



THE LEAF

THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Established 1943

March 2024

President's Message - Donna Wasyluk

Hello Everyone,

On April 6 the BCCGC is having their semi-annual general meeting at Bonsor School in Burnaby. They were very late in sending out details. I was going to go but cannot now because of knee surgery. If you and a garden club friend would like to go, please contact me at [redacted]. Our club will pay for two registrations and the door prize you take with as LVGC's gift. The poster for this event is in the BCCGC newsletter which you should have received. [...and the link to it is in the "March Links" file found in the email that brought you this *Leaf*. - ed]

Our March meeting Garden Table Talks on March 21 will start promptly at 7:00 pm so come early to set up your chairs. If any can come even earlier, say at 6:30, we will have tables to set up and would appreciate your help.

Please note that as there will be several concurrent speakers, THERE WILL NOT BE A ZOOM BROADCAST OF THE MARCH MEETING.

Now for some **really exciting news!** Rita Marshall has stepped forward to volunteer to arrange a private tour at Van Dusen Gardens to happen around the beginning of June. We will make final arrangements at our April executive meeting and let you know forthwith.



SPRING - Gerald Manley Hopkins

*Nothing is so beautiful as Spring -
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.*

*What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. - Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.*

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
7:00 PM

**SPEAKERS
FROM OUR CLUB
MARCH 21**

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:
Lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com



Executive 2024

President

Donna Wasylik .

Co-Vice Presidents

Penny LeCouteur .

Daphne Page .

Co-Secretaries

Marilyn Bullock .

Lynne Frith .

Treasurer

Jennifer Sydenham .

Membership Co-Chairs

Ann McKinnon .

Krystina Madej .

Members at Large (MALs)

Jacquie D'Auria .

Sarah-Jane Gray .

Miriam Scott .

Tom Davis .

Committees

Plant Table

Cath Rickey .

Hospitality

Sharon Carabetta .

Bev Fraine .

Brenda Reid .

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Hiromi Matsui .

Website

Aline Burlone .

Newsletter Editors

Maria Issa .

Margaret Campbell .

Executive Meetings

April Executive Meeting will be
chez Donna Wasylik Glenhaven
Crescent



Newsletter items to
lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter@gmail.com by April 10, 2024

Thanks to LEAF contributors:

Rosemarie Adams, Judith Brook,
Rita Marshall, Courtney Mitchell,
Lorraine Robson

MARCH SPEAKERS - FROM OUR CLUB

This month, instead of a meeting and a speaker, we will have a series of gardening demonstrations - that we will approach "musical chairs/speed dating" style by going from table to table at regular intervals. This will be NEW and FUN - so come prepared for an adventure.

LVGC's finest will host 4 tables:

Pruning/cuttings, Soil, Invasive plants & Plant recognition

You will get a number that tells you which table you start from. The table-speakers will have 15 (-ish) minutes to tell you important things, then you can ask questions.

When the bell rings, you move to the next table. (Easy, peasy!)

After 2 tables, you get a tea break!

Don't forget: the meeting/demos start at 7:00 PM sharp!!



REPORTS

Co-Vice Presidents - Daphne Page and Penny LeCouteur

There are exciting speakers lined up for the coming months:

April - Ecological Gardening

May - Flower Arranging

So mark your calendars and plan to attend in person!

Treasurer - Jennifer Sydenham

The Club kitty currently contains \$16,330.33. Cool!

Membership - Ann McKinnon & Krystina Madej

We currently have 158 fully paid-up members and no waiting list. There are still a few people who said they would renew but have not done so in time to be on the roster. On the last few pages of this Leaf, you will find the 2024 membership list. This year, it lists your email address, cell phone, and home phone number; unless you asked us not to include them, or you did not specify what you preferred.

The names of the 18 new members appear in bold. There will not be a test, but feel free to memorize them!

Please take a minute to check your own information and let us know if there are any errors by emailing Membership at lvgc.membership@gmail.com. We've tried to clarify which of the phone numbers some of you provided are cell phones as that is particularly helpful to know during the plant sale. Ann has gone cross-eyed trying to ensure the accuracy but producing the list is a manual process so it may not be perfect. Also, if your contact information changes during the year, do let us know.

Please remember that this list should only be used for garden club purposes and not shared outside the membership.

MALs - Jacquie D'Auria, Tom Davis, Sarah-Jane Gray, Miriam Scott

Plant Sale Overview 2024

It's That Time of Year Again, the days are getting longer, and the Plant Sale is just around the corner!

The 2024 LVGC Plant Sale will be held **on Saturday, May 11 from 10:30 AM - 4 PM in the Parking Lot of St. Clement's Church**. LVGC members will be allowed to purchase **at 10 am** on day of sale, a half hour before opening to the public.

All the plants to be sold are donated by our members, so it's time to start planning to grow your plants from seed, or pot up by dividing established plants from your garden!

Soil has been ordered, and will be **available Monday, March 25**. The delivery will take place between 8 and 9:30. The location for this year's soil pick up is in front of, Jackie Morris's home. Please come, bring your shovel, and container and be prepared to pick up on that day, rain or shine! The soil is for the purpose of starting your seeds and getting your plants ready for the sale.

If you have extra **pots**, they can be dropped with any of the MALS. Some pots will be available at the soil delivery site.

All plants, once sale ready, are to be labeled with the **name, best location, (sun or shade), and the colour** of blooms if known.

The following is still up for discussion, but for now the plan is as follows: Plants for the sale are to be dropped off at Sarah Gray's or Miriam Scott's home during the week of the sale, preferably, Thursday, May 9 or Friday, May 10 (times and addresses to be announced closer to the sale). The plants will be sorted into categories and priced at these locations prior to the sale.

The St. Clement's Parking Lot will be set up and the plants moved to that location very early Saturday morning, May 11.

This is the first in a series of notices to prepare for the sale. We need lots of participation from our members serving as volunteers as there's lots to be done! Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available by at the membership desk the general meetings. Also, there is a sheet requesting use fold up tables and tents for the day of sale.

So, now, I just want to say **thank you, in advance!** I'm sure we can count on your help and support to make this sale both enjoyable and profitable!

There are about a zillion empty flowerpots awaiting your Plant Sale offerings - along Maria's driveway. PLEEEEEEEZ come and take them!! I will be away, and I hope, so will the pots....

Co-Secretaries - Marilyn Bullock, Lynne Frith, and Web-guru - Aline Burlone

As promised, the minutes of the February general meeting are posted on the LVGC website - but it's not obvious or easily findable for the world at large: you lucky members have the direct hyperlink to the minutes in the *March Links* file. Happy hunting.



...in case you weren't paying attention, here it is again:

MONTHLY MEETINGS NOW START AT 7:00 PM (not at a quarter after) and the MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE - using this [link](#) - also in the "March Links" file in your email if this link does not work.

BRIGHT SPOTS

Rosemarie Adams -



Hepatica, beautiful flowers, beautifully displayed in those pots!

...and indoors,



Veltheimia bracteata (Forest Lily) - A South African semi-deciduous bulb that produces a dozen or so glossy green leaves that are 1 foot to 18 inches long and 3 inches wide with wavy margins. In late winter and early spring appear the pale rose-pink tubular flowers, upright and green tipped in bud and dangling downward when open, on 1-2 foot tall stems. The orchid is *Dendrobium nobile*.

Judith Brook - LVGC's Guerilla Gardener

Some people are just tuned into beauty - and their eyes can't stand seeing - well - crap. Judith is one of these. A mess on a boulevard just does not sit well with her. Unlike others, she actually does something about it: there are spots on Mountain Highway and Lynn Valley Road that have had the "Judith touch" and look vastly better for it - after having trunkfuls of nastiness hauled away, invasives uprooted, weeds plucked. As my artist grandmother used to say, "you can't save the world - but you can create beauty around you" - and Judith does exactly that. ... and I offer her the embarrassed thanks of those of us who drive on by and never thought to lift a finger. [Check out the links to other 'guerilla gardeners' and 're-green'-ers in the March Links file. - Ed]



A Few (timely!) Words About TICKS – Courtney Mitchell

Ticks are 8-legged parasitic arthropods that feed on blood when they change stages from larvae to nymphs, to adults, and before mating. To obtain blood, ticks feed off animal hosts such as rodents, racoons, deer, bears, **pets** - animals that often traipse through our gardens. They bite humans too. I have been bitten twice by ticks in my garden! You don't have to be out in wild areas for ticks to find you.

>>> If you are bitten by a tick, early removal will reduce the likelihood of contracting a tick-borne disease.<<<



Ticks are active year-round in BC due to our mild temperatures and high humidity. Ticks may be infected with bacteria, viruses, or protozoa that can be transmitted by their body fluids when they bite. While there are 20 species of ticks found in BC, only 3 may bite humans. **Rocky Mountain Wood ticks** may carry Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and tularemia. **Western Black-legged ticks** may carry Lyme Disease. Their nymphs are tiny – about the size of a poppy seed, while unfed adult females are about 3 mm. See the link to the map of high-risk areas in BC for Lyme disease. [1.]

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bccdc-lyme-disease-map-1.6468200>

Description of ticks in BC and diseases they carry: [2]

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/plant-health/insects-and-plant-diseases/home-garden/ticks)

[seafood/animals-and-crops/plant-health/insects-and-plant-diseases/home-garden/ticks](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/plant-health/insects-and-plant-diseases/home-garden/ticks)

Tick habitat: The preferred habitat for Black-legged ticks includes moist woodlands, grassy areas and low shrubs. They are most common in spring and early summer but are active through the fall. Wood ticks are most active between March and June and prefer open rocky areas. Drought conditions cause tick activity to diminish. Ticks overwinter in leaf litter, woody debris and even in soil. Our gardens can be prime habitat for ticks. Tick habitat is expanding due to the warming temperatures and consequent range expansions of host animals.

Protection from ticks: The best defense against tick bites and tick-borne diseases is preventing ticks from attaching to your skin and early removal if you are bitten. Check for ticks frequently.

- Wear light-coloured long sleeves and long pants. Don't garden wearing shorts. Ticks are more visible on light clothing. Tuck your pants into your socks so ticks cannot crawl up inside your pants. If you find ticks on your clothes, wash them in hot water and put them in a hot dryer for 30 minutes to kill any hidden ticks.
- Apply insecticide to clothing before going outside. Insecticide containing 20%–30% [3] [N,N-Diethyl-3-methylbenzamide \(DEET\)](#) is most effective. *[and if you're worried - DEET is not a carcinogen - Ed]*
- Protect your pets from ticks – they can easily carry them into your house.
- Check your body for ticks, especially your hairline and in your hair, arm pits, groin area.



Removing attached ticks: Remove ticks as soon as possible. A tick attaches to the skin with sharp mouth parts and it is important to remove the entire tick, including the mouth parts. The tick key works well (my experience) and there is also a tool that resembles a mini crowbar, which is great for removing ticks from pets. The tools are presently available on Amazon and at Lee Valley Tools.

- Special tools are available and tweezers can also be used. Sanitize the tools. It is important to pull slowly, gently and firmly, without squeezing or twisting, in an outward motion.
- Once the tick is removed, apply alcohol wipes to the skin.
- If you wish to keep the tick for identification, place it in a ziplock bag along with a damp cotton ball. The damp cotton is important as the tick will die in a dry bag or medicine bottle.

If the attached tick has been feeding, *ie* it is engorged with blood, see a doctor to determine whether you should receive an antibiotic to prevent Lyme Disease. Take the live tick if possible. Normally it takes about 24 hours of attachment for diseases to be transmitted into you: **Swift removal is important.**

Tips for tick prevention in your garden (which may not be practical):

- Mow lawns frequently to keep grass short.
- Remove leaf litter, brush, long grass from the edge of your lawn and walkways.
- Keep long grass and shrubs away from patios and children's play areas. Locate them in sunny areas if possible as ticks generally prefer damp shady areas.

When the LVGC Pig Poo Doesn't Happen - Judith Brook

Rabbit poo is super too...

Rabbit poop is great for your garden -

You've likely heard of the over-abundant feral rabbit population in the Lower Mainland, but you may not have heard of this group (Rabbitat) helping out [*by trapping and neutering-ed*]. Years ago, I got bunny poop from them, and they now have a website with info, prices and address in Richmond for pickup. It costs only \$3 per bag for these droppings which are high in nitrogen and phosphorous, considered 'cold' and ready for use in the garden. You will be supporting their efforts at trap, neuter and rabbit care. Bring your own bags and contact them first. There is no phone number as it is a volunteer-based group - please email info@rabbitats.org and see the link to their products in the March Links file.

Some LVGC History - Judith Brook

I recently visited the Museum of North Vancouver on Esplanade and was pleased to see a picture and background of Muriel Van Laar. Long-term LVGC members will recall Muriel being an important member of our garden club.

Muriel was a founding member of the Lynn Valley Senior Association and was very active through Mollie Nye House. Leaving her home of sixty years near top of Lynn Valley Road was difficult in 2016, when Muriel moved to Qualicum on Vancouver Island to be near one of her daughters.

Harvest Project - "Food Bank"

Please remember to grab a can or box or two of non-perishable foods and bring them to the meeting - [put them with your coffee cup/tea mug into your "LVGC grab bag"] - and deposit them in the box waiting for your gifts. Food insecurity is 'a thing', as much as we would rather not acknowledge it. "*There, but for the grace of God, go I!*". The Harvest Project gratefully receives our donations. For us it's just one tin - but many 'just one tins' feed many people.

Plant-related Bits & Bobs - Maria Issa

My Instagram feed was particularly "*cornu copia*" this month, - must be spring - I'm not sure how to categorize much of it - but made a half-hearted stab at it. You will have to look for the good stuff - the direct links - in the "March Links" file - and they will be numbered the same as in this list. Don't worry, any links in *The Leaf* have been checked and won't take you to some sketchy site. This month's "menu" has the following offerings:

1. **The benefits of gardening** - you already know these- and probably more, but it is a good reminder that what we do is valuable.
2. **The science behind the benefits of gardening** - this fits the jigsaw pieces together.
3. **Old ladies and gardening etc** - and for a smile, look at some of her other posts as well.



4. **Dendrophile** – a great word, a great way of being. I’m this.
5. **Before planting** – read this
6. **Not acid soil** – apparently pine needles and such are NOT acidic. Who knew?
7. **Saving soil** – this post makes so much sense and is a good reminder that soil is precious.
8. **Companion planting** – As we are all about to start at least a few veggies, this is something I’ve often wondered about – but have never had the CHEAT SHEET – so here it is.
9. **When to plant** – no matter what specialist info I read on this – I’m doing it wrong. My ‘zone’ is fine – but my elevation is not. This ‘nature-cued’ planting guide is soooooo much more sane.
10. **Seed starting trick** – The internet is full of these – but this one is actually clever. It may not be ‘your thing’ but may inspire some ideas that are.
11. **Small seed planting** – this is a genius hack – as I lose the seeds, then drop them in bunches etc. This is particularly useful if you’re doing large beds, rather than single pots.
12. **Another seed planting hack** – why use more soil and pots than you need?
13. **Cold stratification** – some seeds need to freeze once or twice before they are willing to germinate. So if you’re wondering why some of your seeds don’t germinate – this may be the reason. This article gives some useful info.
14. **Where did those seeds come from?** – I have a friend who does this – and calls it “cockroaching” – and I must admit to doing this as well.
15. **Linda Gilkeson’s website:** Everything you always wanted to know about gardening, but never dared to ask. This link takes you to the archive of all of Linda’s lists. (Thanks to Lorraine Robson!!)
16. **Olla for watering** – Don’t know about you, but watering the garden takes up my entire summer. All I do is move sprinklers. With heat domes and global warming – this is not a bad idea.
17. **Tire planter** – this is a great idea if you have spare tires hanging around. The useful bit is putting a “holy” bottle in the middle, filled with kitchen compost, and watering the plants through there. The compostables leach into the soil.
18. **Hanging tomatoes** – so why are mine always weedy while this looks like a mono-jungle?
19. **Growing potatoes** – this looks frighteningly easy – which is probably why it won’t work for me. But he’s kinda cute, so I’ll watch the video.
20. **Dark-grown rhubarb** – apparently this is a great delicacy and much sweeter than the garden variety we are used to. There was an article about these in a *Leaf* many years ago. Apparently, they grow so fast, they make popping sounds.
21. **Where to keep your stray pots** – OK, this is useful. As my garden shed is overflowing, I’m going to try this.
22. **Stone carpet** – this is another one of those crazy ideas that is simply gorgeous. It’s eminently do-able with a bit of time and imagination. I’m sorry I didn’t think of it.
23. **Nest houses** – well, if you have a stone carpet, then why not these? Plants are so versatile...
24. **Hugelkultur** – this is not as elegant a thing as the one above – but way more useful. I’m not sure our gardens are suitable for this – but it is a good thing to know.
25. **Garry Oak ecosystem** – while we missed the boat (March 4) to write to the government to protect the Harewood Plains, we do need to know about this unique ecosystem – and that it is not – YET – protected.
26. **Re-greening Paris** – this is brilliant and makes financial sense: green roofs everywhere... I often wonder why our building codes are so far behind...
27. **Re-greening New York City** – Judith -style guerilla gardening on a grand scale!! Pretty impressive.
28. **Re-greening Tanzania** – I’ve probably put ‘earth-smile’ links here before – but seeing them in action makes one jump for joy. Africa was heading toward total desertification – which leads to human migration, refugees, political pressures. Instead – these people fix the desert and create hope.
29. **Beaver dams** – and how they re-engineer wetlands... and under the heading, “build it - and they will come”, beaver dam analogs – fake, man-made dams – bring beavers and they move in.



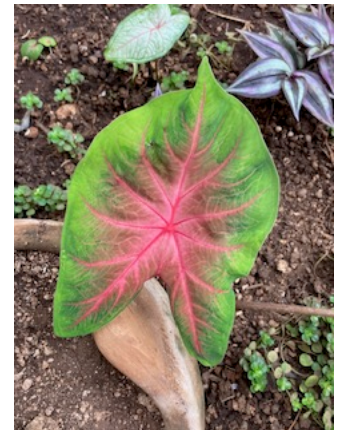


- 30. Fixing the world** – one PLANT -based, plantable pencil at a time. This is a brilliant idea – and if they can actually run it as a business, more power to them. I know where I'm buying next year's Christmas presents.
- 31. Plant-based fashion** – this one is a bit far-fetched for me... but the underlying idea is brilliant – and if we can grow our clothes, rather than buy into fast-fashion, then the world would be better off. The comments are interesting – as there are many who live a plant-based life- for food- but are not so happy to do the same for clothing. I'd love to debate the ethics with someone.
- 32. Plant-based material** – this one sings to me more than the grown fashion – especially as mycelia can be made to grow in any pattern at all. The chitin-containing material they create is surprisingly durable.
- 33. Mango leather** – Nope, not fruit-leather to eat. It's actually another plant-based new material made of leftover mangoes.
- 34. Iris leaf cordage** – I just toss the stuff in the compost – but apparently, iris leaves can be used for all sorts of useful things – especially if you weave baskets. I'll be trying this one.
- 35. Namibian Sandhof lilies** – this is incredible! – no, I won't tell you about it other than it is a wonder of the world – you have to look at the link.
- 36. Crown shyness** – apart from being visually interesting, this is the botanical phenomenon as negative thigmotropism.
- 37. Mushrooms and spores** – this video is beautiful and interesting – and reminds us how much we don't see and don't know about the fungi and their interactions with plants and water cycles.
- 38. Dinosaur trees** – that were growing alongside dinosaurs – still exist in one spot in Australia... and are as they were back then. Truly amazing ancient species.
- 39. And the world's newest banana** – created by RNA editing (like the COVID vaccine) – these bananas are resistant to Panama disease that has been devastating banana crops world wide.
- 40. Want a GLOWING houseplant??** – yup another engineered marvel – with the luciferin/luciferase gene edited in. It's the same gene that makes fireflies glow. Seriously! And it's available for sale. If you actually want one, or think it might be a great gift, go to the link, then hit the link within the article.
- 41. Microscopy of the inside of a leaf** – this is lovely. I had forgotten how much I loved microscopy and watching cytoplasmic streaming and chloroplasts in real time. Have a look, it's fascinating.
- 42. The chemistry of veggie colour** – this is a good starter – but you should hear Penny's seminar on the subject.



ANNOUNCEMENTS – one more time, from the top....

*From now on, REGULAR MEETINGS will commence at 7:00 PM sharp!!
The "business" part of the meeting will be 30 minutes (BUT NOT THIS MARCH) – so if you have items for the general populace, please let Donna know in good time for it to be put on the agenda. Please keep comments and announcements mercifully short.
BRIGHT SPOTS will be enjoyed at 7:30 in the foyer to facilitate interactions, questions, and tea and cookie consumption.
The SPEAKER will start at 8:00 PM sharp and will talk for 45 minutes; with questions for 15 minutes... after which, you will not be considered rude, if you get up and leave as it's past your bedtime.
Insh'Allah!*



OTHER GOINGS ON:

Read the BC Council of Garden Clubs' newsletter, creatively named **"The Bulletin"** – see the March Links file.

Spring Gardening Workshops: March 16 - June 15

Learn gardening techniques suitable for BC's coastal environments. This program is a partnership between the Edible Garden Project and the District of North Vancouver. By donation. Location: check location of each event prior to registration. One is bound to catch your interest.

See the list in the March Links file.

Adult & Teen Public Programs (ecologycentre.ca)

Van Dusen Gardens is recruiting Garden Guides! DEADLINE March 18

Here is your opportunity to interpret the Garden to the public and to share local and international plants with visitors from around the world.

Anyone who is interested in applying can learn more and sign up by completing an application form here:

<https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicOrganization/5757625f-27eb-4d6c-9df5-ff3182c978da/Activity/49b4a4eb-9aba-417f-9b32-a36d6dcbc30d/1> This link, ungarbled, will be in the 'March links file.'

Vancouver Master Gardeners Sunday March 24th

9 AM to 3 PM at the Michael J Fox Theatre, Burnaby. **Tickets are \$60** after February 1st to attend in person, includes recordings for one month viewing. Recordings Only \$35 for one month of viewing To Register: FIND THE LINK in the March links file.

Here is our line up!:

Taking the Easy Road – Adapting My Garden to a New Climate – **Thomas Hobbs**

A Garden Revival – **Jeff de Jong**

Making Friends with the land: Using Native Plants for Beauty, Health and to Give Back. – **Nancy Shackelford**

More speakers to be announced!

Plus, a used book sale, Sea Soil Sale, a vendors' fair, door prizes and more.



Alpine Garden Club of BC - 2024 Spring Plant Show and Plant Sale - April 6th

Saturday April 6th, 2024 11AM - 3 pm, Floral Hall, VanDusen Gardens, 37th & Oak Street, Vancouver

Free Admission

The Juried Show features exhibits in dozens of categories – many alpine, woodland and other rare species, as well as unique trough presentations and Bonsai.

The Sale includes not only alpines and woodland plants, but many more from our members' gardens and from some small BC nurseries – rhodos, trees, ground covers, perennials, and of course a great collection of seeds from our members around the world.

BCCGC Spring Meeting & AGM - April 6

Join us Saturday, April 6, 2024 at Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, from 10:00AM to 3:00PM.

Enjoy meeting with fellow gardeners, shopping with all of our vendors, and learning from our expert Claude LeDoux, well-known horticulturalist, speaking about "Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables in the Urban Garden".

Enjoy a light lunch of sandwiches, and sweet treats while sharing gardening successes and near misses with your fellow gardeners.

Our floral art design show always brings absolute delight to our guests. To enter the floral art design show to be held at the Spring Meeting/ AGM, look for registration forms in the March Links file.

Check out the Spring Supplement bulletin for even more details on the meeting....

Bradner Flower Show April 12-14

Once again, the Bradner Flower Show will be taking place at Bradner Community Hall, 5305 Bradner Rd, Abbotsford. The show takes place April 12 - 14 from 10 am to 4 pm daily. Admission is \$2.50. This will be our 94th show!

The show, which began in 1928 attracts attendees from all over the lower mainland. There will be many varieties of daffodils on display, most of them developed right here in Bradner. There will also be plants and shrubs on sale at wholesale

prices, from vendors who do not normally sell to the public. An array of crafts and art will also be on display and for sale. Decorating for the show will be done by the floral design experts at *Simply Perfect Flowers* of Abbotsford.

Our Tea Room features soups, sandwiches and goodies all made fresh in our licensed kitchen. As always, all proceeds from cut flower sales will be donated to Abbotsford Regional Hospital. Bradner Community Club is a registered non-profit society. Info at: [facebook.com/bradnerhall](https://www.facebook.com/bradnerhall) or <https://www.bradnerhall.ca/events.html>

We hope you will take the time to come to our event, or at the very least tell your members and friends.

Interesting upcoming lecture at Lynn Valley library on April 17th (from Rosemarie Adams)

I attended this lecture a few weeks ago at West Van library. It is very interesting. It's free, but you do need to register. Forgotten Things: the Story of the Seymour Valley Archaeology Project

This presentation summarizes and discusses an archaeological project in North Vancouver's Seymour Valley, directed by Bob Muckle; and focuses on the period between 1900 and 1950 in the Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve.

The presentation tells the story of the more than 20-year history of the project, including unexpected discoveries, such as Japanese camps and a secret settlement; anecdotes about working in the rain and the company of bears, and how and why the research is meaningful. Some of the collected artifacts will be on display.

Speaker bio: Bob Muckle has been practicing, writing about, and teaching archaeology in B.C. for over 30 years. There is nowhere in the world he would rather do archaeology than in Metro Vancouver, and nowhere he would rather teach than at Capilano University, which is his work home.

He has written several books and is working on several more, as well as scholarly and mainstream media articles on his research, given more than 30 presentations on his work at scholarly conferences, and more than 100 presentations to public and local community groups.

This event is part of the Capilano Universe speaker series. See all events and learn more about the series at capilano.ca/UNIVERSE.

Registration required. Register online or call 604-984-0286, ext. 8144.

This event takes place in person in the Community Meeting Room at Lynn Valley Library.

Location: Lynn Valley Library

Time: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 -6:30 pmt to 8:00pm

Linda Gilkeson - West Van Memorial Library -April 17, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
(Virtual) Garden Talk - Where have all the insects gone?

Clematis Webinars (Thank you, Courtney!)

The International Clematis Society has some webinars that are available to non members. On February 3rd there was an open webinar (#2401) presented by Linda Beutler and Maurice Horn on the topic: *Legacy of Clematis Integrifolia*.

There are excellent photos of a wide variety of clematis integrifolia and information about the wide variety of conditions they will grow in.

The webinar can be viewed here: <https://www.clematisinternational.com/webinars.shtml> but if the link doesn't work - look in the March Links file.



World Naked Gardening Day - May 5

This is your first official notice to prepare to un-gird your loins and un-buckle your swash the first Sunday in May. *The Leaf* will publish all formal evidence of having participated. Photographs are awaited with bated breath. See also the last page of this *Leaf* as a surprise bonus.



COMPOST BIN - Maria Issa

"I don't know about "X", but I know what I like" is a phrase that I always find incredibly irritating because it is usually followed by an uninformed, fallacious statement to justify a stance based on not much other than a "gut feeling" (another one of my big unfavourites). Data, solid scientific info, measurements, are trumped by someone's uninformed feelings. Yet the modern world seems to give as much credence to non-information as it does to fact (or how else could internet

influencers make their living?). When I first heard “alternate facts”, my brain blew up. Whaaat? There can be alternate explanations, perspectives, contexts – but facts? Facts are immutable. It either *is*, or it *isn't*. If we stop basing our buildings, bridges, rockets, or health, on facts, and just refer to ‘feelings’ then we are heading into dangerous territory. Whatever happened to “knowledge is power”? Conversely – how do we disenfranchise an entire population? Feed them useless nonsense and conspiracy theories.

So where did this rant come from? Confession: I caught myself thinking that I don't know anything about tropical plants – but I know what I like about them.



Backstory: I spent the last week in Merida, Mexico, where my daughter's tiny garden is a jungle, and the neighbouring Roger Orellana Botanical Garden (and biotechnology institute) contains a large variety of indigenous plants. “The Regional Botanical Garden is a living museum, founded in 1983, over the years this space has become an island of vegetation that contrasts with the surroundings: noisy and crowded urban area of Merida. This plant collection represents the flora and landscapes of the Yucatan peninsula, it is also the perfect place to enjoy bird watching, meanwhile walking in its paths and learning about plants.” Thus says their website.

We went to see it as it was just a few blocks away. It was a ridiculous 38 degrees, so there wasn't a living soul anywhere, except the happily *siesta*-ing security guard, enjoying the AC. Luckily, it was shady under all the weird trees, once we were ushered through the nice modern building and returned to the heat. It was worth it: the plants were grouped – water and bog plants; epiphytes, agave-types, medicinal plants, food, ‘useful plants’, plants of ethnobotanical interest. There was method in their madness. They also have plant sales – and a healthy series of greenhouses (that we weren't allowed into) that house the biotechnology, biodiversity and agricultural research projects.

It takes unique plants to live and thrive in the heat and on the karst soils of the Yucatan. The place is mostly limestone, dolomite and gypsum – water-soluble rocks – rocks, little topsoil... a hardscrabble existence, but somehow magic happens.

And this magic creates patterns – and that's what I like! – patterns... seeing patterns in biology, botany, processes, people, but especially plants. I don't just see them as living things, but as architectural works of art, born of their particular physiology that is expressed in patterns. Don't you agree?

