

SEEDERS AND WEEDERS NEWSLETTER

June 2025



Armstrong & District Garden Club

WEBSITE <https://armstronggardenclub.com>

FACEBOOK Ken Barr

EXECUTIVE

President – Heather Hayes 250 546-4969

Vice president – Vacant

Secretary – Mary Jackson

Treasurer – Paul Peacock

Membership Secretary - Chris Williams

Past President – Carolyn Farris

Director - Sue Wiebe

Director at large – Linda Meraw

Newsletter Editor – Dianne Lockton

Website Manager - Mary Jane Duford

Sunshine - Dianne Lockton and Heather Hayes

GENERAL MEETING

First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, September to June (except January) in St James Anglican Church Hall, Armstrong.

Next meeting 6:30 pm September 2, 2025

GUEST SPEAKER

Our speaker this month was Gene Jackson who gave a very informative presentation about the use and maintenance of garden tools.

Pruners – two types are:

Bypass – two sharpened blades that pass over each other in a clean scissor action. These are good for smaller stems. Some can be adjusted by using a screwdriver to increase or decrease tension.

Anvil – One blade crushes against a flat anvil. Good for cutting dead, hard wood. They are more powerful than bypass but less precise and more likely to crush.

Loppers are long handled pruners and can be either bypass or anvil. The long handles are good for reaching but are sometimes hard to fully open if working close to the tree trunk among several branches.

The lock nuts at times need replacing.

Use a diamond hone to sharpen the blades. Hold the blade at the same angle as the cutting edge.
Start at the inside and move the sharpener toward the tip of the blade (always one direction).

Another useful pruning tool is a pull saw. It is very sharp and efficient and good for leaving a clean cut.

Lawnmowers -

Always use premium gas.

Sea Foam can be beneficial when added to the gasoline, especially when storing the mower for winter.

Ten millilitres per litre of gasoline will help to stabilize it. It can be poured into the jerry can of gas and given a shake.

Engine oil should be changed every year with 10W-30. The air filter and spark plugs should be checked.

Blades should be taken off the mower and cleaned before balancing and sharpening. Using a file, sharpen one side of the blade. Balancing should be done to keep the engine from shaking.

Shovels -

Shovel blades can be sharpened using a file.

Cleaning -

WD 40 can be used to clean tools.

Brake cleaner will remove rust and sticky residue on tool blades.



ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
MINUTES for TUESDAY, June 3, 2025, 6:30 PM
St. James Church Hall, ARMSTRONG

Attendees: 17 members and 1 guest

1. Call to Order - President Heather Hayes called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda – Motion by Rea.
3. Approval of Previous Minutes
Move to approve the minutes of May 2025 as circulated – Motion by Glenn.
4. Correspondence
 - a) Garden Club Newsletters were received and will be circulated to members.
 - b) Card of thanks from Bursary recipient, McKenzie Gyorkos
5. Treasurer's Report
Paul's report was read to the club. We continue to be in a healthy financial position.
Move to receive the Finance report – Motion by Suzie.
6. Old Business
 - a. Plant Sale Results and Debrief
Heather noted that this was one of our most successful plant sales and thanked the club members for their efforts. She also thanked Glenn and Sue W., Plant Sale Coordinators, for all their work. Glenn noted the increase in plant sale sticks from 576 in 2023, to 340 in 2024 and to 900 in 2025.

A guest noted that the club members present were very helpful and kind. A suggestion was received to provide more vegetables, as these items were very popular. There is also an Armstrong site, "Buy Nothing" that may be a source of plants.

A plastic bin, with an interlocking top, was left at the sale site. Please contact Glenn if it is yours.

More solid tables would be helpful to spread out the plants. Heather will purchase 6 tables when they are on sale.

Members were invited to forward any other comments regarding the sale to Heather or Mary.

c. PV Manor Planting

Nine members were involved in planting the pots and planters at PV Manor in May. Their efforts were very much appreciated by Manor residents. Glenn provided soil for the pots.

Jen (Manor worker) does not have a budget for the plants and purchases plant material from bottle returns.

A suggestion was made to provide funds to replace PV Manor pots as part of the club's Community Donations.

d. PV Petunia Planting

Glenn outlined his frustration with the PV planting this year. The beds were dry when we went to plant them and there was other plant material in some of the beds that was placed by City staff. Communications with the City was lacking.

The order cost twice as much as in the past and the quality of the petunias was the worst we've seen.

The Executive proposed that we forward a letter to the city, indicating that the Club will not be involved in PV Boulevard planting next year. We can offer our assistance with planting plans as part of any redevelopment of the Boulevard.

7. New Business

a. Garden Tours

Both Glenn and Linda will be showing their garden to the Shuswap Garden Club on Tuesday, June 17th from 6 to 8 p.m. Armstrong Garden Club members are invited to attend as well.

Addresses:

Glenn: 3760 Sage Avenue, Armstrong

Linda: 2870 Becker Street, Armstrong

Heather will be speaking to Debbie Morris about other garden tour possibilities in the Salmon Arm area.

b. Garden Speakers

A suggestion to have Harriet Hanna visit the club in September was put forward. Garden Club members were invited to forward speaker suggestions to Heather or Mary.

c. Community Donations

Members are invited to forward any ideas for community donations to Heather for consideration by the Executive. An Executive proposal will be presented at the September meeting for voting.

Mary reviewed the Starfish Program which provides elementary school children in the North Okanagan with a weekend bag of food. The Program is managed by the non-profit Kalamalka Starfish Society and is currently serving 225 bags to 20 locations.

A weekend bag for one student is \$ 25, where \$ 875 covers a bag for the school year for one student.

One in five children in our community are food insecure so this program helps to address that situation. Weekly bags are provided to AES, Len Wood and MV Beattie in Enderby.

d. Use of St. James Hall

The Garden Club was reminded to wash tables after our meeting for the benefit of Other hall users.

e. September Social

Sue R. has offered to host the social and will confirm the date in early September.

f. Garden Club Discounts

Mary advised that Swan Lake will offer garden club members the contractor rate, which is 10 % on plant material and 2 – 3 % on other store items, except for meat and dairy.

Mary will email club members to confirm they want to provide their name and number to Swan Lake to get on this rate plan.

g. Next Meetings – There are no meetings in July and August, so our next meeting is Tuesday, September 2 at 6:30 p.m. Heather will touch base with Janet S. to see about arranging a “Grow and Show” for that meeting.

8. Adjourn – Heather adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.



The garden club bursary this year will go to Pleasant Valley Secondary grad McKenzie Gyorkos. She will be attending the University of Saskatchewan to complete an agriculture degree, with plans to become a professional agrologist.

GARDENING INFORMATION

Once again we seem to be heading into a summer of high heat records. Growing drought resistant plants that will attract pollinators is becoming popular.

The following are some notes from information on the Okanagan Xeriscape Association website. Sigrie Kendrick has written several articles submitted as “Gardening With Nature”. The title for this one is Planning for Pollinators.

There are more than 500 native bee species in BC. Xeriscape design can help to support them. Native bee species play an important role in pollination.

Some types of native bees are: mining bees, leafcutter bees, bumble bees and metallic green sweat bees.

When planning your garden, plant the taller species of flowering plants at the back with shorter ones in front. This will allow easier access for the pollinators.

Important plants for pollinators are Oregon Grape, Wild Saskatoon, Penstemon, Lavender, Cleome, Gaillardia, Aster and Russian Sage.

Year round habitat can be provided by having bare soil patches for ground nesting, leaving plant stems standing over winter for nesting sites and having brush piles for over wintering.

For more information on this and many other plant related subjects check the website at www.okanaganxeriscape.org
Sigrie’s articles are in the drop down menu under BLOG.



Volunteers from our garden club helped with the planting of flowers in deck pots at Pleasant Valley Manor. Our group enjoyed the delicious cookies we were treated to.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Garden Tours:	June 17, 2025	6 pm - 8 pm
	Glen	3760 Sage Ave.
	Linda	2870 Becker St.

Next meeting: 6:30 pm September 2, 2025

St James Anglican Church Hall

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 and Garden in Spallumcheen: 10% Discount on plant material
2 - 3% on other store material (except meat and dairy)

*Members must be registered with the store

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 member discount.