



THE

LEAF

THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

January 2021

President's Message – Norma Austin

Welcome to 2021. There is much hope and anticipation that this year will be better than the last one. As it turns out, there is still lingering uncertainty and turmoil in the world. It's not easy to block out all the sadness around us and still continue to cope with disruptions to our life. It's also hard to turn away if you have allowed CNN to move into your home. I want to acknowledge and send out good thoughts to any of you who is having a harder time than others. Hang in there. Better days are coming.

As a gardener, my year is governed by the seasons. So, it is still Winter. Have you noticed that it has been unusually mild this year? There are snowdrops in full bloom already! I bought three David Austin roses last April and put them in pots on my deck. They have done extremely well through the year and I am still cutting a bloom every week or so to bring inside. Mind you, they don't have their usual fragrance and only last two or three days, but that's fine by me.

The first day of Spring this year is March 20, so there is still plenty of time to dream and make plans, order more seeds, and take care of the remaining cleanup in the garden for a brand new gardening year. While you go about tidying up, keep in mind that we will have a plant sale of sorts this year. There may be plants you want to divide and pot up. The MAL team is figuring it all out right now and will keep us posted.

Looking back, here are some highlights from our Christmas party on Zoom. We watched Rosemarie Adams' video on making a Christmas Bell. A few members had made theirs ahead of time and showed off their creations. Donna Wasylik made hers during our party and posted it to our Facebook group. Some members shared Christmas stories. Doreen Marbry showed her progress in the making of her Christmas crackers, which she does every year for her family. These have to be seen to be believed. We might attempt a simpler version this coming Christmas if we're back to physical meetings. There were prizes, which Lorraine and Maria hand-delivered after the meeting. We finished up the evening by singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Aline Burlone has put the links on our website for the Christmas bell video (filmed by Bruce Adams), the *Julehjerter* (Danish Heart Baskets) instructions and templates, and the 3D paper snowflakes. Thanks to all the planners and participants for a great party!

I would like to extend a big Thank You to our retiring executive members, Sue Callahan, Pat Holmes, Ginette Handfield, and Jackie Morris, for all their hard work in an unsettling year. I look forward to working with some very enthusiastic members who have joined the team -- Donna Wasylik, Lorraine Robson, Barb Downman, Penny Le Couteur, Courtney Mitchell, and Ann McKinnon.

We will continue to have a speaker on ZOOM every third Thursday of the month in lieu of our physical meetings. The upcoming one is on **January 21st at 7PM**. It is uncertain as to when we will be back to meeting at St. Stephen's. Jacquie Morgan (VP Extraordinaire) has lined up some great speakers to take us all the way to May. We usually have about 50 members attending our Zoom meetings. I would encourage more to come on board. In any case, all relevant club information and executive reports will be in the LEAF. Please read and enjoy all the extra delicious bits! --- I wish you a safe year!



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
January 21
GRANT VAN HARMELEN
**WATER FEATURES FOR
GARDENS**

*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.lynnvalleygardenclub>

- 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
- 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 February

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, Judith Brook, Linda Howe, Penny LeCouteur, Doreen Marbry, Courtney Mitchell, Wayne Smith*



SPEAKER GRANT VAN HARMELEN

Grant is a Master Certified Aquascape Contractor with 12 years' experience creating hundreds of beautiful, natural water features. He comes to us from *Streamworks* in North Vancouver, and will talk about water features for gardens.



REPORTS

Treasurer's Report - Ginette Handfield & Donna Wasylik

LVGC Assets as of the end of December, 2020:

Bank Balance at the end of December 2020:	\$10,156.83
In Petty Cash:	\$159.55
Total:	\$10,316.38

Membership Report - Doreen Marbry and Barb Downman

Happy New Year to all our Members. We hope you are well and enjoyed the holidays. In case you have missed the last few Zoom meetings we want to advise you the 'Motion to carry forward our membership fees from 2020 to 2021' was approved, therefore our members do not need to send in money or registration forms for 2021. We will not be accepting new members.

Please call Doreen Marbry if your contact information has changed in the past year, so we can update our records. GardenWorks and North & West Van. Maple Leaf Garden Centres have agreed to honour our 2020 membership cards for the 2021 season.

Please welcome Barb Downman to the membership team. Thank you Sue Callahan for your constant input and support: it has been greatly appreciated!!

Membership can always be reached by phone or email lvgc.membership@gmail.com

List of Speakers 2021 - Jacque Morgan

February 18, 2021	Linda Gilkeson:	Where have all the insects gone?
March 18, 2021	James Casey, Birds Canada:	Bringing birds into your Garden
April 15, 2021	Earthwise Society:	Their work and projects
May 20, 2021	Christine Allen:	The Chosen Few

Membership Committee Update - Rosemarie Adams & Sue Callahan

At our November AGM Jane Sherrott was appointed Member-at-Large. Unfortunately, due to an unexpected family situation, Jane is not able to take up this position and has resigned. Thank you for having volunteered Jane, we hope you will be able to take on another position at some future time.

Fortunately, Ann McKinnon has stepped forward to fill this role. Thank you, Ann, welcome to the team!



Gardeners' Quiz - from Doreen Marbry

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name for a lady who weds for riches. 3. They hate to wait. 5. A peevish fairy-tale creature. 7. He's an awfully sugary bill. 9. Cross between a violin and a clarinet. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Everyone has these on their face. 4. A fine looking jungle ruler. 6. An appropriate gift for a banker. 8. A woman's footwear. <p><i>[Answers somewhere... you'll have to hunt!]</i></p> |
|---|---|

Sequelae of the Christmas Bell

For those of you who missed it, the Christmas Party was not bad at all... no, it wasn't what we were used to; yes, it was zoom; yes, we missed the food; yes, we missed hanging out together – but we didn't miss the fun, or the craft!



Not only was the whole event skillfully managed, we had a [YouTube video of Rosemarie in action!!](#) The link is in your cover email. Kudos came from all around: "Bravo!" wrote Linda Schell. Some intrepid people had even jumped ahead and had "done their homework early" [*those swoots!*] and had created some lovely things. Rita Marshall wrote: [...]what a lovely Zoom Christmas party! I enjoyed hearing some of the different Christmas stories and Christmas jokes and riddles. Rosemary did a great YouTube and Norma was a good host. I forgot to share my Christmas story: one year [at Christmas] we were in Singapore in 85 F and humid weather,

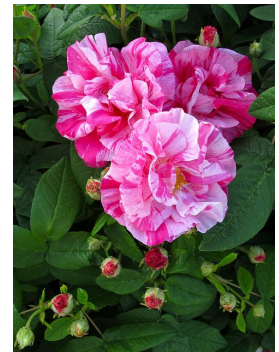
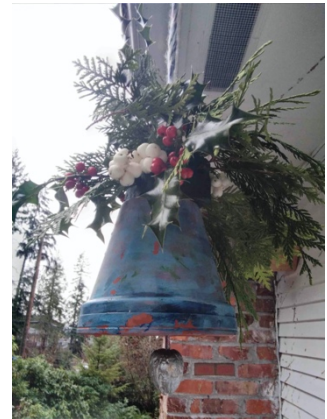
wearing shorts, which, for Aussies is normal. It was weird seeing Frosty the Snowman decorations in that heat and having all the shops were open late at night. The streets were filled with people."

Rosamond Hughes wrote "just wanted to thank you for my bell (which now has yellow holly added from a friend). Much appreciated! [...] I started another for a friend who was very happy to add the greenery." This was the beginning of those bizarre sequelae:



I forwarded Rosamond's appreciation to Rosemarie, with the comment that I was the "thorn between two roses." This got the response from Rosamond, "Ah, the charm of old roses." ... "Puts me in mind of the (Brothers Grimm, I think) fairy tale involving Snow White and Rose Red... I don't recollect anything about a thorn but there is a very important bear..." As a typical North Shore person, I thought a bear is always interesting - which, of course, had me pull out my old copy of the book, but for you, here is [Wikipedia](#)' version of the story. Rosamond then continued with "*Rosa mundi* is hardy through zone 4... one of the most famous of all old garden roses. The branches have very few thorns. The flowers are semi-double

and striped white and dark pink or crimson." *Rosa mundi* is a David Austin rose and Norma Austin mentioned those in her President's Message. So, all things come full circle. I will close this with one of my favourite sayings – and no, it's not Hungarian, it's Romansch (*Sursilvan*): [*you'll have to guess the translation*] "Rosas haun spinas, saun el': Mias spinas haun rosas, che bell!"



Donations by LVGC -

Edible garden project:

Aline's discussion with the Edible Garden Project:

"Your support helps us to grow food for our most vulnerable neighbours, provide educational opportunities for adults and children and create welcoming an accessible place for our community to connect to land, food and each other"

"We have received [your] very generous donation (thanks so much!!) and I just want to make sure it is being directed to the correct program."

"...the money should be directed towards educational programming in 2021. Our intent was Mountainside first; if not able to go ahead then educational programs second; and if those are not happening then help build more raised beds for sharing gardens would be the third option for use of these funds."

"We will definitely be doing educational programming in some capacity."

North Vancouver District Public Library - the following books will be ordered:

Windcliff: A Story of People, Plants, and Gardens
<https://nvdpl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/893132032>

Growing Under Cover: Techniques for A More Productive, Weather-Resistant, Pest-Free Vegetable Garden
<https://nvdpl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/892532032>

Complete Container Herb Gardening: Design and Grow Beautiful, Bountiful Herb-Filled Pots
<https://nvdpl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/891400032>

Stay Grounded: Soil Building for Sustainable Gardens

<https://nvdpl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/892531032>

Plant Partners: Science-Based Companion Planting Strategies for the Vegetable Garden
<https://nvdpl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/892533032>



"In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." *Alfred, Lord Tennyson*, while an LVGC gardener's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of PIG POO!!!! [Hello, Kelly!]



Bright Spots - Rosemarie Adams

Rosemarie writes, "Lemon tree, which spent all was full of blossom early summer (which the unfortunately did not produce fruit, which it so not sure what happened. Hopefully I'll get flowering. Smells wonderful (and it's very somebody over and they like lemon in their tea



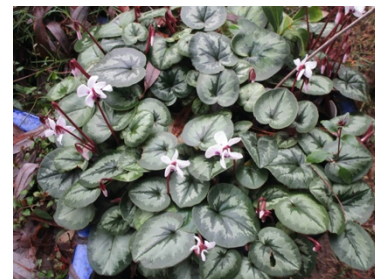
summer out on the deck. It hummingbirds loved) but has done many times before, lemons from this impressive when I have - 'Just one moment, I'll go pick a lemon!')



What I don't understand is WHY Rosemarie's plants bloom and mine don't. Penny and I have long sighed about this. I've blamed the altitude - but Rosemarie is pretty high up



there, though maybe a couple hundred feet can cause a few weeks of catch-up. In any case - jealousy notwithstanding - here are Rosemarie's bright spots: *Viburnum x bodnantense* [Arrowwood]; *Nandina domestica* [Heavenly bamboo], *Hellebore*, *Cyclamen coum*, [Persian violet], *Fuchsia* (still in bloom!!!) - Read on!!!!



The Joy of Fuchsias - Courtney Mitchell

Photographs are used with the permission of Maurice Horn of Joy Creek Nursery.

I have always liked fuchsias, especially in hanging baskets because they seem so elegant. I think this fondness started when watching my grandmother tend baskets on the terrace outside her kitchen. I do not recall growing fuchsias when we lived in Halifax, Toronto, or

Denver, but when we moved to West Vancouver in the spring of 2000, I bought at least one basket that year. And most years, I have received a hanging basket or two of fuchsias for a Mother's Day gift from my husband. We have a suitable location for them outside some windows where we suspend them from the edge of a high deck in the shady gap between the house and the granodiorite rock into which our house is built. The

hummingbirds find them, as does the sun for perhaps a couple hours a day.

About Fuchsias

The plants of the genus *Fuchsia* are primarily shrubs and small trees and can be either deciduous or evergreen. Almost all of the approximately 100 species of fuchsias are native to Central and South America. There are four species native to New Zealand and one in Tahiti. Most fuchsias thrive primarily in tropical and subtropical climates, but some are quite hardy. A few are epiphytes and grow on trees rather than in soil. There are approximately 8,000 varieties, hybrids, and cultivars, but most of the ones we grow in our gardens today are thought to have been hybridized from about 10 species.

Fuchsias flower profusely and throughout the summer. Their pendulous flowers may be classified as single (4 petals), double (8 petals), or semi-double (5-7 petals). The stamen and stigma hang below the petals. Fuchsias come in a wide variety of shades of purple, red, pink, whites and combinations of colours. Hummingbirds are attracted to fuchsias and are important pollinators for these plants, especially in South America where there are numerous species of these birds.

History

Fuchsias were first described in 1703 by Charles Plumier (1646-1706), a French monk, who made several plant finding trips while working in Santo Domingo, in



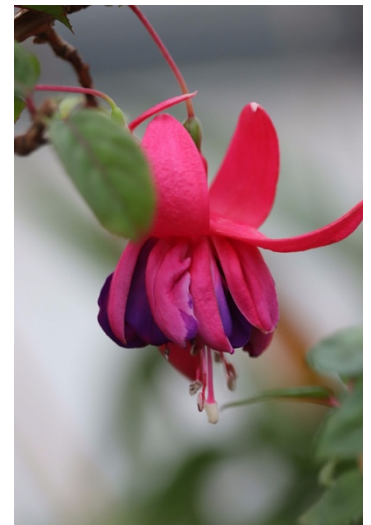
Fuchsia at Alangasi, Ecuador

the present-day Dominican Republic. He described one species, *Fuchsia triphylla flore coccinea*, and named the plant to honor Leonhart Fuchs (1501-1566), a German physician and botanist, who wrote the most important herbal

publication of the 1500s.

In 1788, two species arrived at the Royal Gardens at Kew from South America. How fuchsias became a popular garden plant is a subject of some curiosity. It is not known for sure whether James Lee, an enterprising London nurseryman, obtained his original plant from an old woman growing it in her garden box in Wapping, in east London for 80 guineas (so he attested), or whether he somehow secured an illicit source from Kew. Either way, he made a great deal of money from propagating cuttings that he sold to the public.

Fuchsias were easily hybridized and became very popular during Victorian times. Although their popularity diminished between the two World Wars, they have once again become a sought-after garden plant. While it is not possible to trace the plant lines, it is believed that most of the 8000 varieties of fuchsias originated mainly from the hybridizing of about 10 species. The most important sources were *F. magellanica*, *F. fulgens*, and *F. coccinea*.



Fuchsia 'Peppermint Stick' a tri colour variety: tube is light red, the sepals are light red, and the corolla (petals) are purple with pink streaks

Interesting fuchsias

F. magellanica was one of the first of the two species sent to Kew. It is notably hardy down to -10°C. In its native habitat it can grow to 5 m in the cool, very wet forests of southern Chile and Argentina, including Tierra del Fuego. (I recall seeing fuchsias growing in roadside ditches in southern Chile this past February.)



Fuchsia magellanica 'Alba' which is 'Silver Pink' rather than white

It is the hardiest of the fuchsias. When cultivated, it is usually grown as a dense shrub and it is commonly used for hedges in Scotland and Ireland. The red and purple flowers are tubular shaped.

F. coccinea is the first species described (1703). It was used to cross with other later-introduced species. Both *F. coccinea* and *F. magellanica* have similarly shaped flowers.

F. fulgens is a native of Mexico and Central America that was introduced to England in 1830 and used extensively for hybridization. It is a bright salmon pink colour and has very long (7.6 cm) flowers.

F. excorticata is known as a 'tree fuchsia' and it often grows to 12 meters or more in the wild. It is deciduous, and the bark is very thin and peels in strips like paper. It is grown in gardens as a shrub or small tree. They are native to the Auckland area of New Zealand.

F. procumbens is a low growing species found in sandy coastal areas of New Zealand. The tiny flowers are unusual as they grow upright. Depending on conditions, some of the flowers are male, some female, and some are hermaphroditic. The pollen is blue and is said to have been used by Maori women as face powder. Today people cultivate it as a ground cover, however it has become rare in the wild.

Cultivation

In reality, very few actual varieties of fuchsias are purchased by gardeners. This is a pity, as there are many lovely and unusual varieties available if one searches for them. Fuchsias are easy to raise, but have some requirements. Hot, dry conditions and very wet conditions are not conducive to fuchsias!

- Generally, they require frost free conditions.
- They require some sun, but too much sun – particularly late afternoon sun – may be damaging. All fuchsias can tolerate morning sun.
- They like evenly moist roots and are easily overwatered.
- They require well-drained fertile soil. They appreciate intermittent applications of fertilizer, but not heavy strength applications.
- They are easy to propagate from cuttings and are easily shaped by pruning and pinching the growing tips. Flowers appear on new growth so old or damaged branches may be removed. Dead-heading spent blooms will prolong the flowering season.
- Trailing varieties make wonderful hanging baskets.
- Some species can be trained to become standards if the stem is strong enough.
- Hardy varieties can be grown for hedges (Scotland, Ireland).
- Overwintering is not difficult if they are protected from freezing temperatures and do

not dry out. Pots may be kept in a dark, cool, place about 10°C. Water the pots about every 3-4 weeks. If fuchsias seem to die over the winter, they may produce new shoots in spring if the roots have not rotted.

- Maurice Horn of Joy Creek Nursery advises not to cut fuchsias back until early spring, as then new growth will be encouraged by this action.
- They may be affected by aphids, white fly, spider mites, rust or grey molds.



Fuchsia procumbens 'Variegata' with upward-facing small green/gold flowers; note the blue pollen

Resources and Websites

Botanica

Clark, David. (1987) *Fuchsias for Greenhouse and Garden*, Kew Gardening Guides.

<https://www.joycreek.com/> This Portland, OR area nursery specializes in clematis, fuchsias, hostas, hydrangeas and other plants that are hardy in the Pacific Northwest (which would include the Vancouver B.C. area). Their online catalog contains excellent descriptions and information about the one hundred six varieties of fuchsia they sell. Unfortunately, it is very difficult for them to ship to Canada. Disclaimer: Maurice Horn (co-owner) is my brother-in-law and he has kindly granted permission to use his photographs in the Leaf.

<https://fuchsiasinthecity.com/> This developing website, also located in Portland, OR, has extensive information on the history of fuchsias and a fascinating *Dictionary of the Fuchsia*.

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/> offers online information on a wide variety of topics including fuchsias.



The MALs would like to remind LVGC that it is time to consider, ponder, which plants need splitting, potting up etc. so that they can be ready for the Plant Sale - whatever format that might take.

Plants and Stamps - Penny LeCouteur

January! It's raining - and outside the garden is wet and cold: not exactly conducive to gardening so I am busy with my other passion. I'm a stamp collector. The two are complementary hobbies. When you can't get into the garden, you can be "stamping". When it is good gardening weather, who wants to sit inside playing with stamps?



Like many of you, I had a stamp collection when I was a kid. There were no computers then, no video games, tablets, iPhones, laptops - no devices. And where I lived there was no TV. So what did you do on a cold winter's night when you had finished your homework? You got out your stamp collection. And like most of you, as I grew up, I gave up stamps for other less nerdy pursuits - although "nerdy" was not a word then.

About 3 years ago, I hauled a box containing that stamp collection out of the attic and started "stamping" again. (Why? Long story, for another time!) And now I belong to the Lynn Valley Stamp Club - the LVSC - as well as the LVGC. The LVSC has fewer members and the average age is at least ten years older than

the LVGC's (and the gender ratio is the reverse!) But just as in the garden club, many of the stamp club members are very knowledgeable and more than willing to share that knowledge. We swap and trade stamps, not plants, and we have stamp auctions instead of plant sales.

Some stamp collectors are very specific (eg only Queen Victoria stamps) but I'm much more general although I often think I should concentrate on the gardening/stamping connection. Above is a 2005 set of common garden flowers from Germany. Their common names are at the top (sonnenblume has to be sunflower, tulpe - tulip!)

Often plant stamps give the botanical name like this lovely 1968 set of orchid stamps from British Honduras - now called Belize.



This 1985 French stamp is a plant lesson on its own.



It gives the botanical name, family name, and has drawings of the tree, the needles, the cone, seedpod

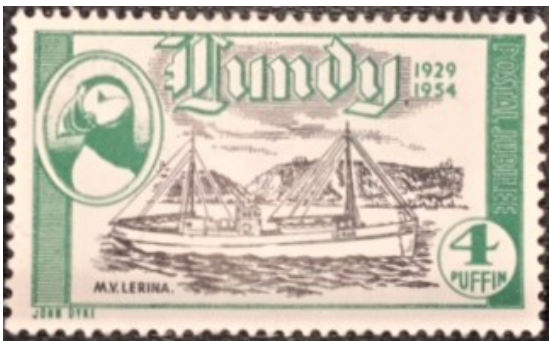


and seeds all on a 1" x 1" stamp. Sometimes all the members of a family are featured as in the 1977 set of proteas from South Africa. I have the full set of these - 16 in all.



Native flora is often shown on stamps like these 1964 stamps from New Caledonia - a small French Dependency island group in the South Pacific. Again, these are drawings, showing all parts of the plant and giving the botanical name. Island stamps are often beautiful and it seems that the smaller the island the larger number of different stamps produced each year. This is probably because stamps have

become a source of income over and above the postage purpose. This 1992 set of 16 stamps is from Guernsey in the Channel Islands off the south coast of the U.K. Along with the other Channel Islands that have their own postage stamps (Jersey, Alderney and Herm) Guernsey has a flourishing flower industry. Other U.K. islands that have their own stamps are the Isle of Mann and Lundy Island. You may not have heard of Lundy (I hadn't) but it is the largest island in the Bristol Channel and lies 19 km off the coast of North Devon. Not only does it have its own stamps, but it has its own currency - the *puffin*. How can I resist including a 4 Puffin stamp from Lundy?



So if you have a box of old stamps that you have been meaning to get rid of I would be happy to help! And now all I need to do is get the Canadian Post Office to produce a set of stamps featuring *hostas*. Then I would be a very happy "stamper."

An Assortment of Sites to Visit Virtually

Judith Brook: Asian Hornets

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jan/01/beekeepers-brace-for-next-round-with-canada-murder-hornets-aoe>

Linda Howe: fabulous gardens - no passport required.

<https://www.lifeandmoney.citi.com/travel/destinations/beautiful-gardens-in-usa> And especially the orchid show in the following:

<https://www.lifeandmoney.citi.com/travel/destinations/virtual-vacations-to-beautiful-places>

Sharon Carabetta: Glasses to see previous with.

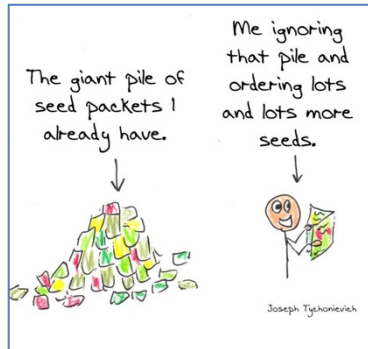
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yN-6PbqAPM>

Maria Issa: Growing hops so you have beer to drink while viewing - <https://cid-inc.com/blog/interview->

hops-in-the-heat-root-imaging-and-research-on-hops-at-university-of-florida/

Linda Howe: Cornmeal against weeds

<https://www.friendlyorganicscanada.ca/2018/02/cornmeal-for-weed-killing-and-pest-control/>



- Answers to the Riddles*
1. Marigold
 2. Tulips
 3. Impatiens
 4. Dandelion
 5. Snapdragon
 6. Money plant
 7. Sweet William
 8. Lady's slipper
 9. Violet



A Covid Craft to Take Up? - Norma Austin

A resident of Hamnavoe, Shetland Islands in Scotland, Anne Eunson decided to knit herself a beautiful lace fence using twine. The fence is fashioned from strong black twine - the same kind that is used to make fishing nets - and Anne knitted it on specially adapted curtain rods. It took her about three weeks to knit enough lace to surround her front garden, using a 23 stitch repeat of a familiar Shetland lace pattern.



Spring Spuds - Wayne Smith

I was surprised to see my spuds are sprouting. They were buried in a basket next to the house. They kept better in the ground than the spuds I dug up last year. And now the sprouted ones will get replanted with some potash.

[Note the other happy sprouting veggies! - ed]

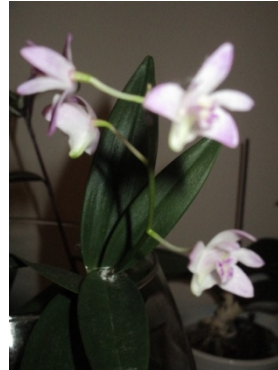


Neglected Orchids - Rosemarie Adams



upstairs east-facing bathroom for some weeks. Certainly they hadn't been watered for at least a month. All three have put out flower stalks. Also I have three tiny orchids just coming into bloom. Have no idea what they are - maybe Margaret Nakahara can help to identify them?

Some orchids really do seem to thrive on neglect. I hadn't checked some orchids on the window ledge of an



"An orchid in a deep forest sends out its fragrance even if no one is around to appreciate it."

-- Confucius



How to Pot and Care for an Amaryllis Bulb - from Horticulture - by M. Godfrey

I have a magnificent red amaryllis that blooms at least 4 blooms on one stalk and sometimes it puts up two stalks... it's a crazy, wonderful plant. I love it. I worry about it. Every year, I forget what I read about how to keep it happy until the next blooming season - so this article, sent by **Linda Howe**, made me extremely happy... and a little perturbed as, as usual, I was doing everything wrong. So why was it blooming profusely? Go figure. <https://www.hortmag.com/container-gardening/amaryllis-bulb-care>

"Interestingly, the standard technique of allowing the bulb to grow on through the summer and then drying it off until winter does not usually produce the best floral display. Much better results can be obtained by repotting the bulb as the roots grow and keeping the plant in active growth for as long as possible. Here's how:

After flowering stops, transfer the bulb to a pot four inches wider than the diameter of the bulb. Feed it every two weeks with a liquid fertilizer at one-half the recommended strength. When the new pot is filled with roots, move the bulb to a container at least 11 to 12 inches in diameter.

[The article goes on about putting the plant outside and bringing it in, and feeding it - none of which I did... yikes...]

"Remember: for the bulb to produce multiple flower stalks, it must be encouraged to produce as many leaves as possible. In order to put on a spectacular display, the bulb must produce an abundance of food—a process that requires full sun, regular feeding, ample root room and adequate moisture."

[That seems sort of obvious. Currently 'Rillis' lives in the chilly entrance hall and is relatively dry. But has lots of leaves that seem to hang about. I'll let you know, as I live in hope so I turned to my "Garden Magic", 1935 edition bought from the Plant Table...]

Amaryllis Hippeastrum (Star Lily) "Perhaps nothing will give the amateur greater pleasure..." [yup, that's me!] "Plant them in [late fall] in pots 1 inch larger than the bulb. They will not bloom if the pots are too large." [needs good, rich, basic soil, good drainage] "Keep them in a cool, shaded place but bring into light at first sign of growth. They need plenty of sunshine and liquid manure during the growing season.[...] Take good care of the leaves after flowering if you want them to bloom again next year.[...] When the leaves begin to turn yellow, or the frost checks them, gradually decrease watering and store pots in a cool cellar. Look them over occasionally. Bring to light and water regularly when they show signs of life. Repotting is beneficial but not necessary as they will thrive for years with application of liquid manure or even chemical plant food in solution."

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER GOINGS-ON

The BC Council of Garden Clubs

...is becoming surprisingly proactive. Lorraine sent us the *Bulletin* which is interesting and informative – and worth a read. They are calling it “The new era of the Bulletin” ... yup – it certainly is! I’m chalking it up to one of the positive things caused by Covid. Here is the link... <https://bcgardenclubs.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2020-December-Bulletin.pdf> or you can find it in your cover email. The spring AGM will be on - *Mar 27, 2021 9:00 am - 12:00 pm*. (presumably on zoom).

Food Bank &/or Harvest Project - Maria Issa

Trump, US, Covid: Aha!! I got your attention! One of the good things Dear Donald did is to send stimulus cheques to US citizens and those who happen to be married to them. I am one of the latter, though I confess, I have mostly avoided the US. However, as my rather rich uncle used to say, “money – we always accept!” so The American and I made a pact: we won’t look at our cheques, we will just walk them down to the **Food Bank**. “Thanks Uncle Donald! It was greatly appreciated.” I would like to suggest you do something similar. Up to you – but your gifts are needed by so many ... locally the Food Bank and the Harvest Project need anything and everything that you can share. The North Shore is one of the most affluent areas of Canada – need I say more? Use the “CANADA HELPS” website. You even get an instant tax receipt – handy as we are getting close to tax time.

The Victoria Master Gardener Conference - Lorraine Robson

This Victoria Master Gardener conference on Zoom may have been mentioned before, but since it's coming up on January 30, it is timely. It's open to members of the public and costs \$55 to attend. The event will have 5 main speakers and their talks will be available online for 30 days afterwards. **You can find full conference details at mixingitup.org, and register with [Karelo](#)**

One of the speakers is the well-known and respected Linda Gilkeson. Another is Richie Steffen, a lively and knowledgeable speaker whom I've heard a few times at Hardy Plant Group events. He is the Executive Director of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle and the Manager of the Great Plant Picks website. If our members are not familiar with that site, please check out www.greatplantpicks.org for recommendations on outstanding plants for coastal BC and Washington State. It's a lovely place to while away a few hours on a wet and gloomy January day or any time of year you might be feeling like falling in love with a new plant or learning more about an old favourite.



Also

Happy New Year, fellow Garden Clubs!

Thinking ahead, the **Point Roberts Garden Tour Committee** recognizes that the situation is still too uncertain to reschedule the Point Roberts Garden Tour for this year. Border restrictions are unlikely to be eased until effective vaccines are widely administered and COVID-19 rates low on both sides of the border. Even if the border is opened this coming spring, we are sure that non-resident garden owners will just want to relax in their gardens rather than busily prepare them for visitors. Therefore, we will not offer a Point Roberts Garden Tour 2021.

We are tentatively hoping for a Garden Tour 2022.

"The tree is more than first a seed, then a stem, then a living trunk, and then dead timber. The tree is a slow, enduring force straining to win the sky." — *Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*

THE COMPOST BIN - Maria Issa

As I happened upon Judi Dench's wonderful "My Passion for Trees" (and I have always been fond of champagne), <https://www.knowledge.ca/program/judi-dench-my-passion-trees>, I was fascinated by the connections and communication among the trees, carried out by fungal hyphae underground. I had always noted the "mycorrhizal content" of bagged soils at Home Depot with a bit of a smirk. I figured it to be more of a gimmick than anything actually useful. Turns out, I may be wrong. At one point, Judi walks with a scientist who shows her how fungal hyphae envelop roots and create a network within the soil.

How all that works is described in a BBC publication "Plants talk to each other using an internet of fungus". Nic Fleming, 11 November 2014, wrote,

"It's an information superhighway that speeds up interactions between a large, diverse population of individuals. It allows individuals who may be widely separated to communicate and help each other out. But it also allows them to commit new forms of crime.

No, we're not talking about the internet, we're talking about fungi. While mushrooms might be the most familiar part of a fungus, most of their bodies are made up of a mass of thin threads, known as a mycelium. We now know that these threads act as a kind of underground internet, linking the roots of different plants. That tree in your garden is probably hooked up to a bush several metres away, thanks to mycelia.

The more we learn about these underground networks, the more our ideas about plants have to change. They aren't just sitting there quietly growing. By linking to the fungal network they can help out their neighbours by sharing nutrients and information – or sabotage unwelcome plants by spreading toxic chemicals through the network. This "wood wide web", it turns out, even has its own version of cybercrime." Read the rest here – it's fascinating. <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20141111-plants-have-a-hidden-internet>.

As you read, and delve further, you will discover that a UBC scientist is at the bottom of it all. <https://forestry.ubc.ca/faculty-profile/suzanne-simard/> Suzanne Simard is the discoverer of the "wood wide web" that she describes in a book called "**Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering How the Forest Is Wired for Intelligence and Healing**" [Amazon Kindle, \$15.99]

The teaser goes like this: "Dr. Suzanne Simard was born and raised in the rainforests of British Columbia and has forged a lifelong relationship of love and respect with the trees. This relationship was the driving force behind her decision to dedicate her life to better understanding the forest and the network that connects the plant life within.

With humour, emotion, and the narrative drive of a lifelong storyteller, Dr. Simard takes readers on an intimate journey of ground-breaking scientific discovery. Linking her research to her personal experiences, she recounts her life's work uncovering the Wood Wide Web, the underground mycelium network that connects all the trees and plants within a forest. It is a network that allows them to share not only nutrients, but information, all of which originates from the hubs called Mother Trees.

Readers will journey with Dr. Simard into this massive experiment, from dramatic encounters with wildlife to the ground-breaking Aha! moments in a lab, from learning how to utilize this network to promote plant growth to what this network can teach us about combatting climate change. Dramatic, funny, touching, and evocative, *Finding the Mother Tree* offers an intimate and personal look at discovery. This book is not about how we can save the trees, but about how the trees might actually save us."

Yeah, it all sounds like *Avatar* [and if you haven't seen that movie – you really, really MUST!!! – also because even *Avatar* has a Vancouver connection: a local acquaintance – who shall remain nameless – sued Cameron, claiming he wrote the original story; but I digress...] but I have often found that we catch up to science fiction and soon enough it turns out to be science fact. [Which reminds me - did you see the movie *Outbreak*...oh yes!...] I just hope that our assault on nature has as happy an ending.

Another Vancouver <--->tree connection happened while I was hunting through the UBC Botanical Gardens' website and found a new app: *Vancouver Trees*, a mobile app that describes commonly cultivated trees in the Metro Vancouver area [\$2.79 in the App store <https://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/learn/vancouver-trees-app/>] and while I was looking for it, I found a FREE download, *Vancouver Street Trees*. I was too cheap to pay, so I downloaded the free one (am saving for that champagne).

The value of one single tree.

