

June 2020

The Strathcona Gardener

Growing with the Community

www.strathconacountygardenclub.ca
strathgardenclub@gmail.com

President's Message

Hello to our Fellow Gardeners:

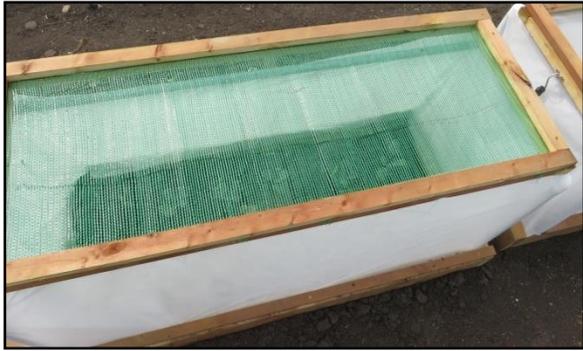
Well...it is a **brave new world** this garden club is entering: we will be hosting our first on-line meeting on June 11, 2020, and I hope you will be joining us for the 7:00 pm meeting. However, we will be set up for only 100 participants. Brenda, our Speaker Coordinator, has been working very hard to organize this online meeting (this is all very new to her) with the tremendous help of one of our members, Marianne, who will act as the host of this ZOOM meeting. Mike Jenkins, our June speaker, has agreed to present in this fashion, so the meeting is a go. Brenda will be sending out emails to all club members with the instructions, and even those of you who are not connected to the internet will be able to connect through your phones and, at least, listen to Mike make his presentation. Mike is the coordinator for pest management with the City of Edmonton. He is well known as the **Mosquito Guy**. His talk is on **Predators, Parasitoids, and Pollinators**. Perhaps he has some tips for those lovely lily beetles that love my martagons? Many, many thanks to Brenda and Marianne for setting up this meeting!

According to our Facebook Coordinator, Marlene, "Facebook is trotting along fine." Since garden pictures brighten up the day, Marlene encourages all Facebook members to post more photos from their gardens. Marlene is also getting a lot of requests from people who appear to be non-members. She asks that if someone is a legitimate member of the garden club and gets rejected by accident, please message her.

Last week, I spoke to Beth Hunt who is the coordinator of Front Yards in Bloom, a very successful program to recognize the beautiful and creative front yards in Sherwood Park. She is very happy to say the program is a go again for this year, and she encourages neighbors, friends, and residents to nominate front yards for recognition. Marlene, our Newsletter Editor, will be providing more of the details for this program further on in this June Newsletter.

I garden at Old Man Creek Community Garden with 72 other garden club members. I find it very interesting to see how other gardeners approach organizing the growing of vegetables. So I am going to share some photos of approaches various gardeners have used to protect their plants this spring.

Terry is experimenting with different sizes and materials.



Below, tomatoes are covered by a cloche (left) and plastic fixed with clothes pins (right).



Finally, if you love mushrooms, read on. If not, I will extend my best wishes to you for a successful gardening season. I do hope your tomatoes and cucumbers are not suffering as much as mine. We will be in touch again in July.

Now about mushrooms...two weeks ago my husband and I received a fantastic invitation from friends to go mushroom picking on their land in the Spedden area. This was an incredible treat for me and brought back so many great childhood memories. They have a half section so we had lots of space to distance, although I have to admit their puppy got lots of hands on attention from me. We hunted for false morels, also known as *Verpa conica*, and ... I was a child in a candy store. We picked pails full, and then back home, indulged in mushroom soup and mushroom sauce over mashed potatoes for days! (Cream is a good fat, isn't it?!!) A few managed to get frozen and a few managed to find their way to our neighbor, who like me, has that heritage connection. I am including photos of these *Verpa* because I just have to share.

My best wishes to all. Donna Reimche



Next Meeting

June 11
ONLINE
7:00 pm

Mike Jenkins, City of Edmonton
Pest Management Coordinator
“Good Bugs – Predators, Parasitoids and Pollinators”

This is a virtual (i.e. online) meeting via Zoom in the time slot we would normally have our meeting. Mike Jenkins, bug man extraordinaire, is a biologist and the Coordinator for the Pest Management section of the City of Edmonton. He started working for the City in the summer of 1991 while studying paleontology at the University of Alberta, splashing in puddles and chasing mosquitoes and other weird bugs. He's lived in Edmonton all his life, and spent his childhood catching beetles and caterpillars in his backyard. Mike has a special interest in aquatic invertebrates.

His talk is on Predators, Parasitoids and Pollinators: the 3 P's of the most beneficial insects you can have in your garden. It is a look at some of the interesting types of each group, and some tips on how to attract and keep those beneficial in your yard.

A new Garden Club member, Marianne Wells, is hosting this meeting via Zoom for us. She can host up to 100 members. Brenda will be sending instructions on how to load Zoom (simple) and the invitation to join the meeting.

Those members that do not have the internet can participate in the meeting via telephone. They can listen if not watch, by calling this number at 5 or 10 minutes before 7pm - (587) 328 1099.

We encourage members to participate and to email the club with feedback afterwards, about the speaker, the content and the online format. A \$20 greenhouse gift card will be given to the 40th member who accepts the meeting invitation.

Upcoming Meetings 2020 Regular Meetings

October 8 Myrna Pearman, Biologist and Site Manager, Ellis Bird Farm
“Ellis Bird Farm – Garden and Research”

2020 Special Events

September ? Spring Plant Sale in the Fall; date to be determined

Nov 26 Christmas Potluck Social
5 – 9 pm Log Cabin

Community Events

June 27 Native Plant Sale, Edmonton Native Plant Society.
11 - 3 Sale will take place in the parking lot in front of the Orchid Resource Centre, 4457 99 Street NW, Edmonton. Attendees are asked to observe public health precautions; 6 ft distancing and wearing masks appreciated.

Front Yard Recognition

Outstanding front gardens beautify our community. Residents are invited to recognize attractive front yards in Sherwood Park - neighbours, friends, relatives - anyone with a noteworthy front yard. The Front Yard Competition is open to all Sherwood Park residents. Contest winners may be featured in Sherwood Park News, Strathcona in Bloom website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and our newsletter. Entries can be submitted to: **780 464 8287** or **strathconainbloom@gmail.com** Please provide your

name, phone number and the nominated resident's address. Thank you to all who nominate a front yard that touches you and adds to your community!



*Submit your entry or entries
between June 18 and July 11*

How do your Parsnips Grow?

Last month we posed this question and asked for your tips. Here is member Leesa Lacombe's reply. Thank you Leesa!

I grow parsnips quite well. What works for me:

- Plant in the fall just before freeze-up (usually mid- late October). Too early and you have a chance of the seeds germinating.
- I collect my own seed. Fresh seed is key. If you are ordering seed put it into a sealed airtight bag and put in freezer until planting time. Parsnips are biennial so I always leave two or three in the garden in the fall to grow for seed the next year. As a bonus, parsnips are loved by beneficial insects; blooms are great landing pads and standing old dry stems make great overwintering homes.
- The seed is harvested the second year as parsnips are a biennial and don't bloom until the second year. Once the seed has been pollinated and the seed sets it goes from green to brown and then the flowers stalks begin to dry off. It looks similar to dill when ready to harvest the seed. I harvest the seed when it just starts to fall naturally, not unlike harvesting wildflower seeds. Collect seeds in the middle of the day when they are dry from any moisture such as dew or rain. Then store as mentioned until seeding time.
- When seeding parsnips, I always sprinkle vermiculite over to cover, then the garden soil. The vermiculite helps to retain the moisture which is really needed to help them germinate.
- Seed heavy, then thin after they are up.
- Parsnips love moisture and deep, loose soil, rich with lots of compost. Don't use fresh or young manure or you will get side shooting (arms or extra legs) and/or hairy roots.
- If you want to seed in spring do so as soon as the soil can be worked.

Good luck everyone! Leesa Lacombe

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. **Please note this information has not been updated vis-à-vis the Covid 19 issue.**

***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 Ellerslie Gift & Garden Estate Gardens Greenhouse
South Cooking Lake Greenhouses Sunstar Nurseries Ltd.***

Online Garden-related Info & Opportunities

1. Keukenhof Tulip Garden – A Photographic Tour without the Tourists

<https://www.demilked.com/empty-tulip-gardens-keukenhof-albert-dros/>



2. An Alberta Website

Visit www.gooseberrygardens.ca for a variety of articles and recipes tailored to gardening on our province – okay, it's Calgary. There is a great summary of a vast amount of information on growing tomatoes – need I say more?

3. Strathcona County Library – Kanopy

If you have a library card (which is free and available online on the library website) you can access Kanopy , a video streaming service that's free with a library card. They have 75 gardening videos and other movies of course. You can watch up to 5 free movies a month. The link is sclibrary.ca/elibrary/kanopy.

4. 2020 Grow Better! Garden Summit Webinars

This is a repeat of an email message from a gardening website, Garden Gate magazine, about their 2020 Grow Better! Garden Summit webinar series. You'll be signing up for newsletters too but you can always unsubscribe.

"We want to let you know about a free, informational video series on gardening that we think you might find interesting. Garden Gate Magazine has organized some of the best gardeners out there to film video advice segments to help us all be better gardeners. The list of topics spans a wide range of information on both growing food gardens as well as ornamentals. There is always something new to learn about gardening and here's our chance to polish our skills. [Sign-up](#) for this no-cost video series and watch them on your schedule."

Strathcona County Garden Club Contacts

Board Members	
Position	Name
President	Donna Reimche
Vice President	Andrew Davison
Past President	
Treasurer	Bud Milsom
Secretary	JC Lindberg
Special Events Coordinator	Brenda Brooke
Membership Coordinator	Pat Komarniski
Advertising Coordinator	Cindy Garneau
Phoning Coordinator	Dorothy Gilbey
Fundraising Coordinator	Susan Robblee
Snack Coordinator	Andrew Davison
Newsletter Editor	Marlene Exner
Support Volunteers	
Position	Name
Membership Assistant	Pat Barker
Facebook Administrator	Marlene Parish
Phone Volunteers	Pat Barker
	Dian Davies
	Pegi Gunn-Graham
	Marj Kennedy
	Pat Komarniski
	Sherri McCormick
	Carol Moos
	Shirley Radmanovich
	Gerri Schmidt
	Audrey Zmurchuk
Oldman Creek Gardens	Sheila Flint