



EXECUTIVE

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Treasurer: Carolyn Demers

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Director of Advertising Jennifer Trudeau

Director of Garden Tours

Director of Promotions Bonnie VanDerLann

Director of Vegetable Gardens Muriel McIlwain

Director of Speakers Camilla Drake

March Newsletter

Meeting will be at 7:00 pm, Wed, March 28th in upper level of Heritage House, 100 Lorne St. Guests are always welcome. Our meetings are always the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Speaker: is Rob Higgins, on invasive insects. He has done some interesting articles that you can find in the enclosed link. <http://faculty.tru.ca/rhiggins/>

Elections: As you can see from the header Sharon Green has volunteered to sit as our new president a, and Jennifer Trudeau as Vice-president. Thank you to both. We still need someone to volunteer to be head of garden tours, which we have every 2nd Thursday through late May and ending late August. Usually club members volunteer their own gardens or those of friends or neighbors'.

Memberships for 2018 are due now, \$15 / person, \$20 / couple, cash or check.

Don't forget Grocery Receipts from Independent Foods which we exchange for gift certificates that pay for our turkeys and rib roasts, and give them to Mary Bianco. They can be from any year and there is no deadline as there was from Coopers.

When you sign in at the door and pick up your name tag, a sheet will be available at there for your suggestions about our donation to a charitable community cause, something that we do each year with proceeds from the silent auction.

Thank you for last month's goodies brought Ruth Lunn and Muriel McIlwain, this month's goodies will be brought by Jiuliana D'Agnolo and John Olynick.

Plant/Garage Sale will be on Saturday May 19 at the home of Greg Koll and John Olynick, at 837 Lolo St. Phone number 250-376-2516. You may contact John and Greg if you wish to drop off things before the sale as they said they have a large shed. Items such as tools, dishes, knick-knacks, small appliances still working, clothing, glass or stone pots, garden tools, anything you would normally have at your own garage sale, **items must be clean**, and priced (masking tape works).

Welcome new members: Keith Wallace, Lynn, Laura and Lorrie Hauzeneder, Laura and Peter Gobbee, Carol Wozencroft (of Purity Nursery). Long time members please strike up a conversation with our new members at coffee break, asking what kind of gardening they like and what part of town they live in, because it takes a while to get to know people when we only have 8 meetings a year.

Gardening Hints from Growing for Flavor by James Wong

Last November I listed some of the vegetables that James Wong recommended as having superior flavor, especially the Carrot 'Purple Sun' which I found difficult to find in Canada, but finally did at William Dam Seeds, though I could not find some of the others he recommended. I ordered the following from Wm Dam: in alphabetical order: Beets 'Detroit Supreme', Beans 'Isabel'(pole, stringless), Carrots 'Naval hybrid Organic', Carrots 'Purple Sun', Corn 'Honey Select Hybrid'. Peas 'Cascadia', Parsley 'Hamburg Berliner' (has a parsnip like root), Parsnip 'Albion Hybrid', Peppers 'Gypsy Hybrid', winter Squash 'Honey Bear Hybrid', Strawberries 'Delizz Hybrid'.

So if I get them planted in time and have a good crop, I will give my opinion in September if it was worth the trouble buying special seeds.

It might be too early to be planting seeds, but down in the valley you may be able to work the soil already, hopefully you are mixing in compost nice and early so it gets to break down and boost populations of beneficial microbes a few weeks before seeding. Spread a couple of inches on top, and the worms will do the rest of the mixing. If you don't have enough and need to buy fertilizers with nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, your soil may be low in micronutrients such as iron, copper, calcium, zinc, etc. Super seaweed, a rich source of minerals and trace nutrients, another is mega molasses a rich source of trace minerals and potassium,(which you can buy in large buckets at Purity Feed) or you can buy powdered trace minerals (by weight) at Agri Supply.

I was at Art Knapp's yesterday and they are gearing up for spring, dahlias and other bulbs are out, primroses in every color, 98 cents a pot, best price in town, some pansies there, and did you know pansies can take up to -5 C, which is not in the forecast for the next 14 days. I have this bunch hardening off right now to put into pots tomorrow.



Some of you may have some feathery grass you could cut and use like this. Pictures courtesy of Pinterest.



