



LSGC Snippets

April 2026
Volume 15 No. 4

NEXT MEETING:

April 16th
6:55 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. When you sign in at the back, pick up your new **Membership Button!**
4. Be sure to enter your name in the **Door Prize Bag.**



A Letter From Our President . . .

I'm writing to share some exciting news. As of April 4th, I have transitioned to a three-day work week. At 68, I've decided it is officially time to slow down and "smell the roses."

To help me do just that, Jim recently transplanted three beautiful rose bushes given to me by a dear friend. This is a small miracle, as Jim isn't typically a fan of roses! I've even pulled my "Rose Expert" guide off the shelf to ensure they thrive in their new spot.

April, what a wonderful time! Spring is here and our gardens are waking up. The rain has given us many Spring blooms and is bringing me joy.

While, the warm Spring days are welcome, the amount of tidying, weeding, and planting to be done is overwhelming. I have to remind myself that Rome wasn't built in a day, and the hard work now will be worth it once summer arrives.

Spring also means spring cleaning. God made rainy days so gardeners can get their housework done. I recently purchased a rolling stool that allows me to sit while cleaning lower kitchen cupboards, bedroom furniture and baseboards. You all need this in your life. It's a game changer.

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter filled with the beauty of spring flowers like daffodils and tulips. I hope you enjoyed festive meals with your friends and family. And I also hope that you indulged with chocolate bunnies and Laura Secord mini eggs.

Potting up is done and we are getting ready for our annual plant sale which is less than a month away. We really depend on our members to make our Plant Sale successful.

It is quite amazing to see how the Plant Sale shapes up — from setting up the tables, to bringing the plants that we grew from the greenhouse, to unloading the annuals, vegetables, and herbs. Everything is well organized and done by our wonderful members. A big thank you to all of you.

Looking forward to another fun and successful event.

Best, ***Carmen***

MINUTES

LADYSMITH SALTAIR GARDEN CLUB

MINUTES FOR March 19, 2026 GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The meeting was held at the Eagles Hall in Ladysmith on March 19 , 2026 with 45 members attending and 22 drop-ins. Doors opened at 6:00 pm for set up. Our greeter for the evening was Cathy Watts.

Benny welcomed members and guests for the evening and did mention that it looked like the biggest crowd of the year, thus far! She called on Marianne H. to introduce the speaker for the evening; Michalina Hunter.

Program for the Evening: Is by Michalina Hunter on Growing Perennial Vegetables

Michalina is the owner of Cicada Seeds from Errington. She has an extensive knowledge of vegetables that you only plant once and harvest for years. Michalina started saving seeds with her mom when she was young and always had a keen interest in this. And you can see now it all paid off as her business now has expanded in Errington. She has her small farm with vegetables and her Cicada Seed business but is now leasing a quarter of an acre also in Errington as her business has expanded. Check her seeds and plants that she has out for display and can be purchased this evening. She did mention that if there were any questions, please raise your hand.

Michalina gave a brief description on what classifies as a perennial vegetable; the plant could live three years or more and would consist of leaves, flowers buds stems and herb small plants. The herbs does not include the ones that have a strong odor. The benefits of perennials is that they would be less work, more nutritious, more resilient, soil health, carbon sequestration, long lived, can grow in difficult growing areas and ready to eat earlier or later in the year. For an example a spinach vine can live up to fifty years. Seed and grow once and you maybe could harvest for the rest of your life.

She discussed how to manage the soil prep, maintenance, pruning, and germination. The germination of the seeds is what is called cold stratification. This can be done outside in winter, cool temperatures or in the fridge (needs the cool temperatures). You can look for instructions that are on her website. A few of the different vegetables she grows are skirrets which tastes like carrots/parsnips, and crosne called Japanese artichoke (a small white, spiral-shaped tuber and tastes crisp and crunchy).

She will be having an open house at her property in Errington on April 25th. She had a sign-up sheet at the meeting but also members can sign up on her website which is : grow@cicadiaseed

Sandy came up and thanked Michalina for coming and giving us such an engaging and enjoyable talk on her seeds and plants.

Meeting Resumed with Carmen: Carmen introduces Gunnell Borge former owner of Sandpiper Gardens in Chemainus.

MINUTES

Gunnell gave us a brief outline on how she and her husband started their business 22 years ago in Chemainus. Her daughter and son-in-law have taken over the business in the last few years. She gave us a brief demonstration on how to build up a spring planter. She had daffodils, tulips, primulas, hyacinth lilies, pansies and berthumthia, which she all stuffed into the planter. It all came together very nicely and the planter was beautiful. She also mentioned that members from our club could get a 10% discount at the store but they need to come in to register for this. Thanks so much to Gunnell for taking the time and coming out this evening to demonstrate how to make a spring planter!

Tea and Coffee Break

Thanks so much to Carmen and Diane for bringing in the delicious goodies for tonight and to Barb and Mi for setting up the coffee and tea.

Aty Bourne on the Scholarships

Aty gave us an update on what was happening with the scholarships. The Nanaimo Ladysmith School Foundation will be getting a donation for their food program that will specifically go to the Ladysmith schools. "The Friends of Holland Creek" sent a thank you card to our club stating how grateful they are for the support we have given them for the park and trails. As for the Cowichan District, there has been no response back for the bursary we were going to donate. Aty has tried several times to connect with someone there; if in the next little while she does hear from the District this will be considered an option.

Plant Sale

We have a committee set up for the sale on the evening of May 8th (4:00 pm – 6:30 pm) and the actual sale on May 9th, and members should be there by 8:00 am. The committee consists of Jim, Lynne F, Cathy Watts, and Margot Allen. Cathy gave us a little run down on what is needed to be done. Lynne will be in charge of the raffle and gave us a brief description on what members could donate for this. If you have special items, crafts, plants, to donate for this please let her know. Tickets for the raffle donations will be up from last year.

The soil will be at Carmen's and Jim's for pick up and their address is 10680 Chemainus Road. The soil will be in the black bins and under cover. If you have spare pots for members to use for the sale please bring them to the next meeting or leave at Jim's and Carmen's when you pick up your soil.

April Marington has offered to organize and plant the Mother's Day arrangements for the sale. Cathy did mention that when you bring your donations in to make sure the plants are labelled. Also the volunteers working at the sale will wear a scarf and our name pins just so we will be recognized as a member. Mentioned was to have Tim Hortons coffee set up for the patrons that come to the sale and line up so early.

There is a sign up sheet that will be going around for the various positions that have to be filled.

MINUTES

Carmen ended the meeting and thanked April and Aty for helping out on the Seedy Saturday in the beginning of March. A very successful day and lots of people in attendance. The next meeting will be on April 16th and the topic is Growing Tea Plants and Blending Teas. See you there.

Quote for the evening, “There are no garden mistakes, only experiments”.

Door Prize : was won tonight by Angela Davies (the spring planter)

Meeting adjourned at **9:00 pm.**

SPEAKER for APRIL:

STEEPED IN NATURE

A presentation spanning the history of tea, tea culture in Canada and around the world, tea growing regions and practices, and **Westholme Tea Company’s** story. Tea represents how we are connected to the landscape and to each other. For centuries, tea has been ceremonial and ritual, as it is also personal.

Tea has a unique power to heal, transform and soothe. Our teas enhance these experiences by creating space to breathe and find balance in busyness. Whether you’re creating that space for peace in solitude or community, tea is a celebration of the moment.



A Reminder . . .

As you sort out the seeds left over from last year’s and this year’s garden and from your stash/box/bag, please put aside the extras.

Could you package them up and bring them along to our next meeting to donate to the **LSGC Seed Basket** ? You may find a few new envelopes from another member in our basket to try out in your garden.

A Tip for Foxgloves:

Wondering what colour those new foxglove plants will turn out to be?

Check the leaves – if they are soft and smooth, with light green stems, they will be white.

If the leaves have a rough texture, lots of veins and the stems are pinkish, they will be pink.

...BBC Gardens host, Nikki Chapman

CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Needed

for Set Up & Clean Up
for Apr. 16th 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 6:55 sharp !

THANK YOU

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

*Thanks to our members
Kris Barton and Trixie Newfeld
for bringing treats for our
April meeting!*

*Thanks to our member
Kristin Monk,
for managing
the Little Sales Table*

*Thanks to our member
Cathy Watts
who will be Greeter*

A Reminder:

Watch for the Sign-Up Sheets for our Plant Sale at the next meeting. There are still some spots that are looking for a **volunteer** to take them over !

NOTICE BOARD

Dinter Nursery

European Hand-tied Bouquet Workshop

Saturday, June 27th from 10:00 to 11:30 am
Create a lush summer bouquet using in-season blooms from our own cutting garden. Perfect time to learn this art form as your garden is comes into flower.
Cost: \$65 + GST. Register in advance.

Nanaimo Gladiolus and Dahlia Society

Saturday, April 18th at 10:00 am
Country Club Centre, 3200 North Island Highway, Nanaimo

Coombs Farmers' Institute Seedy Saturday & Auction

Saturday, April 18th from 10:00am to 2:00pm
Coombs Fairgrounds

MARS Mother's Day Weekend Garden Tour

Sunday May 9th & Monday, May 10th
From 10:00am to 4:00pm both days
Tour 10 beautiful gardens in Qualicum and Parksville on Mothers' Day Weekend. Master Gardeners will be there as well to answer to your gardening. questions.
Tickets: \$20 (Online sale)

Cicada Seeds Farm Tour & Plant Sale

Saturday, April 25th from 10:00am to 2:00pm
1898 Swayne Road. Errington, BC
We will be running two 30 minute tours at 11am and 1pm, with time for shopping in between. Please wear sturdy footwear for the tours. This is a working farm- please do not bring dogs or other pets.

Info: www.cicadaseeds.ca

NOTICES

Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club

Upcoming Program & Events 2026

April 16, 2026

Growing Tea Plants & Blending Teas.
Westholme Teas

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Annual Plant Sale

May 21, 2026

Popular Herbs, growing, propagation, care,
maintenance, & uses

Richard White (Hazelwood Herb Farms)

June 2026

Member Potluck

A Tip from Helen Chesnut . . .

The Easter Lily, *Lilium longiflorum*, has long been a floral symbol of rebirth and Nature's awakening. The long, white, trumpet-shaped flowers and their intense fragrance to celebrate new life.

To keep your Easter lily in bloom for as long as possible, find a cool space with bright indirect indoor light for it. Keep the soil consistently but modestly moist (be sure the pot's drainage holes aren't covered with wrapping).

Clipping off the pollen-bearing anthers will help to prevent any staining on your furniture. As the flowers fade, clip them off to prevent seed formation.

When the weather warms, move the pot to a sheltered location outdoors and in May, plant it in a mainly sunny, well-drained spot with a fertile, humus-rich soil. Set the bulb at the same depth it was in the pot. Usually that is with 10 to 15 cm of soil over the tip of the bulb. In our gardens, *Lilium longiflorum* will return to its usual summer bloom period.



Saturday, June 13th to Sunday, 14th
from 9:20am to 4:pm

Tour 11 private homes/gardens as well
as a Conservancy area, and 3 community
venues.

Cost: \$25 to \$50

Tickets available at :

Buckley Bay—Weinberg's
Comox—Blue Heron Books
Courtenay—Gardenworks
Denman Island—Hardware Store
Hornby Island—Gas Bar
Parksville—Cultivate
Qualicum Beach—Ken-Dor

or online at:

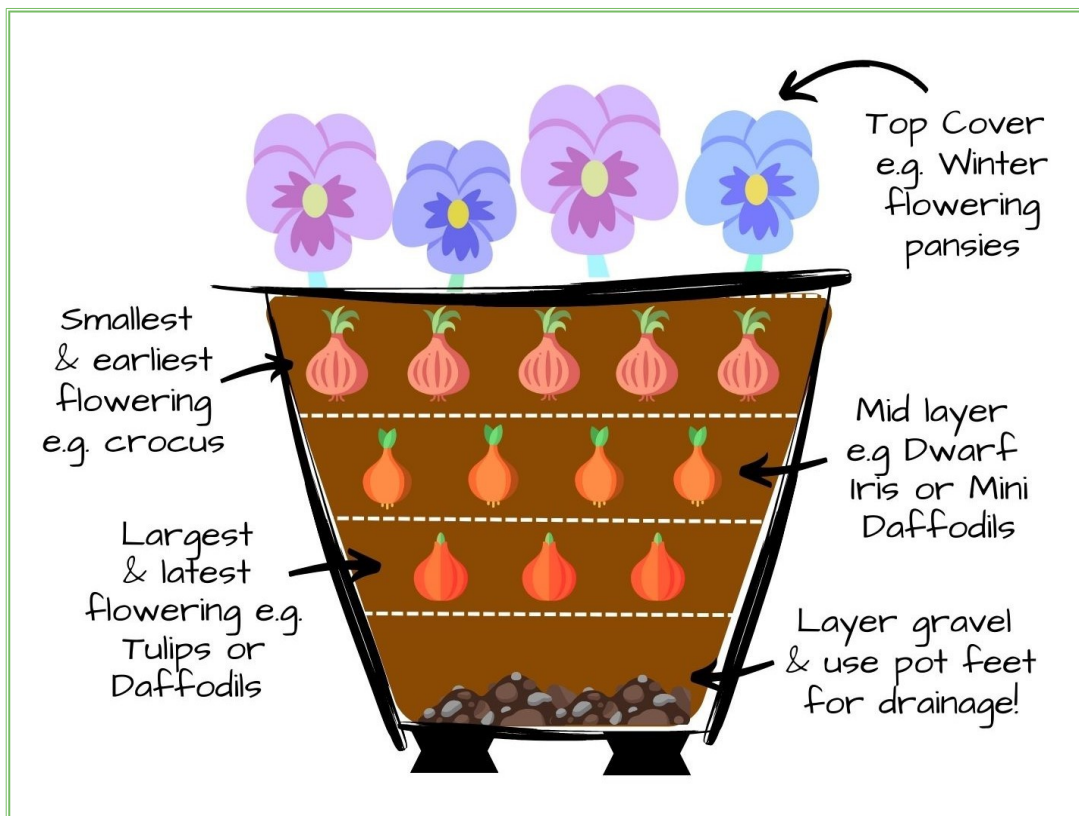
<https://denmanconservancy.org/tour/>



A SPRING GARDEN

Key Steps for a Lasagna Pot

- ◆ **Container:** Use a deep pot (12 to 16 inches) with good drainage.
- ◆ **Layer 1 (Bottom):** Add 2 to 3 inches of quality potting soil and place 6 to 8 large, late-blooming bulbs like Tulips. Bulbs should not touch one another or the pot sides.
- ◆ **Layer 2 (Middle):** Cover with potting soil and add 8 to 10 mid-season bulbs like Daffodils.
- ◆ **Layer 3 (Top):** Cover with soil and add early, small bulbs like Crocus.
- ◆ **Finish :** Cover the top layer with soil and plant pansies to bloom through winter. Water.
- ◆ Place in a somewhat protected area but where it will receive some rain and winter sun.



...Thanks to Gail Read



DRAW TABLE at our PLANT SALE . . .

The Draw Table for our Plant Sale is looking for a few items !
Do you have an interesting *plant*, a neat *craft item*,
or a *gift* that would attract hungry ticket buyers ?
Please give Lynne an email at clfletcher@protonmail.com
or a phone call to 250-912-0812.

CARROTS

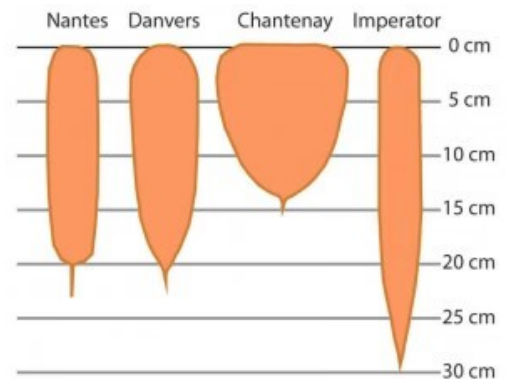
Tips for Growing Carrots:

The first main trick with carrot seeds is to sow them shallowly and then maintain moisture in that top layer of soil until they germinate. Because they may take as long as three weeks to germinate, this can be challenging, especially in hot weather or in exposed, windy gardens. The way to achieve this is to water very deeply prior to planting, and then either water very regularly or employ some other means to reduce evaporation. Direct sow the tiny seeds 5mm (¼") deep, 4 seeds per 2cm (1"), and firm soil lightly after seeding. The ideal soil pH is 6.0-6.8. The softer and more humus-based the soil, the better. Some growers like to use lightweight row cover, which helps to maintain moisture and has the added benefit of keeping away the carrot rust fly. But we've also seen some growers simply lay a 2×4 beam, or even plywood, over the damp seedbed. This is lifted every few days to check on progress, and then removed at germination.

It's important to thin carrots so they don't compete for available nutrients, moisture, and light. Thin to 4-10cm (1½-4") apart when the young plants are 2cm (1") tall. Use wider spacing to get larger roots.

Direct sow from just after the last frost date to late summer for harvests from summer through early winter. Sow at 3 week intervals for a continuous harvest. Direct sow winter-harvest carrots (where winters are mild) in the first two weeks of August. Optimal soil temperature is 7 to 30°C (45-85°F).

If you have the luxury of growing carrots without the presence of carrot rust flies, you may still be concerned with soil dwelling insects such as wireworms, which seem to be true lovers of carrots. They are so attracted to carrots, in fact, that a full-grown carrot makes a very good lure for wireworms. Just bury carrots or carrot pieces in several areas around the intended seedbed, and mark where you bury them. If wireworms are present, you can then dig up the carrot pieces and easily remove the wireworms from the bed, or at least go a long way to reducing their population. Take extra care with the carrot bed to insure that the soil is loose and completely free of stones or other debris. Truly beautiful carrots are easy to grow if the extra time is taken to produce a good home for them. Avoid nitrogen-heavy fertilizers and manure that has not been composted for more than a year, as you may end up with big, bushy tops on pitiful, spindly roots.



Companion plant with bean seeds, Brassicas, chives, leeks, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, pole beans, radish, rosemary, sage, and tomatoes. Avoid planting with dill, parsnips, and potatoes. Carrots planted near tomatoes may have stunted roots, but will have exceptional flavour. Chives also benefit carrots.

...Thanks to West Coast Seeds for these tips.



Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club

PLANT SALE

May 9, 2026

9:00 am ~ sold out

AGGIE HALL, Ladysmith

annuals vegetable seedlings

perennials herbs & shrubs

house plants gardening tools

Master Gardeners raffle prizes

~ Cash Only ~



APRIL RECIPES

Betty Crocker's Ting-A-Lings

In the top of a double boiler, melt 2 packages (6 ounces each) of semisweet chocolate or 12 ounces of milk chocolate over hot water. Gradually stir in 4 cups of whole wheat flakes cereal, mixing gently until all the flakes are evenly coated.

Drop the mixture by tablespoonfuls onto waxed paper. This recipe makes 3 1/2 dozen confections. Chill for about 2 hours, or until firm. For extra heartiness, fold 1/3 cup of chopped toasted almonds into the cereal mixture before adding the melted chocolate. or can shape them into ovals to resemble Easter eggs or drop them more rustic to mimic a bird's nest—I chose the latter. From there, the fridge did the rest of the work.



Ginger Garlic Green Beans

1/2 pound green beans, trimmed, cut in half
1 Tbsp vegetable oil
2 tsp finely chopped fresh ginger
1 medium garlic clove, minced
2 tsp honey
2 tsp lime juice
salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1. Blanche green beans for 2 minutes, drain well, cool in ice water, drain again.
2. In large skillet, add oil, beans, garlic, honey and lime juice. Cook and stir for 1 to 2 minutes. Add salt & pepper & serve.

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Asian Slaw Salad

Fill a bowl with green and purple cabbage, kale, carrots, sweet peppers, green and red onions, peas, edamame beans, oranges. (Substitute mangos for the oranges, adding fresh avocado, or add toasted almonds or pumpkin seeds)

Dressing:

1/3 cup grape seed oil (or any light oil)
1/3 cup liquid honey
1/3 cup rice vinegar
3 tablespoons soy sauce
2 teaspoons sesame oil
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon powder mix from Ramen
Noodle package (or more)

Place all ingredients into a small jar. Shake well and refrigerate until ready to use.

This dressing is enough for 8-10 cups of vegetables.

Crispy Ramen Noodle Salad Toppers:

1 package Ramen dry Noodles (use part of the seasoning package in the dressing)
Crumble noodles onto a baking sheet.
Bake in 400° oven for approximately 5 minutes til golden and crispy. Watch them, as they can burn quickly. Allow to cool and store in air tight container until ready to mix into salad.

When ready to serve, pour dressing over salad, toss. Add Crispy Noodles, toss again.



<http://www.mennonitegirlscancook>