

March 2025
Volume 15 No. 3

NEXT MEETING:

March 20th
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!



President's Message March 2025

Depending on the location and soil quality of your garden beds, the rate of growth and the stage of bloom and leaf bud formation can vary considerably between neighbouring properties. With almost daily fluctuations in temperatures, rainfall and sunlight, it is little wonder that decisions about when to start seeds, divide perennials, plant, prune and tidy up the old growth are quite subjective. One can't help but to feel some envy at seeing a well tended productive and attractive garden just down the road. The seeds that I ordered arrived last month and are safely tucked away. I am counting on a surge of energy with the increasing daylight and then will definitely get vegetable starts ready for the May 10th Plant Sale. I have heard rumours that some members with greenhouses are already ahead of the game.

In terms of pruning, I have had unpaid assistance from night visiting deer that have trimmed a viburnum and grape hyacinth leaves. Last year the latter bloomed well in spite of the munched down leaves. I am hoping that they will be as forgiving this year. A few trips to nurseries also seem justified as soon as the spaces become available through some focussed work. Digging into and turning the compost heap then spreading the black gold is a chore beyond my present capabilities, but perhaps one barrowful a day will do the job. An anonymous quote seems fitting. .

'Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it.'

I have another back-up plan, and that is to "let my fingers do the walking" and call in some help. In the meantime, I am enjoying all the returning flowers from bulbs, hellebores and primroses. While some parts of the country are under heavy blankets of snow, we have so much to celebrate. Real Spring is surely on the way.



FEBRUARY MEETING

Ladysmith & Saltair Garden Club Meeting

February 20, 2025

President Carol Henderson opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

The meeting saw 35 attendees and 1 drop-in.

Seedy Saturday at the Saltair Community Centre is on March, 8th from 10:00 am – 2:00pm. With the help of Starla, we have signed up for a table. The presence of representatives from the Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club at Seedy Saturday helps boost our membership. We will need 2 people to man the table and other members to drop in and volunteer for relief. Carmen has refurbished the signage and she will have it ready. Gail will provide bookmarks.

GUEST SPEAKER

Trevor Coey from Bartlett Tree Services

Protecting our Trees in Changing Times.

Trevor is a Certified Arborist and has been with Bartlett Tree Services for 25 years.

He looks at how to make any tree more resilient to extreme weather. With climate change we are experiencing hot summers and drenched winters! (Extreme weather ready trees).

Trevor suggests that for vegetable gardens that we use leaves and other plant matter as it has nutrients. He indicates that bark mulch has no microbial benefits.

Mulch should be used around the base of trees and shrubs as it makes the plants more tolerant to drought. Mulching out to the drip line and using a depth of 3-4 inches is beneficial. Mulching makes your trees more tolerant. Many people put the mulch up to the trunk or base of the shrub, which isn't ideal for the plant. The tree or plant should not touch the mulch as it can cause rot and insect problems. Leave a gap between the plant or trunk.

Coarse mulch otherwise known as arborist chips with mycelium is the best mulch for this type of application but isn't as attractive. It greatly reduces or nearly eliminates watering. Mulching is key to using less water, improving soil, preventing evaporation.

Root invigoration on trees that are struggling is done by an "air spade". This involves using a high pressure air hose and specialized attachment to penetrate compacted soil and aerate the soil. This procedure is best suited to spring or fall when the soil is moist. Amending the soil after the air spade treatment works especially well when "bio-char" is introduced into the soil. Bio-char is produced by burning wood, leaves and other organic matter in a high heat and oxygen deprived kiln. The result looks like charcoal but has retained nutrients that feed your trees and plants and greatly reduce the amount of watering required. Bio-char may also be added to your garden beds for soil remediation and water retention.

Soil sampling is another service offered by Bartlett Tree Services. A solid sample from a problem area can be submitted to a lab to be analyzed along with the species of plant or tree that is struggling. After it has been analyzed, the lab will make recommendations for soil remediation and create a custom fertilizer for that specific plant or tree.

FEBRUARY MEETING

With regards to spraying apple trees this early spring, GF-120 is permitted to use. Spray the tops and underside of leaves May-June and be sure to do a second application. Spraying of sulphur doesn't control caterpillars, it is strictly for fungal issues. Copper spray is for bacterial issues.

Peach Leaf curl is fungal and very difficult to control. Aphids problems can be handled with Safer's soap or with beneficial insects. Trevor recommends "aphidoletes". Apparently they will lay midges and wipe out any aphid problems. Ladybugs are less desirable in tackling aphids as they tend to fly off to other locations and don't stick around to do their job!

Trees are often planted too deep. The flare or taper should be visible.

When potting or replanting, it is very important to scarify the roots. Take your frustration out on the root ball! If the root ball is kept tight and coiled it will not transplant well. Take knife or shovel and peel outer layer and cut a few inches off bottom.

Secret tip on planting! When you plant give an instant carbohydrate boost. Mix 1 cup sugar to two litres of water and apply. For any new planting, apply again 2-3 weeks later. Do this 4-5 times. Helps establish plants much faster.

If tree is easy to shift, when you apply a side to side motion the roots have likely not branched out and you need to dig up the plant and prune the roots.

Trevor indicates that Bartlett Tree Services is setting up in Lantzville so feel free to call for free wood chips in the fall.

Garden City Tree and Landscape sells good quality mulch. He suggested we could collectively order a truck load and split it amongst our members.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Submitted by Margot Allen

March Speaker:

Zac Kregosky Xeriscaping & Drought Tolerant Plants

Zac spent 15 years becoming and being a nursery manager of nursery product for Art Knapp in Courtenay as well as Vernon. He then ran a landscape business in the Comox Valley for 6 years.

During this time he was also the lead instructor for the ITA Landscape Horticulture program. For the last 6 years he has worked for the Town of Comox Parks Department.

Zac's talk will center around Xeriscape with a focus on plant material and installation tips and techniques.

CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Needed

for Set Up & Clean Up
for *March 20th* 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.

Thanks to our members

Kris B.

Joanne A.

*for bringing treats for our
March meeting!*



In the Spring,
I have counted
136 different kinds of
weather
inside of 12 hours.

Mark Twain

NOTICE BOARD

The Nanaimo Gladiolus and Dahlia Society

April General Meeting:

Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00pm
Philip Anglican Church Hall,
1797 Cedar Road, Cedar.

Doors open at 6:30pm 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 or Don Moslin at 250-756-2064

Butchart Gardens

Children's Easter Bunny Hunt

Friday, April 18th to Monday, April 21st

Children 17 years and younger will be given a map at the Admission Gate or Information Centre to mark the location of 10 bunnies hiding throughout The Gardens. Completed maps may be turned in for an Easter treat. Children may also enter a draw for an Easter basket.

Admission to The Gardens is required.

Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society Spring Flower Show and Sale

Sunday, April 6th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Mary Winspear Centre

2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney, BC

Show features exhibits of rock and alpine, woodland, bog and succulent plants. As well, displays, vendor and seed sales, donor prizes, a silent auction and tea service. Specialty plants grown by club members available for sale. Admission is by donation.

Garden Plan for 2025:

*Plant something fun, plant something new,
and plant something tried and true.*

NOTICES

Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club

Upcoming Program & Events 2025

March 20, 2025

Xeriscaping & Drought Tolerant Plants
Zac Kregosky

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

A Tip from Helen Chesnut . . .

Problem with tough Kale Leaves:

These lose their toughness when de-stemmed, cut into fine slices, and tossed with olive oil and lemon juice (or vinegar). Massaging the leaves lightly with oil and lemon or vinegar is another way to tenderize them. Tufts of new leaves, and their stems, are tender and tasty, good lightly stir-fried or added to salads.

Spinach does not germinate properly:

Our rainy climate washes alkaline elements from most soils, leaving them acidic. Spinach needs a neutral to slightly alkaline soil to produce a robust crop of leafy greens. Even though I prepared the soil with a light dusting of dolomite lime, spinach and beets didn't grow. When I began using Dolopril, a faster-acting, prilled (granulated) dolomite lime, in preparing a plot for seeding did these two vegetables begin to produce well.

Dinter Nursery Seminars

Designing Gardens For Pollinators

Sunday, March 23rd - 1:00pm to 3:00pm
2 hour in-depth seminar with Emony Nicholls to find out how these bees and butterflies and birds like to live and what they like to eat, as well as practical information on creating a garden in the southern Vancouver Island region.
Cost: \$20. Register in Advance

From Seed to Harvest: Making the most of your vegetable garden

Sunday, March 29th - 10:00am to 11:00am
Monica, owner of [Dockerty Gardens](#) teaches how to maximize your space, time, and money in the home vegetable garden.
Cost: \$10. Register in Advance

A Reminder . . .

As you sort 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.



BEE FRIENDLY GARDEN

Building A Bee Garden

I've noticed many fewer butterflies and bees chasing around my garden in the last year. As the summers get warmer, my garden is becoming less friendly to bees, and the other pollinators.

Time to do something to change this! Let's make the space friendlier to bees. Now, to plan how to go about this.

First, a short inventory of the native plants that are busy growing and blooming. Native plants are the types of plants that my bees would have grown up with, ones that should be the best food sources for them. I can see maples, dogwoods, salmonberries, bleeding heart, arbutus, oregon grape, pussytoes, roses and kinnikinnick. Not many plants with daisy type (flat faces) flowers.

I have noticed the bees hanging out in the borage patch, and the raspberry patch, too. There are some flowers, but very few spring bloomers, only the dandelions and a few daffodils.

Lets keep the dandelions (as long as they stay yellow), and find some more spring bloomers to fill the spaces. In later spring/early summer, more flowers show off their blooms, but they are short lived. Autumn sees very few. Time to find some plants that bloom from summer right through the Autumn, and plant them in groups for the bees.

The scrubby bushes along the back fence have flowers in spring, and lots of berries in the Fall, so I will encourage them, perhaps a little more regular watering will help them spread along the edge.

As well, I need to check those short areas along the back of the various beds, to make sure that there's bare soil available for the ground living bees to dig a nesting space. I'll pull back the mulch and wood chips.

My pond will have water for the bees, there are rocky edges where they can easily access a drink.

Bumble bees are regular visitors, and some smaller black bees, so it's time for some research to see where and when they prefer to nest so I can set that space up for them.

I have read that BC has 1,450 species of native flowering trees, shrubs and plants, and 200 species of native bees. I should be able to find some new plants that like the conditions in my garden, and that are good pollen sources for our bees.

These are small steps, but they will add up, and make my garden more attractive to bees, and to the other pollinators out there.



Some Vancouver Island Native Plants:

Evergreen Huckleberry	Oregon Grape
Flowering Current	Salal
Wild Strawberry	Kinnikinnick
Pearly Everlasting	Columbine
Vine Maple	Wild Ginger
Common Camas	Bunchberry
White Flag Iris	Cow Parsnip
Mock Orange	Nootka Rose
Marsh Violet	Salmonberry
Red-Twig Dogwood	Bleeding Heart
Coast Penstemon	Pacific Yew
Oval-Leaf Blueberry	Cascara
Black Hawthorn	Saxifrages
Wild Roses	Willows
Snowberry	Lupine
Sword Ferns	Sedums

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 !

More Dinter Nursery Workshops:

Intro to Food Forests and Permaculture

Saturday, April 5th from 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Annie for this hour-long journey into the basics of using permaculture design principles to create your very own food forest. Learning about food forest principles provides a great start to developing a productive and edible ecosystem right in your own backyard.

Cost: \$10. Register in Advance.

Rose Pruning Demonstration

Sunday, April 6th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Join Nat, our resident Red Seal Landscape Horticulturalist, for a free rose pruning demonstration. **Free of charge**, no registration is required.

Tree Planting Demonstration

Wednesday, March 16th from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Nat demonstrates selecting the right tree, hole digging, soil amending and planting techniques to best set your tree up for success.

Free of charge, no registration is required.

26--Tuesday, May 7, 1991--THE LADYSMITH-CHEMAINUS CHRONICLE



GARDENERS GALORE! — Green thumbs from all over Ladysmith-Chemainus area converged last weekend for the Saltair Garden Club plant sale last Saturday. Photo by Jeff Hamilton

Hi folks! It's time to gear up for our annual plant sale (2nd weekend of May). A long time tradition of the L & S Garden Club. I'll be looking for assistance in making it a big success like previous years! Volunteer sheets for various functions will be available at our next meeting.

Jim ~ your co-ordinator for this event

Pistachio Dessert

½ cup butter, room temp
1 cup flour
2 tablespoons sugar
½ sliced almonds
8 oz. cream cheese
2/3 cup icing sugar
2 cups cool whip topping
8 oz pkg instant pistachio pudding
2 ½ cups milk
1 ½ cups whipping cream
extra sliced toasted almonds for topping

1. Mix butter, flour, sugar and almonds, using a pastry blender, until moist and crumbly.
2. Press into 9x13 inch pan using the back of a spoon.
3. Bake at 350° F for 15 min. Cool.
4. Beat cream cheese, folding in icing sugar and cool whip. Spread on crust.
5. Prepare pistachio pudding using 2 ½ cups milk and spread over cream cheese layer, while still pourable.
6. Whip cream and spread over pudding. Sprinkle with toasted, cooled nuts.

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RECIPES

Cranberry Orange Bundt Cake

2 ½ cups all purpose flour spooned, leveled
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ½ teaspoon baking powder
 ½ teaspoon baking soda
 1 cup sour cream room temperature
 1 Tablespoon orange zest
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter softened to room temperature
 2 ¼ cups granulated sugar
 4 large eggs room temperature
 2 cups fresh (or frozen) cranberries tossed in 1 Tablespoon flour

Orange icing:

1 ½ cups powdered sugar
 2-3 Tablespoons orange juice

1. Position a rack in the center of your oven and preheat to 350°F.
2. In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder and baking soda. Stir in the salt. Set aside.
3. In a second small bowl, stir together the sour cream, orange zest and vanilla. Set aside.
4. In a large mixing bowl with an electric mixer (or stand mixer with paddle attachment), cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, about 2 to 3 minutes on medium high speed. Add the eggs one at a time, scraping down the mixing bowl well after each addition and mix until blended.
5. Add the flour mixture and sour cream mixture alternately to butter-sugar-egg mixture, beginning and ending with the flour mixture until uniformly incorporated- do not overmix. Fold in cranberries.
6. Grease and flour one 12-cup capacity bundt cake pan. Pour batter into pan. Bake at 350°F degrees oven for about 50-55 minutes, until top is golden brown. The cake is done when a

toothpick or skewer inserted in the center comes out clean or with a few moist crumbs.
 7. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then invert on to a cooling rack (loosen the edges before inverting). Allow to cool before icing.
 8. To make icing - in a small bowl, whisk together the powdered sugar and orange juice.

Notes:

- Pan size: Instead of baking in a bundt pan, divide the batter between two 9x5 loaf pans and bake for about 40-45 minutes.
- Storage: You can store this cake at room temperature for up to 3 days, wrapped in either plastic wrap or tinfoil.
- Freezing: Wrap the cake up in plastic wrap, then a layer of tinfoil and freeze for up to 3 months.
- Sour-cream: I recommend using full-fat sour cream for maximum richness or substitute full-fat greek yogurt.

Servings: 12 servings Calories: 503kcal

submitted by **April Johnston**



First the howling blizzard woke us,
 Then the rain came down to soak us,
 and now before the eye can focus -
CROCUS



Lilja Rogers