



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

September 2017

President's Message - Penny LeCouteur

Welcome back. I am writing this on the Labour Day long weekend and it is hot and dry. Hopefully by the time you read this we will have had some welcome rain. Hard to believe that in June I would never have put the words "welcome" and "rain" together in the same sentence. After an incredibly rainy spring we have evidently set a dryness record for July and August. From looking ahead at the weather forecast it seems there may be a chance of a shower next weekend. When we had that bit of rain late in the evening towards the end of July, I ran outside and danced in the glorious feel of it - truly. My cats thought I had gone cuckoo but my plants understood completely.

We had a very successful LVGC Members' Gardens Tour on July 9th. It is really great to see the amazing gardens that our members cultivate with delight and dedication. Each garden is so different but they all share the same feeling of being a sanctuary for their owner(s). Thank you Wayne, Aline, Daphne and Jackie for sharing. And thank you Susan for hosting our lunch at your 'non' garden!!!

On Sunday 25th June, two carloads of LVGC members went to the South Delta Garden Club Tour. Spectacular gardens, sunny weather and a nice picnic spot sort of near the beach. Although South Delta is not that far away from the North Shore there was a marked difference in how seasonally advanced their gardens were. Plants that we would be waiting another 3 - 4 weeks to flower were blooming in profusion. Fruit was ripening and vegetables were flourishing well ahead of ours. For the most part the gardens we saw were flat. All very different from our treed and sloping North Shore. The South Delta Garden Club had done a great job in organizing this tour and we managed to chat to a few of their members and pass on our congratulations for a very successful event - the tickets had been sold out.

It has been suggested that our upcoming general meeting be a "**seedy September**" meeting. This doesn't mean that you have to turn up wearing shabby, ill fitting clothes, feeling ill, looking out-of sorts and telling off-colour jokes. (Actually 'shabby and ill-fitting' is a perfect description of my gardening clothes so feel free to wear what you feel is comfortable.) What we mean, of course, is that if you have saved seeds from your garden this summer and have some to spare then put them in envelopes or scotch-taped folded paper, labeled with their name and the date and we will put them out on a table for everyone to help themselves. I already have a million delphinium seeds and tens of thousands of hollyhock seeds ready to go. And speaking of hollyhocks have any of you ever visited "Hollyhock" on Cortes Island? A sort of left-over from the seventies enclave (wisdom, wellness, meditation *etc*) with an absolutely spectacular garden. I'd seen the garden ten years ago and it was just as incredible this summer. If you get a chance, visit it.

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

September 21

Life Space Gardening

"Community Cultivation for Sustainable Business, Food Systems & Cities"

October 19

Botanus

"Fall in Love with Unusuals"

Mailing Address:

Lynn Valley Garden Club
P.O. Box 16053

1199 Lynn Valley Road
North Vancouver, BC
V7J 3S9

<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>

September LEAF photo credits: **Rita Marshall, Carol Ferryman, Maria Issa**

2017 Executive

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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: October 4, 7:30 PM

Chez Susan Huber

Next Newsletter Deadline

September 13, 2017

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

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



SPEAKER

LifeSpace GARDENS --- Thursday, September 21, 2017

LifeSpace Gardens build handcrafted self-watering gardens. They help people “grow the good life” on the North Shore & in Metro Vancouver - on balconies, in yards, on rooftops and in the most beautiful public spaces! <https://www.lifespacgardens.com/>
“We found that the biggest challenge standing in people's way was water. Remembering when to water, making sure plants have enough water, and not making a mess with water. So we developed and patented a self-watering system that over comes all of those challenges and more.”



REPORTS

VP Report - Judith Brook

You have lots to look forward to this year. The following speakers are booked:

Oct 19, 2017 Botanus

Topic: "Fall in Love with Unusuals" This is

all about the unusual bulbs you can plant in the fall to enjoy in the springtime.

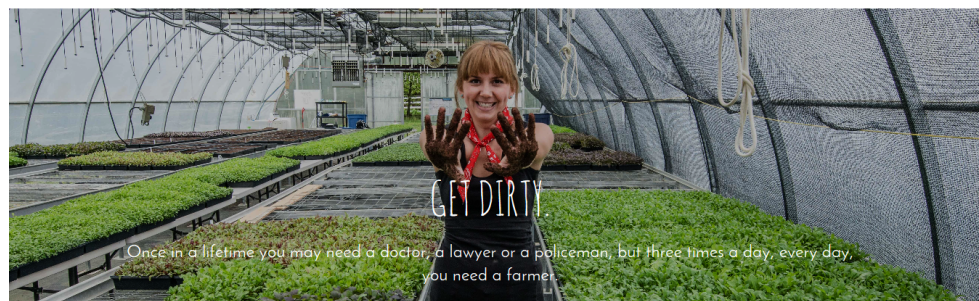
Nov 16, 2017 Laurica Farms, Aldergrove Topic: sustainable growing, permaculture, making ethical food choices, basic growing techniques on a five-acre farm in Aldergrove.

Dec 13 [!!!!] 2017 Christmas Party - of Fete of some sort. Note that this will be the SECOND Thursday in December.

Jan 18 2018 [Surprise!!!! - but very exciting....]

BUSINESS: The annual BUDGET will be presented in October, for mature reflection, then voted in November.

...and Judith wishes to remind you of the following:



Secretary - Susan Huber

You might be interested in knowing all the wonderful things LVGC supported this year:

- BC Council of Garden Clubs - administered by VanCity with scholarships given to students in agriculture programs throughout BC
- North Vancouver District Public Library - used for the purchase of gardening books
- Friends of Park & Tilford Gardens - used for items to enhance the gardens
- Cedar Gardens at Cedarview Lodge (Vancouver Coastal Health) - used to purchase bedding plants, replace gardening equipment, etc

- North Shore Hospice (Lions Gate Hospital Foundation) - used to enhance the gardens between Shakespeare House and North Shore Hospice
- Evergreen Therapy Garden (Lions Gate Hospital Foundation) - used to buy plants and gardening items
- Margaret Fulton Centre (Lions Gate Hospital Foundation) - Adult Day Care Centre for Disabled - used for purchase of plants and gardening items
- Kiwanis Care Center - for plants and maintenance of Sensory Garden
- Seeds of Diversity Canada - supports the Canadian Seed Catalogue, heirloom and endangered varieties
- Wild Bird Trust - WBT operates Maplewood Bird Sanctuary
- Wildlife Rescue Association of BC - located in Burnaby, injured animals/birds found on the North Shore are cared for at this facility
- St. Clements Church - to be spent at the discretion of the church

Treasurer's Report - Jennifer Sydenham

At the end of August we had: \$5,000 in equity, \$2,000 in reserve and \$4,046.08 in operating funds. ...and yes, the new budget will be in *The Leaf* in October: keep an eye out for it.

Membership Report - Bonnie Noakes

LVGC membership currently stands at 120. People interested in becoming members are asked to email lynnvalleygardenclub@gmail.com for information.

Hospitality - Kitty Castle & Carole Cobbett & Susan Nicholls

- Our ever-familiar message to please try and bring your own mug to the meetings. Thank you."
- [Also please get into the habit and grab a non-perishable item for the food bank!! - *Maria*]



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

- Aline Burlone

- Under the heading *Guest Speakers* - Cathy Nakagawa (June 15, 2017 guest speaker) can be found under Past Speaker by name (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/guest-speakers/past-speakers-by-name/>)
- Under the heading *Bulletin Board*
 - Interesting articles - there is an article on rain gardens "Imagine 12,000 Rain Gardens on Vancouver's North Shore" and an article on the Doomsday Vault in Norway that stores seeds from all over the world and how it is threatened by climate change. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/bulletin-board/interesting-articles/>)
 - Announcement - there is the announcement of the bulb sale at the Silver Harbor Seniors Activity Centre (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/bulletin-board/announcements/>)
- Under the heading *Newsletter* - 2017 - the June 2017 newsletter has been posted. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/newsletters/2017-2/>)
- Under the heading *Links*
 - Under the section General Gardening Information there is a link to the SFU Faculty of Environment's public talk Imagine 12,000 Rain Gardens on Vancouver's North Shore with guest speaker Dr. Aaron Clark. This link includes the video, summary and slides of the his talk (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/general-gardening-information/>)

- Under the section Plant Information there is a link to the UBC Hortline - plant advice. (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/plant-information/>)
 - Under the section Gardens to visit (in BC) there is a link to The Gardens at Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP), home to the Pacific Horticulture College (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/gardens/>)
 - Under the section Invasive Plants and Pests there is a link to information about the Japanese Beetle (<http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/links/invasive-plants-and-pests/>)
- Check the September and October 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



2017 Members' Garden Tour

- Penny LeCouteur

Saturday July 8th saw LVGC members assemble in the parking lot of St. Clement's Church to could organize the car-pools to the gardens we were going to see.

First up was Wayne Smith's Deep Cove Garden. Wayne's garden is often included in our garden tour and members never tire of seeing the ingenious contraptions that Wayne creates to water, fertilize and support his (mainly) vegetable plants. There is always something new to marvel at. This year Wayne had renovated his original greenhouse over the winter. A pull-out piano support is a useful addition to the front of the potting bench. (The greenhouse does double duty as a barbershop group practice room.) A 45-gallon grey plastic barrel contains a very dilute solution of fertilizer solution and special valves allow watering only when the baskets below need water. This method works well as the tomatoes and cucumbers being irrigated are the size of small trees. Another innovative watering system supplies from below.



Underneath a rectangle of green indoor/outdoor carpet is a thick layer of plastic and on it are a number of small flower pots. One hose nozzle allows a slow drip onto the green carpet and the plants soak up water from the carpet. This bottom watering encourages good deep root growth reflected in the abundant flowering of the healthy plants.



Flowers too, have a definite place in Wayne's garden, spilling over in attractive cascades from many hanging baskets. Clever pulley systems allow for easy lowering and raising and the ability to turn the basket around occasionally so that light can reach all sides.

Wayne's front garden is a meadow with a meandering pathway through it. The length of the grass discourages chafer beetles!!

Aline Burlone and Peter Kennedy's garden was our second stop. The very front garden (road allowance?) boasts wooden garden boxes and a lovely small rock wall that was completely covered up when they moved to the house in 1994. They are experimenting with various lawn alternatives to reduce weeds, discourage chafer beetles and encourage pollinators. In the 23 years since moving here, judicious pruning of some original mature trees, much clearing out of undergrowth and lots of additional planting (Japanese maple, clematis vines, roses, hosta, lilacs, honeysuckle, magnolia, rhododendrons, azaleas and peonies) have made this garden a delight.

Aline and Peter continue to expand the perennial beds and to reduce the lawn area. The back garden is very private thanks to mature trees around the perimeter. There is a small and well-used greenhouse, a water feature and many bird feeders. Sedums, succulents and small cacti are planted in home made tufa containers. (Tufa - or hypertufa - is a mix of Portland cement, perlite, water and other things you may want to add. I was intrigued enough to google it and found a site from Lowes <https://www.lowes.com/creative-ideas/woodworking-and-crafts/make-hypertufa-pots/project> that gave a good overview, instruction and pictures. And for the

domestic goddesses (and gods) amongst you, try Martha Stewart's method from <http://www.marthastewart.com/268962/hypertufa-pots>



For our third visit we continued west to the arresting garden Jackie and Jim Morris have created over the last 25 years. With a nearly 100 year-old

property, there are numerous old trees that provide full shade to certain areas of the garden: perfect for the large hosta plants that nestle under the shade, and in marked contrast to the full sun areas where amazing amounts of vegetables thrive. The greenhouse is well used. Jackie starts her vegetables from seed - remember the profusion of beautiful vegetable plants that Jackie brought for the LVGC sale!! It required a truck and trailer to transport them to the church basement. On the very sunny deck are mobile planter boxes with many tomato plants. The 'mobile' means that the planters can be moved easily around the deck to capture maximum sunshine during the day. No wonder these plants were so big and so healthy.

There are numerous areas that get both shade and sun, where perennials, shrubs and fruit trees flourish. Jim's bonsai collection is integrated into the garden. Some of the bonsai trees are very young (just starting to be "bonsaied") and others are many years old. Some bonsai trees are in pots, others are growing on a flat piece of slate with a mounded moss-covered base. They are amazing. A waterfall feature provides a peaceful mummer in the background. New additions since the LVGC last visited this garden is a honeybee hive and an alternative ground cover "lawn" which started as West Coast Seeds mix and has now evolved to include seasonal bulbs, buttercup and hardy geranium. Beneficial insects love this "lawn", so along with the

bees, pollinating should never be a problem at the Morris garden.

Our final garden brought us back almost to the St. Clement's parking lot. In fact Daphne Page's home used to be the vicarage built for the Minister of St. Clement's Church and it backs onto the church. As you walk along the path from the parking lot into where we meet each month, peer through the trees on your right and you will glimpse Daphne's back garden. For this visit most of us approached from the front of the house. The driveway crosses the creek and when Daphne bought the house the creek banks were a tangle of blackberry. The blackberry is now all gone and the banks of the stream shelter native plants, shade-loving perennials and small trees. With the soft sound of water moving over rocks this is a thoroughly peaceful welcome to an amazing property.

The house is large - the original minister had a very large family - and was too large for Daphne's needs so she has divided it into two totally separate living quarters with an upstairs and downstairs for each. Daphne's living area looks out to the back of the house (towards the church) and she has established an English country garden feeling with the flowers and shrubs, and her woodland stream meandering around the side and back. Still a work in progress - aren't all gardens? - there is a boggy area being worked on and lots and lots of pots on the deck.

...And so to lunch at Susan Huber's place. Susan claims her garden is a "backyard" and not a garden but that didn't stop us from looking and enjoying as we ate our picnic lunches in the peaceful green oasis

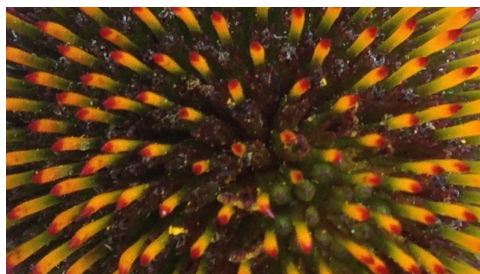


Mystery Picture

??????? What's this ????????

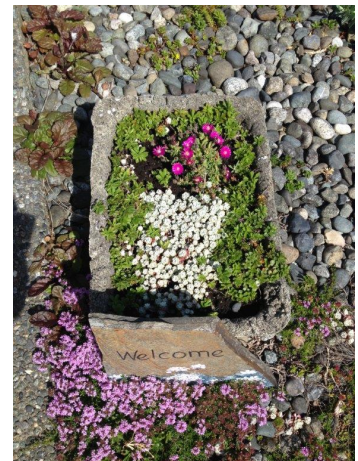
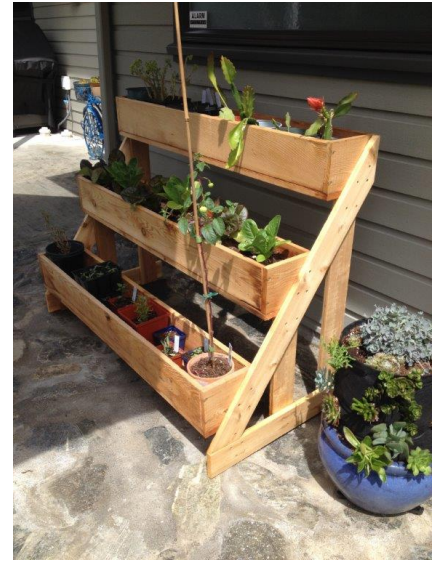
- Sue Callahan

[answer at end of The Leaf]



Delta Garden Tour – a few random pictures from among many sent by Sue Callahan

To continue, unintentionally, the theme from the LVGC gardens, I've pulled a bunch of interesting containers: somehow most of them seem to contain an assortment of beautifully displayed succulents. Maybe it's envy, rather than beauty in the eye of this beholder. There are such creative, artistic approaches to filling in odd spaces. Inspiring!!



Shirley Barber

Inga Steinbach kindly passed us the sad news from Shirley Barber's daughter Christine that *Shirley Barber* died on August 15th. Shirley was a long-time member of LVGC and enjoyed the club and her interactions with LVGC members. To honour her, LVGC members were invited to attend her memorial service/reception at the Boal Chapel on August 26th. The family had requested that instead of bought flowers, those attending bring something from their own gardens. Judith Brook and others attended the lovely ceremony.

Bonnie Noakes went back in her records and found that Shirley had joined our Club in 1989 being one of the original members when the Club reopened. Shirley served as a Member-At-Large in 1995 & 1996. She also held the position of Secretary in 2004-2005. As one of our longest participating members, Shirley will be missed.



*****ASSORTED CRITTERS*****

BEWARE: Invasive Japanese Beetles!! - thanks to Linda Schell, Rosemarie Adams, Doreen Marbry

E-blast from Phoenix Perennials
Hello Fellow Gardeners,

I'm alarmed to be sending this email spread the word so gardeners can be on the their gardens.

The Japanese beetle is an invasive wide range of garden plants. My America speak of gardens ravaged by this size of the nail on your index finger and can eastern North America but is not yet on the



to you but I think it is important that we look-out for the presence of Japanese beetle in

species that can do considerable harm to a horticultural colleagues in eastern North hungry pest. A Japanese beetle is about the be shiny green or shiny black. It has invaded West Coast. Until now.

Recently, the Japanese beetle has of Vancouver. It is not known how the Japanese beetle arrived in Vancouver. It could have come in on infected nursery stock or soil or adults could have hitched a ride on trains or cars traveling from the east.

been detected by CFIA in the False Creek area of Vancouver. It could have come in on infected nursery stock or soil or adults could have hitched a ride on trains or cars traveling from the east.

If you live in Vancouver, please familiarize yourself with the information below and follow the links for more discussion.

Please also share this email with your gardening friends in the city. If infested debris or soil is transported out of False Creek, the Japanese beetle could pop up in other neighbourhoods.

Also, I think it wise for gardeners elsewhere in the Lower Mainland and BC to be aware of the Japanese beetle so please have a look and also forward to your gardening friends and neighbours so you can be on the look-out.

We do not want this pest in BC! On the off chance that you were to ever discover a beetle that looks like Japanese beetle in your garden or in a park, please contact the CFIA immediately!
Cheers, Gary and the Phoenicians

There is lots of good information on this link: PLEASE READ.

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-pests-invasive-species/insects/japanese-beetle/eng/1328048149161/1328048244390>

Wanted - bald-faced hornet and yellowjacket nests

- ? We collect wasp nests **FREE** of charge
- ? Nests will be used for behavioural research and must be living, and never sprayed with pesticide
- ? If you have a nest, please contact us at sfuwasps@gmail.com or call our lab at (778)-782-5939 and ask for Lorna



So did anyone else, besides Carol Ferryman, actually call these people?
Here is Carol's story. Read on.....

Wasps Up

- Carol Ferryman

Here are some photos of our wasps' nest and its removal by Lorna Tu and her colleague, Regina, from SFU. I contacted her by email on July 10 and received a reply by return asking for a description of the nest and the wasps. She then suggested coming over the



following Wednesday, July 19 at 9 p.m. which they did. They wanted to wait until it was dark before starting the process so that as many wasps as possible were inside the nest.

As you can see from the photos, they wore special protective clothing when they climbed the ladder to remove the nest that was placed in a large plastic bag for transporting to SFU. The last two photos show the nest in its new home.

We had a few stragglers flying around the area of the nest for a few days but apparently they usually die without the security of the nest.

Wasps are actually very useful as they eat bugs and help with pollination. Unfortunately, they do sting as discovered by neighbour who was stung beside his eye when he unwittingly knocked the nest in his laurel hedge when mowing the lawn. I have also enclosed a photo of his nest as it's so beautiful. He didn't seek the assistance of the SFU team.

♪ ♪ ♪ "Where have all the flowers gone, long time passing?..." ♪ ♪ ♪
Yvonne Kabata

The fate of Yvonne's sunflowers is pretty clear.



District Compost Bins
info from Rosemarie Adams

If one box does not meet your needs, you can order a second Green Box, at no cost, by calling [604-984-9730](tel:604-984-9730)

Rain Gardens -

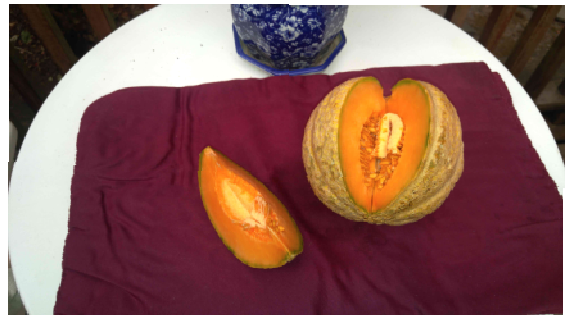
- from Judith Brook

Many attended SFU's Faculty of Environment's public talk *Imagine 12,000 Rain Gardens on Vancouver's North Shore* with guest speaker Dr. Aaron Clark.

Following his engaging and helpful talk, we were pleased to hear reports of in-process-, planned- and hoped-for- plans for rain gardens in our community. We have posted a link to the video of the talk, as well as a summary of the talk, including his slides here: <https://www.sfu.ca/fenv/professional-programs/north-shore-rain-garden-project.html>

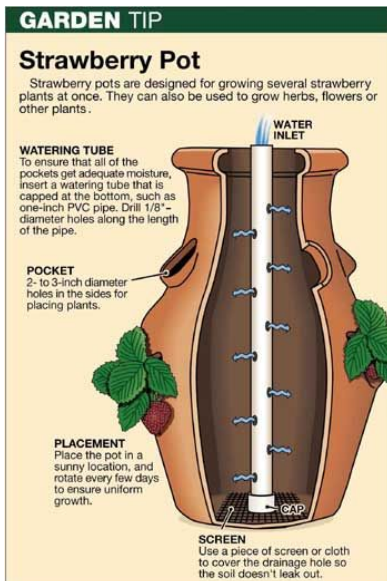
If you would like to be kept posted on the details of our rain garden project, please let us know by email (envp-info@sfu.ca). We will add you to our mailing list.

“Vegimates in the sun” [Note: not “Vegemite”!!!] was the caption for this pic (left): Bruce, Yvonne and Tom – head start on next year’s veggies? OH MY: Talk about veggies - Tom and Bruce harvested competing hoards, enough to make the rest of us green (or red) with envy. This is just a sampling....



Plants for next year (or the Plant Sale!)

- sourced by Rosemarie Adams



Growing Strawberries or Herbs in “Strawberry Pots”

I love to grow strawberries in these pots, but found it frustrating when watering that the water would pour out of the top pockets and not get to the soil below.

The answer is to insert a tube pipe in the pot, capped at the bottom with holes drilled throughout. You then water through the top pipe and the water goes all the way down the pot. Make sure the pipe is about 2 inches above the top soil line to ensure soil does not get into it and block it. You can also cover the top with a small piece of screen, or if you are loosening the topsoil or adding soil or plants at the top, you can stuff a piece of paper towel in the top while you work. These pots are also great for growing herbs, especially if you have limited space, you can grow a different herb in each pocket.

The Plant Dating Site.....

I'm sure there are plants out there looking for a partner: we all have surpluses, things we're trying to beat into submission, split, trade out, just basically hate, or love, but have waaaaay too much of. Or, like the furniture, the garden needs rearranging ** right now ** because I can't stand it a moment longer. Soooo *TheLeaf* is hereby starting a "plant dating site": send us your lonely plants looking for a garden, or *vice versa*, your lonely spot in the garden, looking for that perfect plant - and we will try to match you up. Remember that song from *Fiddler on the Roof*? "Matchmaker, matchmaker, make me a match, find me a find, catch me a catch...." Yes, you can always pot things up for the plant sale - but that's far away still; or bring to the Plant Table - that's always a good idea! - but sometimes you just dream of a certain *Whatzinamae anywayii* that you have wanted forever, but can't find... well ask away! Maybe someone in the Club has exactly that, but how would you know, if you don't ask?

So while we're at it - let's get started: there are plants available all over...



1. There is a great selection of daffodil and tulip bulbs available at *Silver Harbour Seniors' Activity Centre* (see attached photos) - just \$2 per bag and each bag has at least a dozen bulbs in it. As in past years, these are the high quality bulbs that the City of North Vancouver has used this past spring and that SHSAC has processed ready for Fall planting. The bulbs are for sale Mon to Fri, 9 am to 4:15 pm.



2. *Elizabeth Jones* - has tall hardy orange lilies to give away. If you would like some, please contact *The Leaf*, and magically, you will be connected and then can make your own digging arrangements.

3. *Sheila Hall* contacted LVGC, saying "I have a flower bed that I want to convert to a patio. There are several peonies, a small rhododendron, ground-cover plants, black grass and small conifers. I would like to think they went to a good home, to someone who will enjoy them. They are free to anyone who is prepared to dig them up. Are any of your members interested?" - Well, if you are, contact *The Leaf* and more magic will happen - contact info will appear in your email.

4. If you are interested in a *Ganera*, send a note to *The Leaf*. My aunty's monster had babies!! - m



The doomsday vault that's supposed to store every known crop on the planet is in danger.
- sourced from The Guardian by Judith Brook

<http://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/world/the-doomsday-vault-thats-supposed-to-store-every-known-crop-on-the-planet-is-in-danger/ss-BBBjN33?li=AAggNb9&ocid=mailsignout#image=1>

"If everything goes wrong - if because of disaster, climate change, or nuclear war, life as we know comes to an end, with parts of the earth rendered inhospitable with widespread environmental devastation - the Svalbard Global Seed Vault is a resource that could come to our rescue.

Hidden about 400 feet inside a mountain on a remote island between mainland Norway and the North Pole, the vault stores valuable seeds from crops all over the world. It's supposed to be protected and stay at a safe temperature to store all those seeds. But extreme temperatures in the Arctic this winter - combined with heavy rain instead of snow - led to melting permafrost that gushed into the tunnel leading into the vault, according to a report in *The Guardian*, raising questions about whether the doomsday vault will survive a warming planet.

"It was not in our plans to think that the permafrost would not be there and that it would experience extreme weather like that," Hege Njaa Aschim, an official in the Norwegian government, which controls the vault, told *The Guardian*. "A lot of water went into the start of the tunnel and then it froze to ice, so it was like a glacier when you went in." The water didn't travel all the way down into the vault, which is still safe, and officials could chip all the ice out the entryway.

GoldGreenfinger - a secret spy story

- by Wayne Smith

A homeowner living on a street near mine has three lovely planters at the end of his driveway. Petunias in soft blended tones; creams, yellows and mauves spill in mounds over deep black plastic planters.

- "Wonderful planters you have there," I tell him as I drive by. He grins.

- "How did you do it?"

- "Just luck I guess" and his grin widens.

- "They're the best in the neighbourhood." I compliment him. "You could win a contest with those!"

He beams. I roll up my car window, head off, hoping next year will be the same fantastic display.

It hasn't always been that way. In fact, for the past five years, those three plastic planters sat at the roadside full of jet-black soil and nothing much else.

I longed to see something growing there, maybe a flow of color marking the man's home as his pride. But no, the planters seemed to have only one purpose, and that was to divide up the parking spots between the houses.

Finally I could bear it no more. Passing by the naked planters one evening with an armload of free, cast-away purple petunias from the garden store - I planted, quietly, fast, while no one was looking in the growing dusk. I quickly stooped, dug three quick holes and dunked in some sorry looking petunias, one only, in each planter. I expected them to die in a few days or be

pulled and discarded. Nothing else blooms in that yard so I supposed the homeowner hated watering and caring for planters.

But still, for a few days, it would be fun. I tossed in a handful of fertilizer for an added measure of hope. I was

surprised to watch the toughness of the petunia in a dry black planter. Meager purple blooms clung on in despair. Yet life triumphed in the weeks to follow. The plants held on and just as I was breathing a sigh of relief; one day they were gone. "Ah well" I thought, "never mind: I tried".

But no, hope was not gone: within a week a whole new set of plants appeared in the planters; real beauties! Had I started something in a small way, which took off and bloomed gloriously? Was the shameful appearance of my scrawny donated petunias too much for the homeowner? I really don't know, but now I can see that a little hope and encouragement goes a long way.

I just hope that next year I don't have to sneak by with thrown-out purple petunias.



Phoenix Garden

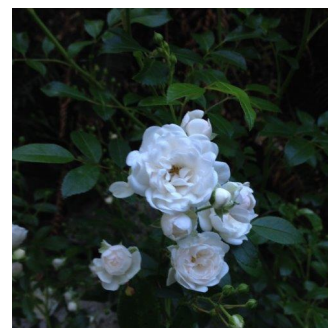
-by Sue Callahan

[Last year's Members' Garden Tour took us to Sue's renaissance garden. Here is this year's progress. Brings to mind a line from a Beatles song - "With a little help from my (LVGC) friends" -- ed]

The first picture shows the kale plant I bought from the garden sale - it helped put a lot of salads on our table.

The next is the 'before' picture. Norma Ferguson (from the garden club) in October/November she gave us a lot of plants/shrubs/etc. This is it 'after': flowering this summer - bees absolutely love it!! Norma also gave us quite a few roses - so, we now have a rose garden in the garden of weeden...

The next is our rhodo that was burned in the fire, as you can see it is doing well and recuperating.



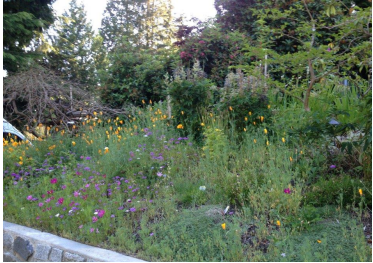
Thanks to all who helped with saving our plants!



Then there were some of the daffodils (bulbs) that I bought from Silver Harbour (thanks to a tip from LVGC) - basically all the tulip bulbs were food for the squirrels during this past winter (oh well, I guess they have to eat too). Lesson learned: this summer, I got just daffodils and will be planting again this fall.

The yucca plant is the one that I believe you left for me? And in behind is the red thing (I can never remember the name [*Crocosmium lucifer*]). We have them throughout the yard and they have given us lots of joy.

This is the wild flowers that re-seeded themselves this summer.



"You only live twice" [another Bond theme going here]

by Rosemarie Adams



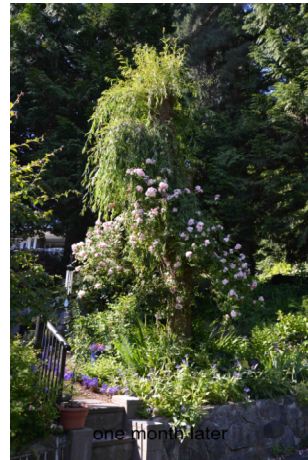
Had an old willow tree in our front yard. It had been there for a long time: bad pruning, winter/wind/snow damage - it looked pretty ugly. The suggestion was to remove it entirely, but as lots of birds liked the tree, and it supported a very pretty New Dawn climbing rose, I really didn't want it to go entirely. Called in *Tree Brothers* service, and this is how it went:

April - ugly tree;

May 1st - severe pruning;

June 1st, growing already;

Mid July - looks beautiful.



Demystified picture:

