



LSGC Snippets

January 2024
Volume 13 No. 1

NEXT MEETING:

January 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.
5. Ideas for our February meeting!



From Our President . . .

There is a certain luxury about sitting in a comfy chair with the afternoon sun streaming into the front room while the recently fallen snow blankets the outdoor spaces. Bare branches and outdoor structures bring to mind all the features of our garden that will beckon attention as the year unfolds but for now, all is calm. My rather haphazard Garden Journal reminds me of various weather events over the years as well as trials and triumphs experienced on our modest lot. Having had extreme heat, heavy rains, wind events, and now record low temperatures, one wonders how the complex web of life will respond over time.

Gardeners are responding to the call to be more attentive when choosing plants, using water, creating habitats for pollinators and avoiding invasive species. Our Speaker Committee has chosen many local, experienced presenters to guide us in the pursuit of sustainable practices.

Beauty, peace and better health are potential rewards for the gardener. Checking out the plant catalogues, visiting other gardens and gardeners are all sources of inspiration and information. Thanks to all the club members for sharing as we grow.

Carol



Our Executive:

President – Carol Henderson

Treasurer – Starla Arkin

Membership – Bennye Miller

Vice-president – April Johnston

Secretary – Trixie Neufel

Speakers – Gail Wiseman-Reed

MINUTES

Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club
Christmas Social held Thursday December 19th, 2023



Members and guests waiting for the line up to start sampling the buffet!

Gift Exchange - 'Twas the night before Christmas' and the presents keep turning !



And when our President finished the poem, the gifts stopped on the spot !

Thanks to Pam Fraser, Christine VanderRee, Starla Parkens and Gail Wiseman-Reed for organizing our Christmas celebrations!

MINUTES



Following the Gift Exchange, members exercised their creative abilities to build table centres, and Christmas wreaths.

CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Needed

for Set Up & Clean Up
for our meetings.

- * January 18th meeting:
- * Doors open at 6:00 to set up,
- * Meeting starts at 7:00



THANK YOU

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

Lynne Fletcher
Heidi Eisner

THANK YOU

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

Cathy Victor
Rob Victor

THANK YOU

to our members who have volunteered
to set up the Early Tea for our January
Meeting:

Linda Whitten
Linda Stephanson

THANK YOU

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

Sandra Lee
Diane Gould

NOTICE BOARD

Alberni Valley Seedy Saturday

Saturday, February 10th from 10:00 am to
2:00 pm

Cedar Room in the Echo Center, located at
4255 Wallace Street, Port Alberni.

This year's event will be hosted by the
Alberni Valley Food Security Society.

Contact: events@avfood.ca

Information: <https://www.avfood.ca/>

Salt Spring Island Seedy Saturday

Saturday, February 17th 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Salt Spring Farmers Institute,
351 Rainbow Road

Salt Spring Island, BC

Local seed and plant vendors, community
groups, free educational workshops by local
growers, seed swap table and a kid's area.

Admission is by donation.

Information: [https://www.facebook.com/
saltspring.seedysaturday](https://www.facebook.com/saltspring.seedysaturday)

Denman Island Seedy Saturday

Saturday, January 27th 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Denman Island Community Hall

Denman Island, BC

Trade table, seed vendors, local garden-
related volunteer organizers, guest speakers
including talk on local corn and masa making,
medicinal herbals, plastic-free living

Information: Denman Island Growers and
Producers website.



NOTICES

Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club

Upcoming Program & Events 2024

February 15, 2024

Growing Tomatoes.
Colen Henson.

March 20, 2024

Care of Rhodos.
Chris Southwick.

April 18, 2024

Hanging Baskets.
Alex Limberis.

May 16, 2024

My Favourite Vegetables & How to
Grow Them.
Dorothee Kieser.

January Speaker:

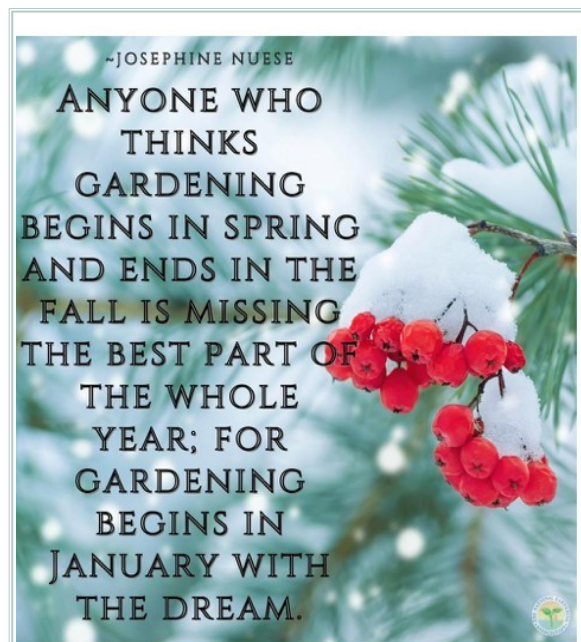
Tamara Dinter
Healthy Soils

Soil is a crucial resource supporting fiber and food growth, filtering air and water, influencing global climate (CO2), sustaining wildlife habitats, decomposing organic matter, and hosting a diverse ecosystem. Join Tamara Dinter, Dinter Nursery General Manager and Soil Enthusiast, for valuable insights on soil health, sustainable practices, and nurturing your garden. //Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, Tamara's expertise promises to inspire and transform your soil care approach. Don't miss the opportunity to cultivate a greener, healthier garden! *See you there!*

A Reminder . . .

January is the perfect month to take time out to sort and tidy your seed stash/box/bag, and to get ready for the coming planting season.

If you have extras of any type of seed, could you package it up and bring it along to our January meeting to donate to the LSGC Seed Basket ?



SOIL FOR SEEDS

It is one of the many paradoxes in gardening that the best soils for starting seedlings indoors contain no real soil at all. We cannot just dig up a little earth and set a seed into it.

Outdoor soil is too heavy and compact to provide sufficient air circulation and may carry many disease organisms.

Today's soilless mixes are mostly sphagnum peat moss, plus vermiculite and often a little perlite. This mix is good for seed-starting as it holds a great deal of water and air and doesn't decompose quickly. In a soil mix, they improve both air circulation and water drainage. Perlite retains no water itself, vermiculite a little. All three of these basic ingredients are also naturally disease-free.

Good growing mixes also contain a very small amount of ground limestone (usually dolomite) to correct the acidity of the peat and to help buffer the varying acidity and alkalinity of local water supplies. Dolomite supplies some calcium and magnesium to plants. Mixes also include a wetting agent to help wet water-resistant dry peat, and a very small amount of fertilizer. Most of this fertilizer will leach out within two weeks, so many suppliers recommend adding liquid fertilization as soon as the first true leaves appear on seedlings.

All the choices of "potting soil" and "seed starting mix" on the shelves of garden centers can be confusing. You can be most sure of what you are getting in mixes labeled "seed starting" or "germinating." The ingredients of germinating mixes contain high-quality sphagnum peat, fine vermiculite and often perlite, a tiny quantity of limestone, a wetting agent and enough fertilizer to last through two or three waterings. This mix has been screened to be very fine, and is designed for very small seeds like petunias or impatiens and for filling

small-sized containers and plug cells quickly. You might want a growing mix with larger particle sizes for filling larger containers for growing through the season, one that won't stay too wet and will hold air for good long-term root growth. Check the label to know what's really in the bag: primary ingredients should be milled sphagnum peat (typically from 50 to 80 percent), vermiculite and perhaps perlite. Avoid mixes containing manure, topsoil or muck peat.

Soilless growing or germinating mixes are usually sold in plastic bags, so if you keep the bag tightly closed and protected from the rain, the material will keep well for more than one season. The plastic covering on commercial sized bags and bales is usually treated with ultraviolet light inhibitors, giving the material about a one-year life when stored in the open. All bags should be kept closed tight to keep out disease organisms and maintain the moisture level of the material in the bag, just very slightly moist.

To make your own seed-germination mix: blend between half and three-quarters milled sphagnum peat moss and the rest horticultural grade vermiculite. For maximum air circulation and water drainage, substitute perlite for half the vermiculite. Break up clods and take out any large pieces or sticks, or use a 1/4-inch screen to sift the mixture. Add in some dolomitic limestone, at the rate of five pounds per cubic yard of mix and blend it well. At least one day before you plan to plant, sprinkle the mix with water to allow it time to permeate the peat. Rather than mixing in fertilizer, it's better to wait until seedlings are up and then begin feeding with a nutrient solution right away.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

IT'S TIME TO RENEW

Our Annual membership fees are valid from September to August.

Membership Fees:

Individuals - \$25.00

Family - \$40.00 includes 2 adults, children under the age of 19,
or students living in the same household

Payment Options:

1. Pay with Cash in person at a meeting.
Please fill out a printable membership form to bring with you.
2. Pay by cheque to Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club .
Please fill out a printable membership form, and bring with your cheque.
3. Pay online via E-transfer: LSGCmembership@gmail.com.
Please submit an online membership form. (*Clixk Here*)

We're looking forward to seeing you again !



From Marianne Hsieh, a few photos of this this of beauty that quietly made its appearance in my garden:
Romanesco broccoli.

WINTER'S DAY PROJECT

How to Make Seed-Paper Day Cards

You will need these supplies:

- 8-10 sheets of shredded paper
- 1 packet of seeds
- 1 heaping tbsp dried lavender or other dried flowers/leaves
- Old towels, strainer, blender
- Stencils or cookie cutters of woodland creatures
- Cardstock
- Printer

1. Shred or tear up a bunch of paper - scrap paper, old craft paper, or anything without a glossy finish will work best. For colored paper like the pink shown in this project, add one sheet of shredded red paper to the mix. Place paper in a big bowl or the sink and soak in warm water for 45 minutes to an hour. The paper should be soft and break apart easily at the end of the hour.



2. Scoop paper into a blender until it is filled about halfway full along with a cup or so of the soaking water. Pulse a few times until it becomes a mushy pulp. Add more water as needed to get this consistency.

3. Pour pulp through a strainer to remove some of the moisture. Don't squeeze all the water out or your paper will not form together very well.

4. Add the seeds and dried flowers and gently mix. I used lavender buds, bergamot petals, and dried mint leaves for flecks of interest in the paper, along with Radicchio, Rhubarb chard, and Alta Globe radishes. These seeds will produce an edible red plant and they can be planted at



the same time (if started inside, they can be moved to the garden once they have true leaves). Other good choices are flower mixes like butterfly or bee blends, or use seeds that will work in your garden.

5. Set up a few towels on a flat surface where you can leave the paper for a day or more to dry. Dump the pulp out onto the towel and spread out, gently patting it down. You can use a rolling pin to flatten the paper a tiny bit but be gentle so as not to crush the seeds or break the pulp. Leave undisturbed to dry.

Continued on page 9 . . .

Seedy Saturday 2024



20th Annual Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday
February 3, 2024, 10 am – 3:30 pm

Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
747 Jones Street, Qualicum Beach, BC Canada

Admission by donation. No ATM on site.
Free WIFI available: "QB Town Public Wireless"

What is Seedy Saturday?

Seedy Saturday is an annual event that provides a wonderful opportunity to gain knowledge about gardening on Central Vancouver Island and access to heritage seeds, plants, and garden-related supplies and tools. This list covers most of the activities you'll find at the event:

- In the **SEED SWAP** room, you can share your saved seeds with other local gardeners, or just buy seeds others have saved.
- **MASTER GARDENERS** are on hand to help with your gardening questions.
- **SPEAKERS** talking about garden-related topics.
- Local garden-related **VENDORS** have their seeds, plants, and related goods for sale.



More information: www.qbseedysaturday.ca

Seed Project cont'd . . .

6. Trace and cut out a woodland creature from the dry seed paper. Decorate cards with cute messages and affix your seed paper critter with a few little glue dots. Include instructions on how to plant the seed paper by copy /pasting or writing the following on the card back:

The critter on this card is made of plantable seed paper containing radicchio, rhubarb chard, and Alta Globe radish seeds.



All you need to do now is plant it! Rip seed paper into many small pieces and spread throughout the garden or in a pot filled with good potting soil. Cover with 1" of soil and water regularly until you get yummy veggies.

With Thanks to *Stephanie Rose*
<https://gardentherapy.ca/seed-paper-v-day-cards/>



AMARYLLIS

One of our favorite Christmas plants is the amaryllis, because it's available in colors of red, white, pink, white, or a combination. This is not just a one time plant, but with the right kind of care it can continue to grow and rebloom.

If you received a flowering amaryllis over the holidays, keep the potting mixture moist and place the plant in a bright location after it has finished blooming. Then it's time to cut off the spent flowers and stalk, but not any of the emerging foliage, which appears as strap-like leaves.

Smaller amaryllis bulbs that were planted in small pots of lightweight peat moss should be replanted after flowering. Move them into clay pots and use a high quality potting mixture.

Place the plant in a bright location where it can receive morning sun with temperatures of 65 to 75 degrees, and fertilize with a complete 10-10-10 fertilizer every two to three weeks.

During the summer months move your amaryllis plants outdoors, placing the pot on the northeast side of the house. Remember to water and fertilize the plants regularly, and mark your calendar for the date to bring the plants indoors before Jack Frost visits your garden.



If you want to rebloom your plants before Christmas, select the most vigorously growing plants with abundant leaves and bring them indoors in late August. Cut off the foliage to within an inch of the top of the bulb, withhold water, and place in a cool basement for two months to give the bulbs a resting period. Then, in early November, re-pot the bulb in fresh potting mixture and start watering. As soon as growth becomes visible, move the plant to a brightly lit location and watch for the the flower bud to appear. Flowers usually appear before leaves, but not always. Enjoy !

Then came old January, wrapped well
In many weeds to keep the cold away;
Yet did he quake and quiver, like to quell,
And blow his nails to warm them if he may.

—Edmund Spenser

