

October 2025
Volume 15 No. 8

NEXT MEETING:

October 16th
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. Bring any spare **seeds** for the Seed Basket.
4. Remember to **sign in** at the door and get your free **Draw Ticket!**



President's Message October 2025

Well, the rain dances paid off with several significant downpours heralding in October and Autumn. The grass has responded by becoming green instead of shades of brown. Many of the flowers are putting on a show and no doubt, the dahlias are taking pride of place in many gardens. I will try not to feel envious. Looking around, I realize yet again how forgiving many plants are as they revive when the extremes of heat and cold are moderated. The meteorologist are challenged to predict the effects of the next weather system. Many gardeners are choosing plant varieties and methods suited to other zones, attempting to have shade cloth and frost protection on hand for the next weather cycle. Record harvests are reported for some crops while others have suffered loss. Learning from these experiences and that of others is an ongoing process. Our Speaker Committee has done a stellar job in bringing the club a list of local experts to our club to broaden our horizons. If any member has suggestions for future topics or speakers, please share the details.



Our club will be holding elections for the executive positions this month. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be confirmed and the many volunteer positions and alternates will be on a sign-up basis.

This club is an amazing example of cooperative endeavour with sharing and caring on full display. THANKS to all members and may the next LSGC year continue the traditions and increase our know-how.

*Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
Albert Camus (1930- 1960)*

SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club

Minutes for September 18th, 2025 Garden Club Meeting

The meeting was held at the Eagles Hall in Ladysmith on September 18, 2025 with 54 members attending and 8 guests. This was our first meeting back after the summer. Doors opened at 6:15 pm for set up. Our greeter for the evening was Linda W.

Carol Henderson opened the meeting at 6:50 pm and welcomed all members and guests attending. She mentioned whom our speaker would be Natalie Edmond from Dinter's Nursery.

Carol had heard from Starla Parkin our Treasurer whom had an accident this summer shortly after we had our pig roast at the end of June. Starla won't be able to continue on being the Treasurer as she will take the time to recuperate and heal after her accident. We are all hoping for her to have a full recovery and be able to continue her very active lifestyle shortly. We are hoping to have a small group of members to go out to Starla's when her dahlia tubers need to be dug up in October.

- Elections will be next month and so members can think about putting up their name for one of the positions or mention a good candidate for a position. The positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and alternates where possible.
- Lots of thanks goes to the ladies that look after the Little Sales Table and Library and Seed Exchange. (Linda W., Margo and Cathy) Check the tables out and remember the seeds are free. And if you have seeds at home bring them in for exchange.
- Carol was mentioning that approximately 120 lbs of grapes were picked at her place from the Food Share Group. (Ladysmith Resource Centre) Shannon and Tom look after this program. They have volunteers come out to pick the fruit and then 1/3 of it goes to the owners, 1/3 to the volunteers and 1/3 to the Food bank.

We will finish the business part of the meeting right after the coffee/tea break. Carol called on Bennye Miller to introduce the speaker for the evening. **Bennye welcomed Natalie Edmond who will speak on Propagation.** She gave us a little background on Natalie's horticulture experience. She received her Landscape Horticulture Certificate in 2019. And achieved her Red Seal in Landscape in Horticulture in 2023. Now she is the production supervisor at Dinter Nursery in Duncan.

- Natalie gave us all a very detailed briefing on the basics of Propagation and Division. She started out about telling us the basic tools you need such as a knife, grafting knife, rubbing alcohol, rooting hormones and a plastic bag . A dome is preferable as the plant will need a humid environment for the first while. Bottom heat is important as it will get the cuttings to root out faster and make sure to keep the roots moist but not saturated.
- Your propagation soil should be a light mix with vermiculite. She gave us a detailed outline on your **softwood which is plants in the springtime, semi softwood which is**

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summer time and then the autumn is the hard wood. Best time to take cuttings is in the early morning.

- She gave us a demonstration on a willow plant she had brought in to show members on how this can work to do an angled cut and take the leaves off . It did take her a bit of cutting to get the root system a part. A few things she mentioned on this was to prepare soil, groom the leaves, use rooting hormone, and make sure to label your developing roots.
- She did give us a power point demonstration on how this can work when you do your planting. It all looked easy enough but now the question is will it work! It can easily take up to 4- 6 months to see progress, be patient.

Carol thanked Natalie for giving us this detailed presentation on propagation. She will be around to answer more questions through our coffee break.

Carol resumed the meeting at this time. Susan has eggs for sale tonight if members are interested in buying a dozen - \$7.50

- ➔ We have some decisions to make on Queens Park. Jennifer, Joanne and Michele have been faithfully looking after the park and watering in the summers. The hoses have been heavy to move. Jennifer and Joanne have had some changes in their lives and will no longer be able to do this. Unless there are volunteers whom are willing to take this on, the club will have to notify Park Board that we will no longer look after this.
- ➔ A big thank you to all the volunteers that have put their name down for a job from manning the Little Sales Table to making the snacks for coffee time. Thanks to Barb and Mi for always having the coffee and tea available for the meeting night. Thanks to Lynne for putting out the Snippets each month. This club could not thrive without all the members that volunteer for these positions. The volunteer sheet will be coming around this evening for jobs available for this year. Positions such as: media, field trips little library, Little Sales Table, and speaker committee. There is also one that Joanne has looked and that is for someone to look after the email communication. We need a new person for this as Joanne will no longer be able to do this. This would entail someone that could set up a email list and send out notices to members of up coming meetings and events. Margo has volunteered to take over the membership list.
- ➔ Gail W from our Speaker Committee was mentioning that if you know or have ideas on speakers you would like to see please let one of the committee members know.

Coffee/Tea Break

Thanks to Margo A for providing the snacks this evening and then thanks to Barb and Mi for setting all up.

- ➔ Pam (Field Trips)
Pam is setting up a trip to Butchart Gardens on October 4 . She has a sheet coming around on this to sign up for this. Also if you want to drive. The entrance fee is \$35.50

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to the gardens and then the ferry fare and lunch. The dahlias will be the highlight of the day. Also if anyone is interested the gardens offer a tour of the green houses in the fall. For more information and the tours they offer check out their website. Pam was mentioning that this is quite something to see.

- ➔ Carol was booking the hall for next year's plant sale in May but was told that now we need a Special Event Insurance. This could cost the club \$300.00. But since we pay into the BC Council of Garden Clubs each January as part of our membership, this should be sufficient but this will be checked into.
- ➔ Minter Gardens from Chilliwack has offered the garden clubs a 20 % discount for a month from September 20 to October 20th. If you need a copy of this discount if you are interested in going please see Carol.
- ➔ The club received a thank you card from the Nanaimo Ladysmith School Foundation and from the student, Nathan McCauley whom received the club's donation of \$500.00.
- ➔ Bennye won the door prize for the evening!

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

..... *Submitted by Trixie Neufeld*

OCTOBER SPEAKERS :

Linda Brooyman & Niki Toxopeus (NALT)

Linda will share about NALT's Pollinator Paradise project, the habitat needs of different pollinators, and how you can ensure your garden is a pollinator paradise. She will focus specifically on the benefits of native plants for native pollinators, the importance of habitat connectivity, and the diversity of pollinators that the project has recorded at particular native flowering plants.

Linda started working with NALT in 2020. She has a Masters degree in anthropology, having worked with First Nations in Deline NWT and Waswanipi Quebec on traditional ecological knowledge and scientific collaboration. Through this she has learned that experience on the land, or 'in Nature' is the best way to develop and maintain an ethic of care and stewardship for everything from our forests, streams and meadows to our parking lots and boulevards. This is why she works to develop and promote stewardship projects in which all community members can participate.



(Editor's Note: this lovely pollinator poster comes from the NALT website)

CLUB NEWS

Volunteers Needed

for Set Up & Clean Up
at our *October 16th* Meeting.

Doors open at 6:00 pm for set up!

Membership Table will be ready
at 6:30 pm for updating your
membership for 2025 - 2026

Thanks to our members

April J.

Shannon C.

*for bringing treats for our
September meeting!*

Thanks to our members

Donna F..

Anne Z.

for managing the Little Sales Table

*Thanks to our member **Linda W.**
for organizing the Seed Exchange
for our September meeting!*

Thanks to our members

April J.- the Greeter

*and Dave P. - **Raffle Ticket** Guy
for our meeting!*



NOTICE BOARD

Dinter Nursery

Apple Tree Identification

Saturday, Oct. 25th from 12:00 to 3:00 pm

Is there a delicious apple in your yard and you have no idea what variety it is?

Please pick 4-6 of the largest apples on your tree, with stems and unwashed. Collect from the sunny side of the tree and store in paper bags in a cool place away from green peppers, broccoli and cheese.

Mason Bee House Cleaning Workshop

Wednesday, Sept. 29th from 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Workshop on how to clean your mason bee houses, how to harvest the cocoons of our native mason bees & how to store the cocoons safely over the winter. You are welcome to bring your own mason bee house with you for hands-on cleaning instruction

Cost: \$10 + GST fee. Registration in advance is required as space is limited.

Central Vancouver Island Orchid Society

General Meeting

Sunday, Oct. 19th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

1630 E. Wellington Road, Nanaimo

Justin Dunning, Victoria botanist and horticulturalist explores the history of Vanilla cultivation in "The Genus Vanilla".

Doors open at 11:00 with a brief business meeting starting at 11:15 pm.

Friends of Holland Creek

iNaturalist for Nature

Wednesday, October 29th from 7:00 -9:00pm

An in person session at the Frank Jameson Community Centre to learn how to use the iNaturalist for our the Bioblitz, our restoration work and as a tool for your own learning. Bring your own mobile device with the iNaturalist app installed if possible. Sign up on www.reccowichan.ca event 105706.

Ladysmith Saltair Garden Club
Upcoming Program & Events 2025

October 16, 2025

Creating Pollinator Gardens & Corridors.
Linda Brooyman & Niki Toxopeus (NALT)

November 20, 2025

Garden Tool Sharpening Talk & Demo
Sean Rustemeyer (Soil 'N Green Ecological
Landscaping)

December 2025

Christmas Party

January 15, 2026

Favourite Gardening Things: Plants,
Podcasts, Tools, Recipes, Beds, etc.
Member interactive sharing.

February 19, 2026

Grafting of Fruit Trees: A talk & demo of
grafting of fruit trees.
Bernie Dinter.

March 19, 2026

Perennial Vegetables.
Cicada Seeds & Greenhouses.

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



Tips from Helen Chesnut . . .

When asked for advice on finding homes for surplus plants:

"I'd first offer the plants to family members, neighbours and friends who enjoy house plants. Another option is to contact a few local gardening groups like the Victoria Horticultural Society and the Peninsula Garden Club. Offer the plants as contributions to the sales tables at their meetings."

When asked why rhubarb plants are sending up stalks this fall:

"Drought is a stress that can cause out of season growth. It could be that the rains that began last month, following a very dry summer, triggered the fresh growth. Another possibility is that the rhubarb clump needs digging and dividing. This should be done every few years. October is a prime month for doing this."



If you have been saving seeds from plants in your garden this Fall, please consider bringing some along to our October meeting to share with other members. As always, any notes about this seed's garden preferences are appreciated!

LSGC Open Gardens in 2025

A big shout out to the LSGC Members who participated in our first annual Members Only Open Gardens this year.

It's always interesting and rewarding to be afforded the privilege of privately viewing and learning from the various gardeners who allow access to their own special happy places.

Every garden tour I have ever been on has taught me something new and given me a new perspective of doing things a different way!

So thank you so much to our 7 Members and we all look forward to more participants in this fun event in 2026.

Malcolm Ho-You

Linda Whitten

Bennye Miller

April Marrington

Elaine MacDonald

Sieka Pardee

Christine VanderRee

... April Johnston ...

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 !

*I pause
It is the faint smell

cinnamon
a faint cool breeze
a faint sound of a
dry leaf*



I pause in anticipation

Autumn



*An Autumn project -
bottle bird feeders*

GARDEN TOURS

Butchart Garden Tour For LSGC MEMBERS on October 4th.



Thanks to Pam
Fraser for these
lovely
memories!



RECIPES

Margot's Mango Lime Loaf

325 degree oven
Middle oven rack

- 2 c. all purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 large eggs, at room temp.
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 Tbsp. lime zest
- 3 Tbsp. lime juice
- 3/4 cup neutral vegetable oil
- 1 cup plain whole milk (not low fat) Greek yogurt
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup diced fresh mango (1/2") pieces



1. Coat a 9"x5" loaf pan lightly with oil. Line with parchment paper with long side overhanging edges of pan to lift loaf out of pan when baked.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt.
3. In a separate bowl, add eggs, sugar, lime zest and juice, oil, yogurt and vanilla. Whisk until smooth.
4. Combine the wet and dry ingredients together.
IMPORTANT - Do NOT overmix. There should be the odd dry patch in the batter. Add the mango and gently fold into the batter. Pour into the loaf pan, spreading evenly and bake for approximately one hour. Use a cake tester to determine doneness. Cool on a rack for 30 mins.
5. Using the overhanging parchment paper, gently lift loaf out of pan and continue to cool on rack.
6. You may glaze the loaf with the following but I personally find it too sweet so I omit. If you decide to glaze the loaf, wait until it is completely cooled.

Glaze

- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
 - 1 tsp. lime zest
 - 1-2 tbsp. Lime juice
 - 1 tsp. Milk or cream
1. Whisk the above ingredients and drizzle over completely cooled loaf. Chill to set glaze.

Thanks to Margot Allen

Ginger Garlic Green Bean

Preparation time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 3 to 4 minutes

Makes: four servings

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

1. Bring a small pot of water to a boil over medium-high heat. Add the green beans & blanch them two minutes. Drain the beans well, cool in ice-cold water, & then drain well again.
2. Place oil in a large skillet set over medium-high heat. Add the blanched beans, ginger, garlic, honey & lime juice and cook, stir one to two minutes, or until beans are piping hot. Remove skillet from the heat, season beans with salt and pepper, and then serve.



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