



# The unflower

*The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society Newsletter!*

Volume 18  
Issue 1  
February 2023

## In this Month's Edition:

**Editor's Note**

**Society News**

**Upcoming Meeting**

**Photo Contest**

**Upcoming Events**

**Other News**

*The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society meets every third Tuesday of the month through the months of February to June and From September to November. The meetings are held at the Smiths Falls Legion located on 7 Main Street East, Smiths Falls at 7:00pm.*



## Quote of the Month:

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."

- John Steinbeck

Hi Everyone

Another gardening season is about to take shape. Mother nature seems to be encouraging us to get back in the yard. The feeling when one steps outside these days is definitely "spring-like". However, I'm sure there will be more surprises to come. Winter isn't over yet.

This time of the year is the "lull before the storm" of outdoor tasks. It's a great time to review your notes from last year and make plans for this year. For the past few years I've kept a sketch of my veggie garden beds and what I've planted in each space. I'm a firm believer in rotating crops, so each year as I plan out what I'm going to grow, I look back at the prior years' drawings to ensure I only plant something in the same spot once every three years. Just one tool to help keep diseases and insects to a minimum (with varying degrees of success).

The Board and few others met in January to brainstorm ideas for the coming season. More will be revealed as the ideas are fleshed out. Our aim is to get more members involved in various activities. A big thanks to everyone who has stepped up to help out. Even if you can't commit to sitting on the Board, there are a number of areas where we could use your help. Reach out to a Board member if you'd like to offer your services. Also, new ideas are always welcomed.

Dale Odorizzi, a local Master Gardener, has offered to create an article for our newsletter each month. Check out page 4 for some great information on growing geraniums and other plants from cuttings. A great way to save money! Thank you Dale!

Continuing with tradition, this month is "Freebie February". Everyone is invited to attend our meeting and bring a friend for free. We will be having "movie night", complete with popcorn. More on the page 3.

Hope to see you next week!

## Society News

### November Annual General Meeting

We had a good turnout at our November AGM with many activities taking place. A traditional turkey dinner was served on tables decorated with beautiful centrepieces designed by our members. The arrangements were given out as door prizes. Thanks to everyone who donated their creative talents to the evening.

The dinner was followed by a flower arranging demonstration by Cindy Zorgel. Her beautiful creations were auctioned off at the end of the meeting raising \$140.

The new Board was elected. Thanks, once again, to **Laura Hunter** for taking on the job as President. A full list of Board members is on page 6 of this newsletter. Thanks to those who have stepped up to help ensure this coming season is a success.

Annual prizes were handed out. Congratulations to **Laura Hunter** for accumulating the most points in floral design and horticulture, and to **Linda Svarckopf** for winning in the novice designer category. **Christine Nigelsky** was the 2022 photography contest winner.

Finally, the silent auction included many wonderful items donated by our members. Thanks to everyone who donated and took part in the auction which raised \$450 to help fund our activities for the coming year.

### Contest Winners:



### Our Board:



### A Few Member-Created Centrepieces



## Anneke Phillips

We have said “good-bye” to another long-time Board member. Anneke has stepped down after sitting on the Board since 2014. During her time on the Board, she ensured we had treats for our social time after the meetings; provided door prizes for our monthly raffle (most often out of her own pocket); designed, procured planting materials, and organized the planting crews for the Legion and Library gardens each spring and fall; and took ownership of watering and weeding the gardens at the Legion. She has also been a big part of our annual plant sale. I’m happy to report she will still be activity involved in maintaining the Legion garden. Thank you Anneke for your dedication to our group.

## Next Meeting – February 21<sup>st</sup>

### Movie Night!

We will be showing the award-winning film “The Gardener”. This documentary introduces us to one of the world’s foremost private gardens, Les Jardins de Quatre-Vents, nestled in the rolling hills of Quebec’s Charlevoix.

Philanthropist Frank Cabot opened his garden to a film crew for the first time shortly before his death in 2011 at the age of 86. The documentary focuses on Cabot’s spiritual and creative approach to gardening and his personal quest for perfection.

“The Gardener” features members of the Cabot family and friends including former governor general Adrienne Clarkson, the British gardener Penelope Hobhouse, and Guardian columnist Tim Richardson.

### Photo Contest:

Thanks to **Christine Nigelsky** for organizing and managing the photo contest again this year. There will not be a contest for this upcoming meeting due to the length of the movie. Below are the themes for remainder of the 2023 season.

Month	Theme
March	Snow in the Forest
April	First Sign of Spring
May	A Spring Garden
June	Glorious Iris
September	Sunflowers Galore
October	An Autumn Tree

Photos must be first time entries, taken by the member, and submitted without visible ID. If you can’t attend the meeting but would like to enter a photo, the entry can be submitted by a friend.

## Membership

Membership fees are still a reasonable – \$10 for a single and \$15 for a family. A membership application is attached to the email containing this newsletter. We are reverting to our “pre-Covid” process and are discontinuing the availability of e-transfers as a payment method. For those unable to attend the meetings to pay their fees, let **Ruth Anderson** [mruth8569@gmail.com](mailto:mruth8569@gmail.com) or myself [afrigan@xplor.net](mailto:afrigan@xplor.net) know and we can make arrangements.

When you sign up as a member, you will, once again, receive our Yearbook. It has been streamlined and made more eco-friendly this year. It looks back at our successes last year and provides an overview of our activities for 2023.

New this year at our November AGM we will recognize the member who brings in the most new members. The membership form now includes a space for new members to acknowledge who encouraged them to join.

## Upcoming Events

### OHA 2023 Convention – “Rock Your Garden World”

Our District is hosting the upcoming OHA convention being held in Kanata at the Brookstreet Hotel July 21- 23, 2023. This is the 115<sup>th</sup> OHA convention and looks to be a fun weekend with several bus tours and other activities planned. The keynote speaker is Michael Runtz who will be speaking on “the importance of pollinators”. Check out this video outlining the weekend’s events - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8wEaeGTnPW>

Laura Hunter and Debra Bellevue will be coordinating the volunteers (thanks to them for representing our Society for this event).

“Stay tuned” over the coming months for more information on how you can become involved.

## The Thrifty Gardener

By Dale Odorizzi

If you were a thrifty gardener last fall and brought in some of your annuals, now is the time to get them ready for Spring—yes, spring will be here soon.

Zonal Geraniums, with the large flower heads, are the most common in our containers and annual gardens. If you stored your geraniums in a cool, dark basement, trim the stems to one-third of their original height and bring the pots into a location with lots of bright sunlight. Water the plants just enough to moisten the soil and fertilize with a water-soluble fertilizer. When new growth appears, remove plant from its pot and shake of old soil. Repot with new potting soil. Once new shoots are 3-4 inches long it is time to take cuttings from the old plants. If you have kept your plants blooming in a window all winter, you can take cuttings right away.

The cuttings should be 3-4 inches long. Cut with a clean sharp knife. Cut new leaves off cleanly at the base. Dip the cut end into rooting compound, shake off excess and plant in a good quality starter mix or vermiculite or perlite. Using a pencil or your finger, make a hole in your planting medium and gently place your cutting into the hole. Rooting compound, vermiculite and perlite is available at any garden centre or hardware store. Place plants in a sunny window or under a grow light and keep evenly moist. Fertilize every second week with 10-52-10 water soluble fertilizer at half strength. Geraniums can easily rot if they are kept too wet. Because of this, you should not cover the geranium cuttings. From time to time, tug gently on the cutting. When you have resistance, your plant has roots. If you started your plant in vermiculite, transplant into a potting mix.

You can also create Fuchsia, Hibiscus, Flowering Maples or Oleander plants using the same process. Your parent plants will be healthier when you cut it back at this time of year. Cover the cuttings or put in a clear plastic bag to create a mini greenhouse.

Ivy, Coleus and Sweet Potato Vines that have been kept growing all winter can easily be rooted as above or simply put your cuttings in a glass of water and watch the roots sprout. Be sure to keep your glass full and once the roots have started transplant into potting soil.

If you saved the tuber from your tuberous begonia, start them now. Press the tuber firmly into the growing medium, hollow side up. Water the tubers once very well, to wake them up, and place them in a warm, bright spot. Cover the freshly planted tubers with paper or polythene to promote growth but remove the covering as soon as growth appears. Don't water again until you see some growth, or the soil is quite dry. Some begonias will sprout right away others will take weeks. Expect to see growth shoots in five to six weeks.

Once the shoots are showing, water regularly never allowing the soil to dry out. Give maximum light, but shade from direct sun. Feed them with half strength fertilizer when their leaves and stems are about 3 inches tall, wait two weeks, and then start a regular feeding schedule. When the shoots are 6 inches tall, the Begonias are ready to be transplanted to the garden or outdoor containers. Don't put them outdoors, though, until all danger of frost has passed, and remember to harden them off properly.

## **Other News:**

### **Communication**

Have you checked out our Facebook page "Smiths Falls Horticultural Society"? **Bonita Lucas** is taking over ownership of updating our site this year. The postings cover a wide variety of garden topics, both for "newbies" and the more experienced gardeners. You can also find notifications of our monthly meetings and other events. Be sure to "share" this information with all your Facebook friends to spread the word about our group. Thank you, Bonita.

Our web site is: (<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/smithsfalls>). Here you can share tips on gardening, leave messages to SFHS, access our local District 2 website as well as the Ontario Horticultural Association website.

Please contact our President, **Laura Hunter** at 613-485-4206 for any information you may require about our horticultural society.

## 2023 Program

Month	Topic
<b>February 21</b>	Movie Night – <i>The Gardener</i>
<b>March 21</b>	Edible Trees and Shrubs
<b>April 18</b>	Edible Landscaping and Biological Pest Control
<b>May 16</b>	Summer Bulbs
<b>June 20</b>	Ask a Master Gardener and Summer Social
<b>July</b>	NO MEETING
<b>August</b>	NO MEETING
<b>September 19</b>	Bringing Your Houseplants Indoors
<b>October 17</b>	Scheuermann Vineyard and Winery
<b>November 21</b>	Annual General Meeting
<b>December</b>	NO MEETING
<b>January 2024</b>	NO MEETING

## SFHS 2023 Executive

Name	Position
<b>Laura Hunter</b>	President
<b>Debra Bellevue</b>	Vice President
<b>Debra Bellevue</b>	Treasurer (Interim)
<b>Ruth Anderson</b>	Secretary/Membership
<b>Madeline Archer</b>	Flower Shows
<b>Jess Dahl</b>	Garden Ontario Website
<b>Anita Frigan</b>	Newsletter/Bursary
<b>Kathleen Lang</b>	Director
<b>Gale McCormack</b>	Programming
<b>Steve Svarckopf</b>	Foodbank Garden