



## October 2022 Door Prize

For this month – given it’s the Annual General Meeting – we thought we’d spice the door prize up a bit to encourage LOTS of you to come to the meeting. This month’s door prize is **valued at over \$100**...WOW!! Even I’m excited writing this! Here’s what you can win for your \$1 ticket:

- **TULIPS:** Who doesn’t love tulips in the spring??? I mean, seriously. These little gems are sure to bring a smile to your face...and to your neighbors too!

- 15 Red Dress tulips – VERY unique shape
- 15 Queen of the Night tulips
- Both are hardy to zones 3
- They like full to partial sun
- Will bloom mid spring 2023



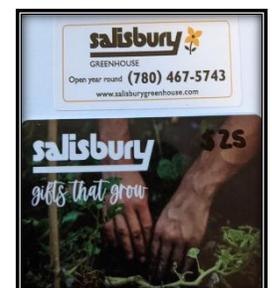
- **ALLIUM / ALLIUM:** 20 bulbs to enjoy in late spring 2023. These are hardy to zone 3 so no worries about them not making it through our winter. They like full sun. The bonus with these beauties is that they are deer resistant...so for those of you in the rural area you’ll appreciate that.



- **GARLIC:** Based on the great feedback last month when our speaker shared insights on the varieties of garlic, you’ll be sure to enjoy this package. Included are 4 different types of garlic: Duganski, German Red, Mennonite and Music. And of course, each head contains anywhere from 4 to 10 cloves each of which can be planted this fall for harvesting LOTS of garlic in 2023.



- **2 GIFT CERTIFICATES:** Lastly...included in this amazing door prize we’re including not one but 2 \$25 Gift Certificates - 1 from Greenland Garden Center AND 1 from Salisbury Greenhouse. We believe in supporting local and independently owned companies and are proud to continue our support for these two amazing companies who have been very active in our community for many, many years. As you may know, both of these companies have not only plants and all the supporting things you need to grow amazing plants, but they also have many other gift items too! So if you’ve had enough of plants for this year you can always pop by these places and pick up a little something for yourself OR someone else. Their selections are GREAT!!



# Board Positions for October Election

Eight Board positions are up for election this year, providing a variety of opportunities for new members to come forward with their skills and ideas for our Club. Some incumbents may be willing to let their name stand again for their current position. However, if you covet someone else's position, you can advise Donna or be nominated at the AGM. Imagine! We would have a real election, with voting and everything! A summary highlighting the duties of each open position is included below, and you can contact Donna for more information.

## Summary of Board Members' Duties

### Vice President

- ✓ Assists the President and, in his absence, carries out his duties
- ✓ Assists the Nominating Committee in finding candidates to fill Board positions
- ✓ Advances to the role of President when he/she steps down

### Secretary

- ✓ Takes minutes of Board meetings and the AGM
- ✓ Attends to all correspondence and monitors the Club email address
- ✓ Maintains an archive of historical club documents including an up-to-date version of the bylaws, policy and procedures, and duties and responsibilities
- ✓ Acts as signing authority for bank account

### Membership Coordinator

- ✓ Receives and processes applications for membership and annual fees
- ✓ Maintains an up-to-date membership list and communicates changes to other Board members as required
- ✓ Tracks and processes plot holders' requests for Old Man Creek Community Garden, including collection of plot fees
- ✓ Presides at the sign-in table at regular meetings and the AGM

### Fundraising Coordinator

- ✓ Conducts a raffle at general meetings and at the Christmas Potluck Social
- ✓ Purchases raffle items as directed by the Board and receives donated items
- ✓ Attends to licensing requirements of the provincial government

### Speaker and Events Coordinator

- ✓ Conducts research, gathers input from Board and members on topics and speakers for meetings, contacts speakers and concludes all necessary arrangements, both prior to and at the meetings, including facility arrangements
- ✓ Develops proposals for tours, field trips, workshops and other special events for the Board's approval and undertakes necessary arrangements
- ✓ Attention to detail is required and this may include arrangements for online platforms such as Zoom

### Phoning Coordinator

- ✓ Maintains an up-to-date phoning list on a monthly basis and supervises a group of volunteer phoners
- ✓ Emails/calls volunteer phoners the weekend before each meeting with information to be passed on to members
- ✓ Directs the subcommittee of volunteer phoners to contact persons under their name on the phoning list before each meeting of Strathcona County Garden Club

### Newsletter Editor

- ✓ Writes and compiles news and information in a monthly newsletter format for members, typically 10 per year (none in August or December)
- ✓ Emails Newsletter in PDF format to all members showing an email address in the master membership spreadsheet
- ✓ Prints a small number of copies for mailing by regular post to members without email and brings the remainder to the regular monthly meeting for visitors and general pick-up
- ✓ Prepares a PDF web version of the Newsletter, omitting contact phone numbers, and emails to web master

### Social Media Coordinator

- ✓ Administers and maintains the Club's presence online including Website and Facebook accounts with access limited to Club members, and domain control/ownership
- ✓ Posts relevant guidelines and policies of the Club, governing its social media presence
- ✓ Posts important Club updates and events, including but not limited to monthly meetings and speakers, potluck information, extra events, due date for fees, and others, as directed by the Board
- ✓ Ensures the monthly Newsletter is uploaded in a timely manner

## Why Join? Why Volunteer?

The Strathcona County Garden Club is a fantastic association to be part of – you already know this - but it takes a group of dedicated volunteers to make sure great things continue to happen. You have already joined the Garden Club. Now, we ask you to consider joining the SCGC Board of Directors. The Board works as a team and you are never left stranded; Helen Keller said ***“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”***

A volunteer is someone who freely offers to participate in an enterprise. Who better to be in the company of than people with this generosity of spirit and willingness to give of themselves and their time? And who gives more than those who step forward to manage the activities, finances and overall operation of a club? But volunteering isn't only about giving. Volunteers will tell you they reap many rewards from their giving. And you will too! You can:

1. **Meet helpful, knowledgeable, and generous people.** Garden Club members freely share how to do just about anything...transplant plants, grow scrumptious veggies, kill nasty weeds, find local businesses with sweet deals, tour gardens, and so much more. Way better than google and we are human!!

2. **Keep your mind and body fit as a fiddle.** The Garden Club plans so many interesting events and by interacting with people, chatting with them at meetings, working on different little projects, planting flowers & veggies, pulling weeds you can avoid chronic and mental illness. Having a purpose is so important... the best medicine. So much talk nowadays about depression, mental health, loneliness - not at SCGC. We are a happy, healthy, energetic group. Pat, our Membership Director, is a beaming example.
3. **Give back to YOUR community.** SCGC is a non-profit association and therefore you will *not* get paid (at least not in \$\$\$\$), but that is the best part. Volunteers reap rewards in so many other ways - sense of purpose/worth, strengthening bonds within the community, camaraderie, role models for our youth, learning new skills, the list is endless. Winston Churchill sums it up best, ***“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”***

## Growing Great Garlic

Last month's speaker, Lisa Harding, captured our attention with her talk on growing garlic. We promised to include her contact information in this month's newsletter.

**Lisa Harding, Homebody Bees**

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Leduc County

780.886.1325

homebodybees@gmail.com

<https://m.facebook.com/homebodybees/>

With all the questions that arose, we thought you might find a report on some hardneck garlic growing test trials helpful in bringing some science to bear on your practice. The 4 trial beds were each 30 inches by 10 feet. Rows were set 7 inches apart and the spacing within each row was 3, 5.5, 7 and 9 inches. So which trial bed yielded the largest harvest overall and which yielded the largest garlic bulbs? To find the answer to these questions, check out this article from the Vegetable Academy: [How Garlic Spacing Impacts Bulb Size and Total Yield](#). If you want to optimize both yield AND bulb size, the trial results favour the 5.5 inch in-row spacing with 7 inches between rows. But the cost of planting same-size beds at different densities also varies, another factor the article touches on.

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

Nov 24      Annual Potluck Christmas Social at the Log Cabin

## Fall Plant Sale

Donna sends her thanks:

Many thanks to club members and board members who volunteered to help with our very successful September plant sale! Thank you to Cathe, Brenda, Eric, Jack, Al, Sheila, and Pegi! Thank you to Marianne, Lori, Pat, Andrew, and Susan! If I have omitted anyone, please accept my apology, but know your help was greatly appreciated. Many thanks to the club members who donated plants.

## Celebrating Outstanding Gardener, Brenda Brooke

Dear members, let's be clear that whatever I say about Brenda's contribution to our garden club can never do justice to her actual contribution. As JC so aptly explained when she introduced Brenda at our tea in July, Brenda was the go-to person. For starters, she has a long history with the club and can tell you about the meetings that were held at the Chamber of Commerce building, then at Robin Hood School, Wye Community Hall and finally, the Community Center and Council Chamber. Over 20+ years, she has served on the phoning committee, as coffee coordinator, as President (4 years), and as Speaker and Events Coordinator (11 years, 4 of which while President). No surprise she became the go-to person.

Every organization seems to go through cycles and the Garden Club is no different. Brenda stepped forward and took on the role of President when no one else would. She fiercely wanted the garden club to continue and to succeed! But the toughest thing she had to do as President? I remember the first regular meeting that Brenda chaired. Her notes shook as she spoke, and her voice quivered. I should mention that the speaker she was introducing was none other than Jim Hole. And that every seat was filled. But she soldiered bravely on in her brand new undertaking and, over time, her confidence and comfort level grew and grew and grew. Kudos Brenda! Reflecting on the positive outcomes of her volunteering, she reports that how the club grew and seeing people enjoy themselves and learn new ideas/concepts made it all worthwhile! Worthwhile for us too, Brenda!

When Brenda took on the job of Speaker and Events Coordinator, she made it her own. She searched the internet for topics and speakers, read articles and gardening columns, attended workshops and courses, all so she could vet various ideas and speakers as to their suitability for our garden club. She was the first to organize a program of special events and tours for our members – to Olds College, Ellis Bird Farm, St. Albert Botanical Garden, Dr. Evans' farm, Devonian / UofA Botanical Garden, numerous greenhouse tours, potting workshops, Christmas workshops, hands on salsa making. She even had us building native bee condos.....



On one occasion, Brenda and her husband Eric prepared a dozen different items incorporating a variety of herbs and spices for a tongue-tingling tasting for members. A real treat for us, but a lot of effort for them, especially with the added complication of a rainstorm that pounded the Salisbury Greenhouse venue.

Then there are the annual plant sales and the Christmas potluck dinners, each requiring attention to a myriad of details. Brenda was always a central figure in the planning and execution of both and no job was too big or too small. She trudged up and down the road, posting handmade signs for the plant sale. She provided tablecloths and decorations for the Christmas social, lending a bit more class and ambience to the event, in addition to always cooking a turkey. For our last such event at the Ottewell Barn, turnout was so high we ran short of chairs. Brenda and Eric ate their dinner standing up. This triggered our relocation to the Log Cabin.

Brenda and Eric live on an acreage near Ardrossan, so there is plenty of space for their own gardens. Brenda has 20 raised beds, 4' X 8' each. Brenda likes the challenge of trying something new each year. This year, it was green cauliflower. She grows yellow raspberries, purple tomatoes and asparagus – green I think – along with many other veggies. YUM! She ages the leaves from their many trees and uses them to enrich her garden beds. Eric is happy that he doesn't have to rototill...



Eric is a chef as many of you know. So I asked him if he and Brenda cook together. He said “no, she doesn't let me in the kitchen”. Let me tell you, if I had a live-in chef, I don't think he'd get **out** of the kitchen!

It is a true pleasure for me to showcase a few aspects of a volunteer whom I have served with and admired for many years. We are all the better for our own Brenda Brooke and for the dedication, organization, reliability and passion for gardening with which she graces our club.

### Tasting Menu

Any recipe is a matter of your own personal taste so have fun and experiment!!

Yogurt Cheese with Herbs  
Spanakopita  
Clam Chowder Soup  
Chicken with Lemon & Tarragon  
Marinated Lamb  
New Potatoes with Rosemary  
Pasta with Pesto  
Marinated Tomatoes  
Zucchini Salad  
Cheddar and Sage Cornbread  
Thyme and Cheddar Biscuits  
Mint Marinated Fruit

## 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

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
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	
<b>Support Volunteers</b>	<b>Name</b>	
Membership Assistant	Pat Barker	
Facebook Administrator	Marlene Parish	
Phone Volunteers	Pat Barker	
	Pegi Gunn-Graham	
	Marj Kennedy	
	Pat Komarniski	
	Lil Parker	
	Shirley Radmanovich	
	Gerri Schmidt	
Oldman Creek Gardens	Sheila Flint	587 990 9935; smayflint@gmail.com