



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

November 2014

First established 1943

President's Annual Report

2014 has been a great year for our club with strong meeting attendance and event participation.

The majority of our Executive were new to their positions this year. The organization and planning of the outgoing executive ensured they were able to assume their roles with a smooth transition. At the February general meeting we had all our new Exec in place, aside from a MAL position that remained vacant for the rest of the year. Our committees have been well represented and staffed with very dedicated members. All have made a fabulous contribution throughout the year.

Starting in February, we moved our tea break forward, to form a break between the meeting and speaker. This has provided greater opportunity for members to socialize and peruse the plant table during general meetings. The hospitality ladies have excelled in catering for this variation. Clean up at end of meeting has also become more efficient with members able to stack all chairs as soon as speaker concludes.

In May, the efforts of many members contributed to a very successful plant sale. There was an extensive range of plants, lovely raffle prizes and we were lucky to get all the plants inside before the hail began on Friday evening set up. On the day, we were delighted to have no rain and lots of eager customers. Our remaining plants continued to generate proceeds on the plant table for the next couple of meetings or were donated to Silver Harbour for their fundraising.

We held a bus trip to 'The Valley' in June. The featured gardens were The Glades, Select Roses and Thyme on 43rd. A stop at Devan Greenhouses ensured a bus full of plants and happy gardeners on the way home.

5 members opened their gardens for the Member's Garden Tour in July. It was a diverse selection of gardens. Examples included sun, shade, vegetables, ornamentals, manicured, cottage and eclectic gardening styles.

A warm, dry summer ensured a Bright Spots table laden with vegetables and flowers at our September meeting. In fact, the table has been filled almost every meeting thanks to consistent contributions from members.

In December, we'll be finishing the year with a celebration of 25 years since the club re-formed. We're planning to have a slide show of this year's Member's

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.

Meetings Schedule

November 20, 2014

Egan Davis

Topic to be announced

December 11th, 2014

25th Anniversary
Christmas Party

January 15, 2015

To be announced

Mailing Address:

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<http://www.lynnvalleygardclub.org>



2014 Executive

President

Tara Findlay

Vice President

Chris Pharo

Secretary

Audrey Beugger

Treasurer

Norma Buckland

Membership

Rosemary Wagner

Frances Moorcroft

Members at Large

Jan Valair

Yvonne Kabata

Tom Davis

Newsletter Editor

Irene Dudra

Committees

Plant Table

Judy Stringer

Marie Pringle

Hospitality

Doreen Wakefield

Pat Phillips

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Carol Ferryman

Website

Brian Didier

Newsletter Deadline

December 6th, 2014

Next Executive Meeting

December 4th, 2014

Home of Yvonne Kabata

Sunshine: Carol Ferryman

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

Donations of new items greatly accept for door prizes.

A Bouquet of Thanks for our Sunshine Lady, Carol Ferryman -

On behalf of our Membership, a word of thanks for the wonderful job Carol has done as our Sunshine Lady over the past 3 years. Many of us have been the recipients of her beautifully expressed cards during her term. There have been some especially difficult ones to send along these last few years. Thank you Carol for all your kind words and a lovely assortment of door prizes to delight us all.

Diane Sekora

Our Facebook page has continued to gain followers this year. Individual posts have received up to 55 views. A number of members are currently participating in classes related to website management and we're anticipating a relaunch of the club website early in 2015. With 13 names on our waiting list, it appears our reputation in the community remains strong and we should expect full membership in 2015.

Tara Findlay

Speaker's Corner - Chris Pharo

Todd Major

Digging a square planting hole may prevent roots growing in circles and developing 'root girdle'. Slashing and cutting roots also helps prevent this. No Martha Stewart dainty teasing!

For perennials, unless you're using old stems to mark the plant's position in the garden, cut stems right down low near the crown as that's where the new growth forms.

Beneficial insects will look for large colonies of aphids to lay eggs; if you see a few aphids and they're not damaging anything, leave them.

Landscape fabric isn't great for weed control as the weeds will grow above or below, however, it is good for erosion control.

If transplanting a large bush or small tree, without machinery, the plant can be raised to ground level by filling the hole as you go. Roll the plant to one side and fill the hole a bit then roll to the other side, on to the soil that's just gone in, and do the same. Continue until hole is filled.

Bark mulch is Todd's preference to keep squirrels off bulb beds.

Hemlock-Fir 3/4 inch minus (the standard bark mulch at Norgate). They don't like slivers in their faces and hands plus the smell hides the scent of the bulbs.

You can link to the NSNews to get his column all on one

page: <http://www.nsnews.com/authors?author-Todd%20Major>

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Thank you to the members who have renewed membership for 2015. A reminder to the rest of the membership to please send in your cheques before December 31st (post-dated for Dec 31st accepted). Cheques will not be deposited until after January 1st, 2015. Also to those who receive the Leaf by mail please consider receiving the newsletter by e-mail to save on the postage.

Thank you,

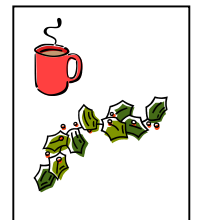
Frances and Rosemary

TREASURER: Norma Buckland

The bank balance at October 31 was: 6,144.67

Petty cash 254.42

Total 6,399.09



Tea Time *Doreen Wakefield, Pat Phillips*

December General Meeting - 25 year Celebration

At our December meeting we'll be celebrating 25 years since the club re-formed. We'll have albums on display from the club archives and a slide show of this year's Member's Garden Tour. You can find details of the evening's 'Christmas Bells' craft elsewhere in this edition. Please bring a plate of edible goodies to share. If you have any photos or memorabilia you'd like to contribute to the display, please bring them along too.

- **Tara Findley**

Thank you again to all who helped to make this year's plant sale and members' garden tour such a success. We are already looking forward to next year's events. On that note a reminder that we are still looking for one more Member at Large. In order to keep these events going we do need volunteers. The Member at Large position allows you to get more involved in the club, we share great camaraderie and organizing the events is very gratifying and fun. Many hands make light work. Please call any of us if you are interested in the position or if you would like more information.

Your 2014 Members at Large
Jan Valair, Tom Davis, Yvonne Kabata

Our Christmas Meeting Craft

We plan on making a floral Christmas bell this year at our December 11th, Christmas meeting.

Although we have made these in previous years, we have not done so for several years, many of our members have not made them before.

The Club will supply Oasis florist foam, ribbons, cord, etc. but we are asking our members to bring their own flower pot. This will cut the cost of the craft, Also mean that we don't have to carry 60 or so pots to the meeting.

Terracotta pots look best, but you can also use a plastic pot. 8" is a good size to use. It needs to have a hole in the bottom. You will also need to bring some greenery (not a lot) in approx 12" lengths, and sprigs of berries if you want to use these.



Quick tip: Make kinder evergreen cuts

Take care when hacking branches off your trees and shrubs for holiday projects.

Decorating with fresh-cut evergreens is part of the holiday fun, but if you're trimming branches in your own garden, prune with care. Cuts you make this winter will affect the shape of your [tree or shrub](#) in years to come: a cut just in front of an upward- or downward-growing branch will trigger growth in the same direction next spring.

Here are some other tips to keep in mind:

- Always make clean cuts close to the base of the branch you remove, without cutting into the branch that remains.
- Don't leave stubs; these invite infection.
- Take trimmings from sections not at eye level and from areas next to walls or fences, if possible.
- Densely branched cedars (*Thuja* spp. and cvs.), yews (*Taxus* spp. and cvs.) and boxwood_ (*Buxus* spp. and cvs.) can be cut anywhere on their leafy stems, but don't concentrate cuts in one section. By [Beckie Fox](#)

How to save your plants for next season

There's nothing tricky about growing plants in [containers](#) as long as you offer them [good soil](#), food and water. But because a plant growing in the ground is more protected from severe cold (and alternate freezing and thawing) than one in a container, the real challenge is overwintering those potted specimens so they can adorn your landscape next spring.

As with any game plan, you need to know your players. Some plants are easier to overwinter than others, while some are more trouble than they're worth. How cold your winters are and to what lengths you're willing to go to protect your containers are also factors. Here are methods I recommend for saving your plants for next season.

Hardy and borderline-hardy herbaceous perennials

These plants usually die back and are dormant in winter, while their roots sleep until it's time for new growth next spring. Examples include hostas, shasta daisies, heuchera, astilbe, lady's mantle and [daylilies](#). The goal is to maintain dormancy and provide a winter environment that's within their hardiness zone.

After a couple of light frosts, water plants well and choose one of the following storage options:

Leave as is. If the pot is large and the plant is at least one hardiness zone below your area (i.e., if you live in Zone 5, herbaceous perennials in containers need to be hardy to Zone 4 or lower), the likelihood of successfully overwintering the pot outdoors is high. A large container holds more soil, which helps insulate roots and keeps soil temperatures consistent. However, when sun hits the sides of a container, especially a dark-coloured one, alternate freezing and thawing may trick the plant into thinking it's spring and trigger early growth, when it's merely a warm day in February.

Store borderline-hardy plants or those in small containers in an unheated garage or shed. Because the plants are dormant, light isn't required, but check periodically to make sure the soil isn't bone-dry. When growth resumes in late winter/early spring, reintroduce plants to normal growing conditions outdoors by gradually exposing containers to the elements for increasing periods of time.

Find an area, such as the [vegetable garden](#), where you can sink the pot in the ground up to its rim so roots be better insulated. Cover the entire plant with about five centimetres of [winter mulch](#), such as shredded bark or leaves. In spring, remove mulch and lift out your container.

The Benefits of Mulch

It discourages the germination of weed seeds (most need light to germinate) and makes any that do sprout easier to pull out

- it helps to retain soil moisture, reducing the need to water
- it keeps the soil temperature cool, encouraging more vigorous root growth (the roots of most plants stop growing when soil temperatures reach 25°C)
- it regulates soil temperatures in winter, reducing the freeze/thaw cycle that often heaves [perennials](#) out of the ground

On the downside, while it prevents weed seeds from germinating, it also reduces the number of self-sown flowers, which is a problem for gardeners who like to let the bees do a spot of natural hybridizing. As well, it breaks down fairly quickly (although it improves the tilth of the soil as it does so) and needs to be reapplied in as little as two or three years.

Stephen Westcott-Gratton <http://www.canadiangardening.com/gardens/stephen-speaks/to-mulch-or-not-to-mulch/a/58020>

There are lots of plants which actually look quite attractive in their winter plumage.

In short, if it still looks good, leave it be.

That leaves plants with no winter interest such as Hemerocallis, Veronica and Anemones to name a few. If the plant does not retain its shape or colour it's best to tidy these up, if only to lessen the workload in spring.

Planting an amaryllis for a splash of colour in the winter months is a great idea. We've always thought the blooms look awkward towering above a small pot, so now we use them as the centrepiece of a mixed planter.



To begin, set the amaryllis in a 30-centimetre pot (with drainage holes), and be sure to leave the top one-third of the bulb exposed.

Next, plant up the rest of the pot with small houseplants, such as begonia, coleus, English ivy, spider plant and peperomia. Keep in mind that the companion plants shouldn't be more than 30 centimetres tall or they will block the amaryllis flowers.

Irrigate the planter well, but avoid watering it again until the flower stem of the amaryllis has started to grow; too much water early on can cause the stems to stretch and become weak.

After the amaryllis has bloomed, cut the flower stalk off at its base and continue to water and fertilize the planter as usual. In late spring, transfer the amaryllis bulb to an outdoor planter and continue to water and feed it during the summer, so that it can store up enough energy to bloom again next winter. In September, allow the bulb to dry out and "rest" for three months, then start the process over again.

Four myths about amaryllis

They like to be pot-bound.

Amaryllis bulbs will do better in big pots, where their roots have room to spread.

Amaryllis shouldn't be placed in direct sunlight when flowering.

In reality, full sun is fine until April, when the weather begins to heat up. But never put blooms up against a south-facing window, even in the winter, because it can get too hot and scorch them.

Stalks must be chopped off at the base after flowering.

Although not as attractive, it's actually better to leave the stalks on (and simply remove the seed heads at the top) because they send nourishment down to the bulbs.

Amaryllis won't rebloom unless you put them in the dark for a couple of months after flowering.

Light is immaterial. All they really need is a cool room during their dormant phase in the fall

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB BUDGET – 2012 & 2013 YEAR END, 2014 TO JUNE 30, AND 2015 PROPOSED

		2012 Results	2013 Results	2014 Budget	30 June '14	2015 Budget
Income	Detail					
Membership	Max. 119 @ \$20	2320	2345	2350	2283	2350
Plant Sale		3774	4753	4000	4235	4200
Guests		29	104	50	36	50
Plant Table		193	203	100	143	150
Trips		11				
	Total income	6327	7405	6500	6697	6750
Expenses						
Rent	10 @ \$50	500	500	500	300	500
General Office	Website & \$158 PO Box	62		0		160
Misc/Door prizes		219	303	200	92	150
Hospitality/coffee		524	424	400	203	500
Plant Sale	\$100 rent, flyers, soil, signs & updates, prizes	591	254	250	441	500
Speakers	9 @ varied	800	1331	1500	675	1200
Donations		2750	2400	2400	2200	2200
Printing	Leaf, GTour flyers, etc	233	354	240	126	240
Stationary/Postage		368	298	160	121	240
Sunshine/Gifts		250	384	100	37	100
Christmas Party			319	400	54	400
Field Trips			374	200	625	500
BCCGC	\$162 M'ship & insurance, 4 delegates @\$35	243	317	250	86	320
Equipment		78		300	199	0
Bank Charges	12 @ 5.75 (\$69) plus activity	64	212	100	46	100
	Total expenses	6682	7470	7000	5205	7110
Net Income/Loss		-355	-65	-500	1492	-360
Plant sale net		3183	4499	3750	3794	3700

Lynn Valley Garden Club - Proposed Donations for 2015

Recipient	Value	Detail
BC Council of Garden Clubs	\$200	Administered by VanCity with scholarships given to students in agriculture programs throughout BC
North Van District Library	\$200	Used for purchase of gardening books. Lynn Valley Branch Books have bookplates inscribed "donated by Lynn Valley Garden Club"
Cedar Gardens at Cedarview Lodge (Vancouver Coastal Health)	\$200	Used to purchase bedding plants, replace gardening equipment, etc.
North Shore Hospice (Lions Gate Hospital Foundation)	\$200	Used to enhance gardens
Evergreen Therapy Garden (Lions Gate Hospital Foundation)	\$200	Used to buy plants and gardening items
Margaret Fulton Centre (Lions Gate Hospital Foundation)	\$200	Adult Day Care Centre for Disabled. Funds used for purchase of plants and gardening items
FOGS (Park & Tilford)	\$200	Various uses in Garden
Seeds of Diversity Canada	\$200	Supports Canadian Seed Catalogue, Heirloom and Endangered varieties
Wild Bird Trust	\$200	WBT Operates Maplewood Bird Sanctuary. 2014 donation went towards building Corrigan Nature House.
Wildlife Rescue Assoc of BC	\$200	Although not located on North Shore, this is where injured animals & birds found on the North Shore are taken for care.
St. Clements Church	\$200	Spent at the Church's discretion

BC Council of Garden Club AGM meeting October 18, 2014

The two afternoon speakers were educational and humorous.

Fred Collay of Living Walls creates and sells self-watering, vertical, on wall, or on shelf, plant containers, either planted or bare for your own creations. The company also creates green walls, with average cost of \$8,000-\$10,000. Their upside-down planters can also grow orchids. Their magnetic pots are small and inexpensive. Their creations of moss art require no watering, maintenance or light. The Reindeer Moss is harvested in Norway from three allotments, where only one allotment is harvested per year and cut in a fashion to allow re-growth. Their products are available at GardenWorks.

Des Kennedy, local BC gardener on Denman Island and well-known author, read to us from his most recent book, *Heart and Soul, The Revolutionary Good of Gardens*. Des referred to gardeners as 'earthstruck' people who treat the earth with affectionate attention, who should strive for strategies in harmony with the natural world. He quoted Thomas Jefferson with '*Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens*'. Des had us laughing in the aisles with descriptions of garden club meetings, and our insatiable demand for makeover activity in our gardens, with bargain-basement priced plants looking for a home in our crowded spaces. His reference to the siren calls of the soil remaining with us as we age, certainly seems to ring true.

BC Council of Garden Clubs Meeting Agenda – October 18, 2014

Judith Brook and Rosemarie Adams attended the fall meeting of BCCGC on behalf of our Club. Other members were also present, so our Club was well represented. 49 Clubs were represented at the meeting, 185 Garden Clubs are members of the BC Council, and 46 Community Gardens/allotments representing approx 1200 people.

Barbara Puchala, President of the Council gave her report, advising they are now using EventsBrite.com to process registrations for meetings, and the Board has been reviewing and compiling information on the Website – specifically what tasks they need to have done to keep the website current and relevant. They will be seeking a Webmaster next year. The present format of the Club Directory is also being reviewed.

Elaine Senft has stepped down from Special Events Committee chairperson, and the Council is also seeking a person to replace her.

As at September 30, 2014 BC Council had \$4,845.26 in current account/cash on hand and \$25,762.80 in term deposits.

Donations to BCCGC Scholarship Fund Jan 1 to Sept 30 2014 totalled \$3,014 (which includes LVGC donation of \$200) To June 30 2014 rate of return on investments was 6.2%. Scholarships disbursed Jan 1 to June 30 totalled \$8,900. Value of the Scholarship Fund as at June 30 was \$230,473.43.

At the upcoming Annual General Meeting in March 2015 Council will be electing President, Secretary, 2nd Vice-President and Scholarship Trustee.

Trisha Mitchell, recipient of a Council Scholarship gave a heartwarming talk on how much it meant to her to receive funds to help her education. She is a single mother of three with a busy life and hopes to specialize in invasive plants when she finishes her studies. She feels The World is a Garden and every part of it matters.

One of her mottoes for life is “Passion with Intent is Fruitless – Action with Passion is Boundless”.

James Neufeld, who teaches at BCIT gave a “Tech Talk” on the benefits of using Facebook to promote garden clubs – quick and easy way to get word out to Members and Public for Plant Sales, Meetings, Events etc. BC Council of Garden Clubs has just set up on FaceBook – very few Clubs present seemed to be using this medium – LVGC is set up (Thanks to Tara) and James. Pulled us up and “Liked” us !

Lunch served was excellent, and there were some great raffle prizes. LVGC donated two large bags of bulbs.

Submitted by Rosemarie Adams