



ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION SPEAKER REGISTRATION REQUEST FORM

To add your name to our Speaker's List on gardenontario.org please fill in the following form and email to:

Rose Odell at speakers@gardenontario.org

Name: First Laura Last Thomas

Biography:

Laura Thomas – Founder, Native Plant Grower & Designer

Laura Thomas is the founder of **Hidden Habitat**, a Muskoka-based native plant nursery and ecological landscaping company that grows Ontario native plants and helps landowners create landscapes that support biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. A graduate of the University of Waterloo's Environment and Resource Studies program, Laura has more than fifteen years of experience working in the landscape and restoration sector.

Her work focuses on integrating restoration ecology into landscape design, demonstrating that beautiful gardens and functional ecosystems can work together to support pollinators, wildlife habitat, and long-term ecological resilience. Laura is also active in advancing Ontario's native plant industry, serving as a Director with the Muskoka Conservancy and the Ontario Native Plant Growers Association, and as a member of the National Seed Producers of Canada.

Please provide a brief description of your qualifications, skills and/or experience

Contact Information:

Email: laura@hiddenhabitat.ca

Website: www.hiddenhabitat.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/HiddenHabitat

Phone: 705-828-6313

Home Location: Gravenhurst

Please list the District & Society you belong to:

Society:

District:

Please select all the Districts that you would travel to:

D1 D2 D3 D4 D5 D6 D7
D8 D9 D10 D11 D12 D13 D14
D15 D16 D17 D18 D19

Topic List

For each entry, please list a topic from the list below, a title and a brief description noting any costs, restrictions, i.e. time of year, and any other special requirements.

Choose a TOPIC from the following:

Bulbs/Tuber

Environment

Floral Design Fungi

Gardening

Herbs

Houseplant

Native Plants

Pollinators

Propagating

Pruning

Vegetables

Topic	Title	Description
	Gardening for Wildlife	Garden for the good of wildlife. Learn how to create gardens that support wildlife and compliment the local neighbouring ecosystems. Discover which plants are best at supporting wildlife in general and what species are needed to attract specific butterflies, moths and songbirds. Explore the importance of native plants in the landscape and why we need to see our gardens as being more than just pretty. Learn how your garden can function both ecologically and aesthetically in your landscape with design and maintenance tips for every garden style.
	Growing Native Plants from Seed	Learn how to grow native plants from seed. In this introductory webinar, you will learn how to ethically collect seeds, clean them for storage, as well as the best methods for storing seeds. Discover the best methods for germinating your seeds indoors or outdoors and how to care for your newly sprouted seedlings.
	Moving Beyond Butterfly Gardens	Grow wild and think beyond a pollinator patch or butterfly garden. Learn how your garden can provide habitat for more than just butterflies and that by implementing strategies that support a diversity of

		species from songbirds to salamanders, you improve the ecological integrity of your garden and make it more welcoming to butterflies and beyond. Discover which plants are best at supporting wildlife and how you can maintain your garden to encourage and welcome a diversity of species.

Files to add to listing:

Please send any pdf documents to market your topics/workshops including the audio/visual requirements form so our societies know what equipment/services are required.

Do you present in Person, on Zoom or both?

In person only –

On Zoom only –

In person and on Zoom -

Authorization & Release

I, *Laura Thomas*, grant the Ontario Horticultural Association:

- Use of my photographic images and/or video and/or testimonials in various forms of media, including printed or multi-media materials, to be used by or for the Ontario Horticultural Association to assist in publicity, promotion, marketing and/or educational purposes.

- Use of my identity or likeness in photographic images and/or video and/or testimonials as described above.
- The permission to identify me by name and/or society/organization and such identifiers as hometown (if applicable).

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the "Signature:" label.

Date: March 6, 2026