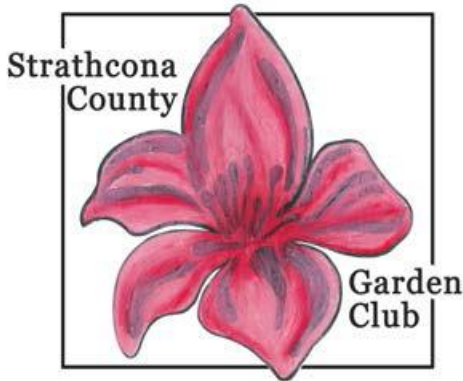


April 2022



The Strathcona Gardener

Growing with the Community

www.strathconacountygardenclub.ca

strathgardenclub@gmail.com

President's Message

Well happy spring everyone! Did you know that 2022 is the year of the garden? Your board is working on a couple of fun things to do to celebrate a year that is for us. I will keep you apprised of events once everything is set up. Speaking of gardens, we are going out to Dr. Evans' garden again on June 12. We have secured a bus for the drive down and are charging \$10 per person. You can drive yourself but personally I found it so much easier to just hop on the bus. We will be having a sign up sheet at our May meeting so please join us for a walk around a lovely garden and we all know what a hoot Dr. Evans can be. If you can't wait for May you can drop us a quick message at strathgardenclub@gmail.com saying you would like to attend. Also we still need a vice president on the board so please consider joining us on the board. Why yes I will be continuing to nag at you until we get that position filled. See you all at the zoom meeting on April 14.

Andrew

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| May 12
7-9 pm | Ashley Hinecker, Master Composter and Recycler
"Composting Revealed" |
| June 12
Sunday
1-4 pm | Field Trip: Dr. Ieuan Evans Farm
There will be a \$10 charge for bus transportation for this event. Dr. Evans will have lots of hardy European fruit trees and shrubs for sale. |
| Nov 24 | Annual Potluck Christmas Social at the Log Cabin |

The remaining dates for 2022 regular meetings are: June 9, July 14, September 8, and October 13. There are no meetings in August or December. The Board has decided to hold our annual plant sale in the fall, rather than spring. Watch for dates and details for this and other special events to be announced in future newsletters as the particulars are confirmed.

Next Meeting

April 14
ZOOM 7 pm

Carlene Schneider, Northline Farms
“Pruning Apples and Small Fruit”

Carlene and her husband are owner/operator of this local Ardrossan farm. They produce fruit, vegetables, flowers and herbs. These are sold online, and at their farm store.

The focus of the presentation will be pruning and care for small fruits and apples. Have you ever wondered the difference between a florican and primocane raspberry? How to prune your haskap / honeyberry? How to espalier an apple tree? Carlene will be answering and guiding through these questions and more! With the late spring this is the perfect time for her tutelage and then we can get our pruning done!

Here is a link to the website <https://www.northlinefarms.com/>

Carlene has also offered to give the club members hands on experience, in a small group at the farm, if you are interested. Be sure to register and attend this Zoom meeting if you would like this experience! Details will come at the meeting.

Please register by April 10th, 6pm. Leesa may not be able to accommodate last minute requests.

 [SCGC April 2022 Meeting Registration](#)

April Door Prize - Rosa Rugosa – F. J. Grootendorst

Much like the March door prize, for April we have another fabulous door prize for the SCGC meeting!! Remember a while ago you received an email about SCGC doing a group order for roses from Corn Hill Nursery? Well...we've purchased a 2-stem rose for our March and April meetings which the winner will receive once they're shipped (tentatively scheduled for mid-April to mid-May).

The rose for the April meeting is Rosa Rugosa - F.J. Grootendorst rose (see picture). If you're not familiar with this rose, let me tell you a bit about it:

- fringed petals like a carnation
- the soft red flowers bloom continuously till frost on an upright arching plant
- produces masses of cerise blooms
- grows well in mixed borders and hedges
- crinkly, bright green foliage on a vigorous, upright shrub
- tolerant of harsh conditions
- zone 3 hardy



WILL BE ARRIVING MID-APRIL TO MID-MAY

Strathcona County Library Events

The library has several no cost garden-related events coming up that may be of interest to our members. Pre-registration is required at www.sclibrary.ca or call (780) 410-8600.

April 20, 7 – 8:30 pm, “Edible Landscape With Curb Appeal” Zoom with Donna Balzer

April 28, 7 – 8 pm, “Birdwatching 101” **IN PERSON** with Wayne Oakes

Year of the Garden and Garden Day

On April 5, 2022, Mayor Rod Frank of Strathcona County issued a formal proclamation for The Year of the Garden 2022 and Garden Day, June 18, 2022 in Strathcona County.



Several Board members and a number of other gardening enthusiasts were present in Council chambers for the reading of the proclamation. Andrew, Susan, and Leesa are pictured above with the Mayor and Council. Following is the full text of the proclamation. We are looking forward to some special celebrations in our Club in recognition of Year of the Garden and of some extraordinary gardeners in our midst.

You can also create your own celebration, for example, plant red in recognition of Canada's color, or plant a special tree, shrub or perennial to be a year after year reminder. Perhaps this is the opportunity to introduce someone close to you to the benefits, importance, therapy and sheer joy of growing something, whether edible or ornamental. Let's all 'live the garden life'!



Strathcona County

Year of the Garden and Garden Day

In Strathcona County, gardening contributes to the quality of life of our municipality and is an outlet for our community to be involved in environmental stewardship. Gardening plays an important role in the development of communities – through their visual reinforcement of First Nations' example of living in harmony with nature and plants.

The Year of the Garden 2022 celebrates the important contribution of gardeners, our local gardening organizations and horticultural professionals and businesses which contribute to the garden culture. Gardening celebrates diversity by providing residents of all ages and abilities opportunities to learn more about growing, enjoying and experiencing gardens.

THEREFORE, I, Mayor Rod Frank, do hereby proclaim 2022 as The Year of The Garden and June 18, 2022 to be recognized as Garden Day in Strathcona County.

Dated this 5 day of April, 2022.

Signed by

Rod Frank, Mayor

Water Your Garden Wisely

(article submitted by Sheila Flint)

The five driest years in our region have all occurred since the year 2000. Our net moisture deficit amounts to 1.5 metres of precipitation **below** our average levels. This drying trend is echoed in the local groundwater levels.

In 2011 we experienced some of the wettest conditions in recent memory as we returned to more historically normal levels.

However, in 2021, we experienced another hot and dry season with many farmers struggling to get crops off or even have any crops to harvest. We reached temperatures as high as 34 C. and I believe that we are in what could very well be a 10 year drought situation.

I want to impress upon everyone who is gardening at Oldman Creek community gardens, that water is a precious commodity and that we must all adhere to proper watering methods.

We are not certain whether our water costs will be increased this year due to the high fuel costs, so we should all be prepared for this eventuality.

Watering your vegetable garden can be tricky. Water too much and some plants, like tomatoes and squash, will be more prone to disease. Water too little and vegetables like onions may not grow to their full potential.

Before I talk about proper watering, we should discuss the soil! Healthy soil is the basis for healthy plants. I have always said that if it is not happening below...it won't produce above. If you amend your soil with compost you are well on your way to a healthy soil. Oldman Creek has been rated as Canada Grade A soil in Alberta and with all the care and attention our gardeners give to the land, the better it will be.

The general rule of thumb is ONE INCH OF WATER once per week. However, that generally doesn't do the job and depending on rainfall, I would suggest 3 times a week. Be sure to feel your soil and if the soil sticks to your hand and you can form a ball, it is moist enough. If the soil looks dry and cracked, as is so often the case out at Oldman Creek, then dig down about an inch and if it is still dry then go ahead and water. To measure one inch of water you can purchase an inexpensive rain gauge which will give you a good idea of how much water has been used.

The best time of day to water is early morning or later in the evening. I always like to water when the dew is on the leaves so the foliage dries off by the evening. However, if you cannot water in the morning then evening is fine. Just avoid the heat of the day, when the water simply evaporates and does no good for the plants and is a waste of water.

Be sure that you water close to the base of the plants and avoid getting water on the leaves to avoid mildew and other diseases. The best method for watering is to 'deep root' water to encourage deep roots. My dear friend Pat K. has used that same small water cup for years and has painstakingly watered her entire garden this way. Never wasting a drop and is by the far one of best gardeners I have ever met.

Don't forget to mulch! An excellent mulch that is readily available to most gardeners is grass clippings. Works wonders at retaining the moisture and putting back nutrients into the soil. My only caution is the fertilizer and chemicals that may be used on your lawns. But you know better than anyone what is in the clippings. You can also use 'store bought' mulches from garden centres such as cedar chips. I don't recommend the free chips that are given out by tree companies as these are riddled with weed seeds. If you put down mulch, don't mix it in with the soil as it changes the soil structure and defeats the purpose of retaining the moisture.

I guess my closing comments would be 'don't baby your crops'! Plants are incredibly adaptable and have the ability to draw water from deep in the soil. Every now and then take a trowel and dig down several inches into the root zone to see if there is sufficient moisture. If the soil is moist then there is no need to water, just for the sake of watering.

Sadly, over the years, I have witnessed some gardeners use over half a barrel full of water on their plots at a visit. Please be mindful of your neighbors and your plants and conserve water for the plants and the planet!

Side note: I read an article that stated local 'honey farmers' or bee keepers have recorded losses of bees in the hives of 30-50% this winter. With the canola fields and bee keepers leaving our gardens, lets all do our part and plant a few flowers on our plots.

Take care everyone and see you at the garden!

Sheila Flint



Membership Perk\$

Present your 2022 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 Cannor Nurseries

Aspen Ridge Greenhouse Cal's Grower Direct Cal's Whitemud Garden Centre Arrowhead Nurseries

Salisbury Greenhouse All Seasons Garden Centre BMR Greenhouses & Water Gardens

Millcreek Nursery Ltd Jils Landscape Supply Ellerslie Gift & Garden Sunstar Nurseries Ltd.

Estate Gardens Greenhouse South Cooking Lake Greenhouses

Strathcona County Garden Club Contacts

Board Members	Name	Phone Number
President	Andrew Davison	
Vice President	vacancy	
Past President	Donna Reimche	
Treasurer	Allison McKinnon	
Secretary	Susan Robblee	
Special Events Coordinator	Leesa Lacombe	
Membership Coordinator	Pat Komarniski	
Advertising Coordinator	Cindy Garneau	
Phoning Coordinator	Dorothy Gilbey	
Fundraising Coordinator	Marianne West	
Snack Coordinator	Lori Hawrelak	
Newsletter Editor	Marlene Exner	
Support Volunteers	Name	
Membership Assistant	Pat Barker	
Facebook Administrator	Marlene Parish	
Phone Volunteers	Pat Barker	
	Pegi Gunn-Graham	
	Marj Kennedy	
	Pat Komarniski	
	vacancy	
	Lil Parker	
	Shirley Radmanovich	
	Gerri Schmidt	
Oldman Creek Gardens	Sheila Flint	587 990 9935; smaflint@gmail.com

