

April 2025
Volume 15 No. 4

President's Message April 2025

NEXT MEETING:

April 17th
7:00 pm

Things to Remember for the Meeting:

1. Bring one or more **plants** potted up for our Plant Table, if you so choose. Small tools are welcome, too.
2. Bring your cup or mug for our break time treat tasting!
3. If you have not renewed your **membership**, bring your cheque book.
4. Remember to sign in at the door!

My favourite time of year is heralded by the return of foliage and blooms in the gardens. It seems that there has been less winter kill than last year and the April showers are encouraging new growth.

I have yet to splurge on new stock, pledging to get the weeds and scruffy plants tidied up first. When I read the bio of this month's speaker I appreciated the fact that the talk will include gardening for your capabilities. Somehow, as the years pass, the tasks have to be spread out over days rather than hours. Still, the pleasure derived remains the same even if the aches and pains are increasing. Having a place to sit down in the garden and just stare is a bonus.

With some hired help and the use of battery driven tools, certain chores have become more manageable. I aim to get less perplexed at the reappearance of some perpetual weeds. Meanwhile the miracle of regrowth in returning perennials and treasured favourites is rewarding.

It is a treat to look out the window, see the birds, unbundled pedestrians walking at a leisurely pace and all the lovely blooms.

In May, our club members generously donate plants for our annual plant sale, a testimony to the energy and knowledge within the group. It is an opportunity to learn more from each other and interact with the wider community.

Enjoy this season.

Spring- an experience in immortality
David Thoreau (1817-62)



MARCH MEETING

Ladysmith & Saltair Garden Club Meeting

March 20, 2025

The meeting was held at the Eagles Hall in Ladysmith with 50 members attending , and 8 drop-ins.

The doors opened at 6:15 pm for set up.

The greeter for the evening was April Johnston. Wanda and Michele looked after the Little Sales Table, the Tiny Library and the Seed Exchange was kept organized by Linda W.

Carol Henderson opened the meeting 6:50 pm

Carol welcomed members to the meeting and spoke a bit about the upcoming plant sale in May. She had a sign up board going around for the different jobs that have to be filled for the night before the sale and the day off. The date is May 10th.

Thanks, again to Jim for being our plant sale coordinator. Also a reminder to get your seedlings in! Thanks to Pam whom has picked up containers for us from the thrift store for the Mother's Day creations which will be on offer at the Plant Sale.

As in the past, Jennifer will order the soil for the planting and this will be available at her place soon. Lynne will be updating our poster for the plant sale and this will available for members to circulate at the next meeting. There will be the advertising in the "Take Five" and "Chronicle" but not quite sure if it will just be the one time or more as this gets quite pricey.

March 8th was the Saltair Seedy Saturday sale. Carol was there at the table with a few other members. Seemed to be well attended and members enjoyed the comradeship at the table.

Year End Celebration: We have had our pot-luck at Carmen's and Jim's home now for a few years and always has been fabulous. This year we have decided to try out a bit of a different celebration. We will have our potluck but an added feature will be the pig roast at Starlas' and the date is June 28, 2025. The club will purchase the pig for roasting and look after the porta potty rental and insurance for this. It is so nice Starla has offered her acreage/barn for this event. This would mean though that we would have to have solid number count soon of members/guests that are attending.

Presenter for the evening: Zac Kregosky

A special welcome to Zac who came in from Comox this rainy evening. Zac spent fifteen years becoming and being a nursery manage of nursery product for Art Knapp in Courtenay as well as Vernon. He started his garden career in the Okanagan and this was when he was first introduced to Xeriscaping.

He then moved to the Island. He ran a landscape business in the Comox valley for six years. During this time he was also the lead instructor for the ITA Landscape Horticulture program. He has his degree in biology. For the past six years he has worked for the Town of Comox Parks Department. His talk will center around Xeriscape with a focus on plant material and installation tips and techniques.

His term now for himself is the "smarter gardener". This takes experience in all he has done working in landscape.

MARCH MEETING

He had a very good presentation on the:

➔ Design and planning of your garden area

(Assess the area and intended usage, select plants with similar water needs, place plants in conditions where they thrive. Select the right plant for the right conditions)

➔ Understanding the garden area

(Take note of the site during all seasons. Look for problem areas. Be very thorough when assessing sun exposure. Examine soil conditions. Look for weeds or existing plants that may pose a problem)

➔ Improve Soil Conditions

(Add organic matter. Take note of your soil conditions. Improve aeration drainage and water retention. Amend 25 % of the soil and amend large quantities and remember your soil is alive. Prep the area and remove everything not needed. Bring in good soil. Install an irrigation system.)

➔ Select drought tolerant plants (native plants are already adapted to our conditions. Select ornamental plants based on your growing conditions.

Research plants origin and remember native plants be careful with as they can be invasive.)

He then mentioned now you would be at the fun part in getting your plants in the ground. Know your plan and exposure to sun etc. before you go into the nursery so you can get help with this from the experienced nursery staff. He ended his presentation showing us some different plants to think about planting such as the conifers and perennials.

Coffee/Tea Time

At this time we took our break. Thanks to Haydi for setting up the coffee and tea tonight as Barb and Mi were away. Also thanks for the goodies provided by Kris B and Joanne A.

Meeting Reconvened:

April J. had sent an e-mail to members regarding having a tour of your garden.

Three members have come forward and expressed interest that they would be happy to host a tour at their place. This would probably be in the end of May or in June. Up to the member who is hosting to choose the date and time.

Gail mentioned that if you go to the Ladysmith Library and take out a book they give you three packages of seeds to take home, every time you go! To reciprocate harvest your seeds in the fall and donate to the library.

Pam Fraser our coordinator for outings has discussed with members that she had heard the Canadian Western Show was being in held in Nanaimo this year and is on April 12. It is at the legion: 1630 E. Wellington Rd. in Nanaimo. She had a sign up sheet going around to see whom would be interested in attending and who would be available to drive. She would try to arrange the car pool. The cost to attend is by donation.

MARCH MEETING

The Cowichan garden club is holding their plant Sale on April 26th from 10:00 – 2:00 pm in the outside the Siem Le'Gym, 5574 River Road, Duncan. There was a poster on this circulating.

Queens Park

Joanne mentioned she was there on the Thursday of our meeting to start cleaning after the winter storms but still to cold.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 pm.



The Defenders

I love the courage
of the little black ants
who when disturbed
come out of their old
fencepost as big dogs
come after a rat,
take hold of me,
shake me, and growl.

Wendell Berry



April Speaker:

Barrie Agar

Gardening for Your Site, the Season & for Ease of Maintenance

Barrie started her horticultural career in a market garden on a large estate in Ireland and did her initial training there. She has worked in a wide variety of nurseries and gardens in BC and Ireland, and is recently retired from being Head Gardener at Hatly Park at Royal Roads University.

She is a member of the BC Fruit Testers and is very interested in Heritage Apples. She is also involved with the Cowichan Rhododendron Society and is on the Board of the North American Japanese Garden Association.

She will speak about gardening for your site and capabilities – planning our gardens for our sites and ourselves.



CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Needed
for Set Up & Clean Up
for April 17th meeting.



- * Set up starts at 6:15 for the tables & chairs
- * Doors open at 6:30 for members, to bring their Plant Table items, Library books and to visit.
- * Meeting starts at 7:00 sharp !

IT'S A NEW YEAR

Our **Garden Club** year begins in September, and runs to June 2025, so this is the perfect time to renew you membership!
Our Membership Table will be set up, ready and waiting for you along the back wall.

THANK YOU

Thanks to **Haydi** for preparing the Coffee and Tea for our breaks. Please remember to bring your mug (or cup) for the break.

Alert to Garden Club Members:

If you're getting a few plants together for the Garden Club Plant Sale and need some soil to fill the pots, please help yourself from the pile under the ugly blue tarp at
375 Chemainus Road.

There's a shovel there, but bring your own containers. No need to alert the residents, & you can park anywhere that's convenient (for a short time).

If you have spare gallon pots, feel free to leave them or take them. Happy potting!

NOTICE BOARD

The Nanaimo Gladiolus and Dahlia Society

May General Meeting:

Tuesday, May 6th at 7:00 pm
Philip Anglican Church Hall,
1797 Cedar Road, Cedar.

Doors open at 6:30 pm with a brief business meeting starting followed by a display of plants brought in by members, a coffee break. To join us please come to a meeting or contact Vern Stephens at 250-755-1412 or Claire Crowe at 604-813-8518

Glad Corm and Dahlia Tuber Sale:

Saturday, April 26th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Country Club Centre, 3200 North Island Highway, Nanaimo.

Nanaimo Rhododendron Society

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, May 8th from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Regular meeting at Beban Park
Janice Matson will speak about about Landscaping for the Seasons.

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society

Monthly Meeting

Sunday, April 27th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Royal Canadian Legion Mount Benson Branch at 1630 E Wellington Road, Nanaimo

Dinter Nursery

Build a Basket for Mom!

Friday, May 9th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Our Build a Hanging Basket for Mom event takes place on a drop in basis. The basket will be 8 inches in diameter and we have a selection of flowers for the children to choose from to plant, with team members available to assist.

This event is a fundraiser with all proceeds going towards a local charity. We suggest a donation of \$10 per basket.

NOTICES

Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club Upcoming Program & Events 2025

April 17, 2025

Gardening For Your Site & the Seasons
& for Ease of Maintenance
Barrie Agar

May 10, 2025

Annual Plant Sale
Aggie Hall

May 15, 2025

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

June 2025

Annual Year End Potluck – Pig Roast !

Victoria Cactus & Succulent Society
www.vcss.info

2025 Spring Show & Sale



Friday May 9, 12 - 7 pm
Saturday May 10, 10 - 4 pm

510 Mt View Ave., Colwood
(Church of the Advent)

FREE ADMISSION

Members'
Trip to the
April 12th
Nanaimo
Flower Show

Thanks to
Pam Fraser



A Tip from Helen Chesnut . . .

Many are reacting to the pervading atmosphere of threat and insecurity, not by screaming and shouting but by looking for pathways to a greater sense of self-sufficiency. I hear people I meet expressing a determination to grow at least a few salad vegetables and one or two tomato plants in containers on their patios this year.

Last week, a "Spring Greetings from Salt Spring Seeds" announced measures the company was taking to ramp up their own productivity and also to help the community achieve greater self-sufficiency. As "seed orders are flooding in" proprietor Dan Jason commented:

"I'm sure that most of you, like myself, are looking forward to focusing less on the chaos and turmoil in the world and more on creating our own worlds of abundance and resilience. Here at Salt Spring Seeds, we've been working hard trying to contribute to food security, and we're thrilled to introduce the Community Seed Kit."

The kit is a collection of 12 packets of seeds for beans, grains, tomato and other vegetables to provide rounded nourishment for individuals and communities. The Salt Spring Island company is also offering garden plots on their farm to local people who have no growing space.



Ladysmith Saltair
Garden Club

PLANT SALE

9:00 am ~ sold out
Saturday, May 10
Aggie Hall, Ladysmith

annuals
house plants
gardening tools
herbs & shrub
perennials
vegetable seedlings
Master Gardeners
raffle prizes

~Cash Only~

MEMBERSHIP

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

We encourage you to use our e-transfer option as to avoid lineups.

Payment Options

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

Please go to our website <https://www.ladysmithsaltairgc.com/membership.html>
for more information

We're looking forward to seeing you again !



**Flower Arrangements from the
Nanaimo Flower Show.**

SEED SAVING

Thanks to Gail Wiseman-Reed for these Seeds brochures from our Ladysmith Library ...

FURTHER RESOURCES

- VIRL has a significant collection of books & other resources on seed saving and other gardening topics. Check out our Gardening webpage at virl.bc.ca/gardening to explore.
- More detailed seed saving info, along with seed saving charts, can be found at: seedalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/seed_saving_guide.pdf
- Visit the Seeds of Diversity website at seed.ca for great seed saving and gardening info, including their Seedy Saturday Speaker Series videos at seeds.ca/seedy-saturday-series
- For helpful handouts, websites, and charts, you may want to look at borrowsaveshare.com
- Visit West Coast Seeds' Resources section at westcoastseeds.com for planting charts and guides, growing guides, and great articles and instructions on growing many different plants.
- For information on the BC seed security program and more, check out: farmfolkcityfolk.ca
- For storage, gardening, cooking, and other tips the following website is useful: cedarcirclefarm.org
- Salt Spring Seeds has seed saving info at saltspringseeds.com/pages/how-to-save-seeds
- The Community Seed Network (Canada & USA Seed Savers Exchange Platform): communityseednetwork.org
- The Bauta Family Seed Initiative on Canadian Seed Security (Creates & Supports Canadian Seed Systems that Promote Food Security & are Resilient in the face of Climate Change): seedsecurity.ca
- SeedHeads Podcast: the cross pollinating podcast where Canadian seed heroes tell their stories, share their how-to tips, and talk about the seeds they love at seedsecurity.ca/en/resources/

Support the Seed Library

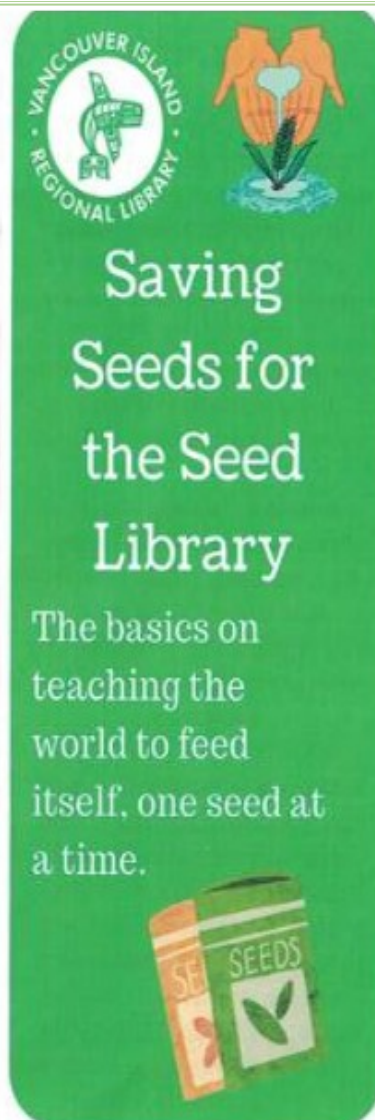
- Please return some seeds at the end of the season!
- Donate seeds that are no more than 2 years old and are labelled with the plant and variety name

Further Resources

- Gardening Page on our website with access to the popular **Virtual Gardening Series** and booklists
www.virl.bc.ca/gardening
- Planting information, gardening guide and articles and instructions
www.westcoastseeds.com

Visit us online @ www.virl.bc.ca
Got more questions? Book a Librarian on our website under "Get Help"

Made by Dalia, Adult Services Librarian 2024



A Reminder . . .

As you pick out the seed packs from your stash/box/bag that you are preparing to plant, could you choose a few to share with our Garden club members?

Please bring them along to our April meeting to donate to our LSGC Seed Basket .

You may find a few that look interesting for your garden !



RECIPES

Easter Trifle Cake

Cake:

- 1 white cake mix
- 3 large eggs
- ½ cup coconut milk
- 1 cup water

1. Add all ingredients to a mixing bowl and mix well.
2. Pour batter into greased and parchment lined 9x13 pan. Bake as directed on cake mix box.

Filling and Cream:

- 1 - 8 ounce tub cool whip dessert topping
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 ½ cups fine sweetened coconut
- 2 - 284ml cans mandarin orange segments, drained well
- 1 - 398ml can crushed pineapple, drained well
- 3 cups whipping cream
- 1 teaspoon coconut extract (or vanilla extract)
- 2 tablespoons white sugar

1. Stir together cool whip, sour cream, coconut, oranges and pineapple.
2. Whip cream together with extract and sugar until stiff.

Assembling trifle:

1. Cut cooled cake into cubes.
2. Layer the cake, filling and cream alternately into trifle bowl ending layers with the cream.
3. Decorate with more sweetened whipped cream, a sprinkle of fancy coconut and mini coloured marshmallows, or decorate with fresh fruit.
4. Cover well and place in refrigerator for at least 6 hours or over night.

<http://www.mennonitegirlscancook.ca/>



Hot Cross Buns

- 2 cups scalded milk
- ½ cup warm water
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 7 1/2 - 8 1/2 cups flour, divided
- 2 tablespoons instant yeast
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon allspice
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon cloves
- 2/3 cup sultana raisins, washed and dried
- 2/3 cup fruitcake mix
- grated rind of 1 orange
- Mix warmed milk, margarine and water until margarine melts.

1. In large bowl of mixer, combine 4 cups flour, yeast, salt, sugar and spices.
2. In medium bowl, dredge fruit and raisins in 1/2 cup flour. Set aside.
3. Pour in milk/margarine mixture. Using beater attachment of mixer, gradually add beaten eggs.
4. Change to dough hook and add raisins, fruit and grated rind. Gradually add flour until mixture begins to form a ball. Mix for 5 minutes or knead by hand until dough is smooth and elastic.
5. Place in greased bowl, cover with plastic and a clean towel and let rise in a warm place until double in bulk.
6. Grease two 9 x 13 inch pans and one 9 x 9 inch pan, or three 9 x 13 inch pans. Form buns and place in pans. Cover again and let rise til doubled.
7. Bake at 400° F for 17- 20 minutes.
- Remove to rack. Cool for 1/2 hour.
8. To Glaze, mix 1 Tbsp. honey & 2 Tbsp. Water, then microwave for 1 minute. Brush over buns.



From [mennonite-girlscancook.ca/](http://www.mennonitegirlscancook.ca/)