



THE LEAF

THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

October 2020

Vice-President's Message - Jacquie Morgan



Here we are stepping into the month of October already. Fall, my favorite season. A time to enjoy the beauty of coloured leaves scattering about in the cool air and to feel the warmth of the autumn sun as it orbits away from us for a time. I harvest the last of my tomatoes, beans and other veggies and ready the garden for a winter sleep. It is a time to wear warm sweaters while breathing the nippy fall air. Cold hands and hot cups of tea.

I am sure we have all taken refuge in our gardens from COVID-19 over the last few months. I, for one, am very grateful to have a garden to go to. Working away there, I can block out world issues and have a brief respite from all the chaos.

As the winter months approach, we are faced with the possibility of being inside a lot more than we have been. I am working to bring you interesting presentations to inspire and inform you during this time. Our October speaker has been changed to Nick Wong from the Invasive Species Council of BC. He will be talking about the Asian Giant Hornet, the Japanese Beetle, and their PlantWise program. I am excited to learn more about this and I hope you are too.

It seems we will be meeting on Zoom for the foreseeable future. Our AGM in November will be by Zoom so please familiarize yourselves with the BUDGET and the SLATE so you are ready to vote before the Speaker comes on.

With the coronavirus constraints in mind, the Executive and MALs are looking at ways to have a plant sale next year. It will take innovative, out-of-the-box thinking to get us there, but we are up to the challenge!

Thanksgiving is just about here, and I know for many of us, it will be very different from years gone by. May the bounty from your garden warm your heart and the beauty of the fall colours lighten your step.

Wishing you all a happy Thanksgiving!

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
Oct 15
NICK WONG, ISCBC
Fall Updates on Japanese Beetle (*Popillia japonica*), Asian Giant Hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*) and the ISCBC PlantWise Program

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>



President

Norma Austin xx

Vice President

Jacquie Morgan xx

Secretary

Susan Huber xx

Treasurer

Ginette Handfield xx

Membership

Sue Callahan xx

Doreen Marbry xx

Members at Large

Pat Holmes xx

Lori Herman xx

Suzanne Mazoret xx

Jackie Morris xx

Committees

Newsletter Editor

Maria Issa xx

Julie Kehler xx

Jane Sherrott xx

Plant Table

Norma Buckland xx

Hospitality

Sharon Carabetta xx

Maggie Davis xx

Susan Nicholls xx

Daphne Page xx

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Lorraine Robson xx

Website

Aline Burlone xx

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, Sue Callahan, Linda Howe, Susan Huber, Rita Marshall, Lorraine Robson, Jane Sherrott, Wayne Smith



VP – Jacquie Morgan – SPEAKERS

At the September meeting, Robert Wilmot and Hayne Wai of the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Chinese Classical gardens, made a wonderful presentation that was well received by the [57!!!] attending members. [A number of delighted, congratulatory emails were received by THE LEAF and forwarded to Jacquie!! - editor]

Just last Wednesday, I was informed by our October speakers that they would have to cancel their presentation. INSTEAD – we will be regaled by Dr. Nick Wong Of the Invasive Species Council of BC! [See details under SPEAKER, after official REPORTS]

November will be the AGM and a presentation by Joanne Melville on the Hycroft Gardens Restoration project.

December will bring a surprise craft from our very own Rosemarie Adams! ...and January is all organized as well.

Presentations will start at 7:00 pm (15 minutes earlier than usual!!) and will last approximately 45 min to one hour (including questions).

YOUR ZOOM LINK WILL COME BY SEPARATE EMAIL. [The audience will not be visible on the video – so you are safe and can dress in Covid comfort.] If you **NEED HELP SETTING UP ZOOM** – email the newsletter as we have several techie experts on hand who volunteered and would be happy to help you.

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 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!

Secretary – Susan Huber

We received a notice from the BC Council of Garden Clubs that their official Bulletin now available on-line. You will find it on their website under the *Membership* tab and in the “October Links” file in your over email.

Treasurer – Ginette Handfield

Club assets as of 30 September 2020:

cash	409.90
bank balance	<u>11,653.75</u>
total	12,063.65

Please also see the **BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR** 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. You will be discussing, then voting on this budget at the November ZOOM meeting – so please exercise your member rights and responsibilities by perusing the information. *It is attached to the end of the Leaf.*

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

“An addiction to gardening is not all bad when you consider all the other choices in life”
- Carol Lee Bell

Membership – Sue Callahan and Doreen Marbry

- Current membership total is 146.
- At this time, we are not taking applications for new members.

The executive recommends that the 2020 LVGC membership fees be carried forward (extended) for 2021. We will be voting on this as part of the budget at our November AGM on ZOOM.

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.



Nominating Committee – Sue Callahan and Rosemarie Adams

Your **Nominating Committee** has managed to twist the requisite number of rubber arms to provide you with a full slate for November’s AGM. However, if you still wish to serve the club and you missed the draft – then please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

Lorraine Robson	- Secretary
Donna Wasylik	- Treasurer
Barb Downman	- Membership
Penny LeCouteur	- MAL
Jane Sherrott	- MAL
Cortney Mitchell	- MAL
Susan Huber	- Sunshine

At the November AGM Zoom meeting, we won’t have “nominations from the floor” because - well - we don’t have a floor...



October 15 SPEAKER – Nick Wong, ISCBC

Nick Wong of the Invasive Species Council of BC will be joining the Lynn Valley Garden Club to provide an update on yet another successful management season for Japanese beetle in Vancouver. We will also be sharing progress on the status of Asian Giant Hornets here in BC and our neighboring Washington State. Finally, there are exciting plans for a fall *PlantWise* program update that we’d love to discuss.

Nick Wong is the Research and Projects Coordinator at ISCBC. He has a PhD in Marine Ecology from the University of Auckland, New Zealand and diverse experience working in Pacific salmon and herring fisheries in BC. Nick is passionate about teaching and creating engaging opportunities for people to learn and understand the role they can play in the prevention and mitigation of invasive species. Nick has been intensely involved in the coordinated response to the Japanese Beetle invasion in Vancouver since 2017.



Please have a look at the ISCBC website for all the things they are doing.

<https://bcinvasives.ca>

[The photo thumb is the size of my thumb: that is one BIG hornet!!]

“The men of experiment are like the ant; they only collect and use. But the bee...gathers its materials from the flowers of the garden and of the field, but transforms and digests it by a power of its own.

- Leonardo da Vinci

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER GOINGS-ON

LVGC Report to BC Council of Garden Clubs – Lorraine Robson

The year 2020 must surely be one for the record books! Even before the pandemic struck, the Lynn Valley Garden Club had to cancel our January meeting because a snowstorm made our steep hills icy and treacherous. Our planned speaker was not sure he could make the trip on transit.

We bounced back in February with a lively presentation and demonstration by our very own team of Vegimates. Increasingly, vegetable starts have been hot sellers at our annual Plant Sale in May, so members were keen to pick up tips and get growing. Our Plant Sale is our main fund-raiser, allowing us to make several donations each year to various North Vancouver community organizations such as Loutet Farm, Gerry's Garden (on land reclaimed largely by one person from an old dump), hospice gardens, Park & Tilford Garden, and the NV District Public Library.

In March, when BC public health officials shut down large gatherings everywhere, we were at once relieved that they were taking COVID-19 seriously and dismayed that we could no longer hold our club meetings and see our gardening friends. Our Plant Sale and Members' Garden Tour both had to be cancelled. What to do?

One member offered to create a Virtual Garden Tour as an alternative. When Executive members forwarded digital photos of their gardens, she combined them beautifully in a video set to music. While it was different from what we usually do, it was just lovely.

Members who had grown or potted up plants for the sale found ways to sell them to friends and neighbours without violating the social-distancing rules in our Virtual Plant Sale. Our club's intrepid group of modern-day plant collectors held a series of Big Digs with appropriate social distancing. When they spot a house being demolished for development, they seek permission to salvage plants before the gardens can be bulldozed and destroyed. They are indefatigable in wresting mature Rhododendrons and even some trees out of the ground! Some of the rescued plants make it into our Plant Sale and some into members' gardens for a donation; either way, their hard work allows us to contribute much-needed funds for worthwhile garden-related projects in the community.

We have long had a website and newsletter to communicate with our members, but we started a Facebook Group to provide another way to enhance social interaction. Since our club has nearly 150 members, this new online connection has been a good way to meet members that we might not otherwise get a chance to talk with at our regular busy meetings. Facebook is primarily a photo-sharing site which makes it perfect for garden clubs. Already members have been sharing seeds, plants, and growing tips, and solving plant ID mysteries.

Currently, the North Shore mountains are invisible behind a veil of smoke from American wildfires. It looks apocalyptic, but we are ready for our first club meeting on Zoom. A year for the record books for sure!



BCCGC Fall Meeting attendance Oct.24 9AM to Noon – Susan Huber

I have confirmed with Ginette Handfield (BCCGC Treasurer) that *all members of LVGC can attend the Fall General Meeting on Oct. 24 9AM to Noon* – BCCGC will forward a ZOOM meeting id closer to the date.

"Later in October, we will have the registration procedure open at bcgardenclubs.com/resources and we will send you a reminder so that you can invite your club members. All meeting materials will also be linked there.

The LVGC facebook group is waiting for YOU!!! - Lorraine Robson

Our **facebook** group is VERY private – you don't need to worry about being bombarded by random people wanting to be your friend. It is accessible to current members only; not seen by the internet world, not even find-able if you don't know it exists. Here you can share information, pictures, tips, discoveries, websites; ask questions and get answers sooner than posting in the Leaf; or just chat and commune with kindred gardening spirits.

If you do not have a **facebook** account yet, you will need to set one up. It's pretty easy to do, but if you're not sure how to do this, perhaps you know someone who could help you get started. Using **facebook** is a bit like driving a car: it sounds complicated when you try to explain it, but it's easy once you know how! [If you think you've seen this before, you are not hallucinating: it was in last month's Leaf. I will repeat it until nearly everyone has joined – including me... – editor]

Instructions on How to Join LVGC Facebook Group:

1. You need to have a **facebook** account to start from. Once you have set one up (or had a member of the younger generation do it for you), send a "Friend request" to Lorraine Robson from your **facebook** account. (Be sure to send it to the Lorraine Robson with the pink peonies as my photo; there are a few other people with the same name as me but different photos.)

Because our club's **facebook** account is "hidden," we need to be connected as **facebook** friends to be able to invite you to join the group. When I receive your Friend request, I will "accept" it and send you an invitation to join the LVGC Facebook Group. If you wish to "un-friend" me once you have joined, I won't be the least bit offended. That just means that I'll see you in our club Group, but I won't see anything else you might post on your Timeline.)

2. Click on "Accept" to accept the invitation to join when you receive it. The invitation will arrive in your **facebook** Notifications which you'll find by clicking on the little image of the bell at the top right side of your computer screen or at the bottom of your phone's screen when you're in **facebook**.

You should then be able to post photos, questions, and comments in the LVGC Facebook Group and see what others have posted. If you have questions, please send an email to lvgc.facebookinvites@gmail.com so we can try to help. The "Help" function of **facebook** is also very useful. Just click on the question mark and type in your question.

Looking forward to seeing more of you on **facebook** very soon!

BRIGHT SPOTS – Rosemarie Adams & Wayne Smith



few chairs around at always a passerby to

Rosemarie offers us clematis of different shades and shapes, as well as these very cool "plumcots" – a cross between an apricot and a plum. Apparently "Delicious!!!!".

She also writes: "When I was wandering around Devan Nursery earlier this year, I suddenly could smell strong pineapple - I looked around me and saw that the beautiful smell was coming from some sage plants - "Pineapple Sage", so of course I had to buy one! Just this week (early October) it has come into bloom with a lovely red flower, which of course the



hummingbirds love. Was told it is a perennial, so have been taking cuttings. Nice plant!

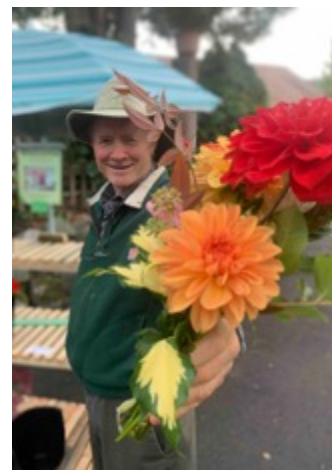
Wayne is also creating bouquets. He writes – "The cut flowers are fun. I'm finding new colourful foliage to add to bouquets. I built a new flower/produce stand and put a the end of the driveway: There's give flowers to or chat with.



Food Bank &/or Issa

Please don't forget >>> In case you are missing the exercise of lugging those "non-perishables" to LVGC meetings: ... both the **Food Bank** and the **Harvest Project** need our help more than ever! Things are NOT AT ALL back to normal: many people have lost their jobs and those jobs are not coming back. There is serious food insecurity. Please, please send them money through the "CANADA HELPS" website (look in September links). You even get an instant tax receipt.

Harvest Project – Maria



As there are probably many artists and painters among us, how about sending images of your artwork of flowers and plants and gardens to share in *The Leaf* – I have already received some lovely ones – but I'm holding this over to November to give the slow people a last chance to participate.

GOD AND ST. FRANCIS DISCUSSING GARDENING – found by Jackie Morris

GOD: Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it—sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No Sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide

beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough. I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have they scheduled for us tonight?"

ST. CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a really stupid movie about....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



"Trees are as close to immortality as the rest of us ever come." — Karen Joy Fowler

Incredibly Useful Garden Tips That Actually Work! By Jessica Bedewi – found by Rosemarie Adams

Cinnamon:

Chances are you have powdered cinnamon in your home. If your garden is prey to ants, know that cinnamon is an excellent deterrent. Sprinkle some around your garden and ants won't be a problem anymore. It is also the perfect rooting agent, so if you apply a small amount on the stem when you plant your cutting, their growth will be greatly optimized.

Start cuttings in a potato

Potatoes can also help you have a very beautiful garden. In fact, they can help you grow a variety of plants or flowers very easily! First, you'll need to drill a hole in your potato. To do this, you can use a nail of considerable size. Next, cut one inch off the stem of the plant you want to grow, then place it in the hole before you plant your potato.

[OK so I tried this. Did the "controlled experiment": with and without potato; with and without rooting compound. The cuttings died but I got lots of lovely baby potatoes that I had for dinner last night. - editor]

Epsom Salts

While fertilizer is an essential part of keeping your plants healthy, you might not know that Epsom salt [MgSO₄] acts as an incredibly effective fertilizer for your shrubs. Epsom salt contains magnesium, which allows your seeds to germinate and helps your plants absorb vital nutrients they need to stay alive. It's cheap, easy-to-use, and it will keep your plants healthy and your garden filled with greenery. Use roughly two teaspoons of Epsom salt mixed with one gallon of water per month. Pour the mixture onto the base of your plants, then sit back and watch them grow!

Orange Peel

Slugs can be really detrimental to your garden and removing them one by one can be a long and arduous task. However, if you enjoy eating oranges, your slug problem could easily be solved! Just like you, slugs love citrus fruits and won't be afraid to go out and enjoy them if you happen to leave some in your garden. In fact, when you peel your next orange, make sure you keep half of the peel intact and place it in your garden. Slugs will go inside early in the morning to feed and you can easily get rid of them in their orange container.

You have new seeds to plant, but no pots? Your citrus peels can once again be very useful! Indeed, they are the perfect size for new seedlings, and when the time comes to plant them, you can plant the peel with them. Even simpler, isn't it?

[You can also use half eggshells! - editor]



ADVICE FROM A TREE

Stand tall and proud

Go out on a limb

Remember your roots

Drink plenty of water

Be content with your natural beauty

Enjoy the view

Scatter Soap

Sometimes hungry rabbits or deer unfortunately assume that your garden is their personal feeding ground. They'll munch away at your greenery, ruining all your hard work in one meal. Thankfully, soap provides a solution to this problem. Shred some soap in your food processor and scatter it among your plants. Don't cover the entire ground, but leave a healthy supply of shavings interspersed with your mulch.

The smell of the soap will keep hungry animals away, but the soap itself won't damage your plants. You'll have to replenish your shavings if they wash away, but other than that it takes very little effort for you to keep your plants safe.

Use Newspaper

While you can pull weeds after they pop up, a little newspaper might keep the weeds from ever appearing in the first place. As you're planting your garden, layer the soil with a few pieces of newspaper. Newspaper still allows moisture to reach the roots of your plants, but it also creates a barrier that keeps weeds from rearing their ugly heads. The weeds will be unable to establish themselves in the soil, but your plants will flourish.

Take Care of Your Tools

To take care of your garden, you have to take care of your tools. If you want to ensure that your tools are always ready and clean, all you need is a bit of mineral oil and a bucket of clean sand. The sand in the bucket allows you to stick your tools right in where they'll stand upright, ready for the next use. When you're ready to garden, you simply have to grab the handle and pull your tool out. Once you're finished with the tool, spray it with a bit of mineral oil and put it back in the sand. The combination of sand and mineral oil will keep your tools clean and sharp. Most importantly, it requires almost no effort from you.

"Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky." —Khalil Gibran, Sand and Foam

FUTURE AND PAST

How Patents Threaten Small Seed Companies – found by Rita Marshall

This is an interesting Op-ed that was also featured in the Loutet farm Newsletter. “Seed is now one of the most privatized resources on the planet: Four transnational firms control more than 60 percent of the global seed marketplace.” While we all knew of Monsanto, it is not alone. The article is definitely worth a read – though it left me steaming and frustrated. Please pass it along so others can think about what they consume and who controls it.

<https://civileats.com/2020/09/11/op-ed-how-seed-patents-threaten-small-seed-companies/>

Here is something we can all do!! Rita writes, “I just found out about a free seed bank at the North Vancouver City Library, on 14th and Lonsdale. You can take seeds and leave seeds. I just found out about this service and I want to share for the Leaf. <https://www.nvcl.ca/using-the-library/seed-library> [note that these are veggie seeds!]

How Genomics is Helping Combat Invasive Pests and Pathogens

Healthy forests support a healthy environment. They purify the water and the air, maintain wildlife habitats and help preserve healthy soils, just to name a few. Studies are also showing human health is directly related to healthy forests. But increasingly our forests are facing unprecedented threats from invasive species and pathogens that can cause irreversible damage.

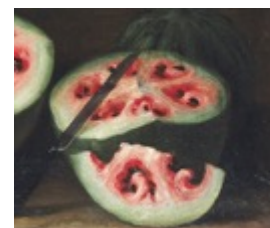
Once again, science, and scientists are coming to the rescue. Quietly studying these threats, coming up with devices to help uncover and stop them before they can establish and spread. https://www.genomebc.ca/podcast/how-genomics-is-helping-combat-invasive-pests-and-pathogens?utm_source=Master+List&utm_campaign=f26ee4f1a8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_9_23_CODEOFLIFE_EP07&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_007b42effb-f26ee4f1a8-82111279&mc_cid=f26ee4f1a8&mc_eid=dc786dca60

Renaissance Painting Reveals How Breeding Changed Watermelons – found by Linda Howe



<https://www.vox.com/2015/7/28/9050469/watermelon-breeding-paintings>

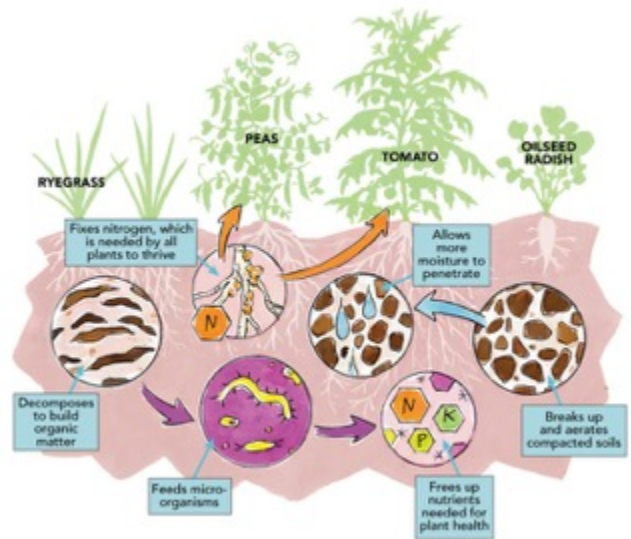
This interesting and beautiful article that shows how breeding changed the watermelon as well as probably many of the other fruits and vegetables we are familiar with. Giovanni Stanchi’s 17th century painting shows the “then” and a photo of “now”. While many readers suggested that the 17th century watermelon was just under-watered, or under-ripe; horticulturalists disagree. “Museum paintings are an interesting method for studying old cultivars [...] the sort of watermelons that Europeans had to eat in the Middle Ages during their summer harvest season.” [Such] cultivars are available to us now from our germplasm (seed bank) collections.



"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."— Franklin D. Roosevelt

How to Use Cover Crops to Improve Soil – Fine Gardening – sent in by Linda Howe

Cover crops replenish nutrients in the soil replenish the soil – This article suggests that no garden plot is too small for a cover crop!! [Organic farmer cousin says ryegrass is really good! - editor]



The Hostas with the Mostest:



teardrop-shaped leaves that never brown out, fade or get eaten by slugs. My clump is now 3' x 3' and though the maple above it died so it's now in full sun, it remains its full beauty all season."

[The one on the right is an anonymous hosta that is easily 4 ft across and dominates the little peninsula it lives on. – editor]

The hosta-aficionados of the club have not risen to the challenge – and what with the

end of the season, and the slugs, this will be repeated next year. In the meanwhile, here are some hostas to whet your appetites.

Jane Sherrott writes:

"Are you old enough to remember Ken and Elke's Rainforest Garden? Ken and Elke Knechtel ran their beautiful Maple Ridge nursery, Rainforest Gardens, from 1985-2004. Many of us probably remember their rows and rows of hostas and astilbe. Hosta "Canadian Shield" was one of their breeding introductions - it has deep green,



Vancouver Master Gardeners Basic Training Program

The Vancouver Master Gardeners Basic Training Program for 2021 is now open for applications. This program is for all gardeners, from backyard and community gardeners, to garden designers and landscapers. It is science-based, drawing on resources and instructors from botanical gardens, government ministries, post-secondary institutions, and certified professional practice.

Basic Training Program 2021

January - March 2021

Cost: \$700 includes all resource material

In light of COVID-19 restrictions, lectures will be held online by Zoom on Monday evenings and some Thursday evenings. Where distancing is possible, workshops will be held on Tuesdays. Alternative (e.g. weekend) workshop times will be available for students who cannot participate on Tuesdays. This program always fills-up quickly so you are encouraged to submit your application as soon as possible. To qualify for the program, applicants attend an Information Session to learn more about the course and about the Master Gardeners.

For more information go to <http://www.mgabc.org/content/103-mg-training>

Victoria Master Gardener Association

On January 30th, Mixing It Up 2021 will be virtual, exciting and informative! Phenomenal speakers, connecting with vendors, gardeners' chat rooms, Victoria Master Gardeners' own Silent Auction, and much more throughout the day.

Please forward this message to your Members, so they don't miss this welcome reprieve from winter, the chance to connect with other gardening enthusiasts, and to launch into the 2021 gardening season with fresh ideas.

Date & Time: Saturday January 30th

Zoom will open at 8; Presentations 9 to 4; Zoom will close at 4:30ish

All from the comfort of your own home.

Zoom Coaching will be available before the conference - just let us know on the registration form

Price: Early Bird \$40 until October 31st Then \$55



THE COMPOST BIN

- Maria Issa

Linda Howe's watermelons sent me on a Dutch painting quest - as 17th century still-lives are a secret addiction of mine. I've been known to stand and gawp for a long time, drooling. So here are some "Thanksgiving"-ish images of fruits and veg in the "past" category. Some are just like today - but some are definitely not [Pop quiz: a) what is to the

right of the peach(?) on the plate; b) what are on top of it?]



Some of it is, of course, selective breeding. You must check out this link of how our modern fruits and veg were 'before' and 'after': <https://www.sciencealert.com/fruits-vegetables-before-domestication-photos-genetically-modified-food-natural> I have often wondered how we managed to persuade plants, watermelons to produce a seedless, eunuch fruit: all that energy an wasted and no reproduction. We have been manipulating nature for generations on a macro, Mendelian sort of scale. Try and test. It's the long game. Do we select it, or does it get a "Darwin Award?" <https://darwinawards.com>

Genomics [Genomics is the study of all of an organism's genes (the genome), including interactions of those genes with each other and with its environment. It is an interdisciplinary field of biology focusing on the structure, function, evolution, mapping, and editing of genomes.] gives us insights into how not just individuals but populations of individuals will fare in a certain set of conditions: plants and global warming, humans in a pandemic, viruses in the face of antivirals. With the advent of CRISPR technology, we can literally splice a desired piece of DNA exactly where we want it. Just like on this word processor - I write, then delete, then write something else. No more "breed and wait". For this discovery of a game-changing gene-editing technique Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier now share the 2020 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Since this is Thanksgiving - I give thanks that we have come this far, that we have learned so much, that we have enough to share. I also reflect on how much wisdom we will need to ride the tiger of genetics - and what the future will look like if that wisdom (and seed banks and heirloom veg) are lacking. We might end up like one big seedless watermelon.

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

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	480	<i>Pre-paid Jan to June, will use for future meetings</i>
Office	200	304	<i>Postal box and web hosting</i>
Misc	30	90	<i>Zoom</i>
Hospitality	700	50	<i>February meeting only</i>
Plant Sale	1,075	316	<i>Soil amendment and misc</i>
Speakers	2,250	800	<i>Speakers: Feb, Sept, Oct, Nov less 2019 credit</i>
Sunshine & Door Prizes	750	305	<i>Prizes February only and thank you(s)</i>
Donations	2,700	700	<i>55% of net plant sale proceeds</i>
Newsletters & Postage	250	143	<i>Fewer Leafs printed</i>
Christmas Party	400	0	<i>No physical party</i>
Field Trip	1,300	0	<i>No field trip</i>
BCCGC	500	271	<i>No spring/fall meetings, affiliation and insurance only</i>
Bank Charges	70	45	
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**

Revenues

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

Expenses

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.