



LSGC Snippets

April 2024
Volume 13 No. 4

NEXT MEETING:

April 18th
in the Eagles Hall

Things to Remember

1. Your mug for the herbal tea or coffee.
2. A plant (or two, three, or more), or a garden item for the Sale table.
3. Those Library books that you borrowed.
4. Your membership renewal form and monies, if you have not renewed yet for 2024.



From Our President . . .

The busy buzz of Spring is even more evident on a sunny afternoon as I look out the window and witness wasps flying towards the house; no doubt forming nests in the cracks and crevices. Vehicles are covered with pollen and the flowering shrubs and trees are aglow.

Rufous humming birds arrived back on cue with the wild Flowering Red Currant in bloom. All around, the sights and sounds are brighter.

It is perhaps human nature that we feel the urge (or maybe social pressure) to control and monitor the abundance of life in a garden. I want more mason bees and no wasps, more plants of my choice and fewer invaders. Boundless energy and ample time to sit and stare would be nice too. Being thankful for what we have is the real target.

Spreading the bounty of our gardens through our **May 11th Plant Sale** is a great opportunity to mix and mingle with other club members and the public as well as selling the divided perennials, annual seedlings and of course exchanging information and experiences.

Having recently attended our school district's Appreciation Night acknowledging bursary and scholarship donors, attendees heard of the far reaching efforts that the School Foundation makes to assist all students in their academic and personal development. We can transfer many of the principles toward our gardening practices: nurturing, encouraging healthy growth, and protecting when needed.

Enjoy the Season.

Carol H.



Our Executive:

President – Carol Henderson
Treasurer – Starla Parkin
Membership – Bennye Miller

Vice-president – April Johnston
Secretary – Trixie Neufeld
Speakers – Gail Wiseman-Reed

MARCH MEETING

Minutes of the March 21, 2024 Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club.

The meeting was held at the Eagles Hall in Ladysmith with 57 members attending , and 22 drop ins which are included in the count. The doors opened at 6:15 pm for set up. Linda S and Diana G will be in charge of the Little Sales Table, Tiny Library and Seed Exchange. Joanne was the greeter tonight. This is always helpful for the drop ins and new members to get familiar with where to go, introduced to some members and the general outlay of our meetings.

Carol Henderson opened the meeting at 6:50 pm

> the clubs annual plant sale coming up on Saturday, May 11. A reminder to members that now is the time to start planting your seeds for the sale. There will be soil available for you if needed. There will be a notice coming out on when this will be available for pick up and the location.

> Looking for volunteers to help out at our annual garden sale on May 11th . We will need volunteers on the Friday, later afternoon, Saturday morning and clean up after the sale. There is a sign up sheet being circulated this evening for the variety of positions.

> Seedy Saturday was well attended and it was beneficial for our club to have a table at this event. Thanks to Carmen for her very artistic board and to the rest of the members who volunteered at the event. Volunteers were April, Carmen, Ione, and Linda.

> There will be two members attending the Appreciation night on April 11th , at the curling rink in Nanaimo from an invitation from the Nanaimo Ladysmith School Foundation in recognition of the bursary that our club donates annually for a Ladysmith Secondary student.

> A show of hands was taken to see if we should still have early tea available, there was not much interest so this will no longer be available. We will still have our usual break time for tea and goodies.

Something to share from a Member, April Johnson on Root Girdling

> April and her husband noticed that their Cypress tree which had been in the ground for 6 years wasn't doing well and then noticed the damage around the trunk of the tree. She dug it up and noticed the girdled root. She thought this would be of interest to our members. The girdled root was quite big and could easily see why this was no good for the plant .

> If other members have something they would like to share, please come forward.

Speaker: Chris Southwick Her topic will be on THE CARE OF RHODODENDRONS

> April introduced Chris to our members. A bit of Chris's history has been sent out to members prior to this meeting. Also, some favourite websites and books on "Gardening with Rhododendrons" have been sent to members.

April and Chris are members of the Nanaimo Rhododendron Club. She also is on the board at Milner Gardens.

Chris mentioned before she began the presentation that she loves the outdoors and gardening. She has been gardening for many years and her first vegetable garden was up near Alaska on a small homestead.

MARCH MEETING

Her garden now is in north Nanaimo and she has had to move, as she grew out of space for her rhodos and other plants.

She took a lot with her to their new home!

Rhododendrons:

There are several hundred different species of rhododendrons.

Chris mentioned some varieties and mentioned the especially fragrant ones are the white rhododendrons. She spoke on the the Black Widow, the Hachman and azaleas. That flower only has five projecting stamens as compared with 10 or more in rhododendrons. The planting of rhododendrons is important and most do better with filtered sunlight. So semi shaded sites are the best, but need sun also. Watch out for planting rhodos too close to a house as some can get quite big and bushy.

But you can move them easily enough to a different location if needed.

> Cultural considerations for growing:

- ◆ Some shade is best but need sun
- ◆ Drainage is critical
- ◆ Loamy, acid open soil is best
- ◆ Shallow planting
- ◆ Water – need irrigation in summer
- ◆ Mulch is helpful – 2 -3 inches
- ◆ Fertilization (compost is best)

>Deadheading and Pruning:

This helps the plant look better and better for creating flower buds She mentioned the Tip and Hard pruning methods.

> A couple things to watch for: the root weevil, but with a healthy plant they usually don't bother, and yellow leaves. This is a normal thing with rhododendrons but the heat like the heat dome we had a couple years ago can be devastating for the plant. Keep well watered if this happens again.

>What to look for when you are thinking of purchasing a plant:

Look for beautiful flowers and green, healthy foliage and one that can last hopefully for many years. Then enjoy it!

> At the end of Chris's discussion she had a question period.

> Carol thanked Chris for her very impressive presentation on rhododendrons.

Break for tea and goodies:

Thanks to Marianne and Haydi for the goodies and to Barb and Mi for preparing tea and coffee.

CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Needed

for Set Up & Clean Up
for our meetings.

- * April 18th meeting:
- * Doors open at 6:00 to set up, and for tea
- * Meeting starts at 7:00



THANK YOU

to the members who have volunteered
to bring Snacks to our February Meeting:

*Diana Gould
Diane Daniel*

THANK YOU

to our members who have volunteered
for the Sale Table
at our February Meeting:

*Donna Ferguson
Michele Catley*

THANK YOU

to our members who have volunteered
to be Greeters and provide Orientation
for New Members
at our April Meeting:

Diana Gould

Baskets Wanted !!

Our club will be planting up some special
Mother's Day Baskets
this year, to be sold at our May 11th Plant Sale.
If you have some smallish baskets or neat
containers that might become
a new home for a Mother's Day
bouquet,
could you bring them to the
April 18th meeting, please?



NOTICE BOARD

Nanaimo Gladiolus
and Dahlia Society

**Glad Corm
&
Dahlia
Tuber**

Sale

**Saturday
April 27, 2024
10 am - 2 pm**

Arrive early for BESTselection

Country Club Mall
3200 North Island Highway
Nanaimo



MARS

Rhododendron Show and Plant Sale

Saturday April 20, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Qualicum Beach Curling Club
Featuring the flowers of early to mid-season
blooming rhododendron species, along with
local vendors selling gardening goodies and
a variety of plants.
Free admission.

Comox Valley Horticultural Society Plant Sale

Saturday May 4, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
The Farm Stand – 5000 Willis Way,
Courtenay
Public Welcome. Cash and tap on Square
(credit card, debit card) accepted.

Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society's Spring Show and Sale

Sunday April 21, from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm
[Mary Winspear Centre](#)
2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, BC
Rock and alpine, woodland, bog & succulent
plants. A crevice garden demonstration,
displays, vendor and seed sales, door prizes,
a silent auction and tea service.

NOTICES

Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club

Upcoming Program & Events 2024

May 16, 2024

My Favourite Vegetables & How to
Grow Them
Dorothee Kieser

September 19, 2024

Preserving, Using & Sharing our
Local Harvest (member interactive)

October 17, 2024

Annual Member Plant Auction

November 21, 2024

Gladden Your Porch !
Seasonal Wreaths, Pots, & Swags.
Pat Spezowka

December 19, 2024

Christmas Party

January 16, 2025

Jarratt Hunter

February 20, 2025

Protecting Our Trees in Changing Times
Bartlett Tree Service

March 20, 2025

Xeriscaping & Drought Tolerant Plants
Zac Kregosky

April 17, 2025

Gardening For Your Site & the Seasons
Barrie Agar

May 17, 2025

Feeding the Soil: Composting,
Vermiculture, & Liquid Fertilizer
Malcolm Ho You

June 2025

Annual Year End Potluck

A Reminder . . .

As you plant out the seeds from your stash/box/bag, put aside the extras. Could you package them up and bring them along to our April meeting to donate to the LSGC Seed Basket ? You may find a few new envelopes in our basket to try out in your garden.



Cowichan Valley Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday April 27 from 10:00 am to
2:00 pm

St. John's Anglican Church Parking
Lot, 486 Jubilee Street, Duncan
Interesting, unusual, and hard to find
specimens donated by our members,
as well as the tried and tested old
favourites.

Cash Sales Only.

Step over ants,
put worms back in the grass,
rescue baby caterpillars,
release spiders back into your garden,
open windows for bees to fly home,
they are all little souls that
deserve a life too.



WINDOW BOX SALADS

Growing Salad Greens in Window Boxes

A lack of garden space does not keep you from growing and enjoying fresh veggies. Window boxes can grow some fresh ingredients for your salads.

Start with:

- > Two planters at least 8 inches deep (such as window boxes), with drainage holes
- > Seeds - radishes, mesclun mix, baby carrots, beets
- > Soil-less potting mix enriched with compost
- > Fertilizer



1. Moisten your potting mix and fill window boxes, firm soil gently in place.
2. Sow seeds of radishes and greens in one box, beets and carrots in the other. Radishes should be ready to harvest about 28 days after germination; baby greens (lettuce, spinach, mesclun), in 30 days; beets, in 55 days; baby carrots, in 70 days.
3. Water gently. Watch for seeds to sprout, keeping the soil moist.
4. Thin the seedlings as they sprout, to stand 1 inch apart. These greens can be added to salads. Thin again when the plants are twice as tall, to 2 or 3 inches apart.
5. Fertilize every two weeks with a water-soluble fertilizer.
6. As you harvest, and make room in the container, work in some compost and sow more seeds.

If you have space for larger containers, try planting tomatoes or cucumbers.

A few nasturtium seeds will add fragrant flowers that are edible!

Pesky squirrels or cats ? Cover your planter with wire mesh to keep them from digging.

Timing for Pruning Clematis

Clematis are divided into different pruning groups based on their blooming habit. When you buy a clematis, the tag will indicate which group your chosen clematis belongs to:

Group A produces blooms on wood from the previous year.

Group B blooms on wood from the previous year as well as new wood grown during the current season.

Group C produces blooms on this year's new wood only.

Because Group A flowers on old wood, clematis from this group flower earlier than the other two groups. Group A can be pruned lightly now to be contained in its space, though do not take too much off as you will be removing this year's flowers.

Group C can be pruned back hard now. These clematis produce flowers from late summer into the fall. Pruning these will encourage vigorous new growth that produces lots of flowers and stops flowers from being produced higher and higher up the plant and out of sight. Cut back to between 12 to 24 inches above ground level.

Group B can be moderately pruned now.

RECIPES

Gingerbread Banana Bread

Ingredients:

- ¾ cup butter softened or canola oil
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3 cups of mashed bananas (about 6-7 medium)
- 1 cup fancy molasses
- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 ½ tsp ground ginger
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg



1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease 2, 9 inch loaf pans.
2. Beat butter or oil with sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs until combined. Add bananas and molasses, mix until combined.
3. In medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda and spices. Add dry mixture to wet mixture and beat on low until completely mixed.
4. Divide batter into loaf pans, bake for 50-60 minutes. Makes 2 loaves.

Enjoy

Thanks to **Kris Barton**



Cat Salad
Anyone?

Apple Coffee Cake

Cake:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 large egg
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup vanilla yogurt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups diced Granny Smith apples

Topping:

- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

1. Preheat the oven to 350° (175 degrees C). Grease and generously flour an 8-inch square baking dish.
2. Make the cake: Stir flour, cinnamon, baking soda, and salt together in a bowl.
3. Beat brown sugar and butter with an electric mixer in a large bowl until light, fluffy, and noticeably lighter in color. Mix in egg, then mix in sour cream, yogurt, and vanilla til well incorporated. Gradually mix in flour mixture, then fold in apples. Pour batter into the prepared baking dish.
4. Make the topping: Mix brown sugar, flour, butter, and cinnamon together in a bowl with a fork until crumbly. Sprinkle over batter.
5. Bake until a toothpick inserted into the



center comes out clean, 35 to 40 minutes. Remove from the oven and cool on a wire rack.

PLANT SALE

Volunteers Needed!

Our May 2024 Plant Sale is looking for some volunteers to do these jobs:

Plant Crew:

Assist customers, keep tables organized, restock, consolidate plants.
(There will be reference books at the back of the hall for consultation by members).
Good salemanship!

Tally Crew:

You will be provided with a small clipboard with note paper to add up customer purchases by looking at the coloured sticks in each plant.
The sticks are removed by you at the time of purchase and saved for next year.

Cashiers:

Take cash and make change from the tally totals.

Membership Table:

Smile and show people our pamphlet and answer questions about the garden club.
If customer wants to join have them fill out membership form, take the money and hand over that form and money to the treasurer.

Tools and Books:

Mind the table and stage area. Take cash and hand it over to the treasurer at the end of the sale.

Donations:

Joanne needs to know **before** the sale so that donation signs can be made up for the raffle table.

Boxes:

We will need boxes and flats for customers to load up their purchases.

Plant Labelling:

All plants should have a descriptive label containing as much as possible of the following information:

Name (common name, latin name if known)

Colour of the bloom or foliage

Growth Preference (sun/shade/moist/dry)

Habit (vining/ground-cover/climbing)

Size

If details are not know? This is not a test, write as much as you know.

NO LIMPY PLANTS. NO INVASIVE SPECIES (the holly and the ivy are for Christmas songs only). If not sure, ask another member.

Fliers:

Limited supply. Place in high traffic areas around town. There are covers for outdoor posting. If you need more please consider printing your own – a gift to the garden club.

Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club

Mother's Day gift planting

exquisite raffle prizes

house plants



annuals



gardening tools

herbs



vegetable seedlings

perennials

Master Gardeners

shrubs


PLANT
SALE

9am ~ sold out

Saturday, May 11

Aggie Hall, Ladysmith