



LSGC Snippets

April 2023
Volume 12 No. 2

NEXT MEETING:

May 18th at 7:00 in
the Eagles Hall

Things to Remember:

1. Your tea cup for the break.
2. A plant, garden item or posies for the Sale Table.
3. That Library book that you borrowed several months ago.
4. A story from our Plant Sale !



A Letter from the President . . .

As the May 2023 Newsletter is being compiled and with our May meeting on the horizon, our Garden Club year is coming to a close. Our formal meetings will resume in September. The Summer months lie ahead with opportunities, plans and hopes for a good growing season.

Our Annual Plant Sale is, in many ways, a celebration of the combined efforts of our enthusiastic membership and our productive gardens which provide plants to stock the tables. Within our club there are creative, knowledgeable gardeners willing to share hints as well as the fruits of their labours. Every meeting reveals the diversity as well as the common threads that make this club such a rich tapestry.

Combining our experience, questions, suggestions, sense of fun and the appreciation of nature keeps us in the school of life-long learners. Celebrate what we have together at the Summer Pot Luck (details to be announced) and take pleasure in all that your garden offers you...whether it be small pot, plot, or an acreage.

Thanks to every member for sharing your time, know-how, talent and positive spirit.

Carol

PS .. At the September meeting we will hold an election for the Executive positions (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) as well as signing up Volunteers for numerous roles. Please consider putting your name forward or, with their permission, nominating a candidate.



Our Executive:

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

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

APRIL MEETING

Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club Club Meeting Minutes Held Thursday April 20, 2023 Eagles Hall, Ladysmith.

The meeting was at the Eagles Hall in Ladysmith with 46 members attending, 15 drop ins and one new member. Doors opened at 6:15 pm for, set-up, updating membership, socializing and browsing at the Little Sales Table, and Tiny Library. Herbal tea was available.

7:00 pm: **Carol called the meeting to order.**

Carol welcomed all to the meeting. And a big thanks to Ora Steyn for her contribution of books to the club. At the end of the meeting Jim will select books/magazines that will go to the plant sale and ones to be added to our library.

Please sign up for jobs at our plant sale for the Friday evening and Saturday. Sale will be open to the public at 9 am on Saturday. There are still a number of open positions that need to be filled for the Friday evening and Saturday. See Jim for the sign up sheet and also posters that are now available to post in your neighborhood probably around the beginning of May. Members will be able to buy 1 item from the plant sale on the Friday evening. Thanks to Bennye for painting up all the popsicle sticks which are all colour coded. Joanne will be doing the raffle again this year. She does a wonderful job and donations for this are needed.

Carol introduced and welcomed **David Mitchell** and his wife, **Joyce** to our meeting. He was a former president of the club awhile back. He now is a member of the Rhodo Club in Nanaimo. He has extended an invitation to our members for a bus tour to different gardens on May 20th. This bus trip would go no further than Black Creek. If interested and want more information please sign up and speak to them. The bus would be leaving Nanaimo North early the morning of the 20th.

Lions Club is looked for anyone interested in judging Giant Sunflowers this September. Let Carol know if you are available or Jim Masyk, jmasyk@shaw.ca

Shannon Crowards, an outreach worker (431-556-4949) for Poverty Reduction through the Ladysmith Resources Centre Association invites Garden Club members to share excess garden produce with volunteer pickers and food recovery centres.

A notice from Ione inviting them to pick up hazelnut whips will be sent out to members.

Thanks goes to Michele and Isabel for the goodies they brought in. All very delicious, quite the treats. Also a big thanks to Barb and Mi for setting this all up and having the tea and coffee ready to enjoy.

APRIL MEETING

Speaker: **Bernie Dinter** on Container Gardens

Carol introduced and welcomed Bernie to the club. His nursery has just passed their 50th year. It is located south of Duncan. He gave us a very informative discussion ranging from different plant containers, soils for the containers and different fertilizers and a couple he recommended to use: Osmocote 14-14-14. This one is a slow release for 3 months.

Nutricote 16-10-10 is another alternate. Recommends have drip watering for containers. For Design – use bold colours for impact and don't forget the Thriller, Filler and Spiller method when you are trying to design your baskets/containers. And with containers he usually recommends to go bigger so plants have room to grow.

His topics included perennials and winter planters. He had a question time at the end of his discussion and did stay to speak to members during the break.

An article regarding plant sale has been put in Take 5 by vice president, April. Jim's poster could not be refitted so we are paying \$265.00. Hopefully this will get people out to the sale.

Thanks to Lynn Fletcher for the newsletter we now have for the club. Remember, she is always looking for snippets for the newsletter. CLFletcher@protonmail.com

Treasurers Report: Starla gave a report of the club's finances.

Income of \$9704.39 with expenses of \$3,878.75, net value \$5825.64.

The website is available now to browse. This is an excellent resource for our club. Thanks so much to Marianne for persisting with this task and then getting her nephew Kipp on board to work on it. "A work still in progress was his quote."

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

VAN ISLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY

What's in a Name?

Monday, June 5th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Branch: All

Virtual Zoom Webinar

Audience: Adults, any and all



What's in a Name? Find out what plant names are telling you, plus explanations of the binominal system of nomenclature. We will also cover why plant conventions are no longer being followed and what this means. This presentation is filled with lots of fun facts about plants!

This is a FREE course that will take place virtually on Zoom.

*Please REGISTER with virl.bc.ca/ at the website below to receive the link and event material & updates.

Website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-gardening-series-whats-in-a-name-tickets-548117382847>

CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Needed

for Set Up & Clean Up
for our meetings.

- * May 18th meeting:
- * Doors open at 6:15 to set up,
Meeting begins at 7:00



SPEAKER for May Meeting:

The Healing Powers of Gardening.

Karlin Creed

If your neighbours don't think you're
a little crazy, you need to up your
gardening game!

Carol J. Michel

MEADOW BEE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Join us in tending and maintaining our
network of community pollinator meadows,
planted throughout the Cowichan Region!
Each team of meadow bees will steward a
meadow, meeting weekly to weed, plant, or
harvest seed. Volunteer hours can be
flexible to meet your needs. All tools and
training will be provided!

A great way to learn more about native plants, ecological
gardening, and get involved in a meaningful act of
reciprocity with the earth.

To register or get more information, please email
hannahsophia@cowichangreencommunity.org

RESILIENCY PROJECT



NOTICE BOARD

MOTHER'S DAY MUSICAL GARDEN TOUR FUNDRAISER

Saturday, May 13th & Sunday, May 14th
from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Our garden tour travels to 8 special gardens
around Victoria, Saanich and the Westshore.
Two-day passes: \$40 Mail order tickets
available until Wednesday, April 26th at noon.

Comox Valley Horticultural Society How to Photograph your Garden

Monday, May 15 at 7:15 pm
Florence Filberg Centre (411 Anderton Avenue,
Courtenay, BC.) & Via Zoom
John Bonner will be the guest speaker and share
his expertise on the best way to take photos of a
garden, focusing on light, colour, focal point,
composition, background and shape.
Doors open at 6:30pm, meeting at 7:15pm
Advanced registration for Zoom is required for
both members and non-members (\$5.50).
Visit www.comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca
by 5:00pm on Friday, May 12th, to register. two
days to process.

Mill Bay Garden Club

Saturday, June 3rd from 9 am to 2 pm
3550 Watson Avenue, Cobble Hill
75 categories of flower, plant and edible classes
round out the amazing show of color collected
from gardens all over the Cowichan Valley.
There will be a Strawberry Tea, and a silent
auction with more than a hundred items.
This show supports a bursary fund established by
the Mill Bay Garden Club to provide financial
assistance to qualifying local students entering
higher education in agricultural and horticultural
studies.
Programs are available locally at Buckerfields,
Thrifty Foods, Country Grocer, Dinter's Nursery.
Show Admission is \$2.00 for adults.

UPDATES

Our May 18th Speaker : Karlin Creed

The Healing Powers of Gardening

Since childhood Karlin Creed has been a close observer of nature and gardens. In 2015 LSGC enjoyed her visit and photographic illustrations of Ted Leischner's talk on the 200+ species of native bees that pollinate our Island gardens.

Karlin grew up moving between the remote BC Hydro town of Mica Creek and her grandparents' 50-acre farm in the Coldstream district of Vernon. Here she delighted in the sense of curiosity and belonging that nature generates: a knowing that we are of nature with its interdependence and collective will to survive.

At 17, she was injured in a rollover car accident and was later diagnosed with PTSD. Through many cycles of this illness she has turned to nature, first through hiking & kayaking, then through gardening and photography. Her 1/2-acre garden in North Cowichan is an expression of gratitude for this connection; she hopes her photographs and stories of the creatures who share her home will inspire people to deepen and nurture their own connection to the wild things in their gardens. She says, "Although trauma can knock a person off their center, there is a big balanced world here ready to catch them and sing them back into harmony with all the beauty it can muster."



Old-Time Wisdom:

DEPEND ON DIANTHUS FOR EDGING PATHS

A hard cold-looking edging will spoil the prettiest garden. Tile, slates, and wood are abominations. One of the prettiest edgings is that composed of the ordinary white Pink and 'Mrs. Sinkins', or any other variety.

also admire the fringed Pink of the cottage garden. One thoroughly enjoys the perfumed flowers in early summer, and the silvery tufted growth at all times.

Harry Roberts -

the book of Old-Fashioned Flowers 1904



GARDEN LORE

GROWING CELERY

Celery needs roughly 125 days of a long, cool growing season, so it's best to start plants indoors ten to twelve weeks before the last spring frost date.

Choose a site with full sun and well-drained soil. Start by using a garden fork or tiller to loosen the soil to a depth of 12 to 15 inches, and then mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost.

These seeds need to be presoaked, whether you're starting them indoors or sowing directly in the garden. When starting seeds indoors, sow seeds indoors in small pots or flats, and move them to individual containers when they're 2 inches tall. Set your transplants 8 to 10 inches apart in rows 10 inches just before your last spring frost date. If you plan to sow directly into your garden, set the seeds at a depth of 1/8 inch in rows 30 to 36 inches apart after soil temperature reaches 60 degrees F.

Your young plants will need to be thinned to 8 to 10 inches apart when they're 4 to 5 inches tall. Mulch your plants well immediately after planting, and be sure to water regularly.

Celery is a heavy feeder, so you may want to fertilize plants with compost tea or side-dress plants with rich compost several times during the growing season.

Your celery will be ready to harvest when it's are 6 to 8 inches tall, but just start with the outer stalks. Harvest all the stalks in in the autumn before the ground freezes.

Then it's time to dig out all those recipes that contain celery, and enjoy!



An Old/New Adage . . .

“Give a man potato salad and he eats for a day.
Teach a man to make potato salad, and
he gets invited to BBQs for life.”

<http://unbaggingthecats.blogspot.com/>



TOMATOES

Growing Tomatoes ?

A tomato is considered to be an heirloom if it has been grown and re-grown via seed saving for around 50 years. Most heirloom varieties were popular before the spread of industrialized agriculture that followed WWII. What are the four steps of hardening off tomatoes?

All this plant breeding has led to a very diverse range of colours, sizes, shapes, flavours, and other characteristics. They can be categorized in a number of different ways. We'll start with size and shape.

- [Beefsteak](#) tomatoes are the largest in size, usually quite wide and squat in shape with substantial weight. Many have thin skins, giving them a short shelf life.
- Oxheart tomatoes are also heavy and large, but are heart-shaped, a bit like strawberries.
- There is an intermediate, medium sized, round tomato type that doesn't really have a category name.
- Plum tomatoes and [Roma](#) types are oblong to round, with meaty flesh that is ideal for cooking.
- [Campari](#) tomatoes are smaller than average, but still larger than cherry varieties. They are known for sweetness, juiciness, and low acidity.
- [Cherry](#) tomatoes (round) and grape tomatoes (oblong) are both quite small, and often have higher sugar content than the larger types.

Tomatoes can also be separated by is by their growth type. All tomatoes were once vines, with indeterminate growth, but some varieties have been bred to be stockier (bush types) and we call these determinate. Determinate plants tend to put on foliar growth, bloom, and then set their fruits over a fairly short period. Indeterminate types, however, continue to bloom and grow simultaneously, producing tall plants and fruit until the end of the season. Semi-determinate types also exist, which will produce a second major fruit set before dying back.

If a spore of [Late Blight](#) happens to land on a wet tomato leaf, or a tomato leaf in sufficiently high humidity, it will send filaments into the plant's tissues, and infect the whole plant. Symptoms appear suddenly on plants that look otherwise healthy, just as the fruits are about to ripen. Large areas of the plants show dramatic brown and black infected areas, and the fruits soften, turn black, and then the whole plant collapses. It is well-worth avoiding.

There are a few strategies to avoid Late Blight:

1. Keep the tomato's foliage as dry as possible at all times. Usually this is accomplished by growing the plants beneath some sort of shelter that will keep both rain and dew off the leaves. You could build a cloche, a shelter off the side of your house, or put up a simple greenhouse. It should be easily ventilated — as summer temperatures increase, condensation appears on the interior of the structure. That moisture also creates a good environment for blight.
2. Aim for the earliest possible crop. Fast maturing varieties are available that may be able to set fruit and be finished before blight becomes a serious problem. These early maturing varieties should also be protected from rain and damp.
3. Copper sulfate powder ([Bordo](#)) can be applied to the foliage of tomato plants in hopes of preventing the blight from actually infecting the plants. The down side of this approach is that the powder is water soluble, and needs to be applied again every time it rains.

TOMATOES

Apply a [balanced organic fertilizer](#) at transplant time, to provide nutrition for vegetative growth and flower formation. Supplemental feeding is probably not necessary until the flowers have formed. The micronutrient calcium is necessary for good flower formation and fruit set in tomatoes. Calcium deficiency sometimes reveals itself as Blossom End Rot — the blossom end of the fruit turns soft and pulpy, and the fruit loses its overall appeal. This calcium can be added into the soil by a light application of dolomite lime, or through a calcium-specific fertilizer.

[Tomato](#) plants need fairly steady moisture levels, too. If the soil is allowed to dry out in hot weather, and is then flooded with water, the fruits may split. Even moisture throughout the season will result in more consistent fruit. If you're growing in containers you may need to water once, or even twice, daily.

Tomato flowers are self-fertile. They do not require insects or other means to move pollen from one flower to another to be fertilized. Rather, pollen grains within each flower are shaken loose, and fertilization occurs within the flower. The fertilized ovary of each flower swells into a fruit (which is technically a berry), and as the fruit matures, it changes colour and its sugar content increases. If you were planning on saving seeds from year to year, you'd want to stick to the open pollinated varieties. If saving seeds is not something you plant to do, the hybrids are worth considering.

Source: www.westcoastseeds.com/blogs/wcs-academy/tomatoes

What are the four steps of hardening off tomatoes?

Day 1: Set your seedlings outside in dappled or partial sun for 2 to 3 hours.

Make sure the area is free of wind and above 60°F. This could be under an eave, a covered porch, or a shady tree.

Give your seedlings only 2 to 3 hours of sun in the afternoon (the warmest part of the day) and be sure to check their moisture levels, as seedlings have a tendency to dry out quickly once they're outside. Bring them inside for the night.

Day 2: Set your seedlings outside in partial to full sun for 3 hours

Give your seedlings only 2 to 3 hours of sun in the afternoon (the warmest part of the day) and be sure to check their moisture levels, as seedlings have a tendency to dry out quickly once they're outside.

Day 3: Set your seedlings outside in full sun for 4 hours.

Put them someplace warm with a soft breeze, if possible, and make sure they don't sit dry and wilted for a prolonged period of time.

Day 4: Set your seedlings outside in full sun for 5 to 6 hours.

Bring them outdoors earlier in the day so they experience some cooler temperatures, and give them 5 to 6 full hours of direct sun.

Keep the potting soil moist, and bring the seedlings inside at the end of the day.

Day 5: Set your seedlings outside in full sun all day.

Leave your seedlings outside all day in the sun and the breeze. They'll most likely need to be watered at least once if it's a very warm day, so be sure to keep an eye on them.

More info : www.gardenbetty.com/how-to-harden-off-your-seedlings/

Thanks to Gail Wiseman-Reed



COWICHAN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB SPRING FLOWER SHOW & TEA



Saturday, May 27, 2023



1:00 PM – 4:00 PM



St. Peter's Church Hall,

5800 Church Road, Duncan



Admission \$ 5.00

Youth 16 or under free



Door Prize Draw with Admission Ticket

Afternoon Tea \$5.00



Judged Show



Competition Open to All

**Decorative Designs , Flower Cuts,
Potted Plants**



Floral Demonstrations

For more information:

www.cowichanvalleygardenclub.com

