

# Flamborough Horticultural Society



December 2020 Newsletter

Hello Members

That first snowfall brightened up the whole area and it was nice to see that I had a good start on winter interest in our backyard. Thanks to Paul Zammit's great presentation at the last general meeting, I have more ideas to think about for next year.

How about you? Did you also glean some good take-home points that you will use?

No matter the size of our gardens, there are always experiments waiting for us to start with the upcoming seasons.

As your newly appointed President until the next Annual General Meeting (AGM), I want to thank all the present and past Board Members for their support and assistance as we continue through difficult Covid-19 restrictions. These times produce added stressors on everyone and not being able to meet in person saddens us — social beings that we are. We empathize with those who feel the stress especially since we know Christmas will not be the same this year.

Forty-one members signed on for the November meeting via Zoom. Members can also sign on using a smartphone, although screen resolution might not be ideal.

Your Board is becoming more experienced using Zoom technology as we meet regularly to discuss activities for 2021. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Flamborough Horticultural Society (FHS) as a not-for-profit corporation, was required to hold an AGM not more than 15 months after the previous annual meeting (mid-January) and no later than 6 months after the corporation's last completed financial year (by March 2021).

Due to by-law issues, we will not be holding the AGM in January. Stay tuned for a special notice that will be sent to you. We need your help to carry out the business of the AGM. As a volunteer, please share with your Board what matters to you and how you can help keep the Society strong.

We are excited to welcome the following new members for October and November. They are: Fran Hall Bullock, Leslie MacMillan, Wendy Phipps, Sandra Gray, Pat Gowan and Geraldine VanRaalte. Warmest wishes to you as we head into the Christmas season.

Susan  
MacMillan

## Meeting and Speaker Information

**\*There will be no December Meeting**

**\*AGM is pending**

**January Meeting: January 20, 2021**

**Time: 7pm**

**Speaker: Anna Leggat**

**Topic: Now I've got it, where do I put it?**

**Join us online on Zoom. Our November meeting went very smoothly!**

**\*Flower theme will be announced in the January newsletter.**

## FHS News and Events

It's membership renewal time. Please support your Society and send us your \$15.00 renewal for 2021 soon. Members were sent an email with renewal options. We continue to be mandated on Covid-19 Infection Control and thus, monthly meetings will continue online (for members) on Zoom until further notice.

## Did You Know?

**Mistletoe** is a hemi (partial) parasite which attaches to a tree by sucker roots and absorbs water and nutrients from its host plant. It can be found on a variety of host plants including apple, lime, poplar, sycamore, ash and hawthorn. However, it is rarely found on oak trees!

## Flower Show Competition

We had many creative entries to showcase what still remained in our gardens! Thank you to all who took the time to enter.

### First Place: Tina Coverly



### Second Place: Trudy Bliedung



### Third Place: Connie Godyn



## Time to Plant Your Amaryllis!

The amaryllis belongs to the plant genus known as *Hippeastrum*. There are about 75 species with over 600 hybrid cultivars. It is a true bulb (a very large one!) that is native to Peru and to South Africa. They were brought to Europe in the 18th century.

Today, most amaryllis are hybrids but are still classified in the genus *Hippeastrum*. While there are perennial types of “true amaryllis”, the ones commonly sold are non-hardy bulbs.

Amaryllis bulbs usually take six to eight weeks to bloom after planting. Larger bulbs will produce larger and more numerous blooms. They have been known to bloom for up to 75 years!



## Post Bloom Getting Bulbs to Rebloom

- Remove flowers after blooms fade and stalks (once stalks have turned yellow) to within one inch of the bulb
- Place in bright light
- Feed and don't overwater
- Let it rest
- Repot

## Potting Amaryllis

Bulbs may be planted with one in a single pot or several in a large pot. When planting several bulbs in one pot consider using a heavy clay pot or putting stone inside the base of a pot to offset the tall, top heavy plants when in bloom. Plant the bulbs close together, but not touching each other. Plant the bulbs in good quality potting soil with good drainage, pointed-end up so approximately one-third of the bulb remains above the soil.

## Blooming Conditions

Keeping them in bright indirect light will prevent the stems from stretching too much as they grow. Water regularly, but do not overwater. A support stake may be necessary to keep the blooms upright. Keeping them cool and out of direct sunlight will prolong blooms. The stored bulb contains sufficient food for the plant to bloom. Snip off blooms as they fade. Once all flowers on a stalk have faded, cut the stalk back to a few inches above the bulb.

After the bulb flowers and is cut back, it will produce leaves which are used to produce energy for the next year's blooms. Fertilize the plant with a fertilizer that is low in nitrogen (0-10-10 or 5-10-10) once or twice a month to keep the leaves lush and green.

## Read here about “The Enduring Romance of a Parasitic Plant named after Bird Poop”

[Mystery Plant](#)

## Whistling Gardens

Whistling Gardens is located about 20 minutes south of Brantford near Wilsonville. It is the home of North America's largest public garden peony collection, The Conifer Collection surpasses 2,000 different species, hybrids and cultivars.

This collection is also the largest in North America on public display. Many specimens in the collection are the only ones in Canada. This garden also contains one of the rarest plants in the world – Baishan Fir (*Abies beshanzuensis*). Only 3 wild specimens remain!!

### [Baishan Fir](#)



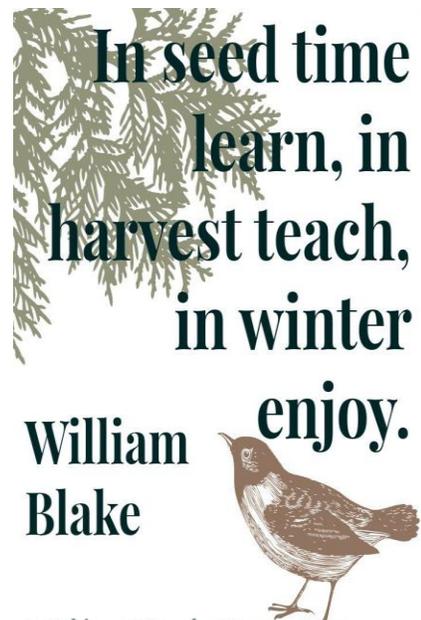
**Read more about Whistling Gardens:**

### [Whistling Gardens](#)

## Congratulations to Darren Heimbecker (October speaker)



Whistling Gardens (Wilsonville, Ontario) MAKING NEWS In The United States, Receives Millstream Garden Award, from the North American Rock Garden Society. "Tapping Into New Emerging Markets" This award, inspired by Linc and Timmy Foster's garden in Connecticut, is given to an extraordinary garden that exemplifies the art and craft of rock gardening.



## Is Banana a Fruit or an Herb?

The banana plant is commonly called a 'banana tree' but it's technically regarded as an herbaceous plant (or 'herb'). Thus, it is not a tree, because it never forms a woody stem (or trunk). Rather, it forms a succulent stalk, or pseudostem. The pseudostem begins as a small shoot from an underground rhizome called a corm. It grows upward as a single stalk with a tight spiral of leaf sheaths wrapped around it. Banana leaves are simply extensions of the sheaths.

After the plant has produced 'fruit', the pseudostem dies to the ground, but the corm remains active with new points of growth. Several new shoots called pups will then emerge from the corms to repeat the growth cycle.

Scientifically speaking, the banana that we eat is a 'berry' as are eggplants, oranges and grapes! Ironically, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries are not true berries!

### **Examples of fruits which are NOT botanical berries include:**

**DRUPES** such as olives, plums, peaches, cherries, hackberries and bayberries

**AGGREGATE FRUITS** such as blackberries and raspberries

**ACCESSORY FRUIT** such as strawberries, sea grapes and wintergreen.

## What Is a Berry?

Botanically speaking, a berry has three distinct fleshy layers.

1. The exocarp is the outer skin
2. The mesocarp is the fleshy middle
3. The endocarp is the innermost part which holds the seeds

In addition, to be a berry, a fruit must have two or more seeds. Thus, a cherry, which has just one seed, is a drupe and not a berry. In order to be a berry, fruits must develop from one flower that has one ovary. The blueberry is a true berry as it has flowers with just one ovary.

Tomatoes, peppers, cranberries, eggplants and kiwis come from a flower with one ovary and have the three distinct layers and so are also berries.

## December Garden Tasks

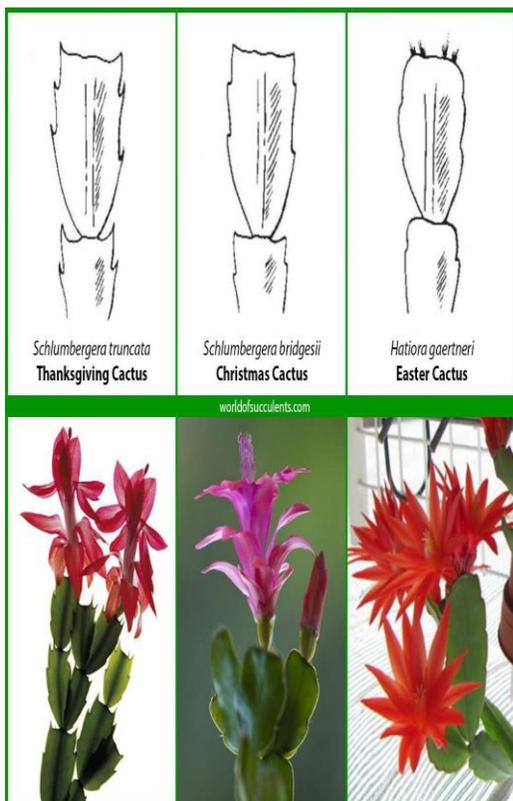
- Finish applying mulch to gardens
- Erect shelters over shrubs requiring protection from wind and ice and heavy snowfall
- Continue to water newly plants trees and shrubs until the ground is frozen
- If the ground has not frozen, it's not too late to plant trees and shrubs

## Did you know that Your Christmas Cactus May Actually be a Thanksgiving Cactus?

How Can You Tell the Difference Between:

- **Thanksgiving Cactus, *Schlumbergera truncata***
- **Christmas Cactus, *Schlumbergera bridgesii***
- **Easter Cactus, *Hatiora gaertneri***

Each of these have derived their common names from the time of the year that they typically flower in North America. All three cacti are epiphytes, growing naturally in trees in the rainforests of Brazil.



## Thanksgiving Cactus

Has broad segmented leaves with *serrated (jagged) edges* on each side that form into 2-4 points. The end of the last segment is *slightly concave with a point on each side*.

Thanksgiving cactus has stems that grow upright at first and then arch. The flowers face outwards and come in a wide range of colors. This plant blooms near Thanksgiving, usually flowering in late October or in November.

## Christmas Cactus -

Has wide and flat segmented leaves that are smaller and rounder than the other two cacti. The edges of the leaves have *small indentations (scallops)* instead of points. The tip of each segment is very slightly curved but can look almost flat across. Christmas cactus stems hang down like a pendant. It's hanging blooms come in shades of magenta. The range of flowering is late November to early February.

## Easter Cactus

Has flat segmented leaves that are similar to the Christmas Cactus. There are slight scallops on the edges of the leaves instead of sharp points. The most significant difference is the *small bristles* on the end of each leaf. The Easter cactus blooms in the spring and rarely reblooms. The flowers are royal purple, red or pink and more star shaped than the other two varieties. The cactus may fail to flower the following year if overwatered or fertilized 30 days after blooming.

## Poinsettia Trivia

Did you Know - Poinsettias in their native environment of Mexico grow into trees?



- In Mexico, the poinsettia is a perennial shrub that grows (3m to 5m) 10 to 15 feet tall.
- There are more than 100 varieties of poinsettias available today.
- In Spain, the Poinsettia is known as "Flor de Pascua", meaning "Easter flower".
- The Aztecs used the Poinsettia bracts to make a reddish-purple dye for fabrics, and the sap medicinally to control fevers.
- Montezuma, the last of the Aztec Kings, had Poinsettias delivered to him by caravan to what is now Mexico City, because Poinsettias could not be grown in the high altitude.
- Poinsettias are named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, who was a botanist, physician and the first United States Ambassador to Mexico. He sent cuttings of the plant he had discovered in Southern Mexico to his home in Charleston, South Carolina in 1828, thus introducing it to the USA.
- The colorful part of the poinsettia, commonly referred to as the plant's flowers, are actually modified leaves

or bracts. The true flowers are the small yellow to green centers of the bracts.

- No more pollen, no more colorful bracts! The plant loses its bracts and leaves soon after the tiny little flowers in the middle shed their pollen. For the longest-lasting Poinsettias, pick ones with **little or no** yellow pollen showing.
- The Paul Ecke Ranch in California grows over 70% of all Poinsettias purchased in the United States and does about 50% of the world-wide sales of Poinsettias.
- Many plants in the Euphorbiaceae family ooze a milky sap. Some people with latex allergies may have a skin reaction after touching the leaves, most likely due to the sap.

### Mission:

The mission of the Horticultural Society is to encourage interest and involvement in horticulture through civic improvement, preservation, exhibitions, the distribution of plant materials and regular instruction pertaining to the theory and practice of agriculture.

We are dedicated to the sharing of garden knowledge.

## Directors for 2020/21, Appointed as of Nov. 26, 2020/21

President – Susan MacMillan  
Past Co-President - Tina Coverly  
Past Co-President - Trudy Bliedung  
Vice President –**Open**  
Treasurer -Trudy Bliedung  
Recording Secretary - Tessa Morris  
Director - Ann Cochren (Flower Show)  
Director Publicity -Shared by VP and President  
Director & Facebook Adm. - Liz Visentin  
Newsletter Editor – Liz Visentin  
Director - Rosanne Waugh (on leave)

## Committee Chairpersons

Bus Tour– Tina Coverly  
Caring – Annamary Kilham  
Nominating Committee – Tina Coverly & Trudy Bliedung  
Civic Improvement– Jan Bignell  
Communications Copywriter- Jennifer Godyn  
Flower Show & Trillium Judging Liaison– Ann Cochren Garden  
Walk – To Be Determined  
Meeting Hospitality – Ann Williams  
Membership – Janet Waterfall  
OHA Website Monitor – Phil Longstaff  
Spring Plant Sale – Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley  
Sign Standardization – Ann Cochren  
Speakers and Programs –Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

*Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart. ~Victor Hugo*

## Links to Remember

**Connon Nursery** and Terry Vanderkruk have been wonderful supporters of our Society. Please show your appreciation by shopping at Connon Nursery. 905-689-7433 <https://connon.ca>

**Wild Birds Unlimited** offers a 10% discount on products you buy when you mention that you are a Horticultural Society member. [Wild Birds Unlimited](#)

## How to Reach Us

Please email your comments, suggestions or corrections. If you wish to submit an article, questions or tips, contact:

[flamhort@hotmail.com](mailto:flamhort@hotmail.com), P.O.Box 902, Waterdown, On. L0R 2H

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