



## LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

*Established 1943*

April 2016

### *President's Message - Penny LeCouteur*

We now have two new members on the hospitality committee – thank you Mimi Kuhl and Susan Nichols. It has been gratifying to have members step forward to help – especially as we seem to have quite a number of new members prepared to take on positions. This bodes well for the future of the club. Now if we can just get one or two members who will help organize the Members' Gardens Tour...

The big news is, of course, **THE PLANT SALE on May 7<sup>th</sup>**. There will be lots of information on this - our annual fundraiser - in other parts of this newsletter and at the upcoming general meeting. So far the sign up sheets to help on the big day and on the preparation day (the 6<sup>th</sup>) are well subscribed but we can always use more hands. Even if you are not available on either of these two days there is still time to get your hands involved (and dirt covered) by potting up cuttings and seedlings from your own garden. And word-of-mouth is a great way to get the message out to the community that this is a great chance to buy great plants at great price - so tell all your friends. Gardeners in East Vancouver and Burnaby are within easy driving distance and bridge traffic that time on a Saturday morning is rarely a problem. Four of us posed last week for a photographer from the North Shore News. We wore big smiles and floppy gardening hats, carried gardening tools and surrounded ourselves with enticing pots of plants. The club has permission from the district for a "plant sale" kiosk outside the library on the Saturday before the sale. We will need the help of a master gardener for a couple of hours – another chance to volunteer.

I have just finished digging new ground to double my vegetable garden. As well as the usual reasons for having a vegetable garden (fresh produce, tastes better, good for you, sense of accomplishment, fun, etc.) I have another reason for this. It is my strike against the creeping scourge of commercial **quantization** especially fruit and vegetable **quantization**. (Quantization is the technical term for the scientific phenomenon whereby electrons exist only at certain allowable energy levels!!!) Commercial **quantization** is where merchants take it upon themselves to decide what are the allowable amounts of fruit and vegetables you can buy *eg* green beans are sealed in plastic, potatoes can only be bought in giant bags, cherries are no longer available to be selected from open cases, spinach comes only in giant plastic bags where even if I ate spinach with my granola and had spinach salad for lunch and dinner, I would still end up 10 days later with half a giant bag of wilted and/or slimy green mush. So when I go out to the vegetable garden this summer and pick a few leaves of one type of lettuce, a few of another and add some arugula leaves and a bit of kale and two or three cherry tomatoes for my single serving salad, I will smile gleefully at the thought that I am counteracting the growing trend of commercial vegetable **quantization**.

**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**

*April 21, 2016*  
**RON KNIGHT**  
Everything you need to  
know about  
Rhododendrons and  
Azaleas

**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

Susan Huber

### Treasurer

Jennifer Sydenham

### Membership

Joy Paulson

Bonnie Noakes

### Members at Large

Doreen Dew

Whitney McMillan

Gillian Morris

Catharine Winstanley

## Committees

### Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa

### Plant Table

Judy Stringer

Irene Turner

### Hospitality

Kitty Castle

Carole Cobbett

Mimi Kuhl

Susan Nicholls

### Sunshine / Door Prizes

Maggie Davis

### Website

Aline Burlone

### Executive Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month

Next Meeting: May 4, 7:30 PM

Chez Bonnie Noakes

### Newsletter Deadline

May 11, 2016

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

lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition: without you, there would be no Leaf!!



## REPORTS

### VP Report - Judith Brook

Judith has completed the revisions of the constitution as approved at the March meeting. The revised version will be available on the LVGC website.

Speakers are booked to September 2016. Judith is working on the speaker list for the fall: subjects, suggestions and ideas are welcome!

### Treasurer's report: - Jennifer Sydenham

LVGC continues to have a healthy and available bank balance - the details of which will be presents at the April meeting as Jennifer is in Japan!

The Executive agreed to increase LVGC's liability insurance from \$2 to \$5 million -at an additional cost of \$62.50. Coverage is critical for off-site events such as the bus tour & Lynn Valley Village Promotional Booth.

### Membership - Bonnie Noakes

We currently have 122 paid up members and are accepting \*\*3\*\* new members.

### Hospitality - Kitty Castle & Carole Cobbett & Mimi Kuhl & Susan Nicholls

...and then there were four! ...and YES, there will be hospitality service at the **Plant Sale** to sustain the hard-working volunteers. [*ed - thanks for the yummy treats!*]

- Please remember to bring your own mug to meetings!

### 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 (MAL) - Whitney McMillan, Doreen Dew, Gillian Morris and Catharine Winstanley

Only a few more sleeps! The **Plant Sale** is fast approaching, so it's time for a handy check list - got to LOVE a good check list!

### Volunteers:

Thank you very much for signing up to help at our **Plant Sale!** Please find yourself on the Volunteer page further inside *The Leaf*. We still need help in several areas, so if you have not signed up, please do so ASAP! Do not be shy - please phone or email a MAL today. The volunteer list will be circulated again at the April 21st General Meeting.

### Advertising:

Please help advertise the **Plant Sale** by putting the green sale poster in your car window. You will receive these at our April 21st General Meeting.

### Lawn Signs:

Please put out one of our yellow signs for your lawn. These signs will be also available at the April 21st General Meeting.

Put the Lawn Signs up at the end of April and return them at the next General Meeting on May 19th, so we can clean and store them before we end for the summer break. Thank you!

*Plants:*

Please bring your plants to the church on Friday May 6th between 3:00pm - 7:00pm. This is when the plant pricing and **Plant Sale** setup is done. If you can't drop off your plants on Friday, call a Member at Large in advance.

Please clean your pots & label your plants - common names are best. If possible, it's very helpful to note on the label: sun/shade tolerance, watering needs and flower colour.

*Beer Flats:*

Please collect cardboard beer flats over the next few weeks, and bring them to the church on Friday, May 6th. They make great plant trays during the sale!

*Sale Rules:*

On Friday, there will be no reserves or sales of plants.

On Saturday, everyone on the 1st volunteer shift may set aside 2 plants (in holding) prior to the start of the sale. Those on the 2nd shift may line up to purchase plants with our other customers.

No one may set aside plants during a shift.

**Remember to wear your name-tags on Friday and Saturday to help with meeting fellow members and assisting customers.**

Thank you - we look forward to seeing you at this year's fabulous **Plant Sale!!**

***Plant Table - Judy Stringer and Irene Turner***

The Plant Table is a long-standing tradition of the Lynn Valley Garden Club. It is open for business at most meetings. Members bring plants and gardening-related items for the table, which are then offered for sale by donation. Sometimes items are free!

If you bring plants, please put them into pots with labels. Books are welcome, as are newer magazines.

The one proviso is that items unsold by the end of the meeting must go home with those who brought them, as we cannot keep them over.

When you are dividing plants or giving away some of your gardening items, keep the Plant Table in mind. It adds a bit of money to the club's coffers, but also serves as a sharing place at our meetings. Some very interesting conversations occur around the Plant Table as members try to identify various plants and swap stories with others about their adventures in gardening.



***SPEAKER - Thursday, April 21, 2016***

Our speaker at April's meeting is **Ron Knight**, who is a retired West Vancouver biology teacher and school administrator. He is a confirmed rhodoholic, a past president of the Vancouver Rhododendron Society, and a past director for the American Rhododendron Society's BC Division. Over the past two decades, Ron and his wife Carla have created Caron Gardens at Pender Harbour on the Sunshine Coast. In this one-acre lakeside garden, they display over 400 different rhododendrons, host garden club tours, and teach gardening courses. More information about Caron Gardens can be found at: [www3.telus.net/rcknight](http://www3.telus.net/rcknight)

At our April meeting, Ron's topic will be, "**Make Your Rhododendrons Think They're Growing in the Himalayas**". He will begin with slides of various rhododendron species growing wild in Yunnan, China. Then, he'll show how to mirror that Himalayan environment in a North Shore garden and grow spectacular rhododendrons. Bring your questions about culture, care, pruning, selecting, diseases, deadheading, etc.



## NEWS, RUMOURS and OPPORTUNITIES

**Lillian Speers** – one of the founding members of Lynn Valley Garden Club, reaches landmark birthday:



100

**Congratulations, Lillian!**



Thank you for your vision and wisdom – without you, we wouldn't be here, learning and growing!



**Avant Gardener – last days!** (Source: North Shore News, April 8, 2016)

After 28 years, the Avant Gardener in West Vancouver's Ambleside, is closing down as owner Darlene Sanders is moving to Kent. So far, no-one has come forward to buy the business: a wonderful place that will be missed by many.



**Are you a Seasoned Gardener? The MALs need you!**

- from the MALs

LVGC will have a Promo Booth at Lynn Valley Village Fair on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The booth will promote the *Plant Sale* and connect with local community. The MALs have volunteered to staff the booth from ~ 9 AM to 1 PM.

\*\*\*\* *The MALs request the help of knowledgeable gardeners to assist them with plant questions from the public.* Please contact them directly to offer your green thumb.



**North Vancouver Arts Council** is desperately looking for gardens for *Art in the Garden* at the end of May.

Here is an opportunity not to be missed: you support the arts - they are always the first to be mowed when deficits grow; and you promote gardens and gardening and a healthy, green, urban environment - at a time when ripping up gardens seems to be the trend. Consider this as your quiet, personal resistance, one garden at a time!

If you are interested, or know of someone who may be, please let *Kathy Stubbs* know, or contact the Arts Council.



**Did you know?**

- from the Executive

... that LVGC holds *Members' Garden Tours*? We are looking for a few more members who would be willing to show (off?) their gardens. Please let a member of the Executive know if you are up for this! This is wonderful time to share and appreciate what years and years of hard work and (sometime bitter?) experience can create. The North Shore is a difficult place to garden: we have rain, shade, slopes, rocks, invasives, pests, demolitions... it's a wonder that gardens survive. Come and celebrate the survivors and thrivers: admire, get ideas, learn, salivate and covet. ☺

NEW THIS YEAR – how about volunteering your not-so-perfect garden for the tour? While there are many serious, seasoned, expert gardeners among us, there are also those of us who want to learn, could use some help and just want to talk about the challenges. Maybe, in a not-so-perfect garden plant a stick with a big **?** on it in locations where you could use help, ideas or suggestions. If you attach a notepad and a pen, then people could even offer anonymous advice (or cheeky comments).



**Attention New Members:**

- from the Executive

**Did you know that LVGC membership earns you 10% off at certain places?**

Rumour has it that if you present your 2016 LVGC membership card then certain plant emporia will grant you a discount! Try it! These need to be confirmed but: GardenWorks (<https://www.gardenworks.ca/hours-locations/north-vancouver/>), and Maple Leaf Garden Centres (<http://www.mapleleafgarden.ca>). Please add any other perks and let *The Leaf* know.

### ***Volunteer Opportunity at Cedar Gardens:***

***- from Susan Huber***

LVGC was contacted by Shannon Ingersoll, Activity Coordinato at Cedar Garden Assisted Living in Lynn Valley. She writes:

"I have secured a donation of plants and such through Dykhof nursery and am tentatively planning a **Planting Party** on **May 14** - tea, cookies and flowers?! If you think this might be something that would work, short or long term, with interested members, I would love to develop a partnership with you!"

Members wishing to volunteer can contact Shannon directly Tuesday to Saturday mornings at 604-904-6435.

Executive noted that we have given funds to Cedar Gardens previously and used to purchase bedding plants, replace gardening equipment, etc.



### ***Something to Ponder***

***- from the Executive***

...the format of the December meeting. Way too far ahead? Not really, as it takes planning... The Executive welcomes yours suggestions: a Pot Luck? Some sort of seasonal craft? Touring the city's Christmas lights? Hitting VanDusen's lights? Something completely different? Thinking caps on, please!



### ***Pollen Everywhere / Vegetable Seedlings -Linda Gilkeson***

***- submitted by Rosemarie Adams***

(source: [VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS](#))

"One effect of last year's drought is haunting us this spring as clouds of pollen billow from the huge crop of stress cones on conifers all around the region. We always see pollen from alder, maple and other trees in the spring, but this year, everywhere, there are masses of small reddish brown cones on branches of spruce and fir trees. It doesn't mean those trees are going to die, but they did get a fright and are making an effort to reproduce this year in case it is their last chance. It will be a happy season for squirrels and seed eating birds..... meanwhile back at the garden...

**Buying vegetable seedlings:** As a greater variety of veggie starts is coming into the nurseries, I thought it would be good to review what to look for when buying seedlings to transplant. The key thing to remember is that stressed seedlings never become the plants they could have been if they had not been stunted by poor watering practices (too dry, too wet), lack of nutrients, or from becoming root-bound. A young plant should not have any discoloured leaves (some lettuce cultivars do naturally have red, lime green or variegated leaves). When lower leaves turn pale yellow, orange or purplish, it shows that the plant has been forced to move nutrients out of the oldest leaves and send them to its new shoots. It is a desperate measure, resulting in the loss of mature leaf area it could have used for photosynthesis. Oldest lower leaves of vegetables will turn yellow and drop off, eventually—but that should be after months of growing, at the end of the growing season. You may see a pair of tiny seed leaves, low down on the stem, fading and falling off, but that is normal. Root-bound plants have roots coming out of the holes in the pots. A root tip or two poking out is fine, but a 'beard' of roots trailing outside the pot shows plants have been in the container much too long. When you remove them from the pot, you see a dense mat of roots against the sides of the pot.

Unfortunately, plants sold in grocery store and hardware store racks are often in sad shape because they have not been watered correctly or fed after they reach the store. Nursery staff usually do better, but I have seen some shockingly overgrown and stunted plants still for sale on nursery benches. SO, buyer beware: choose the youngest, greenest, happiest looking seedlings on offer. If there are several ages of the same variety on the bench, go for the smallest ones, as they grow better than older stressed plants. I have said this before, but there are many new subscribers to this email list so I will say it again: gardeners on Salt Spring are very lucky to have a source of high quality, locally grown seedlings from the Chorus Frog Farm stand on Rainbow Road (across from the swimming pool entrance).

Planting out: Once you bring home your seedlings, try to plant them as soon as possible. If you can't set them out yet, be very attentive to watering and feed them liquid fertilizer weekly (make compost or manure tea or buy fish fertilizer

or other organic fertilizer). If you must hold them for more than a couple of weeks, repot them in larger containers.

When you do set transplants outdoors, be ready to cover them with plastic or use cloches or floating row covers to keep them warmer on cold nights. We still have a high likelihood of cool weather (it was pretty chilly up this mountain yesterday) and ground frosts could still occur in some gardens for the next month. Although you will start seeing tomato and pepper plants for sale now, it doesn't mean it is warm enough to put them outdoors yet, though they could go into a greenhouse or sun porch.

Stay alert to weather forecasts these days, because we can also have a heat wave any time too. In 2 of the last 3 springs we have had scorching temperatures in the first week of May. Both times it was hot enough to kill seeds and seedlings so be prepared to shade the planting beds. Horticultural shade cloth that lets in 50% of light is ideal, but using curtain material, newspapers, pots or seed flats turned upside down—whatever you have, is fine. If you use an opaque cover, best to deploy it for the middle of the day and allow plants to receive early morning and late afternoon sun. Floating row cover fabric is meant to hold in heat so it is not what you want to use in a heat wave!

**Broccoli confusion continues:** Before you browse the shelves of veggie starts, you might want to review my note from last year on the differences between summer (annual) and winter (biennial) broccoli and cauliflower and the issue of purple broccoli confusion (there are now both summer purple and winter purple sprouting broccoli cultivars): <http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/gardening-pdf/Winter Gardening 2015 - Apr 4.pdf>

**What to plant:** So far, this spring has been as warm as last year, causing blooming plants I monitor as climate markers to open flowers within a day or two of the same dates last year--and weeks earlier than previous years. SO it is another early year, but don't worry if you haven't planted potatoes, set out strawberries, put out the peas, onion sets, lettuce or spinach: you are not too late for any of this, but all of these can be out in the garden now. Also you can set out early cabbage, summer broccoli and cauliflower, Chinese cabbage plants if you haven't already done so. I am waiting a couple of more weeks before putting out my onion seedlings as they are less robust than onion sets.

**Insect netting update:** On Salt Spring, Chorus Frog farm is now carrying ProtekNet. This is the sturdy, long-lasting netting used to prevent carrot rust fly and cabbage maggot from laying eggs on those crops and is essential for protecting berries, cherries and other fruit against the dreaded spotted wing Drosophila (tiny white maggots you might have seen in your fruit last year...). Vancouver Island gardeners can get it at Russell Nursery on Wain Road, and Dinter Nursery, just south of Duncan, also sells sturdy insect netting. You can also get it by mail order from William Dam Seeds <http://www.damseeds.ca> or buy 100-m rolls directly from the wholesale supplier, Dubois Agrinovation in Montreal: <http://www.duboisag.com/> Rumour has it that one or more of the Art Knapp nurseries in the Lower Mainland may stock it. Gardeners go forth and bug your local nursery to bring in these netting products for you!"

*Don't forget, Linda also has terrific pest and disease images on her website.*



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

*This is a request to the general membership:* Many of you are expert, even Master gardeners. Many others (eg yours truly) are not. Those of us who are less experienced and knowledgeable probably joined LVGC *to learn - from you!!* LVGC members please share your expertise, ideas and suggestions with your less erudite colleagues. Please email [lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com) with your answers, or just write them on a piece of paper and deposit them at the next meeting. We would like to do this "Dear Abby" style. All answers will be printed in the next LEAF.

### Q1: From "Ready to Kill"

I live next to a public walkway. This leads to endless mischief - besides the "usuals" being dumped in my

garden, people also *take* things: whatever I plant, they help themselves to and pull up. What should I plant that is colorful, but thief-resistant?

**A1: Dear R.T. Kill,**

How about some lovely barberry bushes (*Barberis vulgaris*, or my favourite, *Barberis darwinii*)? They have delicious spikes as well as lovely bronze to magenta foliage and sweet yellow flowers.

They are great as a hedge. Or if it's a garden edge being transgressed, may I suggest a row of large blue globe thistles (*Echinops*)? These are lovely to look at, form a great background, are hardy, (they spread, so beat 'em back) and they are very prickly. You could also train a climbing



or rambling rose along your fence – these grow fast, have plentiful lowers as well as a healthy crop of thistles.

### Q2. 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.

A2: Dear A.B. Gardener,

Although nobody has come up with an answer for you yet, we hope that by re-printing your question, someone may save you and your lawn.



However, if no rescue is in sight, the way it sounds, you may want to invest in something



other than grass: how about some ground cover that is local to the Pacific Northwest? Something like violets or carpet bugle (*ajuga sp*) – they creep and flower.

### Q3. 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.

A3: Dear L.F. Lamia

There are a number of native ground covers that are at least as aggressive as *vinca* or *lamia*. Try false lily of the valley (*Maianthemum dilatatum*) or sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*). They spread too – but at least they are local and with some judicious deep edging, they can be contained. The false lily of the valley has ethnobotanical uses: the roots and leaves were used in Native medicine and the berries are edible. Sweet woodruff is also medicinal herb and when dry has a fresh scent. Both are shade plants.



## Lynn Valley Garden Club – Plant Rescue!! – Anyone else??? [we have 1 potential spy!]

We all see the many FOR SALE signs around us. With so many North Shore homes slated for demolition, many plants just get ploughed under, broken, removed with the dirt. Wouldn't it be nice to save these plants from destruction, pot them up and sell them at plant sales or the plant table? Apparently Bonnie Noakes has been rescuing plants for years and she says that she has found some wonderful things.

Who would be interested to participate in a rescue group? We would need “spies” to identify houses with the dreaded orange mesh; a SWAT team willing to dig; transporters, potters.... It would make sense to have an expert gardener to identify the “buried treasures”.

If there are members who would be willing to participate – obviously *ad hoc* – then Maria Issa will look into whether the City Halls will assist by identifying demo permits. She will gather permissions and deal with other logistics. Please email [lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com) with “Plant Rescue” in the subject line.

This is an idea still in the evolutionary phase – so all ideas, suggestions – and contacts! – are VERY welcome.



- from Rosemarie Adams

## Lynn Valley Garden Club BUS TRIP Saturday June 11, 2016



There will be a *sign up sheet* at the April meeting - Diane Sekora and Doreen Marbry will keep track of sign-up.

*We will visit several private gardens and nurseries in the Fraser Valley.*

### DETAILS:

\$20 per person (this is a subsidized price!)

Bus will leave at **8.30 AM** promptly and return approximately 4.30 PM

Please remember to *bring your own lunch, a drink.*

Wear comfortable shoes and dress for variable weather.

You may need sunscreen or bug spray.

Don't forget your plant carrier!

For now, the full itinerary and details of gardens to be visited - is a surprise! - the specifics will be handed to you when you board the bus.

Initially, the trip is for members only. Please sign up and pay promptly to confirm your seat. Payment is due by no later than our May general meeting - after that date any seat reservations not paid for will be given to people on the wait-list or to non-members.

If you cannot attend the March or April meeting and wish to go on the trip, please contact either Diane or Doreen and they will add your name to the list.

*There are still a few places left, but they are going fast!!!*



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

Under the heading *Guest Speakers* - Malonie Hewstan (March 17, 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 - Hydrangeas (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-topic/>)

On the home page in the "*About the LVGC*" section there is now a link to our constitution. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/>)

Plant Sale information (same information in a slightly different format) is on the home page (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/>) and on the *Plant Sale* page (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/plant-sale-2016/>)

Under the heading *Links*:

There is a new heading *Invasive Plants and Pests* (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/invasive-plants-and-pests/>) which has information from the Invasive Species Council of BC and Report and an interesting weed app

New heading *BC Council of Garden Clubs* which has links to their website and "The Bulletin" (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/bc-council-of-garden-clubs/>)

Under the heading *Fruit and Vegetable Gardening* there is a new link to "Growing a Greener World" a TV show on National Public Television that features organic gardening, green living and farm-to-table cooking. Each episode focuses on compelling and inspirational people making a positive impact on the planet through gardening, and shares DIY information that we can all use at home. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/vegetable-gardening/>)

Under the heading *Environment* there is a new link to Persistent Herbicides (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/environment/>)

Under the heading *Newsletter - 2016* - the March 2016 newsletter has been posted. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/newsletters/2016-2/>)

Under the heading *Bulletin Board - articles* - there is an interesting article on the native-vs-alien species dichotomy "Don't Judge Species on Their Origin" (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/bulletin-board/interesting-articles/>)

Check the April, May and June *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 - by Maria Issa***

**Part 3.** (continued from *The Leaf*, March 2016)

As fate would have it, some days later, my route took me past the old house - admittedly to snoop and to be appalled by the hole-in-the-ground-with-water that the lot had become. Everything was gone. No - not really! Although the walnut tree was orange mesh-fenced, a tonsure of escapee rhodos were still around the edge of the property, not protected by the orange plastic. This elicited a barrage of phone calls and text messages to the beleaguered realstate agent,

"Can we have permission to go back and rescue some more?"

"Yes!" came the response.

This time we eschewed the expensive help: we called Patrick's friends, rented the biggest, 26 ft U-Haul truck we could find and the family went to dig. Yes, of course it rained. Yes, we were covered in mud - and since I was the designated driver, I was tagged "Muddy Trucker".

Over 2 days we dug out (with shovels and colourful language) a large magnolia and 6 more huge rhodos - these must have been at least 45 years old as I remember when Mom planted them. Again, the root balls were 300 to 400 lb, so sometimes we had to rope them to the truck and pull to slide them on plywood from the back of the lot to where we could dolly them into the "cargo bay."

The biggest prize - was the smallest tree: "Mr. Plop," a 50 year-old Japanese maple that had a propensity to lose its leaves all at once in the fall. This was always an event. Three generations of our family waited for that moment each year: it had become a tradition "had done it again."

Mr. Plop was removing most of the dirt of us still couldn't budge it. loading and digging day, the excavating for the soon-to-be chatted up the backhoe operator chain with surprising gentleness into the truck. My husband twenty.

"Birnam wood had there were once again rhodos the usual coterie of envious even though the garden is huge resting for our laurels this time: the chainsaw to the laurels, firewood potential, and made room and light.

The rock and root extraction began again, but by this time we, well - actually Patrick and friend, were experts. The soil mix had been perfected, the stakes pre-sharpened, the come-along tested. They had a system. The rhodos, the magnolia, and Mr. Plop, had made it to their forever home.

Now we check the transplants every day, to see whether the leaves are up, facing the light, the buds forming... and whether the newcomers are waking up thinking, "Oh, what a dreadful nightmare I just had...!"

So far, so good...

(to be continued in the May LEAF)



ridiculously heavy. After around the roots, the four Luckily, on the last backhoe was there, monster house. We who picked up Mr. Plop's and delicately swung it delicately slipped him a

come to Dunsinane": along the driveway, and neighbours. Lovely - but - it was already full. No Patrick and friend took created at least a cord of

## ***Coming Events***

***Lynn Valley Garden Club Plant Sale Promo Booth Saturday, April 30th***

Lynn Valley Village,

9 AM to 1 PM

***Lynn Valley Garden Club Plant Sale - May 7, 2016***

***10 AM to 1 PM***

St. Clements Church, 3400 Institute Road, Lynn Valley, North Vancouver

***A Growing Affair - Plant Sale, Saturday May 7, 2016***

10 AM to 4 PM [*you can always go AFTER our plant sale*]

UBC Botanical Garden

6804 SW Marine Drive @ 16th Avenue

604-822-4529

NO dogs on site please; C-20 bus

This popular annual plant sale offers an unparalleled selection of plants including a wide selection of plants propagated by the *Friends of UBC Botanical Garden*. Experts will be on hand to answer questions and help make selections that will thrive in your environment. This year's event will feature plants that attract birds, bees and butterflies. Garden tours, children's area and food available. <http://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/events>

***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](mailto:delvin@cosm.org) for more details

***Lynn Valley Garden Club Bus Trip - Saturday June 11, 2016***

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Surprise destinations!

***The Vancouver Rose Society - 64th Rose Show & Sale***

Sunday, June 26, 2016, 12:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Van Dusen Botanical Garden, Floral Hall

5251 Oak Street, Vancouver BC

Experience the sights and scents of our favourite flower. A visual treat awaits you at our show, with the added opportunity for you to purchase roses and bouquets to take home. Linger awhile and listen to our guest speakers; relax among the blooms, while enjoying a refreshment and a homemade cookie. FREE ADMISSION <http://www.vancouverrosesociety.org>

