

SEEDERS AND WEEDERS NEWSLETTER

June 2026



Armstrong & District Garden Club

WEBSITE: <https://armstronggardenclub.com>

FACEBOOK: Ken Barr

EXECUTIVE:

President – Heather Hayes 250 546-4969

Vice president – Vacant

Secretary – Mary Jackson

Treasurer – Paul Peacock

Membership Secretary - Chris Williams

Past President – Carolyn Farris

Director at large – Glen Gytenbeek

Speaker coordinator – Suzie Sims

Tour Coordinator - Vacant

Newsletter Editor – Dianne Lockton

Website Manager - Mary Jane Duford

Sunshine - Dianne Lockton and Heather Hayes

Door Prizes – Sue Rook

GUEST SPEAKER

Our members Mary and Gene Jackson gave a presentation on the Keukenhof gardens located in the Netherlands. It was part of their vacation this spring.

The gardens are located about an hour from Amsterdam and can sometimes have 35,000 visitors per day.

The history of Keukenhof dates back to the 15th century. Countess Jacoba van Beieren (Jacqueline of Bavaria) used Keukenduyn (kitchen dunes) as hunting grounds for the kitchen of Teylingen Castle. Keukenhof Castle was built in 1641 and the estate grew to an area of over 200 acres.

The castle gardens were redesigned in 1857 by landscape architects Jan David Zocher and son Louis Paul Zocher.

The park opened its gates to the public in 1950 as a spring park exhibiting flowering bulbs. The first year (and subsequent years) was very successful and drew 236,000 visitors.

The Keukenhof has become a world famous attraction. The focus is on 7 million spring-flowering bulbs displayed during an 8 week period.

500 flower growers display a variety of cut flowers and pot plants and there are over 20 flower shows.

Trade events for growers are also organized regularly giving an opportunity to network and meet business contacts.

Economic Significance:

- Tulip industry is a cornerstone of the Netherlands horticultural sector
- Produces 4.3 billion tulip bulbs annually (of which 2.3 billion are grown into cut flowers).
- 90% of tulips are exported
- Netherlands supplies 60 – 90% of global flower bulb production and trade
- Exports valued at 800 to 900 million per year
- Exports increased 30% since 2022

Production:

- Bulbs grown on 28,000 hectares; 50% tulips
- 1,600 companies of farmers, breeders and brokers
- Advanced techniques in breeding, mechanization, storage and quality control
- Specialized cultivation

Challenges and Tourism:

- Climate change, rising land prices, pest and virus threats, stricter legislation on chemical use
- Trade events and sites like Keukenhof promote industry and trade relationships



GENERAL MEETING

First Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, September to June (except January) in
*St James Anglican Church Hall, Armstrong.

Next meeting : September 8, 2026 6:30 pm
 *Note possible location change

MINUTES

ARMSTRONG AND DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
Minutes for TUESDAY, June 2, 2026, 6:30 PM
St. James Church Hall, ARMSTRONG

SPEAKER: Mary Jackson spoke about her trip to Keukenhof Gardens near Amsterdam in May.

19 members in attendance

1. Call to Order - President Heather called to meeting to order 7:25 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda - CARRIED.
3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Move by Donna to approve the minutes of May 5, 2026, as circulated.
CARRIED.

4. Correspondence -Received a postcard from Paige Fedorak thanking ADGC for the Bursary.

5. Treasurer's Report - Paul Peacock presented the financial report for the club. Revenues from the plant sale were down this year, due to fewer plants. This will affect the fund we have available for local organizations. Motion by Jacqui and Donna to accept the report. CARRIED.

6. Old Business

a) Plant Sale Results and Debrief

President Heather thanked the members for their efforts in preparing for, and being at the plant sale. She hopes everyone had a good time. She commented on the good teamwork that everyone exhibited.

Does the donation approach net better results? Yes, about 75 % were at the original sale price. Agreement that we still need to pursue a price approach for most of the sale.

Do we price higher? Yes, on some items. The soil was priced too low, for example. It's a fine line between pricing high and having leftovers to care for. Were there plants that didn't sell? Not a lot. Generally this applies to plants or bulbs without a photo or colour information.

Comment that the house plants were not so popular.

High demand for tomatoes. Thanks to Heather for growing them!

We need a sign for Berries/Small Fruits.

There was a demand for shade plants e.g. columbine and bleeding heart. Also, we could provide more bulbs and tubers, with accompanying information.

Do we spread the word that we will dig up plants for the sale? Usually word of mouth, but we would consider this. It needs members to devote some time to dig and care for plants.

Heather asked us to dig up plants in the fall and overwinter them. Usually you can dig the pot into the ground and add some mulch. One idea was to place the pot on its side, so it wouldn't get too wet.

Heather has room to store plants over the winter, if needed. Sue W. and Glenn have pots that members can use.

b) Meeting Location

The Museum has offered the club free meeting space, as we are caring for their gardens.

We are currently paying \$40.00 to use the Church Hall. We are paid up to this month.

We will need to move the screen if we move.

The museum does have a coffee area that we could use for refreshments.

ACTION: Heather and Glenn to follow-up on the potential meeting space at the Museum.

ACTION: Mary to advise members of any change in location.

c) 100th anniversary (2027) Update

No further update at this time.

d) Volunteers for Petunia Care and Planting

Brad from the City asked if the garden club had any plants, as they didn't order enough. The City has cleaned the beds and arranged watering, as far as we know.

We could be planting as early as this week. A Wednesday, Thursday or Friday evening at 7 p.m. would be a good time to meet up, once City has given the go-ahead.

ACTION: Mary to send out a notice to members when a date has been confirmed. Remind members to bring trowels.

e) Bonsai Tour Report

The Bonsai tour, hosted by Bob Martin, was very interesting and provided an overview of the bonsai techniques. Bob had a number of specimens to view. He knew the subject well and could answer any question posed to him.

f) PV Manor Planting Report

The planting at PV went well. Rea reported that 3 members and 4 others undertook the planting and were done in short order. The feedback we have received has been very positive.

7. New Business

a) Summer social

The members chose to have our social at Memorial Park. The first date is **Tuesday, July 7 at 5 p.m.** and the back-up date is Tuesday, July 14th. We'll meet at the gazebo if it is available or in the nearby area.

Members are asked to bring plates, cutlery, chairs and a dish that would serve about 6 people. Several members offered to bring tables as well.

ACTION: Mary to send out a confirmation of the date and a reminder.

b) September Meeting

Members agreed to postpone our September meeting to Tuesday, September 8 to accommodate IPE activities.

8. Adjourn - Motion by Paul and Jacqui to adjourn the meeting.
President Heather adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Thank you to Sue Wiebe for submitting the following article, and to Chris Williams for the photos.

What we learned on the Bonsai Tour with Bob Martin

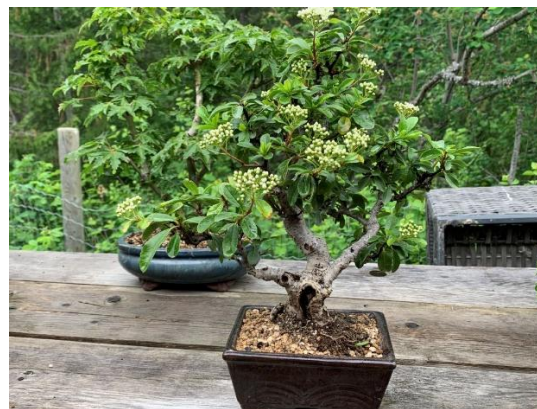
While bonsai literally translates as tree in a pot, the art of bonsai is much more nuanced. The goal is to achieve the appearance of an aged miniature tree displayed in a beautiful pot. As Bob talked it became apparent this process was a combination of science and art, requiring a whole lot of patience and knowledge. Considering there are seven-year apprenticeships to learn the art of bonsai, our tour barely scratched the surface.

As we looked at his beautiful bonsai trees of different varieties like the Green hornbeam, Chinese juniper, Japanese maple all beautifully displayed in bonsai pots along his deck we were amazed. We began to ask questions, and we learned and learned some more. What we saw in front of us began with the selection of an appropriate tree. Some people make a living either harvesting in the wild or cultivating trees in nurseries to be used for bonsai. Through the regular use of pruning, root pruning and wire shaping, a tree is developed over years, decades and even centuries into living art.

Like most art forms, there are guidelines. Each tree can be shaped into an aesthetic form like windswept, formal or informal upright, semi cascade and full cascade, etc. Bob did recommend seeing what form the tree naturally leans toward, as fighting the natural tendency can lead to great frustration! Once the tree is ready to be in a bonsai pot, the variety of tree indicates the type of pot to use. For example, typically deciduous trees go in glazed pots and conifers in rough pots that are rubbed with vegetable oil. The selection of the pot plays an important role in the overall beauty of the bonsai, with pots ranging in price dramatically.

The care of an established bonsai is extensive as well. Regular pruning for shape, root pruning for size maintenance, and wire shaping to achieve the right balance and structure contribute to the artform. Within the bonsai pots, the trees are not planted in soil but wired into the holes in the bottom of the pot with a substrate mix of pumice, akadama, and lava. They are then fertilized carefully with the use of fertilizer baskets that sit on top of the substrate. Bob has a whole system dedicated to the collection of rainwater as it is the best for the bonsai. In the case of coniferous trees, he also acidifies the collected water. For winter care, as the trees need a dormant period, they get buried with their pots into the garden with a select few going into the garage.

Bob mentioned that a few houseplants like the jade and the ficus can also be used for bonsais. Otherwise, good starter trees are the juniper and Japanese beach. Do not get dwarf varieties as they grow too slow for shaping appropriately. For resources, Bob recommended the Kelowna Bonsai Club which is very active, a wealth of knowledge, and has a Facebook page. He also recommended Michael Hagedorn who has books and a website called www.crataegus.com. It was a true treat and learning experience to visit Bob Martin and his bonsai trees.





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The ADGC bursary committee members (Rea Smith, Dianne Lockton and Ken Barr) chose Pleasant Valley Secondary student Paige Fedorak as the successful applicant this year.



Volunteers did a great job planting the Pleasant Valley Boulevard flowers again.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Watch your email for notices regarding the following:

July Summer Social

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 8 6:30 pm

*Location to be announced

Have a good summer everyone!

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Members of the Armstrong & District Garden Club receive discounts at a number of local garden centres:

Shepherd's Home Hardware Outdoor Living in Armstrong: 15% Discount on Regularly-Priced Garden Plants

Blue Mountain Nursery in Armstrong: 10% Discount on all products

Swan Lake Market and Garden in Spallumcheen: See notes under Section 7 in the minutes of April 7th meeting. Let Mary Jackson or Carolyn Farris know if you are interested in joining.

Nicholas Alexander Nursery in Vernon: 10%-15% Discount on Regularly-Priced Garden Plants.

Show your membership card at the till before the cashier rings up the total and kindly request your member discount.