning texture first: Leaf texture is more important because it is on display for a long time.....ferny and vertical and bold. Texture is emotion, colour is mood. Plan time released layers of flowers ie. spring bulbs behind early summer perennials...so the dying bulb foliage is hidden.

## **Berries**

**Bosenberry**, blueberry and raspberry cross, also called cross between Dewberry and Loganberry. In 1920's, (American ?) farmer named 'Boysen' sold farm, Knott California farmer came to search field, found frail vines choked by weeds, took plants, nurtured them and in 1932 was selling at farm stand, popular as preserves; become Knott's Berry Farm. Grow on trellis, crop in May. Cut to ground after harvest; fruits on fresh growth. Lay flat before freezing weather; cover with foot of straw.

**Dewberry**, closely related to blueberries; small trailing brambles; fruit purple to black. Male and female plants. Stems along ground will root..

**Loganberry**, prickly canes, from California in 1881. Deep purple, about 15 pounds berry per bush. Plants fruit for 15 years and self-propagate. Love generous manuring ; mulch with manure late autumn. High in Vitamin C, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, was used to prevent scurvy in sailors; dark bright red and ripens early before raspberries.

**Tayberry** (Buckingham), patented by resident of Dundee, Scotland in 1979, named after Tay River in Scotland. Bramble fruits contain anti-oxidants, low in calories, high in fibre. Prickly canes 6-7 ft. long; cropping mid to late summer. Less acidic than loganberry with strong tart flavour. Fruit is sweeter, larger, more aromatic than loganberry.

Although I've not yet tried any of the above, I am growing strawberries, blueberries, black currants and thornless blackberries - it may be, that one of these others finds a home someday in my yard !

*-Submitted by Judith Brook*

Organic black currant jelly, great on toast, pancakes, ice cream, you name it !

Fresh from a Lynn Valley garden; only \$6 per jar (250 ml size); good for hostess gifts for your Christmas visiting !

## Amaryllis

Beautiful amaryllis are easy to force into bloom.

Amaryllis originated in South America's tropical regions and has the botanical name *Hippeastrum*. Amaryllis comes in many beautiful colours including various shades of red, white, pink, salmon and orange. There are also many striped and multicolored varieties, usually combining shades of pink or red with white.



Preparation for Planting The base and roots of the bulb should be placed in lukewarm water for a few hours. Remember, if you cannot plant the bulbs immediately after receiving them, store them at a cool temperature between 40-50 degrees F.

Planting In a pot about half-again as wide as the bulb. This is done because the bulb prefers to be pot bound, with no more than 2 inches from the side of the bulb to the wall of the pot. A normal bulb fits in a 6 to 8 inch diameter pot. The pot **MUST** have drainage hole(s) in its base. Pot the bulb so that the top third of the bulb (including its 'neck') is above the soil. This ensures that no water placed on the surface of the soil will go down into the bulb's neck.

Placement and Watering Place the potted bulb in a warm place with direct light since heat is necessary for the development of the stems. The ideal temperature is 68 to 70 degrees F. Water the potted bulb **ONCE** thoroughly, from top and bottom of the pot. Do not water regularly until new green growth appears at the top of the neck. If the soil dries out before that time, water no more than once per week, preferably from the bottom of the pot. The bulb is developing roots to bring moisture into it. **Excessive watering at this stage will rot the bulb.**

After-Bloom Care After-Flowering. After the amaryllis has stopped flowering, it can be made to flower again. Cut the old flowers from the stem after flowering, and when the stem starts to sag, cut it back to the top of the bulb.

Leaf Growth and Development. Continue to water and fertilize as normal all summer, or for at least 5-6 months, allowing the leaves to fully develop and grow. When the leaves begin to yellow, which normally occurs in the early fall, cut the leaves back to about 2 inches from the top of the bulb and remove the bulb from the soil.

Bulb Storage. Clean the bulb and place it in a cool (40-50 deg. F), dark place such



as the crisper of your refrigerator for a minimum of 6 weeks. Caution: Do not store amaryllis bulbs in a refrigerator that contains apples, the ethylene gas will sterilize the bulbs. Store the bulbs for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Plant Again.      **Plant bulbs 8 weeks before you would like them to bloom.**

<http://www.amaryllis.com/pac.htm>

<http://www.rochestergardening.com/bulbs/amrylcar.html>

## ABOUT TOWN

**Saturday, November 23      New!      Prune to Improve Conifers      - 10:00 am - 12:30 pm**

Learn how to prune and direct the growth of your conifers to improve their look and function. Understand how the plants naturally grow in order to prune for their long-term health. It will include how to fix hedges with holes, repair bad pruning jobs, and how to correct specimen trees with unsightly gaps. If you have a problem plant, bring a picture of it for discussion. Weather permitting, we will go for a walk in the Garden. Instructor: Richard Hallman

Price: Member: \$32 / Non-member: \$42

<http://vandusengarden.org/sites/default/files/pdf/registration.pdf>

**Saturday, November 23      New!      Put More Fruit on Your Trees      1:30 pm - 4:00 pm**

Learn techniques to get the most from your apples, pears, plums, apricots and peaches. The topics will include: pruning and training for optimal fruit production, soil, watering and tree nutrition, improving blooms and pollination, and caring for your growing fruit till harvest. Instructor: Richard Hallman

Price: Member: \$32 / Non-member: \$42

<http://vandusengarden.org/sites/default/files/pdf/registration.pdf>

**Friday - Sunday      December 6th to 8th, **THE CHRISTMAS HURRAH!** | Special Events at Phoenix Perennials**

**Do-It-Yourself Christmas Rose Indoor Container Project      Fri - Sun Dec 6 - Dec 8      1-3pm | \$30 + tax includes one hellebore & all the fixings. | Come any time during the weekend, select your blooming Christmas rose reserved for you, choose a**



clay or festive metal pot, and decorate it with organza, ribbon, moss and winter twigs. This quick do-it-yourself project is great for decorating your home or for gifts for friends and family! [More Info and Register Online!](#)

**Christmas Rose Advanced Wreath Making Workshop: Beyond the Expected |**  
Instructor: Diane Levings, Full Bloom Flowers | Fri Dec 6th, 10am-12pm | \$55  
Includes all materials | For those with experience in making traditional wreaths (such as those who have already taken the Christmas Rose Wreath Making Workshop) Diane will lead you in a workshop that breaks all the rules and inspires you to create festive displays that go beyond the ordinary. With Diane's careful and inspiring instruction you'll surprise yourself (and your family and friends) with your new creation to celebrate the Christmas season. [More Info and Register Online!](#)

**Christmas Rose Centrepiece Workshop |** Instructor: Diane Levings, Full Bloom Flowers | Sun Dec 8th, 10am-12pm | \$55 + tax includes all supplies except Bring Your Own Container or buy one at the workshop. | Grace your holiday table with a fantastic, florist-quality seasonal centrepiece brimming with festive greens, winter twigs and cones, taper candles and hellebore flowers! Diane Levings of Full Bloom Flowers ([www.fullbloomflowers.ca](http://www.fullbloomflowers.ca)) will be your expert instructor! [More Info and Register Online!](#)

**Christmas Rose Wreath Making Workshop |** Instructor: Diane Levings, Full Bloom Flowers | Sat Dec 7th, 10am-12pm | \$55 Includes all materials. | Wreaths were the first way flowers and foliage were used for decoration. Diane Levings of Full Bloom Flowers will teach you about the history of wreaths and their design as you build your very own festive wreath with unique greenery and dried pods and cones. She will then show you how to use Christmas roses, Helleborus niger, and other fresh flowers in your wreath! Bring a friend to maximize your fun. You may bring greenery or twigs from your own garden to use in your wreath if you like. [More Info and Register Online!](#)

**Christmas Rose Outdoor Container Workshop |** Instructor: Shelley Brignall | Sat Dec 7th, 1-3pm | \$18 (Includes soil and the twigs and greens) | Wow your Christmas guests as soon as they arrive at your front door or enliven your patio with a fantastic outdoor winter container centred with a glistening Christmas rose, Helleborus niger, and other great perennials and shrubs that offer winter interest. Shelley will lead you in the design, planting and final decoration of your planter with winter twigs and greens. It does not include the plants you choose to pot up. [More Info and Register Online!](#)