



# The unflower

*The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society Newsletter!*

Volume 18

Issue 4

May 2023

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*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:

Spring: a lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be.

*Unknown*

Hi Everyone

“April showers bring May flowers” – if this holds true, then we are in for a great show in the coming weeks. I know my daffodils and tulips are lovely this year.

It's always interesting to watch things emerge in the spring. I've had some successes and failures, but all-in-all not so bad this year. One thing I must get better at is labelling my plants. I have a couple of plants that I “stored” in my vegetable garden last fall that I can't identify yet and a clump of spring bulbs coming up that I don't remember planting. I really must start using my garden journal more religiously and figure out a system for labelling my plants!

As you are planning your planters this year, consider replacing a few of the annuals with perennials (maybe pick them up this Saturday at our plant sale). Look for plants with different leaf colours and textures. Last year I included some Sweet William and Liatris in my planters. The small perennials were the same price as annual plants and they thoroughly “enjoyed” the extra care and attention given them during the season. I planted them in my veggie garden in the fall and both perennials have more than tripled in size. Now I have to find a place for them!

Don't forget the plant sale this **Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**. It's a great way to fill in those empty spots in your flower gardens. The fact that folks have these plants to share, indicates that the plants being sold do well in our area. See details for the sale on the next page.

Join us on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> for our regular meeting. **Laura Tattersall** will speak to us about the care and use of summer bulbs. We will also be holding our first formal flower show of the year. A great opportunity to show off your favourite flowers and your floral design skills. It's always nice to examine the entries! Details on pages 3 and 7 – 8.

Finally, check out page 5 of this newsletter for Dale Odorizzi's article on “Soil Deficiency, Symptoms and Treatments”. Many thanks to Dale for the very informative chart.

## Society News

### Plant Sale – May 13<sup>th</sup>

Our annual plant sale is being held on **Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**. It will now be held in the upper level of the Legion (same as last year). You can start dropping off your plants at 7:30am. The plant auction will be held outside (weather permitting) at 8:45am and the sale will start when it is over. Historically, the sale is over, and clean-up completed before noon. We will need plants and folks to help out. It's a fun and hectic couple of hours!

Don't forget to label your plants (a piece of masking tape on the side of the pot is fine) and if you can include any further information (height, exposure, etc) that would be fantastic.

If you have plants to donate, but can't attend the sale, let me know ( [afrigan@xplornet.ca](mailto:afrigan@xplornet.ca) ) and we can make arrangements to get them there.

### “From Beginner to Winner” – Workshop

The first floral design workshop was held in April. There was a demonstration of the various classes for our May flower show. This was a hands-on workshop, so the attendees were able to practice and take home some beautiful arrangements. We are looking forward to many entries in our flower show this month. There will be additional workshops in advance of our other formal flower shows.



## Membership

Membership fees are still reasonable – \$10 for a single and \$15 for a family. Fees are due at the first meeting attended by a renewing member after September 1 and carry the member through until August 31<sup>st</sup>. A membership form has been attached to the email with this newsletter. For any questions contact **Ruth Anderson** [mruth8569@gmail.com](mailto:mruth8569@gmail.com).

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

## Membership Cards

**Jess Dahl** has confirmed with Gemmell's that they will provide us a discount (level to be confirmed) on the plants they have grown on-site. Below is the list of local businesses that will honour our membership cards:

Garden Market – 10%  
Reid Gardens – 10%  
Gemmell’s – 10% (TBC)

Rideau Woodland Ramble – 10%  
Whitehouse Perennials – 10% on regular prices of plant material

In most cases, present your membership card in advance of making your purchase. If you are not familiar with the location of these businesses, they can be found on Google.

## T-Shirts

We have a supply of monogrammed T-shirts in sizes medium to x-large. If you need a different size, we have samples of small to XXXL. We are selling them at our cost - \$20 for XS-XL and \$25 for XXL+. If you order one, we ask that you pay at the time of ordering.

A big “thank you” to our member **Emily Morris** for her work on designing an updated monogram for our shirts. Thanks also go out to **Chris** at Grampy.ca (a local Smiths Falls company) for his advice and efforts in ordering and doing the embroidery work on the shirts.

## Next Meeting – May 16<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

Join us at our next meeting for a talk by **Laura Tattersall** on summer bulbs. From cut flowers to great container fillers to hanging baskets, summer bulbs give a nice lift of colour especially in late summer and fall. She will lead us through the steps of their care, from planting to overwintering, of tuberous Begonias, Gladioli, Dahlias and many more.

Laura has worked in the horticulture industry for over 40 years, in garden centres, wholesale sales and as a landscaper and designer. She is the owner of Made in the Shade Perennials, located just west of Gananoque on Highway 2.

Made in the Shade is entering its 18th year and grows 7,000-10,000 perennials every year. They stock a wide range of bulbs, from the summer bulbs such as Gladioli and Dahlia and more to the classic fall bulbs Tulips, Narcissus, Crocus and much more. Check out her website

<https://mitsperennials.com/>

## Photo Contest:

Congratulations, once again, to **Brian Bellevue** who took first place in our April contest – “First Sign of Spring”.

The theme for **May** is “**A Spring Garden**”. Below are the themes for remainder of the 2023 season.

Month	Theme
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.

## May Flower Show

We are holding our first flower show of the season at our upcoming meeting. This show will be judged, and entrants will accumulate points throughout the year. The person with the most points at the end of the year will be awarded a prize at our November AGM.

Below are the various classes. You can enter as many classes as you wish. Guidelines and other helpful hints are included on pages 7 to 8 of this Newsletter. **GOOD LUCK!!**

### HORTICULTURE

Class 1 Pansy	3 stems
Class 2 Tulip	1 stem
Class 3 Narcissi	1 stem
Class 4 Hyacinth	1 stem
Class 5 Any other bulb/tuber/corm	1 stem

### EDIBLES

Class 6 Rhubarb	3 stalks
Class 7 Asparagus	3 spears
Class 8 Radish	3
Class 9 Leaf Vegetable	3 leaves in water
Class 10 Any herb	3 stems in water

### DESIGN

Class 11 Spring Puddle	Waterviewing design
Class 12 Reach for the Sun	Line design
Class 13 Tiny Treasures	Miniature design

### NOVICE

Class 14 Tiny Treasures	Miniature design
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## 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 for the event. There are six other members of our Society volunteering for the weekend. Thanks to everyone for representing our Society at this event.

## Soil Deficiency, Symptoms and Treatments

*Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners*

As gardeners, we often spend time testing our soil and wondering what is wrong with our plants. Quite often, our plants are showing us what is wrong. All we have to do is look at them.

Symptom	Deficiency	Treatment
Leaves are turning yellow and overall growth is stunted	Lacking Nitrogen	Add Manure or Bloodmeal
Underside of leaves, veins and stem of your plant are reddish purple colour	Lacking Phosphorus	Rock phosphate, bone meal or fish emulsion
Bronzing, curling or drying of leaf margins and overall growth is slow	Lack Potassium	Add Wood ash or granite dust
Yellow spots on upper leaves and curling of young leaf tips	Lack Calcium	Limestone to the soil
Spotted pale areas on leaves or yellow leaf tips	Lack of iron	Add Manure
Yellowing of lower leaves and stems are hard	Lack of sulphur	Add Sulphur
Leaves are unusually long and narrow with yellowing areas and dead tissue	Lack of zinc	Add manure
Overall plant growth is slow	Lack of manganese	Add Manure or Compost

## 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 more experienced gardeners. You can also find notifications of our monthly meetings and other events throughout the region. <https://www.facebook.com/sfHorticulturalSociety/> Be sure to “share” this information with all your Facebook friends to spread the word about our group. *(Did you know? You don't have to belong to Facebook to access the information on the site!)*

Our web site is: <https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/283/> 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. Thanks to **Jess Dahl** for keeping our website up to date.

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>	Colour Through the Seasons
<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>August 15</b>	Garden Tour – Perth
<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

## Flower Shows Rules and Helpful Hints

Each exhibitor will accumulate points towards prizes and trophies, which are awarded at our AGM banquet. In addition, anyone from our society is invited to exhibit in the District 2 show. All members are encouraged to try their hand at design.

### Rules:

1. The flower show area will be open to exhibitors one hour before the meeting time. All entries must be in place by the start of the meeting. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Entries will remain in place for 30 minutes after the meeting.
2. Non-exhibitors must remain away from flower show tables while exhibitors are setting their exhibits. Spectators will have ample time to view the show after the meeting.
3. The decision of the judges shall be final. Judges may withhold an award if, in their opinion, the exhibit is not worthy.
4. The show is open to any member of the Smiths Falls Horticultural Society.
5. Points will be awarded according to the following scale: 1<sup>st</sup> = 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 4 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 3 points, Just for Showing = 1 point.
6. Judging will be in accordance with the new **Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticulture and Design**, Publication. Please refer to it for definitions.
7. The Society assumes no responsibility for loss or damage.
8. Entry tags will be supplied by the Society. Whenever possible, put the name and cultivar of the plant on the tag.
9. More than one entry per person is allowed in each class in the **Horticultural Section**, provided they are different cultivars. In the **Horticultural Section**, all plant material must be grown by the exhibitor
10. One entry per person is allowed in each class in the **Design Section**. Plant material may be obtained from any source. Accessories are permitted, unless otherwise stated in the show schedule. Dried or preserved material may be used, but fresh material must dominate. **All designs must be the work of the exhibitor.**
11. All containers are to be waterproof and supplied by the exhibitor.

Consult the complete set of standards and definitions used in our flower shows that are contained in the booklet **Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticulture and Floral Design**. You can obtain your own copy from the Opportunity Table for \$10. If you have any further questions about showing, contact Madeline Archer at [lookformadeline@gmail.com](mailto:lookformadeline@gmail.com) or (613) 283-1032.

### Special Note:

To be eligible to compete in the **novice design class**, an exhibitor must have accumulated **less than** twelve points as a novice in the Smiths Falls HS during the course of the previous year. Anyone who has accumulated twelve or more points in the novice design class by the end of the show year is eligible to win the society's novice trophy. Novices are not limited to only exhibiting in the novice class, they are in fact, encouraged to enter any of the other design classes if they are so inspired.

## HELPFUL HINTS and DEFINITIONS

Definitions and hints are found in the ***Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards For Horticultural and Floral Design*** booklet, produced by the Ontario Horticultural Association and the Garden Clubs of Ontario. Copies are available through the Smiths Falls Horticultural Society. Members are encouraged to purchase their own copy for handy for reference.

### Tips for Those New to Showing

1. Read the rules – if 5 onions are asked for, it's no use displaying 4 or 6.
2. Don't display fruit and vegetables which are under or overripe – if you'd cook with them, they're probably ready for display.
3. Don't overcrowd your floral vases. While the judges are looking for quality of flower, an attractive arrangement will endear you to the judge. Floral foam can be used to hold the stems in place. Try to arrange them for a balanced overall look.
4. Cut stems several inches longer than needed, and place immediately in water.
5. Rough rule of thumb: Plant materials should be 1.5 - 2 times the height of the container.
6. Don't enter too many classes. It takes a long time to gather, inspect, choose, and stage each exhibit well.
7. Pick everything the morning of the show when everything is fresh.
8. Look out for pests – gently shake flowers to dislodge bugs or place them near a white background to encourage them out.
9. Have buds but not flowers, experiment with hair dryers. The warm air from the hairdryer encourages the plants to bloom much faster than they otherwise would, creating a much more vibrant and open-looking flower on demand. Turn the hairdryer on to a low setting and aim it at the plants, making sure to only use it in 60 seconds bursts and keep a good distance to avoid damaging the petals.
10. If anything is less than perfect don't display it no matter how proud you are of it. Wilting leaves, marked or blighted vegetables and dying petals will all lose you points.
11. A specimen should be fresh, clean, and in its perfect stage of development. Faults are cuts, mechanical injury, bruises, dirt, rain spots, pollen on cup, too old or too young, anthers brown, ovary swollen, sheath badly injured, mutilated, or absent.
12. Read up on the rules – if you know what the judges are looking for you are more likely to have the confidence to give it a try.
13. Don't be disheartened if you don't win. At least you tried. Look around, see where others were better and set out to beat them and yourself next year!

## GLOSSARY

**Waterviewing Design** - A traditional line design, with a dominant line of plant material and great use of space, in a shallow container with half to two thirds of the surface showing water.

**Miniature Design** - A design with maximum dimensions no more than 12.7cm (5") in height, width and depth including any container, base and/or accessories.

**Line Design** - Forms the structural framework of a design. It is the visual path along which the eye is led from one point of interest to another. As the primary foundation of all designs, it can convey interpretation, suggest a mood or an idea, etc. Line designs may be vertical, horizontal, diagonal and/or curved. Lines may be composed of linear material or created by repetition of forms, sizes, or textures and colours in a linear direction.