



THE LEAF

THE LYNN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB *Established 1943* *January 2025*

President's Message - Donna Wasyluk

Happy New Year Lynn Valley Garden Club!
I'm excited to begin the new year with all the great input from our members regarding suggested speakers and topics gleaned from your membership renewal forms. Penny LeCouteur and I will be going over all the suggestions and putting together a roster of speakers for the Fall of 2025 and early 2026.

We've also had several ideas for field trips and garden tours from our executive and I'm looking forward to working with Jacquie D'Auria to make plans for some great outings.

Thank you to Maggie Davis for volunteering to supervise the plant table at our general meetings. Please bring in your potted plants to donate for sale and also seeds for the seed exchange.

Thank you also to Stefanie Rezansoff and Doreen Dew for coming forward to join the MALs this year. We have a good team and look forward to another successful plant sale in May.

Our speaker for January 16th is Laurelle Oldford-Down whose topic will be container gardening.

We will also be trying out our *new* computer, microphone and camera and hopefully presentations will run smoother in the future.

I will be introducing our executive and committee members at the beginning of our meeting on January 16th. Take a moment to say hello and introduce yourself to our executive and committee members during the breaks. They look forward to getting to know each of you throughout the year.

Thank you all for helping to make us a great gardening club!

Sincerely,
Donna



*The little brown bulbs went so sleep in the ground
In their little brown nighties they slept very sound
And Winter he raged and roared overhead
But never a bulb turned over in bed.
But when Spring cam tip-toeing over the lea
Her finger on lip, just as still as could be
The little brown bulbs at the very first tread
All split up their nighties and jumped out of bed. - Anon*

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

SPEAKER JAN 16
LAURELLE OLDFORD-DOWN
CONTAINER GARDENING

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 to THE LEAF are welcome:
LVGCnewsletter@gmail.com

Executive 2025

President

Donna Wasylik

Co-Vice Presidents

Penny LeCouteur

Daphne Page

Co-Secretaries

Marilyn Bullock

Treasurer

Sarah-Jane Gray

Membership Co-Chairs

Jennifer Sydenham

Krystina Madej

Members at Large (MALs)

Sarah-Jane Gray

Miriam Scott

Tom Davis

Doreen Dew

Stefanie Rezensoff

Daphne Page

Committees

Plant Table

Maggie Davis

Hospitality

Sharon Carabetta

Bev Fraine

Brenda Reid

Sunshine / Door Prizes

Jacquie D'Auria

Website

Aline Burlone

Newsletter Editors

Maria Issa

Margaret Campbell

Executive Meetings

February 5th Executive meeting will be chez Marily Bullock,



Newsletter items to
lvgnewsletter@gmail.com by
Feb 13, 2025

Thanks to LEAF contributors:

Judith Brook, Taylor Hewstan,
Rita Marshall, Courtney Mitchell,
Jackie Morris

SPEAKER

LAURELLE OLDFORD-DOWN

Container Gardening

Laurelle loved playing in the dirt and remembers watching her grandfather in his veggie garden. She completed a landscaping certificate from Kwantlen and has been a landscape designer for close to 30 years. Laurelle owned and operated her own design and install company. About five years ago, she got into grafting and selling heritage apple trees and buying and reselling berry bushes (blueberries, lingonberries, Goji berries, Tayberries, raspberries, huckleberries, sea buckthorn, grapes, sour bush cherries (U Sask), and cranberries) at Seedy Saturday, the VanDusen Plant Sale, etc. She works part-time in [Art's Nursery](#) in Port Kells and also writes garden articles, runs garden workshops, still dabbles in landscape design and delights in exciting people about gardening especially edible gardening.

Co-Vice Presidents - Penny LeCouteur & Daphne Page

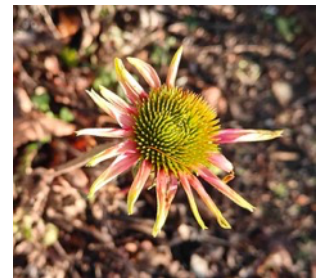
We are still looking for speakers for September, October, November 2025. If you run into someone interesting, or have a scathingly brilliant suggestion, please tell us immediately!

Again in April, we will have 'table talk' presentations. Suggestions for topics were tool sharpening, birds, cuttings/propagation, houseplants, invasive plants. If you have some good idea, and - even better! - are willing to present it, please share!

June ideas = visits to West Van gardens, Butterfly Garden, YWCA Rooftop Garden (a sea bus journey), Vancouver Island excursion to ABKHAZI Gardens (bus or carpool?). These topics will be explored in more detail so your input and organizing skills would be welcome.

Treasurer - Jennifer Sydenham

Bank Balance as of January 1	\$15,458.93
In Petty Cash	<u>\$115.00</u>
Total	\$15,573.93



Membership - Ann McKinnon & Krystina Madej

Thank you to all of you who renewed your membership for 2025, especially those of you who mastered the fillable form and the e-transfer. WELL DONE! When you joined the garden club, I bet you never expected that those would be some of the new things you would learn.

127 members have already renewed. There are 20 "maybe"s. There is no waitlist.

To the 20 "maybe"s: this is probably your last newsletter...

CONGRATULATIONS to *Judy Lashley* who was the winner of the early renewal draw!!!!



MALS -

Tom Davies, Doreen Dew, Sarah Grey, Daphne Page, Stefanie Rezanoff, Miriam Scott

*[The MALS just look like they are hibernating – actually, they are plotting!]
Saturday, May 10th is the date set for the 2025 PLANT SALE!!*

Sneak Preview: There will be **New Plant Sale Rules** regarding freebie plants (NOPE, NONE! So don't even think it... it's supposed to be a fund-raiser, not a give-away!) and early access for members (NOPE: you get to line up with everyone else - fair is fair! - so sharpen your elbows....) Whatever happened in the past, remains in the past. These are just hints - formal rules will be forthcoming.

BRIGHT SPOTS

From Judith Brook



The following have decided it is spring or maybe still think it's last fall and are growing merrily:



Clematis balearica



Melianthus



Cerinthe (from seed)



Hyssop (from seed)



Thyme (from seed)



Salal



Rudbeckia cappuccino



Calendula

THE HOLIDAY PARTY AND THE (MANY!!) WONDERFUL THINGS YOU DID

2024 was a very generous year – and LVGC was bursting with holiday spirit and holiday gifts for people who really, really needed a bit of help. Both Sage House and the Harvest Project received boxes and boxes of useful items. The warmth and generosity of our Club is wonderful, but not surprising, as LVGC is made up of an amazing group of people: the famous green thumbs had bows on them, and decorations!!! Thanks to everyone involved, and for making sure the many overflowing boxes got to their destinations. Thanks also to the Hospitality team, especially to the purveyors of the famous LVGC hot cider... (my personal favourite). The buffet tables were a feast for the eyes and the tummies – there were some particularly mouth-watering treats this year!! Thank you to all who participated, made merry, and did so much good! [...and for the second year in a row, there were no containers or pruners or plates left behind! – at least that I know of!]

Jessica M. summed it up perfectly: “I attended the LVGC event yesterday and I came early to help setup. It was a fabulous event and a great opportunity for me as a newish member to meet other passionate gardeners. The centrepiece creations were wonderful and it’s always fun to see creativity expressed in so many different ways using the same materials. The culmination of our individual donations to Sage House and the Harvest Project looked like a good haul to make a little difference for those of us less fortunate.”



Christmas Card Donations - Courtney Mitchell

During November and December many LVGC members (and friends of members) donated Christmas and all occasion cards for the WISH Drop-In Centre in the downtown east side area of Vancouver. These cards were much appreciated and were made available to the women who use the WISH facilities.

Thank you to everyone who collected cards and passed them on to me for the benefit of these women. Next December I will again take any cards that are collected during 2025 to the WISH Drop-In Centre, so I hope you will continue to collect cards this year.

Our Donations to YWCA Rooftop Garden, the North Vancouver District Public Library, the North Vancouver City Library



We received some lovely letters of thanks for some of the gifts of money that went to the organizations selected by the Donations Committee (and if you have any ideas – please let them know: the ideas are diligently matched against a list of criteria and the recipients are thoroughly vetted).

Vanessa Wellington-Clark, from YWCA Rooftop Garden writes “Thanks you so much for your generous donation to the YWCA Rooftop Garden that grows produce to feed low-income families at YWCA’s Crabtree Corner at Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. We would love to have your garden club join us in the late spring or summer. [...] I look forward to your annual plant sale this year!”

From the District library Jacqueline van Dyk writes “... This donation will help us connect to our community, share knowledge and inspire stories by ensuring that the library continues to promote and instill a life-long passion for reading and learning...”.

The City library’s Deb Hutchinson Koep writes “Thank you very much for generously donating \$300.00 to the Library. Your support plays a vital role in helping us continue to serve our community. As per your request, we will direct your donation to the Seed Library Initiative. This will enable us to expand our collection of resources dedicated to horticulture and sustainable living. We are very grateful for your contribution. [...] In recognition of your donation, the Library would like to publish the Lynn Valley Garden Club’s name in our Report to the Community, on the donations page of the Library website and on our Gratitude Wall”



BC Climate Emergency Campaign – Judith Brook

This past year (2024), the Lynn Valley Garden Club Executive supported a motion to sign a BC Climate Emergency Campaign declaration, on behalf of our organization. This declaration in part states:

"We call on the BC government to recognize the urgency and alarm that people all over the province are feeling as the climate crisis directly impacts our communities and our health. We therefore urge the BC government to develop and implement a transformative climate emergency plan"

There are 10 Actions urged to be taken by our provincial government. (Please see the Actions LINK in the links file.) See our Club name here: [Signatories – BC Climate Emergency Campaign](#) (we are under “Food production/Agriculture”)

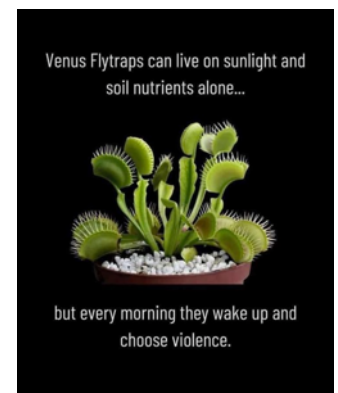
There are now 600 organization signatories to this declaration. If you are a member of an organization that has not yet signed, would you consider joining? If Yes, see this link (in links file), [Sign On – BC Climate Emergency Campaign](#) click on the 'Take Action' button. There are also **Actions at the Individual Level**, if you are so inclined.

Thanks for speaking up for our struggling climate!

[Considering what is burning up in California, and the devastation ... this makes eminent sense. I just worry that even if the government implemented all the 10 Actions in an incredible hurry, it might still not be enough. – Ed]

Q: Why do gardeners know the root of the problem?

A: Because they dig deep!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGULAR MEETINGS commence at **7:00 PM** sharp!!

The “business” part of the meeting will be 30 minutes – 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!

PLEASE NOTE

The old newsletter email – lynnvalleygardenclubnewsletter at gmail.com – IS DEAD AS A DOORNAIL. Don’t use it. It got hacked and started spewing spam at people. I’m no longer checking it – but needed to keep it until the 2025 Zoom account became active as it was the backup email. I will delete it – when I can figure out how to do that. If you want to send something to The Leaf – please click reply on your last Leaf and magic will happen – you will connect to LVGCnewsletter@gmail.com – this is the email you want.



The Home Depot at Park Royal has **\$1 gardening gloves** on sale. Look for barrels of them in several places around the store. Piles and piles of them. As you can see, I went a little nuts and many have found their way into my shopping basket. Considering that I have been known to indulge in \$24 gloves from Garden Works, these are a dream!

Do you need someone to do some of the “heavy lifting” in your garden? I know a young man, who, for \$30/hr (a great deal!) will appear at your place and do your bidding. Contact Maria at lvgcnewsletter@gmail.com



Get ready to think outside the box. Our speakers will inspire you with practical advice to improve the resiliency of your garden and transform where we live and beyond. Open to Master Gardeners and any gardener interested in change.

Here is our line-up!

- Succession Planting: Creating a Multi-Season Garden – Fergus Garrett
- Ecological Gardening: Supporting the Biodiversity that Works for You – Elizabeth Elle
- Urban Gardens of the Future – Saba Farmand
- Edible Gardens, the Way Nature Intended – In Layers – Chris Chung

Event Details

Sunday March 9th, 2025 9am to 3pm Michael J Fox Theatre, Burnaby

Ticket Fee includes access to recordings for one month
Event Activities – Gardening Vendors, Sea Soil Sale & Door Prizes!

>>>>>Early Bird Tickets: \$55 until January 15th, 2025

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To Register – see hot link in 2025 Jan Links file. or go to Karelo.com
Event SS2025

For all you fellow mum killers!
Look at this... 😂😂
We can just turn them dead things into Christmas decor!
Who knew lol



COMPOST BIN - Maria Issa

California is burning. On today's Global news, "Earth recorded its **hottest year** ever in 2024, with such a big jump that the planet temporarily passed a major **climate** threshold**, several weather monitoring agencies announced Friday." [For the whole report, please see the LINKS file.] Not only is it horrible for people and the environment, it is yet again the blame and finger-pointing: anything to deny climate change and blame a person or agency, for insufficient water. People lose all common sense – and have obviously never absorbed basic science. Let me lay it out for you.... (with the help of the Encyclopaedia Britannica – see link)

"combustion, a chemical reaction between substances, usually including oxygen [oxidation reaction] and usually accompanied by the generation of heat and light in the form of flame. The rate or speed at which the reactants combine is high, in part because of the nature of the chemical reaction itself and in part because more energy is generated than can escape into the surrounding medium, with the result that the **temperature of the reactants is raised to accelerate the reaction even more.**

A familiar example of a combustion reaction is a lighted match [for a dry California Eucalyptus tree]. When a match is struck, friction heats the head to a temperature at which the chemicals react and generate more heat than can escape into the air, and they burn with a flame. If a wind blows away the heat or the chemicals are moist and friction does not raise the temperature sufficiently, the match goes out. Properly ignited, the heat from the flame raises the temperature of a nearby layer of the matchstick [and dry trees and houses] and of oxygen in the air adjacent to it, and the wood and oxygen react in a combustion reaction."

So basically, combustion requires 3 things: and initiating event, fuel and oxygen. In the case of poor California, the environment and trees and brush have been super dry because there has been very little rain the last couple of years. If you look up California rainfall statistics – [see links] most of the state is well below "normal" and has been for a while. It's DRY. That makes ignition easy. Almost anything can set it off.... no, it doesn't matter whether it was a human or not - the CONDITIONS are set up by climate change. And that "climate threshold" (*vide supra*) for the world is sort of like the ignition temperature for the match. Ponder that for a bit.

Fuel is all around – the vegetation is dry. Those aforementioned eucalyptus trees, iconic of California, are particularly prone to fires. Yup, iconic they may be, but they are actually an invasive. "Tasmanian blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*), a symbol of California for some, never knew California soil until the 1850s, when seeds from Australia were planted, first as ornamentals, then mostly for timber and fuel." [...] "Blue gum eucalyptus is one of the most fire-intensive plants. Trees not only put a lot of fuel on the ground as they shed bark, leaves and twigs, but in intense fires, volatile compounds in foliage cause explosive burning". Just another reason to support native plants. While California does have a *Eucalyptus* replacement strategy – it may be too little, too late.



You are all old enough to have used a bellows – or at least have blown on a fire to make it go. The more oxygen a fire gets, the better the oxidation reaction proceeds. Enter the katabatic Santa Ana winds that bring the lowest humidity to Southern California, and they blow and blow providing oxygen to the flames. Not only do they fan the flames, but spread the embers, propagating it.

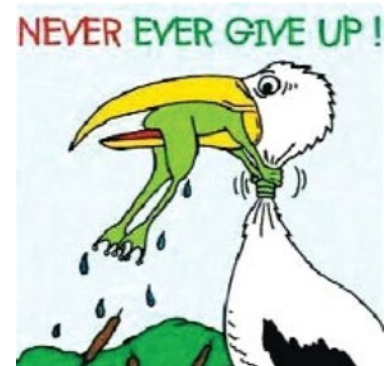
In the face of such disaster – it is easy to feel helpless and give up.

NO WAY! There are many useful things one can do. As my grandmother, an artist, used to say, "You can't save the world, but you MUST create beauty around you." You are already doing that by growing gardens, protecting trees, guerilla gardening, planting native species, growing your own veggies, living sustainably, composting *etc.* If you feel you could do more, look up the **BC Climate Emergency Campaign** – (see Judith Brook's article, above) and look on their website [LINKS file] for "individual actions". There is a pile of petitions you can sign – it costs you nothing other than a few minutes of your time. However, know that a single response is worth 10!! Politicians know that only about 10% of people actually do anything like sign petitions; most people just whine but don't bother. SIGN! Of course you can financially support a number of these organizations as well... just sayin'.

You can also try this Climate Calculator – fun quiz. <https://climate-calculator.climatehero.org/>

It will give you suggestions on how to reduce your carbon footprint. It will also give you an opportunity to do a "carbon offset". You can also use ECOSIA as your browser, rather than Google. For two reasons – I don't believe in giving more money to billionaires – they don't need it – and because for every search you do, ECOSIA plants trees to restore deforested areas of the planet. For me, that's a win:win.

I must admit to certain level of guilt: my generation and the one before us, and our thoughtless habits are responsible for this. I'm not sure how I can 'explain' to my children and grandchildren that I participated in destroying their future. This is why I advocate where I can; do what I can, support what I can. For their sake, I can't give up.



The Leaf is what you make it: it is YOUR newsletter.

This page is pretty much blank because you didn't send me anything (again!).

If it weren't for a faithful few, there would be literally nothing.

Send in material to delight your fellow LVGC members – it will be printed (except, of course, if it is fallacious or egregious... otherwise pretty much anything goes.)

So please, take the trouble to send in your 'finds': they are most welcome!

Please do send a cool link/article/photo/discovery – with a synopsis, or your opinion – positive or negative – commentaries are always interesting. Tell us your thoughts, ideas, successes, disappointments. We learn from everything. ...

...and if we can laugh together, life is just a little bit better.