



# THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

First established 1943

April 2015

## Message from the President

Last weekend I harvested our compost bin. We have one of the black plastic Garden Gourmet bins, that are subsidized through the North Shore Recycling Program. In fact, we actually have two bins, one for compost and one for storing leaves to add to the compost. We have a large Japanese maple that sheds lots of leaves in fall. I bag them up when they're dry and throw them in the second bin so we can add equal amounts each week when we empty the food scrap container. We use a stainless steel pail for the scraps, having discovered after using the decomposing plastic bags for a while that they are very slow to break down. It must be a few years since we stopped using the bags and they're still all through the bin, tangling themselves around the wingdigger when we aerate.

When I first suggested a compost bin, James was concerned that it would attract vermin and bears. Our neighbours were apprehensive too and initially warned me each time a bear attacked their garbage. I watched the NSPR composting videos <http://www.northshorerecycling.ca/> and, while the bears continue to be attracted to garbage bins in the neighbourhood, we've never seen a rat, bear or any other creatures near the bin. The only thing it appears to attract is worms! Since Emma Holmes' great composting talk last year, we've been inspired to aerate every week when we add scraps. It's made a huge difference to how quickly it decomposes.

The challenge with only using one bin for compost is that all the decomposed portion is on the bottom and rather difficult to access. In previous years, I've opened the trap door and scooped out as much as I can until the hole caves in and all the newer part falls down. It really hasn't been that efficient as there's always lots unreached before its collapses.

This year, I tried a different tactic. We have two wheelbarrows so I put both to use (one only has one handle left so is the back up on the odd occasion that we need two, or a convenient mobile potting area). I started at the top of the bin and shoveled the newer portion, that hadn't broken down, into one of the barrows. Once I got down to the more decomposed portion, I opened the trapdoor and started digging from the bottom. All the finished compost went into the second barrow. Any chunky bits I came across were easy to pull out.

Once empty, I put the barrow load that needed more time back in to the bin. I was left with a big barrow full of lovely compost and worms to spread in the veggie garden. It didn't take long and was very effective. I'm sure our veggies will enjoy the added goodness.

*Tara Findlay*

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.**

## Meeting Schedule

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Gavin Weight**  
Edible Garden Project

**May 21, 2015**

**Betty Ann Osler**  
Living Walls

**June 18, 2015**  
**Karen Myskiw**

### Mailing Address:

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<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>



# 2015 Executive

## President

Tara Findlay

## Vice President

Chris Pharo

## Secretary

Audrey Beugger

## Treasurer

Norma Buckland

## Membership

Rosemary Wagner

Frances Moorcroft

## Members at Large

Whitney McMillian

Doreen Dew

Yvonne Kabata

Tom Davis

## Newsletter Editor

Irene Dudra

## Committees

### Plant Table

Judy Stringer

Irene Turner

### Hospitality

Gloria Franco

Daphne Page

### Sunshine / Door Prizes

Maggie Davis

### Website

Aline Burlone,

### Newsletter Deadline

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### Next Executive Meeting

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 7:30pm

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## SPEAKERS CORNER

### **Bill and Carla Bischoff**

Cyclamen coum flower late winter/early spring.

Cyclamen purpurascens don't go dormant in summer and are highly fragrant. They have about 10 different leaf forms. They will grow under rhododendrons and like a sprinkle of something alkaline.

Acer griseum – Paper bark maples, are best selected in spring as there are a variety of flower colours.

The features in their garden have changed over time.

As trees matured, they cast shade over the water lily pools and the water lilies stopped flowering. The pools were filled and changed to a watercourse. As they've run out of space in the garden, they've changed to planting more things in pots. Large patios have reduced in size as more pots appear!

## TEA TIME

Gloria Franco and Daphne Page

Is someone willing to be a third volunteer to help with coffee time.

Bring your own mug

## SUNSHINE: Maggie Davis

*If you know of a member not well or has lost a loved one be sure to let Maggie know.*

## TREASURER: Norma Buckland

The bank balance as of March 31, 2015 was: \$3,687.83

Petty cash \$ 197.85

Total \$ 3,885.67

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

### Plant Sale—May 9, 2015

#### Volunteering

If you have not signed up, it is not too late, sign-up sheets will be circulating at April meeting or phone a MAL

#### Advertising

Help advertise the plant sale by putting a green sale poster up somewhere and a lawn sign in your front yard, both available at April meeting. ( PLEASE return the signs at the May meeting)

#### Plants

Bring your plants to the church on Friday May 8 between 3pm and 7:30pm. This is when the pricing and sale set up is done . Please clean your pots and label your plants clearly. If possible note sun/shade and flower colour on label

#### General

We will need card board beer flats for sale, please collect and bring to sale. We need someone with a truck who can pick up tables from the legion on Friday and return them after the sale

#### Sale rules

No reserves or sales of plants on Friday. Everyone on first shift Saturday may set aside one plant prior to sale. No one may set aside plants during a shift

**Thanks so much for your help!**

### Members Garden Tour –July 11

Still need members to volunteer their gardens - deadline May meeting

### **Coming Again**

Cors de lint is coming back April 16 at 6:30 pm, we have 57 bags confirmed and there will be a few extra available. If you have not yet committed and would like a bag or so; call Tom by Sunday April 12 604-929-3782 Cost \$10.00 a bag Cash only

## **Your Members At Large -**

**Whitney, Doreen, Tom and Yvonne**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have 124 members –room for one more.

Thank you, **Frances and Rosemary**

**Proceeds from last year's sale enabled us to make donations totaling \$2200.00 to the following:**

Cedar Garden at Cedar View Lodge  
North Shore Hospice  
Evergreen Therapy Garden  
Margaret Fulton Centre  
Wild Bird Trust  
St. Clements Church  
North Van District Library - for Garden Books  
Wildlife Rescue Assoc of BC  
Seeds of Diversity Canada  
BC Council of Garden Clubs - Scholarship Fund  
Park and Tilford Friends of the Garden

One of this year's donations for our May 9<sup>th</sup> Plant Sale, *the planter in the picture*

The planter was made by Carol Ferryman's husband.



**Compost and Rotted Manure**

While compost and manure do not provide high amounts of nutrients, the nutrients they do provide are more available to the plant, as they are from an organic source. The use of compost and manure also promotes microbial activity in the soil, which encourages healthy roots. Healthy roots take up nutrients better and in larger amounts.

**"The 10 Most Common Gardening Mistakes".**

**MISTAKE #1:** Shopping for **just** flowers, not foliage

**SOLUTION:** The flowers are beautiful, especially in their prime, but how does it look for the rest of the year? Before you buy, consider the plant's leaves and structure. Include specimens with spectacular foliage.

For example - dwarf berberis with tiny, colorful leaves next to stachys byzantina with large fuzzy leaves



**MISTAKE #2:** Buying insufficient amounts of a single variety

**SOLUTION:** Taking home only one or two pots of a particular specimen doesn't make much of design impact. Depending on the size of the pot and the type of plant it is best to buy at least three containers (though six or more of a species is preferred) for a unified, well-designed look.

**MISTAKE #3:** Purchasing unhealthy or diseased plants

**SOLUTION:** Leaves can tell you a lot about the health of the plant. Avoid picking specimens with brown, yellow, or wilted leaves, which could signify poor health or neglect. Also inspect the foliage for insect damage. Instead, go for plants with lush, perky, vibrant-looking foliage.



**MISTAKE #4:** Choosing flowers in full bloom

**SOLUTION:** Don't be seduced by pots with abundant flowers. Instead, look for healthy foliage and plump buds. Let the plants peak in the ground at your home, rather than in pots at the nursery.

**MISTAKE #5:** Picking plants with poor root systems

**SOLUTION:** Steer clear of anything that is root-bound (you'll notice a mass of roots coming out of the bottom of the container), because tangled roots can suffocate and rob the plant of its nutrients. Also, leave those with underdeveloped roots.

**MISTAKE #6:** Ignoring the labels

**SOLUTION:** The plastic tags contain vital plant information. In addition to water and light requirements, growing zones and bloom times, if applicable — they describe how large a plant will get. While it may seem obvious, mistakes like planting a tall perennial in the front of a border or tucking a dwarf variety toward the back of a bed are very common.

**MISTAKE #7:** Not knowing the dimensions of your garden

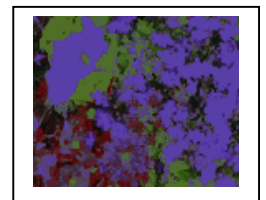
**SOLUTION:** Bring a photograph of the bed you are shopping for and the measurements of the space to the nursery, so that employees can help you buy the right number of plants, choose the correct size, and find colors that go well together.

**MISTAKE #8:** Failing to determine a color scheme

**SOLUTION:** Not all colors can be beautiful together. If you love cool colors like blues and purples, but also want a hot palette of oranges and yellows, put them in different beds. Gardens look best with a specified color scheme. Pick one you like and stick to it! A rule of thumb in garden design is 10% of your plants should be one color all year. This will unify the garden.

**MISTAKE #9:** Waiting too long to put pots in the ground

**SOLUTION:** Try to place plants in the ground as soon as you bring them home. To help you figure out where they should go, set the pots out in the beds where you'd like to see them positioned, and then move them around to suit your design. If you have to delay planting, keep them in a shady or partly shady area where they won't dry out.



**MISTAKE #10:** Trying to do it **all** yourself

**SOLUTION:** Seek out a knowledgeable employee at the local nursery. These establishments are often more adept at knowing what grows best in your region. Do a little research via books or the internet to make sure you are making the best choices

**Master Gardener - Christine Dudra**

**OUR WEBSITE:** *Be sure to check it out.* If you have anything you think you might wish to see in it be sure to let Aline know, thanks. <http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>

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## For those who grow vegetables

In the Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Vancouver Sun, Page D14 there is an article "*The Green Man*". It is so full of very good information about planting seeds at this time of year. Those that can be planted now, those you should wait to plant. More important than sunny days at this time of year is the temperature of the soil. If you have not read this article maybe you could go to the Vancouver Sun's website. [vancouver.sun.com](http://vancouver.sun.com) - see video with this story.

## *Coming Events*

April 25<sup>th</sup>, **Park & Tilford Gardens' plant sale** 10:am to 1:pm  
Master Gardeners and BeeKeepers there to answer questions  
For more information Jocelyn Wade

April 26, 2015 **Annual Plant Sale at VanDusen Botanical Garden**  
10 am to 4 pm.

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Garden 40,000 plants for sale on the Great Lawn.  
Admission is free for this one day only. Contact information: [www.vandusengarden.org](http://www.vandusengarden.org)

### **The UBC Botanical Garden Soil Celebration** ([botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/learn](http://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/learn))

Are holding a series of 30-plus workshops. A collection of experts from gardens, the province and the faculty of land and food system will address the elements of healthy soil, conservation and how soils help mitigate climate change.

### **LVGC Garden Tour - Saturday, July 11, 2015**

## **Container Planting**

- Plant a tub with pansies, bulbs, perennials and primroses to brighten your front door (remember tender annuals don't go outside until after Mother's Day)

## **Lawn Care**

- Control Moss in lawns if necessary (You will need two days of dry weather after it has been applied)
- Thatch lawn to remove thatch in older lawns and dead moss in lawns recently treated with moss control. (10 days after moss control)
- Lime lawns in preparation for fertilizing about two weeks later
- Feed lawn with a good quality Spring fertilizer. We like BC made Garden Pro 32-4-8 as it is made for our specific growing conditions
- Pull dandelions and other weeds from lawn before they flower and turn to seed.