

Sprucedale & District Horticultural Society



2023 Meetings - A Year to Remember

Sprucedale & District Horticultural Society officially opened doors after Covid to public meetings.

It was a year to remember as we slowly started to regrow our membership, renew our past members and welcome 15 new members. Our meetings were held at various locations and thanks to Marian MacLeod our Programs Director for booking the informative speakers and inspiring topics.

MARCH:

We learned about Landrace Gardening from Jodi Thibeault and how to make soil blocks from Lori Sild.

APRIL:

Ron and Pauline Patton from Sunrise Heirloom Vegetables presented "For the Love of Garlic."

MAY:

Brought us to Variegated Devas Nursery where Lindy Vardywe learned about interstitial bud activation and toured her native plant nursery. Our Annual Plant Sale was also in May with a variety of donated plants from our members. The Plant Sale is one of our major fundraising events.

JUNE:

Rick Stronks spoke about Birds in Your Backyard and discussed the benefits of growing native trees as a food source.

JULY:

brought us Sandy Lockhart from Friends of the Muskoka Watershed and now we know how a little wood ash in our forests can assist in replacing calcium lost to years of acid rain.

AUGUST:

Kate Parochy from Zygoptera Environmental Consulting helped our members to know about shoreline vegetation removal and replanting and all the different factors to think about when starting a shoreline project.

SEPTEMBER:

Jeanette Dunke-Collins presented how to create Garden Decor with recycled glass dishes and Lori Sild showed us how to create a Huglekultur Garden.

AGM & Pot Luck 2023



2024

Executive, Directors & Committees

EXECUTIVE

President: Lynn McIntosh
 Past President: Carol Armstrong
 1st Vice President: Lori Sild
 2nd Vice President: Vacant
 Secretary: Marian MacLeod & Lynda Babcock
 Treasurer: Isobel McAughey

1ST YEAR DIRECTORS

Meetings: Lori Sild - Assistant: Dianne Roeder
 Membership: Ellen Mann
 Mkt/Communications: Ausma Clappison
 Programs: Marian MacLeod
 Nominations: Lori Sild - Assistant: Kate Middleton

2ND YEAR DIRECTORS & HONOURARY DIRECTORS

Community Gardens: Bonnie Hache - Assistant: Lori Sild
 Flower Show: Lori Sild
 Fundraising & Plant Sale: Lori Sild - Assistant: Bonnie Hache
 Green Table: Lynda Babcock
 Audio Visual Equipment: Stan Walker - Assistant: Pauline Patton
 Kearney CC Liaison: Margaret Rose Baker
 Telephone Calling: Theresa Fisher

**THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR 2024
 AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED
 IN 2023.**

Almaguin Apples



Kate Middleton one of our members has been working on a special project researching heritage apple varieties in the area.

The article below written by Kate gives us a picture of her passion. Thanks Kate for sharing.



Years ago, when I was writing for Muskoka Magazine, I ran across a note in the Ryerson history book about Madame Rhamey of Bourdeau who brought over 90 varieties of apples north from possibly Brighton, and created a very successful orchard. I finally found the orchard, but it had unfortunately been cut down, decades after its planting, by new owners.

I had a Wickson Crab on my property, the second sweetest apple, which unfortunately fell over as a result of subsidence from ongoing flooding. Fortunately, a number of small trees have now grown up from its roots. The apple trees of Burk's Falls have always interested me and I have been watching them to discover what they are, what their diseases are, and how old they are. There are also 2 old apples down the road from me which I have started pruning and they are becoming healthy and very fruitful.

The wood ash program of Muskoka Watershed Trust is being copied further north as I start later this fall, to apply wood ash to the drip lines of the trees to hopefully stop the diseases they currently have. My campfires have not been very successful this year, but I now have an excellent supply of wood ash from one of our horticultural members. Just one application will undo all the damage caused to the trees due to acid rain.

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CRAFT DAY

When: Friday, November 10, 2023

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Place: Novar Community Centre
25 Laurie St, Novar

--- CREATING CRAFTS FOR 2024 AGM ---

Our society is hosting the District 18 AGM next year in May and we are starting to create crafts to go into goodie bags as well as hall decorations. If you are free on that day we would love to have you come by and help and have fun in the process.

WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

- Snippers for cutting twigs
- Glue and Glue Gun
- Folk Art Paint
- Paint Brushes for Folk Art
- Scissors



MEET...LEARN...SHARE...GROW...SMILE

Mayor Chris Brown of Burk's Falls, as well as the previous mayor, have been very supportive and Chris recently sent me a photo of another Burk's Falls heritage apple. I found it, 4 apples still on the tree (the ground was totally bare of apples) and it is a species that grows true to seed, so I am planting the seeds which will overwinter and hopefully come up in the spring. They are planted in containers of ProMix and kept moist over the winter.

These very old trees are community trees that have historically been picked by residents and I fully support this and hope to add some new seedlings from these local ones into the area as they are adapted to the climate and are capable of living up to over 200 years! Apples that don't grow true to seed (the vast majority) are also being grown from area heritage trees to provide a broader variety of trees and rooting stock for grafting.