



THE LEAF

THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

April

President's Message – Norma Austin

This has been an unusually cold spring. There is one benefit I can see, from a gardener's point of view. A cold spring means that bulbs and flowers don't all come up at once, and the bloom time is extended so you don't have to wait so long before the annuals put on their show. Also, unusual these last few weeks is the sudden shift from sunshine one day to rain the very next. We can use this to our advantage by planting, especially newly acquired perennials, on the sunny day and letting Mother Nature water in the plants for us the next day.

This natural working fits right in with this Earthwise Society. Their sustainable communities education and stewardship. to thank for not only finding interesting speakers but amazing variety. I also want have been attending our regular basis. This is your for the executive as we work until we can meet in person following the speaker on meeting, we will be how many members have This will be very helpful for Large) as they work to protocols to keep us all safe.



and answering any questions you may have about the sale. Please read her report from the MAL committee, which is included in this newsletter.

Spring is officially here and your garden is awakening. Enjoy!

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

LVGC MEETINGS
Non-Pandemic: 3rd
Thursday of each month
(except July and August)
at

St. Stephen's Church
1360 E 24th Street

Pandemic: ZOOM
MEETINGS WILL START
AT 7PM

SPEAKER
Earthwise Society, their work
and projects
April 15

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

To limit unnecessary trips,
we are picking up the mail
ad hoc

PLEASE USE ELECTRONIC
ACCESS
Your emails are welcome!
<http://www.lynnvalleygardeclub>

< --- William Wordsworth

Executive 2021

President	
Norma Austin	X
Vice President	
Jacque Morgan	X
Secretary	
Lorraine Robson	X
Treasurer	
Donna Wasylik	X
Membership	
Barb Downman	X
Doreen Marbry	X
Members at Large (MAL)	
Lori Herman	X
Penny LeCouteur	X
Ann McKinnon	X
Courtney Mitchell	X

Committees

Newsletter Editor	
Maria Issa	X
Plant Table	
Norma Buckland	X
Hospitality	
Sharon Carabetta	X
Susan Nicholls	X
Daphne Page	X
Sunshine / Door Prizes	
Susan Huber	X
Website	
Aline Burlone	X

Executive Meetings
By Zoom, 1st Wednesday of each
month, 7PM

Next Newsletter Deadline
Beginning of May

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: *Rosemarie Adams,
Barb Downman, Barbara Frisken,
Linda Howe, Penny LeCouteur, Rita
Marshall, Bruce Tennant*



SPEAKER

EARTHWISE SOCIETY

Earthwise is a not-for-profit organization that promotes sustainable communities through educational programs and environmental stewardship. Our farm and garden is situated on 2 acres in Boundary Bay, Tsawwassen, and here we grow organic produce and flowers, conduct Eco-tours for elementary school children, apprentice the next generation of farmers, and hold workshops and events that are attended by the community. Earthwise is also the location for our community gardens, and Wednesday evening and Saturday morning farm store. The mission of the Earthwise Society is to cultivate sustainable communities through environmental education and stewardship. We are about community, our earth, and how we act within it. We believe that:

- We can all make the world better and healthier.
- Small changes to our actions make a big difference.
- Sustainable communities are achievable and practical.



REPORTS

Vice President - Jacque Morgan

List of Speakers:

May 20, 2021

Christine Allen: Roses

June 17

To be Announced



Treasurer's Report - Donna Wasylik

LVGC Assets as of March 2021:

Bank Balance March 16, 2021	\$9,413.30
Cash on hand	\$ 139.65
Total	\$9,552.95

Membership Report - Doreen Marbry and Barb Downman

Please contact Doreen Marbry X if you have a change in your contact information from a year ago so we can update our records. If you would like to have your 2020 membership card, please call Doreen to arrange a time for pickup. We have 148 members.

The Membership Registration forms will appear in the September issue of The Leaf, so the process can be started early. To encourage members to complete their registrations early, Barb hinted that there might even be a prize draw from among the members who submit their registration forms by a certain date... so watch this space!!!

Website - Aline Burlone

Aline reported she has reorganized the speaker pages so members don't have to scroll through all the past speakers. She has also added a current year's past speaker page (or archive).



"Botany, the science of the vegetable kingdom is one of the most attractive, most useful and most extensive departments of human knowledge. It is, above every other, the science of beauty."

- Joseph Paxton

PLANT SALE PLANT SALE PLANT SALE PLANT SALE PLANT SALE PLANT SALE PLANT SALE

Because of the rapidly increasing COVID numbers and the continuing need to be extra careful, and Bonnie Henry shutting things down, the Plant Sale "Plan B" was considered and approved by the LVGC Executive.

Here is the Plan B: it is bare-bones, and we will add details later as required. Nothing is set in stone so let me know if you have any scathingly brilliant ideas.

Basically, Plan B involves setting plants out on driveways and letting people come and pick what they want and pay for it on an honour system. Similar to what happened last year.

The veggie sale will be separate - a week before the rest of the sale. We will have 3 or 4 sites starting Saturday, May 15th at 10 AM to 4 PM, and again on Sunday, May 16. We expect that most of the veggie plants will be sold by the end of Sunday as they tend to be a hot commodity. LVGC members and friends will put the money into a designated box or can. We will try to have one of our volunteers on hand at each site - 2-hour time slots for each. We will replenish plants throughout the day so there should be no need for everyone to try and get there early.

The rest of the plants (mainly perennials) will be sold starting 10 AM the next Saturday, May 22, and continuing until all (or most) of the plants are

sold. There will be about 6 or 7 sites and again there will be no need for everyone to try and arrive at the beginning as we will replenish plants throughout the day for the first day. We will try and have one volunteer at each site again.

No more than 10 people can be on any of the sites at one time. There will be no-one giving out advice and no sherpas to help carry plants to cars. We will accept cheques but only from LVGC members - [so that if they bounce, we know where to find you!!]. Site hosts will be home (like not away for the weekend) but can leave to

do errands etc. MALS will rotate around the sites and collect money and cheques throughout the day. We will have a list of site addresses available in the May Leaf - or earlier by email. I will be in contact with those of you who kindly volunteered your place as a site and/or who have volunteered to help as we will still need you but somewhat differently.

We can add more details later if necessary, and an email will be sent to all members to remind them, a few days before each sale. Let me know any thoughts or suggestions by email or phone.

Thank you. Penny Le Couteur for the MALS.



POTS POTS POTS POTS!!!! - Maria Issa

Now that you have lots of wonderful soil and your plants may be growing (though up here on the mountain - we have SNOW FLAKES as I type this) so what you need now is POTS to put plants in. LVGC's pots are all concentrated at my house: on St Mary's Avenue. I will put them out along the driveway - so you can just sneak in and pick them up, and no one will be the wiser. So PLEASE come and get them as I would like to use my garden shed again.

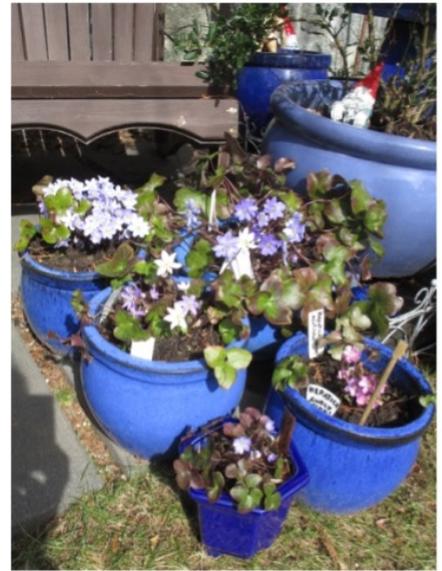
Plant Labels - Doreen Dew & Rosemarie Adams

Doreen has large amounts of the 1" slats from some window blinds all nicely cut up to a perfect size: call her if you need some. Rosemarie reminds you that those leftover chopsticks from the many take-out dinners we all seem to be having these days - make excellent plant markers - so don't toss them out. Run them through the dishwasher before use if you don't want vague garlic odours emanating from your fritillaria.



BRIGHT SPOTS

From Rosemarie's Garden



Bergenia and *Caltha biflora* (Marsh blue pots) and *Saxifraga* 'Tysoe



marigold) Above center; *Hepatica* (in Burgundy, bottom center.

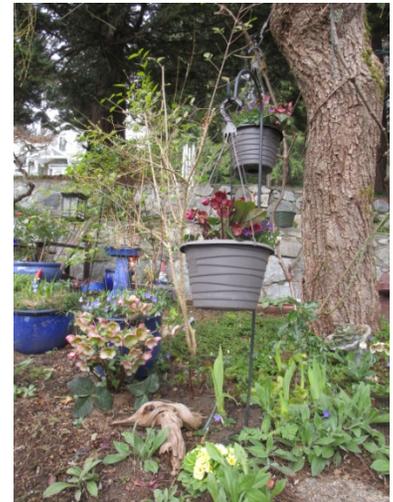


Sometimes it's hard to see Hellebores at their best because their flowers often hang downwards.

Fortunately, some of mine are in a bed above my lower driveway, so



I get to look up at them, and when I was doing just this one day, I wondered what they would look like in hanging baskets. So..... heeding Barb Downman's note about Home Depot having some nice inexpensive Hellebores, I trotted off and a couple of hanging baskets. They look quite nice, shaded in summer when they have finished will be happy in a pot and they will re-bloom next Always fun to try different plants in different



bought a couple, and put them in hanging in a tree, they will be blooming, hopefully their roots year. situations.

Maria's Hellebore Colour Scale



FAVOURITE GARDEN SPOTS

From Barb Downman



My favorite garden spot is the woodland garden we've created under the maple tree in our back garden. When we moved into our house in 2013, the space under the maple tree was devoid of plants and covered with bright orange shredded bark mulch. Over the years we have removed the bark mulch, improved the soil and planted woodland plants including a variety of ferns, *hostas*, *hellebores*, *brunnera*,



epimedium and *thalictrum*. While this garden area is at its peak in late April/early May, we have tried to create some winter interest by including dwarf oakleaf hydrangeas and some evergreen ferns. Some special treasures include small patches of double flowered *sanguinaria* (bloodroot), *erythronium*, woodland anemone and *dodecatheon*. What I like best about this garden area is how it changes over the year. There is always something emerging or fading away, but you must slow down, lean in and look closely or you'll miss the show.

I have referred to Beth Chatto's "Shade Garden", Ken Druse's "The New Shade Garden" and Marietta O'Byrne's "A Tapestry Garden" for inspiration. I highly recommend these books which are available from the North Vancouver District Library.



Serendipitous Bird Nesting (and recycling) - Rosemarie Adams

Last year we had a pair of Bushtits build a nest in the willow tree in our front garden. It was a wonder to watch these tiny little birds build the nest, took about four weeks and was about 12 inches long, hanging like a sock. First time I had ever seen a bushtit nest. We never did see any baby birds, parents were coming and going with bugs for a couple of weeks, and then gone, so we assumed were out in the world.

Last fall my daughter and son-in-law, in a willow tree, was a bushtit nest

Our nest fell down in a disintegrated. Couple of weeks ago my he was pruning the willow tree, but he shed in their garden. Last week he in the willow tree, and using material our garden yet, but have seen a pair of checking out the realestate. One of the "out there" amongst all the little their feeding, jostling and nest building.



law moved to Victoria, and there in the back - second time I had ever seen one!

windstorm in the winter, pretty much son-in law accidentally cut down their nest when picked the nest up and put it on top of a small reported that the birds were building a new nest from the old nest to build with. No new nest in bushtits flitting about in the tree, hopefully things I enjoy so much about gardening is being feathered friends, who ignore me, and go about Best entertainment there is!

"The human body is 70% water. So we're basically cucumbers with anxiety"

My Favourite Gardening Tools – Barb Downman



The first of my favorite gardening tools is a small hand trowel that belonged to my grandmother. It is battered, rusted and worn but it is a real treasure. I love using it because the wood handle fits perfectly in my hand and the narrow blade is perfect for planting seedlings/small plants into the garden. I also treasure it for the happy memories it conjures of digging around in my Gran's garden when I was a child.

The second favorite garden tool is one I received as a birthday gift a few years ago. It is a Lee Valley Tools brand Diamond Shuffle Hoe. I use it in a back and forth motion to slice annual weeds off at the ground and sometimes I turn it and use the pointed end to dig out small perennial weeds such as English Ivy or Holly seedlings. The small size of the blade fits nicely between plants so there is less chance of accidental damage. A very handy weeding tool that I highly recommend.



Almost forgot

- to remind you about the Food Bank or The Harvest Project. But you remembered, right? Rumour has it that at our venerable age, to prevent osteoporosis, we need to do "weight-bearing exercise" so I would like to suggest that you "weight bear" a bunch of cans to 'Bla-bla's' where they have a box for the Harvest Project. **Go. Do it. Now.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER GOINGS-ON

The MALs would like to remind you that "the time has come, to talk of many things, of plants that need the splitting spade, and will they grow this spring" so that they will be bushy for the "distributed" Plant Sale.

Kathy Stubbs is on the hunt

....."for a 10X10 tent shelter that is a white one with poles that go together and a cloth top. I'm pretty sure I used it a couple of times for the Edible Garden Project harvests when it rained but can't seem to be able to find it inside or out. Pretty sure I also used it a few times at the LVGC sale and setup although, of course, it didn't happen last year. It may say 'Kemper' on it, and the poles are white too."

An Assortment of Sites to Visit Virtually

From Rita Marshall

Rita sends this link to the North Shore Stream Keepers – <http://www.nssk.ca/what-we-do/streamside-plantings/> who do amazing work removing invasive plants and reinvigorating the streams of the North Shore watershed. There is lots of good info here – and worth having a look. They also have a printable file that describes what you can plant and how to enhance habitat along salmon-bearing streams.

http://www.nssk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/salmonfrbro12-16WEB_201612061716472941.pdf

... and some info about Maplewood Flats and the Wild Bird Trust <https://wildbirdtrust.org/visit/conservation-area-information/>

"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece." – Claude Monet



From Barbara Frisken

Lovely story about gardens in the weekend Globe, and they mention a new book by Helen Stewart, *Drawn into the Garden*: <https://www.hestewart.com/product-page/drawn-into-the-garden> She lives in Victoria. Here is the link to the Globe article <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/books/article-using-literature-to-create-an-outdoor-space-for-this-second-pandemic/?symbol=print-msg>

<<<Thanks Anna Marie!

From Linda Howe

We always hear about the disappearance of the dinosaurs - but nobody talks about the plants... well, finally someone did. The actual article is behind a paywall so I copied the freebie abstract.

https://science.sciencemag.org/content/372/6537/63?campaign_id=34&emc=edit_sc_20210402&instance_id=28777&nl=science-times®i_id=55011819&segment_id=54756&te=1&user_id=ef9aae24ae35ef12764d64515c794e28

The birth of modern rainforests

The origin of modern rainforests can be traced to the aftermath of the bolide impact at the end of the Cretaceous. Carvalho et al. used fossilized pollen and leaves to characterize the changes that took place in northern South American forests at this time. They not only found changes in species composition but were also able to infer changes in forest structure. Extinctions were widespread, especially among gymnosperms (cone-bearing plants). Angiosperm (flowering plants) taxa came to dominate the forests over the 6 million years of recovery, when the flora began to resemble that of modern lowland neotropical forest. The leaf data also imply that the forest canopy evolved from relatively open to closed and layered, leading to increased vertical stratification and a greater diversity of plant growth forms.

Science, vol 372, Issue 6537, April 1 2021 p. 63; see also p. 28

Abstract

The end-Cretaceous event was catastrophic for terrestrial communities worldwide, yet its long-lasting effect on tropical forests remains largely unknown. We quantified plant extinction and ecological change in tropical forests resulting from the end-Cretaceous event using fossil pollen (>50,000 occurrences) and leaves (>6000 specimens) from localities in Colombia. Late Cretaceous (Maastrichtian) rainforests were characterized by an open canopy and diverse plant-insect interactions. Plant diversity declined by 45% at the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary and did not recover for ~6 million years. Paleocene forests resembled modern Neotropical rainforests, with a closed canopy and multistratal structure dominated by angiosperms. The end-Cretaceous event triggered a long interval of low plant diversity in the Neotropics and the evolutionary assembly of today's most diverse terrestrial ecosystem.

From Rosemarie Adams

That speaker we had a couple of years ago on Rain Gardens really impressed me. Found this article on rain garden in Horseshoe Bay interesting. Ever since the presentation I've been trying to figure out ways on keeping rain from going down the drain in my garden. Not easy. Watch SFU's Mary Bays Raingarden project:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSIAPFtlm_o

From Judith Brook

A new spin on pest/slug control: a very enterprising person travels by bike, with his ducks in a trailer
[CHEK Upside: Courtenay based duck pest control business takes flight \(ampproject.org\)](https://www.ampproject.org)

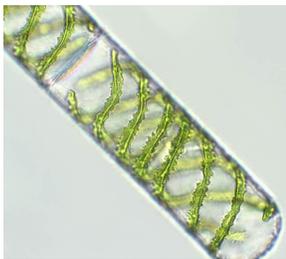
Linda's List - Linda Gilkeson

This is a great spot for all sorts of tips and tricks. Thanks to Bruce Tennant who reminded me.
http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/gardening_tips.html

The UBC Botanical Garden & The Nitobe Memorial Gardens

While everyone is familiar with the UBC Botanical Garden, a gem (and as expensive) of a garden, with lots to see,
https://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/?gclid=CjwKCAjwvMqDBhB8EiwA2iSmPIDwdPa1Llf0_pZ2juvaBGnsSbTP78xidsfQel60axwrRcp96zIAxhoCcRgQAvD_BwE

The Nitobe Memorial Garden is smaller, cheaper and superbly interesting. Back in my student days, it was free – not anymore, of course, but I still love the place and fondly remember collecting Spirogyra (that stringy green slime on stream rocks) for a science project for Biology 120.
<https://shop.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/collections/admission-membership/products/nitobe-memorial-garden-admission-1>



Spirogyra have these really cool spiral chloroplasts that can be seen easily under a low-magnification microscope. It was exciting to watch those little cells almost pulse as that organelle collects photons from the sun using a nano-scale set of molecules that function like telescope arrays and funnel the energy into ATP “batteries”. The system is efficient but apparently modern photovoltaics are catching up. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/plants-versus-photovoltaics-at-capturing-sunlight/> This too, is worth a read.



Linda Howe

...seems to have found the Victoria Rhododendron Society <https://victoriarhodo.ca/rhododendron-faqs/> and sent the following hair-raising images – especially hair-raising for rhodo rescuers.

Glendoick Garden Centre (a mere 102 years old!) has an article on their website about INVASIVE RHODODENDRONS. Apparently, *Rhododendron ponticum* has gone the way of Japanese knotweed and is causing havoc in Britain. <https://www.glendoick.com/Why-so-called-Rhododendron-x-superponticum-is-nonsense> The website features an article by Kenneth Cox, world-renowned rhodo expert, who discusses the origins, morphology and hybridization of *R. ponticum*: The pinks and purples below. A scary concept. But it does bring to mind hiking the Annapurna trail in Nepal – which is spectacular in the spring because of the flowering rhododendrons – in this case, red – that cover the mountain-sides.



THE COMPOST BIN - Maria Issa

So things disappeared with an Cretaceous bolide impact – otherwise known as the comet that crashed into the Gulf of Mexico and wiped out (most of) the forests of the era. Disaster. Or to be pedantic imparting the opposite meaning to a word temper, even dis-cover) says that the ‘aster’

Remember **The Cream** song “*Born* ‘60s? So indeed, the comet that ended the For the dinosaurs. Probably not so bad for us as evolution shifted, we are the happy result of it. I’d hate to think what we might look like, or be like – if the bolide impact didn’t happen... but I digress... We (sometimes) look to Astrology to tell us the future “written in the stars”. We have imparted luck, good and bad, to our “lucky stars”, even as the beginning of the Christian Era was signaled by the Star of Bethlehem though the jury is still out on whether that was Halley’s Comet (due 12 CE), or a comet (noted by Chinese and Korean stargazers about 5 CE) or a random interstellar visitor.

We look up on a clear, starry night and wonder.... Well, I have an app for that – point the old cell-phone to the stars and it tells me what I’m looking at. I don’t trust it. Why? My disasters. I had a lot of plant-identifying apps and they gave me pure nonsense. So why should a star-app be any better? I started wondering who designed them. So, in a fit of pique, I deleted all my plant ID apps. Then, of course, I regretted my rashness and did some research and ended up reinstalling PlantNet.



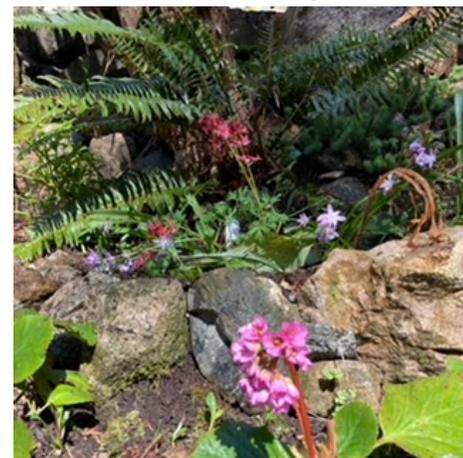
almighty splash during the end-as the comet that crashed into the Gulf of dinosaurs not to mention the tropical about it ‘dis’ the prefix, meaning ‘apart’ (eg dis-ease, dis-qualify, dis-tant, dis-or star was a bad one.

under a bad star”, a blues staple from the Cretaceous era was definitely not good. as we are “born under a bad star” because



It now has the dubious honour of having identified a personal disaster: “The Digs” seemed to somehow happen in the dead of winter, before most of the plants had a chance to declare themselves, so as many of us who dug back at the Moodyville site used to say, “No idea what this is - where is Ann Pentland when we need her? – but it must be *a something!*” So, we potted it up. Whatever it was. Mystery plant: it looked like a stick and survived the winter in its little pot and grew some nice leaves. Over the summer it grew bigger. I didn’t have a spot for it, wasn’t sure what it was, but kept nurturing it with great hope. Under my care, it survived its second potted winter and burst forth this spring. By this time, curiosity had me in its thrall, so I snapped a picture and applied it to my newly reacquired PlantNet. It promptly told me that the leafy thing was not in its North American database. “Grrrrr. This is why I deleted you!” I grumbled, but being a positive sort “Ooooooh! Exotic!!!!” thought I, as the world database loaded. Yup. Exotic, all right. Asian. “*Rubus laciniatus*” **Rubus** was bad, *laciniatus*

was worse: cut-leaf blackberry, introduced from Asia – now a weed and an invasive. Not our ‘beloved’ local “Himalayan blackberry” which has a different leaf and answers to *Rubus armeniacus*, but nonetheless both are invasive. My blackberry is evergreen. Apparently, it has really very delicious berries and lots of them. Though the verdict is still out, I think I’m going to keep my *laciniatus* in the pot. It will have to produce a LOT of blackberries to earn the right to survive in captivity.



So that was minor disaster #1.

Now comes the next one. Last year I cleaned up one of the many periwinkle/ivy patches in my garden and this one hid a huge stump. I created a new bed and stuffed a random collection of plants into it. I had bought a rather nice-looking (in pictures) *Corydalis George Baker* from Free Spirit – but the pot arrived looking sadly empty. I ascribed it to a mistake but stuck the pot’s worth of soil in the ground anyway. Like I said, I’m a positive sort. To my great

surprise, old George resurrected – and was blooming beautifully. Yay, old George! Next to George, some *Bergenias* had decided to bloom as well as some *Chionodoxa* (thanks PlantNet!) that appeared out of nowhere.... as I certainly didn’t plant them. Quite pretty: I was pleased that I finally had something flower, so I bragged on Instagram. Yup, pride comes before a fall – of hail. The little bed was pummeled flat.

