



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943 **May 2017**

President's Message - Penny LeCouteur

By the time you read this the **LVGC Plant Sale** will be over and I am sure it will have been a great success. The MALs are working very hard and there should be lots of volunteers to help. And if the Plant Sale is over, can summer be far away?

The final event of the season is the **Members' Garden Tour** which, as always, is the second Saturday in July - the 8th this year. We had a great set of gardens to visit last year and were all struck by the diversity that can be found on our small North Vancouver patch. So please consider putting your garden on the tour. As we keep saying, we are not looking for perfection or anything near perfection. Most gardens are a 'project in progress'. For many of us, that is what makes it so interesting, to see how different gardeners are working towards their visions - and how their visions change over the years. This is also a great opportunity to get some advice from fellow members. The knowledge and experience of many of our members is phenomenal and would cost multi \$\$\$\$\$\$s from a professional source - yet as a member of the LVGC you can access this for free. What a deal! Contact Susan Huber or myself if you think you'd like to offer your garden for the tour this year. Also, there may be more of a social event at the end of the tour as we are thinking of perhaps having a BBQ picnic. More details later.

Talking about how gardeners' visions of their gardens change over the years, did you read Steve Whysall's article in the Vancouver Sun not long ago? He described how what he used to grow has evolved into what he grows now. It made me think of my own "plant progress". I've always grown some vegetables and fruit - still do. But I started off with mainly rhododendrons and azaleas assuming I would always be in love with them. Then I got hooked on roses, knew names, had a wish-list and even attended a couple of rose shows. But roses need sun and gradually the surrounding trees started to block the sun. Nothing I could do about it - they are not on my property (thanks, District of North Vancouver!). For a while, I had loads of delphiniums - still have some, but the same problem with nearby trees... So if you can't beat them, join them. I now have a passion for (shade loving) hostas. Not really an obsession - you wouldn't call 65 different (and labeled) hostas an obsession would you? I also have a number of duplicates and quite a few that are nameless. Hostas are easily divided and some very nice people have shared their bounty and I have reciprocated. Hostas can be a bit pricey so I decided to set myself a limit. I could only buy a new hosta if it costs no more than a *latte*, like \$3 - \$4. (Look for sales, two for one deals, very young plants *etc.*) But if I see a hosta that is on my wish list, it is surprising to what heights the price of a *grande, double shot, mocha latte* can be stretched.

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

May 18
CONWAY LUM
Insects: Friend or Foe?
June 22
Surprise Speaker
JB is keeping us in suspense!

Mailing Address:

Lynn Valley Garden Club
P.O. Box 16053
1199 Lynn Valley Road
North Vancouver, BC
V7J 3S9
<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>

- May LEAF photo credits to Maggie Davis, Tom Davis & Bruce Tennant

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

Daphne Page

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa

Plant Table

Norma Buckland

Hospitality

Kitty Castle

Carole Cobbett

Susan Nicholls

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Carol Bell

Eddie Rustemeyer

Website

Aline Burlone

Executive Meetings

1st Wednesday of the month

Next Meeting: June 7, 7:30 PM

Chez Bonnie Noakes

Next Newsletter Deadline

June 11, 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 the photo below!



SPEAKER

CONWAY LUM --- Thursday, May 18, 2017

Insects: Friends or Foe?

Conway Lum is a Professional Agrologist and a graduate of University of British Columbia with a BSc in plant science (ornamental horticulture) and botany. He has worked for GardenWorks@Mandeville (originally Mandeville Garden Centre located at corner of Nelson St. and Marine Drive, Burnaby) since 1988. He started out in 'nursery' but now serves at the garden supplies/information desk and conducts most of the in-house seminars/workshops. He is a regular contributor to the "Ask-the-Pro" column in BC Living (Garden Wise) Magazine as well as an evening instructor of gardening classes for New Westminster Continuing Education.

Conway was the recipient of the "Garden Communicator of the Year Award" by BC Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA) for 2012, and of the "Garden Communicator Award" of the BC Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA) in 2006; and the "Environmental Star Award" from the City of Burnaby for European Chafer public education. He has served on the European Chafer advisory committee.

He is currently serving on the provincial certification committee for BCLNA and Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association (CNLA) and is one of the first three candidates to receive the "Certified Horticultural Technician for retail" in Canada (CNLA). He recently obtained "Landscape Industry Certified" technician for ornamental and turf maintenance (CNLA).

Conway is also the environment designate (2015) in an advisory capacity for the retail commodity group for BCLNA; an Honorary member of "South Burnaby Garden Club".



REPORTS

VP Report - Judith Brook

Speakers are booked but are difficult to pin down for titles, *etc.* so watch this space!!!! Please continue to send suggestions for speakers - as your ideas are a great resource - [*and reduce the immense frustration of Judith's job...you have no idea what she goes through chasing people. -ed*]

Secretary - Susan Huber

At the Exec meeting, a letter from Judy Lashley was read, regarding the audit of LVGC financial records - the letter noted in part:

"reviewed the club's financial records covering the period Jan. 1, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2016 which was supported by monthly bank statements. All transactions were fully supported by invoices, requisitions for reimbursement and receipts for cancelled cheques. Each monthly bank statement was properly reconciled and the financial statement produced reflects the proper status of the LVGC finances for the 2106 fiscal year."

Judy also noted that: "Jennifer's records are complete and very well organized and that she has done a great job as Treasurer of the LVGC." [*This was met with a round of applause at the Exec meeting. - ed*]

Treasurer's Report - Jennifer Sydenham

Balance as of April 31/2017

Club Equity:	\$5000.00
Emergency Reserve:	\$2000.00
Operating Funds/Petty Cash	\$1926.75
Total	\$8926.75

Jennifer commented that if our plant sale is as successful as in past years (YES, it was!!), LVGC should be on track to donate to charities as in past years.

Membership Report – Bonnie Noakes

Bonnie reported that LVGC had 117 members, but as one of our Honorary Life Members had just passed away, we were now back at 116 members (with 2 remaining Honorary Life Members). People interested in becoming members are asked to email lynnvalleygardenclub@gmail.com for information.

Plant Table – Norma Buckland

(Was anything exciting rescued from the Plant Sale? Come to the meeting to find out!)

Hospitality – Kitty Castle & Carole Cobbett & Susan Nicholls

- In case you were wondering, you may all rest assured, literally! We only serve DECAFFEINATED coffee and teas at club meetings.
- There is now a thermal carafe full of hot water for you: you can water-down our teas, make your own from home, or just drink the hot water!
- Please keep using the blue and the green table-top garbage and recycling containers provided on our snack tables. The Church has a "garbage-in... garbage-out" policy: they do NOT want us using their garbage and recycling facilities.
- Lastly, we ask that after getting your beverage and snacks, could you KINDLY MOVE AWAY to socialize. Our team needs the kitchen door area clear so that we can quickly and safely replenish the hot beverages. Also, we'd like everyone to be able to get to the tables before the guest speaker begins.
- [Also from March onwards, while you are grabbing that mug and teabag – please also grab a non-perishable item for the food bank!! – Maria]

MAL Report – Maggie Davis, Rita Marshall, Daphne Page, Catharine Winstanley

The MALs would like to thank all the garden club members who donated plants from their gardens, and those who helped with their labours during the sale. Thanks to you, the sale was an incredible success!! Also a very heart-felt thank you goes to the Executive for all their support.

Could you please remember to BRING BACK THE YELLOW signs ASAP!!! Many thanks: then they can be put away for next year, rather than forgotten in someone's garage.

There was a wonderful response to the request for 'beer flats'! [hmmmmm?]

For a few highlights of the great event, see below.



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

- Aline Burlone

- Under the heading **Guest Speakers** - Egan Davis (April, 2017 guest speaker) can be found under Past Speaker by name (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-name/>) or Past Speaker by topic - Reducing water use and increasing urban ecology (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-topic/>)
- Under the heading **Newsletter** - 2017 - the April 2017 newsletter has been posted. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/newsletters/2017-2/>)

- Under the heading **Links**
 - Under the section General Gardening Information (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/general-gardening-information/>) the following link has been added: The Grow Green website is an interactive resource that provides eco-friendly information for gardeners of all kinds in our region. The updated site has new content on food gardening and more designs for small spaces. Over 70 new garden and container designs have been added to the site, with native and pollinator-friendly plants more prominent by increased designs where these plants are featured.
 - Under the section Wildlife General there is a link to the Electronic Atlas of the Wildlife of British Columbia (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/wildlife/>)
 - Under the section Plant Information (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/plant-information/>) there is a link to Plants for a future which is a database where you can search for over 7000 edible and medicinal plants using a number of search criteria
- Check the May and June 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, upcoming events and PDF articles or photos to be posted on the website to lvgcwebsite@gmail.com



Follow-up on Jan Valair

Jan Valair has been found – and was at the Plant Sale! Rosemarie Adams had a great chat with her – and has her contact info. So does Susan Huber. So does the Leaf.



The Ultimate Fashion Statement

by Jackie Morris

You too, can be the proud owner of the ultimate fashion statement LVGC club t-shirt: forest green with the club's embroidered logo – at the Dog's Ear t-shirt store, corner of 15th and Marine, West Van.

I was just in and ordered my new one. Cost: \$40.25. While you missed this year's sale – get ready for next year – start early! They have my old one for a sample now as to thread colours. Now even the assistant knows that they have our logo in their data bank, so there should be no hassles.



Maurice Jones

-submitted by Judith Brook

Maurice Jones, an honorary life-time member of the Lynn Valley Garden Club, passed away on April 20, 2017. Maurice was a source of inspiration to many -- his tomatoes were legendary at our club's plant sales! Maurice's history with LVGC is a long one – as is his list of contributions to the club: January 1999, joined LVGC 2000-2001, served as Treasurer, 2003, served as Member at Large, 2008-2009, served as President 2011, LVGC made Maurice an honourable life member.

A notice will be in North Shore News, possibly on the weekend of May 6th, 2017, for a later-scheduled Celebration of Life at the Boal Chapel on Lillooett Road, North Vancouver. Club members are welcome.

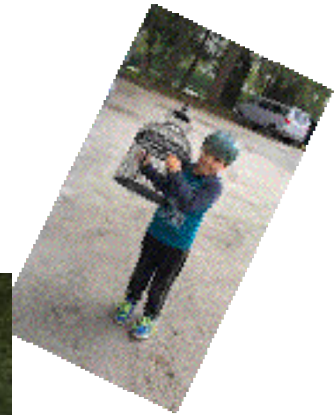
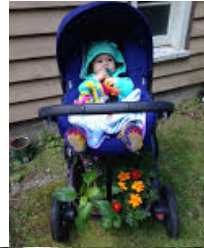
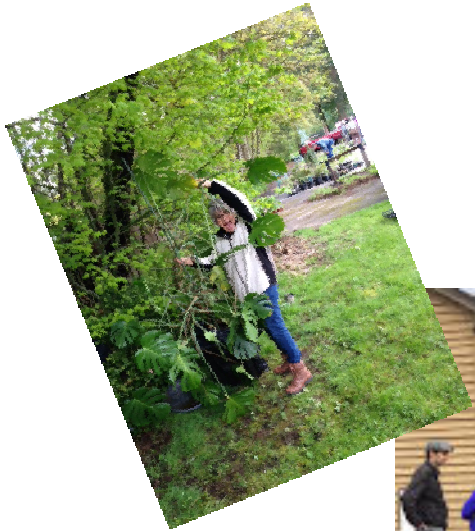


“Don't hurry, don't worry. You're only here for a short visit.
So be sure to stop and smell the flowers.”



*Snippets - The Plant Sale
Page....*

*There were
some
BIG donations
and small
gardeners*



with interesting finds



*Then there were lots
of people (~300!)
waiting
for lots of plants
and lots of expertise
and we counted lots*



of \$\$ ☺

*Overheard at the sale: ".... So are these plants organic?"
The perfect answer was "Yes, of course - and they were grown from organic seeds!"
(while thinking ... and they're gluten free!)*

HOT OFF THE EMAIL - ballpark calculation we grossed over \$4500 - there will be some expenses deducted - but WOW!!!!!! That's a big number. Congratulations, everyone!

More PLANT SALE Pictures

- by Bruce Tennant



"BEFORE"



< "DURING"



"AFTER"



Hopeful Spring

- by Wayne Smith

Do you remember my *Mr. Strawberry in the Greenhouse* last fall? That odd berry hung on until the first good frost, then it began to look wrinkled, tired and blotchy. We parted/joined company - I ate the berry. It was not a bad berry, but not a fresh sweet spring berry.

Even those nodding geraniums in the greenhouse and all their cuttings didn't look good come the frost. I rushed them into my recovery room in the workshop, polished the skylight for added light, but still they weren't happy. Half of the cuttings had passed away come spring.

But all is in not doom. With an empty greenhouse, I took the time this winter to finish the walls in yellow cedar, add blue-grey marble behind the black wood stove. I even added a pull-out piano support in front of the potting bench. Without any plants to talk to, I sang and played piano throughout the cold winter. I even hosted a men's barbershop practise session: three guys happily singing about spring in the greenhouse.



And here we are today in glorious wet spring, I sit happier now in my greenhouse with winter behind us. New begonia plants in russet coloured clay pots sit beside me. Pretty Bird water saucers hold them; and over near the begonias, zinnias open their arms to the light from the safety of a white styrofoam box. Outside, under a new vertical cold frame, fresh cuttings of geraniums, pansies and fuschias lift themselves up. I even bought some Chinese broccoli at the Super Store just to see if the stalks would root: they seem to be doing fine. Of course I ate the tops first. I did the same with green onions. New dark green shoots now bristle in trays of black compost.

Hope has its season. If we wait long enough it will come again. It regrows in the smallest of places even after the coldest winter.



Food for thought

- by Judith Brook

This may be of interest to those among you concerned about sustainable food production. Have a look at this link about Michael Ableman and his latest book, *Street Farm: Growing Food, Jobs, and Hope on the Urban Frontier*. <http://modernfarmer.com/2017/04/five-minute-mentor-michael-ableman/>



Lynn Valley Garden Club - Annual Members' Garden Tour - July 8, 2017

It's time to show off your hard work to your fellow gardeners! The Club is planning its annual tour of members gardens and wants to include *YOUR* garden this year. Have you found the secret to growing tasty tomatoes? Do you have a vertical garden with lots of climbing vines? A special quiet retreat in your backyard? We're not looking for perfection or perfectly weeded flower-beds - we do want to showcase your solutions to garden challenges - (for example areas that are clay or steep or shady or boggy). And if you are looking for ideas to solve problems - club members can bring their suggestions.

We have one volunteer garden now and ideally would like an additional 3-4 gardens - please see Penny LeCouteur or Susan Huber if you'd like to know more or if you want to suggest another members' garden that you've visited. ☺ (Penny & Susan will be at May meeting, or you can email us: lynnvalleygardenclub@gmail.com)



Rescue of Wild Flowers

- by Rosemarie Adams

One of the members of the Alpine Garden Club is involved in a project to try to rescue native wildflowers. This group seeks out locations including properties held by development companies where rezoning notices are posted and even urban lots where homes have been or are being demolished and are known to have likely contained native plantings. Plants are dug up and relocated into areas where they would naturally grow. Replanting is being done with the consent from local authorities involved. The project would like to receive reports with as much info as possible - address/location, property size, type of vegetation, any specific knowledge of native flowers present, and any phone number and contact name that may be posted on rezoning application signs (contractor, consultant, owner or engineering firm). It is late now for many of the natives so it is urgent that we receive any information as soon as possible.

If you know of any properties in your neighbourhood scheduled for re-development where native plants are possibly going to be destroyed, please keep this group in mind. The contact person is Janet O'Connor - email: j2anvier@me.com

Thank you for any help in finding such properties!!

UFO-s

- from Jennifer Sydenham

The first two are rhododendrons - really! - with the one on the left having a price-tag of \$100!



The second two are unidentified plants from Portugal. Would you know what they are? The yellow shrub has brilliant leaves, not flowers, that maybe turn green later; the pink one is really more purple than pink and is some sort of fruit tree - but what sort?



EVENTS

Sunday June 25 from 10 AM to 4 PM

The **South Delta Garden Club**, in partnership with The Rotary Club of Tsawwassen, is hosting
a 10-garden self-guided tour

As the number of tickets will be limited we will attend LVGC's *May meeting only* to sell tickets directly to your members at the advance purchase price. As an added incentive we would like to donate two free tickets to your raffle when we come. Tickets go on sale May 12 at three retail locations in Ladner and Tsawwassen for \$15 each. On the day of the tour they will be sold at one location only for \$20 each.

As a bonus, tour-goers will have private access to the Secret Garden of Boundary Bay, a labour of love by one local resident. The garden has been described as 'so elegantly designed and cleverly planted that you would think it had been done by a team of professionals.'



The "Compost Bin"

- by Maria Issa

In case you missed it (I didn't!) – but absolutely plan to participate next year, *the first Sunday in May was World Naked Gardening Day*. It is a quintessential Westcoast event – started in Seattle a few years ago and one that has since spread across the globe: go figure!

There is a website: not for the faint-hearted, as not all nudes are Michelangelo models, but here it is for the rest of you. <http://www.wngd.org/index.html>

Wikipedia also gives WNGD an honourable mention, as did the <http://www.seattletimes.com/life/lifestyle/world-naked-gardening-started-in-seattle/>

For those of you who wish to "test it out" before launching your own next year, here is some practical advice from New Zealand.... And no, had a hand in this.

1. Stay away from rose bushes and brambles. This is not the day to plants. Similarly, plants with sap, toxins and possible allergenic best avoided. Instead, weed around your barenaked ladies (1) and (2).



2. Wear sunblock – yes, (and in Vancouver, bug repellent).

3. You won't have pockets for and other useful bits, so keep a trug or small bucket at hand.

4. A kneeling pad protects your knees and could well prove useful in other positions.

5. Vigorous digging may help you keep warm. If you have nothing to dig up, working in the greenhouse could do the trick.

6. Warn your neighbours to keep their curtains closed or retreat to a more secluded patch. People have

flashing the neighbourhood.

7. Power tools of any kind are best avoided.



Seattle Times
day-it-all-

(private?) event
Penny has not

put in prickly
properties are
peter peppers

everywhere.

your secateurs

been arrested for

