

May 2024
Volume 13 No. 5

NEXT MEETING:

May 16th
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. A story from the Plant Sale.



From Our President . . .

It is not often that one would associate gardening with bustling crowds and almost frantic purchasing; but on May 11th, that was the scene as the doors opened for our Garden Club Annual Plant Sale. Volunteers were prepared for the rush as the lineup was visible from within the hall. Experienced shoppers knew exactly where to head for their desired plants and the huge selection of tomatoes was quickly reduced before the empty tables were put aside. As with any successful event, the background planning, the onsite work and the sharing of tasks was evident. Previous experience and new ideas blended and that input will strengthen the foundation for next year’s sale.



Weeks before ‘the sale’, individuals set about starting seeds and nurturing seedlings, dividing perennials, taking cuttings and potting up their offerings. Houseplants arrived as did gardening equipment. In the background, we had signage brought out of storage, placed around town, website information and new posters advertising the details were on display. Raffle prizes were donated, artfully displayed and managed and all the work crews showed up as promised and worked hard. Our treasured treasurer arranged for all the floats and did the final tally. Human effort and co-operation were the order of the day.

This experience exemplifies the phrase “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”

Thanks to all for being part of a great combined effort.

Carol H.

Our Executive:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>President – Carol Henderson</i> | <i>Vice-president – April Johnston</i> |
| <i>Treasurer – Starla Parkin</i> | <i>Secretary – Trixie Neufeld</i> |
| <i>Membership – Benny Miller</i> | <i>Speakers – Gail Wiseman-Reed</i> |

APRIL MEETING

Minutes of the April 18th, 2024 Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club.

The meeting was held at the Eagles Hall in Ladysmith with 35 members attending , and 9 drop ins which are included in the count. The doors opened at 6:15 pm for set up. Yvonne L. was greeter for the evening and Linda and Margot looked after the “Little Sales Table”.

Carol Henderson opened the meeting at 6:50 pm

Carol mentioned that there were still various duties for the plant sale that still needed filling so she went through the list and all positions were looked after.

- ➔ The bigger signs, advertising the plant sale have to be put up through town . Jennifer and Garth have looked after this but need help from members is needed.
- ➔ Posters are ready to put up in neighbourhoods. Thanks to Marianne for designing the poster and getting them out to members. You can pick up a few this evening to distribute and hang up on bulletin boards close to you or wherever you think the public will see it.
- ➔ Lynne Fletcher will have a write up on the plant sale for Take 5. Also, hopefully it will be advertised in local newspapers newspaper.
- ➔ Joanne has been the raffle coordinator for many years and is now looking for someone to take this position over. Maybe, a member could shadow her this year. The job includes sending out e mails for donations and keep track of names and what members bring in; look after the ticket sales and then making sure the person who has won gets notice so pick up can be arranged.

Speaker: Alexandria Limberis - Creation Of Beautiful Hanging Baskets

April introduced Alexandria to members.

Alexandria is a certified horticulturist who will give us a demonstration tonight on how to assemble a hanging baskets. For many years Alexandria worked for a local nursery creating hanging baskets and specialty planters along with operating a landscape maintenance business.

In 2021 she rebranded as *Plants Become Art* to specialize in design and consulting.

If you would like to learn more about her services check out the website at plantsbecomeart.ca

Some pointers she mentioned on making up your own hanging basket are:

- ★ Soil should be fluffy and she uses organic soil A couple soils that she prefers is My Soil and another is the Sunshine Mix. She uses the the organic fertilizer (the liquid or powder) This should be worked into the soil well. A fertilizer mentioned was Gaia Green All Purpose. Usually try to feed the plants fertilizer weekly.
- ★ Keep the plants you pot preferably the same size and try to have a colour scheme.
- ★ Make sure to take off the bottom part of the plant to help the full growth and also snipping off the blooms. This will give the plants a good start to becoming a full and healthy show in your hanging basket for the season.
- ★ Sometimes adding a trailing plant that can climb up the wires of the basket can be quite attractive. An example would be a thumbergia .

APRIL MEETING

- ★ Avoid root bound plants if buying them from a nursery. Alexandria did a little snipping around the roots to loosen them up a bit.
- ★ Remember drainage is important for annuals.
- ★ Keeping the plant tags to identify the plants is important.

One planter she did make up was a edible planter and this basket of herbs will keep on giving! In this she has sage as the centerpiece, parsley, mint, golden oregano and French thyme. To make it a bit more colourful she added a few violas.

There was a question period and members could then check check out the hanging basket she had made up for us.

Carol thanked Alexandria for sharing her expertise in this topic.

This is where we had a break for our tea and goodies. Also gives members a chance to mingle and socialize. Also to check out the Little Sales Table and Little Library. Thanks to Diana G. and Dianne D. for bringing in the delicious goodies tonight.

A big thanks to Barb and Mi for always setting up the tea, coffee and goodies.

Carol Henderson reconvened the meeting

She thanked members for always stepping up for the different activities that keep the club flourishing.

Committees:

Garden Tours

Pam mentioned that there are a few garden tours coming up in May.

- ★ The Cowichan Valley Rhododendrons which is on May 18th. Tickets are \$20.00 Pam will organize a car pool when she knows how many members are interested in going. There will be a notice coming out so you will have more information if you are interested.
- ★ Local Rotary Garden Tour. Pam will sell tickets for this at our next meeting in May. The date for this is May 26th and more info on this also.
- ★ Malcom will have a garden tour of his garden of his various peonies. This date is on May 18th. Address: 3616 Seaview Road.
- ★ For the plant sale Jim has offered his green house for the assembling of the Mother's Day baskets. This will be on May 2nd at 10 am. Carol with a couple other members will do the purchasing of the plants for the baskets a couple days prior to the assembling, April 30th

Treasurer: Starla Parkin

The profit/loss amount right now is at: \$6,452.49.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Trixie Neufeld, Secretary

**May Speaker:
Dorothee Kieser**

*My Favourite Vegetables & How to
Grow Them*

Upon retirement as a biologist, Dorothee wholeheartedly embraced gardening. She maintains her own large garden growing rhododendrons, fruit trees, and vegetables.

Being a Certified Master Gardener, she teaches practical gardening through hands-on and theoretical sessions. She currently is Past- President and Lead Mentor of the Vancouver Island Master Gardeners Association and she regularly volunteers the Nanaimo Community Garden

Open Garden

You are invited to tour
Malcolm Ho You's garden
of **rare peonies** in bloom
on Saturday May 18th
from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm
at 3616 Seaview Crescent,
Ladysmith
All are Welcome



Rotary  Ladysmith Rotary
24th Annual

Garden Tour
Sunday, May 26th, 2024

Admission
\$25



10 am - 4 pm Self-guided tour
Tickets available from 9 - 11 am
the day of the tour
in the upper parking lot @ Country Grocer
and in advance May 1st

at Country Grocer Ladysmith,
Nancy's Fashions, Juniper & Sage Decor,
Ladysmith Whole Health Pharmacy
and from any Rotarian
or contact ladysmithrotaryclub@gmail.com

Event sponsor



Our Community. Your Credit Union.

Program sponsor



All proceeds to support Ladysmith Rotary projects

Comox Valley Horticultural Society

May Meeting: **How to create rock and
crevice gardens**

Monday, May 27 at 7:15, doors open at 6:30
Florence Filberg Centre in Courtenay.

Guest speaker Paul Spriggs will share his decades of knowledge on creating rock and crevice gardens having learnt from one of the original innovators, Zdenek Zvolanek of the Czech Republic. Paul's an avid plant explorer, photographer, mountaineer and is a past President of Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Society.

Available via Zoom – register on website:
www.comoxvalleyhortsociety.ca by 5:00pm
Friday, May 24.

Cost: \$5.50

CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Needed

for Set Up & Clean Up
for our meetings.

- * May 16th 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 May Meeting:

*Christine VanderRee
Shannon Cowards
Margot Allen*

THANK YOU

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

*Cindy Power
Dave Power*

THANK YOU

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

Cathy Watts

Into my dotage, I will stick with my simple way of remembering a few names. The white cemetery Iris is Gene Ham's. And the Oxford Orphanage plant is Elizabeth Lawrence's. Neither one introduced these plants, but they happily passed these passalongs to anyone who liked a good story.

NOTICE BOARD

VIU

Backyard Chickens – Basics and Biosecurity

Tuesday, May 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Cowichan Campus

Join James Lockwood of Lockwood Farms and Conrad Murphy of Providence Farm for an introduction to breed selection, housing, protection from predators, feed requirements, health concerns, biosecurity and more.

Cost: \$30 + GST

Irrigation Design

Tuesday, May 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Cowichan Campus

Learn how to select and design a system based on your water supply, crops, soil type, drainage, and the local environment. This helps you to use only the water that you need for your crops. A hands-on workshop that will include a tour of the systems in place at Providence Farm.

Cost: \$30 + GST

Milner Gardens

Fairy Houses

Thursday, June 20th to Sunday, June 23rd
11:00am to 4:30pm with viewing til 5:00pm

Cost: \$14/Adult, \$8/Youth, Children free
Fairy Houses have appeared throughout the gardens in honour

of Veronica Milner's belief in Fairies....Once a year during the summer solstice the Milner Fairy Houses become visible to the human eye.



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 Rhododendron Society SPRING GARDEN TOUR

**Five Private Gardens Open to the Public
Saturday, May 18, 2024, 10am – 4pm**

**THESE ARE ALL RHODODENDRONS!!
Deer Proof Shrubs! You Should See Them Blooming!**



\$20 Tickets (cash or cheque) available at:

Dinter's Nursery; Buckerfields; Volume One Bookstore;
Crazy Daisy Garden Shop; Old Farm Garden Centre

PLANT SALE



Thanks to Margot Allen for these pictures.

PLANT SALE



Integrated Pest Management

Healthy organic gardens are full of bugs. Thousands of species of insects and other invertebrates make their homes in the soil and on the plants. In a balanced garden ecosystem, pest species are the exception, and infestations are rare. We feed the soil with organic matter and encourage a diverse soil ecology. With healthy soil, our plants will be more vigorous, and better prepared to deal with stress.

Integrated Pest Management is an ecological approach to pest control that focuses on prevention, observation, and thoughtful, careful intervention only when needed. Chemical pesticide are used only after all other avenues of control have failed.

The Six Principles of Integrated Pest Management:

1. *Acceptable Pest Levels*

The goal is not to eradicate all pest insects from the garden, just to control their population. It's almost impossible to remove an entire pest population, as this puts pressure on the rest of the ecosystem. In IPM, we establish acceptable pest population levels, or "action thresholds." Then, only if the action threshold is crossed do we intervene.

The action threshold is specific to the pest insect, and also specific to the site. Pest species that are allowed to survive reduce "selection pressure." This stops the pest developing resistance to chemicals produced by the plant or applied to the crop. Maintaining non-resistant pests is an important consideration.

2. *Preventive Cultural Practices*

- (a) Selecting the right plant variety for the site.
- (b) Crop rotation.
- (c) Maintaining healthy crops.
- (d) Keeping the growing area clean, free from diseased plants, and hiding spots for slugs, or pests
- (e) Using physical barriers such as row cover or netting.
- (f) Planting to attract predatory insects.

3. *Monitoring*

Regular observation is essential. First physically inspects plants for signs of pest insects, damage, or other stresses. Traps like sticky cards can monitor population levels. Careful monitoring of a crop will reveal the when the action threshold is first broken.

Secondly, correctly identify the pest species, and understand its life cycle. For instance, many insects are more susceptible to biological control in the larval stage than they are as adults. Some families of insects (moths and butterflies, as opposed to beetles) share a common susceptibility to certain treatments.

Keeping records is essential as insect populations rise and fall, and their behaviour changes, at different times of the year.

Continued on page 10 . . .

IPM

Note when they first appear in the spring, or when they're laying eggs. When did you notice crop damage, and which plants were most affected.

4. Mechanical Controls

When that action threshold has been broken, and the insect identified, the first methods of control are mechanical. Some pests can be hand picked from the plants, but others, such as aphids, can be dislodged with a blast from the hose. Places where the pests might be breeding or hiding out during the day can be removed. Barriers such as row cover can be put in place. Traps can be installed. Some insects like whitefly can be vacuumed up. Other insects, like wireworm, can be exposed by tillage, and then picked over by chickens or the gardener.

5. Biological Controls

This control tries to use existing natural relationships between the pest insect and other organisms such as bacteria, entomopathogenic fungi, predatory nematodes, and beneficial insects such as predatory wasps, mites, beetles, and so on. These systems have a minimal environmental impact, and are often cost effective. For these controls to work, a positive identification of the pest species is critical.

6. Responsible Pesticide Use

This "last resort" to control the problem may not be an option for organic growers. Before using synthetic chemical pesticide, reconsidering what you are trying to grow. Possibly the population of pests in an area is simply not manageable, and that you must re-examine your goals or methods. Some chemical pesticides can be derived from naturally occurring chemicals such as nicotine, pyrethrum, and neem oil. However, once these chemicals are used in the garden ecosystem, the results are very hard to predict as they are not target-specific, and may impact beneficial insects, pollinators, birds, amphibians, fish, pets, and so on.

Fruit Crisp

Ingredients per person:

- 3/4 cup of chopped fruit (rhubarb or other)
- 1 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 2 tablespoons rolled oats

1. Spray individual small gratin dishes or 8 ounce ramekins with cooking spray.
2. Divide the fruit into each dish.
3. Combine the butter, brown sugar & flour. Add oats, crumble in with your fingers.
4. Evenly divide the crumb mixture over each gratin dish.
5. Preheat oven to 375 & bake til the top is crunchy and well browned - about 35 minutes.
Note: These can be put together ahead and left covered with plastic wrap til you are ready to bake them.



SEPTEMBER MEETING

Using & Sharing the Harvest

Gardeners seem to be all about celebrating, participating in, and sharing the delights and bounty of the earth . . . and what diverse ways there are to do this!

We want our opening Sept 2024 meeting to be just that . . . a celebration and sharing of the favourite ways you use or share the harvest! This could be anything from how you prepare and serve fresh garden or farm produce, or preserve and conserve it as in pickles, sauces, salsas, jams, jellies, juices or dried herbs and fruits; your favourite baking or desserts from berries and your teas or vinaigrettes or edible flowers etc for salads; your flower bouquets and other decor for home and porches; the seeds you might have saved to grow your favourite plants again the next year and trade with others.

Or . . .

The myriad of ways the harvest gives joy!

We invite you to share your ideas, procedures, or special equipment used, as we did in our January 2023 'My Favourite Things' interactive. And this time we want to integrate our whole evening around the harvest idea so we also invite you to bring:

- 1) some harvest bounty for a smorgasbord table for break, (we will label these with your name);
- 2) your harvest recipes for upcoming Snippets newsletters (or online collection?) (Lynne will be ready to receive these electronically or as a printed copy at the meeting);
- 3) preserves, produce, bouquets, wreaths etc. for the little sale table or the snack table decor; or
- 4) favourite seeds you've saved for our seed exchange if you have some to share.

Let's enjoy a harvest fiesta together!

Sandy, Gail, & Bennye
LSGC Programming