



# The unflower

*The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society Newsletter!*

Volume 18

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September 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:

"There is a time in late September when the leaves are still green, and the days are still warm, but somehow you know that it is all about to end, as if summer was holding its breath, and when it let it out again, it would be autumn."

-Sharyn McCrumb

Hi Everyone

Summer is hanging on by a thread. The days are comfortably warm, and the nights are cool. Let's just hope that the frost stays away for a few more weeks!

Fall is a good time to take stock of the past growing season – taking note of successes and failures (or “learning opportunities”). After being away for two weeks, I certainly have a better understanding of the perennials in my gardens that are more drought tolerant, and those that require too much babying.

There is also ample opportunity in the coming days to divide and move around your perennials. There will (hopefully) be a few weeks of warm, sunny weather that will allow the roots of the transplants to grow into the soil. Don't forget to provide them adequate water for the rest of the season. Mulching around the base of the plant will help protect it from the freeze and thaw cycles that we are likely to experience over the winter and into the spring.

Be sure to join us on Tuesday to usher in the busy fall season. We will enjoy a talk given by **Cliff Byrnes** on transitioning your house plants and tender perennials indoors. We are also gearing up for our November AGM and there will be sign-up sheets to show your interest in participating. In addition, we will be looking for new Board members – so consider volunteering to help out. More details on page 5 of this newsletter.

Happy Harvesting!

## Society News

### Remembering Brian Bellevue

For those of you that haven't heard, Brian Bellevue passed away unexpectedly at the end of August. Brian was a very active member of our society, most recently putting in many hours as a volunteer at the OHA Convention this past July. He was a past vice-president and managed the photo contest for a number of years. He was an avid photographer and would always attend our Society's events with his camera in hand to capture the memories. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts go out to Debra and the rest of his family and friends.

As a tribute, our upcoming yearbook will feature one of Brian's photographs on its cover.

### OHA Convention

The OHA Convention was a huge success with over 300 people in attendance. The Brookstreet Hotel was the perfect venue for this event. There were flower shows, art competitions, speakers, vendors, entertainers, prize draws, a silent auction, and fantastic food. The hotel accommodations and amenities were first class and the staff were excellent.

There were volunteers from many of the societies and our Society had 11 volunteers who were involved in the whole event, from setup to takedown and everything in between. Many thanks to those that stepped forward to represent our Society at this high-profile event! A special thanks to **Laura Hunter** and **Debra Bellevue** for organizing and managing the volunteers for the event.

### June Flower Show

Our June flower show attracted 27 entries into the various classes. Congratulations to **Kathleen Lang** for placing multiple times, in multiple categories. **Shari O'Driscoll**, once again, won the novice category and also placed first in the Miniature Design class – congratulations!

Below are some of the lovely entries.



## **OHA Honour Roll Recipient – David Archer**

The recipient of the 2023 OHA Honour Roll is David Archer. He has been a member of the Perth and District Horticultural Society for 30 years and joined our Society a few years ago. He is currently our Assistant District Director and has served in many capacities on the Boards of both District 2 and the Perth Horticultural Society. He has coordinated many district flower shows over the years and was chair of staging at this year's OHA convention, as well as the 2006 OHA Centennial Convention held in Ottawa. David is a certified OHA judge and has won numerous awards for his design work and amazing horticultural specimens, especially peonies and roses. Congratulations David – an honour well deserved!



## **2023 Bursary Recipient – Samuel Stewart**

Samuel Stewart was awarded our bursary for 2023. He graduated from SFDCI this past spring and is currently attending Lakehead University, studying Environmental Management. His goal is to become a conservationist and work for Parks Canada or one of Ontario's conservation authorities. We wish him the best of luck with his studies and in attaining his career goals.

## **August Garden Tour**

A group of us toured the stunning gardens of Janette and Max Wood. They own 200 acres outside of Perth and have transformed the property over the last 12 years into a number of sweeping perennial beds. They are vegetarian and have 2 very large vegetable plots, in which they grow the majority of their food. It was a very inspiring evening.



## Next Meeting – September 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

Our meeting venue will now be at the **Smiths Falls Citivan Club**, located at **12468 Highway 15**. The space will provide us with easier access – no stairs and a large parking lot.

Join us at this month for a presentation by **Cliff Byrnes** on “**Fall Transitioning of House Plants and Tender Perennials Indoors**”. Cliff has been gardening in Gananoque since 1991 in a “flower arranger’s garden” and owned a flower shop in Gananoque until his retirement 6 years ago.

**Steve Svarckopf** will also announce the total number of pounds of produce donated to the Smiths Falls Food Bank thanks to the efforts of he, and the many volunteers that worked through the summer in our food bank garden.

Also, consider bringing a neighbour and/or a friend. It’s our annual “freebie” night (changed from February). We hope to start the year off attracting lots of new members.

## September Flower Show

Please consider entering a few of your flowers and veggies in the flower show this month. The show will be judged, and winners 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 8 to 9 of this Newsletter.

### HORTICULTURE

Class 1 Rose, Modern Canadian	1 bloom or spray
Class 2 Dahlia	1 bloom
Class 3 Echinacea	3 stems
Class 4 Marigolds	3 stems
Class 5 Snapdragons	3 stems
Class 6 Celosia	3 stems
Class 7 Zinnia	3 stems
Class 8 Any other annual	3 stems
Class 9 Any other perennial	3 stems

### EDIBLES

Class 10 Beans	5
Class 11 Carrots	3
Class 12 Potatoes	3
Class 13 Tomatoes	3
Class 14 Squash	1
Class 15 Cucumber, salad	1
Class 16 Cucumber, pickling	5

## DESIGN

Class 17 Table Centerpiece - Mass design  
Class 18 Squared Away - a design  
Class 19 Natures Pavement - a pave design

## NOVICE

Class 20 Table Centerpiece - a mass design

## Photo Contest:

Congratulations to **Anita Frigan** who took first place in our June photo contest for her picture of “A Glorious Iris”. **Bonita Lucas** took second and there was a 3-way tie for third between **Brian Bellevue**, **Shari O’Driscoll**, and **Christine Nigelsky**.

The theme for **September** meeting is “**Sunflowers Galore**”. Also keep in mind that the theme for **October** is “**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.



Anita Frigan

## Upcoming Events

### October Fun Flower Show

We will be adding an additional flower show to our schedule for October. Unlike our previous shows, this one will not be formally judged, and the winner will be determined by members’ votes. Details in next month’s newsletter.

### November Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> will be a turkey dinner and our Society’s AGM. It is always a great evening – there will be a silent auction, a table centerpiece competition, and elections to the Board.

The dinner will be held at the Citivan, with doors opening at 5pm for “happy hour” (cash bar). Dinner will be served at 6pm and will cost \$20 per person. There will be a sign-up sheet at our September meeting so that we can get a sense of the number of folks attending. Payment for the meal will be due at the **October** meeting.

There will also be a sign-up sheet for those wishing to create a floral centerpiece for one of the tables. These will be auctioned off at the end of the dinner.

A sign-up sheet will also be available for those wishing to donate an item to the Silent Auction. This is a great money maker for our group and it’s always fun to see what is donated.

Finally, we will elect and install our Board for the following season. We are always looking for fresh ideas and folks that are willing to help guide the direction of our Society. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month for about an hour or so. If you’d like to join us, let one of the Board members know.

## **District 2 Fall Advisory**

Our Society is hosting the D2 Fall Advisory on October 21st at the SF Citivan. This is basically a business meeting for the district leaders and two representatives from each of the District’s societies. We will need a few folks to “man” the kitchen and others to provide refreshments for the morning break. If you are able to spare a few hours to help out or if you’d like to provide some baking (to be dropped off at 8:30am), there will be sign-up sheets at our upcoming meeting.

## **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

**Mass design** - A design with a large quantity of plant material arranged in a closed silhouette with few or no voids.

**Pave design** - Pave is a technique of placing groups of plant material that have been cut very short, close together to form undulating mounds of colours, textures, shapes and sizes. Any plant material, e.g. flowers, foliage, cut stems, fruits, vegetables, moss can be used.

**A design** - combination of fresh materials, with or without other objects arranged to create an artistic unit