



THE LEAF

Sustainable cross as Rosma

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

February 2016

President's Message - Penny LeCouteur

I squelched around my garden again this week - well it is February and what else can you expect in February except squelching. There are now snowdrops in my garden. Gardening at this high altitude (I'm at 1150 ft.) means I'm about 3 weeks behind gardens at sea level so when I start writing that my magnolia is about to burst into bloom and your blooms have come and almost gone, you'll know why!

Good news: we have a secretary, a Leaf editor and two hospitality volunteers. Susan Huber has volunteered for the secretary position and we will confirm her appointment at the February general meeting. Maria Issa - a brand new member - has taken over editorship of "The Leaf" and the duo of Kitty Castle and Carole Cobbett will be making sure we have refreshments at the meetings. Our thanks to these members for agreeing to take on these positions. We are now a fully functioning club.

Update on pig manure: The first load is fully subscribed and delivery will be at the March meeting (pick up starting at 6:30 PM in the parking lot). If there is enough demand we can get a second order, which would be delivered for pick up to the April meeting - again starting at 6:30 PM in the parking lot. A sign-up sheet for the second load will be available at the February meeting. The price is \$10 a bag. Thank you to Tom for organizing this.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find some suggested changes to the LVGC constitution. These amendments will be available (and read out) at the February general meeting to be voted on at the March general meeting. These changes are basically updates.

I took advantage of the Van Dusen Gardens free entry offer on Family Day. As I walked around the gardens I realized that I was doing what I always do at such times. I was coveting. Now I don't covet my neighbours' cars, houses, diamonds, investments, world cruises or designer clothes. (Just to be clear I also do not covet my neighbours' husbands, nor their male servants, nor their female servants, nor their oxen, nor their donkeys.) But I do covet my neighbours' plants - and in fact, not just my neighbours' but plants in any garden I visit. So I looked up some dictionary definitions of "covet". It was a bit disturbing: "to want (what belongs to another) inordinately", "to desire wrongfully, or without due regard for the rights of others", "to crave for something, especially that which is another's", "to desire unlawfully or secure illegitimately". I don't intend to actually take plants from others' gardens although I wouldn't turn down a cutting. Does this mean I am not really coveting? Am I a sinner or just a normal gardener?

LVGC MEETINGS

3rd 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

SPEAKERS

February 18th, 2016

EMMA HOLMES

Sustainable Agriculture in Cuba

March 17th, 2016

MALONIE HEWSTAN

Hydrangeas

April 21, 2016

RON KNIGHT

Everything you need to know about Rhododendrons and Azaleas

Mailing Address:

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President

Penny LeCouteur

Vice President

Judith Brook

Secretary

Susan Huber

Treasurer

Jennifer Sydenham

Membership

Joy Paulson

Bonnie Noakes

Members at Large

Doreen Dew

Whitney McMillan

Gillian Morris

Catherine Winstanley

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa

Plant Table

Judy Stringer

Irene Turner

Hospitality

Kitty Castle

Carole Cobbett

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Maggie Davis

Website

Aline Burlone

Next Executive Meeting
Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016
7:30 PM
Home of Penny LeCouteur

Newsletter Deadline
March 7, 2016

**Greetings from your new
newsletter editor!**

If you have material to delight
your fellow members - please
submit it *via* the time-honoured
routes or email to
lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter
@gmail.com



The following changes (in bold) are proposed to the Lynn Valley Garden Club Constitution:

PART 1 - INTERPRETATION

1. The word **Club** will be used in these by-laws interchangeably with the word **Organization**.

(Note: we are not legally a Society so we should not be using that word.)

2. Words imparting singular include the plural and vice-versa, and words imparting a male person include female **and LGBT persons**.

PART 11 - ADDRESS OF THE ORGANIZATION

The address of the organization shall be that of the current **P.O. Box**.

PART 13 - EQUIPMENT DISPOSITION

1. On dissolution of the Lynn Valley Garden Club, any equipment owned by the Club should be sold and all monies received by such a sale, and any monies remaining in the bank account after payment of bills, should be donated to the **Scholarship Fund of the BC Council of Garden Clubs**.

REPORTS

VP Report - Judith Brook

Speakers are booked to June 2016. Judith will be working on the speaker list for September 2016 onwards. Thanks to members for subject suggestions on the membership renewal forms!

Our February speaker is **EMMA HOLMES** (daughter of club member Pat Holmes) speaking on **Sustainable Agriculture in Cuba**.

Emma Holmes is a young farmer and soil scientist. She studied sustainable food systems (B.Sc.) and soil science (M.Sc.) at UBC, and permaculture at the Bullocks Brother's Homestead in Washington. Currently, she farms a 2-acre market garden and teaches soil and plant science for Kwantlen's Farm Schools.

Treasurer's report: - Jennifer Sydenham

LVGC has a healthy bank balance Bank balance: \$7065.82 + Petty cash \$248.90 = Total \$7314.72. Further details will be presented at the February meeting.

Membership report - Bonnie Noakes

We currently have 115 members and are accepting new members.

Hospitality - Kitty Castle & Carole Cobbett

Please bring your own mug!

Sunshine - Maggie Davis

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

Members-at-large - Whitney McMillan

With our annual **Plant Sale** only months away, we're hoping you are getting ready to pot up divisions of perennials, sow seedlings, and maybe even divide up some overgrown houseplants to donate.

How are your West Coast Seeds coming along? We are eager to hear your stories and see your 'little gems' in the months ahead. Please keep us posted on your successes or challenges. We still have LOTS more for you to grow, so please visit our table at the February 18th meeting, or phone/email a MAL. (cont'd next page)

What plants are good to donate? Please bring any plants that you would want to buy yourself, plants that thrive in your garden, plants that are well-rooted and healthy, plants potted in good soil, and plants in clean pots and tidy condition. Ideally, we aim to offer a variety of plant choice to customers, including perennials, biennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, water plants, house-plants, shrubs and even small trees. Please consider all climate conditions from shade to full sun – drought-tolerant plants are particularly popular these days. Please bring as many plants as you can, so we can fill our sale space and you can create space in your garden for new plants! Please remember also to label ALL your donations as clearly as possible, with as much pertinent information (sun/shade, flower colour, flowering time *etc*) as you can manage. There is lots of interest right now in bee-loving pollinator plants, and drought tolerant plants, so customers will appreciate this information too. Recycled nursery tags, cut up plastic pots (light-coloured), popsicle sticks, or old venetian blinds make great plant markers. Sharpies, especially the new oil-based markers, work well! Some helpful customer feedback last year: many new gardeners appreciate the common name of plants, since Latin gets people tongue-tied.

Based on past success, the club will supply one yard of soil for club members to pot up **Plant Sale** donations. This soil will be available on **Sunday, February 21st at Bonnie Noakes' house, from 9.00 AM to 11.00 AM** – look for the trailer on the street! Bring buckets or sturdy bags to

Do you have an old Barbecue hanging around. Found this in an old magazine.

Neat re-cycling!



collect the soil. If you have any pots left over, please bring them along for members who don't have enough. If you miss out on Sunday, any leftover soil will be located nearby – ask Bonnie.

Both Brian Didier and Maria Issa have offered to donate their many spare pots for others to pot-up their plants. Please contact them directly, or ask a MAL to connect you with Brian or Maria.

Anyone else with spare pots, please let a MAL know. Thank you!

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT GARDENING, BUT NEVER DARED TO ASK:

[LVGC Members – please ANSWER!!!! – either by email to lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com, or on a piece of paper at the next meeting. All answers will be printed in the next LEAF.]

Q1. From “A Beginning Gardener”

My grass is looking all lumpy and weedy and patchy and I think the raccoons have been into it. Should I top dress it, roll it, put some chemicals on it or give up and grow moss? I had it top dressed last year and I have to say I don't think it has helped at all.

Q2. From “Loony from Lamia”

I have been pulling up the dreaded *lamia* as fast as I can. Could you please suggest a plant that can handle lots of shade, top-of-Fromme altitudes and the ability to out-compete this pesky plant? Please – not ferns, periwinkle or ivy - they too, are on my hit list.



Invasive Plants, from 'News 1130' online February 2016

_ Submitted by Judith Brook

RICHMOND, B.C. – Field technicians on the hunt for invasive species used to go on foot, by canoe or relied on satellite photographs taken from outer space.

But an ecologist who dispatched a drone to detect invaders in a British Columbia wildlife area is now recommending more remote controlled robots do the difficult work.

“With a drone we’re looking at pixel sizes that are teeny tiny. The resolution is amazing. You can literally zoom in and see all the petals on that flower,” said Catherine Tarasoff, an adjunct professor at Thompson Rivers University.

“I’ve gotten past the steep learning curve and see the unlimited possibilities.”

Tarasoff trialed the unmanned aerial technology last June at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, an internationally protected wetland in south central B.C.

The successful experiment was one of several cutting edge advancements showcased in Richmond, B.C., on Tuesday in the ongoing battle against invasive species. More than 150 specialists from across the province are gathered for three days to discuss emerging issues and learn about the latest techniques to apply in their own regions.

"There's way more technology involved than there used to be," said Gail Wallin, executive director of the Invasive Species Council of B.C., which is hosting the forum. "We're in a whole new world now." Wallin said technology has not only empowered the experts, but is making a dent by enlisting the public. For example, there are now smartphone apps that help identify and report what's in your backyard.

The council hopes to persuade people to take preventative actions against spreading invasives as a new social norm, just like recycling, she said.

"Now I can give you tools, and without being an invasive species specialist, you can go and find out what is invasive and what to do," she said, noting the strategies are also being disseminated over social media.

"You don't need to know about mussels or spartina or milfoil, or anything like that."

Prof. Tarasoff, who also runs her own consulting firm, ran the drone pilot project after she was approached by the wildlife area's manager, who suggested she try the increasingly popular technology. So she sent two students and the drone out for two days to map a vast region being consumed by the yellow flag iris, a plant considered one of the province's worst invasives. The species with garden flower appeal was used by landscapers all along the coast before ecologists realized it was swallowing aquatic environments and decimating habitats.

Tarasoff said the camera-mounted drone soared about 50 metres above to snap thousands of photos, which were stitched together into a massive final image. When viewed on a computer, she could move her mouse cursor over any spot to find out its GPS location. The data was handed over to experts tasked with weeding out the invader.

Drones could save money over the long-term and provide an alternative to dangerous, labour intensive foraging, she said. Her next goal is to train a "smart drone" that can determine on its own which species must be photographed.

Other novel techniques gaining traction and reducing human error include sniffer dogs and DNA analysis, the forum heard.

Cindy Sawchuk, with Alberta's environment and parks ministry, described using canines' ultra sensitive nose as a "gamechanger" for blocking the entry of zebra and quagga mussels on boats returning to the province after visiting foreign waters.

A double blind trial that compared dogs to trained watercraft inspectors found the animals outperformed humans in every category, she said. Dogs detected mussel fouled boats 100 per cent of the time, while the people only caught hitchhikers 75 per cent accurately.

Canada's federal fisheries department is also getting on board with more sophisticated detection methods, said Davon Callander, who works at its Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, B.C.

She said that invasive species can now be detected in environmental DNA, which is found abundantly in any ecosystem.

"It really is as easy as going out and getting a litre of water," she said, explaining how the samples are filtered for the "eDNA," which is then amplified, sequenced and matched to species' barcodes.

"Times are changing."

Delta is Going Rural, from News 1130 online February 2016

_ Submitted by Judith Brook

DELTA (NEWS 1130) - As school districts start to adapt to new curriculum in BC, one district is making a big addition. Delta is going rural. It's offering a new kind of learning to some high school students starting in September, and it's all about agriculture.

Grades ten, eleven, and twelve students can help design and build a farm on an eight acre property in Boundary Bay, spending every second day there.

Brooke Moore is District Principal of Inquiry and Innovation with the district, and says the ideas of farm-to-table, sustainability, and the health of our water systems

are important to a lot of teens. "This gives them a way to start acting on what they're curious about in terms of sustainability and the environment, in a real, tangible way." She adds students will be able to learn about certain areas they're interested in, like entrepreneurship or health sciences, through their work on the farm. "A lot of what they're going to be learning is very applicable to a whole range of professions or jobs as they move out into the world after secondary school. So, they'll have the ability to access certain certifications."

Local farmers will be acting as mentors.

The seeds: Keep them in small paper bags (coin bags), in the fridge (not freezer) for the next couple of months. Keep in mind that some seeds can take up to 3 years to germinate.

Good draining soil: 1 to 3" top dressing. For *C. purpurascens* and *colchicum*, add some calcium, no matter what form.

Soaking? I find that pre-soaking is not necessary. If you want, you can use small quantities of water: to a cup of water add a small amount of liquid dish soap, the amount left on your finger when you wipe it over the top of the bottle. The seeds that float after an hour, just push them under the water. A day is enough for the soaking.

Planting: You can pour the water and seeds on to the soil. Use a tooth-pick to spread the seeds. Cover up

and you are done. Keep everything moist and in a light shade area. Light frost is OK. If you keep them indoors, watch out for tiny flies. Check the seedling leaves' underside for pest eggs. If you see any, wipe with rubbing alcohol or just squash the eggs with your fingertips.

Patience: Germination can take into summer, depending on the species. Don't forget name-tags. (Perhaps someday I can show you how to make your own cheaply.) After a year when you have transplanted some or all, mark the place where you dump the left-over soil or mix it with your general soil and watch for Cyclamen seedling leaves. Remember each seedling leaf is a plant. Some of my late seedlings come up from a foot or deeper.

Planting by the Phases of the Moon

2 days before New Moon

First 7 days

Second 7 days



Plant short and extra-long germinating seeds (most vegetables and herbs) in flats and/or beds



Balanced increase in rate of root and leaf growth

Moonlight +
Lunar gravity -



Increased leaf and root growth

Moonlight +
Lunar gravity +

Planting by Phases of the Moon - John Jeavons

- Submitted by Judith Brook

Timing your planting, whether seeds or transplanting seedlings, by phases of the moon is a gardening technique related to the moon's gravitational pull. Consider the moon's effect on ocean tides and you will gain an appreciation for the moon's effect on seed germination and root development. It may sound a little 'airy_fairy' at first glance but there is good solid science behind this premise.

Short and extra long germinating seeds (most vegetables and herbs) - plant 2 days before the new moon when the first significant magnetic forces occur, and up to 7 days after the new moon. (Next new moons in B.C. = March 8, 2016; April 7, 2016)

Long germinating seeds (most flowers) are planted at the full moon and up to 7 days after the full moon. (Next full moon in B.C. = March 23, 2016; April 22, 2016)

By taking advantage of the forces of nature - gravity, light and magnetism, your gardening efforts will benefit. The lunar gravitational pull affects not only ocean tides, but also water tides in the soil. By planting 2 days before the new moon, the seed can absorb moisture from the soil (whether indoors or out), just before the time when the lunar pull is the greatest (time of the new moon). The lunar force exerted on the water in the seed helps to break the coating. I have been using this technique for some years now and am always astounded at the speedy germination. Try it - you'll be surprised!

Reference: *How to Grow More Vegetables*, by John Jeavons, Ten Speed Press, Berkeley, California

Have you ever wondered why daffodils often fail to flower after the first year? We have found that all that appears in subsequent years is some straggly foliage and little else.

We have been invaded by the *narcissus bulb fly* which occurs throughout the world wherever *Narcissus* are grown. A single egg is laid at the base of the fading leaves during late spring/early summer where it hatches a few days later. The larva crawls down the leaf and bores into the bulb and begins to eat the center of the bulb turning it into a mush. The following spring, as the soil temperature warms, the larva moves into the soil to pupate for two weeks and then emerges as the adult fly. Destruction by the larva will often trigger the outer scales of the bulb into growth and a number of small leaves will emerge the following spring, but no flowers.

Available control methods are generally unsatisfactory. You need a pesticide license for effective chemical control and, anyway, who would want that stuff in the garden? Commercial growers dig the bulbs and treat them with hot water, which kills the larvae. Other methods are only partially successful and include

planting bulbs deeper and planting in the shade because the *bulb fly* likes it warm and sunny when it lays its eggs. Floating row covers can also help if you can tolerate their appearance in the garden in late May/early June when the rest of the garden is often at its best.

Fortunately the Bulb Fly does not seem to lay eggs on the smaller daffodils such as *Narcissus rupicola*. This excellent species, with narrow leaves, is often available in the seed exchange and does well in the rock garden.

When bulb-planting last fall I decided to try a new method to discourage the *bulb fly*. I interplanted the large daffodil bulbs with bulbs of a vigorous *Colchicum* [autumn crocus, naked lady], which flowers in the fall and produces great mounds of thick leaves in the spring. I am hoping that the dense foliage will disguise the fading daffodil leaves and make it more difficult for the fly to access the base of the leaves. I also planted some bulbs among *Hellebores* and am hoping I can report on the appearance of masses of daffodil flowers in Spring 2017.

Alpine Club – reproduced with permission.



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

- Under the heading *Guest Speakers* - James Spears (January 21, 2016 guest speaker) can be found under Past Speaker by name (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-name/>) or Past Speaker by topic - **The Kitsilano Kitchen Garden - a 12 Month Larder** (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-topic/>)
- On those pages there is also a link to a CBC article with information from James Spears on container vegetable gardening.
- Under the heading *Links*:
 - Under the heading **Fruit and Vegetable Gardening** (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/vegetable-gardening/>) Links to the following sites can be accessed:
 - Linda A. Gilkeson is a regular instructor in the Master Gardener program in BC, gives workshops on pest management and organic gardening
 - UBC Vegetable Gardening Site
 - The Royal Horticultural Society Vegetable Gardening
 - University of Washington Vegetable Gardening
 - GrowVeg - a garden planner app
- Under the heading *Newsletter - 2016* - the January 2016 newsletter has been posted. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/newsletters/2016-2/>)
- The information on bees has been moved from the front page to the link page for bees (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/bees-and-neonicotinoids/>)
- Check the February and March calendar for up-coming events <http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/calendar-2/> Click on the date of the event to find out further information and useful links.
- Please email good links and pdf articles to be posted on the website to <mailto:lvgcwebsite@gmail.com>

The Great Rhodo Rescue – Maria Issa

Part 1.

With some regret, in 2013, we sold my parents' house in Shaughnessy: regret for the garden – the house was a nasty split level with little to recommend it – but the garden had been Mom's pride and joy, especially in the spring when the rhodos were in bloom. Tour bus, after Japanese tour bus used to stop in front of the house to have pictures taken and to purloin the occasional bloom. Mom tried to be on hand with snippers to manage the damage.

As a condition of the sale, I was allowed to remove 5 rhodos: armed with photos, I tried to figure out which one was what colour and finally settled on and marked my youngest, healthiest choices. After weeks of phoning, hunting and being turned down by an assortment of landscapers - I had no way to remove them. Even the little ones were pretty big – in the 6-8 ft range. For some companies the job was too small, for others, too big, and for me, too expensive. I complained bitterly to my numerous relatives.

One wet November day, my cousin phoned and said "There is a forest rolling on the 2nd Narrows, start digging!" Soon he, a hired digger and a trailer arrived with 5 rhodos (random rhodos, not the ones I had marked, but... they were rhodos!). I was delighted and dismayed: Yay, rhodos! Yikes, massacred roots!

Then came our first experience with digging holes in the mountain – I live high up on Fromme. As you can imagine, it was not easy. We inserted the rhodos in random spots in my newly acquired, huge, overgrown, wild, North Vancouver Garden. We did what we could. Three rhodos survived.

Two years went by...

(to be continued in the March LEAF)



Coming Events

Coming weekend !!!!!!

Ladner Seedy Saturday and Garden Expo – Feb 20 – 10 AM to 4 PM

Harris Barn, 4140 Arthur Drive, Ladner, BC

<http://www.ladnercommunitygarden.blogspot.ca> Admission: By Donation

10th Annual Phoenix Perennials Hellebore Hurrah! – Feb 26 – 28, 10 AM to 5 PM

3380 No. 6 Rd, Richmond, BC

Phone & Fax 604-270-4133

<http://www.phoenixperennials.com>

Alpine Garden Club of BC – 2016 Spring Show & Plant Sale – April 2, 12 PM – 4 PM

Van Dusen Floral Hall

<http://www.agc-bc.ca>

Permaculture Gardening and Food Forestry Workshop April 22 (Vancouver)

May 8 (Robert's Creek)

<http://gaiacraft.com/category/courses/intro-days>

FREE!!!

Register by email delvin@cosm.org for more details

Permaculture is an ecological design approach to gardening based on inspirations from how nature is designed. Delvin Solkinson is doing a Doctorate in Permaculture Education and needs to do 50 free 'introduction to permaculture' days as practicum.