

# *Sprucedale & District Horticultural Society*



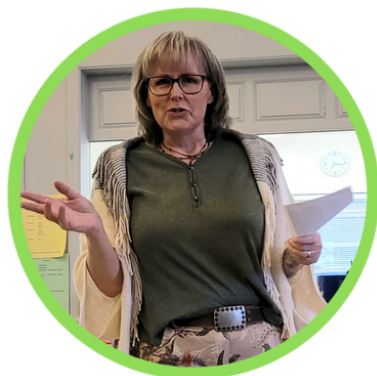
Our first meeting of the year was held on March 27 at the Emsdale Anglican Church. It was such a joy to be able to meet again as a Society and to see so many members come out for the first time since Covid19.

Welcome to all of our members who attended and a special welcome to the new members. This year we are pleased to announce that we are working on a great line-up of inspirational and informational speakers for your enjoyment.

We are actively seeking new members and volunteers to join and help run our society. At the present moment we are looking for help with Secretary, Programs, Nominations, Community Gardens, Fundraising, Flower Show. If you are able to help we would be very appreciative. Contact Lynn McIntosh - President (katlandesurenet.net) if you are able to help out. A big thank you to those who have taken on positions.



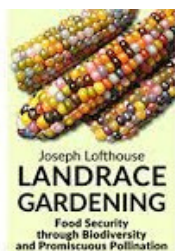
## What is Landrace Gardening?



Jodi Thibeault enthusiastically spoke about Landrace gardening and all about Joseph Lofthouse who practices Landrace gardening.

Landrace in plants refers to a traditional variety that has adapted over time. These plant varieties are not genetically bred but have, instead, evolved different traits naturally. They are not cloned, hybrids, cultivars, or bred with any human intervention.

An example is if a person saves seed from a favorable plant which has certain attributes (like great taste), this seed can mutate itself to achieve traits that are favorable for its growing environment. The same plant in another region might not develop those qualities. This is why landraces are site and specific. They have evolved to withstand the climate, pests, diseases locally.



Jodi handed out some info sheets for members to explore Landrace gardening

Landrace Gardening Resources

<https://www.lofthouse.com/> Joseph Lofthouse has written a book on the subject which can be purchased here.

<https://goingtoseed.org/en-ca/products/1406309> - Free online course that introduces you to the benefits of landrace gardening

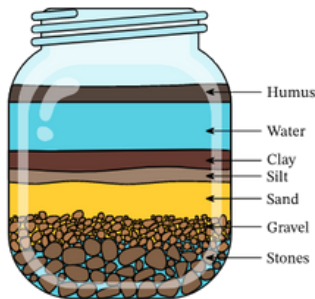
There are also a variety of YouTube videos to look up. Search Joseph Lofthouse and Julia Dankin and be inspired to explore, just like Jodi is.

## Soil Blocks

Lori Sild demonstrated the benefits of making soil blocks as a seed starting technique that relies on planting seeds in cubes of soil rather than pots or cell trays. She used seed starter medium, moistened it until she was able to have the soil stay together. The next step was to push the soil blocker tool into the soil and then push out the soil to create an uniform block with an indent to plant your seeds.

The benefits of using seed blocks are that the seeds once germinated, the plants growing in the block have more of a root mass and the roots are able to absorb better nutrition as they are not confined in a container. Once time for transplanting into the garden, the soil block with the seedling is then directly planted into your garden, no prying out of a container and minimal shock to the seedling.

The Soil Block tool that she used to demonstrate was created by Heather & Mark Kononuk on their 3D printer. The set of blockers is for sale for \$35.00 for the pair. Contact Lori (lor35aine@hotmail.com) if you wish to purchase a set.



## Soil Types

Lynn McIntosh demonstrated a very easy way to check what type of soil you have in your garden. Just put some of the earth in a glass jar. Add water, give it a shake, let it settle and voila - the soil will settle in sections.



## Toronto Botanical Garden - Seedy Saturday

Marian MacLeod shared her experience attending a Seedy Saturday event hosted by Toronto Botanical Garden's annual Horticultural Society.

She was so excited at seeing all of the fantastic items displayed by the many seed and garden related vendors and exhibitors. We were awed by the beautiful card [www.roseswithoutthorns.net/category/nature-and-animals](http://www.roseswithoutthorns.net/category/nature-and-animals); soy candle [candeloone@gmail.com](mailto:candeloone@gmail.com); honey soap <https://ontariohoneyhouse.ca>; and iron works garden ball <http://www.eastcliffarm.ca/aboutus.html>.



**NEXT MEETING - APRIL 17, 2023  
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