

SEEDERS AND WEEDERS NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2023

Armstrong & District Garden Club

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EXECUTIVE

President - Carolyn Farris, 250-546-6083 ; cfarris@telus.net

Vice president - Vacant

Secretary - Tracee Andrews

Treasurer - Sue Wiebe

Membership Secretary - Chris Williams

Past President - Glenn Gytenbeek 250-546-9891; gcgardenedge@telus.net

Newsletter Editor - Vacant

Directors - Heather Freeman

Paul Peacock

Sunshine - Dianne Lockton and Heather Hayes

Door Prizes - Sue Rook

GENERAL MEETING

First Tuesday of month Sep to Jun in Oddfellows Hall, Armstrong except Jan

EXECUTIVE MEETING - 5:30 before General Meeting

MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW OVERDUE. Renewals not received after the May meeting will be removed from the mailing list. Renew your membership by mailing a check or coming to a meeting.

MAIL A CHECK TO CHRIS WILLIAMS AT #2-2435 OKANAGAN ST,
ARMSTRONG, V0E 1B1.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

EARTH DAY - April 22 at IPE grounds (costume making at Enderby Seniors' Centre on April 8 & April 15) Join the Walk of the Woods.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE ON MAY 13, 2023 ON THE IPE FAIRGROUNDS
FROM 9 TO NOON.

Summer Social July 22 Potluck from 4 - 7 PM. Watch for further details'

Contact Sue Weibe or Glen if you are planning to donate plants or other items.

Executive Report

It was great to see so many new and old faces at the meeting. Plans are underway for the Plant Sale on May 13. A big thank you to all who stepped up to help. We are looking for people to take on maintaining the Planter petunias over the summer. Contact Glen if you are able to take a two week stretch. Thanks to all those who already signed up. We have had Paul Peacock step up to a director position and are looking for a couple more. As well as a vice president. There are lots of small or one time jobs if you have a bit of time It Carolyn know.

Our speaker was very well received with lots of good questions and great information provided.

The executive is proposing a Summer Social Potluck on July 22 so mark your calendars and let us know if you plan to attend.

Carolyn

ALL ABOUT VEGETABLES - Doug Saba, Curly Willow Farms

Taking a soil test is a great idea. Growers Supply in Vernon is the best place to take it too. Look on line on how to take a sample in a clean container. They analyze it and then email you what it is. They will also talk to you on the phone and tell you what you need to add. They also have practical ideas for how to add something as well. Organic matter is an important part of conditioning the soil. Strawberries do not do well with low organic matter. Composting it for at least six months helps break it down and then spread it in the fall with a cover crop like clover or vetch. Take a piece of your garden and cover crop it for a year.

I fertilize about a half acre with horse manure in the fall. Cover crop it and then have it plowed in in the spring and then plant garlic and cover with hay, He uses raised beds and then removes the hay after the garlic is harvested in the fall. He will fertilize it again with horse manure. It is then really good for vegetables. Leaving it for six months lets it breakdown and then have more available nitrogen.

Greenhouses are so much fun. They are fairly warm at least at this time of year even if they are unheated. Build small green house and then put heat tape or mats down on a table and cover with hoops and plastic. He started his plants on March 10 and covers them over at night. Then transplant the plants into the bigger greenhouse and eventually the fields. If it is very cold you need to cover the plants with remay and open it up in the day and recover at night.

Some people are using no till. Lasagna gardens also work well. Compost soil is available free from the Armstrong landfill once it starts coming in from the Vernon landfill.

Hay cover is better for the soil than cleaning the ground. Alfalfa, canary grass or other grasses are the best choices. Garlic is very

hardy and the deer do not eat them. Cut off the scapes when they come up and harvest when the first two leaves are dead or when your neighbors are doing it.

Weed control is essential for vegetables. Mulching, landscape fabric, biofilm control weeds. Planting squash and pumpkin reduce water needs by providing shade over the space around them. Planting strawberries should be about 2 to 3 feet apart and the area around them must be kept totally clean. Raised beds with trickle lines and then plastic (biofilm) before planting. Make holes in the plastic for the plants that come off the mother plant. Honey O or honey eye is a good variety for this area. Cavendish is also a good variety. June bearing are sweeter or everbearing which tends to be smaller and not taste as good. Tasty Acres in Salmon Arm. Turn at MacDonalds and go north.

Raised beds can be created by cultivating row mounds behind a tractor and cultivator. Horse drawn equipment is often useful even if it is pulled by a tractor.

Potatoes need a clean ground about four to six inches deep. When you see the potatoes coming up you run over it with a harrow which kills all the weeds and the bed is clean without hand weeding. Covering them with netting keeps the Colorado Beetle off. After removing the netting when they are about 2-3 feet high they need to be hilled to about half the size of the plant. Then they are harvested with a shovel.

Carrots are once of the hardest vegetable to grow. Pelletized seeds are now available for many vegetables and they make it easier to seed. They usually do not need to be thinned then.

Seed catalogues such as Johnny's in Maine, High Country or William Dan are good sources of seeds. Hybrid seeds are better than the ones available in the grocery store. Some open varieties still work. Saving

seeds is not always possible as it is time consuming and not always successful.

Bedding plants save a lot of work. Carrots, beets, radishes and spinach need to be direct seeded. Keep a diary with dates for starting, transplanting and how successful.

Don't let weeds go to seed. Make sure you get the weed wacker out to prevent them going to seed. Wheel hoes are easier to use to get the first weeding done. Hand weeding is best after it is a little wet and they can be seen.

Worst weeds are millet. Dandelions are not the worst so it is okay to leave some for pollination.

HOW DO YOU CUT BACK PETUNIAS?

By Staff Writer Last Updated April 04, 2020

Trim petunias on a regular basis by deadheading blooms as they wilt and by cutting growth back to at least half the length midway through the growing season. Trimming petunias ensures they continue blooming all season long and reduces the amount of nutrients and water they require.

Trimming approximately 1 inch from the branches of petunias when transplanting encourages the plant to form additional branches and more blooms as it grows. Deadheading petunias allows them to spend their energy forming more blossoms instead of forming seeds. In order to deadhead petunias, pinch the stem to the wilted flower just behind the point of attachment.

To perform the midseason trim, sterilize scissors or pruning shears with rubbing alcohol. Locate a growth node near the center of each branch while leaving the node attached to the plant. If necessary, it is acceptable to trim the branches to 3 inches. The plant recovers quickly by forming new branches and more flowers. A few days after this severe trimming, petunias benefit from the addition of liquid fertilizer to the soil.

Petunias prefer full sun, and they bloom most of the growing season with regular trimming. During periods of extreme heat, they stop forming new blooms temporarily, but they begin again as soon as temperatures begin to fall.

MINUTES

ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
GENERAL MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY,
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023, 7:00 PM
ODDFELLOW'S HALL, ARMSTRONG

Speaker was Doug Saba of Curly Willow Farms talking "All About Vegetables".

1. Call to Order – 8:25 pm 22 people in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda

Rea moved to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3. Approval of March Minutes

Thank you to Mary Jackson for taking the minutes and Glen for chairing last month's meeting.

Sue Rook Moved to approve the minutes as circulated. Motion carried.

4. Correspondence - None

5. Treasurer's Report – \$5744.53 as of yesterday.

Mary moved to receive the Treasurer's report. No concerns. Motion carried.

Budget approval – Carolyn went over the proposed numbers and explained certain points for clarification. It was stated that these numbers are conservative ones for income, even so there would likely be enough to cover all proposed expenditures.

Paul moved to accept the budget proposal. Discussion – these numbers are not carved in stone, they are conservative estimates, and will be reflected more accurately with time. Motion Carried

6. Old Business

a. Plant Sale Committee report – Sue Wiebe – There has been a good response for volunteer positions. Gene will allow us to borrow his trailer for soil for the sale. Posters to be available next meeting. A suggestion was made to put together a request for donations of plants to be sent to Shirley for distribution. Plant pricing protocol discussed, if there is a single large quantity, please let committee know ahead of time, as pricing on the day of the event can be very busy. A call went out for volunteers for setup on sale day, 6:30am. Goal is for no plants to be leftover. Discussion around need for advertising, FB community forum seems to have best results. Thanks to those volunteering, sale is going forward because of each of you stepping up!

b. Banners for City – Sponsorship applications were closed in February, no one let us know. We won't be sponsoring one unless they don't have enough sponsors. Sponsorship and call for design were combined and perhaps made it difficult/confusing to participate. Cost is \$250/set (2) for years '23-'25. Discussion around upcycling old/used banners (making into bags, or reuse for onsite advert at plant sale).

Sue Rook moved to go ahead and sponsor a banner set if opportunity is still available. Motion carried.

c. Volunteer to organize Garden Tour(s) - Mark your calendars for June 10 for the Vernon People Place Fundraiser Garden Tour. Tickets are available soon. Advised to watch for where tickets will be on sale. Interesting variety of gardens on the tour. Could try calling Blue Mountain Nursery and Vernon People Place call for ticket info.

d. Petunia planting and maintenance – this year's color is purple. Carolyn went over the duties of planter care and asked for volunteers. Can call Glen (phone # ????) to sign up for two-week windows.

Call for volunteers for the following club needs: Meeting on June 6, tea/goodies, newsletter, 2 directors, VP needed. Please think about it; even small tasks help!

Whatever you're able to help with, we really appreciate it. Club is trying to break up duties into small chunks so the workload to more manageable for all.

7. New Business

a. Summer Potluck – Sue Wiebe offered to hold at her home, depending on attendance numbers. Bring own chairs and dishes, club will provide coffee/tea/punch. Suggested several dates in July. Tentatively scheduled for July 22, 4-7pm @ Sue Wiebe's home.

b. Question about Seed Swap – Libraries in Enderby and Armstrong have small ones; Seed Swap is already over (held in March).

8. Adjourned at 21:00

Next meeting Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at Oddfellow's Hall.

Executive meeting will be at 5:30 prior to the General Meeting.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Shirley Fowler for arranging the speaker.
Thank you to Sue Rook for the goodies and tea/coffee at the meeting.

Member Discounts

Members of the Armstrong & District Garden Club receive discounts at a number of local garden centres:

- [Shepherd's Home Hardware Outdoor Living](#) in Armstrong: **15% Discount** on Regularly-Priced Garden Plants
- [Blue Mountain Nursery](#) in Armstrong: **10% Discount** on all products
- [Swan Lake Market & Garden](#) in Spallumcheen: **10% Discount** on all products
- [Nicholas Alexander Nursery](#) in Vernon: **10%-15% Discount** on Regularly-Priced Garden Plants

Show your membership card at the till before the cashier rings up the total and kindly request your membership discount. Let us know if you have any difficulties getting the discount