



THE LEAF

THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

April 2020

A Message to All Cherished LVGC Members

The current unprecedented situation has thrown all of us off kilter. Your executive, led by Norma A, has very wisely decided to suspend operations until things settle down – however that evolves. It was a very tough decision for them – but the right one, especially in consideration of our demographic. Well done, LVGC Exec!

So where are we? We are at home, stressed, anxious, our routines are disrupted, our families visit through the glass – the whole thing is a mess. HOWEVER: look on the bright side. The weather is ideal for gardening! Gardening is very Zen – it reduces stress, provides exercise and generally makes you happy. It is the perfect antidote to pretty much everything. Because all of a sudden we have all this unstructured time - this is the year to do all those garden projects you have been planning, but somehow other stuff got in the way. That other stuff is now on hold – so you might as well get on your gardening sartorials (mine are quite hideous, but the plants don't care) and get yourself out and into the dirt. Ooops – “soil!” - as Anna Marie would correct us.

As >80% of you indicated in the survey that you were interested in a virtual community, we will try to keep our electronic presence going: Aline is happy to update the website – LOOK ON THE WEBSITE TO SEE WHETHER THERE HAVE BEEN EMAILS, NOTICES that vanished and thus you missed them (more about this later). The *Leaf* will continue to grow – it you feed it. Thanks to all of you who send stuff – the material will appear here sooner or later – and definitely depending upon the weather. If it's nice out – I'll not be sitting on the computer.

The Leaf format will also change – less structure, no formal reports after the last few that dribbled in by email. What I will try to pass along is “plantertainment” as well as funny stuff – not all of it, as there is a lot circulating, but some – and not necessarily plant-related – as a laugh is good for you: it enhances your immunity, especially of your mucous membranes. [Study: tear and saliva samples *post* funny movie had higher levels of protective IgA molecules than *pre*.]

So there you have it: get those green fingers and thumbs out and attack the garden and various plantations. --- Editor

LVGC MEETINGS
Normally 3rd Thursday
of each month (except
July and August) at
St. Stephen's Church

1360 E 24th Street

*Please note that when we have
them, meetings start promptly
at 7:15 PM*

HOWEVER:
**LVGC is currently in
hiatus** – we miss you, but
we want you to be safe and
healthy

**All LVGC in-person
activities are suspended
due to COVID-19**

*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 not picking up the
mail

**PLEASE USE
ELECTRONIC ACCESS**
Your emails are welcome!

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



Executive 2020

President

Norma Austin x

Vice President

Jacque Morgan x

Secretary

Susan Huber x

Treasurer

Ginette Handfield x

Membership

Sue Callahan x

Doreen Marbry x

Members at Large

Pat Holmes x

Lori Herman x

Suzanne Mazoret x

Jackie Morris x

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa x

Plant Table

Norma Buckland x

Hospitality

Sharon Carabetta x

Maggie Davis x

Susan Nicholls x

Daphne Page x

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Lorraine Robson x

Website

Aline Burlone x

Executive Meetings

Currently suspended

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: Aline Burlone, Sue Callahan, Sharon Carabetta, Judith Brook, Wayne Smith, Hiromi Matsui, Barb Downman, Doreen Marbry, Linda Howe, Bruce Tennant, Carol Ferryman, Tom and Maggie Davis, Linda Schell

INFORMAL UPDATES

- Our speakers are “on hold” for the moment – but when the upside-down world rights itself – we will have lots to go on with. If you are desperate to hear a speaker – check out the *webinar!*
- No new info on the finances as they have not changed since the March Leaf.
- We are now at 146 paid members, so there are still 4 spots left before the club is full.
- *To reiterate – this was in the notice that went out by group email – but may have bounced back:*

“The Club Executive are working on a plan to find homes for Plant Sale plants you cannot keep until May 2021 and don’t want for yourself, family and friends. Details to follow in a month or less. In order to keep this really simple, this will likely involve offering such plants to the membership for free around mid-May. Anyone who may feel that “free” is unfair to the club can give a donation for the plants they pick up. Those with plants needing homes may wish to start a list of what you have. Once you have a list, you can email it to Jackie Morris at jackie@jmorrislaw.com

- NB: If you are planning to keep any of the BIG DIG rescue plants – then please “pay” for them by donating to the Plant Table... however, as there is no Plant Table right now – you can re-balance your conscience when the Exec figure out what to do about the “Plant Sale plants and veggies”.... So you may get lucky. – *Maria*
- The wonderful hospitality team is probably cooking up a storm at home.... Or saying “Ooof, I’m not sure I could look a coffee urn in the eye for a bit. Nice to have a break.”
- Since everyone else is also cooking up a storm - share your recipes – so send those in and they’ll go into the *Leaf*. One request – the recipe has to have a “*plant or garden-related name*” – so “spinach pie” is easy... but things like ‘roast beef’ you may have to re-name. (?Roast fertilizer-generator?) BE CREATIVE!
- This is usually where I stick my note about THE FOOD BANK or THE HARVEST PROJECT. You would miss it if I didn’t – soooooo:

The FOOD BANK &/or HARVEST PROJECT need help more than ever – and while we may be stressed with it all – we are not going hungry. Lots of people are going hungry – as they lost their jobs. Please, please send money through the “CANADA HELPS” website. You get an instant tax receipt. Also, anything you donate to COVID-19 relief gets MATCHED 100%. As Anna Marie would say “*What a deal! Do it now!*”



GARDEN CLUB EMAIL PROBLEMS – Aline and Sue and Maria

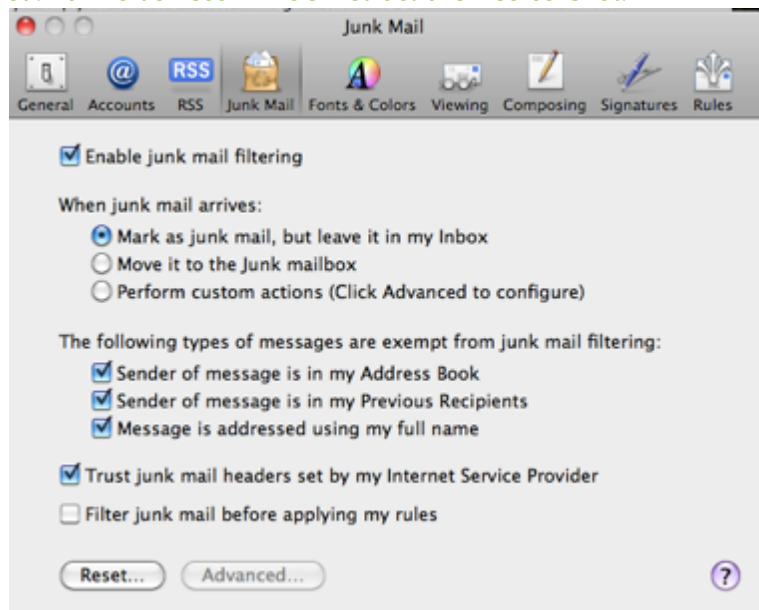
It has become very difficult to send you emails as both Telus and Shaw have apparently upgraded their spam filters. Much I've sent you has bounced back: imagine 50+ "rejected by remote server" appearing instantly. Frustrating.

Only certain types of emails are allowed through and that is different for each email client and whether it is on your computer or web-based (accessed from the internet). If you haven't seen any LVGC emails during the past week – you may be one of those "black holes".

Here is what you can do: (it took Aline & me a while to work this out, but once done, it's not so bad).

1. Check your **JUNK folder**. Maybe I'm sitting in there. Whether I am or not,
2. Please add lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com to your address book, contact list or "not spam" list. Normally those things are found in a top menu somewhere under "preferences", then

3a. For **Telus** - see Aline's instructions – screenshot.



3b. For **Shaw** click on tab - **Preferences** top of screen> find **Mail**, click on arrow next to it >**Spam** > from the menu, select "**label message as Spam and keep in inbox**" ... this way things won't disappear so you'll never know - BUT you will have to delete spam manually.

>>>You're not done yet.<<<

Still under **Preferences** > **Filters**> tab **Incoming** message filters > **create** filters > Filter name: (input)LVGC > If "**any**" > in the open rectangle type in lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com, click on + , > **Perform following actions** – menu **V: keep in Inbox**; > click on +, then at bottom, **OK**

- WELL DONE! You have created a filter that will rescue LVGC missives. I hope.

3c. For any other email clients – ask your kids or grandkids – they probably know!

Our suspicion is – and both Sue-Sherlock-Callahan and Aline-007-Burlone have tried to de-bug the system – is that some hot links get captured by the servers' email filters. So, from now on, if you want to follow up on a link (and I recommend that you do, as lots of "plantertainment" is coming your way), then you will need to go to the LVGC website where Aline will post them in some sort of direct-click way. She's the guru. I will try to send you the links as text – and you will have to copy/paste them into your search engine [Safari, Google, Explorer, Yahoo, Bing, etc.]

The reason this is happening is because much of the world has gone on-line – and a huge amount of stupidity (false info, conspiracy theories, fake drugs, you name it...) is being spread through share-able links. Thus all the filters have been upgraded to prevent the circling crap. If you're on Whatsapp, twitter, facebook – it is super hard to wade through the misinformation. Email is a bit more direct – but I'm still amazed at the illogical, grasping-at-straws nonsense even intelligent people can generate and circulate – so I'm actually happy with the filters. When in doubt, don't believe what you read - trust Dr. Bonnie Henry... she is doing an amazing, scientifically sound job. I'm impressed.



"Happiness is the highest form of health" – Dalai Lama





"I use so much alcohol-based hand sanitizer, my hands had to join a 12-step program!"

Inspired by Susan Huber

That *&^%\$#@ Virus

Sharon Carabetta sent in a link saying "maybe this is a bit excessive": in the video a doctor demonstrates how to deal with groceries, shopping one brings home - and how to handle packaging that is potentially virus-contaminated. *It is a great find.* I watched the YouTube video - and the doc is absolutely right. I have to admit to being a kindred spirit, as I was already doing it... Bottom line - and the short version, if you don't want to spend the time watching the video - treat ****everything**** you bring into the house, everything 'outside' that you touch - as if "it is covered with dog poo" (that's how I taught this to elementary kids). OK, for you gardeners, Pig Poo.

Mentally split your counter into two halves: "dirty" and "clean" (or leave bags on the floor). Put all your acquisitions on the "dirty side". As you do not know how a package, a fruit, a veg was handled and by whom, you have to assume that droplet-carried virus is sitting on it. Get it off!! - and if you can't, get rid of the packaging - **BY TURNING IT INSIDE OUT** (so when you put it down, the outside doesn't contaminate something else). Cereal - keep the inside packaging only.

Cans, plastics, glass are easy - wash 'em. Viruses have a lipid envelope, so soap/bleach dissolves them. Fruit, veg - even lettuce - go into a sinkful of water with about a capful of bleach in it. Give it a count of "Frère Jacques", swish, rinse (!). Move cleaned stuff to the "clean side". Soft plastics - like bread wrap, or cardboard... cut it open, peel it back, dump the contents into another container. The inside-out packaging then goes right in the garbage. Once you're done, bleach down the "dirty side", wash your hands - and you're good to go. If this is not making sense, the link to the video is in the "April links" file.

THANKS, Sharon: a good one!

While we're on this subject - when you go out to get essentials dressed like a bandit (and you should!!) remember to immediately toss that elegant bandana straight into the washer.



"The garden is so beautiful now, like Sleeping Beauty.... slowly awakening with fresh green and flowers. What a wonderful time! When I'm in my garden, there's no worry about COVID, life appears to be very NORMAL there."

- Irma Battista

"Since a day with dirt under our fingernails is certainly a good one, I hope everyone has very dirty fingernails today,"

-- Jane and Julie - new members

Hey VEGIMATES: some questions for you...

1. From Carol Ferryman - "This year my asparagus plants have not yet shown any sign of life which is very unusual. The bed has been established for over 8 years and always produces a good crop early in the year. Has anyone else had a similar problem?" Please give her a call or email the Leaf to respond!!! - (All I can add is that my asparagi are peeking out and very skinny).

2. From Bruce Tennant - more an answer to your deepest desires, than a question, "As most of you are aware the Lynn Valley Garden Club Plant Sale has been cancelled this year. However, I had already started my seedlings before this occurred and, I could not, in good conscience, throw them out.

I have the following plants (mostly in 4 inch pots) that I am offering family, friends and neighbours, for a nominal loonie or toonie or more (you decide) each. The proceeds will go to the Garden Club.

If you let me know what you would like I will set them out in my back lane parking spot (in the lane behind 406 East 4th Street) and you can come and get them (let me know when) and leave your money in the jar.

Tomatoes:

1. Long Keeper - 13 plants
2. Tumbler - 16 plants (for hanging baskets)
3. Super Italian Paste - 13 plants
4. T.P. Round Red - 9 plants (A heritage tomato from Saltspring Island that I know nothing about)
5. Cosmonaut Volkov - 1 plant
6. Moneymaker - 2 plants
7. Black Krim - 1 plant
8. San Marzanno - 2 plants
9. La Roma - 1 plant

Orange Sun **Pepper** - 9 plants

Purple Sprouting **Broccoli** -11 plants
Snowball **Cauliflower** - 11 plants
Kelsae **Onion** - 1 pot containing about 4-6 plants (Large Sweet Onion which holds the Guinness record for the largest Onion ever grown)
Walla Walla **Onion** - (Another large sweet onion) 10 pots each containing about 4-6 plants
Bandit **Leeks** - 8 pots containing about 4-6 plants per pot
Suyo Long **Cucumber** - 12 plants
Patio Snacker **Cucumber** - 5 plants (Good in container)
Tasty Green **Cucumber** - 3 plants
Table King Acorn **Squash** - bush 4 plants
Delicata **Squash** - bush 4 Plants

Most plants need to be cared for inside (other than the leeks and onions which can go out now) on a BRIGHT and SUNNY window-sill until they can be planted out around the second or third week of May.

First come first served!!!!

Cheers and *Keep Calm and Plant On*

Bruce Tennant

x



There is a new section on our website called "Vegimates' Corner"

There are 4 sub sections at <http://lynnvalleygardenclub.org/> As growing vegetables is becoming more and more popular Aline has put all the information previously under links in this section with some newer information. Aline will keep adding to it and if anyone has some information they would like to share just email it to lygcwebsite@gmail.com and she can post it. Aline will up-date the website hopefully on a weekly basis - so PLEASE CHECK THE HOMEPAGE for dated additions and changes so you can know if anything has changed since your last visit.

So is it Vegimates or Veggimates???? I need to know!



Sowing Seeds Indoors - Judith Brook



1. Mix half potting soil and half starter mix; add some warm water and mix.
2. Fill a soil blocker*, tamping it down with your fingers.
3. Depress the soil blocker into a nursery tray.
4. Fill the nursery tray with soil
5. Sow your seeds into the
6. Cover the seed tray with clear
7. Mist the seeds daily, do not 'damping off'.

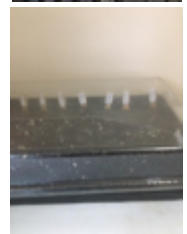
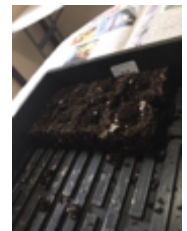
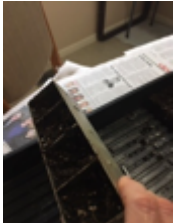


blocks.
blocks and label each row.
cover.
over-water as this will lead to

8. Once seeds germinate,
9. Place under grow lights outside in early May, followed late-May.

transplant to their own pots.
indoors until hardening off
by transplanting to garden in

***? What on earth is a soil blocker? I had no idea, so I looked it up. See the Lee Valley Catalogue in the links if you want to see what they look like. Very cool.



If you don't have sufficient containers to transplant into – Wayne has some ideas for you. Read on!

Unique Growing Contraptions – Wayne Smith



I'm trying starting bush beans in the house in zip-lock bags. The bags hold moisture and warm in the sun to about 80 degrees. Later, when I plant them out in containers, I can just slit the bag underneath and leave the plastic cover as protection. I water them with a weak hydroponic solution and mixed a tablespoon of balanced fertilizer in the bags.



Bush beans in containers did well

last year in my troughs. Here I'm rebuilding a trough with more slope and heavy UV poly to channel water and nutrition to the plants. There is sand in the bottom and light, well-draining soil on top.

The beans in zip bags are really doing well.

I transplanted my cucumber seedlings into the same type of zip bags. Later I'll just slit open the bottom and place the large transplant into a container.

I just noticed some volunteer tomatoes sprouting outside in my cold frame: strange because I noticed frost in the cold frame this morning. I don't know



thought I'd noticed more growing at the edge of extra in case see my success. ;-)

Looks like peppers - I've seedlings.

The soil mix I'm using dries on top quickly, I gave these pepper plants a little squirt at seeding time of food at a low dose. I will up-pot them soon as their leaves are

Here is a useful trick – to separate your seedlings before planting, just use water, then spray with a light fertilizer!



how vigorously they will grow, but I leave them.

that my seedlings have space if I planted them the pot. I'm planting there's a shortage: I can roadside market day a

if got it right so far with never had such healthy

hydroponics plant starting to cross.



A random tempting offer – via Bruce Tennant (who probably doesn't realize it)



Bruce kindly sent out his list of available veggies to a bunch of LVGC and ?non-LVGC people. (He has lots of friends.) One of his friends responded to the whole list – and offered the following: "If anyone is interested in an *artisan bread making class* let me know. I can help with a few bread 'kits' flour and yeast if need be. I also use sourdough starter and can easily provide some starter for the more adventurous." – this is from David Youngson, who is willing to teach ON LINE. Brilliant. As we are all doing a lot of cooking these days, let the Leaf know you're interested, and I'll pass it on.

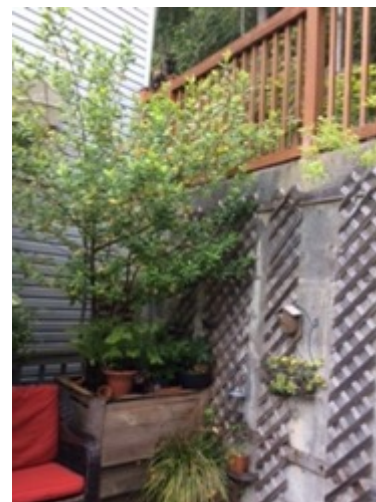
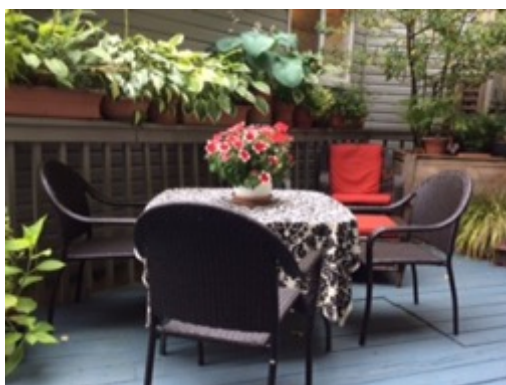
The Alpine Garden Club's Virtual Spring Show – sent in by Hiromi Matsui

A note from David Sellars – “Although our meetings and Spring Show are cancelled, we can still share the excitement of spring in the garden. We are going to have a virtual weekly Spring Show on the AGC-BC website (Google it!) with cross posting to our Facebook site. Here is a sample: <http://www.agc-bc.ca/week-ending-april-5> [...]” Check out their website for LOTS of wonderful pictures.

??LVGC Virtual Gardens??

>>>> What a brilliant idea from David Sellars – we could do something like that – BUT - some of you send in hundreds of pictures – so IF you can limit yourself to ONE PICTURE EACH (as there are a lot of you!) our virtual garden tour will go into the next *Leaf – and curated, Aline can post on the website.* (Aline, I hope you're up for that!)

To start you off, **Rita Marshall** sends the following, “I grow perennials in pots, hostas, hydrangeas, grasses, carnations and herbs. I buy the odd potted annual for colour.”



And while we're on the subject of LVGC virtual activities....

Missing the SPEAKER? - Try these!

1. **Linda Howe** sent in the following: The **Smithsonian** has **Virtual Travel** tours. Click on the link in the “April Links”, or you can just google it – and select the tour of your choice. You may have to scroll past a few ads, but it's worth persevering. The first picture is orchids, orchids, orchids (Margaret Nakahara, this is for you!). The rest are equally fabulous – so thanks to Linda for this super link. There are other tours as well, if you wish to stray off the garden path.

2. **Linda Howe** also found interesting **info on invasives** – please google the **HABITAT ACQUISITION TRUST** and then hunt on their page for the “learn more about...” menu where you will find the invasives.

3. I have no idea how I got on their mailing list, but if, like me, you are interested in how roots grow – and how people study them – there is another cool website (see April Links, or google **CID Bioscience**). Although the first part is a bit of a sales pitch for a **root observer gadget**, its application to citrus trees and their diseases is really interesting. The possibilities of what can be studied with this toy, are endless – roots in wetlands, invasive roots, food crops, you name it. It's not what is being done now, but what else that could be done... let your imagination soar!

4. Both **Barb Downman**, **Aline Burlone** and **Doreen Marbry** sent this note from **Linda Gilkeson** entitled: Subject: **Linda's list for Mar 22: Gardening info wants to be free** (you can also google her and find her website).

"I am getting emails from first-time gardeners wanting to grow food in this year of the pandemic, yet my gardening classes, workshops and talks in the region have been cancelled or postponed indefinitely. SO, I am making my Year Round Harvest gardening course slides available to everyone. These are pdf files of the PowerPoint slides that I show in my two 10-month gardening courses and are normally only accessible by the people registered in the classes. The two courses are sponsored by the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific [<https://hcp.ca/>] and the Salt Spring Garden Club [<https://ssigardenclub.ca/>] and I appreciate their support for releasing these presentation to anyone who wants to see them.

You will need to use the class password to view these files, which will be available until December. Here's how:

Go to: <http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/coursenotes.html>
Use this password: honeycrisp
Click on SUBMIT (hitting ENTER doesn't work)

Around the middle of each month from January to October I put up a new module on a different topic appropriate to the season. So far, there are 3 files:

1. Garden Plans and Seed Starting
2. Soil, Nutrients and Amendments
3. Spring Garden

If you have questions about the material in these presentation, there is much more detail in my book *Backyard Bounty*. If you have access to a copy, please try to find your answers there first: I am becoming overwhelmed by emails. My priority is to answer questions for people in this year's gardening classes and from Master Gardeners in BC and I will try to answer others as I have time.

Other notes for this week:

I was shocked, I tell you, shocked! at how many big fat

cutworms I shook from the sod I was trimming from edges of my garden beds today. [see: http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/leaf_chewers.html#25] I think I will just let the peas I started indoors grow for a little longer before sending them out to face such monsters (plus, it is still pretty cool at night to be planting vegetables, anyway).

And while I am on peas: If you saw tiny notches in the edges of leaves on peas or broadbeans last year, that is pea leaf weevil, which is becoming more widespread [for damage, see: http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/root_feeders.html#74] While the tiny adult weevils chew notches in the leaves, it is the weevil larvae, which feed on the nitrogen nodules in the roots that cause the worst damage because infested plants can't make their own nitrogen. These weevils have one generation a year and only lay their eggs in the spring. There is no [legal or safe] way to kill them in the soil, but using two strategies you can avoid damage. First, start early plantings of peas (March-mid-May) in vermiculite indoors to avoid the main egg-laying period of pea leaf weevils. Peas planted after mid-May, after the egg laying period is over, usually escape damage. My second strategy is to enrich the soil for early peas with nitrogen sources, such as fish compost, blood meal, alfalfa meal, as for a heavy feeding crop. The pea plants use this nitrogen and grow beautifully. Peas planted after mid-May (I sow peas until the end of June) can make their own nitrogen and don't need a nitrogen boost from fertilizers.

A note on these emails: I don't repeat everything that might be relevant for a particular month every year. To see other information that might be useful check my archive of past messages: http://www.lindagilkeson.ca/gardening_tips.html



Pest Alert: Asian Giant Hornet!! – sent in by Doreen Marbry

As if we didn't have enough to worry about with COVID-19, chafer beetles and killer bees – here we go:



Asian Giant Hornet - Three Asian Hornets (*Vespa mandarinia*) were found in the Nanaimo area on Vancouver Island in mid-August of 2019. The identification has been confirmed by Canadian and international experts. This is the first time this insect has been found in British Columbia. Please report it if you see it!

Residents along Zero Avenue – the 16-km-long east-west street that frames the Canada-US border – are being asked to report sightings of the invasive species, as they could emerge from their nests over the coming weeks and months as the weather becomes progressively warmer.

British Columbians who think they may have seen one are asked to take a photo and GPS location if possible and report the sighting to *The Invasive Species Council*

of B.C.: 1-888-933-3722; • <https://bcinvasives.ca/report> ; • info@bcinvasives.ca

The Asian Giant Hornet PDF and an article with videos of the Asian Giant Hornet by Daily Hive, Vancouver, are provided in the "April links". Please make sure you are aware of the differences between our Bald-faced Hornet *etc*, and the Asian Giant Hornet.

Asian Giant Hornets are large and have noticeably large orange heads and black eyes. Worker hornets are approximately 3.5 cm in length and queens can be up to 4-5 cm in length with a wingspan of 4-7 cm.



What HAS Happened: (The BIG DIG) – Sue Callahan

It was The Big Dig #3 for me!!

I have been a member of the garden club since January 2013. I love being outdoors and seeing all the plants coming back year after year, and of course love eating our rhubarb, huckleberries, blueberries, apples, raspberries, beans, kale, lettuce.

My pet peeve is when people are building new buildings – housing, or apartments, whatever, and they clear the land with bulldozers. Plants, trees, shrubs, you name it, are important for everybody, and it is such a waster when things are ploughed under.

Enter Maria our illustrious *Leaf* editor, full of spunk, who joined January 2016. She is my partner in crime. She goes out and seeks all the building lots and *voilà!* we go and rescue plants. The first one I did with her was 2 years ago at Chesterfield and 22nd – she really wanted some rhodos, so we dug, and dug and dug, - but then it was getting dark so we had to leave. But, I left with roses and a whole bunch of other things that I nurtured at my house in pots and then they went to the plant sale.

The second one was last November – and it was *cold* and our yard was frozen. The location was between 1 & 2nd and ye gads!! – it’s a huge, huge site. The difference, all of the houses have been knocked down and they are “cleared” lots. What I also found out from one of the members is that the neighbours got together and sought out the developer. I am sure it was hard for all of those homeowners to do that with the memories they had made there, but I totally understand why they did it.

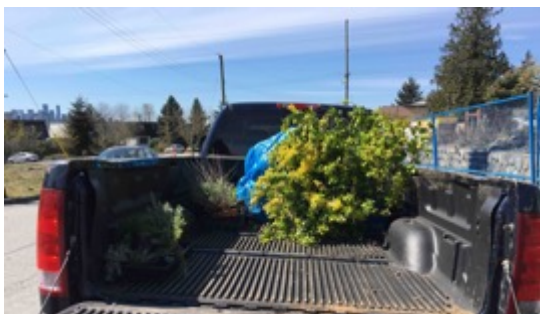
So, my husband Rob & I got there, and we saw this small (but big) rhodo and we home in on this. You would have read about it in the *Leaf* last year – basically it took us close to 5 hours – 4 hours Rob & I digging, the last bit me digging and then Maria, Judy, Rob & I wrestling with this thing to get it into the truck. We had the canopy on the truck so it was a little tricky and we even had to 4x4 to get the truck under the rhodo. So, after it was in the truck we said, “OK, so



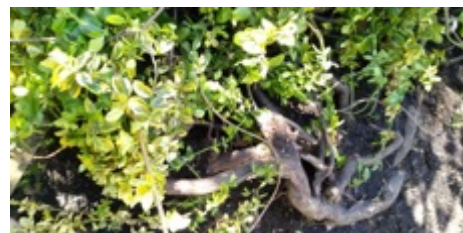
who is looking after this for the sale?” The answer came “You dug it, you keep it!” – well, we have no room in our yard for a rhodo – so, I asked a friend, Jo, and she said yes, she would love it, and bought it from the club. Bottom line, she has a beautiful rhodo and she joined the club!!

The world has changed with the pandemic, but we can still be outside, in fact it is good for our mental health, and we get vitamin D from the sun - it does a wonder! Easter weekend – can’t go visit Rob’s mom in Abbotsford – so, we dedicated 3 of the 4 days to the Big Dig.

What a way to spend Easter!! Nature is amazing – if you have a chance you should go down to the site. There were daffodils, tulips, grape hyacinths, bluebells, leopard’s bane (*doronicum orientale*), camas all coming up. What you have to understand is most of the land that is left there is clay – extremely dry and not very fertile. Then you find a patch with some nice soil and you know that this was



someone’s pride and joy where they found happiness in their garden. I may not be a master gardener, most of the time cannot tell you any names of plants – but I just love seeing it all. My pride and joy was on Monday finding 2 sets of Jonny jump-ups (*viola tricolour*) in a pile of rubble. I



have a lot of stuff for the sale (*sigh*: guess this will be 2021 – but they will be good and rooted in the pots by then!).

Rob went after the big *cotoneaster horizontalis*, some boxwoods (*buxus*), some trees (that we think are fruit trees, we will see what happens this year), and a nice big bush that Maria knows the name of (*nope, she does not! -m*). My friend Jo, who got the little-big rhodo, came and had a blast coming and digging and getting plants too. Kitty came and dug for 2 days as well, as she is doing a butterfly way (ask her all about it) on some district land behind her place. Remember, we need the pollinators, so any little bit you can do to help will help us all. Anna Marie also showed up in spite of her broken arm and brought wonderful pots!

Well, believe it or not – it is time to go out into the garden to see what I can discover. I always remember my science teacher making us take a ruler and mark a 12”x12” – discover what is in that square – you would be amazed!

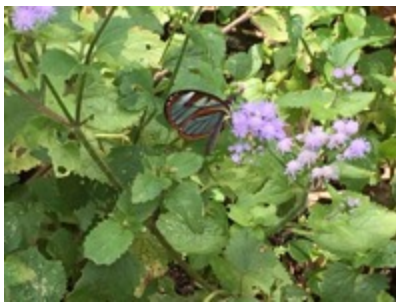
Happening gardening – a little sunshine in these times of trouble.



What MAY BE Happening

You may remember that at the Wall construction site, there is a gorgeous 100+ - year old magnolia that the Site Superintendent, Keven Robichaud, and I would like to save. I just heard from Derek Priestly, from the City, who says that while he makes no promises, he will scope it out to see if there is a way to do a huge tree rescue. Wouldn't that be a *good news* story? A win-win-win-win: for the tree- Life; for Wall – good PR; for the City – also good PR; and for LVGC – fame!

What will NOT be Happening



1. **Susan Huber** passes this to us: “In light of the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on border restrictions, and out of concern for everyone's health, we regret that the *Point Roberts Garden Tour #16* has been *cancelled* for this year. “
2. From **Suzanne Mazoret** – “I have just received word that all DNV Volunteers Events have been cancelled until the end of April. That means that the *LV Park Project* advertised in the March LEAF, is also *cancelled*.”

Picture by Ginette Handfield – from Costa Rica

What WILL BE Happening

1. **Fraser Valley Conservancy Spring Native Plant Sale On Now!** - We thought your garden club members would be interested in this plant sale. For the second year in a row, the Fraser Valley Conservancy is hosting its popular *Spring Native Plant Sale!* Place your order on-line by May 3rd. Pick up will be on May 9th, with a delivery option (for those from Surrey to Chilliwack) for May 10th. An updated process is in place to keep both staff and customers safe - please read the website for the event details, and to place your order. (Google “Fraser Valley Conservancy”)

2. **May 9th Saturday Seedling, compost sale at Loutet Farm 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.** There will be volunteers making sure physical distancing and other protocols are in place. Loutet Farm will also have Saturday summer market days as well, selling fresh produce.

3. There is a company called *Garden Answers* that seems to have found the newsletter email. I know nothing about them – but as they sell plants, someone may want to check them out. If you happen to know anything about this outfit – other than that it does have some fun info on their site – please let *The Leaf* know.

4. **SATURDAY MAY 2nd is WORLD NAKED GARDENING DAY.** Before you organize your own event (and I would loooove pictures, as would the entire Club!), you should probably check out the website called "YouShouldGrow" for the 11 things you **SHOULDN'T** do on naked Gardening Day.

"Perhaps indeed he or she to whom the free exhilarating ecstasy of nakedness in Nature has never been eligible (and how many thousands there are!) has not really known what purity is – nor what faith or art or health really is." –Walt Whitman, *Specimen Days*



As we do not have any naked gardening pictures yet, these pictures were taken by Ginette Handfield in Costa Rica.



"I'm a gardener down TO MA TOES"



NAKED NON SOCIAL DISTANCING©

A play by **Wayne Smith**, reproduced with permission by the author.
April 1st: 2020

Characters: Jack, Jane, Islene Purvis, Chester, Police Officer, Gazing Lady, Girl, NSN reporter - Mike Mackarel.

Scene 1 (2PM, by the community garden patch)

JANE: (Holding up the *North Shore News*, calling to Jack)

--- Jack, Jack! I see the community garden club is promoting naked gardening, today at two o'clock. I know Islene Purvis will be out there in the patch. Why don't you join us?

JACK: (Working on the lawn mower)

--- Us? You're not going out there naked?

JANE:

--- There's nothing wrong with it, Jack - promotes healthy respect for one another. Underneath it all we're the same people, you know!

JACK: (Standing up face to face with Jane)

--- "Social distancing" is good sometimes, Jane! Besides why do I want Mrs. Pelvis...

JANE:

--- 'Purvis', dear!

JACK:

--- Why would I want Islene Purvis staring at my shrivelled little thing dangling in the breeze out in the middle of the dandelions?

JANE:

--- Utter nonsense! We will all be busy working. You're coming out with me. We are going to bend together, weed the community patch the way nature intended. Now get your things off. Come on, show a little manliness.

JANE: (Looking out the garage door towards the community garden patch.)

--- Oh look at that! There's Chester out with the wheelbarrow already. Oh my! Such an enlargement. He has certainly put it on....

JACK:

--- Whaaat??

JANE:

--- Weight, dear. Chester's put on weight. And he's out supporting his wife in the community garden. You see - nothing to worry about.

(Out the door)

--- Hello Chester, wonderful day! Islene, we will be joining you shortly! I'm just getting Jack to forget his Social Distance foibles. He thinks he's different.

CHESTER:

--- Lovely, Jane! We'll look forward to seeing you both. Oh yes, and tell Jack not to worry it's warm in the sun.

ISLENE:

--- Get Jack to wear his boots and gloves. He can help us hill the potatoes.

JANE:

--- Come *on*, Jack!

JACK: (to himself)

--- Oh gawd! Is there no value in social distancing anymore?

JANE: (stripping, grabbing her trowels and shovel)

--- Oh, come on! Get your pants off. Here, that's it. Here, that's it, now you wear your boots and your gloves. And if you think you're so darn different you can carry the weed bag. You just hold it out in front of you. Just like this, see! (demonstrates) Now there you go. You'll never see a thing, there you are! Come on, Jack.

JACK: (now naked, shriveled, groaning, with Jane towing him out the door)

--- Oh gawd! Why do I get dragged into these things?

CHESTER:

--- Good afternoon folks! It's so nice to see you.

ISLENE:

--- You won't need that weed bag Jack we are hilling the spuds. (Takes the bag.)

(A small crowd gathers to look over the garden fence. Cameras come out.)

GAZING LADY:

--- Oh my GOD!! What's going on in the Community Garden?

GIRL:

--- Where are their clothes, mommy?

GAZING LADY:

--- Oh and here comes the North Shore News!!

(Mike Mackerel shows up from the North Shore News. Quickly takes a few photos.)

(A police siren wails... The van arrives.)

POLICE OFFICER:

--- Social distancing, people!!!! This is not right! We need to practice social distancing!! No one cares about indecent exposure. Come on, you lot! You're coming down to the station. Come on, all of you! Get into the back of the van. (Door slams. The naked garden club members are all taken away in the police van.)

.....

Scene 2 (The following week)

JANE: (Holding up the North Shore News)

--- Is that your fanny getting into the police van, Jack?

JACK:

--- Yes! And I suggest that if the urge takes you to garden naturally next year, there's a naturist club somewhere up on Hollyburn Mountain where they practice naked social distancing, thank you!

The end.

A bit more “plantertainment” and whatever else...



[left] From **Maggie and Tom Davis** who are putting their Vegimates skills to good use, trying to grow toilet paper. According to Bruce, it will never work: they'll only get wet wipes. **Linda Schell** sent a link to a video on how to do it properly. The link to this very instructional video is in your 'April links.'>>



This came from Jackie Morris – and she has 5!! cats so she should know.



Since this is the last official page and I have to put something in here – I get the last word. It has devolved from plants and garden and has gone into the realm of unrelated entertainment/what goes on in Maria's head. So: I was inspired by this toilet paper meme going on here. Well, we all have to get our inspiration somewhere, right? And where do we all do our best thinking???

There is a wonderful article from CityLab about modern bathroom design and how it was influenced by past infectious diseases. Their thesis is that the vestibule will have a resurgence – and we will see sinks and changing areas in vestibules – where we wash from the world and remove our “outside clothes” before we enter the home proper.

“This isn't a linear narrative with clear causation, but rather a convergence of advancements in science, infrastructure, plumbing, sanitation and design trends. The modern bathroom developed alongside outbreaks of tuberculosis, cholera and influenza; its standard fixtures, wallcoverings, floorings, and finishes were implemented, in part, to promote health and hygiene in the home at a time of widespread public health concerns.”

Now get back to your quarantine computer and uses for the *Leaf*.



<p>LEAVES TO USE IN A TOILET PAPER CRISIS</p>	<p>MULLEIN ABSORBANT SOFT THICK & DURABLE</p>
	<p>LAMB'S EAR SILKY SOFT DURABLE LUXURIOUS</p>
<p>MALLOW DURABLE SOFT PLIABLE</p>	