



LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

June 2019

President's Message – Anna Marie D'Angelo

It struck me that we were probably doing well at the plant sale when after 30 minutes of opening, I went to move some of the old garden equipment to a better spot already vacated by the rapidly vanishing hostas and MAL Daphne Page asked me, "What are you doing? They are all sold!!"

Really? Up to that point, I had thought that it was just the veggies and hostas that were flying off the tables. *Note to self:* Everyone thank treasurer Ginette Handfield for setting up four parallel cashiers this year instead of the usual three. The huge line to pay was bad enough with four working as fast as possible. Can't imagine how it would have gone with our usual three. Not only were our customers patient, many of them were generous, telling the cashiers to "keep the change" from their purchases.

We netted an astounding \$7,078.94. This amount represents a 51% increase compared to the plant sale net proceeds of \$4,687.64 in 2018 – which was a good year too. The revenues from the raffle and honey included in this year's total were \$478 and \$342 respectively (compared to \$424 and \$136 in 2018). Wow, wow, wow.

Thanks go to MALs Doreen Dew, Daphne Page, Linda Howe and Hiromi Matsui for all their hard work preparing for the sale. There were also many members who made large contributions with their time and their plants. Thanks to everyone who worked hard on both days. It was amazing. What a group! *[it was fun! -ed]*

We now have a "problem" deciding what we should do with all this cash we made. I personally don't have much experience with this kind of problem but I am told it can be resolved. In next year's budget, the club will increase donations, put some money aside to rent space for our meetings when the church hall gets renovated; and increase amounts provided for the bus trip, members' garden tour and Christmas party. That is still going to leave us with plenty of money to spend. More on this in September but if anyone has suggestions, we'd love to hear from you.

The sun shone on our bus trip this month to the UBC Botanical Garden and Southlands Nursery. It was a lovely day with some members sitting on the grass to enjoy lunch. It was a treat to see Thomas Hobbs, who knows his plants and is a lovely, considerate person. Thanks to Rosemarie Adams, Diane Sekora and Doreen Marbry for taking care of everything for the bus trip.

The last in the Triple Crown of garden club spring/summer activities is the Members' Gardens tour on Saturday, July 6. Information is in this Leaf. You will get a reminder email and map to the gardens which include Loutet Farm, Gerry's Garden (next door), Pat Holmes' garden and yours truly's place for lunch.

Lastly, I want to warmly welcome the 15 people who joined in May. I hope you enjoy being part of the club. Happy gardening and a reminder that there are no meetings in July and August.

LVGC MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August) at

St. Stephen's Church
1360 E 24th Street

Please note that meetings start promptly at 7:15 PM

SPEAKERS

June 20
AFFINOR GROWERS
Vertical Gardening

July & August
No meetings, just gardening!
See you in September.

Mailing Address:
Lynn Valley Garden Club
P.O. Box 16053
1199 Lynn Valley Road
North Vancouver, BC
V7J 3S9

<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>
lvgc.membership@gmail.com

2018 Executive

President

Anna Marie D'Angelo
xxx

Vice President

Penny LeCouteur xxx

Secretary

Jackie Morris xxx

Treasurer

Ginette Handfield
xxx

Membership

Susan Huber xxx

Sue Callahan xxx

Members at Large

Daphne Page xxx

Doreen Dew xxx

Hiromi Matsui xxx

Linda Howe xxx

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa xxx

Plant Table

Norma Buckland xxx

Hospitality

Carole Cobbett xxx

Susan Nicholls xxx

Maggie Davis xxx

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Shirley Lawson xxx

Website

Aline Burlone xxx

Executive Meetings

1st Wednesday of the month

Next Meeting: Sep 4, 7:30 PM

Chez PENNY LECOUREUR

xx

Next Newsletter Deadline

September 11, 2019

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

[mailto:lynnvalleygardenclub
newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com)

Thanks to all who contributed
to this edition: Norma Austin,

Lynn Batt, Judith Brook, Sue
Callahan, Anna Marie D'Angelo,
Barb Downman, Linda Howe
Wayne Smith, Bruce Tennant



REPORTS

VP Report

Interesting speakers are lined up for the remainder of the season and for September. Ideas for speakers are always welcome!

Treasurer's Report - Ginette Handfield

As you have already heard through the email grapevine of the Bus Tour announcement - this year, the **PLANT SALE netted a whopping \$7078.97** including the raffle and honey sales. That is pretty incredible. Fasten your seatbelts and expect a lively discussion in September about how to spend some of the lovely money.

The club's assets as of 31 May, 2019:

Cash on hand	\$539.60
Bank balance	<u>\$15,774.02</u>
Total	\$16,313.62

Membership Report - Susan Huber & Sue Callahan

The Plant Sale brought in something even more valuable - new friends! Read on: LVGC now has 140 members!! We are delighted to welcome fifteen new members who joined during the past month.

Hope to see all of you at the June 20th meeting and the Members' Gardens Tour on Saturday, July 6th.

***If you did not pick up your LVGC 75th Anniversary T-shirt in May - check at the Membership Desk. [They are incredibly comfy to wear, so don't forget them! -ed]

Hospitality - Carole Cobbett & Susan Nicholls & Maggie Davis

.... our ever-constant reminder to try and remember to bring your own mug to meetings!!!!
[...and as you think of your own treats, think of something to treat the foodbank -ed]

[The hospitality team kept us "fed and watered" - treated! - before, during and after the Plant Sale. Our good spirits and enjoyment of our time together is partially due to their "input". -ed]

MALs - Doreen Dew, Linda Howe, Hiromi Matsui, Daphne Page

Well, Ladies and Gentlemen - **We DID IT!**

We had a phenomenally successful Plant Sale! Thank you to all of our members who donated (literally thousands) of plants and stepped up to help in so many ways.

We were lucky with the weather: it was warm and sunny. This helped to increase the number of people who came to our sale to over 450! Needless to say, our fabulous advertising (articles, banners, signs, pre-sale promo) also helped enormously to create community awareness.

Having a much bigger space made for a wonderful ambiance. St. Stephen's Hall looked fabulous, and the quality of the plants, veggies, trees, particularly the *hostas*, was stunning. Our members were extremely busy helping beaming customers. We virtually sold out: there were only a few plants left to donate to the Edible Garden Project and Carisbrooke School.

Our Honey Queen, Kitty, sold 139 jars! [She baited people in with free samples, then reeled them in!] and our raffle team of Rita and the two Normas made a whopping \$478.00!

With the extra space we had this year, we were able to have a few more tables to sell some different items and display different topics. New this year were:

1. There was an interesting historical 75th Birthday Display of photos from our club's past, created and curated by Linda Howe. Some of the display will be available at the North

Vancouver Archives.

2. Barbara Frisken and her friend June explained about *invasive species*; and their display had a lot of interest; and last but definitely not least,

4. Daphne did an amazing job of selling all those old tools and funky & weird stuff that you donated! [There were some things she nearly sold twice as she had to have after people carrying away "sold" items.]

A last word from your MALs: We four will finish our terms this year - that's all of us!! That means [drum roll!] we need new MALs for next year. Organizing the plant sale is fun, the event is the high point of the year, a great way to get to know your fellow members. So we hope that you will step up and take on the job(s), and we can assure you that you will always have our help and support if you need it.



SPEAKER

Thursday, June 20
Affinor Growers - Ron Adolf & team

Traditional farming will always be with us, but alternative agricultural practices can alleviate the limits of conventional farming methods. **Affinor Growers** have developed patented agricultural technology and proprietary cultivation systems for vertical farming and controlled environment agriculture. Their technology is significantly more efficient in terms of usage of space and reliance on water than conventional agriculture. Such vertical farming systems also enable products to be grown in soils without the use of pesticides, and free from chemical contaminants.



THE 75th ANNIVERSARY PLANT SALE - "song without words"







Question for Leaf readers: Which shrub that many garden club members have and is easy care, pest resistant, likes the shade, likes the sun, and rewards with beautiful big blooms in latish summer – and not a one, nada, was for sale at our plant sale?

Answer:

Hydrangea

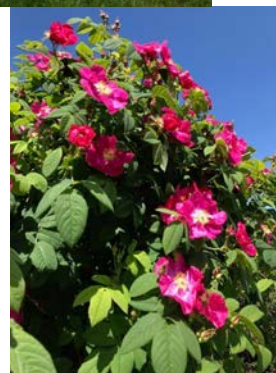
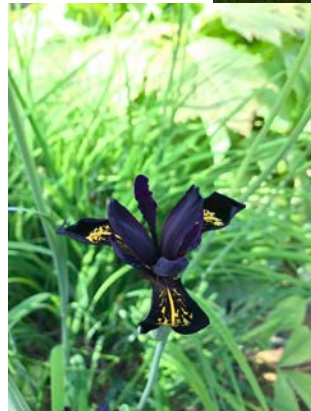
(Follow-up question: Why was that?)





And then there was the great LVGC Bus Tour:

...and nobody provided a single anecdote about it... it's a wonder I have a few pictures! The only thing I heard was "It was a bit of a white-knuckle ride: the bus driver drove like you do." [??? HMMMM?]



Anonymous gnome [who could be Lynn Batt] says:

Remember the movie *Little Shop of Horrors* and the voracious plant with [cough, cough, ahem] a slightly unsavoury appetite, "Feed me Seymour, feed me"?

If you want exuberant rhubarb: Rhubarb is a very heavy feeder and prefers freshly composting kitchen waste, so we recycled the top ring from one of the old round composter bins, put it around the rhubarb and put lettuce, coffee grounds *etc* directly into it. The rhubarb stalks are more than a metre long. [*yikes!*]

With all that extra rhubarb you might want an extra recipe. Cook the washed, sliced rhubarb as usual, but instead of sugar, and while it is still hot, stir in the contents of one package of strawberry Jello. [*Serve with ice cream? oh yummmmm!*]

Atavistic....

– from Barb Downman

“While many of the LV Garden Club members are very experienced gardeners and don't need this type of info, I suspect many of our novice gardeners may not know how to plant properly for periods of drought [*that we see increasingly as a result of climate change – ed*]. I certainly see lots of poor planting techniques in my neighbourhood. Here is some useful info from *Gardening in the Pacific Northwest* by Paul Bonine and Amy Campion.”

“In our region, planting takes place nearly 12 months of the year. This means that plants go in when the soil is sodden and cold, as well as when it's dusty and dry. There are different ways to plant based on the season.

In mid-autumn to mid-spring, the soil is almost always wet west of the Cascades. Wet soil is easily compacted and should be handled carefully. In these conditions, it pays to dig the widest hole possible. Make sure the containerized plant is watered prior to going into the ground, then set the plant in the hole so the crown is even with the existing soil horizon. Carefully backfill the hole and lightly tamp the soil around the root ball – do not stomp or pack it in. Give it a light watering and add mulch. The soil will settle on its own and the plant will be off to a good start.

Planting in dry conditions is somewhat different. From June to October, our soils can become bone dry. Clay soils compact to the consistency of concrete. To plant in these conditions, dig a hole three times as wide as the container, leaving a small raised hill in the center of the hole. Fill the entire hole with water and allow it to drain away. This will saturate the soil column beneath the plant. Then fill the hole with water once again. When half of the water has drained away, set the root ball of the plant on the mound in the center of the hole. It will be sitting in water – this is good. Carefully backfill the hole, leaving a 2-in deep moat around the plant. Lightly fill the moat with water, then mulch the whole surface, as well as the moat.

For drought-tolerant plants, water regularly until they make new growth, then taper off to once every two weeks until the fall rains resume. In the following years they should subsist on what falls from the sky. For water-loving plants, you'll have to irrigate on a regular basis during the driest parts of the year.

A planting regimen such as this is especially important if you're planting on a slope. No moat or basin around the base of the plant means that the water will just run down the surface of the soil. Think of the watering basin as a terrace on a hill – much like a rice paddy. It will direct the water down to the roots where it's needed.

Here's why...

– found by Linda Howe

How Climate Change May Affect the Plants in Your Yard - *The New York Times*

By NADJA POPOVICH MAY 23, 2019

[There is a scary graphic of US changing hardiness zones: click on the link and have a look. –ed]

As temperatures warm across America, growing zones for flowers, shrubs, and trees are shifting northward.

“The maps [see link in cover email] show how so-called plant hardiness zones have moved over the past four decades and how they could change in the future, according to an analysis by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These zones – based on the coldest temperature of the year at each location, averaged over a 30-year period – help gardeners and growers determine which plants are likely to thrive, and which are likely to die from winter cold.

Hardiness zones “are creeping north systemically” to higher latitudes and elevations, said Russell Vose, who leads the Analysis and Synthesis Branch in NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information. That means “you can probably grow some things farther north than you used to be able to,” he said. (But, he added, you still can't “plant a banana tree outside in Central Park.”)

How cold it gets in winter is an important factor determining what plants are able to survive year to year. Lemon trees, for example, are very sensitive to frost and best suited for hardiness zones 9 to 11, which

tend not to dip below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Sweet cherry trees, by contrast, can withstand colder winters, thriving even in zone 5, where temperatures can reach -20°F.

Other factors, like light, precipitation and soil type, also affect how well plants can survive in any specific location.

When Times readers were asked to describe how they saw climate change affecting their area, several people reported that they were already changing their planting habits due to balmy winter conditions.

“I am now able to grow perennials that were once two temperate zones south of me,” wrote William Borucki, of Buffalo. Raynard Vinson, of Hampton, Va., wrote: “I overwinter plants that once had to be dug up and protected.”

In some cases, readers noted changes to their official plant hardiness zones, citing values from another federal agency: the United States Department of Agriculture, which maintains a similar, but more detailed map of hardiness zones.

The world needs topsoil to grow 95% of its food – but it's rapidly disappearing

Without efforts to rebuild soil health, we could lose our ability to grow enough nutritious food to feed the planet's population. *By Susan Cosier, The Guardian, 30 May, 2019.*

“The world grows 95% of its food in the uppermost layer of soil, making topsoil one of the most important components of our food system. But thanks to conventional farming practices, nearly half of the most productive soil has disappeared in the world in the last 150 years, threatening crop yields and contributing to nutrient pollution, dead zones and erosion. In the US alone, soil on cropland is eroding 10 times faster than it can be replenished.

If we continue to degrade the soil at the rate we are now, the world could run out of topsoil in about 60 years, according to Maria-Helena Semedo of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. Without topsoil, the earth's ability to filter water, absorb carbon, and feed people plunges. Not only that, but the food we do grow will probably be lower in vital nutrients.” [...]

The modern combination of intensive tilling, lack of cover crops, synthetic fertilizers and pesticide use has left farmland stripped of the nutrients, minerals and microbes that support healthy plant life. But some farmers are attempting to buck the trend and save their lands along with their livelihoods.

“We never want to see our soil unless we go looking for it,” says Keith Berns, a Nebraska farmer whose land hasn't seen a plow in three decades.

He and his brother, Brian, began the practice of no-till on their 2,100-acre corn and soybean farm when they learned it could increase the carbon, nutrients and water available in the soil. Their farm is in a particularly dry area of the country, and keeping moisture on their land is a top priority. For every 1% increase of carbon, an acre of land can hold an additional 40,000 gallons of water.

Once they stopped tilling, the Berns family saw organic matter in the soil increase, which can have the added benefit of making foods grown in the soil more nutritious. Organic matter, a section of soil that contains decomposing plant or animal tissue, serves as a reservoir of nutrients that microbes can feast upon while they provide nitrogen to growing plants and sequester carbon. The more organic matter, the more organisms the soil can support.

“If you had a handful of soil, you'd have more organisms than people on earth,” says Rob Myers, a soil scientist at the University of Missouri. With increased organic matter, the Bernses grew more food using less water and fertilizer. In the 1990s, they began planting cover crops between harvests. The rye and buckwheat, among other cover crops, provided more

organic matter to the soil, further feeding microorganisms like bacteria and fungi. The crops also kept nitrogen in the soil and reduced erosion.

Amid growing concerns about topsoil loss, no-till and cover crops are becoming more popular, according to the 2017 US Census of Agriculture. Forty per cent of US cropland is grown on no-till farms, up from 32% in 2012.

Though still not widely adopted, cover crops are becoming more popular with farmers, too, particularly in the country's corn belt. Nationwide, farmers planted cover crops on 15m acres, a 50% increase from five years earlier. The Berns brothers saw this change first-hand. When they first decided to plant cover crops, they had trouble finding seeds. Seeing a hole in the market, they began their own cover crop seed company in 2009, putting together what farmers now call a cover crop cocktail to sow in the fall. In their first year, they sold enough seed to cover 2,000 acres. Last year, they sold enough to cover 850,000.

The sense of urgency over topsoil is growing as the planet is projected to reach 9 billion people by 2050. Without a healthy farm system, farmers won't be able to feed the world's growing population, says Dave Montgomery, a geologist at the University of Washington and author of the book *Growing a Revolution: Bringing Our Soil Back to Life*.

To see what can happen to civilizations that lost the topsoil they needed to grow food, look no further than Syria or Libya. Roman tax records show that those areas grew ample amounts of wheat, but as farmers continued to plow their fields, they exposed valuable microbes and topsoil eroded. Today those areas barely have any soil to grow crops.

“Societies that lose their topsoil, their descendants pay the price,” Montgomery says. “Nature takes a long time to build soil.” By some estimates, it can take 500 years for healthy topsoil to develop and less than a century to degrade.

The world is also facing a crisis in nutrition. A 2004 study published in the *Journal of the American College of Nutrition* compared nutrients in crops grown in 1950 to those grown in 1999 and found declines in protein, calcium, phosphorus, iron, vitamin B2 and vitamin C.

The practice of farming one or two crops, like corn and soybeans, hastened soil degradation, according to Montgomery. Government policy encouraged US farmers to specialize, resulting in monocultures that

require an increasing amount of water and fertilizer and pesticides.

Practices, however, are changing, say Montgomery and Myers. "I think you are seeing a big movement, but it's just getting rolling," Montgomery says. Improving soil health pays dividends, but investment in topsoil may take years to show results. This is a challenge for farmers operating on tight margins, according to Montgomery, who says that the government could do more to help incentivize best practices.

Berns suggests that farmers make these changes

slowly, employing them on one patch of the farm at a time. In mid-Atlantic states like Maryland and Virginia, local governments have incentivized farmers with grants to plant cover crops, resulting in high adoption rates over the last 20 years.

The stakes are high. If farmers in the US and around the world don't continue to put a higher value on what nurtures their crops, we could be facing an unimaginable catastrophe, according to Myers: "We have to have that topsoil; it's paramount to our survival."

Which brings us to

- something sent in by Anna Maria D'Angelo

"Under the "G" as in "Good Grief", in case there are scant picking for the June issue.... My daughter informed me that I was probably the only person that she knew who didn't know about this. As much as it is probably a good idea... the puns are endless."

Here's the link - you may have to "copy/paste". The live link is in the cover email. I'll let you follow this one on your own. And no - no hints.

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/05/03/world/eco-solutions-capsula-mundi/index.html>

<https://www.capsulamundi.it/en/>



Let's move to my favourite 3 Rs: Resurrection, Rescue and Recipes

Richard's Tree

- sent by Jackie Morris

Richard's tree is a Mountain hemlock. "It was collected by Richard Robinson (1944-2006) and Jim Morris around 1998 and planted in the front garden of 324 Tempe Crescent. In 2000, this garden won the Best Front Garden Award in the North Shore Garden Contest. [Richard was Corinne Robinson's husband. They indeed had a magnificent front garden for some years and a work in progress in the back.]



Jason and then moved to our driveway. Note the small root ball with the tree bare rooted for at least two weeks, but it did receive a lot of water in the trailer. Note the hose going to the root-ball. Another picture is the tree wrestled out of

[The tree was] Saved from demolition of 324 Tempe the first week of September 2018. Dan noticed the imminent destruction and asked Corey (excavator driver) and Jason (dump truck driver) and they removed the tree and Jim, Harry, Peter, Simon, and Jenny replanted it. Thank you all."

One picture is of the tree loaded in our trailer by Corey and



the trailer at the top of the slope on Tempe Crescent and stood upright on a tarp. Fortunately, they didn't tip or flip the trailer getting it out. It helps to have an engineer, an architect and a superb handyman in the crew! Lots of



discussions!!! The plan was to slide the tree downhill on the tarp with guide ropes and into the already dug hole. This worked well until the tarp got stuck under the tree and in the hole. The tarp was finally freed and the hole reshaped to fit better. The tree was then heavily staked in place, as the existing roots could not hold the tree in place with any kind of wind.

The last picture is the moving crew: Jenny Nichol (also a club member), Jim, Simon (our godson), and neighbours, Harry and Peter. Of course, it was raining! This is the crucial year. The roots were badly damaged, but it is putting on new growth, so we are hopeful.

The tree now lives next to Jackie's house (go visit!) on "public property" and looks pretty happy in its new digs.



Recipes (tried and tested at Exec meetings!)

- offered by Sue Callahan

No-Bake Pistachio - White Chocolate Cookies

Want cookies you can make in less than an hour without having to run out to buy perishable ingredients—or even turn on your oven? These no-bake cookies rely on nut butter and white chocolate for their creamy, chewy texture, and a combination of oats, pistachio, and cranberries adds a nice, sweet crunch.

- 3/4 cup creamy no-stir sunflower seed or almond butter
 - 1 cup white chocolate chips (about 6 ounces), divided
 - 1 cup quick-cooking oats
 - 3/4 cup dried cranberries, coarsely chopped
 - 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
 - 1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon chopped, unsalted pistachios (about 2.3 ounces), divided
 - 1/2 teaspoon vegetable oil
1. Heat sunflower seed butter and 3/4 cup chips in a medium heatproof bowl set over a medium pot of barely simmering water (bottom of bowl should not touch water), stirring occasionally, or in short bursts in the microwave, stirring in between bursts, until melted and smooth. Add oats, cranberries, salt, and 1/2 cup pistachios; stir gently to combine.
 2. Spoon mixture by the tablespoonful onto a parchment-lined sheet tray. Gently press balls in the center to flatten. Chill until set, about 10 minutes.
 3. Meanwhile, heat oil and remaining 1/4 chips in a medium heatproof bowl set over a medium pot of barely simmering water (bottom of bowl should not touch water), stirring occasionally, or in short bursts in the microwave, stirring in between bursts, until melted and smooth.
 4. Drizzle cooled cookies with melted chocolate, top with remaining 1 Tbsp. pistachios, and chill until set, about 5 minutes.
 5. **Do Ahead:** Cookies can be made 5 days ahead. Store in an airtight container and chill.

Madeira Cake

3.4 cup softened butter
 7/8 cup (berry) sugar
 1 3/4 cup flour - use finely ground ALMONDS
 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/4 cup ground almonds or 3/4 cup blanched sliced
 3 large eggs
 finely grated rind of 1 lemon.

Preheat oven to 350F Grease a deep round cake tin or a 2lb loaf pan. Line with baking parchment. Put all ingredients into a large bowl. Mix thoroughly. Turn into the prepared tin. Bake for 60 min. leave in tin to cool for 10 min, then turn onto a wire rack. Pour a lemon glaze on top: 1 cup icing sugar, couple of tsp lemon juice, a knob of butter. Whip till smooth.

Request:

- contact Rita Marshall for details

The Kiwanis Care Centre on Mt Seymour Parkway is looking for volunteers to help maintain their garden if anyone is interested.



What does your garden mean to you?

- by Sue Callahan

Is it relaxation? Work? For the pollinators? For visual effect? For producing food? Is it about community? Is it containers? Is it a small yard? Is it a big yard? Do you enjoy and take advantage of it all??? Do you have sun? Do you have shade? What should you do?

I am constantly thinking of this. Every time I am in the garden, I feel blessed. As I write this, it has been 5 years since I woke up to hearing my daughter screaming "Fire! Fire! Fire!" The rest is history. Some of you have been along that journey with me, and some are not even aware - and that doesn't matter, we all are brought together because of growing.

In this day and age, people are tearing down old houses (we won't even go there ...) but usually what happens is the developers come in and clear out everything. I was very fortunate to be asked by Maria [alias, the Leaf] to come and help rescue a garden. Yes, it is a lot of work - and in this day and age of "convenience" whether for food, time savers *etc*, you have to be committed.

My family knows all about this. We decided to rebuild on our lot because of community - our friends and neighbours who supported us, including the garden club (a group came and to help me salvage as much as we could from our yard). We wouldn't let the builders take down any trees or shrubs, we had them get the backhoe (digger) and move all the big trees into the back where they weren't digging for the foundation. Yes we lost some plants/trees partly because there were no utilities on the property as everything was shut down on that fateful day. So, my husband introduced himself to the new neighbours and borrowed a hose and water for our property. We brought containers of water every other day to water the plants in the back under the mulch.



Judith Brook nurtured this one

Before the builders moved the backhoe off the property, we asked them to place the plants, rhodos (including the one that was scorched in the fire) and what I call the 'flame tree' in the back yard. Then came the wall of love: Rob's therapy was to build a rock wall to keep the dirt in and to do the landscaping. Yes, we did all the landscaping ourselves. As I said to Anna Marie, finally now I would consider our garden "full" (well sort of....). It definitely isn't a "tidy" garden - it was built & designed around pollinators so I try to have flowers at least 10 months of the year. We have no grass, which was a choice that we made.

On the day of the plant rescue, Anne Pentland asked me, "Have you considered what you will do with your yard?" The honest answer was, NO. She told us back then (in 2014) about the chafer beetle and all the destruction it was causing.

We moved back to the property in February 2016, and from there it has grown. We have a lot of plants that were donated (community - garden club/friends), as well as our natives that I am very protective of: the huckleberry bushes, the bleeding hearts, the salal, the ferns. We do have a veggie garden (we are above the snow line, so don't have a long growing period) and are trying to figure out what we can grow, and can't - but we get lots of rhubarb & raspberries (thanks mom!), we have blueberries, and we have 2 apple trees. We do prune the huckleberries, and get a lot of fruit from them too (again hard work, but oh so great of a reward when pulling out of the freezer).

One of the things that I do, is go around and look at everything. It reminds me of when I was scuba diving or when I did a project in high school (or was it elementary?).

You take a ruler and measure a square and identify everything in it: not just the macro but the micro as well. I rejoice when I see ladybugs, worms, bees, butterflies, chickadees (who are nesting for the second year in a nesting box we put up) and a host of other birds, squirrels (sort of), bats, worms, *etc*. Just last week we saw a big black butterfly - I don't know the name - but I quickly looked up on the internet and it may have been a Pale Swallowtail. Every year we see the Monarchs (another hobby that would fun to take up).

We were given mirrors that we used when we were in the rental houses, and I couldn't stand to throw them out, so, they went into the garden – and have given us surprises and enjoyment. They reflect back on the plants and create more light in the shady areas, make the garden appear bigger, and the chickadees love them. We put up rebar as a trellis (Rob's idea), and it blends into the garden so you don't even see it – but all the birds love it, including the hummingbirds and they sit and rest. We have a few mirrors behind the rebar and *voilà!*, the chickadees think they have a mate sitting there and will fly back and forth between the mirrors and into our potted maple.

Just this morning the hummingbird went from the clematis to the fuchsia, and it was loving the rhodos when they were in bloom, and have been going into the huckleberries. Foxglove – are great condos for the bees, as well as the hummingbirds. And, then there are the lupins. Some of you saw the picture on our door in the dining room when we had the garden club here. We have lots and lots of lupins, and all of nature loves them. They are covered in bees and it makes my heart sing! (You already know that pollinators are in trouble from pesticides...)

If you have a chance in this busy world that we live in, remember to take a moment and give thanks. I thank all of you who have been a part of our journey before, now and after. Above all, I thank nature for grounding me and giving me an even keel.

Everyone's garden is unique, and I hope that you get as much enjoyment out of yours as we do with ours.



Affinor growers, Beware!

- by Wayne Smith



Ninety-one-year-old dad and I are still building together. Here we are making a double-decker sand trough garden. Dad designed the roll-up sides. The trough is getting an inch of sand in the bottom. The irrigation is from one end with a dripper. The water flows down a slope in the top trough into the bottom trough. Extra water ends up in a Rubbermaid tote at the low end. Now we're working on getting the water system going to the trough, but I'm sure just a bucket of



water dumped in the end once a day would take care of it. This morning I loaded strawberry plants into the garden trough and I teased dad, "Now we need to build another garden trough for the cucumbers and tomatoes." Dad loves a project and it's the things we build together that are the most memorable.



EVENTS

-from Lorraine Robson

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE VANCOUVER MASTER GARDENERS BASIC TRAINING PROGRAM STARTING IN JANUARY 2020

Hello Gardeners,

If you are a beginner, a long time gardener or anyone in between, this course will provide you with a solid grounding in the basics (~ which even experienced gardeners will learn from), the most up to date horticultural information, resource material, contacts and a large gardening, environmentally focused network. We have heard many students who have been gardening for years say that they wished that they had taken this course sooner as it would have saved them time, energy and money ... given them more creative or feasible gardening ideas/solutions ... very much shortened their learning curves ... and corrected or improved their long-standing horticultural practices. We are facing new challenges in gardening *ie climate change*, sustainability, regeneration, smaller or no yards, food security and evolving ecologically sensitive ways to deal with pests and diseases: the Basic Training Program covers these issues and more.

We hope that you will consider taking this course and/or will forward this email to people you know who may be interested.

SPACE IS LIMITED SO PLEASE REGISTER EARLY TO SECURE A PLACE IN THE CLASS. You should be aware that the fee for the course will increase after this next session. Our website (www.mgabc.org) provides all of the course information.

If you have any questions, please contact Doreen at basic_training@vancouvermastergardeners.org

"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies" ~ Gertrude Jekyll



Heritage Vancouver 7th Annual Garden Tour

Saturday, Sunday, June 22, 23

Time: 10am - 4pm

15 private gardens in Douglas Park, South Main, Point Grey, Kitsilano and Shaughnessy

<http://heritagevancouver.org/garden-tour-2019/>

ruth@donaldcyr.com



Members' Gardens Tour

July 6, 9:30 AM - "Lunchtime"

THE PLAN: From St Stephen's, to Loutet Farm, to Gerry's Garden, to Pat Holmes's cottage style garden, to Anna Marie's 'transformation' for lunch.

NOT TO BE MISSED - the LVGC Members' Gardens Tours: There will be some special treats again this year. This year's tour will consist of a guided tour of Loutet Farm and Gerry's Garden, plus a visit to the gardens of Pat Holmes and Anna Marie D'Angelo. We will finish at Anna Marie's place where we will have our lunch. You will need to bring a lunch, a mug, utensils if you need them for your lunch, and a folding chair (there will be chairs but not enough for everyone). The club will provide fruit platters, dessert, coffee, tea, cold beverages. Detailed information will be forthcoming at the end of June, by email. If you don't use email - please tell Penny and/or Susan Huber.

Loutet Farm (1400 Rufus Ave): One-hour tour starts at 10 AM with Claire; then we go to

Gerry's Garden (also 1400 Rufus Ave) next door, where Howie will talk to us. Gerry may be there.

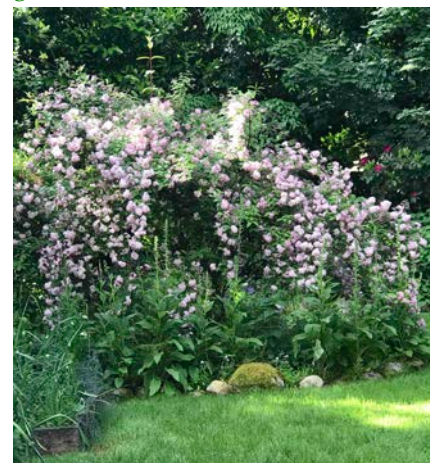
**We should carpool because Loutet Market will be open and lots of cars will be parked for that. We can park in St Stephen's third lot from Mountain Highway if there are no functions happening. We will find out a few days before about the church parking and inform members with a gardens tour reminder email that

week. If there is a church function, please park on the street - 24th adjoining the church has street parking.

Pat Holmes, [Rumour has it, there be roses, beyoooootiful roses!!]

Anna Marie D'Angelo, Upper Lynn Valley - can park on the street on the cul-de-sac or on Coleman or anywhere near.

Detailed maps, routes and garden blurbs will be forthcoming by email a week or two before the actual date. However, here are some pictures to whet your appetites!



The Compost Bin

- Maria Issa

I was happily depositing the last of the house-guests at the Seabus, and on the way, spied a large development that was fenced off. "Hmmm. I should see if there are any plants..." A few days later when I was mentally ready to hunt plants, there was nothing left but a big, deep, noisy hole.... "Oh &^%\$#@!" I fumed as I drove up the hill.

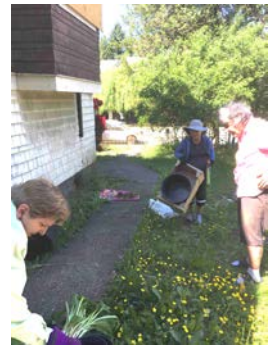
In my grumpy state I almost missed another fenced off, ready-for-demolition site at the corner of 21st. "Oh wow! Those red rhodos are incredible!!! I got honked at by the guy behind me as I hung a fast right and screeched to a halt by the fire hydrant. Yup: there hung the development sign - and the name and phone number of the project manager,



Erik. Before considering the ramifications (and the evaporation of my chutzpa), I called him up and politely enquired whether those rhodos and whatever else I could find in the jungle, could be rescued. I would be happy to dig them up. I presented my case that LVGC could sell the plants to contribute to horticulture scholarships. Erik sounded a bit taken aback, but told me he would check with the owner and get back to me. I got checker marks on my face from peering thought the fence to see what else could be there, but it was super overgrown. Still, I spied something pink in the back. This boded well.

Big surprise: within the hour, Erik called me back, "The owner really likes the idea, so go for it, rescue whatever plants you find. Good luck! You have about a week before we get our demo permit."

I promptly 'fessed up to the LVGC Exec that I had taken the Club's name in vain, then asked if anyone would like to see what kind of pickings there were. To my delight, Hiromi, Ginette, and Sue C jumped on the opportunity. Penny, too, decided to join, "No, I'm sort of busy, but did you say "hostas"? I'm on my way!" Hiromi, Ginette and Penny and I assembled on a hot Monday morning and we squeezed ourselves through the fence and scoped out the place.



The rhodos were HUGE. A bit daunted, we decided to see what else was around. The garden must have been beautiful once, but most of the plants had been taken - still there were good leftovers. There were hostas, euphorbia, cotoneaster, wild pink roses (lots and lots and lots), sedum, yarrow, hawthorn, ferns and a couple of apple trees. We dug and we dug and we potted and we bagged and we dragged and we our filled trunks.

Then, we looked at the rhodos, the source of all this. They were BIIIIIG. One was bigger than the other. We looked under them, and lo and behold, they had layered themselves so there were two small babies. We got those out and potted them up. We decided that the only way the Big Mamas could come out, was to prune them down to about 5 ft. So Ginette set to and expertly reduced the rhodos to a shadow of their former selves.

It was HOT, the sun was beating down. One by one, the team and their "foster greens" headed home...

After recovering (with lunch) I returned 5-ish to meet Sue, who was ready to dig. We dug and dug and managed to circle the rhodos in the afternoon heat. Sue suggested we use the old hose to wet them down. While watering, we explored the back of the garden and discovered that here was a huge magnolia that, unfortunately, was destined for destruction - but later I took a lot of cuttings and following YouTube, I'm rooting them. Then there was the "pink thing". Sue recognized it, but wasn't sure, so when all else fails, call Mom. Luckily, Shirley lives across the street and had already sussed out that the LVGC types were rescuing greenery. She popped over, with a stack of flowerpots (yay!) and fought her way into the back jungle to declare, "Weigela, a lovely old one. Not sure how you can get it out..." She left us to it. After a while, we had had enough... and went home with our green-loaded cars.



I returned for 2 days, digging my way to China, or into an Olympic-sized swimming pool, but the rhodos stayed firmly attached. Couldn't budge 'em. In frustration, I pruned and dug out the weigela. By Thursday, I had to say "uncle" and call in the cavalry. My poor, unsuspecting husband was inveigled into dislodging the Big Mamas, which he did - but there way no way we could transport them. Luckily, our contractor friends were at the house, so we asked whether the guys could give us a hand. They knew my rhodo rescue habits, so were up for it. Off we went with the trailer. In seconds, they undid the fence, backed the trailer up the hill to within 2 feet of the Mamas and with only a few choice expletives, bundled them into the trailer and were gone.

At the house, the reverse happened - the guys unbundled Big Mamas 1&2, dropped them on a dolly and pushed them to their respective holes. Compared to the 4 days of digging, pulling, pushing and cursing on my part, they managed the whole thing in just minutes and didn't even break a sweat. [sigh].

The rhodos are happy in their new spots - have new shoots and will grow up to be big red Mamas once again. The other plants are potted up, and if they survive the winter, will show up at next year's Plant Sale. And yes, instead of digging the rhodos up again, I'll make a donation to the 2020 Plant Sale.