



THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

FEBRUARY 2020

President's Message - ❁ Norma

This may seem like an odd way to start the New Year, but I want to address the cancellation of our January meeting. Please know that the decision was not made lightly or quickly. It was stressful monitoring all the different forecasts, although they were all predicting another huge snow storm for Thursday, give or take an hour or two of its arrival. Okay, I know it won't be the last time they are wrong but SO far off the mark?! Thursday morning the storm was called off but there was enough snow and slush and ice on the ground to make it treacherous for most people to be out on Thursday night. The deciding factor on cancelling the meeting was that Chris Jennings (the scheduled speaker), who was coming from Vancouver via the sea bus, was not going to be able to make it and was willing to reschedule for April. There was a concerted effort by your hardworking executive to implement the cancellation. It involved quite a bit of extra work.

One good outcome of the cancellation is that Chris Jennings' talk on shade plants and gardens at the April meeting is two days before our bus trip. He may find us overly attentive with questions or request to repeat plant names. As you know, Rosemarie usually plans a stop at a nursery or two because a gardener can never have enough plants. I overheard someone ask one of our members if her plants (mostly housed in pots) made it through the winter this year, and without missing a beat she said "I've got too many plants. I'm letting Mother Nature decide what stays and what goes." So, you will have plenty of time to hunt down new plants to test Mother Nature yourself.

Remember, this year's bus tour to the Fraser Valley is happening Saturday April 18. There is good news for all those people who were holding tight to a careening school bus through Vancouver last year. We heard you! This year we will be travelling in style...our cushy tour bus even has an onboard washroom. Sounds good.

We are planning on having our Members' Garden Tour in June this year. We already have a couple of gardens in mind, but we need some volunteers to organize the tour. It is relatively easy since last year's template for mapping and directions can be used.

At our October meeting, Margaret made a notice of motion to give 2 votes to Membership at the executive meetings. We will be voting on that motion at our February meeting.

While Maria, our illustrious Newsletter Editor is merrily photographing turtles in the Galapagos, Sue and Aline have stepped up to put out this issue of the LEAF for your enjoyment. A big round of applause!



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

February 20

THE VEGGIMATES

How to Succeed with Veggies

Note: seeding demo 6:15pm

March 19

JOANNE MELVILLE

*Restoring the Gardens at
Hycroft*

April 16

CHRIS JENNINGS

Shade Plants

LVGC Plant Sale May 16!!!!

Mailing Address:

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<http://www.lynnvalleygardclub.org>
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Executive 2020

President

Norma

Vice President

Jacque

Secretary

Susan

Treasurer

Ginette

Membership

Sue

Doreen

Members at Large

Pat

Lori

Suzanne

Jackie

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa

Plant Table

Norma

Hospitality

Sharon

Maggie

Susan

Daphne

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Lorraine

Website

Aline

Executive Meetings

1st Wednesday of the month

WEDNESDAY, MAR 4

Pat

Next Newsletter Deadline

March 11

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:

Maria, Judith,, Yvonne



REPORTS

VP Report - Jacque



Jacque is looking into speakers and always welcomes any suggestions for topics. Please see above for the schedule for February, March and April.

Treasurer's Report - Ginette

- The bank balance as of January 31, 2020 was
- In petty cash there was
- The LVGC total is

Membership Report for the start of 2020 - Doreen & Sue

Thanks to all our members who renewed for 2020 -we are now at 143 members including 9 new members. Please welcome Jo, Liz & Andrew, Kathleen, Terry, Ann, Jacqueline, Jane, Julie, to the Club.

When current and new members sign-in at the February meeting please check for your 2020 Membership card. You can show this card for discounts at local nurseries including Maple Leaf and Gardenworks.

A reminder that the fee for attending meetings as a Guest is \$5.00 per person.

After the February meeting we will advise the membership if we still have room in the club to invite people from the waitlist to join.

Lastly, a huge **Thank You** to our outgoing Membership Chair, Susan. Susan has done a great job over this past year and she is a hard act to follow! Susan is now our most efficient secretary. Sue will do another year as membership and is joined by Doreen to form our new Membership Committee.

Plant Table - Norma

Norma always has interesting things on the table, come over and visit her to see what she has.

Hospitality - Carole, Susan, Maggie & Daphne

.... 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.-m]



MALs (Members At Large – they represent the club members)

Jackie, Pat, Lori, Suzanne

The MALs are looking forward to organizing the Plant Sale but have quite the shoes to fill! Here is some information and how you can help.

- Tentative date for the Plant Sale and set up: **Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16** (while this is the date in our contract with the Church, it is subject to Church needs. We may not know until March.)
- Please dig up, divide and pot up plants as weather permits. To easily sell and get the best price, plants need to have nicely leafed out and be of a decent size by the Plant Sale. Anything small or dormant will not likely sell.
- Soil for potting – we are looking into this and will send out an email when it has arrived and where it will be. Please do not call to ask, as it is dependent on when the supplier has it in stock and when it can be delivered.
- Please bring any lawn signs you may still have to the next meeting as we know there are still a few out there.
- Start collecting beer flats and Costco boxes.
- Raffle donations are needed (Please contact Jackie!).
- *We need volunteers* to organize the following, if they are to go ahead (contact Jackie if you are interested):
 - Promotion at Lynn Valley Centre on the Saturday before the Plant Sale – organizing and attendance, along with other club members
 - Raffle – selling tickets at the Plant Sale
 - Garden Paraphernalia table -- pricing and management at the Plant Sale
 - Invasive Plants Table at the Plant Sale – organizing/stocking with samples
 - Honey Table at the Plant Sale – selling at the Plant Sale
 - Club t-shirts, either the older dark green ones or last year's lighter green ones – to organize orders to arrive before the Plant Sale for new members and those who don't have either.



SPEAKERS

Thursday, February 20, 2020

THE VEGGIMATES' VEGGIE NIGHT

6:15 PM (before regular meeting)

Please join us as we revisit the requirements for seed-growing success. We will try to cover containers, soil, water, light, heat, choosing seeds *etc.* and to answer any questions you may have. There will be Westcoast Seeds to hand out and start growing for the Plant Sale.

8 PM or so (after the business meeting)

Whether you grow your veggies from seed or buy them at the Plant Sale, how can you successfully grow them? As the "speaker" of the evening, members of the club will talk about their favourite vegetables and herbs and what they have learned to plant, grow and harvest them.



Greetings from Gabriola Island by Yvonne (former member and Veggimate)

The 50 shades of shade, or how to cope in paradise ...

First of all a big Hello to you all and belated best wishes for the New Year.

I have been meaning to write to you many times before, but in hindsight I realize that I was not yet in the right mental spot to do so. Explanations to follow...

It has been just about five Valley home and moved to This adventure was well anticipation, as it would nicer things in life (like move went well including first truck contained all our to 50 potted plants!! Yes, I



months since we sold our beloved Lynn our new half-acre property on Gabriola Island. thought out and we were full of joyful allow us to retire early and let us focus on the gardening to one's heart's content!). The two ferry rides and two(!) moving trucks. The belongings, the second one a piano and close moved half of our garden along. But I am

happy to report that along with some of my favourite plants and some family heirlooms I also successfully moved some garden club treasures including Pat's rosa rugosa, Norma's thornless raspberries, Tom and Maggie's hostas and the thornless blackberries from Tom and Judith! So far everything has survived! ☺

It was August, the weather could not have been better. We swam walked the beautiful forest trails and started acquainting home: the well, the septic system, and the zillion pumps that anything in the house and around the house and from there back learn! Our new home and garden were bright and sunny and



in the nearby ocean, ourselves with our new connect everything and into the house ... lots to cheerful.

But as it doesn't always stay August and the weather and seasons the sun started to disappear and I realized that I didn't actually like our garden all that much, or not at all the longer I looked at it! To someone else it would certainly seem perfect, it is kind of a low-maintenance, rocky alpine landscape with the perfect choice of native and hardy plants, shrubs and trees. It is mulched with gravel in an effort to contain the most amount of moisture, as water is in such short supply on the island. It screams Xeriscaping all over! Somebody went through a lot of thought and effort and money to put it all in place. But that's just it, SOMEBODY, not us!! It looks and feels like somebody else's garden, and not ours. But the more I observe the garden the more I understand that they did absolutely the right thing given the conditions we have around here: very poor soil (rocks and rocks and rocks), very little water, and lots of native plants that grow like weeds (Salal, Oregon grapes and brambles to name a few). Also, our property is facing south, but slightly uphill and surrounded with towering cedar and other coniferous trees. Hence, no sun on the ground in the fall and winter at all, and a lot of shade throughout the rest of the year. How am I going to grow my vegetables??? Where am I going to put up my green house(s)??? Where is my wildflower meadow going to go??? All those pre-move bubbles of dreams and expectations are slowly bursting one after the other after the other ...

So I am faced with two options: Despair and drive my poor husband crazy with all the complaining, tears and ranting – or go on the attack, devise a plan and see what can be done with what we have, as a good gardener would do. First: I joined the garden club and realized that about 90% of my fellow club members deal with the same poor conditions as I do. Only a few lucky farmers down at the south end have the good soil and full sun exposure. Second: good soil can be carted in and we have to work with raised beds for the vegetables. At least we have excellent drainage. Third: we are investing in a rain water harvesting system so that I do not ever have to feel guilty when I water my vegetables. Fourth: I am taking advantage of the darker months to learn as about permaculture, garden design, choice and location of greenhouses. Bruce will be proud of me as I went out and graph paper, I want to do the planning right. Unfortunately, I across the section in any of the books yet where they tell you *an existing* garden. They all start out with a blank canvas. Oh like a real challenge. Oh, and I should mention that my husband book for Christmas called "Glorious Shade" – an excellent read! observe the sun, perhaps a full four seasons' cycle, before installing the garden beds. I don't know how I will manage that AM SO IMPATIENT!!!



much as I can plants and bought proper haven't come how to *change* well, nothing gave me a Fifth: I have to permanently one because I

So you see, I couldn't have written to you sooner because it would have been a rather gloomy and sad report, and who needs that anyway. However, now I am full of enthusiasm and energy and I feel a sap flowing in my veins just like one of our Japanese cherry trees that looks like it wants to pop open its blossoms any moment.

And on that note I will now go outside and start taking measurements for my master gardening plan. The sun is out (at least it's hanging in the trees). Have a great gardening season – I miss you all.

PS: Don't tell but I did do some spying at the local garden club:

- They sell raffle tickets and use the money to purchase great door prizes (gardening tools, plants, books etc.)
- They have their own little library with excellent gardening books that members can sign out and bring back at the following meeting.
- One of the board members, a master gardener, talks at every meeting about what can be done in the flower, fruit and vegetable garden and in the greenhouse during that specific month. I really like this one!



BULBANZA!

[ring]

- Maria, this is Tom.

- Hi Tom, what's up?

- As one scrounger to another,

- Whaaaaat? HUUUUH?, Maria

- I was picking up the West month, when the Garden were about to toss out. So, of

- How did they know about

- Well, they saw the note on bringing the bulbs - LOTS of

arranged with Jackie [thanks Jackie!!] to put the bulbs where they can stay dry and LVGC members can pick them up easily. Can you send out an APB?

- You got it!



Garden Works just gave LVGC a zillion bulbs! asked intelligently.

Coast Seeds catalogues for the Veggimates' workshop this Works people asked me if we wanted some bulbs they course I said "Hell, YES!"

LVGC?

the catalogue pile that it was for LVGC... So they started them! I filled the back of the car! I've talked to Norma and



Apparently, within minutes, cars started steaming by Jackie's house, like through a bulb drive-through. By the next morning the bounty had been snapped up, had disappeared without a trace. The "sorry, none left" email went out early Monday afternoon.

The early bird gets the worm - and many birds got many worms! - but some sadly missed out: notes sent to the such a bulbanza, you



there were a few sad Leaf... When there is have to be quick.

Thanks to Tom's quick thinking and Garden Works' LVGC will have lovely spring gardens. We hope Garden LVGC whenever they need to purge their stock of plants past date.

generosity, many Works will remember the "best before"



FOR SALE: LVGC's enormous (100 inch), old-but-good-as-new projection **screen** with **stand** - and **carry case**. No, I don't have a picture of it (it's in my garage with the spiders) - but you probably remember it from St. Clement's. Similar items on Craig's list ask for \$200. For you, cheap at half the price... and the \$\$ goes to a lot of good causes. If you want it - you have till mid-March to claim it, after that it goes up on Craig's list. Contact Maria at lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com



PLANT TABLE: If you participated in the first-ever **BIG DIG** and some of those plants have taken permanent root in your garden, please don't forget to make your appropriate **Plant Table donation** on the honour system.



BIG DIG #2: With the current weather, nobody in their right mind - not even yours truly - wants to go out and dig. However, we have been invited back for Round 2!! Unless I hear to the contrary as people are champing at the bit to dig earlier, the target date is mid or late March. By that time, any hidden plants may have declared themselves, there might be more soil for potting up - and more of you will have organized all those extra flowerpots that you will bring.



The Great LVGC Bus Tour



Yes: there will be one this year (possibly with a new and improved, very swish bus)!!! Rosemarie is the organizer-in-chief, so all scathingly brilliant ideas of where to go and what to see should be sent to her. Rosemarie writes:

It is planned for Saturday, April 18. We will have a sign-up sheet at the February meeting. Payment must be made by the March meeting (but will make it easier if you pay at the February meeting). Diane and Doreen will be keeping track of sign-up.

We will be visiting several private gardens and nurseries in the Fraser Valley, some details still to be determined but: Great news... Rosemarie has convinced **David Sellars** to open up his large private garden to our club on that day. He usually doesn't take large groups, but we are the exception! Another stop will be Darts Hill! The April 18 date was picked, in part, because of the availability of these two places. The list is not finalized so if you have other places for Rosemary to check out please feel free to email her

Cost \$20 per person.

Bus will leave at 8 AM sharp and return approximately 5 PM; could be later, depending on traffic or any delays encountered during the day.

Please remember to bring your lunch, a drink, wear comfortable shoes and dress for variable weather. You may need a raincoat or umbrella (or hopefully, sunscreen!).

Full itinerary and details of gardens to be visited will be handed to you when you board the bus.

Please sign up and pay promptly to confirm your seat. Payment is due by no later than our March general meeting.

If you cannot attend the February meeting and wish to go on the trip, please contact either Diane, Doreen or Rosemarie and your name will be added to the list.

This has proved to be a fun event in past years – great opportunity to mix and mingle with your LVGC friends and neighbours – get on board!

Your Bus Trip Committee

Rosemarie, Doreen, Diane

[If you're new and haven't yet experienced The Great LVGC Bus Tour – you must try to come. It's a hoot – and a brilliant learning experience – ed]



PLANT SALE SOIL

... will be available as soon as the weather allows. You will receive an email notice. PLEASE limit yourself to what you need in order to pot up for the plant sale. Please 'bag & bring' any extra flowerpots for sharing and leave them by the soil. Your fellow LVGC will be grateful!!



PIG POO PROCUREMENT!!!!



People purchasing prime pungent *Pig Poo*: please pre-order & preferably pre-pay: \$8 plastic bag (This is the same price as last year – yippee ☺)

Pondering planting proportions? Picture a bag about 3x the size of your computer screen.

Please place your orders promptly at the *February meeting* break, or phone Kelly, PP Purveyor par excellence, who will be pleased to place your name on the provisioning list.

The Porcine Poo Provider will be in the parking lot prior to the *March 19th meeting*: Please prepare your payment, if you hadn't already paid; and prepare your transport appropriately (tarp in car posterior – poo bag plastic probably not pristine...) and be prepared to participate in the procession passing by the purveyor to pick up your personal pile. [Basically, think of it as a pig poo drive through.]

Problems picking up? Please make precipitate private arrangements, as unclaimed Pig Poo poses problems for the parking lot.



The Good of the Hive (article forwarded by Maria on holidays 😊)

Devastated by the decline of bee populations worldwide, I made a personal commitment to hand paint 50,000 honey bees in murals around the world. That's how many bees are needed for a healthy, thriving hive and that's how many I will paint. It could take me 20 years, but I'm going to do it! Matthew Willey artist, founded The Good of the Hive®, an organization hovering at the intersection of art and planetary health, through his art and his imagination, Matthew inspires curiosity and awareness about the importance of honey bees and other pollinators while celebrating the power in human connection. But the work is about much more than that.



Honey bees within the hive 'think' collectively. They are hard-wired to understand that their immune system is collective. Their health is based on the health of the hive, not the individual bee. After a personal experience with a honey bee in 2008, Matthew realized that human health is the same way, although we rarely act like it. The global hive he is painting is a metaphor for the connectedness necessary for a healthy planet. The bees are a symbol for of all living things- humans, trees, animals, pollinators, water, soil and everything in between.

Check the link below if you want to learn more.

<https://www.thegoodofthehive.com/>



To all Lynn Valley Garden Club **Master Gardeners** - are you looking for volunteer hours? With the program's requirement of students' volunteer hours completed over an 18 month to two year period, this could be a great opportunity for you!

Would you enjoy spending time in one of the three District NV community gardens during a work party this growing season of 2020, to answer questions from the gardeners?

The three District NV community gardens are:

- [Lillooet Park Community Garden](#), up the hill behind the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites between Old Lillooet Road and Lillooet Road,
- [Lynn Valley Lions Community Garden](#), 3590 Mountain Highway at Frederick Road,
- [Garibaldi Park Community Garden](#), midway down Garibaldi, off Mt Seymour Parkway.

Please contact Judith Brook to discuss; phone number on member list.



[Help bees by not mowing dandelions, gardeners told | Environment | The Guardian](#)

Gardeners should avoid mowing over dandelions on their lawn if they want to help bees, according to the new president of the British Ecological Society. Dandelions – which will start flowering ... www.theguardian.com

Thanks to Judith Brooks for the above link.

EVENTS:



Monday FEBRUARY 17, 2020 10AM
Coast Salish Family Day at Maplewood Flats
2649 Dollarton Hwy

Help regenerate Maplewood Flats. Join us for a day of plant biodiversity restoration activities, as well as:

Nature workshops; Coast Salish storytelling; Holiday Nature Walk; John Lowman Solo Photo Exhibit; Coast Salish plants sale.



Saturday, FEBRUARY 29, 10 am - 4 pm
Van Dusen Gardens: **Seedy Saturday**

Join us on Saturday in the Floral Hall.
Brought to you by the Vancouver Master Gardeners
Meet Seed Vendors
Free Lectures
Learn how to grow from seed!
Admission by donation



Sunday March 29th 10am-4:30pm
Vancouver Master Gardeners Seminar Spring Affair at Michael J Fox Theatre Burnaby
Tickets \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door

Topics Include:

Gardening in a Changing Climate by Linda Chalker-Scott
Supernaturalistic: The New Perennial Pond Garden by Tony Spencer
Vancouver's Urban Forest - a canary in the gold mine by Dave Demers
Japan: Gardens and Nature by Douglas Justice

Click on this link if interested. <http://www.mgabc.org/node/2574>



Saturday APR 25, 2020 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
BC Council of Garden Clubs

Featured Speaker, Calude Le Doux Plant A Row - Grow A Row initiative. You must register and it closes April 18, 2020. Located at Bonsor Community Centre 6550 Bonsor Avenue - Burnaby.

See link for additional information. <https://bcgardenclubs.com/events/bccgc-annual-general-meeting/>

