



THE LEAF

same rare cross as Ravensia

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

First established 1943

January 2016

Message from the President

Happy New Year. January 2016 is already half over, so spring can't be too far away. The new LVGC Executive has had their first meeting – but there are a few things missing. First, we need a secretary. The Lynn Valley Garden Club is “secretaryless”! Would you consider helping out? The position is not arduous; we have templates that can be filled in for the minutes and then distributed by email. There is only ever a small amount of correspondence. There is an Executive meeting once a month (first Wednesday of the month) - and there will be the grateful thanks of all our members. This position could easily be a shared one so maybe you would consider helping if you could share the tasks.

The second missing item is an editor for our newsletter “The Leaf”. Irene Dudra has done an amazing job for the past two years but will definitely be stepping down after this January issue. So although we are muddling along without a secretary (late minutes, later correspondence), if we don't get a volunteer to edit “The Leaf” there will not be any more leafs. This will be the last issue. (We will be “leafless” as one member of the Exec said.) It will be missed. For a newsletter of a small club it has been of exceptional standard and has been the way LVGCers have been able to keep up with what is happening. If there is a member who would be able to volunteer for this position it would be greatly appreciated. This may not be a position that could easily be shared but if two people (with modest computer skills) would be prepared to work together it could be manageable. You would not be required to attend the Exec meeting but would be very welcome if you could come.

The third missing item is dues renewal from some members. There have been notification since September about this and payment was due December 31st. The Exe decided unanimously to take a “tough love” stance. If dues aren't paid by midnight of Jan 31st 2016, membership will lapse. The next on the waiting list will be advised that a spot has opened up. This has been a lot of extra work for the Membership duo (Bonnie and Joy) who have been sending emails and trying to contact those who have not yet paid.

I have noted that previous presidents usually mention here some of the glories that they saw in recent walks around their garden. So that you don't think that the new president does nothing but carp about business stuff (missing secretaries, Leaf editors and member dues) I just went for a walk (a squelch) around my garden. The snow was mainly gone but so was everything else. It all looked dead and forlorn. But then I saw it. Some pale green shoots poking up between the drab old foliage with five new perfect purple flowers. Glory be to Hellebores. Can spring be far behind?

Penny LeCouteur

LVGC meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August) at St. Clement's Church.
3400 Institute Road

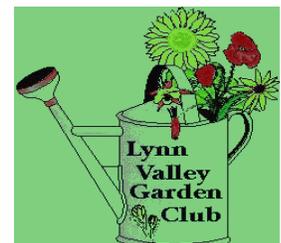
Please note that meetings start promptly at 7:15 pm.

January 21, 2016
James Spears
Veggie

February 18th, 2016
Emma Holmes
Sustainable Agriculture in Cuba

Mailing Address:
Lynn Valley Garden Club
P.O. Box 16053
1199 Lynn Valley Road
North Vancouver, BC
V7J 3S9

<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>



2016 Executive

President

Penny LeCouteur

Vice President

Judith Brook

Secretary

Volunteer Needed

Treasurer

Jennifer Sydenham

Membership

Joy Paulson

Bonnie Noakes

Members at Large

Doreen Dew

Whitney McMillan

Gillian Morris

Catherine Winstanley

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Volunteer Needed

Plant Table

Judy Stringer

Irene Turner

Hospitality

Volunteers needed

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Maggie Davis

Website

Aline Burlone

Newsletter Deadline

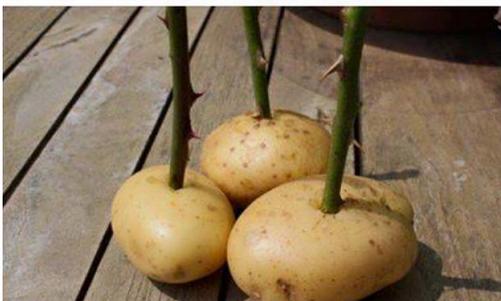
February 14th, 2016

Next Executive Meeting

Wednesday, February 3rd, 2016
7:30pm

Home of Doreen Dew

Did you know you can grow roses from a cutting? Simply cut healthy stems, place them in large potatoes, and then bury them 3-4 inches deep in a healthy soil mixture of peat moss and top soil. The potatoes keep the stems moist and help develop the root systems. It's a perfectly simple way to multiply your rose garden without spending lots of \$\$\$.



Thanks to Bonnie Noakes

TEA TIME

Hostess - *Daphne Page*

Please bring your own mug.

SUNSHINE: *Maggie Davis*

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

TREASURER: *Jennifer Sydenham*

As of December 31st, 2015

Bank Balance \$ \$ 6,378.00,

Petty cash: \$ 242.90

Total: \$ 6,620.90

MEMBERS AT LARGE

It may be early in 2016...but it's never too early to start preparing for our annual fundraising Plant Sale! This year we will gather on Friday, May 6th for an afternoon & evening of Plant Sale preparation, and then host our grand event on Saturday, May 7th. Mark your calendars now!

In the meantime, please consider what you can contribute in the way of plants. With our warmish winter weather, you may be inclined to start some gardening tasks earlier than usual. If so, please survey which plants you could divide to share with other local gardeners: What is your favourite plant? What plant is the easiest to grow? What plant is wonderful in challenging growing conditions? What plant do you enjoy starting from seed?

Speaking of seeds, we have a great opportunity at this year's Plant Sale. West Coast Seeds has kindly donated 150 packages of vegetable and herb seeds to our fundraising efforts! That's a lot of seeds, and we are hoping that many of you will volunteer to grow these seeds for us to sell at the Plant Sale. The specific funds raised from these seeds will be donated to select local food-related programs. We must report back to West Coast Seeds regarding the success of our fundraising. Starting in January, we will have a table at the next few General Meetings where you can sign up for the seeds you wish to grow. Please come ask us about this great new project.

For those new to LVGC, the Plant Sale is our largest annual fundraising event. We use the money raised to maintain low membership dues, to help pay our space rental, to pay for quality guest speakers, and to make charitable donations to garden-related community projects. People attending the sale appreciate locally grown plants that thrive in our area, the wisdom of our master gardeners, and the broad selection of reasonably-priced plants we offer. Your donations of plants and volunteer time are vital for a successful sale – it takes a lot of plants and helping hands! Thank you, in advance, for all your support.

- *Doreen, Whitney, Catharine & Gillian*



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UNIQUE PIG MANURE

Cors de Lint from Abbotsford will be bringing 90 bags of his composted manure to our meeting. March 17, 6:30 pm . Bags will be 10\$. There will be a sign up sheet circulating at the January and February meeting to get an idea of quantity. If you are unable to attend either meeting and would like some

----- call Tom.

Congratulations and thanks to our new 2016 Executive members:

President: Penny LeCouteur

Vice President: Judith Brook

Treasurer: Jennifer Sydenham

Membership: Bonnie Noakes & Joy Paulson

Members at Large: Gillian Morris, Catherine Winstanley, Whitney McMillan & Doreen Dew.

We are still looking for volunteers for the following executive and committee roles: **Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Hospitality.**

Speakers Corner

James Spears is a master gardener and will be speaking to our club about Vegetable Growing.

After retiring from working life, his focus switched to vegetable gardening. Past gardening talks have included discussions of year round harvest from an urban garden.

James's home garden is a 33-ft wide Kitsilano garden where he harvests a wide variety including: mint, runner beans, peas, lovage, Jerusalem and regular artichoke, cabbage, figs, yellow beans, tomatoes, onions, chard, lettuce, dai kon, onion, peppers, grapes, Italian parsley, mizuna and mibuna greens, dill, garlic and regular chives, winter savoury, thyme, myrtle, potatoes, eggplant, italian parsley, leek, radish, brussels sprouts, carrot, garlic, beet, cuke and zucchini, French and dry-style beans, winter or perennial arugula, kale, leeks, cilantro, wild celery (par-cel) , potato, raspberries, sorrel, salad burnet, rue, red sage, blue sage, pineapple sage, rosemary, curry plant, nasturtium (to eat) and seeds (to pickle), oregano, marjoram, Cuban oregano.

Judith Brook

What's new on the Lynn Valley Garden Club Website?

- Under the heading **Guest Speakers** - Margitta Schulz (December 9, 2015 guest speaker) can be found under Past Speaker by name (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-name/>) or Past Speaker by topic – centerpiece creations (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-topic/>)
- Under the heading **Links**:
 - Under the heading **Seeds** – Incredible Seeds is a farm-based Canadian seed company in Nova Scotia that specializes in open-pollinated heirloom and heritage seeds. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/seeds/>)
 - Under the new heading **Roses** – information about using alfalfa as a rose fertilizer from the American Rose Society
 - (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/roses/>)
- Under the heading **Newsletter** - 2015 - the December 2015 newsletter has been posted. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/newsletters/newsletter-archive-2009/>)
- Please email good links and pdf articles to be posted on the website to lygcwebsite@gmail.com **Aline Burlone**



A YARD IN TACOMA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



And here is the backyard. WOW!

For more pictures of this yard

<http://therandomstuffmydadforwardsme.blogspot.ca/2013/12/love-it-yard-in-tacoma-western-australia.html>

Noakes

Thanks to Bonnie

Have you checked the hellebores in your garden, most of mine are now showing lots of buds. I also have the early purple one that Penny mentioned in her report. I have had mine for many years. It comes up usually the first part of February, it seems early this year.

Irene

Early Purple - ('Atrorubens') One of the more stunning of the Hellebores, this early-blooming selection bears blossoms of a dusky maroon-purple. Plants produce a bushy clump of thick, leathery evergreen leaves. Site these where they will stay for many years, since the plants resent being disturbed. Trimming the old leaves to the ground in late winter will make the show of flowers more easily seen, and just generally tidy up the plants. CAUTION: Harmful if eaten/Skin irritant.

Hellebores are shade-loving plants that flourish best under trees and shrubs in light shade. Many gardeners like to clip away the old foliage so the flowers are easier to see. Flowers can be cut and floated in water in a dish or bowl. When you have a variety of flowers, this can make an elegant table centerpiece. Heavy feeders, hellebores like compost-enriched soil and benefit from being fed before and after flowering with organic fertilizer.

To keep your **Paperwhites** from growing too tall and flopping over, once the roots have extended into the pebbles and water, and the green plants are up about two to three inches, drain out the water and replace with a 5% alcohol solution. If you use rubbing alcohol, it's one part alcohol to nine parts water. If you use 40% strength booze (e.g., vodka), it's seven parts water to one part vodka. Apparently they don't like beer or wine because there's too much sugar in them.

As the story goes, this was discovered at a faculty Christmas party when a student spilled his drink into a pot of paperwhites. Later it was noticed that the plants in that pot were much shorter but still bloomed just as well and so a research project was born

Coming Events

Saturday, February 20 (10:00 - 4:00):

Ladner Seedy Saturday & Garden Expo 2016.

Speakers include Egan Davis from U.B.C., Randy Shore from Vancouver Sun and David Catzel from Glorious Organics.

Location: Harris Barn, 4140 Arthur Drive, Delta.

Proceeds support the Ladner Community Garden Society. Admission by donation.

The 12th Annual Hellebore Hurrah!

Celebrating early spring and all things Hellebore

Friday-Sunday February 26th-28th, 2016, 10am-5pm

Location: Phoenix Perennials 3380 No. 6 Road, Richmond 604-270-4133

Hellebore Containers to Die For

Saturday Feb. 27th at the Hellebore Hurrah! at 1-3pm

Instructor: Kate Herring

Location: Phoenix Perennials: 3380 No. 6 Road, Richmond 604-270-4133

Saturday, March 12th, (9:00 - 4:00):

B.C. Council of Garden Clubs Annual General Meeting.

Location: Firefighters Banquet & Conference Centre, 6515 Bonsor Ave. Burnaby.

My term as Editor of the Leaf is over. I do hope someone will offer to take on this task. If not this is the last Leaf. I have enjoyed working on the Leaf, have learned a lot. I thank all who have assisted me over the years, The executive meetings are a great way to get to know the members on the executive, one learns so much about the club, it's activities, it's commitments.

Irene Dudra