

SEEDERS AND WEEDERS NEWSLETTER MARCH 2025



Armstrong & District Garden Club

WEBSITE <https://armstronggardenclub.com>

FACEBOOK Ken Barr

EXECUTIVE

President – Heather Hayes, 250-546-4969 triple-h@telus.net

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 April 1, 2025.

GUEST SPEAKER

Our speaker this month was Harold Luddith. Harold is a local beekeeper who at one time kept up to 25 colonies of bees in the Bulkley Valley west of Prince George. He attended the Simon Fraser Bee Master course and was a guide at the 1999 Apimondia in Vancouver. The same year he attended a queen rearing course in Smithers. He raised the queens in hive-top nuc boxes and did not have to deal with mites by not bringing in any “outside bees”. The bees survived well because of isolation from other colonies.

Honeybees go back about 40 million years. They originated in Africa.

Beekeeping consisted of housing bees in whatever they would stay in and destroying the hive and honeycomb to recover the honey.

The first practical hive was built in 1852 by Lorenzo Langstroth. Honey could be extracted from the combs without damaging the brood nest. The Langstroth is popular in Canada.

There are three types of bees in a colony; the queen, female worker bees, and male drones. A queen lives approximately 3 years, a worker bee about 42 days and a drone about 55 days. The queen can lay from 1200 to 1500 eggs per day.

Flowers and bees have a symbiotic relationship. The flowers need pollination to generate seeds and the bees need the nectar and pollen as food. Bees have hairs on their back legs that collect pollen.

Some deep root system plants are attractive to worker bees. Artichoke flowers are one example.

Some other types of pollinators (called alternate pollinators) besides honeybees are bumble bees, hairy belly bees, miner bees, mason bees, leafcutter bees, wasps, hornets, hover flies, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds and bats.

Bees also require salts. They may be attracted to non-iodized salt water in a plate with pebbles in it (to keep them from drowning).

The use of pesticides and herbicides kills millions of bees. Roundup alters plant chemistry and is carried into nectar and pollen. It does not kill the bees but weakens their immune systems so they die from other causes.

Bees are essential to humans but we are not essential to them.



ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Minutes for TUESDAY, March 4, 2025, 6:30 PM

St. James Church Hall, ARMSTRONG

13 members in attendance

1. Call to Order President Heather called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda Motion to approve agenda by Sue R.
3. Approval of Previous Minutes Motion to approve minutes by Suzie.
Move to approve the minutes of February 4, 2025 as circulated.
4. Correspondence Garden Club Newsletters will be circulated.

A big thank-you was sent from Armstrong Elementary School to all the ADGC members who ordered seeds as part of the Brick School's West Coast Seed packet fundraiser. In total, AES raised \$650.06 with the seed fundraiser.
5. Treasurer's Report Club is in a healthy financial position. Signing
authority for new executive is now ready at CIBC.

Move to receive the Finance report. Motion to approve by Dianne L. CARRIED.
6. Old Business
Reminder to pay dues.
7. New Business
 - a. Suggestions for Garden Tours and Speakers

Suggestion for H2O for You on Irrigation as speaker.

Suggestion for club tour of Bedrock Farms with large greenhouses and open to Clubs for wholesale purchases.

Salmon Arm Garden Club is hosting a day-long information session on April 5. Two speakers in the am and pm and vendors. Bring your own lunch.

Armstrong Shepherds is hosting a talk at 9:30 and 11:00 on Integrated Pest Management on March 8. Call to confirm attendance 250 546-3002.

Bloom Flower Festival in Armstrong/Spallumcheen has no dates advertised yet. Visit their website at:
bloomflowerfestivals.com

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| b. Plant Sale | Sale will be May 10, 2025 at the Armstrong Farmer's Market. All members are encouraged to participate. Glenn circulated a sign-up sheet for members. We have arranged 2 pallets of Black Diamond Soil. Heather has reserved 4 Chamber tents. Members can start planting for garden sale plants anytime. |
| c. Update on Petunia Planting | Glenn is in touch with growers to get 210 plants. We're thinking of a red and white colour scheme, if available. |
| d. Executive Meetings | Members are invited to attend Executive Meetings. The next meeting is at Sue W.'s, Wed. March 19 at 2 p.m. |
| e. PV Manor Planting | Rea is looking for members to help plant the planters at PV Manor. Plants are provided. About 6 to 8 people would be ideal. Date, after the long weekend in May, to be confirmed. Interest in participating was expressed. |
| 8. Adjourn | Heather adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. |



GARDENING INFORMATION

FLOWERS FOR A BEE-FRIENDLY GARDEN

Bee Balm	Goldenrod
Blue Globe Allium	Joe Pye Weed
Blue Lobelia	Lavender
Borage	New England Aster
Catmint	Oriental Poppy
Chives	Sun Flower
Coneflower	Zinnia

Source: www.gardendesign.com

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I attended a very informative presentation by Candace and Jen on Integrated Pest Management at Shepherd's Home Hardware March 8. After the class I was in the seed section and found booklets on companion planting. They are produced by West Coast Seeds and are free for customers to take. The following is just a small sample of the interesting information in it.

Companion Planting Benefits

Minimizing Risk: Companion planting increases odds of higher yields even if one crop fails or is affected by natural hardships such as weather, pests, or disease.

Crop Protection: Taller, sturdier plants can provide shelter from weather such as wind or sun to delicate plants. Some plants can act as a trellis to support neighbouring crops.

Plant Tip: When in doubt, plant umbellifers. Plants with this flower form always attract insects that will benefit the garden one way or another.

Trap Cropping

Companion planting is the ultimate organic pest management system. Some plants help to repel unwanted pests, while others can be used to lure pests away from the garden. This is referred to as trap cropping.

Positive Hosting

Planting in proximity to plants which produce a surplus of nectar and pollen can increase the population of beneficial insects that will manage harmful pests.

The booklets also provide a companion planting chart and a list of some beneficial plants that offer general benefits to the garden.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next meeting: 6:30 pm Tuesday April 1, 2025
in St James Anglican Church Hall

Blue Mountain Nursery opens April 1, 2025

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 and 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 member discount.