



THE LEAF

LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

December 2019

President's Message Anna Marie D'Angelo

That went fast. It's been a scant two years since Penny Le Couteur passed the president's baton to yours truly. I can say that not once did I ever want to toss the baton in some bushes, zip my gardening hoodie over my face and quietly sit in the back of the hall. We did have some challenges that came with big changes like securing our new meeting space but managed to muddle through, as Penny would say. This, of course, is because of the great executive team and committees, and support they provide to each other. I would like to thank all the members on the executive and committees while I have been prez. They include Hiromi Matsui, Jackie Morris, Ginette Handfield, Judy Sullivan, Susan Huber, Rita Marshall, Daphne Page, Doreen Dew, Maria Issa, Norma Buckland, Carole Cobbett, Susan Nichols, Maggie Davis, Shirley Lawson, Aline Burlone, Penny Le Couteur, Linda Howe, Sue Callahan and Sharon Carabetta. What a grrrrroup, as my Scottish mother-in-law used to say.

Note to general members, there are a lot of people named above because many hands make light work when it comes to holding club activities. Please consider taking your turn on the executive or committees so that the same people are not always doing tasks for the club.

I want to wish the best to our new president Norma Austin, and the rest of the executive and committees for 2020. The club is in very good hands.

I thought I was done with digging come late November but I hadn't taken into account that plant hawk Maria Issa had gotten on a flora bender in Lower Lonsdale. Maria, in case you haven't noticed, is a Force of Nature. So, on a bright, sunny November day a handful of garden club members came together and went on a shoveling scavenger hunt on a half block of what used to be single-family homes. The neglected space didn't look like much was there at first blush, but by mid-afternoon, we had filled three vehicles and had to leave about 20 plants behind for the next day's dig. Maria was joined by members for several more days, digging away. We are planning to be **back in January** as there is still lots left! These plants are destined for the plant sale. I hope they all make it and return to their former glory in some appreciative person's yard. What a great project. Way to go, Maria.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas party on Dec 12, second Thursday of the month. We will remind everyone again in this Leaf what you need to bring. See you soon and to those that can't make the party, Merry Christmas and see you in 2020, the year of – wait for it -- perfect vision.

Xmas party to-bring list:

- A savoury or sweet "finger food" dish;
- A mug;
- Eating utensils because we don't want to use plastic cutlery;
- **Some share-able greenery for the centerpiece craft;**
- Pruners for the centerpiece craft;
- An [empty, sigh!] wine or beer bottle.
- ...and of course, something for the **Harvest Project**...to share our blessings.

LVGC MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of each month (except July and August) at St. STEPHEN'S Church
1360 E 24th Street
North Vancouver

Please note that meetings start promptly at 7:15 PM

PARTY DEC 12

January 16
CHRIS JENNINGS
SHADE PLANTS

FEBRUARY 20
THE VEGGIMATES
HOW TO GROW VEGETABLES

Mailing Address:

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

<http://www.lynnvalleygardenclub.org>



Executive 2019

President

Anna Marie D'Angelo xx

Vice President

Penny LeCouteur xx

Secretary

Jackie Morris xx

Treasurer

Ginette Handfield xx

Membership

Susan Huber xx

Sue Callahan xx

Members at Large

Daphne Page xx

Doreen Dew xx

Hiromi Matsui xx

Linda Howe xx

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa xx

Plant Table

Norma Buckland xx

Hospitality

Carole Cobbett xx

Susan Nicholls xx

Maggie Davis xx

Sharon Carabetta xx

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Shirley Lawson xx

Website

Aline Burlone xx

Executive Meetings

1st Wednesday of the month

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8, 2019

chez Susan Huber

xx

Next Newsletter Deadline

January 8, 2020

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: Courtney

Mitchell, Norma Ferguson, Judith Brook, Wayne Smith, Sue Callahan, Susan Huber

REPORTS

We are skipping most official reports as there was no Exec meeting this month: why? Because there are no issues, we have \$\$, YOU HAVE REMEMBERED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP (right? If not, see below and just fill out the form at the end of this newsletter!), the voting was done and everyone is looking forward to:



Ho! Ho! Ho!

Ho!liday Party Time!

Here is the info once again:

The social event of the season (!) will be held on *Thursday December 12th* at our usual meeting place (St. Stephen's). Note that it is NOT the usual 3rd Thursday of the month, but the 2nd Thursday of the month. Your Christmas Party Committee has met and arranged an outstanding program of events (crafts) and refreshments. Now all you have to do is each bring the items listed below.

>>>REMINDER: Sorry there are no visitors for the Christmas Party.<<<

There will be three crafts this year and hopefully there will be enough time for everyone to try their hand at all three. They won't take long.

First – back by popular demand – we will again have a wax candle making station. If you have forgotten how to do it, or haven't done this before, don't worry as there will be plenty of help available. One pair of candles per person; if there are left over wax sheets and wicks, we will sell them off - probably around \$3 per set.

The *second* craft will be a table centerpiece made with greenery and whatever else you like (decorations, tinsel *etc.*) We will supply these decorations, or you can bring some of your own. You can put your candle or candles from above in your centerpiece if you want. Or take it home and add a different candle.

And *third*, there will be a "mystery craft" and we won't be telling you what it is as we want it to be a surprise. For this third craft you will need to bring an empty wine or beer bottle. (If by chance you forget and bring a full bottle your committee would be happy to help empty it!!!)

As usual, the refreshments will be supplied by you. Finger food please. Even if you make the most wonderful Christmas potato salad, we don't have any means of serving, or eating it, except by fingers. Sweet or savoury – your choice. Somehow, we always seem to end up with a reasonable percentage of sweet and savoury so we will leave it to you.

Remember to wear your most festive Christmas attire. There will be two major costume prizes this year – one for the cutest Christmas outfit and one for the tackiest. There is one judge this year and she will remain anonymous – to prevent undue pressure being applied!!!! If you thought your outfit would be a shoo-in for the cutest and get awarded the prize for the tackiest, please accept our apologies. Remember "beauty is in the eye of the beholder".

Here is the list of what each member should bring:

- * a plate of sweet or savoury finger food
- * a cup/mug for hot mulled cider
- * greenery for making the table piece – bring for sharing.
- * pruners to cut the greenery – LABELLED so that they go home with you.
- * an empty [*sigh*] wine or beer bottle.

PLEASE

** also bring a non-perishable item (or 2, or 3) for the Harvest Project: this is the time of year when we give with a warm heart. [As Maria will miss the Christmas Social – A volunteer is needed to lug the donations to the Harvest Project box at Bla-Bla's]*

Membership Renewals

– Susan Huber & Sue Callahan

Have you renewed your Garden Club Membership? [you are running out of time!]

If you haven't renewed your Membership for 2020, please complete the attached Renewal Form and bring it to the December Social (Dec. 12) where we will accept renewals along with payment (\$20 per individual, or \$35 per couple).

Can't come to the meeting? -- you can mail your renewal form and payment to:

Lynn Valley Garden Club
P.O. Box 16053
1199 Lynn Valley Road
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7J 3S9

Members have not renewed by January 1, 2020, risk having their space offered to those on our waiting list.

Questions: lvgc.membership@gmail.com [Susan Huber (xxxxxxx) or Sue Callahan (xxxxxxx)]

Please remember that the December Christmas social is for *members only and guests cannot be accommodated.*

Treasurer's Report

- Ginette Handfield

As of the end of November:

Bank Balance:	\$11,325.17
Cash on Hand:	\$425.25
Total of	\$11,750.42

The proceeds from the Plant Table were \$29.20 and \$34.50 for the October and November meetings respectively. The total for the year is \$182.30.

The Plant Table is looking forward to a very positive cash flow as BIG DIG finds that find their way into the diggers' gardens, turn into donations... sort of like you brought it to the Plant Sale, then bought it. [*this was your – and MY!! – conscience speaking -ed*]

New Books at the North Vancouver District Public Library

- Susan Huber

We received a letter from North Vancouver District Public Library acknowledging our donation of \$200. Members can search for or place holds on any of these titles by going to: <https://nvdpl.ca/>

Here are the titles:

- *Gardentopia*: design basics for creating beautiful outdoor spaces by Jan Johnsen
- *Lifelong gardener*: garden with ease and joy at any age, by Toni Gattone
- *Mini meadows*: grow a little patch of easy, colourful flowers anywhere around your yard by Mike Lizotte
- *Organic gardening for everyone*: homegrown vegetables made easy – no experience required, by Calikim
- *Planting the natural garden* by Piet Oudolf
- *Revive your garden*; how to bring your outdoor space back to life by Nick Bailey
- *Shrubs*: find the right plant for every place and purpose
- *Tulips*: beautiful varieties for home and garden, by Jane Easto

Xmas cards!

--Jackie Morris and Courtney Mitchell

We thank everyone who handed us or dropped off cards for the WISH Society Christmas Party. Every packet, large or small, is much appreciated and contained gems that are sure to delight the women at the party. We have a lovely selection to offer them! We have just heard that the WISH party is on Dec. 12, the same night (again) as our LVGC crafts party. If we do not see you, we will think of you over the holidays and wish you much joy!

Strawberry Surprise!

My potted strawberries were cold,
So I gave them a blanket of leaves.
The bags can be removed when the weather is warmer.
And the leaves don't blow away in the wind
[and don't get soggy and heavy!]



-Wayne Smith



Opportunity (1):

- sourced by Judith Brook

Salt Spring Seeds is having a 2 for 1 sale – until Dec 25!!!

“From now until December 25th, we will double any seed order. All you have to do is order in the regular way and we will give you an extra seed packet for each and every variety you order. (*But just 1 of each and Canadian orders only.*)

This will give you the opportunity to pass on the beauty and bounty of heirloom, open-pollinated seeds to friends, neighbours, relatives, children and community seed banks.”

Here is the website: <https://www.saltspringseeds.com>

Opportunity (2):

- from Norma Ferguson

“I realize this is not the best time for this, what with the Big Dig going on,” writes Norma, “but a friend of mine is in the midst of a construction project and is looking to rehome some plants. If people are interested, they would need to dig and transport the plants themselves. I know these plants and they are all very nice specimens, all requiring sunny locations.”



2 Hardy Palm trees, both about 10-12 feet tall, both 13 years old
2 Columnar Dwarf Apple Trees, 1 *Golden Centennial*, 1 *Scarlet Centennial*, both about 10-12 feet tall.

1 *Mutabilis* shrub rose, it's a big “old garden type” rose, 7 ft tall by 5' wide, single, flat type multi-coloured blossoms, few thorns, it needs a ‘big’ sunny spot. Is a marvelous specimen plant, blooms all summer and is disease-free.

If you are interested in any of them, please contact Renee at [XXXxxx](#)

She needs to have them gone by January 10.

[If anyone has a truck to contribute to this – I'm happy to help you dig after Christmas: I just can't move big rootballs. If nobody wants them right now – I'm happy to store them for the Plant Sale. – *maria*]



Opportunity (3)

An email just popped in: VEGGIE GROWERS – this is for you. Lee Valley has table-top LED grow lights on SALE for \$59.50!!!

OPPORTUNITY (4) - THE BIG DIG CONTINUES

For those of you who missed the BIG DIG and this wonderful opportunity to commune with nature, get exercise and get PLANTS... There is hope!!! As, in spite of the many sporty people, and many hours of digging, and many cars loaded full of plants - we have hardly scratched the surface. There is "more in them, than hills!!" Our friend and staunch supporter, Keven Robichaud, the Site Supervisor - is happy to have us rescue whatever we can. So, for those of us never satisfied until the last plant is lifted, TAH DAH!!!! :

You can come and DIG on January 18 & 19 and every weekend thereafter (if anyone is interested in digging on weekdays - please let me know and arrangements can be made) until we good and clear the place. I figure, before January, the ground will be too cold, and the plants will be unhappy in their pots - WE NEED POTS!!!! - but spring comes early and there must be bulbs under there somewhere. I will keep you posted on the details.

Location: East 1st, between 2nd and St. David's. [I know 1st and 2nd are parallel, but at the end, 1st loops into 2nd.]

Liability: YOURS, you can't sue them for what you do there - so pay attention.

Ethics: Still the same - it's for the Plant Sale - what ends up in your garden should be balanced by a Plant Table donation.

Times: I'm working on it - suggestions welcomed. "Opening" and "Closing" people warmly welcomed as sometimes I can't be there. What's a reasonable time? 11AM - 3PM seemed to work - but can be modified.

"How it all went down so far" see *The Compost Bin*.

****Thanks to all of you who identified "*Euonymus alatus*" - it found a home with Kim Tucker. However, if you regret missing out - I am happy to reassure you that it has MANY smaller relatives, all potted up.



Does anyone have spare plant pots - not pot plants - ???! Please pass the info to the LEAF - we need them for the next BIG DIG!!!!



How to root magnolia, quince and winter jasmine

- research by Maria Issa

You are probably wondering why such a weird combination of plants? What on earth do they have in common? Well, their cuttings, from the BIG DIG, are all sitting in a big bucket of water in my laundry room and I need to do something with them soon, so as I learn, you will too. ...and if you want cuttings - I know where there are lots more...

Winter Jasmine: This looks easy as many of the branches that bend gracefully to the ground, already have lots of rootlets... and on the original plant these roots seem to have taken and started small plants. I live in hope.

"If starting a jasmine plant by rooting jasmine cuttings [...], start by making cuttings of the stem tips from a healthy jasmine plant. Make the cuttings about 6 inches long and cut each one directly below a leaf. Strip the leaves from the bottom part of the cutting and dip it in rooting hormone powder. Place each cutting into a hole in **damp sand** in a planter and place the planter in a plastic bag to hold moisture. Keep the planter in a 75-degree room (24 C.) out of direct sunlight. Roots should develop within a month, after

which you can transplant the jasmine plants into potting soil to strengthen their root systems before putting them into the garden.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Jasmine Propagation: Tips For Seed Starting And Rooting Jasmine

Cuttings
<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/jasmine/jasmine-propagation-tips.htm>

OK that's not rocket science... I think I can manage that - if only I had pots. Let's see the next research subject.

The same source - Gardening Know How- offers a very similar scenario:

"A magnolia tree from cuttings is not a sure bet. A large percentage of the cuttings fail. Put luck on your side by following the tips below. The first step in propagating magnolia trees from cuttings is to take cuttings in the summer after the buds set. [*well, that's not good*] Using a knife or pruner sterilized in denatured alcohol [*oh, alright, I'll do it*], cut 6- to 8-inch growing tips of branches as cuttings. Place the cuttings in water as you take them. When you get all you need,

remove all but the upper leaves of each cutting, then make a 2-inch vertical slice in the stem end. Dip each stem end in a good hormone solution, and plant in small planters filled with moist perlite [sorry, sand will have to do]. Position the planters in indirect light and tent each one with a plastic bag to keep in humidity. Mist them often and watch for root growth in a few months.

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/trees/magnolia/propagating-magnolia-trees.htm>

Looks like it's pretty similar - hope I have enough pots and plastic bags. If the quince is the same.... Sure enough, it is, with minor differences:

"Hardwood is best for propagating quince cuttings. The cuttings need to be harvested before bloom time and when the plant is still dormant. [well, I lucked in this time!!] That would be winter to very early spring. Use very sharp, clean implements to take your cuttings to prevent damage to the plant and

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/fruits/quince/how-to-grow-quince-cuttings.htm>

Since we are on the subject of propagation - Let's see what *The Book of Garden Magic*, by R.E. Biles has to say. I snapped up this book from the Plant Table - because it looked old and interesting: published in 1935!! Page 54 states,

"Cuttings when taken from the parent plant have no root sand therefore need no nourishment. What they want most quickly is roots. Clean sharp sand is the bet rooting medium, any humus or decayed vegetable matter in the soil may lead to fatal damping-off. This is the enemy of all propagation and is usually caused by too much moisture and improper soil bacteria. Because of the danger from these bacteria, new sand should be used for each propagation."

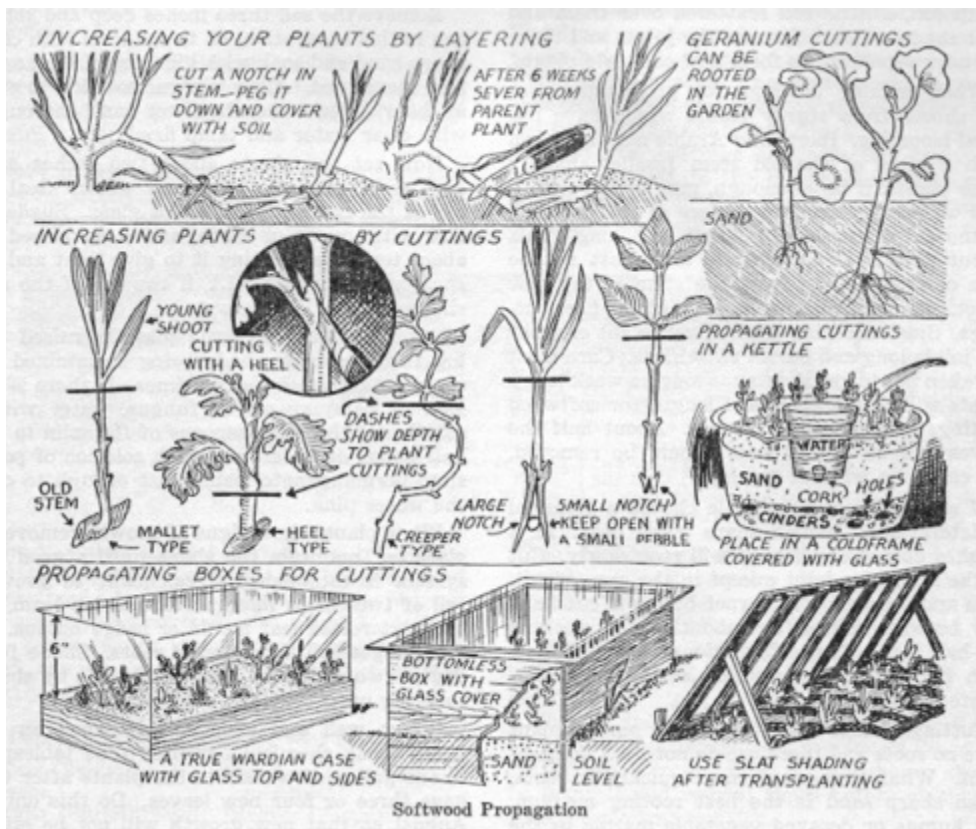
"Rooting seems best carried out in a slightly acid medium so we first water the sand with a weak solution of vinegar (acetic acid): one teaspoon of vinegar to one gallon of water [or if you're metric, 5 ml HOAc, to 3.75L water].

"Propagation may be done in two or three inches of sand in a cold frame or Wardian box. However, for the amateur, a box 8 inches deep - a soap box will do [where do I get a soapbox?]-open at the bottom and top is best. A small box will handle many cuttings. Remove the soil 3 inches deep and set the box in this excavation, fill to soil level with sharp clean sand and soak with vinegar solution.

"now set the plants about 2 inches apart each way, carefully label [that's what I always forget] and water. Seal the top of the box with a glass. Shade the box with paper or cloth and keep it closed for about 10 days, open only to give it light, fine sprinklings, ONLY if the top of the sand shows signs of drying out. If

there is any sign of damping-off or fungus growth, water with 3 tablespoons of formalin to one-half gallon of water, or a weak solution of potassium permanganate, using just enough to colour the water pink."

[I like this garden magic book - it anticipates my disasters]



introduction of disease. [so far, so good] If cuttings were taken in early winter, insert the cut end at a 45-degree angle into moist soil. You may choose to dip the end into a rooting hormone prior, but it is not necessary. Keep containers in a cool area where no freezing will take place. Keep the soil lightly moist but never soggy. Plant cuttings outside in spring when soil warms up enough to work it."

"MULCHING: Do not apply until ground is well frozen"

Mistletoe (as the Veggmates didn't. Again.)



Mistletoe makes its annual appearance each December as millions of Americans and Europeans hang a sprig of it in their doorways during the holiday season. According to custom, if you're caught standing under the mistletoe, you may get a kiss.

So what is it about this little plant that gives it its power to make people pucker up?

For centuries, mistletoe has been considered a plant that increases life and fertility. Celtic Druids living in the 1st century A.D. viewed it as a symbol of vivacity, since it remained green while other plants were bare during winter.

Some historians believe the connection between mistletoe and a kiss comes from ancient Norse mythology. According to happier versions of the legend, Baldur (sometimes spelled Baldr or Balder) was killed by an enemy's arrow made of mistletoe. His mother, the

goddess Frigg, wept tears onto the arrow. Her tears turned into white berries that she placed onto Baldur's wound, bringing him back to life. Overjoyed, Frigg blessed the mistletoe plant and promised a kiss to all who passed beneath it.

Although the legend of Baldur is often cited as the origin of the connection between mistletoe and a kiss, other historians tell a different story: The tradition of kissing under the mistletoe started in ancient Greece, during the festival of Saturnalia and later in marriage ceremonies, because of the plant's association with fertility. During the Roman era, enemies at war would reconcile their differences under the mistletoe, which to them represented peace.

So what, exactly, is mistletoe? Mistletoe is the English common name for most obligate hemiparasitic plants. They are attached to their host tree or shrub by a structure called the haustorium, through which they extract water and nutrients from the host plant. Their parasitic lifestyle has led to some dramatic changes in their metabolism.



The name mistletoe originally referred to the species *Viscum album* (European mistletoe, of the family *Santalaceae* in the order *Santalales*); it is the only species native to the British Isles and much of Europe. A separate species, *Viscum cruciatum*, occurs in Southwest Spain and Southern Portugal, as well as Morocco (North Africa) and southern Africa. Approximately 20 species of mistletoe can be found on the endangered species list.

Mistletoe can only grow if its seeds are carried to a "host" tree by birds. Typically, a bird will squeeze a mistletoe berry in its beak, eat the fruit and squish out a sticky, coated seed. The bird cleans the sticky coating, called "viscin," off its beak by wiping it against a nearby branch. As the viscin hardens, the seed becomes firmly attached to the host tree. Birds can eat mistletoe berries,

but the berries are highly toxic to humans.

A mistletoe seed germinates on the branch of a host tree or shrub, and in its early stages of development it is independent of its host. It commonly has two or even four embryos, each producing its hypocotyl, that grows towards the bark of the host under the influence of light and gravity, and potentially each forming a mistletoe plant in a clump. Possibly as an adaptation to assist in guiding the process of growing away from the light, the adhesive on the seed tends to darken the bark. On having made contact with the bark, the hypocotyl, with only a rudimentary scrap of root tissue at its tip penetrates it, a process that may take a year or more. In the meantime, the plant is dependent on its own photosynthesis. Only after it reaches the host's conductive tissue can it begin to rely on the host for its needs. Later it forms a haustorium that penetrates the host tissue and takes water and nutrients from the host plant. Thus the mistletoe invades the host plant, "stealing" nutrients and water from it. In fact, the scientific name for American mistletoe (*Phoradendron*) is Greek for "thief of the tree."

Mistletoe has also been associated with Celtic Druids who believed that mistletoe contained the spirit of the tree on which it grew as this was the only part of the tree that stayed green all winter, according to Roman author and naturalist Gaius Plinius Secundus (also known as Pliny the Elder). At the winter celebration of Samhain, the sacred oaks were bare except for the green boughs of mistletoe. This was taken as a sign of eternal fertility. The Celts placed a sprig of mistletoe above the door of their houses. Its sacred nature prohibited fighting beneath it. This evolved over centuries into the custom of kissing underneath mistletoe at Christmas. The ritual of oak and mistletoe is a Celtic religious ceremony, in which white-clad druids climbed a sacred oak, cut down the mistletoe growing on it with a golden sickle, sacrificed two white bulls and used the mistletoe to make an elixir to cure infertility and the effects of poison.

This prompted the question, "What are the toxic and ingredients in mistletoe, and what are their effects?" This time, drugs.com to the rescue.

In 1921, the Austrian anthroposophical spiritual leader Rudolf Steiner, suggested that mistletoe might be used to treat cancer, based on the observation that mistletoe, like cancer, is parasitic and lethal to its host. However, despite a plethora of experiments to determine a mechanism of action for mistletoe, no clear pathway has been identified and the effect on cancer has not been substantiated. Proposed mechanisms generally focus on direct cytotoxic action (apoptosis induction) or immunomodulation (eg, enhanced natural killer cell activity, increased production of interleukins and tumor necrosis factor-alpha, activation of mononuclear cells, stimulation of granulocyte phagocytosis).

In European folk medicine, a primary use of mistletoe is for its cardiovascular properties. However, clinical trials to support this use are also lacking. Viscotoxins have been shown to induce reflex bradycardia and possess negative inotropic effects in the isolated animal cardiac muscle, as well as vasoconstriction at higher doses. Phoratoxin demonstrates action on skeletal muscle fibers. Phenylpropanoids might also play a role in mistletoe's cardiovascular effects through a postulated inhibition of cyclic adenosine monophosphate phosphodiesterase.

There is also a host of other dangerous compounds in mistletoe: viscotoxins (thionins); carbohydrate-binding lectins; large polysaccharides, and some phenylpropanoids that may have osmotic properties. Mistletoe is considered to be a toxic plant, and its content of toxic lectins lends support to this. Poison centers report toxicity of the whole plant, but especially the berries. Gastroenteritis, seizures, hallucinations, and anaphylaxis have been reported.

Bottom line: kiss under it, but drink (fortified) eggnog instead of Druidic potions.

Here Panoramix(Fr)/Getafix(En) from the Asterix books makes his elixir/magic potion.



The Compost Bin

- Maria Issa



So, you are wondering "how it all went down at the BIG DIG"? In one word: SUCCESSFULLY! Let's set the stage here: it wasn't a "dark and stormy night" but it was definitely a cold and frozen-ground-type few days. The scene was a weed-filled, house-less, demo-ed, backhoed, flattened devastation of empty lots. Well, not all that empty.

On the first day, 10 AM exactly, I was still 3 minutes away, but my cell phone was buzzing madly: Kelly and Judy and Ginette were ready with their shovels and raring to get at it. We had a bit of a reconnaissance of the place and then attacked. Then the next three days became a blur of plants, pots and



people for me – Courtney, Hiromi, Edie, Carol, Anna Marie, Penny, Daphne, Ginette all appeared with pots, thoughts, knowledge and found and identified strange-looking dry sticks, or wilted leaves for deracination. Sounds of “Ooooooh! A rudbeckia!”, “There is soooooo much lavender everywhere!”, “What is this? Catmint?”, “Is that really a?” “Wow, those are cool grasses!”, rose through the chilly air. Often, we would consult, “Is this a something?” and the answer would come back “It’s definitely a ‘something’ – just not quite sure what...” We dug it out anyway.



rate. There were some cool finds – a lot of choisya (identified by Ginette), Camelia (extracted by Anne), oak-leaf hydrangea (Judy), some dead twigs that turned into a named azalea, complete with tag (Hiromi), an ancient lace-cap hydrangea (Penny), and that mystery plant that turned into the *Euonymus alatus*, as well as roses, deciduous azaleas, yucca, dogwood, clematis, sedum, leopard’s bane, ferns, fuschia, etc. etc. etc.

I think we may have cleaned out everyone’s pot reserves... and were starting in on plastic bags in desperation. Car seats were flattened, tarps were laid, and many trunks were filled with herbaceous loot.

Keven, the Site Supervisor, came through occasionally and cheered us on. Because he was so positive, I had the temerity to ask if we could come back the weekend after. Luckily, he said ‘yes,’ so last weekend, we had a second kick at the can.

The ground was even harder this time, but Kathy was relentless; Anne-with-the-eagle-eyes circled and swooped; Ginette and Courtney were powerhouses, Hiromi dogged, Penny untiring, Anna Marie determined, Brenda and Scott efficient, Judy resourceful... but the phenomena of the weekend were definitely Sue and Rob.

Luckily, LVGC people have “the eye” - and once you see stuff, it’s everywhere! - not to mention years of experience. Let’s face it, Anne P knows every plant even in its sorry, winter state and pre-identified many for us – so pots and flats were being filled at a rapid

Remember the rhodo that was my downfall? The “cute little thing” that turned out to have a mega-trunk and monstrous roots - where I got busted? Rob and Sue looked at each other and said, “Oh, we can get that!”

They dug, they pulled, (they probably cursed) they lopped, they pushed, and excavated a swimming-pool sized hole around the ‘little’ rhodo. It took them 4 hours!!! Then came the big moment: the rhodo was loose, but it was HEAVY. VERY HEAVY. Rob got the truck right up to the rock wall, and the “three graces,” Sue, Judy and I sat in the dirt and pushed with our legs, while Rob hauled hard. The rhodo thunked onto the tailgate – which I feared would break – then we huffed and we puffed and levered it deeper into the truck. It’s a wonder their truck got home on four wheels and not only on the rear two. Amazing.

And talk about ‘fame and fortune’ – well, just fame! – a North Shore News reporter came by, interviewed us, took some pictures, and with some luck, LVGC will be a hot news item. The messaging was around rescuing the North Shore’s plant heritage and how developers should consider allowing the community to re-home plants. Let’s see what actually gets written: it should be in the Wednesday edition, if all goes well.

So, if you feel that you have missed out on all the fun, or all the plants:

1. If you are lower down than I am, them probably the plants would be happier with you – so feel free to come and pick up pots and house them till the plant sale.
2. There will be more stuff to dig on all these lots, then there is an entire, beautiful garden that awaits us, as well as a couple of soon-to-be-empty properties.

Please come and join the “army with shovels” after the New Year.

Thank you to all my partners-in-crime: you are all a delight to dig with!!!





Song without words....↑

Suggestions for you from *The Garden Magic* book – from 1935

← HOW TO HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS →


THE GREAT MAGICIAN TELLS HOW TO HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.



HANG A BIT OF HOLLY IN YOUR HEART—



ADD A CANDLE WITH A CHEERFUL LIGHT—



EAT ALL THE PUDDING YOU CAN FIND— THEY ARE ALL STUFFED WITH LOVE



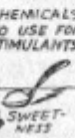
STAND UNDER A PIECE OF MISTLETOE TO ORNAMENT THE LIPS—



OLD PALS
TAKE A FEW FRESH EGGS—



MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS




SWEETNESS




GOOD CHEER 100 PROOF


MIX THEM WITH MILK AND SWEETEN WITH A SMILE LIKE SUGAR— ADD JUST A NIP OF YOUR OWN PERSONAL CHEER AND SERVE TO ANY GOOD EGG WHO WILL HELP YOU DRINK IT ALL UP WITH A JOYFUL ZEST—



GET THE WORRY LOG THAT WEIGHTS YOU DOWN BURN IN THE GRATE, NOTHING BETTER FOR A YULE LOG TO GIVE LIGHT AND CHEER



LET THE SUNLIGHT OF DIVINE LOVE FILTER INTO YOUR SOUL. SURE TO BRING PEACE, GOOD CHEER, WEALTH HAPPINESS AND LOVE.




LOOK OVER THE EVERGREENS. SPRAY LIBERALLY WITH TINSEL ORNAMENTS AND LIGHTS—



IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL, OPEN ALL PACKAGES— ESPECIALLY THOSE MARKED: "NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL CHRISTMAS—"



FOLLOW THE STAR OF LOVE ALONG THE PATH OF LIFE.

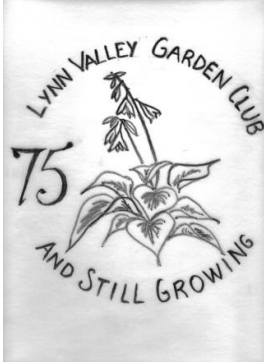


ALWAYS SING (ESPECIALLY IN THE HEART) A FEW OF THE OLD CAROLS— AND THE MAGIC WILL BE COMPLETE— (NOTE: DON'T MIX ANY WORRY OR TROUBLE IN ANY PART OF THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS.)

PIN ON THE FLOWER OF FAITH— MAKES ALL HOPE AND WISHES COME TRUE

PLANT THE FLOWER OF PEACE IN YOUR HEART

While THE BOOK OF GARDEN MAGIC was in process of preparation, Jos. E. Ebertz, the artist whose technique is responsible for the perfection of the drawings, decided to give some instructions of his own. The above was his Christmas card to the writer and anyone who will follow out this philosophy can have Christmas any time whether it is December 25th or not.



Lynn Valley Garden Club

2020 Registration Form

(Jan 1, 2020 to Dec 31, 2020)

- Annual membership Fee is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple.
- Renewals must be received by December 31, 2019. After this deadline, new members will be accepted from the waiting list.
- If paying by cheque, make payable to 'Lynn Valley Garden Club'.
- Postdated cheques (December 31, 2019) will be accepted. Cheques will not be cashed until after January 1, 2020
- Complete the form and attach payment. Either bring form & payment to the next meeting or mail form & payment to:
Lynn Valley Garden Club, P.O. Box 16053,
1199 Lynn Valley Rd., North Vancouver, BC. V7J 3S9

Last Name: _____ First name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____ [to receive the newsletter]

Would you consider helping with a committee
or taking an executive position in the future? Yes _____ No _____

Do you want your phone number included
on the membership phone list? *** Yes _____ No _____

Do you have a suggestion for a speaker or a topic? _____

Paid by Cheque #: _____ Cash: _____

QUESTIONS??? Email: lvqc.membership@gmail.com

*** All LVGC email addresses & phone #'s are private information and only to be used as directed by the executive. Membership fee includes digital newsletter (not printed).

