



LSGC Snippets

November 2023
Volume 12 No. 6

NEXT MEETING:

November 16th
at 7:00 in the
Eagles Hall

Things to Remember

1. Your mug for the 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. Ideas for our December meeting!



From Our President . . .

Just over 3 weeks ago I underwent knee replacement surgery and have had plenty of time to observe the garden through the windows of the house. Along with the clocks going back, we have had darker days and some extreme rain and wind events. The moments of bright sun have been most welcome. The deciduous trees have delivered piles of potential mulch to protect and enrich bare soil in garden beds, so I have applauded the efforts of those able to handle a rake.

Along with the fallen leaves there remain many perennials and annuals that could use a tidy up, but I know that there is no urgency. Spring will reveal the full extent of jobs left undone and of course I want to be able to tackle that list when I get the green light to do so.

The bird population is a source of enjoyment with the resident humming birds and woodpeckers adding colour and action. Never a dull moment! The few houseplants I have are obliging by blooming.

I am sorry to be missing the November meeting, the speaker and the good company of the Garden Club members. Thanks to all for maintaining the agendas and fostering a welcoming atmosphere. The agenda and timing of the December social meeting will be shared early in the month.

Wishing ALL good health and happiness.

Back to the couch for more exercises! **Carol**



Our Executive:

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

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

MINUTES

Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club Club Meeting Minutes Held Thursday October 19, 2023

The meeting was at the Eagles Hall in Ladysmith with 36 members attending , and 1 drop-in. Doors opened at 6:15 pm for, set-up, updating membership, socializing and checking out the plants and items for the auction.

6:50 pm April Johnston (replacing Carol for the evening) Called the meeting to order, welcoming returning/new members and drop ins. April mentioned that Carol had her knee surgery the day before our meeting and wished her a speedy recovery. Please don't forget to sign in. This is set up at the back table, and also pick up your name tag. You will also see clip boards there to sign up for various duties such as greeters, water kettle crew, little garden sales table, and bringing in goodies. Our greeters for tonight were Dave and Cyndy Power. This is such a welcoming gesture to meet members and visitors coming to the meeting.

- Pam Fraser will officiate the election of officers for the club. She will also be our auctioneer, partnering with Jennifer Forrest.
- Looking for volunteers for the Sunflower contest on October 28.th
- Pam Fraser and April Johnston will be our ambassadors for this contest.
- Phil Crouch will be our guest speaker in November and he will be speaking on "The Art of Bonsai".
- Thank you to April and Jennifer for the delicious goodies (lemon bars and chocolate chip cookies) and to Barb and Mi for setting up the coffee and tea.

Pam Fraser officiates the election which sees members standing for this year. She did a call for any other nominations. Installed by acclamation:

President: Carol Henderson
Vice President: April Johnson
Treasurer: Starla Parkin
Secretary: Trixie Neufeld.

At this time we took a short break for members to check out plants and articles for the plant auction. Pam and Jennifer (the auctioneers) handed out note paper so members can keep track of their purchases. The bidding starts and the ladies did a excellent job as the auctioneers! They could keep the bids coming in. There was a table set up at the end of the auction so members could make their payment.

Thank you to Yvonne Lewis and Joanne Armstrong for looking after this part of our auction and collecting the monies coming in.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

- Reminders for November 16th meeting
- Laurie Stark and Betsy Bomford will be bringing in the goodies.
- Little Sales table will be looked after by Jane Fowler and Dave Power
- Still looking for a greeter for this meeting.

MOMENTS FROM OUR OCTOBER MEETING



Sunflower Competition Judges



CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Needed

for Set Up & Clean Up
for our meetings.



- * Nov. 16th meeting:
- * Doors open at 6:15 to set up,
- * Tea will be ready at 6:30
- * Meeting begins at 7:00

THANK YOU

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

Betsy Bomford
Kris Barton

THANK YOU

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

Jane Fowler
Dave Power

THANK YOU

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

Linda Stark
Betsy Bomford

*Now by great marshes wrapt in mist,
Or past some river's mouth,
Throughout the long, still autumn day
Wild birds are flying south.
—Wilfred Campbell,
Canadian poet (1861–1918)*

NOTICE BOARD

The Butterflyway Project team David Suzuki Foundation

Webinar: Growing Native Plants from Seed
Sunday, November 26th. 11:00 AM

A reliable and affordable source of native plants
is sowing seeds in winter, growing wildflowers
and grasses from seed.

Webinar is free - Register [HERE](#)

Dinter Nursery

Christmas Open House & Market

Saturday, November 25 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Stroll among the Christmas trees, visit the Local
Makers Market from 10:00 to 3:00.

Master Gardeners of Vancouver Island Plant Identification and Culture Workshop with Jane Tice

November 18 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Horticulture Centre of the Pacific
505 Quayle Rd. Victoria

A monthly class where participants will be
introduced to 20 new plants that fit our local
climate. Plants are selected for our local growing
conditions and the value they bring to the garden.
Part of the class is in the classroom and part is
outdoors. Dress for the weather.

Cost HCP Members \$40, Non-Members \$50
Register by phone at 250 479 6162 or online at
<https://hcp.ca/event/plant-identification-culture-workshop/2023-02-11/>



NOVEMBER SPEAKER

November Speaker: **PHIL CROUCH**

The Art of Bonsai

My love for bonsai all started with Mr. Miagi when I saw the Karate Kid as a child.

At age 23 I became a father and received my first bonsai and the book “The Bonsai Handbook” by David Prescott, as a gift. That is when my journey began and I have been practicing and learning ever since.

I am completely self-taught and currently have a collection of over 150 little trees at various stages of development at my home in Ladysmith, B.C.

My favorites are Japanese Maples and Hemlocks and I love the Literati style.



MEMBERSHIP

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 it with your cheque.
3. Pay online via E-transfer: LSGCmembership@gmail.com.
Please submit an online membership form. (see *Clixk Here*)

We're looking forward to seeing you again !

Pumpkin Scones

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp cinnamon
1/4 cup light brown sugar
3 tbsp sugar
1/2 cup unsalted butter cold and
diced into 1/2 inch pieces
1/2 cup pumpkin puree chilled
3 1/2 tbsp buttermilk
1 large egg
1 tbsp honey
1 tbsp half-and-half cream



1. Preheat oven to 425°F. In a large bowl, whisk together dry ingredients til well-blended. Cut in butter with a pastry cutter. The mixture should resemble a coarse meal. Create a well in the centre.
2. In a bowl, whisk together pumpkin puree, buttermilk, egg and honey. Pour mixture into the flour mixture, using a wooden spoon to incorporate, then knead in bowl, or on work surface, by hand several times to bring mixture together.
3. Pat and shape dough into an 8-inch round. Slice into eight equal wedges. Brush tops of scones with 1 tbsp cream and sprinkle sugar on each scone. Bake for 13-15 minutes, until golden brown.

MOTH ORCHIDS

Tips for Growing Moth Orchids

Picking out a plant:

The orchid leaves should be dark, shiny green with a smooth surface. If the leaves are wrinkled, it means that the plants are very moisture-deprived. Remember to lift up the leaves to check for scale or other insects on the undersides.

After it has bloomed:

Usually the flower spike is cut off after blooms fade, but moth orchids are a bit different. Generally, if the flower stem turns brown all the way down to the leaves, then cut it off at the base. But if only the top portion of the stem is brown, cut off portion, just above a node, and the flower stem will branch off with new flower buds. One downside to this is that the plant is putting energy into flowers rather than plant growth, taking away from growth and blooms next year. If it is a large, healthy plant with a substantial root system, then let the flower stem branch and keep blooming. With a younger plant or one less vigorous, cut the stem at the base.

How Do I Repot It?

The ideal time to repot a moth orchid is when it finishes blooming, usually in late spring or early summer. If you buy a pot bound one with faded flowers in mid-winter, repot then. Remove the plant from the pot, wash off all the potting medium, trim dead or broken roots, and plant in a slightly larger pot. Moth orchids don't grow in the type of potting soil used for most houseplants, choose a mixtures made either of bark or long-fiber sphagnum moss.

How Do I Care for my Moth Orchid?

Orchids prefer a room that has both southern and western exposures, such as one where African violets bloom happily. Cool home temperatures of 68 degrees F in winter will be fine, with indoor summer temperatures in the 70s. To initiate flowering in the fall, moth orchids respond to two weeks of temperatures of 55 to 60 degrees F.

As for watering, a clever tip comes from Green Circle Growers and Mid-American Growers. They suggest adding three ice cubes to the pot each week. The point is that orchids need regular watering, but not too much. More moth orchids are more frequently killed with over watering than with under watering.

As to feeding, I use an orchid fertilizer when I water, increasing the amount during the growth period from May through September. Any flowering houseplant fertilizer will be fine to use.



Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club

Upcoming Program & Events 23/24

November 16, 2023

Bonsai.
Phil Crouch

January 18, 2024

Healthy Soils.
Tamara Dinter.

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.



Allium thunbergii
'Ozawa'.

Perfect for the
Fall garden -
this
plant was
flowering on
October 14th !

Homemade Ginger Ale

- 2 Tbsp. fresh ginger, grated
- 1 cup water
- 3/4 granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup local, raw honey
- 1 tsp. peppercorns
- 1/2 tsp. ground cardamom
- 1 tsp. whole cloves

1. Mix all the above ingredients into a medium saucepan, heat on medium & simmer until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat, place a lid on it, and allow it to steep overnight (or all day).
2. Strain your syrup into a canning jar or other container, & add:

- Juice from 2 lemons
- Juice from 1 lime

Note: You can also add a vanilla bean to the sauce pot mixture, or add a dash after straining.

Keep in your refrigerator.

To serve: Fill glass with ice, then fill glass 1/4 full with syrup, & fill remaining space in the glass with club soda. Stir and enjoy!



Another tip: I have used bottled organic lemon/lime juice, and it's tasted good as well.

A Gardener's Lament . . .

When did everything get so heavy ?
A bucket of weeds ?
A watering can full of water ?
They didn't used to weigh so much.
Must be Climate Change.

Garden On.

Gardenrant.com

WINTER IS A-COMING

A "short" to-do list to prepare:

- * Gently dig the frosted cannas and dahlias. Brush dirt off the rhizomes, dry in a frost free location and then pack in cardboard box of shavings for storage. Keep cool, dry and well above freezing. Pull and cure gladiolus corms, store these (also caladium tubers) in a little warmer spot in a paper bag at about 50 to 55 degrees.
- * Repot amaryllis bulbs that have rested at least eight weeks or are showing growth, water lightly and set in a sunny window sill. Once growth begins, keep slightly moist. Turn regularly.
- * Pull tired annuals and add to the compost pile. *Note:* Hosta and Peony leaves need to go directly to the garbage.
- * If rabbits and deer visit your garden, check or re-install the wire barriers on fruit trees.
- * Put steel wool in the gap between the shed floor boards to try to keep out mice. Put bird seed and fertilizer in firmly closed containers to try to keep out mice.
- * Clean out paper wasp nests from the soffit!
- * Clean and put up bird feeders, putting scraps of screening below to make spilled seed cleanup easier. Turn birdbaths on their sides or move into shed to prevent freeze damage, set out shallow metal pans for the birds to use in cold weather.
- * Rake leaves. Take to compost pile. Repeat until the snow flies.

How to Dehydrate Garlic and Make Garlic Powder

Tips:

- Use latex gloves.
- Rinse all the tools/knife if you are not going to do dishes right away. Garlic dries rock hard, making washing things difficult.

1. Peel your garlic cloves, then slice thinly.
2. Place slices on dehydrator mats to dry. It helps to use parchment paper on top of the mats, so that you don't lose the very small bits of the garlic. It is also much easier to un-stick the garlic from the paper, push it to the center, and fold the paper in half to slide it into your grinder. It cleans up much easier.
3. When dry, grind to a powder.

Note: Save your garlic skins to make broth or flavor other dishes. Store skins in a freezer bag.



BCCGC FALL MEETING REPORT

There were around 20 entries into the Floral Design Show. The judge spoke about each design and how it related to the criteria of each theme. We all learned about different aspects on how design is judged. It seems when the design calls for height as did the "blowing in the wind" theme, don't add items at the base of the design. Picture of the book with flowers was a fan favourite that told an interesting story. The meeting members enjoyed all the creativity. Enjoy the pictures. Irene Reid

