

THE LEAF

THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

June 2023

President's Message - Lorraine Robson

May and June are such abundant months in the garden. Waves of lush roses and peonies open their petals to the warmth. Long-spurred columbines and soaring foxgloves accept the busy attentions of bees and hummingbirds in the sunshine. Hostas and hydrangeas unfurl their broad leaves in the shade. Even the Sweet Autumn Clematis which I thought had died after the new growth had shrivelled in a late frost has sent up several strong new shoots from the roots and is climbing the trellis again. It has done well for more than twenty years, but I feared the long, dry fall might have weakened it before the cold winter did it in. May we all show such resilience in a sometimes-harsh environment!



Hosta "June"

At our June 15th meeting, the last before our summer break, we'll have Siri van Gruen of FarmFolk/CityFolk to speak on Seed Saving 101. I remember hearing years ago that, ounce for ounce, seeds were more expensive than gold. If you've bought seeds lately, you might well believe that to be true today. Saving seeds brings many benefits. Saving money may be one, but sharing with friends might be worth even more. Farmers have been saving seed for millennia to continue growing the biggest and best tasting or the prettiest of their

favourites. We can do that, too, so I hope you'll join us to learn all about it.

Likewise, I hope you'll join us for the Members' Garden Tour on Saturday, July 8. We'll start off at Ray Perrault Park parking lot where members can join a carpool with others. Fewer vehicles on our route will make parking easier at each site, so please offer a ride if you have a spare seat or two. It's a great way to meet new friends in the club. At our first garden, Aline Burlone will talk with us about the development of the Grand Boulevard butterfly garden she helped to plant and still maintains. Our second stop is the somewhat older butterfly garden established by Kitty Castle and the David Suzuki Butterfly Rangers. Next, Penny LeCouteur will welcome us to her beautiful mountainside garden full of named Hosta varieties and other shade-loving plants. Heading back down the slope, we'll stop at Doreen Dew's lovely established garden before returning to near our starting point for a talk by Howard Abel, a long-time volunteer at Gerry's Garden. We'll wrap up with refreshments in the shade of the trees near the washrooms in Loutet Park close by. Many thanks to Aline, Kitty, Penny, Doreen D., and Howard for their welcoming participation and to Donna Wasylik and Rita Marshall for all their help in organizing this year's event. I've enjoyed working with you. Please see the map and further description for exact addresses, times, and what to bring.

Have a lovely summer!

LVGC MEETINGS
3rd Thursday of each
month (except July
and August) currently
at

**Mount Seymour United
Church**

**1200 Parkgate Ave,
North Vancouver,
BC V7H 2X9
(604) 929-1336**

*Meetings start promptly at
7:15 PM*

**SPEAKER - JUNE 15
SIRI VAN GRUEN
SEED SAVING 101**

If you need to contact
anyone at LVGC please
use email or phone! If you
must send a thing - phone
to get the address and send
it to a VIP (list is on the
next page)

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

Executive 2023

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Lorraine Robson

Vice President

Judith Brook

Secretary

Sarah-Jane Gray

Treasurer

Jennifer Sydenham

Membership

Ann McKinnon

Alison Parkinson

Members at Large (MAL)

Linda Downs

Jacquie D'Auria

Marilyn Bullock

Brenda Reid

Committees

Plant Table

Cathy Rickey

Hospitality

Sharon Carabetta

Susan Nicholls

Daphne Page

Miriam Scott

Lenen Webb

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Hiromi Matsui

Website

Aline Burlone

Newsletter Editors

Maria Issa

Margaret Campbell

Executive Meetings

September Exec Meeting *chez*

Maria



Newsletter items to
lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com

Thanks to this month's LEAF contributors: Rosemarie Adams, Audrey Beugger, Aline Burlone, Anna Marie D'Angelo, Barb Downman, Taylor Hewstan, Antonia Issa, Linda Howe, Penny LeCouteur, Rita Marshall, Lorraine Robson



A message from your Executive

Thank you to all our members who contributed to the plant sale and made it such a success! Thank you as well to all of you who provide us feedback with the intention of making our club better. As the "currency in a volunteer organization is appreciation", we are grateful for the many thoughts and ideas that come our way. We are happy when we have done something that you are happy with. We are also grateful when you provide us with food for thought - we know we can always improve! - and in that spirit we want to acknowledge some comments that our group has pondered in the last little while:

1. "I can't hear in the church!"

This will be addressed in detail later in the *Leaf* under Maria's heading of "The Best Most Experimental LVGC Audio Test".

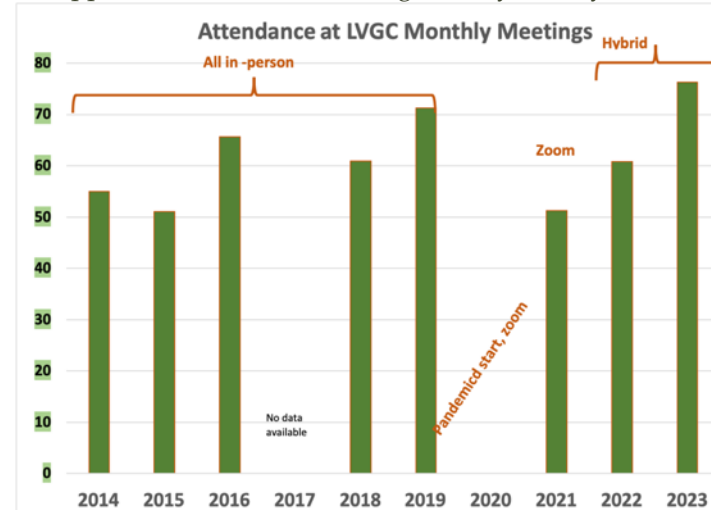
2. "Why can't we go back to St. Stephen's or somewhere else in Lynn Valley?"

We would all love to! St. Stephen's - and we call them regularly to check - has not started the hall renovations yet - so we are still waiting (and they have our \$\$). Finding somewhere else is ongoing and has the problem of room availability that can accommodate our numbers. We have called many places, but they are all full. We call them occasionally, on the off-chance that something has come up. No such luck. If you have a good lead on a place that is NOT FULL, please call us as soon as possible. We are not tied to Mount Seymour United Church, although they have been most kind and accommodating.

In the meanwhile, if it is inconvenient for you to drive to MSUC, there is always the handy-dandy Zoom; or if you wish to attend in person and need a ride, please contact any of the Executive and we will try to find someone to bring you.

3. "Not many people attend meetings; and where are all the new members?"

The new members are definitely around, and many volunteered for the plant sale, (thank you, wonderful new members!) and are chatting merrily at the meetings. We've also heard the opposite of this: "I don't recognize anyone anymore" ... go figure...



As for attendance at meetings, that depends on many things but mostly the subject of the talk because not everyone thrills to the same botanical theme. The time of year (people fade out after the plant sale), the weather, whether one had had a long week - all weigh into the decision to attend the monthly meeting.

Let's look at Membership data and that should inform us. These are the averages for meeting attendance each

year - not counting special events such as Brian Minter. These numbers show that while we fluctuate year by year, and even during the year, attendance is pretty steady and increasing gently since the pandemic: we are still here and healthy.

4. "Who are we going to donate to this year, and can we donate more?"

As we have a (ridiculously) healthy bank account, our Treasurer, Jennifer Sydenham, will explain what we can spend and what our options are. In the meanwhile, please start

thinking about suitable organizations to receive this funding – and your *rationale for recommending them*. Here are the current selection criteria. They are not carved in stone, they can change, but they are something to start from:

- not for profit;
- impart knowledge of gardening;
- impart love of gardening;
- help in our community;
- help people learn the value of growing food/planting for pollinators.

[and Maria's suggestion for consideration: "support an extraordinary, emergent need"]



SPEAKER

Siri van Gruen -- Seed Saving 101

Siri is a plant enthusiast. She is happiest outside in the garden, getting her hands dirty. Her passion for sustainable food systems led her to complete a BSc. in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences specializing in Plant Production. Since graduating, she has been working towards enhancing BC's seed security with FarmFolk CityFolk.

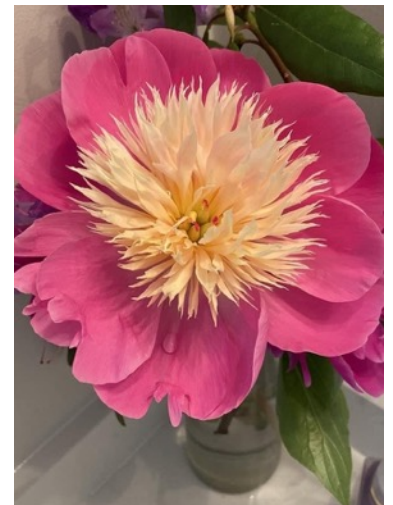
Seed saving is a great way to preserve plant biodiversity, adapt seeds to your environment, and experience a plant's full life cycle. During the "Seed Saving 101" session we will discuss the importance of seed security, principles of seed saving, and how to maintain a healthy seed collection.



Treasurer – Jennifer Sydenham

Bank Balance as of May 16	\$21,985.95
In Petty Cash	\$100.00
Total	\$22,085.95

Can anyone ID this peony for Lisa?



At the last check, the Plant Sale profits were \$7,774.20 (with more dribbling in). We usually only donate HALF – which is \$3887.10. The Executive decided to round up this sum by \$13 to an even \$4000 to make round figure contributions.



MALs - - Marilyn Bullock, Jacquie D'Auria, Linda Downs, Brenda Reid (in that order)

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MULTI-SITE PLANT SALE!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the plant sale and helped make it a success! If you weren't at the last meeting and missed us happily announcing our results, the sale took in \$7774!

Once again, we started the year with no single plant sale venue available to us. We couldn't find a hall that would rent to us for multiple days and would have adequate parking. With fingers crossed, we asked for help and Maria Issa, Carol Ferryman, Kathy Stubbs and Daphne Page came to the rescue. Not only did they graciously volunteer their yards this year, but each of them has volunteered EVERY year to host the sale. Without them, there would be no sale, so huge thanks to our super hosts!

We tried to take care of every detail so the hosts would not have to do too much, but they all still went above and beyond in every way imaginable. Daphne made not one, but two batches of cinnamon buns for her volunteers. Carol had someone admiring her pot of hostas (even though we had a large inventory to sell), so she took out her shovel and divided up her plant & repotted it on the spot, much to the customer's delight. Both Kathy and Maria had their own inventory of plants before anyone ever dropped off a single plant. Kathy had 200 stored and ready to go while Maria had 300 saved up from her digs. Maria's plants wouldn't fit in her driveway, so she turned her sale into a garden tour.

With 4 sale locations and a MAL assigned to each site, we were a couple of sites smaller than last year, but still donated and each site was full. for the sale were making donated. There was much fostering on long before the sale started!

Our sorting teams of volunteers Friday morning with our pricing Every pot was arranged and priced



for sale at Daphne's and Carol's sites. Also succulent pots with gift cards which made you donated creative plant arrangements mom-gifts. It was fun to see daughters and plants for each other.

We wanted a sunny day and wow, did afternoon, the volunteers and the plants their way to help hydrate everyone and everything. Sales slowed down as the heat intensified, but it gave the volunteers a chance to find shade and get to know one another.

Customers came in for armloads of plants or for one specific plant. Many were touring all four sites. Some club members came by just to say hi and see their friends.

At the end of the day, plants were packed up and driven over to Kathy's site where they were reorganized. For a couple of hours on Sunday morning they were sold at half-price or donated to the Mollie Nye plant sale or to the North Shore Streamkeepers.

Kathy has kept a lot of plants that will go to next year's sale, so again, thank you Kathy! After most of the clean-up was done, the sale was long over, and Kathy's yard was starting to be visible again, one of her neighbours came walking



managed to have a lot of plants Members who weren't even in town arrangements to get their plants and transporting of plants that went

were moving pots around early on volunteers taking the afternoon shift. and ready for sale by Friday afternoon. Marilyn had made sure that every pricing team included at



least one plant expert. If you ever want to learn a whole lot about a whole lot of plants then volunteer to price the plants. I confess to sneaking in a few questions on how the plants would grow in my yard and came away from the shift with a lot of info (plus I knew what to buy on sale day!!).

Veggies and herbs were sold at Kathy's site, with Jackie Morris, our head Vegimate, overseeing them. A large selection was available (as usual!) and they sold fast. One little boy was heard yelling at his mom while holding a "moneymaker" tomato - "MOM - get this one - it grows money!!"

Floral clay plaques were created by our own artist/club member Valerie Cundiff, which she donated to the club at Carol's site were Lynne Frith's pretty a lovely Mothers' Day display. Many of that appealed to those buying their moms shopping together and buying



the sun ever shine! By Saturday were wilting. Our hosts went out of





up her driveway carrying a plant pot in each hand. What the heck? Did he want a refund?? When asked why he was bringing plants to a plant sale, he smiled and said, "I just wanted to share my garden with you". He then handed over a pot of lemon balm and a pot of mint. It was such a lovely gesture coming at the end of a long, hot weekend! His words (& the mint) stayed with me as they really do capture the spirit of our club's plant sale. We do want to share our gardens,



our plants, our time, our expertise, and so much more.

Thank you to everyone for sharing! And thank you to Audrey for the great photos!- Brenda

BRIGHT SPOTS - Rosemarie Adams



These are a couple of *Penstemon* I have on my deck. The red one I have had for a couple of years 'Red Riding Hood', the orange one I was lucky enough to pick up at **our plant sale** - *Penstemon pinifolius* - with needle type leaves, apparently evergreen. I have never seen this one before - Thank you to the person who donated it.



The lavender below was another plant acquired at our LVGC Plant Sale.

It was woody and overgrown - now it is cleaned up, pruned and in training to be a bonsai - thank you to the donor!

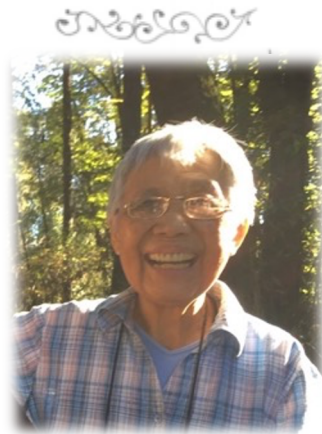
[I recognize that plant - it came from one of the digs! - Maria]



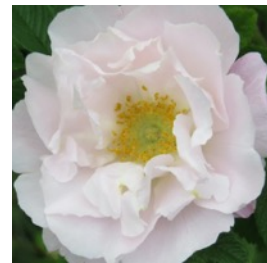


Aquilegia (Columbine) growing in my garden. Many of them have self-seeded.

Cranesbill Geraniums - pretty little flowers - very hardy, I think they look best in mass plantings - easy to grow.



Remembering Bie Ong



LVGC lost another dear member this past month. Bie Ong was 81 years old when she passed away peacefully at Lions Gate Hospice in North Vancouver on May 27, 2023. She is remembered by her brothers Odet Sugiarto Dharmarakshita and Djin Loen, nephews Armand, Otto and David, and niece Meta Lestari. Bie is predeceased by her sister Lina Piti Sumedha. She is survived by her close friend Liba and many other friends from her various clubs and interests.

Bie was a Qualified Vancouver Master Gardener for 20 years and a valued member of the Basic Training program until she had to stop a few years ago to care for her good friend Liba. Throughout her years as a QMG she also helped in the VanDusen library. She was a member of the Lynn Valley Garden Club for the last 4 years and was always ready to help with the plant sale and used to come to meetings with Aline. She stayed active to the end by watching LVGC and other Zoom presentations and volunteering at a care home in North Vancouver.

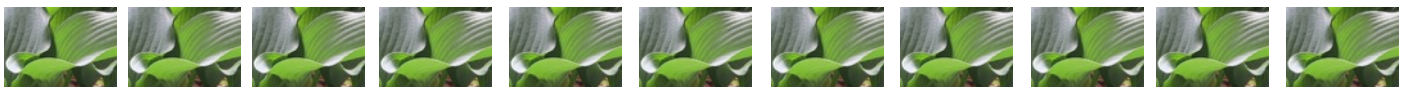
Bie came to Vancouver many years ago from Indonesia and worked as a chemist. She had a great sense of humour and loved to learn. She was a kind and giving person, always ready to help and share her knowledge and plants with others. Bie was an ardent supporter of the BC SPCA and the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association.



No Dig Gardening by Carla Capalbo
(the link to the whole article is in the file June Links)

- Sent in by Linda Howe

The author took over in a weed wilderness allotment in Chiswic and though petrified of battling weeds forever, she tried "no dig" as described by Charles Dowding. Basically, you place an unglazed piece of carboard on top of all the weeds, pile 2 inches of compost on top and away you go. Whatever weed dares stick up between carboards, you yank... and "~~Bob's~~ Charles' your uncle". The articles is compelling and validates any personal laziness you might have around tilling and raking: so as the Beatles used to sing "Let it be!".



Introduction, Background:

While none of the venues LVGC has inhabited in the past has been perfect, Mount Seymour United Church seems to have its own brand of problems. The church echoes. This is 95% solved by the speaker system – UNTIL – Zoom gets involved. Sound travels at 343 m/s. As the human voice travels directly through the microphone and comes out the speakers, it gets to the audience’s ears first. That same voice also goes through the computer’s audio, gets digitized, then re-analogue (think of it as going the long way around at the same speed) and then comes out of the speakers and into our ears. As its route is longer, it gets there later and provides an additional echo. We, sitting in the church, hear a mess. Zoom people only hear the computer-processed sound so they have clarity.

This had been addressed by an extra piece of audiophonic wizardry that Lorraine managed to get a sound expert to provide for us. We plug the gadget into the computer, and it forces both sets of sound inputs to “go the long way around” and come out at the same time.

This is great – but it still leaves us with the original church echo. We decided to address the church echo by asking the questions:

1. Where to sit: are there better spots than others, in terms of acoustics?
2. For the person presenting, is there an optimal distance to the microphone?

Materials and Methods:

1. Provide a representative samples of test subject with a range of hearing aptitudes: 6 executive members and 2 ‘hangers-on’ gave us a statistical range of hearing and +/- hearing aids. The subjects walked around the entire church while someone told a loooong story from the microphone. Thus, the voice input was held constant while the subjects processed through all the church acoustic locations.
2. The voice input was varied in terms of distance measured (with measuring tape!) from the microphone, while the guinea pigs remained stationary in their selected locations.



Results:

1. It was found that those with good hearing could hear anywhere; however, they found the sound better in some places than others. Facing the podium, the centre and right tiers were better than the left tier. Those with dodgy ears, or hearing aids (such as the author) found the sound quality in the back, and especially far left noticeably inferior. There was consensus around this.
2. The voice input distance was found to be optimal at around 10-12 inches from the microphone. Further away, the sound level and quality diminished.

Conclusions:

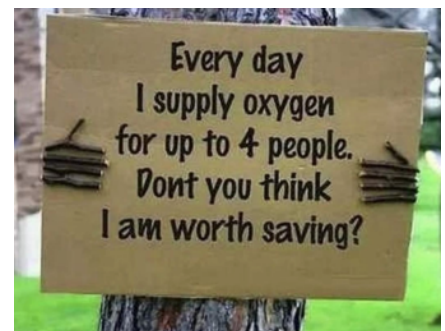
1. Those of us with dodgy hearing would do best in the centre and right front 3, 4 rows. Avoid the left side and the far back. There is still plenty of room in the center and right tiers to ‘socially distance’ for everyone’s comfort level.
2. All speakers will be asked to “belly up to the bar” and lean on the podium – however inelegant speaker etiquette that may be - and keep their faces close to the microphone.
3. A document, “**Tips and Tricks for Speakers**”, has been created (appended at the end of the *Leaf*) so that when any of us have an important thing or two to say, we know exactly how and can do it in style.



The Slime Mold Transit Design

Check out this link in the “June links” file: Slime molds optimize distance and routes between food sources, they flow most efficiently. The Japanese exploited this trait and provided the slime mold the Tokyo transit map and placed slime mold delicacies on the most important urban nodes. The slime mold then deigned the optimal routes among them.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBi8ah1ku_s





"I can't stop gardening."

"Making a garden is not a gentle hobbyIt is a grand passion. It seizes a person whole, and once it has done so she will have to accept that her life is going to be radically changed. There are seasons when she will hesitate to travel and if she does travel, her mind will be distracted by the thousand and one children she has left behind, children who are always in peril of one sort or another. However sober she may have been before, she will soon become an inveterate gambler who cuts her losses and begins again; she may think she intends to pare down on spending energy and money, but that is an illusion, and she soon learns that a garden is an ever-expanding venture. Whatever she had considered to be her profession has become an avocation. Her vocation is his garden."

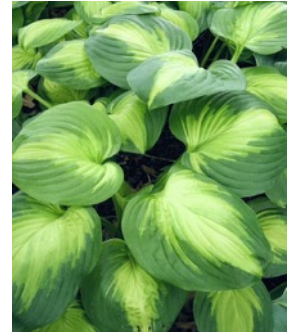
May Sarton, *Plant Dreaming Deep*.

Garden Tour Teaser

- Penny LeCouteur

[One of the lovely gardens you will see on **July 8** is Penny's hosta garden.]

The Mexican Cantina part of my garden contains hostas called *Avocado*, *Guacamole*, *Tortilla Chip*, *Pineapple Salsa*, *Lemon-Lime*, and *Frozen Margarita*. I know I said I was not going to buy any more hostas, but I found *Enchiladas* (see photo) at the garden store and decided I needed to expand the menu.



Pollinator gardens

- found by Rita Marshall

The CITY of North Vancouver is taking an active interest in pollinator gardens – of which we will see some examples during the garden tour on **July 8**.

Their website (see June Links) states: "Pollinator gardens provide nourishment and shelter to pollinators including native bees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds. In return, these beneficial creatures pollinate by moving pollen from one flower to another. Pollination is important for a strong, healthy ecosystem as over 80% of crops in the world rely on pollinators to produce food." They provide further information on how to support pollinators in gardens; and where there are pollinator gardens in the City.

The Great LVGC Members' Garden Tour, July 8

In case you are like me and don't read emails except *after* the last minute, you may wish to put the following into your pencil and paper calendar: "**10 AM, JULY 8, Ray Perrault Park parking lot, 13th & Grand Blvd; and we carpool**". We will visit 4 gardens before landing at the 5th, Gerry's Garden, where we have our picnic. Printed maps will be available at the June meeting and at the start of the tour. The detailed information, maps and directions went out by email – but if you don't do email, here are the addresses in order: (thank you Rita!!)

1. 17th Street and Grand Boulevard Butterfly Garden;
2. 4181 to 4173 Sunset Boulevard (cross streets Tall Tree Lane and Pelly Rd)
3. e – Penny's hostas
4. Doreen's sloped sunny garden
5. 1400 Rufus Street – Gerry's Garden.... and picnic site.

In case you are new: it's BYOP – as in: "bring your own picnic" and chairs. LVGC provides some drinks and treats. This is an excellent time to meet your fellow members and pick their brains on gardening topics.

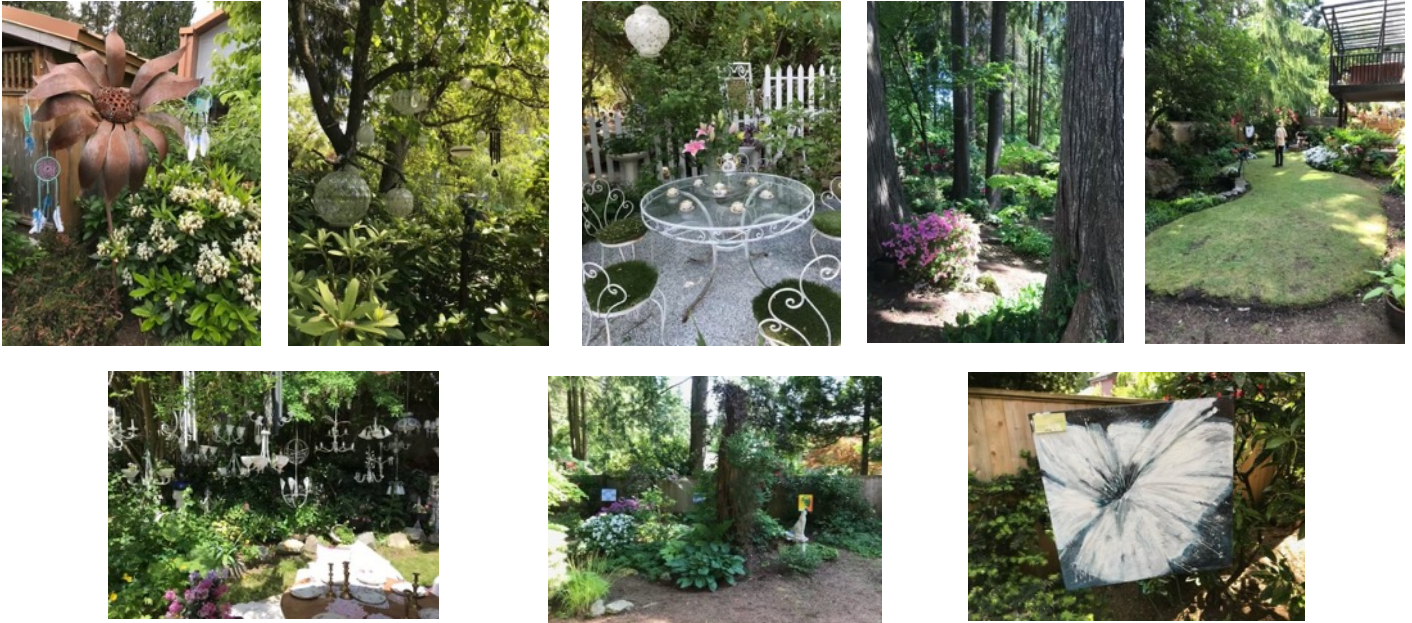


"All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today."

Arts In the Garden

- Rita Marshall

Brenda and Rita took in the sights at the North Shore “Arts in the Garden”. (...and yes, it is plural: artS – as there is music, glass, painting, pottery – you name it!). Here are some highlights from the Hospice (a garden that LVGC supports), a garden just off Highlands, and a garden in Grousewoods.



From our correspondent passing through Hazelton

- Antonia Issa

We are in the Gitksan First Nations Territory! “The Gitksan people used the plants, fish and animals around then in the rhythm of the seasons of the year. In the spring an annual trek was made up the Kispiox Valley and then down river to the Nass estuary to fish and trade for oolachons. In early summer, fish cams were set up along area rivers and many salmon would be processed for winter food. After the sockeye salmon season, sometime after midsummer, families would travel to berry picking camps where large quantities of berries would be picked and made into berry cakes for winter. At the same time, men would often hunt goat, caribou and marmot on the nearby peaks and ridges. In the early fall, berry picking would be completed, sphagnum moss would be collected for winter sanitary needs and men would hunt for deer, bear and in recent years, moose. The fall was also a time for gathering medicinal plants. Fall fishing included coho and steelhead which were often smoked for winter. The winter was a time when families came together in their winter villages. It was a time for feasts, teaching by the clan elders and healers, and the carving, repair and replacement of artwork and implements.” Some important plants included:

Is - Soapberry or Soopolallie (*Sheperdia canadensis*): they were whipped to make *yal'is* “Indian ice cream” a traditional dessert for feasts - 4 tbsp of berries beaten in a small pail will fill it with soapberry froth – sometimes with a little bit of sugar added. They were preserved as berry cakes – cooked until thick then poured onto berry drying racks and covered with thimbleberry leaves. Soapberry is reported to help with arthritis, heart attack, indigestion and rheumatism. An infusion of dried leaves is used to treat bladder and uterine infections. Berries were chewed to speed childbirth.

Simmaa'y - Black huckleberry, (*Vaccinium membrananceaum*): most important berry crop of the Gitksan. Still picked and a jar of huckleberries is an especially valued potlatch gift.

Gahldaats – Yellow pond lily (*Nuphar polycephalum*): root must be dug out of muddy pond bottom using a knife attached to a long stick. It is then peeled, sliced and strung to dry. Dry slices or powdered, it is stored in jars. Rehydrated it is used for arthritic joints, skin ulcers and fractures. Infusions of the powder were used for cancers, stomach complaints or ulcers. It was part of tuberculosis remedy when combined with devil’s club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER GOINGS-ON

PLEASE don't forget to bring to the meeting your non-perishable food item for the Harvest Project. Every little bit helps... if you only knew...!



JOE PYE WEED (*Eutrochium*)

AVAILABLE: The wretched things were nowhere to be seen when I needed them to sell well at the plant sale: they were just “empty pots”. Now, of course, they are large and healthy, and I have about 12 pots of them. **Joe Pye is a lovely plant for pollinators** – makes butterflies happy because they have a vanilla scent. As they grow tall, about 4 ft, they look best and fill in the back of a herbaceous border; or next to a wall. They are ridiculously easy to grow – even by me. If you want to see large swathes of them, they are on the top level of the ICBC overpass to the Seabus. If you want some, call Maria.



“Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.” -W. H. Auden.

East Vancouver Garden Tour

See website from June Links file>

UBC Botanical Gardens

June is for geraniums. June is also for honeysuckles, climbing roses and stewartias, but I'm trying to keep this blog to a reasonable size. After the lull in mid-May when the rhododendrons, early herbaceous perennials and late bulbs take a needed breath, June is when the summer flowers really start coming into their own. This month stands apart not only for the impressive diversity of plants in flower, but also the sheer volume of blooms in the Garden. And among the tough, long-lived perennials, there few better examples of this bounty than in the hardy geraniums. Also known as cranesbills because of the resemblance of their seed capsules to a crane's bill, there are more than four hundred species across the Northern Hemisphere and southern Africa,



and these include annuals, biennials and perennials. Some thirty-five species, selections and hybrids scattered around the Botanical Garden..

Newsletter from the BC Council of Garden Clubs

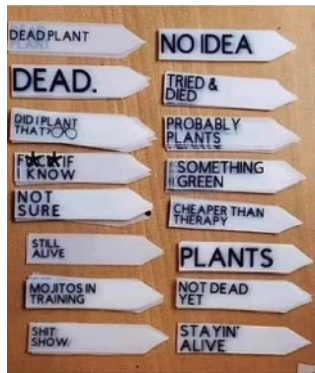
The June issue of *The Bulletin* offers an interesting variety of articles. Unfortunately, there is a scientific blooper on the first page that states that roses capture particulate (!!!) matter such as nitrogen oxides (NOx) and ozone (O₃). I'm sure the rest is very erudite, but that put me off. As far as I know, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and nitric oxide are gases – pollutants, to be sure – but definitely not the particulates that are also part of air pollution. Precision matters as this is how misinformation is created: next everyone will be planting roses to remove particulates from the air.

Yikes! So, I did do the research and herewith: “The EPA has identified six pollutants as ‘criteria’ air pollutants because it regulates them by developing human health-based and/or environmentally-based criteria (science-based guidelines) for setting permissible levels. These six pollutants are carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen oxides, ground-level ozone, particle pollution (often referred to as particulate matter), and sulfur oxides”. QED: NOx and O₃ are separate and distinct from particulates. There are links to the EPA website in the June Links as well as to *The Bulletin*.



THE COMPOST BIN

- MARIA ISSA



These lovely labels were meant for me! Before the plant sale I was hopefully, wishfully scrutinizing each pot for a sign of life – and an indication of identity. Many pots categorically refused to let me know what, if anything, was living inside. The “NO IDEA” label would have been particularly handy. To date, maybe about 30 pots have risen to the occasion and have produced assorted though still “UFO” greenery. If you can ID – I’d be grateful.

In the meanwhile, with enormous thanks to Tom, I am watering them regularly. Tom put me onto some brilliant Lee Valley hose timers that you can program, and they will turn on and off as if by magic. I promptly bought two – and upgraded my sprinkler heads as well, as they pissed erratically. Now all I have to remember is where to set them up them next – and for that I have a numbered garden schematic. OK – it’s a bit OCD – but I can’t let the babies dry out, now can I?

And since the Hungarian saying goes, “One fool makes a hundred more” – I promptly proselytized and persuaded Penny that she needed these brilliant gadgets. Lee Valley should be giving Tom a percentage while I’m safe from the “midnight bear”, but more importantly from the DNV “water police”.

At least we still have water – though every year, my apprehension of climate change grows because as the population and population density grows across the globe, water becomes an expensive commodity: in Chile, in “2018, the Piñera administration proposed a bill aimed at providing legal certainty to perpetuity to private owners of water and introducing water auctions. Currently, 38 rivers in Chile are being auctioned off; basically, what the state does is auction off the litres per second that run through a river. While this occurs in some territories where there is still water, areas accounting for 67 per cent of the Chilean population – some 12 million people – have become water emergency areas. [...] Valparaíso, is a zone of water catastrophe due to drought. This is unheard of: while such a large population has serious difficulties in accessing drinking water, the state is auctioning off rivers.” [for more, see June links] So much for the modern world...



The ancients were clever, watched and learned and harvested water by ingenious methods: the Nabateans, the carvers of Petra, had highly sophisticated water collecting and management systems. They had impressive water channeling technology such as [brick pipes, right], aqueducts, terraces, dams, cisterns [left], and reservoirs, as well as methods for harvesting rainwater, flood water, groundwater, and natural springs. We could be doing that with all the urban hard surfaces of the GVRD – but we drop it all into storm sewers and it’s gone... time to re-think water conservation and plant rain gardens. Just sayin’....



TIPS AND TRICKS FOR SPEAKERS

1. Microphone:

- a. Stand so that your mouth is about 10 inches/one foot from the round black microphone-on-a-stick. Feel free to “belly up to the bar”.
- b. Speak slowly and clearly.
- c. Start the session by asking “Can everyone hear me clearly? If you can, please raise your hand.” Check the room and ask those whose hands are not up, “Did you hear me?” If people have trouble hearing – let’s find out early and make adjustments and suggest better seating locations.

2. Image:

- a. Have your Zoom in “speaker highlighted mode”. This should show your Power Point slides as a big square and you in a little square. If you don’t know how to do that, maybe we can help you.
- b. Check your image on the computer and the big screen – adjust the computer so that you stay in the center of your box. [Don’t wander about as you go in and out of existence on Zoom. Adjust the screen so that you are viewed square on as nobody wants to see up your nose.]
- c. If you wish to show something to the audience so that the Zoomers can see it – hold it so that it is in the center of the box (where your face was). Basically, aim it at the top center of your computer screen: that is where the camera lens is. If you can’t see it in the box on the screen, nobody else can either. Look at the computer screen to adjust your visual offering – what you see is what we see – or mostly don’t see.
- d. Hold the item steady for a few seconds to allow the camera to focus. **SLOW AND STEADY!!!!**

3. Protocol:

- a. When addressing questions, please end the Power Point presentation (or end screen sharing) and show the gallery of Zoom attendees so that they can see each other and feel included.
- b. If there is a second computer running zoom, use that computer to show the live audience in one box.
- c. When addressing questions whether from the chat or from the live audience: **REPEAT THE QUESTION.**
- d. When responding to questions: **ALTERNATE** responding to those in the chat and to those posed by the live audience.
- e. Don’t rush – and all will be well.