



LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

January 2017

President's Message - Penny LeCouteur

Happy New Year! I don't think that my garden is very happy right now. It is buried under a few feet of snow and has been for over five weeks. For those of you who live (and garden) on lower altitudes you might be surprised at just how much snow there is when you get higher up on the North Shore mountains. I'll just have to wait to see how much damage has been done. I can already tell that there are some branches that have broken off with the weight of the snow, but I'm hoping that the blanket of snow will have been an effective insulator for some of the more tender plants we grow.

Another aspect of this winter weather that can be worrisome is the liberal use of salt to get rid of ice on driveways, steps and paths. Did you know that you can achieve the same result without using salt? Salt is used because it is cheap and (relatively) non-toxic. But as a recent article in The Vancouver Sun pointed out, there is a price to pay for using salt - damage to cars, roads, bridges *etc.* It didn't mention damage to plants in our gardens, probably because the focus of the article was on the huge amounts of salt being distributed on roads this winter. There are less corrosive, but more expensive alternatives. They suggested calcium magnesium acetate, magnesium chloride or calcium chloride. I don't know where the average home owner would get these but there is another possibility - an inorganic fertilizer. I have used fertilizer along the drive and it works just as well. Anything that is water soluble will lower the freezing point of water/ice. If you can find some NPK fertilizer on sale - probably 20-20-20 would be too expensive - it would do the trick. I wouldn't recommend using it in large quantities, or very often, but occasional use near some of your more precious plants might be better than salt. Manure won't work: it has to be something that is water soluble. You could even use sugar, but it would be very expensive - and sticky! [For those of you who remember Grade 12 chemistry, the lowering of the freezing point is a colligative property, so it depends on the number of particles in solution, not the type of particle, hence it doesn't matter if it sodium chloride or potassium phosphate - or sugar.]

We have a good selection of speakers lined up for this spring - including our special event with Brian Minter - in place of the February general meeting. See further details of this elsewhere in The Leaf. We now have a new Sunshine person, Carole Bell, and a volunteer who is organizing the bus trip to Sechelt, Jackie Morris, but we still need one more MAL to round out the Executive and help organize the plant sale. Please consider becoming a MAL - it's great fun!!!

Lastly, I should report that we had a discussion at the last Exec meeting as to whether Rosemarie would be able to find something flowering in her snowed under garden that she could bring to the January meeting for Bright Spots. The unanimous verdict was "yes". Don't disappoint us, Rosemarie!

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

January 19

SAM COUSINS

Invasive Species

February 16

BRIAN MINTER

Garden Design & Special Interest Plants

(TICKETS REQUIRED)

March 16

DAVID SELLARS

Alpine plants, Photography

April 20

EGAN DAVIS

Reducing Water Use and Increasing Urban Ecology

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2017 Executive

President

Penny LeCouteur

Vice President

Judith Brook

Secretary

Susan Huber

Treasurer

Jennifer Sydenham

Membership

Bonnie Noakes

Judy Sullivan

Members at Large

Catharine Winstanley

Rita Marshall

Maggie Davis

MAL#4????

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa

Plant Table ??????????????????????

Hospitality

Kitty Castle

Carole Cobbett

Mimi Kuhl

Susan Nicholls

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Carol Bell

Eddie Rustemeyer

Website

Aline Burlone

Executive Meetings

1st Wednesday of the month

Next Meeting: Feb 1 7:30 PM

Chez Rita

Next Newsletter Deadline

February 08, 2017

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

<mailto:lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com>

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



REPORTS

VP Report - Judith Brook

As listed on the front page - speakers are booked until April 2017.

Treasurer's Report - Jennifer Sydenham

- As of November 2016: Chequing account - \$9728.70; petty cash \$98.10. Total \$9,826.80
- The 2017 Budget was published in The LEAF then presented and voted on at November meeting (the Annual General Membership meeting). There was a lively discussion of the budget at the meeting and Jennifer received several more comments after the meeting.
- Jennifer noted that our annual donations to local garden-related projects may vary from year to year depending on the Club's revenues (*i.e.* profits from LVGC Annual Plant sale).

Membership Report for the start of 2017 - Bonnie Noakes

As of January 1, 2017 there were 36 members who have not renewed their memberships. The cut-off for 2017 renewal will be Thursday, January 19 at end of the membership meeting. Thereafter, the places will be made available to the 8 people on the wait list. Please come early to the January meeting to ensure your place in the Club! Membership cards will be available at the January meeting.

Please note: if previous members do not renew, they can still attend any/all meetings as a "guest" for the usual \$3/per meeting.

Plant Table - Judy Stringer

As your Plant Table Committee - Judy and Irene - will be stepping down at the end of this year, if garden club members still feel the plant table is a fun and useful part of our meetings, *volunteers are needed to keep the Plant Table going*. Perhaps this is something you would like to do to contribute to the club's activities.

There will be no Plant Table at the December and January meetings, and after that, it will be up to the membership to support it by volunteering their time and talents.

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

.... our ever-constant reminder to try and remember to bring your own mug to meetings!!!!



- More than anything, I must have flowers always, always . . . CLAUDE MONET

- The poetry of the earth is never dead . . . JOHN KEATS

- You have to eat a lot of parsley to be an old sage.

SPEAKERS
Thursday, January 11, 2017

SAM COUSINS

Invasive alien species are a threat to biodiversity, agriculture and infrastructure. With early detection, reporting and rapid response the impacts can be reduced before they get out of control.

Sam Cousins is the West area Stewardship Research Technician for Metro Vancouver. His work focuses on connecting the public with ecological restoration events within the regional parks system and the management of invasive species. He has gained a wealth of invasive species identification knowledge and treatment options experience from working for Brandywine Provincial Park, the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council and Stanley Park Ecology Society.

BRIAN MINTER

Thursday, February 16, 2017

As mentioned at the November 2016 meeting, we have a special treat coming up: instead of the February meeting, Brian Minter will speak to our club on '*Garden Design and Special Interest Plants*'.

- ❖ This ticketed event will be at a different Lynn Valley location, rented for the occasion, and will take the place of our usual February membership meeting. (Details will be on your ticket.)
- ❖ Each club member is entitled to ONE advance free ticket available at the January meeting – please see Judith Brook, Vice President, for your free ticket.
- ❖ *You must have a ticket to attend; tickets will not be available at the door.*
- ❖ If you are unable to pick up a ticket at the January meeting, please contact Judith Brook to make arrangements to pick up your ticket prior to the event.
- ❖ Please let Judith know if you want to be on a list for extra tickets (\$15), should they become available.
- ❖ If you find that you cannot use your ticket, please let Judith know as soon as possible.

Again, as there is limited space, please note:

NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR and NO ENTRY WITHOUT A TICKET



Plant Sale Prep

Annual Plant Sale Saturday, May 13th 2017 – 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Set up for the Sale: Friday May 12th early afternoon to (time TBA) evening

Spring is just around the corner; it will be May before you know it. Please start thinking about our annual plant sale, May 13th, the Saturday before Mothers' Day. The revenue from the sale is part of our yearly operating budget for the club and also goes toward yearly donations to various good causes.

Please pot up as many plants as possible – this is a good way to create space in your garden and perennial containers. It would be greatly appreciated if members could follow a few guidelines for plant donations to the sale:

1. Label everything as clearly as possible. Include botanical and/or common names, and - CLEAN POTS, VISUALS COUNT.

2. Mention plant preferences: SUN or SHADE, MOIST or DRY.

- Your MALs

3. Please give general plant description: Flower colour, growing habitat.

4. Please pot up as early as possible, we want the plants to be well rooted.

5. Vegetables, shrubs, ground-cover, annuals, perennials, trees, houseplants, are all welcome!

The club will have sign-up sheets for volunteers in March. The sale is a lot of fun and it is a great way to work with many members and be part of a great team.

The club is looking at getting a supply of garden soil amender to help with the job of repotting. The availability of the soil will be in February's Leaf and will include date, times, ordering cost, etc.

The more successful the plant sale is the more we are able to do as a club, even though, I must say, the Lynn Valley Garden Club is already, pretty fabulous.

Cheers!!

- your Members-at-Large

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

- Aline Burlone

- ❖ Under the heading *Newsletter - 2016* - the December 2016 newsletter has been posted. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/newsletters/2016-2/>)
- ❖ Under the heading *Links*
 - A new section - *General Gardening Information* has been added with a link to Linda Chalker-Scott's website on Horticultural Myths (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/general-gardening-information/>)
 - Under the section *Fruit and Vegetable Gardening* there is a new link - *No Dig Organic Gardening* (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/vegetable-gardening/>)
- ❖ Check the January and February 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



To the poor things who missed our Holiday Party and Craft event - you missed all this!
(Thanks Bruce, for the photos!)



Some Christmas Thanks

- Jackie Morris, Maria Issa

Thank you to all who contributed cards for the Xmas card table for the WISH Xmas party. The party was held on Tuesday, Dec. 13 and was a happy and fun event. The three of us arrived just before it started due to traffic issues and so were setting up our table and spreading out cards as the first women were let in. We were greeted with "the card ladies are here!" We were wearing Xmas sweaters to make us more festive. We are the only outside people at this event. There were over 100 women at the dinner and in the 2+ hours we were there and we gave away lots and lots of cards. They can take as many as they want. We often heard who the cards were going to: parents, siblings, children, grandchildren, friends, those they just wanted to thank. Our little effort really does seem to accomplish the goal of keeping the women in touch with those they care about. If you have any leftover cards from this year, please set them aside and I will collect them next fall.

- Jackie

Thank you to the ONE-derful person who brought Food Bank donations to the Holiday Party. It was delivered and greatly appreciated. Wonder if we could habitually bring a single canned item to each meeting? Would that be too onerous? I happily volunteer to collect them and deliver them to the Food Bank or to the North Shore Harvest Centre. Please think about this idea - it is such a small seed that grows happiness.

- Maria



"Scatter seeds of kindness where you may go"



Mason bee emerging from over-wintered tube

<http://www.urbandigsfarm.com/products/mason-bee-workshop>

... and while we're on the subject of bees...

Imagine a spring where you don't hear the buzzing of bumblebees, where fruit and vegetable flowers go unpollinated and where bees and wild pollinators have simply vanished.

Tell Health Canada to protect pollinators!!

Honeybees and wild pollinators have been declining at worrying rates. Habitat loss, pathogens and climate change are factors, however it is a deadly class of pesticides called neonicotinoids (neonics) that has many scientists worried.

Neonics are "systemic" pesticides that get absorbed into all parts of the plant including nectar and pollen. These pesticides are not only toxic to bees, butterflies, earthworms and birds but they are "predicted to result in substantial impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning."

The good news is Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) recently announced plans to phase out a widely-used neonic pesticide: imidacloprid. They stated, "For the protection of the environment, PMRA is proposing to phase-out all the agricultural and a majority of other outdoor uses of imidacloprid over three to five years."

The cities of Vancouver and Montreal have already banned the use of these dangerous pesticides within municipal limits, Ontario has heavily restricted their use, and the EU currently has a partial moratorium on neonics.

Now we need the rest of Canada to follow suit. Write your letter to Health Canada today! Health Canada has launched a 90-day *public consultation period until Feb. 21, 2017* to ask Canadians if they think this dangerous pesticide should be banned.

This is an important step towards achieving the end goal of banning neonics in Canada.

Let's seize the moment. Please take a few minutes to protect Canada's bees and wild pollinators by telling the PMRA you support the proposed ban on imidacloprid. Write a letter!

Find a prototype letter on the *WILDERNESS COMMITTEE* website: <https://www.wildernesscommittee.org>

Planting by the Phases of the Moon – John Jeavons

I was asked to reprint the above article already published last year in the February 2016 issue of *The Leaf*. Here is the link: <http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Leaf-Feb-2016.pdf>

Some members swear by this and lots of people say that their seedlings sprout better if they follow the moon's guidance. Anecdotes abound. As your Editor is an unashamed scientist, who fact-checks every article, and spent several hours trying to find formal scientific evidence for the above thesis, but couldn't... I was reluctant to propagate something that has no scientific data or research to support it. Unfortunately, the best I could find was https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agricultural_astrology - note the comparison to astrology.... So *caveat emptor!* Read and do what works for you and makes you happy - and remember: in life, there are no guarantees!



*If you wish to be happy for a day - get drunk
If you wish to be happy for a week - kill a pig
If you wish to be happy for a month - get married
If you wish to be happy for ever and ever - make a garden!*

-- CHINESE PROVERB



Chinese New Year 2017 and Gardening

- Kitty Castle, Carole Cobbett, Susan Nicholls

"Do Chinese New Year and gardening go together?" you may ask.

"You bet, they do!"

As most of you know, Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year, but always between January 27th and February 20th. This year, Chinese New Year falls on Saturday, January 28th, 2017. Like Christmas/New Year in other countries, Chinese New Year is simply a much needed winter holiday at an auspicious time. Therefore, I suggest we LVGC gardeners embrace this holiday this January.

Here is why:

Historically, Chinese New Year was a rest period before the new and up-coming farming year. It coincided with the period just before the new year of farm work was to begin - a time of preparation, if you will. As well, the Chinese took this time to wish and pray for a good harvest. The traditional 'Start of Spring' or 'Spring Festival' - is another name for Chinese New Year. This 'Spring Festival' precedes the actual start of spring weather. In China, it is quite common for most rural families to start cleaning their houses to welcome the New Year.

As avid gardeners we suggest that we all embrace this fine ideology/holiday this month. Let's clean out and tidy up our potting sheds and/or greenhouses. Let's give our treasured gardening tools and pots and planters the proper cleaning and TLC they deserve after all they do for us! and while we are at it, let's take stock of our supplies and makes lists of what we need to replenish or replace for the coming gardening year. Finally, let us not forget to wish/pray for a really good harvest for this up-coming year and for truly beautiful gardens one and all!

By the way, 2017 is the year of the Rooster. Roosters are hard-working, resourceful, courageous and talented. That sounds like all LVGC members to me!

Happy New Year from the Hospitality Gals!

- Carole, Kitty and Sue

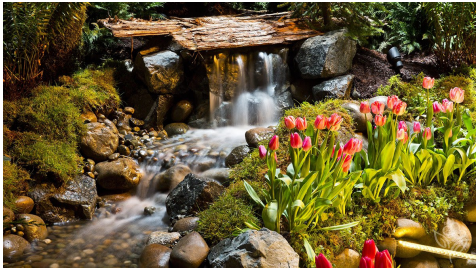
PS Wear RED to the January club meeting!!



Nothing is more the child of art than a garden. -- SIR WALTER SCOTT



THE NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW HAS SOME SPECIAL PACKAGES FOR CANADIANS ONLY!



Check out these incredible rates! You MUST book online. You will not get these rates if you call the hotel directly. For questions only, please call 888-233-9527. Please note this number is for questions only as these rates must be booked online and not over the phone.

Please book your room by JANUARY 20th in order to receive the group rate. Reservations made after this date are based on availability and may or may not be at the group rate.

<http://www.gardenshow.com/hotels/canadian-specials/>

If any LVGC members are considering going to the Garden Show in Seattle (Feb 22-26), this might be a good option for accommodation. For a rate of \$129 US you get a nice room at the Crowne Plaza, which is only a block away from the Convention Centre, breakfast, 20% discount in restaurant or bar, 20% discount off parking and a free two day pass for the show (per room occupant). You only need to stay one night to get the two-day pass. The hotel is nice, the food in the bar and restaurant is tasty and reasonable. ☺



You are invited to the 89th Annual Bradner Flower Show! - "The Birds & The B's"

Join the fun as we take you on a whimsical journey through the garden!

April 7, 8 & 9th Daily: 10 am to 5 pm at Bradner Hall & School, 5305 Bradner Rd, Abbotsford.

Fun for ALL AGES, Admission is only \$2. Opening Ceremony, Friday @ 2 pm with special guest Scott Pearce (picture) of GardenWorks, Global TV's Saturday morning gardening expert. Decorating for this year's show will be done by the talented and creative floral designers from Simply Perfect Flowers. On Saturday/Sunday see chefs, local wineries, special speakers & lots live music. Loads of interesting displays, crafts, art, food and, of course, 100's of varieties of daffodils. All proceeds from cut flowers donated to the Abbotsford Regional Hospital.



For more info:

Facebook.com/BradnerHall, bradnerhall.ca or bradnerflowershow@gmail.com

Bokashi... ..

???????????

... .. February Leaf.....



- "Would you like a drink?"
- "No thank you, I am quite replete, almost ready to eat."
- "And what brings you here, on this cold winter day, all safe and warm inside this greenhouse?"
- "Well here's my secret: my nice owner brought me in as an experiment to see whether I would survive - and as you can see, I have! I look nearly ripe now; plump, red, full of sweetness - hopefully."
- "I am overjoyed with your success, Mr. Strawberry, and I hope to see you hanging around for spring. I will try to keep my hands off you until then. You remind me of warmer summer days when my feet couldn't stop moving - when I planted red flowering flowers in yellow cedar baskets; but now the first winter snow has fallen, with promise of more cold to come."
- "I suppose I should ask you, Mr. Strawberry, would you like a little extra warmth tonight? How about an electric heater in the evening, just to see you through this bit of a cold snap?"



- "Oh Yes please, I would love that."
Even the geraniums, fuchsias and cyclamen in the greenhouse nodded their heads vigorously.

Gardening requires a lot of water - most of it in the form of perspiration. . . .LOU ERICKSON

Garden Conversations

- Maria Issa

So you probably think Wayne is a little odd, but he is certainly not alone. I too, have a personal relationship with each of my plants, but not always as kindly as Wayne's.

Almost 100% I know where each one came from - especially whose garden they spent their childhoods in - or 30% which garden centre they came from... though those are less salubrious (I tend to buy leftover anything that I don't know, especially on sale... and then I apply Darwinian gardening: survival of the fittest).

In spite of their esoteric provenance, I'm friendly with all my plants. Well, most of them. The ones that need TLC and a lot of cajoling to stay alive - those are my favourites. They get a lot of attention. I tell them why I want them push buds out, why such beautiful plants need to seek the sun. Then there are the robust ones that like whatever I may do to them - even if my applications of - whatever - are somewhat ill-advised. We talk, they forgive: we're good.

Then there are the difficult relationships. There are plants I distinctly dislike - even though they are green, have chlorophyll, photosynthesize and contribute to the planet's oxygen: I HATE them. That too, is a relationship. These I attack, rip, uproot, yank, pluck and exterminate. They have names that are curiously similar "the _____ ba*tards". Insert: California poppy, periwinkle, lamia, laurel and a host of ignominious, unnamed weeds. The latter go under the heading of "the *&&^%\$ weed ba*tards".

I get that murderous glint in my eye, the weed plucker gadget in my hand, a curse on my lips and I head out to pillage.and I talk to the plants as I mete out their punishment. I tell them why they shouldn't grow there, why their little roots need to be yanked and "don't you dare come back if you know what's good for you." Then "ashes to ashes, compost to compost" I intone, as they are unceremoniously plopped into the DNV green bin so that they can't ever come back.

People who walk the St Mary's trail are, I'm sure, a little perplexed by the muddy woman thrashing in the underbrush, muttering to herself. They would be calling the paramedics if they knew the murderous content of those mutterings.

I'm not ageing; I just need to be repotted.