



THE LEAF

THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

November 2020

President's Message - Norma Austin



Greetings Gardeners,

We are near the end of a very unusual year. However much stress and turmoil there is in the world right now, my garden keeps me grounded. I know that one season will always be followed by the next and that's how I plan my year, season by season. There is a rhythm and routine to tending my garden that I find both energizing and soothing.

Fall is here and this year has been especially colourful. The intense red of all the maples and many other deciduous trees is the best I can remember. My Japanese dogwood even had a significant second flush of blooms.

As winter approaches, it's time to put all my special plants to bed for a rest. I use piles of leaves to protect who also covers well. Now is the time cup of tea and write vegetable garden. didn't, and best of next spring.



them. I have a friend them with sacking as to sit down with a a small recap of your What worked, what all, what to plant

Our Annual (AGM) this month We streamlined it constraints of having The agenda and AGM report. I urge **any executive member before the meeting if you have questions.** After the AGM, we can sit back and enjoy Joanne Melville's talk on the restoration of the Hycroft Gardens. Christmas at Hycroft was one of my absolute favourite craft fairs for many years. For us to be able to see the process and progress of the gardens being transformed will be very special.

Our **Christmas party** will be on **Thursday, December 17** his year. Make note that it is the **third Thursday** of the month instead of the usual second Thursday. I am looking forward to our Christmas craft and have been out hunting for a variety of greenery and some colourful berries. Have a look at Rosemarie's list of supplies and instructions so you'll be ready to follow along at home while she guides us on ZOOM. At the end of our Christmas "party" we will try to have everyone visible. Consider sitting in front of your Christmas tree or use a photo of your Christmas tree as your background. Wouldn't that be lovely! Let me know if you would like to do a short musical recital . . . or lead us in a rousing round of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas!"



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
Nov 19
JOANNE MELVILLE
Hycroft Garden Restoration

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.org>

Executive 2020

President

Norma Austin x

Vice President

Jacquie 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

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

By Zoom

Next Newsletter Deadline

Beginning of September

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,

Aline Burlone, Sue Callahan, Sharon Carabetta, Anna Marie DiAngelo, Ginette Handfield Linda Howe, Penny LeCouteur, Rita Marshall, Wayne Smith

The beautiful paintings are by *Patricia Lefroy*



THIS IS YOUR AGM ISSUE - YOU WILL VOTE ON MUCH OF THIS SO PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY!

Normally, each year, your Executive round up the high (and low) lights of the year and sum it up in an annual report, then we have an AGM. This year, as things are slightly different (!!!) we will have an AGM by Zoom. To facilitate the proceedings, the information you need is in this LEAF, which means you have to do some homework before the meeting. 😊 Come prepared!

REPORTS

President's Report for 2020 - Norma Austin

What a roller coaster year it has been, not just to our cherished "little" garden club but for all organizations in general. In spite of the upheaval, our club remains healthy.

Even before COVID hit we had to cancel our very first meeting of the year due to the lingering conditions from a huge snowstorm. We put all that behind us and with renewed energy, we started making plans for the bus trip, the plant sale, and a members' garden tour.

Feeling back on track, we had our meeting in February. The Vegimates (Jackie and Jim Morris, Bruce Tennant, Aline Burlone, and Cathy Stubbs) gave a presentation on starting and growing vegetables. Interest in growing vegetables has increased over the years and the little vegetable starters always sell out fast at our annual plant sale.

March came along and COVID hit, not with a big bang, but descended as a dark lingering cloud of uncertainty. Health guidelines put a stop to our physical meetings. That didn't deter members from coming out to the church parking lot to collect the "pig poo" they had ordered, even though there was no meeting. Everyone seemed happy to get out of the house but remained safe in their cars when the bags were loaded into their trunk. It was noted that any amount of fertilizer available that night would have been snapped up. Running the whole operation was Kelly Robertson and her crew - Pat and Andrew Holmes, Susan Huber, Maria Issa, and Ian Austin.

Some club activities continued on in April, May, and June. The Big Dig, started by Maria Issa last year, partnered with enthusiastic Sue Callahan, and together with a motley crew, did a fourth dig. I'm sure there were small plants, but I've seen pictures of BIG ones.

Jackie Morris orchestrated and coordinated a virtual plant sale which netted more than \$1400. Members who offered plants were Anna Marie D'Angelo, Tom Davis, Barb Downman, Norma Ferguson, Maria Issa, Hiromi Matsui, Jackie Morris, Jane Sherrott, and Kathy Stubbs. There were probably other unnamed helpers.

Lorraine Robson and Norma Austin started the LVGC Facebook Group to provide a private space for club members to communicate with each other. Barb Downman joined as the third administrator. Lorraine monitored the account daily and was very attentive to all the postings. We are now at 35 members.

Aline Burlone put together a Virtual Members' Garden Tour on Vimeo. It was beautifully done and a smashing success.

All the while, Maria Issa continued tirelessly to put out the LEAF and Aline Burlone kept our website updated.

The executive familiarized themselves with ZOOM at the start of COVID. We were fortunate that Ginette Handfield already had a ZOOM account in her name when the club started holding meetings on ZOOM. We so appreciated the use of her account for the September and October meetings. Going forward our club now has its own account, **Lynn Valley Garden Club**, to be managed by Jacquie Morgan, our VP. We will launch it for the November AGM. Let's hope that physical meetings start up soon so we can again rub shoulders with our fellow gardeners. Jacquie Morgan has worked hard to find interesting speakers. In September we had Hayne Wai and Bob Wilmott speak about the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Chinese Classical Garden. October's speaker was Nick Wong from the Invasive Species Council of BC. His talk covered updates on the Japanese Beetle, Asian Giant Hornet and the ISCBC PlantWise Program. November, after the AGM, we will have Joanne Melville talk about the respiration of

the Hycroft Gardens. December will be our Christmas party, featuring our own Rosemarie Adams, to show us how to make a Christmas bell, while we follow along at home.

I want to thank our executive team for all the work they have done this year. It is no small task to steer the club through these uncertain and difficult times. The following executive members are continuing for a second year.

At the AGM on ZOOM, there will be 4 motions put forth by the executive for your consideration. We hope you will find them acceptable. Notice that the motions have been moved and seconded to save some time . . . so we can enjoy Joanne Melville's presentation. **The motions are:**

1. - That the following slate of nominees be elected for 2021:

Lorraine Robson - Secretary
Donna Wasylik - Treasurer
Barb Downman - Membership

Penny LeCouteur - MAL
Jane Sherrott - MAL
Courtney Mitchell - MAL

Moved by Rosemarie Adams, Seconded by Doreen Marbry

2. - That the 2020 LVGC membership fees be carried forward (extended) for 2021.

Moved by Sue Callahan, Seconded by Aline Burlone

This motion will be put forth *if Motion #2 passes.*

3a. - That the 2021 budget be approved as proposed with a shortfall of \$2,640, leaving a reserve of \$7,811

Moved by Pat Holmes, Seconded by Sue Callahan

or

This motion will be put forth *if Motion #2 does NOT pass.*

3b. - That the 2021 budget be approved as proposed except for the addition of revenues from membership fees (\$20 single/\$35 couple) and no shortfall

Moved by Pat Holmes, Seconded by Sue Callahan

4. - That \$100 be donated to the Lynn Valley Public Library and \$600 be donated to the North Shore Neighbourhood House Garden Programs

Moved by Aline Burlone, Seconded by Sue Callahan

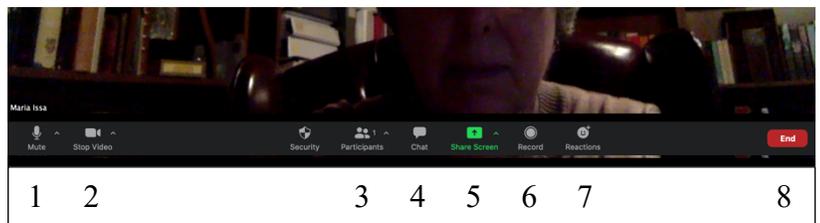


>>>>>>If you have any questions or comments regarding these motions, please contact Norma Austin.<<<<<<<<<

The AGM will start at 7:00 pm, and Joanne Melville's presentation will follow.

YOUR ZOOM LINK WILL COME BY SEPARATE EMAIL.

Click on the link and you will be dropped right into the meeting. In case you need them, there are a number of useful buttons/icons that allow you to do assorted magic. If you cannot see the icons, hover the mouse over the general area and they will appear. Starting from bottom left, on most devices - (look directly above the number: right)>>>>



1. Mute button - This turns your microphone on, or if there is a line through it, it's off. Great if you have a yowling cat.
2. Video - on/off: You can wear (or not) whatever you want if you keep your video off.
3. Participants - See who else is on the zoom call: clicking on it will show a list/box on the right side of your screen. If you want the box gone, click the arrow in the top left corner of the box.
4. Chat - This sends text messages just like texting on your phone - there is a box that says "To:" - make sure the message is to the person(s) you wish! Discretion.
- 5 & 6 You won't need.
7. Reactions - This is cool - you can comment with a "thumbs up" or an "applause" icon that appears on your little square.
8. This is for a quick exit.

Other useful magic: the upper right corner of your screen gives you “view” options. The shapes you see indicate the way your screen looks. Lots of little squares with little people in them; or one big person, and lots of little ones along the top. If you find yourself in a little square, you can make some adjustments to your video image if you hover over the dots in the upper right-hand corner. This is just gilding the lily – there is a button that says “touch up my image”. Doesn’t do a thing for me.

If you have “how to” questions during the meeting, send a chat message to Lori Herman or Maria Issa who will try to help if they can.

Members who cannot view ZOOM presentations at home:

Members who have limited or no internet access could share a computer screen with a host who does – with social distancing and cool masks in place. Members without computer access – as well as those willing to share!!! - are asked to send their names (to Maria/Newsletter) and we will try to match up computer-buddies who await you call!

Treasurer's Report – Ginette Handfield

Club assets as of 31 October, 2020:

Cash	\$ 409.90
Bank balance	\$ 11,095.98
Total	\$ 11,505.88

The membership was and is invited to submit questions and comments on the proposed budget to the Treasurer email address. There will be limited opportunity to take questions and discuss some details of the proposed budget during the virtual AGM. Please send any questions you may have to lvgc.treasurer@gmail.com.

Please also see the **BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR (at the end of this LEAF)** and the various financial implications of the pandemic, the “partial plant sale” this spring, and other activities (or lack of) and the costs associated with them. There are many moving parts that were presented at the Executive Meetings – and considered from many angles.



Membership – Sue Callahan and Doreen Marbry

We currently have 146 members.

We are not accepting new members at present.

Please advise Sue or Doreen if there are any changes to your address, phone or email.

MALs – Jackie Morris, Pat Holmes, Lori Herman

The MALs are optimistic that a Plant Sale in some format WILL BE held next May. The 2020/2021 MALs have researched costs for various options for a Plant Sale in 2021 and these have been considered by the Executive. Given the uncertainties about next spring, no estimate of expenses can be determined at this time. In the meantime, the current MALs are working on updating the Plant Sale binders for 2021.

Fall is a good time to divide and pot up plants for the sale so they will be well-rooted and growing enthusiastically by spring. {hint, hint!!}

Donations Committee –

The Donations committee recommends that **\$100** be donated to the **Lynn Valley Public Library**; and **\$600** be donated to the **North Shore Neighbourhood House Garden Programs**.

Background:

Although we were unable to have an in-person plant sale this year, many members participated in a virtual sale that brought in revenue and thus still enables the LVGC to contribute approximately 50% of the proceeds as donations. The Donations Committee met and discussed the following:

In order to make the most impact with our donations the amount was to be distributed to 2 organisations this year:

- \$100 be given to the North Vancouver District Public Library for books on the topic of horticulture and sustainable living.

- \$600 be given to the North Shore Neighbourhood House to help in the installation of raised beds at Mountainside Secondary School [https://www.sd44.ca/school/mountainside/Pages/default.aspx#/="> to create a sharing garden which in turn helps educate the students and staff about gardening as well as feed residents of the North Shore.](https://www.sd44.ca/school/mountainside/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

Both organisations fit the criteria of our mission statement: “To impart knowledge and stimulate a love of gardening among members and within our community.”



November 19 SPEAKER – Joanne Melville

Joanne Melville has been gardening for much of her life as she started at a young age by working in the family garden with her mother. She currently works in her church’s memorial garden and in the gardens of the strata where she now resides. For the past several years she has been co-chair of the Hycroft garden [University Women’s Club, on McRae in Vancouver] which covers almost two acres in the heart of the city. It is very beautiful and particularly unique because of the number and variety of heritage trees on the property. The largest sequoia in the province grows in the garden. The Hycroft Garden Committee’s recent and continuing focus has been to return the gardens to their Edwardian roots. In her talk, Joanne will show a short video on the history of the garden and then will give a talk with a number of photographs about the updates of the past five or so years.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER GOINGS-ON

North Shore Neighbourhood House – Rita Marshall

The markets are over for the season – but with spring will come new veggies! The NSNH is looking for donations for a seedling greenhouse because they grow all their plants from seed. This past year they grew about 10,000 lb of produce! “In 2019, our Sharing Gardeners **donated** 4,000 lbs of fresh produce. 2020 has shown a dramatic increase in food insecurity, with so many families and individuals struggling with health complications, increased stress and isolation associated with COVID-19” so providing access to healthy food is a great gift.

Food Bank &/or Harvest Project – Maria Issa

Please don’t forget: In case you are missing the exercise of lugging those “non-perishables” to LVGC meetings: ... locally the **Food Bank and the Harvest Project** need our help more than ever! Start planning your holiday giving early. As they say, “give early and often!!” There is serious food insecurity. The North Shore is one of the most affluent areas in Canda – need I say more? Use “**CANADA HELPS**” or **Geenees**. You even get an instant tax receipt.



*Life is short
Break the rules
Forgive quickly
Love truly
Laugh uncontrollably
Never regret anything that made you smile!!*



Cryptic Christmas Craft – Rosemarie Adams

At the annual Christmas party, we will be making a lovely decoration in ‘Zoom unison’, so start gathering your supplies now! Detailed instructions will be forthcoming in the December *Leaf* – but it’s always good to get one’s materials together early. [...or as they say, 5Ps: prior preparation prevents poor performance!]

Supplies:

1 Terracotta flower pot (with hole in bottom) – 8” size is good, but you can also use 6” (clean!!). You can also use a plastic flower pot, but terracotta does look better.

Half or one third block of Oasis florist foam; [you will need to pre-soak this in warm water]

Approximately 48” of cord or strong ribbon – red looks nice – or you can use jute string;

Small gold or silver bell or ball – approx 1”

Washer [or anything that is larger than the hole in the flower pot, and can’t go through]

Ribbon, bows (optional)

Greenery – Cedar, Fir, Ivy, Berries [wreath-y things].

...and no, no hints. You will have to be patient.

Bizarre Bites – Ginette Handfield

“I came across a sidebar in National Geographics that was quite fascinating. It reports that bumblebees can force plants to flower by biting their leaves. In fact, if plants are not flowering when the bumblebees emerge hungry in the spring, the bees bite them, and this speeds blooming. When mimicking the marks, scientists also found that the plants bloomed earlier, but not as early as they did for bees.

The findings have been reported in many scientific media. Here is one article:

Bumblebees Bite Plants to Force Them to Flower (Seriously) by Jim Daley
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/bumblebees-bite-plants-to-force-them-to-flower-seriously/>

Case of the Mystery Plant – Rosemarie Adams

This is why LVGC is such a cool club: I wrote an email to Rosemarie (who sees all, knows all).

“I have a question for you: One year I bought some weird plants at the LVGC plant sale. It so happened that you were there as I eyed the mystery plant - and you said - "Oh, those are from my garden - they are Japanese irises". That stuck with me, as the label didn't. They multiply like irises -I had one - now I have lots. They are pink(?), small flowers, that open one after another on a stalk. The flowers are iris-like in shape but much smaller than even Dutch Iris. The leaves are bearded-iris like, but they are softer and arch over, and are shiny dark green, not silver.”

Rosemarie’s answer came right back:

“I have no idea what this plant might be. At first, I thought it might be *Iris Japonica fimbriata*, as they are a favourite of mine, but then I read about pink flowers and I have only seen fimbriata in white, although apparently, they also come in pale lavender colour. [...] It will come to me eventually and I'll check it out, although I don't recall ever having put any of them in the plant sale. I'm also copying Doreen Marbry on this, as she is excellent at plant identification. We will identify!”

I quickly looked up “*Iris Japonica fimbriata*” on the internet and sure enough – Rosemarie, right on the first attempt!and the moral of this story is, if you have a mystery plant, it doesn’t remain a mystery for long: just ask LVGC’s walking encyclopaediae.



The Pop Quiz from last month’s LEAF:

- What is to the right of the peach(?) on the plate?
- What are on top of it?

Eddie Rustemeyer gave the correct answers:

- Quince
- Hazelnuts

Eddie has earned 5 “gardener points” for each correct answer, for a total of 10. What are gardener points? We have no idea, but suggestions and prize ideas are (desperately) welcome.

BRIGHT SPOTS



Sue Callahan

Sue writes: One of my favourite times to do photography is right after it rains, because you get to see all the “diamonds”. Nature is so amazing. The colours are so rich. When you look at the pictures please note that I took these at the end of October! For some reason my native bleeding hearts decided to start flowering and I know the hummingbirds were very happy! Our hanging strawberries didn’t want to be outdone either, so they were putting out new leaves, flowers even while their leaves were turning colours for autumn. If you can, get out and take a look and see what you can find.

Wayne Smith

HEADS UP- Vegimates!! Wayne sent us a link to a YouTube video on how many carrots he can grow in a bucket. Considering that I managed 1 single two-inch specimen, this sort of had my eyes out on stalks. <https://youtu.be/57EeNiXO5bo>

Wayne writes: “Here’s a video of the first carrot bucket I grew this year. I got about 7 lb, and very sweet and tender... I have eight more buckets.” Wayne also sent a lovely video of fall calm: it’s in the November Links file. He also writes: “The last few days I have been curves and shapes in tree roots. These Panorama park. The old maple stump just enough bark is left to provide a few another summer. Years ago, before the and every spring crocuses blossom in blue amongst the tree stumps. The creek twists its way down through little pools.



exploring the brilliance of fall; the natural photos were taken in Deep Cove at still has life in it. Looking high up I can see top branches with sap and a chance to see district bought the land, a house stood here



There be monsters in the woods: this root system of a fallen hemlock in the Myrtle Park area is so massive it made a forest cave out of its upturned roots. Sadly this is my last blooming dahlia. A lovely memory now. The frost got all but the few alive in my greenhouse.

Rosemarie Adams: - *Mirabilis* - Four O’Clock Plant

I have heard about this plant many times over the past years, but this year was the first time I had grown it. I loved it. Very pretty flowers – mixed colours of bright pink and yellow (on the same plant). I read that they are sometimes fragrant, but I didn’t notice this on my plants.



I would have expected the seeds to be very small, somewhat like a poppy seed, but they were quite large, about the size of a small blueberry. I initially had three plants, but one of these got “pruned” at a young age – not sure if it was by dog or child!

I picked off lots of seeds in September, and the plants got cut down by cold or frost in early November. Today, mid November, when I looked in the pots they were growing in, I found three tubers. Two were carrot shaped, the third was more like a turnip – maybe the plant that got cut down? Interesting that a plant like this actually grows tubers. I have potted one up, and will keep it in the garage – unheated, but out of the weather, and the other two tubers I am going to put into a bag of wood chips and see how they look come spring.



I see from the Internet they recommend when growing from seed that either (or both) a good overnight soak in lukewarm water, or stratification by scoring or lightly sanding, will assist in germination. I took some photos in the summer, but can’t find them, so the pictures are from the internet.

Lockdown Lessons for Gardeners

- adapted by Penny LeCouteur

Here are some of the things that the lockdown has helped me to realise (in no particular order.)

1. Children derive little in the way of entertainment from watching you work.
2. An amazing amount of stuff can be delivered to your doorstep. Only a disappointing amount of it will be things you really need.
3. Essential workers shouldn't have to wait for a pandemic to get the appreciation they deserve.
4. Garden store employees are definitely essential workers.
5. Seeing my own face on a video call or Zoom is engrossing and disturbing. Do I really look like that?
6. People are mainly resilient.
7. Wifi routers are not mainly resilient.
8. Most of us on the North Shore have been able to avoid serious harm to ourselves,



family and friends, but there are many around the world who haven't been so fortunate.

9. I miss my friends.
10. I can still visit with my friends in their gardens or my garden and will be able to all winter long - well, not so much on snowy days.
11. Stable employment is a blessing bestowed on too few people.
12. Members of your household cannot be expected to give a reasonable haircut.
13. Scientists, researchers, health care workers and Dr. Bonnie Henry will get us through this pandemic. Celebrities will not!
14. It is quite normal to talk to the plants in your garden. They appreciate it. But if they start talking back, you probably need to consider more of number 10.

Adapted from Sept 2020 "Chemistry World"



The Language of Plants - initiated by Linda Howe

[I owe a debt of gratitude to Linda Howe and her wide-ranging reading interests. She finds the most interesting articles that then send me down rabbit holes to research things that pertain to them. Her finds are what make the LEAF an interesting read.]

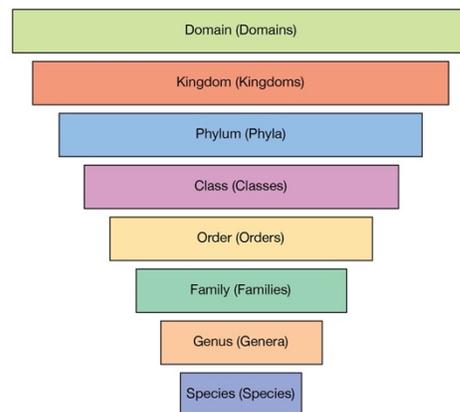
The following article by Margaret Roach, in the Oct 20 New York Times article states that "Yes, You Can Learn to Speak the Language of Plants. Latin might seem like an obscure, inscrutable language for naming plants. But it can open up the botanical world in ways you can't imagine." <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/28/realestate/yes-you-can-learn-to-speak-the-language-of-plants.html?referringSource=articleShare>. Here is a small aperçu of the article: The plants are trying to tell us something - if only we'd learn their official language, botanical Latin.

"I am the Allium with just one leaf," says *Allium unifolium*. (Get it?)

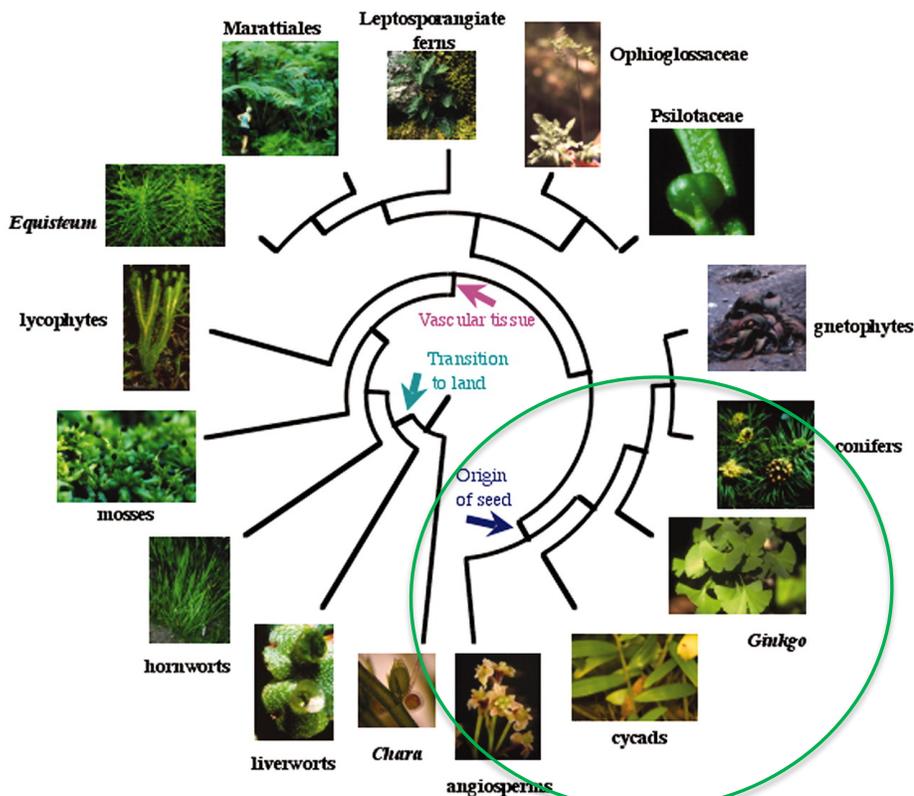
"I am the juniper that carpets the ground," says *Juniperus horizontalis* (whose alternate name, *Juniperus prostrata*, nails its appearance, too). And *Aster alpinus* chimes in: "My ancestors hailed from above the timber line - you know, like, the Alps. I won't appreciate some sodden, clayey spot in your garden." [...]

She continues, "Now, a recent book called "The Gardener's Botanical: An Encyclopedia of Latin Plant Names" is nudging me to sharpen my skills. The author, Ross Bayton, earned his doctorate in plant taxonomy at the University of Reading and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in England, and is now the assistant director of the public Heronswood Garden in Kingston, Wash."

...and I will let you be nudged on your own, as I headed down a related path: why two names? Oh, yes, Carl Linnaeus, 1707-1778, and his "binomial nomenclature"! He was a Swedish botanist, zoologist, and physician who formalised binomial nomenclature, taxonomy, the modern system of naming organisms. In 1729, Linnaeus wrote a thesis, *Praeludia Sponsaliorum Plantarum* on plant sexual reproduction. This attracted the attention of Rudbeck; [Rudbeckia!!!] and he selected Linnaeus to give lectures at the University although the young man was only a second-year student. His lectures were popular, and Linnaeus often addressed an audience of 300 people. [Then] Linnaeus moved from Celsius's [yes, THAT Celsius!] house to Rudbeck's to become the tutor of the three youngest of his 24 [OK - that's impressive!] children. His friendship with Celsius did not wane and they continued their botanical expeditions. Over that winter, Linnaeus began to doubt Tournefort's system of classification and decided to create one of his own. [...] He divided the plants by the number of stamens and pistils... it all started from there.



© 2015 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.



Linnaeus' naming system ended up being applied to ALL of biology and we use it often. Usually, we limit our talk to *genus* and *species* as most of us are not taxonomists. I had to refresh on how they fit into the grand scheme of plant and animal life and how those are classified. Since I was student, things have changed - there are now 5[!!] kingdoms: no, no new evolution (I'm not that old!), just reclassification which moved mushrooms and other things into kingdoms of their own. But they are still organized all the way down to "genus" and "species". Originally, all this was safely organized by the way things looked: their *morphology*.

"Plants are traditionally classified into species, genera, tribes, families and orders on the basis of morphological and anatomical characters. There is such a wealth of visual 'eyeball' characters that it is doubtful whether the current systems of plant classification will ever be superseded." This is basically an

"artificial classification that is designed for usefulness - flower colour, growth habit, use, *etc*". It was comfortably simple, we all got used to it, so, of course - things had to change. [see a short explanation here: https://www.mun.ca/botgarden/learn/GWP_Plant_Classification.pdf]

Enter "natural" (phylogenetic) classification based on genetic (evolutionary) relationships. "Many biologists agree that a phylogenetic tree of relationships should be the central underpinning of research in many areas of biology. Comparisons of plant species or gene sequences in a phylogenetic context can provide the most meaningful insights into biology." Most of our gardening is in the green circle - though we run into mosses, ferns and horsetails that are lower rungs of the evolutionary ladder. (My big surprise was the Ginkgo's evolutionary location.)

These evolutionary relationships are now determined by genetic sequencing - "reading the blueprint/DNA" of plant species and then comparing the "text" the way one would compare two written documents. (Like I do when I suspect my students of plagiarism!): the more similar the nucleic acid sequence, the closer the relative. Not surprisingly, just like there is "Ancestry DNA" for people, there is one for plants. Wikipedia has a (very long) list of sequenced plant genomes. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sequenced_plant_genomes. Individual laboratories sequence their favourite plant, then deposit the "text" into an on-line database. This is the overview. Then, one can get down "into the weeds". The MENDEL database contains names for plant-wide families of sequenced [*individual*] plant genes. [https://www.cell.com/trends/plant-science/fulltext/S1360-1385\(99\)01474-0](https://www.cell.com/trends/plant-science/fulltext/S1360-1385(99)01474-0) Since 1991 the Commission on Plant Gene Nomenclature (CPGN) has been developing a common nomenclature for all sequenced plant genes.

We have come full circle: from the 18th century and common Latin names, to a common system of naming plant genes so that we can share knowledge.

So why should we care?

"Phylogenetic studies are revealing that major ecological niches are more conserved through evolutionary history than expected, implying that **adaptations to major climate changes** have not readily been accomplished in all lineages. Phylogenetic niche conservatism has important consequences for the assembly of both local communities and the regional species pools from which these are drawn. If corridors for movement are available, newly emerging environments will tend to be filled by species that filter in from areas in which the relevant adaptations have already evolved, as opposed to being filled by *in situ* evolution of these adaptations. Examples include intercontinental disjunctions of tropical plants, the spread of plant lineages around the Northern Hemisphere after the evolution of cold tolerance, and the radiation of northern alpine plants into the Andes. These observations highlight the role of phylogenetic knowledge and historical biogeography in explanations of global biodiversity patterns. They also have implications for the future of biodiversity." https://www.pnas.org/content/105/Supplement_1/11549

What does all this mean? That as our climate changes, plants that survive have to come from somewhere - and that is usually the closest are where there are adaptations that allow them to survive. There will not be time to recapitulate evolution.

Swiss study shows that paying people to conserve biodiversity pays off



This is a particularly interesting article on maintaining biodiversity: we can't just "let it be". Flowers and other plants thrive in the varying altitudes and climate pockets provided by the Alps—but keeping them growing takes careful management. How to ensure the fields of Switzerland stay full of nutrient cycling sedges, pollinator-attracting saxifrages, and singalong-inspiring blooms?

One method: Pay people to take care of them. Swiss farmers are part of a government program that reimburses them for overseeing certain parts of their property in ways that promote biodiversity. And a study published recently in the journal *Biodiversity and Conservation* shows that it works—these segments, known as Biodiversity Promotion Areas (BPAs), are more diverse, and more likely to harbor species of concern, than their more heavily-managed counterparts.

[...] Recently, European countries that value their grasslands have introduced management plans focused on maintaining some of this biodiversity, even as land use changes. Beginning in the 1990s, the Swiss government began paying farmers to manage at least 7% of their land as BPAs—meaning they must use little to no artificial fertilizer and mow about once per year.

Read the rest here: <https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2020/10/swiss-study-shows-that-paying-people-to-conserve-biodiversity-pays-off/>

"Forget mistletoe. If you want a kiss, buy me plants!"

From Sharon Carabetta

Two little old ladies, Connie and Jean, were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress.

The short one, Jean, leaned over and said, "Life is so boring. We never have any fun anymore. For \$10 I'd take my clothes off and streak through that stupid, boring flower show!"

You're on!", said Connie, holding up a \$10 bill.

So, Jean slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes.

She grabbed a dried flower from a nearby display and held it between her teeth.



Then, completely naked, she streaked (as fast as an old lady can) through the front door of the flower show.

Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause and shrill whistling.

Finally, the smiling Jean came through the exit door to the sounds of a cheering, clapping crowd.

"What happened?" asked Connie?

"I won the \$1,000 1st Prize for the "Best Dried Flower Arrangement!"

"Nothing haunts you more than the plants you didn't buy."



Search for Shibumi – Anna Marie DiAngelo

Water features add shibumi to a garden. [*shibumi (洗み) (noun), or shibusa (洗さ) (noun) are Japanese words which refer to a particular aesthetic of simple, subtle, and unobtrusive beauty.*]

Anna Marie writes: "Is it possible to ask if any club member knows someone who could show the club how to make our own fountains/water features? The ones for sale are too heavy or too cutesy or too expensive or too cheaply made. It would be lovely to make a simple one out of pots and pebbles or something like that."

LVGC: search your contact lists – as that would indeed be a treat!
(Shibumi: a novel by Trevanian – a good COVID read).

Just before this info came through from Aline, I had had another of my interactions with Keven, The Moodyville Project Superintendent. The text messages were as follows:
 - "Hi Keven - Maria the plant rescue lady here. There are two bushes I still have my eyes on - and they are getting close to the destruction zone. May I come and dig them out this weekend?"
 - "Get digging girl!"



That was all I needed. I gathered my weapons of mass extraction and proceeded to Moodyville at just below ticket speeds. Two reasons for my haste: it was sunny - but nothing lasts; and I had badly overdosed on CNN. I needed out.

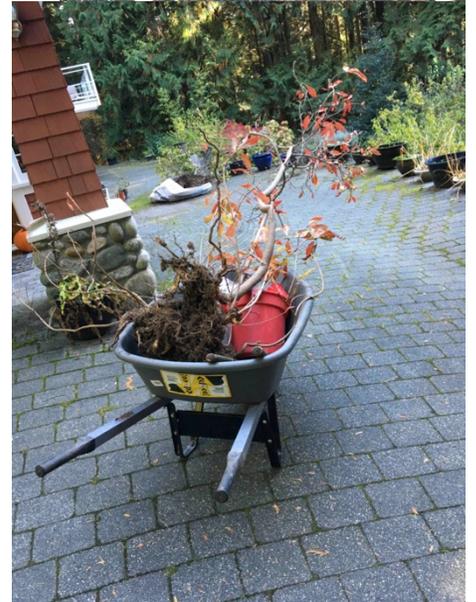
I had previously reconnoitred the bushes (red X marks the spots on the map). The first one was a red rhodo that had defeated me in the spring because it had bodyguards: a nest of bees living in the roots. They won. I left. The other was a dark yellow azalea that was big and perched precariously at the edge of a cliff.



I checked out the bees first, thinking those I could survive if things went pear-shaped. Luckily, the bees had decamped, and the coast was clear. I matted my way around the bush, between two rock walls. The language was colourful, and success is its own reward: I got it out. I had to get it into the car. I couldn't lift it. A gentleman who had been sunning himself at the end of the wall observed the goings on, came over and offered many suggestions, advice - but no help. I sweated on. Finally, as I realized that the sun was about to set and I had a "cliff-hanger" still to do, I said "uncle" and called in the cavalry. Peter arrived and together we swung the monster root-ball into his car and the rhodo headed up the mountain.



The azalea was next. I checked out the cliff. It didn't look good. I decided on a "75% approach": dig the safe 75% around the bush and hope that that would be enough. It was. The soil was surprisingly loose - maybe because it was ready to roll down into the ravine. There was even a retaining board holding it back. I had no intention of going with, so I sat in a



of the roots. The soil let go - and I found no root-ball! - plant. It was way too easy.

The next day, I had to find holes for in my garden is a chess game. I have to Sometimes, I find myself moving right off one large and several smaller rooted unconventional. Some of it ended being everything got planted.

That night it snowed.



patch of blackberry (!!) and pushed with my feet until I dislodged the last myself with a completely bare-rooted - In the car it went, and up the hill. the rescues. At this stage, finding spots plan moves several steps ahead. the edge... As the azalea fell apart into sections, I had to go a bit stuck in/on a rotting tree stump. But

Treasurer's Report (for the Leaf)
October 9, 2020

1) Club assets as of 30 September 2020:

Cash	409.90
Bank balance	<u>11,653.75</u>
Total	12,063.65

Club assets as of 31 October, 2020:

Cash	\$ 409.90
Bank balance	\$ <u>11,095.98</u>
Total	\$ 11,505.88

2) 2020 forecast as of October 9, 2020:

	2020 Budget	2020 YE Forecast	2020 explanation
<u>Revenue</u>			
Membership	2,850	2,885	<i>146 members, incl 7 couples</i>
Guests	90	15	<i>February meeting only</i>
Plant Sale	6,500	1,596	<i>No public plant sale</i>
Plant Table	120	13	<i>February meeting only</i>
Trips			
Total Revenue	9,560	4,509	
<u>Expenses</u>			
Rent	1,000		<i>480 Pre-paid Jan to June, will use for future meetings</i>
Office	200		<i>304 Postal box and web hosting</i>
Misc	30		<i>90 Zoom</i>
Hospitality	700		<i>50 February meeting only</i>
Plant Sale	1,075		<i>316 Soil amendment and misc</i>
Speakers	2,250		<i>800 Speakers: Feb, Sept, Oct, Nov less 2019 credit</i>
Sunshine & Door Prizes	750		<i>305 Prizes February only and thank you(s)</i>
Donations	2,700		<i>700 55% of net plant sale proceeds</i>
Newsletters & Postage	250		<i>143 Fewer Leafs printed</i>
Christmas Party	400		<i>0 No physical party</i>
Field Trip	1,300		<i>0 No field trip</i>
BCCGC	500		<i>271 No spring/fall meetings, affiliation and insurance only</i>
Bank Charges	70		<i>45</i>
Total Expenses	11,225	3,504	
Net	-1,665	964	
Plant Sale net	5,425	1,280	
Reserve at year-end	7,432	10,451	

Please note that the above expenses include \$700 for donations. This level of donation will need to be voted upon by the membership at the November AGM. The Donation Committee is recommending \$100 to the Lynn Valley Public Library and \$600 for the North Shore Neighbourhood House.

3) Recommended 2021 budget for approval in November:

Your Executive recommends the following 2021 budget for approval at the November virtual AGM. The budget is based on a number of assumptions, the main assumptions being as follows:

- membership dues paid for 2020 will also cover 2021;
- physical meetings will not resume until September 2021, the January to June general meetings will be by videoconference (Zoom);
- no additional 'rent', the prior amount paid for 2020 will cover the physical meetings in 2021;
- no bus or garden tours but we will be able to have a Christmas party
- the exact format of a plant sale will not be decided until early 2021 but the net proceed after expenses and donations will be \$2,000.

Based on the above assumptions, LVGC would have a shortfall of \$2,640 in 2021, which will draw on our reserve funds set aside for emergencies such as what we are experiencing. The details are below.

	2021 Detailed Assumptions Budget
<u>Revenues</u>	
Membership	80 2020 membership extended; 4 spaces available for September 2021
Guests	30 2 guests each at 3 physical meetings in Fall 2021 @\$5
Plant Sale	2,000 Net of expenses and donations
Plant Table	40 3 physical meetings in Fall 2021
Total Revenues	2,150
<u>Expenses</u>	
Rent	0 Rent paid in 2020 is applied to 2021
Office	350 Post office box \$185 + web hosting
Misc	150 Misc + Zoom for 6 months
Hospitality	180 3 physical meetings at \$60, no garden tour
Plant Sale	See plant sale revenues above
Speakers	2,520 9 at \$280 on average
Sunshine & Door Prizes	430 Prizes 3 x \$30 = \$90; cards \$15; Exec Thanks \$250; misc \$75
Donations	See plant sale revenues above
Newsletters & Postage	180 Leaf printing 9@ \$16 = \$144 + misc (stamps, etc.) \$36
Christmas Party	500 Hospitality \$100; Supplies and Door Prizes \$400
Field Trip	0 No field trip
BCCGC	430 Insurance and membership \$305; fall GM 2@\$50+1@\$25=\$125
Bank Charges	50
Total Expenses	4,790
Net	-2,640
Reserve at year-end	7,811 based on forecast 2020 reserve at year-end

NOTE: There will not be much opportunity to take questions and discuss some details of the proposed budget during the virtual AGM. Please send any questions you may have to lvgc.treasurer@gmail.com.