



THE LEAF

THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

Norma March 2021

President's Message - Norma Austin

Greetings, Fellow Gardeners,

I am writing this to you on a glorious day. The sun is shining. My garden is coming alive. Fresh green buds are appearing on bare branches. I see snowdrops, baby daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths. After seeing Barb Downman's prolific display of hellebores in her garden, I feel I need some of those too. There is always next year! I've been itching to get into the garden, so I pruned my roses a bit earlier than recommended by the Golden Rule - Prune roses when the forsythia is in bloom.

On to club matters: We're starting a new feature this month in this LEAF. Donna Wasylik came up with an idea of how we can share something that is special in our garden. Maria assures us there is always a need for material in the LEAF, so, a perfect match. We will feature one or two articles, written by you, in the upcoming newsletters. You might choose to showcase a place where you like to sit and have your tea (or something more potent). Maybe, share a vignette that you've created and are pleased with. Perhaps, there is a treasured plant with attached memories. It would be lovely to also see a photo as well. Check out Donna's article, and her photo from last year. Let's share a bit of our gardens with each other.

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
March 18
JAMES CASEY
"BRINGING BIRDS INTO YOUR GARDEN?"

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



A few words about our upcoming plant sale: The date is set for Saturday, May 22. The Members At Large team (MALs), have made great progress in shouldering the task of putting on a plant sale in this odd and uncertain year. I salute the team - Lori Herman, Penny Le Couteur, Ann McKinnon, and Courtney Mitchell. I think they have now secured enough locations. So the important first step is taken care of. What is crucial now, is for volunteers to sign up to help out at these locations. The ever-changing health guidelines are showing more promise that we will be able to go ahead with our plans. Rest assured that Penny and her team will have strict protocols in place so there is no need to worry about safety.

There is always the concern that there won't be enough people signed up to help out at the sale. It is also well known that a lot of volunteers show up on the day of the sale to help out, whether they have signed up or not. We cherish all those volunteers. When the sale is in one location it's easy to identify what needs to be done when someone is there to help. Just point them in the right direction. *This year, however, we need to be certain we have sufficient volunteers at each location. So, please, please ... let the MALs know that you'll be there for them. Penny's detailed plant sale information is in this newsletter.*

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

Now that the vaccine is on the way, I trust we will all have a better year. Spring has arrived!

Executive 2021

President

Norma Austin x

Vice President

Jacquie 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 April

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, Sue Callahan, Linda Howe, Penny LeCouteur, Courtney Mitchell, Susan Nicholl, Kelly Robertson, Lorraine Robson, Bruce Tennant, Donna Wasylik,*



SPEAKER

JAMES CASEY

James Casey, from Birds Canada earned a master's degree in International Environmental Policy at the University of Northern British Columbia. James had the opportunity to work with WWF-Canada on topics ranging from eelgrass and marine planning to hydropower and the Water Sustainability Act. This experience established a base of knowledge he is now applying to the context of the Fraser Estuary Important Bird and Biodiversity Area. On behalf of Bird Studies Canada, James is building support for the development of a conservation strategy for this Important Biodiversity Area.



REPORTS

Treasurer's Report - Donna Wasylik

LVGC Assets as of the end of February 2021:

Bank Balance as of February 28, 2021	\$9,667.05
Cash on hand	<u>119.65</u>
Total	9,786.70

Membership Report - Doreen Marbry and Barb Downman

Please contact Barb or Doreen if your contact information has changed from a year ago. We have been in contact with both Maple Leaf Garden Centre and GardenWorks and they will honour your **2020 membership cards for 2021 discounts**. If you have not picked up your membership cards please call Doreen xxxxx to arrange a time when you can pick it up. We have 148 members. We are not accepting new members at this time. Membership can be reached by phone or email at lvgc.membership@gmail.com

List of Speakers 2021 - Jacquie Morgan

April 15, 2021

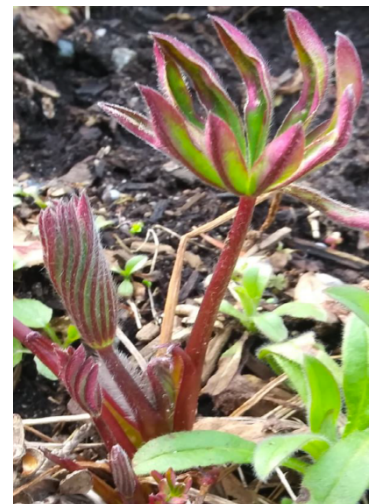
Earthwise Society: Their work and projects

May 20, 2021

Christine Allen: Roses



"The old Lakota was wise. He knew that man's heart, away from nature, becomes hard; he knew that lack of respect for growing, living things soon led to lack of respect for humans too." - Luther Standing Bear



"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect." - Chief Seattle, 1854

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

It is looking as if we will be able to hold the plant sale as we have proposed (multiple sites) and many people have been potting up a storm (and their plants)! We probably have enough sites volunteered but if your place would work too - in Lynn Valley, reasonable parking, front driveway or lawn, somewhere under shelter for the cashiers - we could always use another site.

Some of the MALS will be making a visit to the volunteered sites in a few weeks just to ensure that all is well, so if you have volunteered your place - expect a call.

BUT we still need MORE VOLUNTEERS to be at the plant sale at each site. To keep everyone safe, we are going to have more sale sites with fewer customers at each site, so we do need you for Saturday May 22nd from about 9 AM - 12:30 PM, and also some people for set up and pricing duties. We plan to do a Zoom Pricing workshop in early May. Also, in early May we are going to hold (on Zoom) a “*Name that Plant*” evening where those of us who don’t know the names of some of the plants we have potted up for the sale will be able to hold them up and others (our Master Gardeners???) can call out the names. I’m looking for ways to make this a fun event; maybe spot prizes, trick plants - let me know if you have any ideas.

LVGC members are always great at turning out *en masse* to help with the plant sale but this year we

really need to know ahead of time that we have enough volunteers, as we can’t set up a site unless we know that we have volunteers available for that site. ***SO if you are planning on helping please let me know now and if you were not planning on helping - why not?***

I think by that time in May many of us will have had our first vaccination and will have developed some immunity, but we will still wear masks, keep a social distance and all those other things that Dr. Bonnie is imploring us to keep doing. And remember that the customers for the plant sale will be us (the membership) and our friends and neighbours so plan to attend and ***tell your friends and neighbours about it - YOU are the communications department.***

I have potted up about 50 hosta plants and these are now being fostered at my generous “Hosta Foster parents” gardens. My altitude at 1150’ above sea level is too cool for hostas to be ready for sale by mid-May so Susan Huber and Bogna Ross at lower altitudes have volunteered to have these pots sitting in their gardens. If you have the same altitude/cool temperature problems we can find foster parents for your pots. Just let the MALS know.

SO PLEASE VOLUNTEER NOW. Email or phone a MAL or contact me by phone or email, plecoute@gmail.com.

Thank you. Penny Le Couteur for the MALS.



The GREAT LVGC BUS TRIP that didn't...

Rosemarie Adams & Doreen Marbry



As you may remember, 2020 vanished into a blur of pandemic and even the 2020 Great LVGC Bus Trip was postponed.

We have not forgotten that we have your funds! For members who gave us cheques: they will be destroyed, (and in any event they will now be stale-dated). Cash payments will be refunded as soon as we can have a meeting. Your money is in safe hands!

(no, they have not moved to ~~Hawaii~~ Abbotsford based on the amount of \$\$ available - ed)

Washed up!!! Pots Galore - alias “The Courtney Collection”

Sharon Carabetta *had* lots and lots of pots. So did Libby Kelley and Barb Downman and The PREZ. They now have nice, clean, empty spaces in their garages.... and the pots are all concentrated at my house: on St Mary’s Avenue. Like in the *Walrus and the Carpenter*, thick and fast, they came at last, and more and more and more.... All shapes and sizes - and lots of small ones for seedlings. So PLEASE come and get them before I vanish under the avalanche - Maria.

Recycling 1 - Plant Labels - Doreen Dew

"Shortly, I will have a large amount of the 1" slats from some window blinds. I was wondering if some of our members would like some for plant labels?" Rumour has it, someone is being arm-twisted to cut them up into perfect sizes. Contact Doreen if you need some. *[Confirmed - Doreen did have a Covid redecorating project]*



Recycling 2 Plant Markers - Rosemarie Adams

If you ever get take-out Chinese or Japanese food, don't throw the chopsticks out when you have finished eating - they make great plant markers/labels! *[note to self: ransack that kitchen drawer]*
I have lots of small patches of snowdrops and mini-daffodils in bloom around my garden, but sometimes I forget where they are when summer comes and they have disappeared. I paint the ends of the chopsticks and put them in with the plants and then I don't accidentally dig them up when I'm planting something new in summer. They also make good plant labels. (If you don't eat Chinese or Japanese food, a big pack of chopsticks is very inexpensive at the Dollar store.)



Preoccupied with Pig Poo? - Kelly Robertson

Sadly, we are not able to hold our annual pig poo purchase and pick-up this year for obvious reasons, but we are happy to report that you can buy the delicious, composted product directly from Gelderman Farms in Abbotsford. You **must** email Nathan Gelderman at nategelds@gmail.com a couple of days prior pick up to ensure they have product bagged and ready for you. It is a mere \$7.50/ 30L bag.

If you have any cargo space left, I highly recommend a visit to Devan Greenhouses on the way back.

Favourite Places

From Donna Wasylik

This patio area on the southern side of my house is inspired by the Japanese Tsubo (courtyard) style of gardens popular with Japanese who have very small outdoor areas. My daughter and I put in the small water feature several years ago and I designed the garden to blend in with the pool. The garden is mostly made up of ferns, groundcover and grasses. No exotic Japanese plants here. It is by no means authentic and certainly is not as manicured as a traditional Japanese garden but it's lots of fun and provides tranquility to our outdoor living area.



From Rosemarie Adams

In spring, it is surrounded by fragrant azaleas; in the summer we moved some chairs around and have our Starbucks umbrella for shade. It is a great spot for morning coffee and afternoon/evening wine.



BRIGHT SPOTS

The Bright



From Rosemarie Adams

I think I showed a picture of these cyclamens in last couple of months, but they have now come into full bloom. Love these plants, they stay in bud and bloom for a long time: *Cyclamen coum* (Persian violet).



Dianthus (Mini carnation/Pink)
What on earth does this Dianthus think it is doing – blooming in a pot on my deck in late January, and still in bloom in mid-March?



I'm sure lots of you have some lovely Hellebores. Here are a few in my garden.



“Home is where my plants are.”



“What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another” – Mahatma Gandhi

Euphorbia for Euphorbia [I know... but I couldn't resist - m] - Lorraine Robson

[Lorraine received the following email]

Hi there,

I recently had the pleasure of meeting one of your members, Maria, and she told me about your club.

I recently moved my Euphorbia (I think that's what it is) and it isn't thriving. Please tell me what I am best to do.

Thank you,

Deanna

[Here is Lorraine's answer. It does credit to LVGC.]



Yes, your plants are *Euphorbia* -- probably *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii* (aka Mediterranean spurge). The one on the left looks very happy, but you're right that the newly transplanted one is sulking. That is fairly common among transplants because a lot of the tiny feeder roots which take up moisture can be broken during the move. I don't know if you moved it before, during, or after the icy cold spell we had in February, but that kind of cold also makes it difficult for plants to take up water. I think it is probably just dried out.

I suggest you go out and poke your finger into the soil around the plant to test for moisture. It looks like your raised bed may be under the eaves of your house in full sun. If it is, that soil may be remarkably dry and your plant just needs some watering once a week to help it get established. *Euphorbia* are very drought resistant once established (i.e. once they've grown back the tiny feeder roots to take up moisture and nutrients), but like any plant newly transplanted, they need a little babying to help them settle in. It looks like you have a lavender between the *Euphorbias*, so you're well on your way to creating an easy-care bed there. The established plants won't need supplemental water during the spring, but they might benefit from a little additional moisture from time to time if we get a hot, dry summer.

Do be careful not to go to the other extreme and drown your plant. Over-watering creates the same limp look but for different reasons. When we over-water, those fine roots can rot and are then unable to take up moisture. The end result is that the plant looks like it is drying out, so we give it more water which hastens its demise. Overwatering kills more houseplants than anything else.

By the way, *Euphorbia* have a toxic kind of milky sap that can burn your skin, so always wear gloves when working with them and don't touch your eyes. Once the flowering stems have finished blooming and start looking tatty, you can cut those stems off at the base. (If you want it to self-sow to create more plants, you can leave the seeds.)

I hope these points help you revive your *Euphorbia*, but let me know if you notice anything else. Once it has had some regular moisture for a few weeks, it should start to settle in and recover.

All the best,

Lorraine Robson

LVGC Secretary



Wayne has a Way with Veggies

Re: Greenhouse Solar Heated Water Jugs:

I checked the temperature of the dark water (used black paint on the containers to darken the water).

It was 50°F. That's 5°F warmer than the air temperature in the greenhouse.

I put an aquarium heater in a five-gallon bucket and put it under a sheet of tempered glass for a bottom heated starting bench.





The tomatoes have been doing well on the bottom heat. I covered them all with poly: and at night I pull an extra blanket over my babies and tuck them in with a smile.

I closed the big greenhouse on the back deck in with glass panels that I got for free on Craigslist.

Some were odd sizes but I used them all.

The fellow whose glass was being given away was an old Italian, he was in a home. His greenhouse had been taken down, the yard a jumble, years of growing things... I felt his bones, alive in his yard; full of spring growth.

Saw in my mind's eye a young Italian man growing old happy with his years of tomatoes and home-made pasta sauce.

We just borrow things like greenhouse glass and when we pass, someone borrows the glass again, and the



warm spring sun smiles in again on young tomato plants.

Sorry I'm a bit poetic when it comes to greenhouses.

The old glass took a lot of scrubbing to bring the sun in but I'm happy with it now.

Should be a good long growing season.



Brave New Varietals - Susan Huber

I 'zoomed' the Brian Minter talk last week and here is some info about the presentation from Lucretia Schanfarber and Gabbing About Gardening presented "Our Changing Climate & Our Changing Gardens" with Brian Minter. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/QuadraIslandandCortesIslandGardens> Brian spoke on several topics including plants that provide double blooming of a season, or unusual colour or compact growth:



Bloomerang Lilac - blooms twice in season: May and August (Proven Winners)

<https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/syringa/bloomerang-purple-reblooming-lilac-syringa-x>

Buddleia Pink Microchip - only 24" high (Proven Winners)

<https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/buddleia/lobehold-pink-micro-chip-butterfly-bush-buddleia-x>



Buddleia Pugster Blue - only 24" high (Proven

Winners) <https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/buddleia/pugster-blue-butterfly-bush-buddleia-x>



Bloom-A-Thon Pink Double Reblooming Azalea Rhododendron x (blooms in spring and reblooms in summer) (Proven Winners)

<https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/rhododendron/bloom-thon-pink-double-reblooming-azalea-rhododendron-x>

Stand by me - blue bush clematis (Proven Winners)

<https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/clematis/stand-me-bush-clematis-clematis-hybrid>



Cornus Arctic Sun: yellow, orange, and coral stems that glow in winter (Proven Winners)

<https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/cornus/arctic-sun-dogwood-cornus-sanguinea>



Sunflower, Sunfinity Hybrid

<https://www.burpee.com/flowers/sunflowers/sunflower-sunfinity-hybrid-prod500039.html>

Millennium Allium – look for ‘Lavender Bubbles’ and ‘Serendipity’ (Proven Winners)

<https://www.provenwinners.com/plants/allium/millennium-ornamental-onion-allium-hybrid>

Winter colour:
Chick Charms Gold Nugget – turns orange red during



winter

<https://plantaddicts.com/chick-charms-gold-nugget-hens-and-chicks>



The Less Bright

From Courtney Mitchell

I found this little article edifying – to finally know the proper name for the scourge I keep weeding out 11 months out of 12... and the leaves can go into a salad, but not mine! I am sure most all the LVGC members know the name of it, but if you are short of Leaf “litter”, it might fill a sentence or two. *[As this garden terrorist is also on my personal hit-list, I unabashedly stole the article – ed]*

<https://theprovince.com/life/homes/gardening/bittercress-weed-to-watch-for-over-next-few-weeks>

Bittercress: a weed to watch for over the next two weeks.

Left unchecked, the plants will spread all over a garden.

Helen Chesnut, *The Province*, Feb 18, 2021



Q. I'm wondering whether you could identify a weed that has already started to flower in parts of my garden. It forms small rosettes of lobed leaves from which grow stems bearing small white flowers. It seems a common weed. I've even spotted it in the soil of potted nursery plants.

A. I am more familiar with this weed than I would wish to be. I can find it somewhere in my garden almost every month of the year. It is called hairy bittercress (*Cardamine hirsuta*). This is a weed to watch for and eliminate over the next few weeks, and beyond. Left unchecked, the plants will spread all over a garden. The small, short-lived annuals can complete their life cycles from germination to seed dispersal within a month. The tiny white flowers are followed by seeds that, when ripe, snap and pop away from the plant to create further weedy patches. One plant can disperse thousands of seeds.

Pull the plants up or hoe them under before they can set seeds. If you come across a plump, young plant that has not yet flowered, gather the greens for adding a light mustardy flavour to a salad before disposing of the rest of the plant. For its habit of forcefully expelling seeds and for its spicy flavour, bittercress has been given other common names: pepperweed, snapweed, shotweed, popweed, flickweed, popping cress.



The Hopelessly Dull [which is how you'll feel after this quiz- ed]

Penny's Ponderable Plant Kingdom Quiz

1. The plant below is a) thyme seedling, b) pine seedling
c) fern d) moss



2. The plant below is a cabbage tree. To what plant family does it belong?

a) Liliaceae b) Brassicaceae c) Ranunculaceae
d) Euphorbiaceae



5. Which of the plants below has in its common name the words "Christmas Tree"?

a) Scotch pine b) Pohutukawa c) Poinsettia b) Blue spruce



3. Which of the following is not a member of the beech family (*Fagaceae*)?

a) American beech tree
b) Copper beech tree
c) Japanese beech tree
d) Southern beech tree



4. The spice nutmeg (above) contains a compound called myristicin, known to cause hallucinations (and nausea and heart palpitations) when taken in large quantities. Which of the following also contains trace amounts of myristicin?

a) carrots
b) celery
c) dill
d) parsley

5. On which continent did all the fruit pictured below originate: a) Africa b)Asia c)America (South) d)Antarctica (?)
 Cape gooseberry Guava Feijoa Tamarillo



7. Which of these is NOT a pine tree?

a) Norfolk Island Pine

b) Monterey Pine

c) Bristle cone Pine

d) Virginia Pine



8. Below are pictures of a Moreton Bay fig tree. It is one of a group of trees known as a:

a) a buttress fig

b) a strangler fig

c) a weeping fig

d) a tropical fig



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER GOINGS-ON

Needed: Spring VOTING Delegate to BCCGC AGM

Our club seeks one volunteer to represent us as a voting delegate at the BC Council of Garden Clubs' AGM. It will be held on Zoom on March 27 from 9:00 till noon. The voting will take place by Survey Monkey between March 28 and April 3.

In addition to BCCGC business and short presentations by two scholarship recipients, Winnie Hwo will give a one-hour talk on the Butterflyway Project.

The BCCGC reports that "Winnie is the Senior Public Engagement Specialist for the David Suzuki Foundation. Her expertise is in Sustainable Diversity Network, bringing new Canadians and Indigenous communities together; she also [works with] the Richmond's Butterflyway Rangers project. Winnie is a former news and current affairs director for Fairchild Television, and reporter for the Vancouver Sun and CBC Vancouver; she has won the first Chinese language Jack Webster Award. Winnie enjoys bringing people together to work on projects with a common goal."

If you are interested in representing your club as a voting delegate, please email Norma Austin and Lorraine Robson by Sunday, March 21 so we can send you the agenda and information package from the BCCGC.

“Our” Jane Sherrott is doing a (virtual) talk at the WVan Library

Tomatoes – from Poison to Passion

Saturday, April 10 at 2 PM – 3 PM

Free but register ahead to be sent the Zoom link

<https://westvanlibrary.ca/event/tomatoes-from-poison-to-passion-virtual/>



Described in the 1600s and 1700s as “ranke and stinking,” tomatoes were feared to be poisonous, “toxic and not fit for hogs.” Descriptions of tomatoes today include having “crisp green apple notes,” “a burgundy wine finish,” “with a superb smoky sweetness.”

There are hundreds of tomato cultivars to choose from with many that grow well in the Lower Mainland. Join **Jane Sherrott** to learn how to choose cultivars that are suited to our growing season length and maritime climate. Pick up some easy, practical hints that will help you obtain a bountiful yield. For this virtual program, we’ll be using Zoom so it's necessary to

register ahead so the Zoom link can be sent to you.

Lovely Japanese Maple Looking for a Home - From Lorraine Robson



<<<< For a donation to our Plant Sale fund, this little Japanese maple tree could be yours! A kind North Vancouver couple offered the tree to our club because they need the space and do not want to cut it down. They do not know the cultivar but reported that it turns red in the fall. We would like to find a home for it before digging it up to minimize the time spent out of the ground. Please let Lorraine R. know if you are interested in having this tree move into your garden.



The tree’s twin was moved to the front to the house and looks elegant – so this lovely little tree can be expected to be similar. >>>>

“Life’s lessons will be repeated until you learn them” – Maria Issa

It’s nigh Income Tax time: when people of good conscience think of getting MORE money back, so they quickly make a “charitable donation” thinking that that will get them heavenly brownie points. Who knows? You’ll have to wait to find out. In the meanwhile, the need is real and personal. 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, one of the richest countries in the world, to put it into context. Use the “CANADA HELPS” website. You even get that instant tax receipt.

Answers to the Quiz. (As you have probably guessed by now, this was a “trick quiz.”)
1. d) A moss! *Dawsonia superba* is the largest self-sustaining moss in the world. Found in Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea.
2. a) It is a lily! The N.Z. cabbage tree *Cordyline australis* is the largest member of the lily family.
3. d) The Southern Beech (*Nothofagus antarctica*) from southern Chile and Argentina is an evergreen belonging to the *Nothofagaceae* family.
4. a), b), c) and d). Yes, all of them – and you thought vegetables were good for you!
5. b) The *Pohutukawa* is known as the New Zealand Christmas tree as all around the coast by Dec 25th (summer) these trees are ablaze with brilliant red flowers. (The poinsettia is not a tree!!!)
6. c) South America. (The Cape Gooseberry is not a gooseberry and doesn't come from the Cape!)
7. a) The Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*).
8. b) Strangler fig. They start life as an epiphyte on a host tree, but eventually roots grow down into the ground. Often the host trees dies - hence strangler fig!

From Bruce:

I have a neighbour who has a *large apple tree* and a *large cherry tree that need a good pruning*. They haven't been touched in years but are still productive (sort of). Would you ask the club if anyone knows who would do something like this? So far it has been suggested that Bartlett's in Burnaby do this sort of thing.

My neighbour would be willing to share the crop if anyone wanted to undertake the job. Maggie Davis has a friend who is looking for the same thing.

PS: Does Bartlett's only do Pear Trees? LOL

From Anna Marie:

My usual takers of free firewood have passed and it would be a shame to just green waste it.

I did some major pruning and have cut up a bunch of big laurel branches into log lengths along with kindling. It would need to "season" – dried out for at least six months before burning. I can drop it off curbside only, no problem. Give me a call 604-990-5148.



An Assortment of Sites to Visit Virtually

UBC Botanical Gardens:

https://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=UBC%20Botanical%20Garden&utm_campaign=Garden%20news%202021%2002%2009

From Gillian Konst:

I thought this link to the moon flower, *Selenicerus wittii* which just bloomed in the UK might be of interest for the newsletter. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-56145358>

From Lorraine Robson:

Here is the March newsletter from the BCCGC to add as a link to *The Leaf*. They have included the Zoom links to a series of interviews/talks by Lu Schanfarber with Brian Minter and other gardeners.

<https://bcgardenclubs.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2020-December-Bulletin.pdf>

From Rita Marshall:

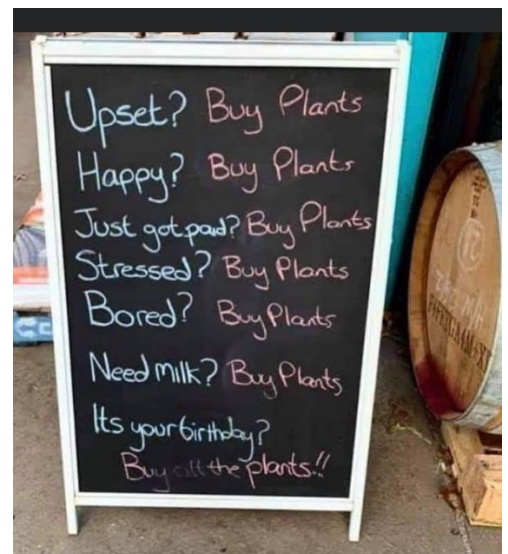
There are some interesting on-line workshops from the Edible Garden Project

https://www.lynnanyonecologycentre.ca/Gen_public_teens.html

From Linda Howe:

Insecticide used on farms across Canada has dire effects on ground-nesting bees, new research suggests [Imidacloprid]

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-popular-insecticide-used-on-farms-across-canada-has-dire-effects-on/>



Vancouver's geology is on full display with these maps and diagrams - Vancouver Is Awesome <https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/vancouver-news/ever-wondered-what-vancouver-is-built-on-this-website-tells-you-literally-that-3436301>

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.

THE COMPOST BIN - Maria Issa

Connections: plants, gophers and beer.

So here is the “down low” on the latest BIG DIG and what really went down: I know you’re curious. Originally, we had been contacted by the house’s green-thumbed owner who asked us to rescue her hundreds and hundreds of plants. We arranged that we would – as many as was humanly possible. Then she mentioned that the Realtor had said to leave most of them, but to just “sample”. We were OK with that too. Then when we finally got there, just before the snow, she said that she had talked to the developer and it was OK if we took all the plants. Oh dear: there were a LOT.

We quickly dug out a few car-fuls. Then the snow came. Then once the snow melted, over the next week, a few people made a few holes here and there, but we hardly made a dint, even though we removed another few car-loads of plants. - There were soooooo many plants.

We tried to stick to the front garden as the owners were still in full-on move mode, stuffing the last bits into a container in the back. It was all about low profile and keeping a proper Covid social distance. This was when we met Kiff, the contractor who reassured us that the house would be bulldozed and that we had better get the plants out of his way. We were very good with that. Not only that, but he also offered us two young maples that were in his garden, a couple of houses down. [We still have to dig those out at some point.] It was around that time that Sue & Rob scored the 6 yards of soil for LVGC, of which not a lump was left within a few days.

Then, finally, at the end of February, the owners departed to their new garden venture and told us that whatever was left, we were welcome to. We dug. We occasionally waved to Kiff as we dug. One relatively sunny spring day, there was quite an army of backsides aimed at the sky as we extracted what remained. We were down to the last of the small stuff – crocuses, tulips, a few pavers, the odd leftover hosta: Courtney, Bill, Penny, Jane, Barb, Rosemarie, Doreen? (I



have a mental image of you – or was it just wishful thinking?) Sue and Rob had just left. The place was looking like the aftermath of a gopher convention.

A black SUV drove into the back driveway and a good-looking young man hopped out.

“What ARE you doing?” he asked in a somewhat surprised voice.

“We are rescuing the plants” we said, stating the obvious.

“Who are you?” he persisted.

“The Lynn Valley Garden Club. Cathy asked us to rescue her plants.”

“Oh,” quoth he, “I’m the realtor and my friend is a gardener, who wanted the plants...”

“Mmmphphph” said we, intelligently “Kiff knows we are digging, and he said it was OK. We rescue the plants, sell them, and donate the money we raise to the local community. We are so sorry, we didn’t mean to take your plants.”

“So Kiff knows?? Well, I represent the new owner and Kiff didn’t say anything to me. I am Liam, by the way. I own North Point Brewery.” That was an interesting *non sequitur*,



which suggested that he was not all that angry, maybe he even liked the idea of what we were doing. “I suppose this was just a case of mis-communication” continued Liam.

Yup, he was definitely a nice guy. He wasn’t going to be desperately upset about it. I figured we had better make amends. “Look Liam, we have this garden pretty well dug out and potted up. If your friends want the plants, they can have them – all dug out.”

To that end, we exchanged phone numbers. He said he would let his friend know and he hopped into his car and drove off. Those of us who had been part of this exchange looked at each other, the wind out of our sails. We decided to clean up what needed to be cleaned up. We gathered our pots and instruments of extraction and sheepishly drove away – with what we had hastily finished loading into our cars. Waste not, want not.

Once I got home, I quickly sent a notice to LVGC, to prevent others from showing up with last-minute wish-lists. Then I texted Liam. See the text box for details.

Since to date no-one has contacted me to ask for the plants back – I have mentally confirmed for myself that Liam is one of the good guys. Ergo, I would like to suggest to all our members that we all explore North Point Brewery; mention that we are LVGC members and that we are “Liam fans”. We should have a few beers and raise our glasses to his health – filled with North Point beer, of course. I see this as a win:win.

Actually win:win:win – because all those pots of lovely plants and *whatever else* that you took home.... and will probably stay there and take root. **PLEASE DON’T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR DONATION TO THE PLANT SALE FUND.** LVGC will be very happy to receive your cheque by mail. Assuming you still have paper cheques. I don’t – I do everything electronically. Assuming you are willing to drive down, circle for 20 minutes looking for a outside to the bank to get a cheque process to buy some stamps. Then mail your cheque. By this time footprint and your potential trebled if not quadrupled. Then we can add the carbon footprint and Covid exposure risks of the people picking up the mail, sending it on to the next person, not to mention the carbon footprint and exposure risks of the physical bank deposit. Ah, yes, the “good old days” and processes of the pre-pandemic.

Hi Liam - on behalf of all the Lynn Valley Garden Club diggers - we are sorry and felt really awful to have heisted the plants destined for your friend. We didn’t know and you were very gracious. We cleaned up and went home and won’t return. As I have many of ‘your’ smaller plants in pots for the plant sale - please tell your friend to contact me - s/he is invited to my house to please pick what s/he wants. I’m also happy to split any plants from my own garden that s/he is interested in: gardeners are friends by definition. *IF * your friend doesn’t want the remaining big shrubs - 4 rhodos, a pieris, a nandina, a fatsia, and some small trees - please don’t bulldoze them. We’ll dig them out - but only if your friend doesn’t want them. Also please have a look at the Lynn Valley Garden Club’s website - read the newsletter. We have great speakers every 3rd Thursday of the month. I will send you the zoom link. - thanks again and apologies - Maria

Hey! Don’t feel bad at all, not your fault, just miscommunication! I’ll get them to get in touch. - Liam

parking spot, and line up printed, then repeat the you can find a mailbox and your weekly carbon Covid exposure risk has

“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic” - Arthur C. Clarke
 “Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man” - Stewart Udall