



ESSEX & DISTRICT
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
a member of the Ontario
Horticultural Association.
Society established in 1974.



Swamp Rose Mallow
Society Emblem

2020 EXECUTIVE & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: Joe Dicker

519-839-4666

1st VICE PRES:

Sandy Ellenor:

Bus Trip Co-ordinator;

Flower Show Co-ordinator

2nd VICE PRES:

Teresa Vermeulen,

SECRETARY

Lynn Imeson

519-987-4751

lynneal@gosfielddtel.com

Newsletter Editor

Historian/Photo Albums

Webmaster

TREASURER

Bonnie Teskey

Membership assisted by

Gayle Harrison

Camelia Mallia; Publicity,

Lunch Table/coffee & tea

June Middleton: Calling

Margaret Pringle, director
at large,

Hazel Smith: lunch table
w/tea/coffee

Ileen Stanton: Calling

Judy Ward: Calling,

Lunch reminder calling

THE ESSEX THYMES

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
ESSEX & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

January 22, 2020

Published January, April, June & September

PLEASE REMEMBER TO "LUG A MUG"

You may win a prize.

Meetings held at 32 Russell Street, Essex

Essex Retirees' Social Club Bldg.,

With entrance off Day Street Parking Lot

Held 4th Wednesday of months January – June

September – October with year-end meeting held in

November

Message from President, Joe Dicker

I'd like to start by welcoming everyone back for another year and wishing all of you a very happy new year. Last year was a rollercoaster ride for many of us in the club with many highs and a few lows.

The folks who were involved with the convention really worked hard and should be very proud of their accomplishments. Our extra-curricular activities (bus trip, plant sales and flower show) were all successes and I'd like to also thank everyone for their help with those endeavors.

Sadly, we lost a great friend as the year came to a close, Kathy Hudak was not only a loved society member, but a truly wonderful person and she will be missed by all.

None of us know what the next year will bring but with the usual help and support of the club members there's nothing we can't accomplish.

We will so miss Kathy Hudak, a retired nurse, and our society director for years, former President for two, creator of the Heritage Gardens next to the Essex Railroad Station in 1999 - 2000, planner for many years of the downtown Essex gardens and energetic worker with the youth.

She was always ready with a smile, new ideas and tons of energy. We remember interesting entries from her in our July Flower Shows and she encouraged her 3 grandchildren to participate every year as well during their summer vacations in this area.

This spring we will be planting another tree on the property, with the Essex Retirees' Social Club's permission, in honour of Kathy. We hope it will be another red bud. Like the other trees, this one will also be marked with a plaque.

Kathy was the person who planted the first three! We will also replace one of the others that died.

-Lynn

(please see obit on bulletin board)

KATHY HUDAK

April 30, 1949 – December 7, 2019

On December 7, we lost our good friend, Kathy Hudak. Kathy will be missed by so many; her family and friends are all feeling the loss every single day. In our Horticulture club we cannot have an executive or regular meeting without feeling she is missing. Kathy rarely missed a meeting until she became ill over a year ago. For years Kathy worked diligently behind the scenes helping our club run smoothly, always at the ready to volunteer her time and talents. We can't have another plant sale without picturing Kathy arriving with all her tables and a slew of plants that she had been babying in her little greenhouse. We know Kathy would lug home most of the leftovers and keep an eye on them until the next plant sharing event and then she would lug them all back to us again. They would not go to waste. Our flower shows will miss her inspirational entries and the endless creativity she shared with us all. Whatever she did, she put her heart and soul into it. When she offered to take care of a Junior Garden club for us, the kids loved her. She was so good with them and she had the excitement and exuberance of a kid herself. She even volunteered for the OHA on a Junior Camp experience at Mattawa during the Ottawa OHA convention, kayaking, canoeing and hiking. I even remember her volunteering at Canada Blooms when she knew no one else there. She was fearless. We were in awe of her. Teresa used to say to Kathy, "When I grow up, I want to be just like you." We understood that completely. She had such a zest for life, nature and just helping people in general. She was always up to a challenge. The last few years here she quietly worked behind the scene in the kitchen for our meetings, making sure everyone had lots to eat and drink and things were running smoothly. She loved going to the conventions, hearing new ideas and learning and implementing some of them. Kathy had a wonderful zest for life, and we are all the better for knowing and learning from her. We are sad but so fortunate to have had her so involved in this Society. Hugs to all her family and friends.

-Sandy

While putting together this month's newsletter I was saddened to see that last year, 2019, was the last year for the **Stratford Garden Festival**, sponsored by the Ontario Lung Association. This was always a delightful show with good speakers.

A lot of our favourite events are disappearing. Two or three years ago Sandy, Bonnie & I were absolutely dismayed to receive word via email that the Michigan Herb Association, with its wonderful Spring Seminars, was disbanding. Originally, a two-day event, it had been pared down to one, but was still a wonderful time. Each year the theme would centre on the (USA) HERB OF THE YEAR. Its organizers worked most of the year to put it together with fantastic speakers, silent auctions, live plant auctions & door prizes, juried displays from the various herb associations of Michigan, interesting vendors, along with innovative lunches centering around herbs.

-Lynn

Essex Horticultural Society Bus Trip June 13, 2020

Please arrive by 6:45 am at the Dollar Tree parking lot on Wilson St. As usual, it will be a coach bus with washroom facilities. We will be going to the Shedden Rhubarb Festival & town-wide yard sale; buffet lunch in Talbotville included in price, visit to David Hobson's personal garden, Waterloo, & we will visit 2 nurseries/garden centres in the Waterloo area. We visited David's garden many years ago, but he has updated his garden and has incorporated new ideas. David has written several humorous garden books and writes a garden column in the Waterloo newspaper. He has conducted tours to places like the Chelsea Flower show and is a sought-after speaker in the gardening world. His sense of humour is reflected in his garden, which is not that large, a city lot, but very interesting. We will make a quick stop on 401 for a snack on the way home. Price will be \$70 for paid up members and \$75 for non-members so be sure and ask your friends to join us, members or not. Please pay Bonnie, our Treasurer at the meeting and must be paid by our May meeting. Paying ahead of time ensures your seat. Hope you can all join us for a very fun day!

-Sandy

The OHA (Ontario Horticultural Society) is holding a "Great Green Fundraiser" selling seeds. We do not have much time. The order has to be into our District Director, Marg Laman, by March 1, so our orders should be given to Society reps well before that. Joe will explain how it works at the beginning of the meeting tonight and there will be pamphlets on the table on the left side of the room.

Essex County Gardening FB Page SEEDY SATURDAY

Saturday, March 14, 11am – 2pm:
ADMISSION - \$2, under 12 free.
Essex Retirees Social Club
32 Russell St., Essex
Seed Exchange, vendors, raffles, bake sale, Master Gardeners; vendors in one room, raffles in another area, seed exchange in gym. Retirees holding bake sale at the same time. Bring in saved seeds; give them to volunteer who will put them in the correct section; If you have no seeds, simply make a donation.

CANADA BLOOMS

Enercare Centre, Toronto
co-locating with the Home Show
March 13 - 22, 2020 - Toronto
Mon-Wed: 10am – 8pm
Thurs-Sat: 10am – 9pm
Sunday March 15: 10am – 6pm
Sunday March 22: 10am – 5pm

Please check out our bulletin board tonight for a printout of the 10 Neat Things Ontario column by Shauna Dobbie from May 2019. The subject is Deadheading & Pruning. Shauna was editor of the Ontario Gardener Magazine. This has now been changed to Canada's Local Gardener with access online by registration to articles pertaining to a person's locale.

OHA Convention Windsor July 2019-Bonnie Teskey

Hummingbirds

At the Ontario Horticultural Association convention in Windsor in July 2019, I attended a presentation on banding hummingbirds. It was hosted by a husband & wife team, Rachel & Carl Pesco.

For them to catch the hummers, they have a very large screened cage with an opening for the birds to enter & a hummingbird feeder hanging in the middle. When a bird enters & starts feeding, they can easily catch them. They are then measured. They check the wing length. Females have larger wings; this helps to tell the sex especially on young birds. They check their fat by blowing on their stomachs with a straw. The birds don't seem to mind this & probably tickles them.

The hummers each get individual numbers, so they have a unique identity. The bands are so small they can be stored on a large safety pin.

The banders always look for signs of stress. If any is detected the birds are immediately released even if it hasn't been banded or measured.

Their life cycle is approximately 5 years for females & 3 years for males, but some have been recorded at 9 years for a female & 5 years for a male.

It is true that some hummingbirds come back to the same area each year. They are usually spotted around mid to late May & they usually depart in late August to mid-September. There are exceptions to this. If you see them earlier, they may be migrants heading further north.

From mid-April or early May, check your feeders in early morning or near sunset to see the first visitors appear.

It takes 6 weeks from laying an egg to the bird fledging. Laying can be as late as July with fledging as late as mid-September.

When young they can be killed by predators, but once they have reached their first year not many things can catch them as they can fly backwards & sideways as well as frontwards.

They have a radius of ¼ mile but have been spotted 1 mile away & as far as 4 miles away. They don't have enough data yet to make a general statement.

Regarding the ruby throat of the male, their feathers are not actually red. The feathers refract light & this is what causes the iridescent red throat. If the light comes from a different angle, the ruby red might not show, sometimes it can look black.

They sure are interesting to watch.

I enjoyed this presentation very much & I thank you for this opportunity to have attended the convention.

Sincerely, Bonnie Teskey

Our member, Bev
Ferguson always finds
such great
nature/gardening quotes
and posts them on the
Essex County
Gardening FB page:
Here are a few:

Advice From A Tree
Stand tall & be proud
Go out on a limb
Reach for the sky
Adapt to change
Branch out
Stay grounded
Remember your roots
Drink plenty of water
Get rid of dead wood
Be confident
Never stop growing
Bend before you break
Turn over a new leaf
Enjoy the view.

**Every gardener knows
that under the cloak of
winter lies a miracle...a
seed waiting to sprout, a
bulb opening to the light,
a bud straining to unfurl.
And the anticipation
nurtures our dream.**
-Barbara Winkler

**When life get tough and
you're faced with defeat,
remember, somewhere in
the world a flower is
popping through some
concrete! 😊**

OHA Convention Windsor July 2019-Joe Dicker

I spent a lot of time at last year's convention actually working the convention, so I don't really have a lot to say about the presentations.

Thursday, I went up early to help deliver supplies for the bus trips, I helped the Sarnia delegation bring in the goodie bags and greeted some of the early arriving delegates. In the afternoon I went to the tree planting at the waterfront and took pictures for the OHA.

Friday all the Society members attending spent the morning in the business session. Just before lunch there was a speaker that I missed most of while prepared for my duties as MC for the Friday night meal and entertainment. After lunch John and I chaperoned a bus trip. The Friday night meal is a bit of a blur as I was MC but the food was excellent and the entertainment was also quite good.

Saturday started with business again as well as a pre-lunch speaker. I missed that speaker as well because I was taking pictures of the exhibits (flower show, photos, etc.). The competition was really spectacular. In the afternoon John and I chaperoned another bus trip. The Saturday night awards banquet was fun, again great food; sadly, we had to leave before hearing the speaker as we were exhausted after the heat of the day.

Sunday, we finished the business part of the convention and I finally got to hear a speaker. I was really looking forward to hearing Jennifer Rusciano who is the Executive Director of the Detroit Food Academy, and organization that helps connect high need areas with local food from Michigan farms and school gardens. A very interesting talk and the examples of her work with the group was quite inspiring.

UPCOMING EVENTS

All directors' & general meetings held at 7:30pm at the Essex Retirees' Centre Social Club unless otherwise noted – access by parking lot entrance

January 22, 2020 – General Meeting – Joe Dicker presenting various garden related internet videos – popcorn provided 🍿

February 11 – Directors' meeting

February 26 – Speaker – Rick Bradt owner of AMA Plastics, Leamington – “providing specialty containers & substrates: Exciting products, projects we've been working on/what's currently happening in the horticultural industry, & a bit on plastics” Plus, we hold our 1st semiannual SILENT AUCTION

March 10 – Directors Meeting

March 25 – Dan Bissonette – on native plants

April 14 – Directors' Meeting

OHA District 11 AGM – TB

April 22 - Alan Batke - presentation on fungi
Also, our 1st semiannual PLANT & SEED EXCHANGE

May 9 – Tentative until we contact Heritage Essex/Essex Railroad Station - Essex Horticultural annual plant Sale at the Station

May 12 – Directors' meeting

May 27 – General Meeting - Speaker - Michael Gawne on cannabis and growing of cannabis.

June 9 – Directors' Meeting

June 13 - Essex Horticultural Society Bus Trip to Shelden, Talbotville, & Waterloo (see page 3)

June 24 – General Meeting - Tentative – Round Table discussions/demos with questions welcome from the audience on all gardening topics
Tentative – also a Mini meeting after general meeting, regarding Flower Show in July

July – TBA - Our Flower Show - Date and location to be announced

July 17 – 19 – OHA 114th Convention 2020 – BW The Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre, 591 Wellington Road S., London, ON

September 8 – Directors' Meeting

September 23 – Sandra Pat from SW Lilies (and Hostas) – plus 2nd semiannual PLANT & SEED EXCHANGE

October 13 – Directors' Meeting

OHA DISTRICT 11 FAM - TBA

October 28 – Speaker Anne Gooch – Hostas - also 2nd semiannual SILENT AUCTION

November 10 - Directors' Meeting

November 25 – Annual Election of Officers & Potluck Dinner – activities TBA