

THE LEAF

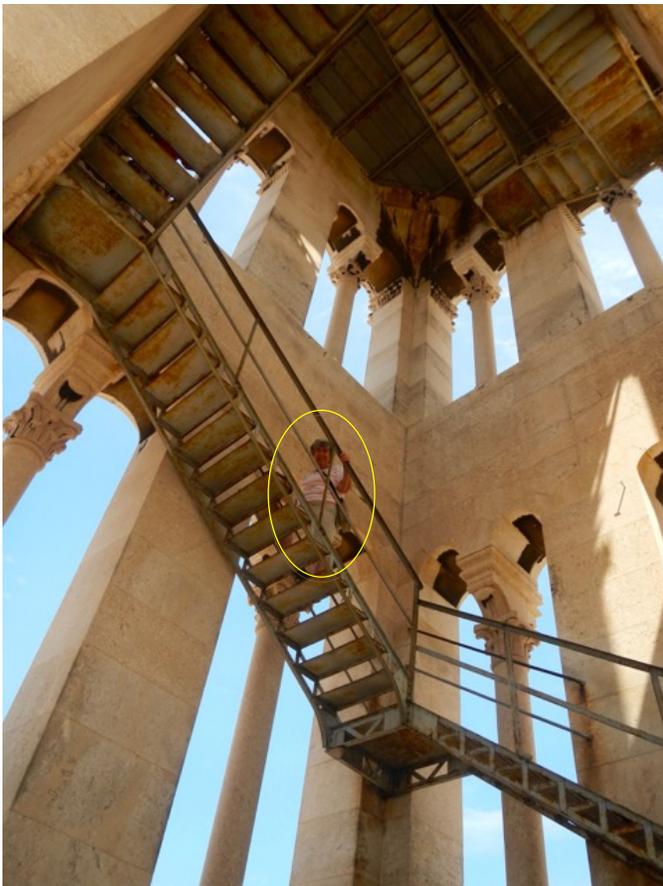
LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

June 2016

President's Message - Penny LeCouteur

"HELP!!! – I'm a prisoner in an Escher drawing!!"



Well, I obviously managed to escape from that M.C. Escher drawing and arrived back in Vancouver just in time to go on the very successful LVGC Bus Tour this past Saturday. Although the weather was not the greatest it didn't dampen our gardening ardour at all. We saw two very different but both very amazing gardens and enjoyed scouting out bargains in the greenhouses at Pacific Northwest Propagators. A very big thank you to Rosemarie Adams who once again organized the bus trip.

While I didn't actually visit any formal gardens in Croatia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina or Portugal I found myself fascinated by the many different trees that we don't have here in Vancouver; cork oaks, pomegranate trees, the kapok tree, the carob tree, loquat trees and of course

olive, orange and fig trees which we have here but not in the profusion of the Dalmatian Coast and Portugal. I stayed in London for two nights on the way home. Two nights and one full day - so where did I go for the one full day? Kew Gardens, of course!!

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
June 16
GWEN ODERMATT
GREAT PLANT PICKS
Sept 15
HARMONY BJARNSON
CLIMATE CHANGE AND GARDENING
Oct 20, 2016
SATYA BROWN
PLANTAHOLIC
IN A SMALL GARDEN
Nov 17
DAVID TRACEY
ECOLOGICAL GARDEN DESIGN

Mailing Address:
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<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

1st Wednesday of the month

Next Meeting: September 7, 7:30
PM

Chez Susan Huber

Newsletter Deadline

September 9, 2016

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

<mailto:lynnvalleygardclubnewsletter@gmail.com>

Thanks to all who contributed
to this edition: and to Bruce
Tennant for this photo!



REPORTS

VP Report – Judith Brook

Excellent **Speakers** are booked to November 2016!!!! Judith is always looking for great speakers: subjects, suggestions and ideas are welcome!

Treasurer's report - Jennifer Sydenham

LVGC continues to have a healthy bank balance – the details of which will be presented at the June meeting.

Membership – Bonnie Noakes

We are 'full up' with 125 paid up members. As always, there is a wait-list.

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

- 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

Having celebrated our amazingly successful Plant Sale in May, we have some follow-up tasks to share...

First, have you returned your lawn sign??? We still have a few 'Missing in action'! If you have a bright yellow plastic sign hanging around your house, garage, car – or even still in your lawn! – *Please* return it to the June general meeting on June 16th. This is the final opportunity to return the signs before our summer break. We need these signs back to use for next year.

Second, for the final amount raised at our Plant Sale... as of June 1st, our net revenue was a fabulous **\$4778.38!!!** Of these funds, a portion goes to LVGC operating costs, allowing us to keep membership fees low, pay our room rental, give guest speakers honoraria and pay for our December party. The substantial remainder of this amount will be donated to worthy local garden- and food-related projects in early 2017.

Third, the Plant Sale greatly relies on the behind-the-scenes organizing by the Members-At-Large – the MALs! This year it was our pleasure to serve in this capacity. Doreen and Whitney will be wrapping up their 2-year commitment to this role, and in our departure, we ask all LVGC members to strongly consider volunteering for this dynamic role. You will be joining a great team! If you are interested in the MAL role, please chat with one of us or with the Executive.

Mark May 13, 2017 on your calendars for next year's Plant Sale



***SPEAKER – Thursday, June 17, 2016
Gwen Odermatt***

Gwen is a life-long gardener who, as a young child, was fascinated with plants and bugs. She became a discerning observer of how plants grow in harmony with other plants, insects and the diversity of the natural world. This led to a degree in science at the University of Alberta. For the last 20 years she has operated Petals and Butterflies, a farm nursery that specializes in growing plants that attract butterflies and other beneficial wildlife to gardens. The nursery offers an always interesting collection of rare and unusual ornamental plants that she sells via consignment; for example, her plants can be found in the perennial section of the VanDusen Plant Sale.

She is on the Selection Committee for Great Plants Picks, teaches the Advanced Master Gardener Right Plant/Right Place course, is a member of the Vancouver Hardy Plant Group and was on the organizing committee for the Hardy Plant Study Weekend 2013, and is a long-time member of the South Surrey Garden Club.

Her garden has been open for local, national, and international tours, and is open to garden clubs by request.

Gwen is a Langley resident, married to Paul, a mother of three, and a grandmother of four.



Small Space Container Gardening

- sourced by Judith Brook

This is a news video on small space container gardening. With some luck, the hyperlink should work. There are some great designs for garden boxes for condos: modular, free-standing – with balcony in mind. Worth a click!

<http://globalnews.ca/video/2723903/container-garden-growing-for-small-spaces>



The Dutch Bred a Tulip to Celebrate Canada's 150th!

- sourced by Jackie Balkwill

“The tulip represents gratitude and the long-standing friendship between Canada and the Netherlands. Blooming in the colours of Canada’s pride and joy to gardens and His Excellency, Cees Kole, Ambassador news release. More than 200,000 of the National Capital Region this spring. the NCC’s flowerbeds with thousands community gardens across Canada.



flag ‘Canada 150 tulips’ will bring both communities from coast to coast,” said of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in a ‘Canada 150 tulips’ will bloom across the Next year, 300,000 will be showcased in more expected to be planted in

“It is amazing what the Dutch can do with tulips!” says Jackie.





Iris Japonica Fimbriata (Fringed Iris): Very pretty little Iris. Not always hardy, so try to place it in a protected spot in your garden. (Saw several of these for sale in our Plant Sale !)

THE POETRY OF THE EARTH IS NEVER DEAD . . . *John Keats*

Repotting Orchids Text by Sue Bottom, Photographs by Terry Bottom

- Sourced by Rosemarie Adams

"REPRINTED WITH THANKS FROM AOS ORCHIDS, APRIL 2015"

We receive more questions about re-potting than any other subject. Some folks never repot their orchids because they are intimidated by the whole process, so their potting mix ultimately rots, causing their roots to rot and sending their orchids on their way to orchid heaven. Other folks repot their orchids several times a year because they say their plants are just not blooming for them. Their plants never get a chance to get established, so they too will soon find their way to orchid heaven. There are really only three reasons I can think of to repot an orchid.

Repot All New Additions Before Adding to Your Collection

I almost always repot a new orchid I bring home, immediately if it is not in bloom. If I buy a blooming plant, I enjoy the flowers and don't touch the roots until the plant is bloomed out. Then I repot the plant in my mix of choice for that kind of orchid. All my *cattleyas* and *dendrobiums* are in a coarse, freely draining, largely inorganic mix so they can all be watered every second or third day during the growing season. My *phalaenopsis* are all in a soil-less peat mix so they can all be watered every week or two when they approach dryness. When you bring orchids home, they may be growing in wildly different potting mixes, from straight sphagnum moss, straight bark, or straight clay pebbles or gravel to mixes containing these materials. Each of these mixes retains water at a different rate. If you bring orchids home and just water them all on your normal watering schedule, you'll find the ones potted in sphagnum moss may stay too wet, the ones potted in gravel-clay pebble mixes may stay too dry and the ones potted in a bark-coco mix may be just right.



Some nurseries grow their seedlings in sphagnum moss and then pot them up to a larger pot by packing bark around the sphagnum core. If you bring them home and leave them this way, it could be setting you up for failure. These plants are exceedingly difficult to water correctly because if you water when the bark approaches dryness, the roots in the sphagnum moss will be smothered from overwatering and if you water when the moss approaches dryness, the roots in the bark will wither from dehydration. If you repot your orchids into your mix of choice when they first enter your growing area, you will know when you re-potted them and how long they should grow well in that mix. You can water all your similar types of orchids in the same mix at the same time without waterlogging or dehydrating them. It makes taking care of your plants much simpler.

[1] Repot. This *Prosthechea radiata* has many new leads growing outside its 6 inch (15 cm) pot. It will be happier if it is dropped into an 8 inch (20 cm) bulb pan.

[2] Repot. This *cattleya* looks very unhappy and is wobbly in the pot. It needs fresh mix and time for the roots to regrow into the fresh medium.

[3] Repot. This *Cattleya* has new leads growing horizontally outside the pot. It should be reoriented vertically in a new pot.



[4] Don't Repot. This *Catyclia* may have lots of aerial roots but it can be picked up by the pseudobulbs without wobbling. It has six flower spikes this year, two more than last year.

The Potting Mix has Degraded

Many people use organic matter (bark, moss or chunky peat or similar materials) in their potting mixes. It retains moisture, helps buffer pH and holds nutrients for later uptake by the plant. Of course,

being organic, it will degrade (a euphemism for rot). When the potting mix rots, the roots that are growing in it will likewise rot because the potting mix smothers the roots.

Different organic materials degrade at different rates. The generally available "premium" sphagnum moss tends to have a useful lifespan of between six and 12 months. The much more expensive sphagnum mosses such as AAA- to AAAAA-grade long-fiber New Zealand sphagnum moss will last for two to maybe five years for the highest- quality moss. Coco husk is widely used and has a useful lifespan of one to two years in the pot. The quality of bark varies wildly and, as a result, I use bark hesitantly. The highly touted *Orchiata* bark is reported to be long-lasting and we'll be testing this claim over the next couple of years. Tree fern fiber is also variable. I stopped buying the medium grade because it had so much fine material in it; now I only buy the coarse grade. I have gotten bad batches of tree fern where snow mold (a water-repellent white layer that closely hugs the medium) appeared in mixes barely two years old, though good-quality tree fern should have a lifespan of three to four years. Redwood bark, though highly desirable, is no longer available commercially. Regardless of the quality of the organic matter, it will ultimately rot and it is best to repot your orchids before the mix rots.



The easiest way to test whether your potting mix is past its prime is to try to lift the plant up by its leaves rather than the pot. A well-established plant growing in a still fresh mix can be picked up by its leaves. If it is wobbly in the pot, stick your finger an inch or two deep inside the pot. If it feels soft and dirt-like, odds are the mix is rotting.

If you catch it early enough and repot before there is too much root loss, perhaps your plant will not suffer. Many times though, I discover the degraded mix because my plant starts to look unhappy. Trust your instincts, if your plant doesn't look happy or if it is wobbly in the pot, you've got your excuse. Knock it out and put it into some fresh mix.

Plants That Have Outgrown Their Pots

The longer you can grow your orchid without disturbing the roots, otherwise known as repotting, the happier your plant will be. If it is a monopodial variety such as a *Phalaenopsis*, it may grow well out of the pot with lots of aerial roots and not many roots anchoring the plant in place. Eventually it will become top-heavy and a candidate for repotting. For a sympodial plant such as a *Cattleya*, it seems like it always blooms better when there is a bulb or two or three out of the pot. Eventually there will be four or live bulbs out of the pot and your plant will become unstable and unwieldy. Once physically unmanageable for you, repot it in a pot sufficiently sized so it will be able to Grow and bloom for another two or three years without touching its roots.

Don't repot unless you have a reason to repot. Each time you disturb your plant's roots, it will go through transplant shock and take some period of time to recover. You can minimize the transplant shock by repotting just before your plant starts producing new roots. You can also help your plant recover from transplant shock by adding root-stimulating hormones when repotting. Some people spray seaweed extract, [Superthrive](#) or other root stimulants on the bare-root plant or add these supplements to their water- fertilizer regime for the next month or so. I add a protective drench of the fungicide [Banrot](#) plus seaweed extract after repotting to help minimize the inevitable damage that occurs during the reporting process.

Plant Questions? Bring them to the BRIGHT SPOT... a roomful of answers await!!



Assorted Images

- Jennifer Sydenham, Maria Issa



Jennifer timed her trip to Japan for the famed cherry blossoms. If you look carefully you can see that the buds are different colours on the same branch - so it's not a graft and they aren't changing from one colour to another.



Back in Vancouver, Jennifer went to see the Arthur Erikson garden on West 14th the other day and I thought people might like to see what it looks like. It needs some work and the house doesn't look like his style at all, but apparently it used to be so secluded that he could garden in the nude..... [ed.: this has not been verified 😊]

Meanwhile, Maria was in Saranac Lake NY - where she visited a community garden with raised beds for people who can't bend and stoop, organized by Jan Stein, who encourages "recycling".



GARDENS ARE NOT MADE
BY SITTING IN THE SHADE . . . *Rudyard Kipling*

'TIS MY FAITH THAT EVERY FLOWER
ENJOYS THE AIR IT BREATHES! ... *William Wordsworth*

Members' Garden Tours

LVGC Members' Garden Tours - this year's tour will be on **July 9**.

NEW THIS YEAR - there will be a **not-so-perfect garden** for the tour to solicit comments from the many serious, seasoned, expert gardeners among us. Details will be forthcoming at the June meeting.

- from the Executive



Lynn Valley Garden Club BUS TRIP 2016: *Yes, you missed it!*



....and this is what you missed:

Our first stop was Pacific Northwest Propagators in Rosedale. We poured out of the bus, and scooted to the sheds (of course it was raining), got treated to coffee/tea and cookies – and instructions. There were conifers to end all conifers – all shapes, sizes, colours, length-of-needles, curly, straight and drooping. And Japanese maples and ginkos... which resulted in many tree-huggers with wide grins as LVGC-ers boarded the bus with prize possessions.

The next stop was the Byra garden on Chilliwack mountain – with a superb view over the Fraser and a superb garden to match. It was breath-taking. This was a very grown-up, intellectual garden with names by plants, well thought out landscaping, flowing water, quirky plants in quirky spots – and there were some really new and weird ones, and old friends but HUGE specimens, and a rock-garden to die for. Rumour has it, it's all in the pig manure... the same source as the black gold we get – so get a double dose of the good stuff next year!

The final stop was Jackie Conn's garden in Mission – a whimsical garden that must have grown organically and with love. There were mossy, wooded paths, arbours, and colorful flower beds – and in each nook and cranny there was something magical – a fairy, an elf-door, a gargoyle, an iridescent ball, a beautiful rock... all my favourite childhood fantasies in one garden.

Altogether – a delightful day and delightful company.



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

Under the heading *Guest Speakers*

Catherine Dale (May19, 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 – Eagles Estate in Burnaby (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-topic/>)

Under the heading *Newsletter - 2016*

The May 2016 newsletter has been posted. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/newsletters/2016-2/>)

Under the heading *Links*

There is a new section *Bonsai and Kusamono* (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/bonsai-and-kusamono/>)

Under the heading *Bulletin Board*

Workshops: *Botanical Painting with Watercolours* at the UBC Botanical Gardens (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/bulletin-board/workshops/>)

Workshops: Information regarding the *Burnaby Continuing Education Certificate Program in Horticulture* (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/bulletin-board/workshops/>)

Check the June, July, August and September *calendars* 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 or photos *to be posted on the website to* lvgcwebsite@gmail.com

The Great Rhodo Rescue

- by Maria Issa

Part 4.

Things were fine for rhodos and I until - Patrick again, "Hey, look at this on Craig's List: some guy wants to get rid of some rhodos..." Covetousness is a dreadful thing: the thought of free rhodos is a Siren's song. "Really? Let's call them and set up a time." I organized for the Friday afternoon. Sometime later, Patrick, the savvy one said "I have the feeling that he has someone else coming on Thursday, let's arrange for Thursday."

The next thing we knew, a monster U-Haul was rented, the shovels loaded and we were GPS-ing our way to Maple Ridge. We arrived in a torrential downpour only to find others already digging, deep in mud. The owners were nowhere to be seen. Free rhodos. First come, first served? Who can dig faster? There ensued a political negotiation worthy of a Middle East crisis. We agreed to boundaries and ownerships and each side came away with 3 medium rhodos and an azalea. And mud enough to cover all of us.

Arrived home to unload the loot when the phone rang (they don't really ring anymore, but make odd noises) and someone asked,

"So are you coming to get the rhodos tomorrow?"

"But we just got them..."

"Whaaaaat? No- they are still here..."

Oh dear: we had made two rhodo-dig appointments thinking that they were the same one! Super: more rhodos to be had. We quickly extended our U-Haul rental and headed out to South Surrey. It rained, of course. Poured. Buckets. The mud was familiar by now - deep and squidgy - but it yielded 2 big rhodos, much to our great satisfaction.

The driveway was once again lined with plantables. With time and the usual digging and rocks and roots, the rhodo forest gained a few mystery members. Wonder what colour they would be? We waited. April and May passed. No flowers. The LVGC rhodo speaker came and went. Still nothing. Finally, June happened - and a riot of colour burst forth. Every one of the rescued rhodos was resplendent with blooms.

Somehow it was all worth it.

Coming Events

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>

The 2016 East Vancouver Garden Tour Sunday, June 19th!

The 2016 East Vancouver Garden Tour will be on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19th. Like other years, this year's tour will be comfortably walkable for most people, and we have already lined up some delightful gardens for your horticultural pleasure!

Our home base will be at [Figaro's Garden Centre](#) (1896 Victoria Drive at 3rd Avenue). The area of the tour will be in the few blocks immediately surrounding Figaro's

Celebrate UBC Botanical Garden's 100th Birthday at Garden Days

June 17, 18 & 19

Family Weekend



- Enjoy 2-for-1 admission all weekend long (free admission applies to equal or lesser value admission)
- Free tours (11 am & 1 pm daily)
- Join us for birthday cake (12 pm daily)!
- Bring a lunch and have a family picnic on the Contemporary Lawn
- Go on a scavenger hunt for species of plants, flowers and creatures
- Learn about birds, bees and butterflies (11 am - 2 pm daily)

Garden Days
Journées Jardin
Official Activity

Sorry, no dogs allowed

BUY TICKETS
ONLINE NOW!

Tickets, **\$15 each**, are available now, and this year there are THREE ways to get them:

Click on the "buy tickets" link to get your tickets online.

(Note that there's a small Eventbrite service charge on top of the ticket price.)

Or drop in to [Figaro's Garden Centre](#) to buy tickets (in person and cash only).

Or order your tickets for the tour at Britannia Centre's Info Centre, 1661 Napier, either in person or by phone at [604-718-5800](tel:604-718-5800).

Although we always have a few cash-only tickets available at Figaro's on the day of the tour, we recommend that you sign up for the tour ahead of time to be sure you avoid disappointment.

On the day of the tour, you start at Figaro's, check in, pick up your tour map, enjoy coffee, juice, and goodies (by donation), and then head off to the gardens.

The tour runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., but this is not an event you need to come to right on time. We often get a big rush of people right at 10:00, but there's no need to hurry. You can come and go as you please. You'll see exactly the same gardens if you get started at 11:00 or noon or 1:00 or even as late as 2:00! (Do, however, make sure you leave yourself enough time to see all the gardens. We don't recommend starting the tour after 2:00.)

You could, for example, pick up your tour map at 11:00, go visit a few gardens, stroll over to Car-Free Commercial Drive for lunch and festivities, and then return to the tour to visit the rest of the gardens. Do, however, plan on being done by 4:00!

Check our [East Vancouver Garden Tour blog](#) for up-to-the-minute info!

Important Note: Sorry, but most gardens are not stroller- or wheelchair-accessible, children must be 12 years or older or babes in arms, and pets are not allowed. Also, photos are not allowed unless you get the gardeners' permission.

People who attend the tour will get a one-time 20% discount at Figaro's starting on the day of the tour and running through July 1st (Canada Day).

Point Roberts Garden Tour #14, Sunday, June 26

10AM to 4 PM

Every two years, the Point Roberts Garden Club sponsors a tour of some of our most special private gardens and this year, we are hosting our fourteenth tour!

We'd like to invite your members to come join us on **Sunday, June**

26, 10am to 4pm, for a self-guided tour of nine unique gardens. The tour also include afternoon tea with live music and garden experts on hand to answer questions.

Please see the press release below

We hope to see you on the tour! In the meantime, if you'd like additional information, please feel free to contact the tour chair, Jane Donaldson at janed.pr@gmail.com.

The tour, which is self-guided, will take place between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm and includes afternoon tea and live music from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Point Roberts Community Center on Gulf Road. The tour, which is biennial, is usually in July, but in response to the early Spring, it has been moved up to late June and promises to be spectacular.



**Botanical Painting with
Watercolours Workshop**

**Saturday June 18 - Sunday June 19
10:00 am - 4:00 pm, UBC Botanical Garden**

Join botanical painter Alison Watt for a two-day introduction to watercolour painting of plants from the Garden.

Peony image courtesy of Alison Watt

botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/learn

This year, there will be nine unique gardens to visit. From a garden designed to compliment a 1920's cottage barged to the Point from New Westminster to a true English garden by the seaside, to a low maintenance slope-side gem, the gardens are a testament to their owners' vision and care. Gardens returning to the tour include favorites from past years – an artist's palette of pink, blue and lavender; an Asian-inspired peaceful oasis hidden behind a privacy fence; and what has been termed one of the great emerging Northwest Coastal perennial gardens. Some of the gardens are close to the sea, which make their unique approach to design facing sun, wind and salt, alone worth the visit.

Ticket prices are C\$20 or US\$15 per person and are available at the Blue Heron Gallery and Nielson's Home Building Center in Point Roberts, Harris Nursery, Ladner, BC, or Sunnyside Nursery, Tsawwassen, BC.

Visitors are reminded that a passport or enhanced drivers license is required to cross the border.

Tickets will also be available the day of the tour up until 2 pm at 79 Tye Drive, on the right, shortly after crossing the border into Point Roberts, and at the Blue Heron Gallery, 1360 Gulf Road and Nielson's Building Center, 391 Tye Drive. No tickets will be sold after 3 pm in order to give visitors enough time to tour the gardens.

Each ticket includes a map of Point Roberts clearly marked with the locations of the tour gardens, the afternoon tea, and restaurants for those who wish to have lunch.

More information about the tour is available on the Garden Club's website:

<http://www.pointrobertsgardenclub.org> and on its Facebook page.

Point Roberts, WA, is a peninsula located due South of Tsawwassen, B.C. From Highway 99, turn West onto Highway 17, and then left onto 56th Street and follow the road until it ends at the border.

From the Island Ferries, take Highway 17 East,
Turn right on 56th Street and continue to the border.

...and with thanks to *The Guardian (England)* –sourced by Judith Brook



The End

{... at least till September. Have a wonderful summer!}