

SEEDERS AND WEEDERS
NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2022



Armstrong & District Garden Club

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EXECUTIVE

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

Vice president - Vacant

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

Treasurer - Judy Cogan

Newsletter Editor - Vacant

Directors - Heather Freeman
Mary Jackson

GENERAL MEETING

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

EXECUTIVE MEETING

October , 2022 at 1:00 PM at 4003 Salmon River Rd,(Mary Jackson) New volunteers are welcome to come

Executive Report

Welcome to the fall 2022 season, wishing cooler temperatures prevail soon. Getting straight to the point, the garden club seriously needs some Volunteers NOW. Elections are early November, the club requires these positions filled for 2023 .

Newsletter Editor

Treasurer

Meeting entertainment organizer

Garden tour organizer

Parlour show organizer

Sunshine person

Vice President

President

Directors (5-6)

We had 22 members out at the last meeting so hope to see more for the November meeting.

The Executive

TOOLS - SELECTION, USE AND CARE

Gene Jackson presented an informative talk on tools and their care at the October meeting. The need to use proper pruners was highlighted. First thing is to use a cleaner when you have finished using a tool to ensure any sap or debris is removed before you use again or attempt to sharpen.

Diamond hones from Lee Valley work well to sharpen the cutting edge of the pruners. Very badly damaged blades will need to be reduced with a small file. Never file on the anvil side. If very damaged a round file can be used to clean off the burrs on the anvil side.. Pruners and loppers should be used so that the anvil side is on the side being cut off so there is a clean cut on the branch left.

WD 40 in very small amounts on the spring nd blades will prevent rust over the winter. Do not overuse. Excess WD 40 will leave a residue that turns sticky.

Samurai or tree saws work very well to cut branches but need to be sent to a professional sharpener.

He highlighted the need to mark lawnmower blades in the dead centre. Balance on a thin metal sheet. Shave small amounts off the bottom edge of the blade. If blade is damaged then get a new blade as it is better for your lawnmower than compensating. You can drain the gas out or

you can put in brand new premium gas. Add gas stabilizer and run a few minutes and then leave for the winter.

Snowblowers run better on premium fuel. Add 10 ml per liter of fuel stabilizer. This will prevent condensation, particularly if you store it in a snow blower. A trick is to put some in your car fuel tank and then fill your cans so it is all premium fuel. It is a good idea to use a trickle charger on electric start machines. If coming from a warm place then let it sit outside for a few minutes so the snow does not stick. WD 40, lightly sprayed will prevent snow or clay soils from sticking to tools, shovels or snow blowers.

Shovels and edgers work much better if they are kept sharpened. Solid back shovels with the handles at the correct angle for comfort for digging will last for years. Brillo pads in various coarseness will clean up and help save the shovels. Linseed oil will work in place of WD 40.

Attendees were treated to a demonstration of chain saw blade sharpening. Everyone was reminded that air cleaners need to be blown out or replaced. Use high quality gas and premium oil in your two stroke engines. New spark plugs will also help small engines run better.

MYRTYLE SPURGE - CTV Article

The Invasive Species Council of B.C. is asking the public to report sightings of a "highly toxic" plant that can leave people's skin blistered and burned – something one family recently learned the hard way.

Okanagan residents Doug and Sandra Nimmo were hosting their granddaughters over the July long weekend when the children came into contact with Myrtle spurge, a garden perennial that carries a nasty sap capable of causing blindness in severe cases. Fortunately, the children, who had been picking plants for a bouquet, only woke up the next morning with red and irritated skin, according to the Invasive Species Council, which shared the family's story.

"They got out of bed, and I was shocked to see their faces puffed up with blisters," Sandra Nimmo told the ISCBC, adding that the children weren't seriously hurt.

"They laughed when they saw their faces in the mirror, and it only took about a week and a half to clear their skin."

Myrtle spurge, or *euphorbia myrsinites*, is described as an

extremely aggressive invasive species from the Mediterranean that can quickly take over gardens and other green spaces.

If ingested, the plant can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. To cause blindness, the sap has to come into contact with someone's eyes.

The Invasive Species Council said Myrtle spurge is recognizable by its small, yellow flowers and light blue-green leaves, which are sharp and spiral closely around the stem. The plant grows 10 to 15 cm tall and forms a "low, spreading mound," according to the ISCBC.



Myrtle spurge is seen in an image from the Invasive Species Council of B.C. The plants are mostly found in the Okanagan, where they thrive in its warm climate and dry soil. They're also sometimes found for sale at garden centres, despite being provincially regulated. "With our PlantWise program, we are working with growers, retailers, and consumers to spread the word about which invasive species shouldn't be sold and grown in B.C.," ISCBC's Allison

McCabe said in a statement. "Great alternatives to Myrtle spurge include Lanceleaf Stonecrop (*sedum lanceolatum*), a beautiful native succulent that thrives in hot, dry conditions."

The Invasive Species Council of B.C. said people can find more alternatives through its [Grow Me Instead website](#). Anyone who has been in contact with Myrtle spurge or another invasive species is urged to [report it online](#).

ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, October 4, 2022, 7:00 PM
ODDFELLOW'S HALL

Gene Jackson provided a very informative talk on tools and there use and care

1. Call to Order

President, Glen Glytenbeek called the meeting to order at 8:25 PM with 22 members present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Heather Freeman moved approval of the agenda as circulated. CARRIED

3. Approval of September minutes

Mary Jackson moved to approve the minutes as circulated. CARRIED

4. Correspondence - SIHA Fall meeting is in Enderby at 10:30 on Saturday, October 22. Please bring a bag lunch. Refreshments will be provided

5. Treasurer's Report

Judi reported the financial transactions.

Sue Rook moved to receive the Treasurer's report. CARRIED

6. Old Business

a. Funds Distribution

Carolyn Farris moved that funds be distributed as follows: \$1000 Bursary, \$800 each to Communities In Bloom, Community Gardens, Good Food Box, Armstrong Food Bank and PV Manor Garden Renovation. CARRIED

b. Planter boxes are still looking good and it is hoped they can keep going to the Pumpkin Festival.

c. Volunteers are still needed. Please let Glenn know if you are interested. Many hands will make it possible for this great club to

7. New Business

- a. Grass donation digging and potting did not happen
- b. November meeting will feature Jaimie from Blue Mountain. Let Glen know if you have any ideas for topics.
- c. Christmas trees and decorations are currently being stored. If no one comes forward to take on the Festival of Trees it will be donated to the Bargain Bin.

8. Adjournment and next meeting

The meeting adjourned at PM.

Next meeting Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at Oddfellow's Hall.

The Executive will meet on Wednesday, October 19 at 1:00 PM at Mary Jackson's place.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Rea Smith for the goodies and tea/coffee at the meeting.

Thank you to all those who took a week or two and kept the petunia planters downtown looking so great all summer. The time and enthusiasm were exceptional for those taking part.

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.

