



February 2020

The Strathcona Gardener

Growing with the Community

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President's Message

Hello Fellow Gardeners! I love February! Why you might ask? Well...only because March comes next - one month closer to spring. Oh...and the sun rises earlier and sets later, so the days are noticeably longer. I currently have my box of seeds spread out all over the island in my kitchen and my copy of West Coast Seeds is opened flat to my right and I am making my lists! The anticipation is strong! But I can only see those plants in my imagination. JC is growing lettuce under grow lights, and even one piece of lettuce added to her sandwich is a delight. Brenda started flowers from clippings last fall, and they are already blooming! I wonder what John and Elaine have growing in their basement? Have they started those leeks?

Our guest speaker for February is Dr. Lee Foote, Director of the University of Alberta Botanic Garden. Dr. Foote will be focusing his presentation on the newly opened Aga Khan Garden. The Aga Khan Garden is 4.8 hectares in size and took nearly 10 years to plan and 18 months to construct. The garden contains more than 25,000 trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and wet land plants. It features forest paths, still pools, a waterfall, and granite and limestone terraces. I hope that you will be so inspired by the presentation that you will join us in July for a tour of the Aga Khan Garden that Brenda is planning.

Brenda, our speaker and events coordinator, is planning 3 garden/food related tours over the next few months. In addition to the tour of the Aga Khan Garden at the University of Alberta Botanic Garden, plans are also being made to tour the Gruger Family Fungi operation in Nisku and Evolution Oil at the Enjoy Centre in St. Albert. The St. Albert tour is an Olive Oil and Balsamic Tasting Event – a sit down, 5 course, small plate meal, prepared by the Evolution chef. I hope that many of you are able to join us for at least one of these occasions.

At this point, I would like to thank my fellow board members for their work and commitment to our garden club. (There are ten of us on the board at present.) Without them, we would not have the well organized club we have. Maybe no club at all?! So thank you to Andrew, Brenda, Pat, Bud, JC, Dorothy, Susan, Cindy, and Marlene. Cindy has been especially busy these last few months, connecting with many gardening and landscaping businesses and successfully arranging for discounts for our club members. You will need to show your membership card. Check our website for these discount opportunities. I would also like to thank the many volunteers: those who offer to help Andrew with snack set up and clean up, those who are on the phoning committee, those who help out with our annual plant sale, and especially the other Pat who greets us when we sign in and assists with membership registrations. Richard, thanks for running our elections at the AGM. Brian and Darryl, thank you for auditing our financial statements. Thank you to Sheila for all your work in organizing Old Man Creek Community Garden. I would definitely be remiss if I did not thank all of you for signing up to bring snacks. The food is always wonderful! And, of course, all of you who contribute items to our monthly raffle. Lastly, I would like to thank Marlene Parish, a fairly new member, who has volunteered to administer our Facebook page. When I start naming all you who volunteer, I realize that this is an active club. All of your contributions are greatly appreciated and essential.

I would like to welcome three new members to our club: Dale Dawson, Joyce Gould, and Natasha Stairs. One of the most effective ways to really feel that you are part of this club is by becoming involved so don't hesitate to volunteer and maybe even consider becoming part of the board. Let me

briefly describe my own journey to and within the garden club. About eight years ago, I was looking for a place to grow vegetables, and I was told about Old Man Creek Community Garden. So, I joined the Strathcona County Garden Club for that one purpose. That first year, I attended only one meeting, the one at which I registered as a member. I only read one or two of the newsletters when they arrived by email (Sorry, Brenda!), but I believe in the January newsletter, there was a plea to help out with snacks or that part of the meetings would end. So I offered to help and then was surprised to learn that I had also committed to storing and hauling boxes and boxes of coffee urns and supplies which I transported to our meeting place from my house. (Andrew has since culled these supplies to make for greater efficiency.) Anyway, Cyndy agreed to help set up and clean up so everything went quite well. From there and well before I could blink, I became vice president and eventually president. My involvement has become a great adventure! I especially enjoy meeting all of you. I love what I learn from all the guest speakers. I am inspired to grow and grow as a gardener. So, it is not only that we become members but that we find a way to volunteer and support our club. This creates our gardening community.

I hope to see you all at our February meeting. Take care! Donna

Next Meeting

February 13
7 – 9 pm
Council Chambers

Dr. Lee Foote, Director UofA Botanical Gardens
“The Aga Khan Garden”

Bring your own mug and consider making a much-appreciated donation to our raffle table. The Seed Exchange also begins so bring along your extra packets of seeds.



Seed Exchange

The Garden Club's annual seed exchange commences at the February 13 meeting and will continue until May. Gather up your spare packets of seeds and bring them to the meeting. For each package you donate, you can choose a package for yourself. At the May meeting, all remaining seeds are free for the taking.

2020 Regular Meetings

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| March 12 | Aakash Goyal
"Organic Methods and Different Techniques for Growing Plants" |
| April 9 | Clara Qualizza, Meadow and Thicket Farm Flowers
"Flower Farming and Growing in Alberta" |
| May 14 | Mike Jenkins, Biological Sciences Technician, City of Edmonton
"Good Bugs" |
| October 8 | Myrna Pearman, Biologist and Site Manager, Ellis Bird Farm
"Ellis Bird Farm – Garden and Research" |

2020 Special Events

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| April 18
12:50 pm | Tour of Gruger Family Fungi
#7, 2002 8 St, Nisku (See details below) |
| May 6 | Evoolution Oil Tour, Enjoy Centre
St. Albert (Note this date is tentative; more details will come later) |
| May 23
11am – 3pm | Annual Spring Plant Sale
Smeltzer House |
| Nov 26
5 – 9pm | Christmas Potluck Social
Log Cabin |

Community Events

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| March 7
10 am – 4 pm | Indoor Gardening Day at Greenland Garden Centre
See details below. |
| March 22
11 am – 4 pm | Edmonton Seedy Sunday
Central Lions Recreation Centre, 11113 – 113 St. Edmonton |

Indoor Gardening Day

Greenland Garden Centre has again invited the Strathcona County Garden Club to participate in Indoor Gardening Day on March 7 from 10-4 pm. We will have a table set up with a draw for a year's free membership. You can take in free plant seminars, indoor gardening demos, free draws and in-store specials.

We are looking for volunteers to staff the table; if you can help, please contact Brenda.

Gruger Family Fungi Tour

Join us on April 18 for a tour of Gruger Family Fungi located at 7, 2002 8 Street, Nisku. Gruger Family Fungi grows specialty culinary mushrooms. Their mushrooms are tree-loving and grown on hemp.

Please arrive by 12:50, as the tour will begin at 1 pm. A sign-up sheet will be available at the regular meetings. The cost is \$10 per person to hold your spot. However, it will be refunded, if you are a member, when you arrive for the tour. The club is paying for the tour as a perk of being a member.

Membership Perk\$

Present your 2020 Strathcona County Garden Club Membership Card at the following establishments for possible discounts on your purchases. Contact information and more details may be found on the Club website.

Apache Seeds Arch Greenhouses Kuhlmann's Greenhouse Garden Market
Aspen Ridge Greenhouse Cal's Grower Direct Cal's Whitemud Garden Centre
Cannor Nurseries Salisbury Greenhouse All Seasons Garden Centre
Arrowhead Nurseries BMR Greenhouses & Water Gardens Millcreek Nursery Ltd
Jils Landscape Supply Eilerslie Gift & Garden Estate Gardens Greenhouse
South Cooking Lake Greenhouses Sunstar Nurseries Ltd.

Cindy Garneau has obtained the following additional information for members of the Strathcona County Garden Club.

Christine Albrecht describes **Estate Gardens Greenhouse**, 52333 R.R. 224, Sherwood Park, www.estategardens.ca as a family run greenhouse 2 miles East of Sherwood Park. In 1993, what started out as selling trees and shrubs to family and friends expanded to the building of a greenhouse to accommodate annuals and perennials. Over the years more greenhouses were added as word spread of the care and quality of their plants. They specialize in growing a variety of annuals and perennials, hanging baskets and custom containers that thrive in our summers. Follow along @estategardens on both Facebook and Instagram for all the updates this coming season!

Jordan Voogd from **Sunstar Nurseries Ltd.**, 810 – 167 Avenue NE, Edmonton AB T5Y 6K9, (780) 472-6103, www.sunstarnurseries.com will provide the following discount – 10% off of all plant material when showing a current membership card upon purchase. Discount does not apply to hard/dry goods (fertilizers, soil, fungicides/pesticides, etc.) or any other sale or promotion that may happen throughout the season.

Membership Renewal

Have you completed the paperwork associated with your membership renewal and your Old Man Creek garden plots? The Club is planning several exciting events for members that you won't want to miss! Please take a few minutes to download the form or forms you need from the web site (strathconacountygardenclub.ca). Bring the completed form(s) to Pat or Pat along with the appropriate fee to the next meeting. If you mail your renewal(s), please make your payment by cheque. The annual membership renewal fee (single or family) is \$20; a fee of \$20 applies to each garden plot you request. Annual club membership applies to the January 1 to December 31 period each year.

Facebook Page for Members

The Strathcona County Garden Club has a Facebook page which any paid-up Club member is able to join. We encourage members to use this resource to share gardening-related photos and information. The Board welcomes member Marlene Parish to the role of Facebook Administrator; thank you for stepping up to help!

Sour Cherry Recipes

A collection of sour cherry recipes is included with this Newsletter as a separate attachment, courtesy of member Lesley Furnell. I can't wait to try some and hope you enjoy them too!



Strathcona County Garden Club Contacts

Board Members		
Position	Name	Contact
President	Donna Reimche	780 449 3909
Vice President	Andrew Davison	587 974 4997
Past President		
Treasurer	Bud Milsom	780 467 1841
Secretary	JC Lindberg	780 499 8002
Special Events Coordinator	Brenda Brooke	780 922 3145
Membership Coordinator	Pat Komarniski	780 467 8071
Advertising Coordinator	Cindy Garneau	780 922 0955
Phoning Coordinator	Dorothy Gilbey	780 998 0434
Fundraising Coordinator	Susan Robblee	587 269 2660
Snack Coordinator	Andrew Davison	587 974 4997
Newsletter Editor	Marlene Exner	780 449 3986
Support Volunteers		
Position	Name	Contact
Membership Assistant	Pat Barker	780 467 0765
Facebook Administrator	Marlene Parish	
Phone Volunteers	Pat Barker	780 467 0765
	Dian Davies	780 417 4116
	Pegi Gunn-Graham	780 467 3382
	Marj Kennedy	780 464 6045
	Pat Komarniski	780 467 8071
	Sherri McCormick	780 717 7350
	Carol Moos	780 466 5288
	Shirley Radmanovich	780 464 0533
	Gerri Schmidt	780 464 1224
	Audrey Zmurchuk	780 464 7440
Oldman Creek Gardens	Sheila Flint	587 990 9935; smayflint@gmail.com

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