



## Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

### Lynden Horticultural Society Newsletter

Established 1928

September 2020 – 5<sup>th</sup> issue

Website: [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org)

Facebook: Lynden Horticultural Society

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**Message from the President:** This has been by far the craziest year ever!!! We started out with a virus that spread worldwide, forcing us to slow down and isolate. In doing so we spent more time at home working on our homes and gardens. Like everyone else my garden was looking awesome! Things were going great and then.... No rain! Things started drying up and dying. Rain barrels emptying. Rabbits eating everything in sight just for the liquid (btw I put a bowl of water out and they stopped nibbling on everything). Vegetables wilting in the dry heat and not producing. This really has been a year like no other!

On the other hand, I have used this time as a learning experience. Because it was unsure if garden centers would open, all the plants I had already dug up for the plant sale I ended up putting some of them back in the garden in different places. In doing so I have found some are doing much better in their new spot and others not so much. I watched the birds, bees and butterflies and realized I want more insect (and bird) friendly plants and am willingly giving up on the ones I love but are a lot of work! I'm done fighting the chipmunks over my lily bulbs (they dig up the bulbs and eat them, no matter how many rocks I put around the base!). I have learned a great deal this summer about my garden and what I want for the future and that it's not going to be as hard as I thought it might be.

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**Sept 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting:** Is cancelled. As we are unsure what will happen after the kids go back to school, we felt it was safer to not have a meeting at this time. Also, there is a good chance the joint St. George meeting in October will be cancelled. All societies currently are deciding on whether to cancel the rest of 2020. We will be having an executive meeting shortly to discuss our options and update you on the outcome.

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**Pest Control:** This year we were inundated with Gypsy Moth Caterpillars, destroying whole trees overnight. Some areas were hit worse than others. Then came the Moth's. The brown males flying aimlessly around and the white females who cannot fly sit on the tree trunks waiting to lay their eggs. These fuzzy brown patches on the trunks of trees are the eggs and need removing by burning or soaking with soap and water mixture or just scrap of with your boot. This is the best prevention against the next generation of Gypsy Moth caterpillars. Also keeping trees healthy by watering during dry spells and protect their root zones will help with the stress of defoliation. Typically, they will feast on an area for 2 years before moving on. They defoliate mostly hardwood species such as: oak, birch, poplar, willow, maple, and others.





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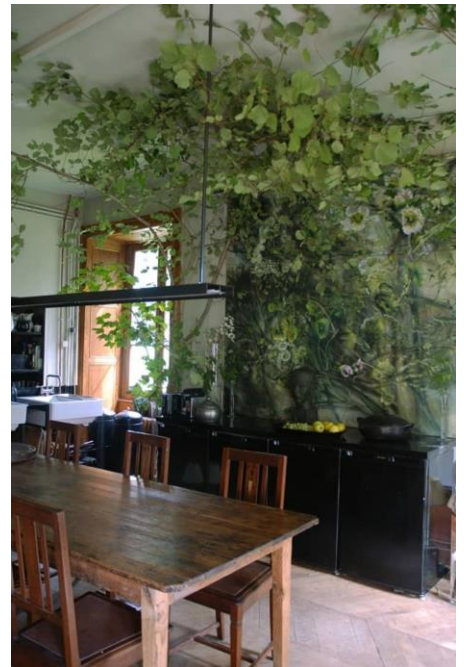
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#### Trivia:

1. What is the world's most expensive spice?
  2. What flower's juice was once used to make glue?
  3. Fragrant white blooms commonly used for funerals in European cultures and associated with renewal and rebirth. What is its name?
  4. What plant shares their name with the gloriously blue parrot and a snobby lady from a British television series?
  5. Is there a difference between a shovel and a spade?
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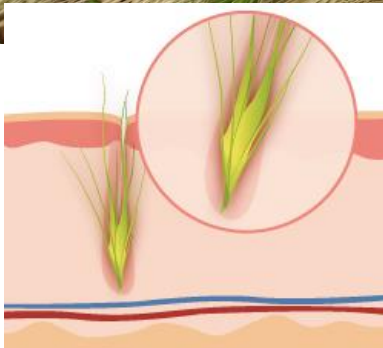
**Website:** Here is another great website to check out! In France there is a typical castle, but not quite! This 13<sup>th</sup> century French castle is named 'Chateau de Beauvoir' and is where floral artist Claire Basler lives with her husband. She has painted every room in this castle with life size paintings and wall to wall murals of flowers. Not only that but she has giant floral and tree arrangements placed throughout for inspiration. It's hard to tell where the painting begins and the plant ends. It is like nothing you've ever seen before! Oh, and also you can rent the castle through TripAdvisor or go to their website! Weekly rentals or have a wedding or a corporate event.

[Chateau de Beauvoir](#) or you can google images, Chateau de Beauvoir Claire Basler and all her paintings and castle pictures can be viewed.





**Plant watch:** Be on the look out for Fox Tail Grass. There are 3 different types of native foxtails, yellow, green and giant. Their spiny structures dig their way into pets' fur, skin, ears, eyes, noses, mouth, and genitals and are difficult to remove, since the spines become irreversibly lodged. These seeds do not break down and cannot be easily imaged by x-ray or ultrasound and can lead to serious infections. If embedded in the nostrils they can migrate into the nasal turbinates, causing intense distress and in rare cases into the brain. Foxtails in the ear canal can puncture the eardrum and enter the middle ear, causing



hearing loss.

Most can be found walking through pastures of grass or in your lawn. Hay fields are also littered with them so farm animals can ingest them too through the hay they eat. Dogs are particularly susceptible because they run through fields (and some unmowed dog parks) sniffing, it is



very easy for them to get one caught inbetween their toes or up their nose. So after your walks check out your pet's face and ears and give their coat a good brushing to remove any possible seeds.

**Fun Fact:** I just learned this thanks to Glen Morris's newsletter! Have you ever heard of Hummingbird Torpor? We've seen hummingbirds zipping around from flower to flower at high speed in our gardens, do they every rest? The answer is yes, but not like you think! Torpor is a condition that hummingbirds and several other species normally use to protect themselves from the cold by dropping into a deep sleep, however some have been seen doing this during a hot afternoon.

They lock their feet onto a perch lower their body temperature and slow down their heart rate to a few beats per minute. Sometimes in this state they can tip over and hang upside down, but they have incredibly strong muscles, so they stay attached. This can last from 20 to 60 minutes, gradually their breathing increases as they wake up and then they fly away. Their first drink at the hummingbird feeder provides 25% of their daily intake. The Ruby throated





Hummingbird unlike a lot of the western species don't use torpor because they avoid the cold weather.

**Native Plants:** This year I was introduced to the Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*). I have known about it before but never given it much thought until I saw my neighbors down the street. He has a lovely open tree not terribly tall but taller than me and as we were talking 2 Cedar Waxwings flew in and began eating the berries. I decided to research it and now I want one!



This shrub has lots of attributes. First off, it's native. Pollinators are attracted to the clusters of white flowers it produces in early spring. They produce red-purple berries which ripen in June, so often the tree is called a 'Juneberry'. The berries are very sweet and juicy, great for jams and deserts if you can beat the birds to them! These berries are favorites of the Waxwings, Orioles, Woodpeckers and Thrushes. This plant is also important to the larvae of the Admiral, Viceroy, Tiger, and other butterflies. In the fall the leaves turn colorful yellows and reds. The wood of the Serviceberry is hard and can be

used for tools and fishing rods. They transplant easily due to their fibrous root systems and can be pruned as a single-stem tree or naturalized and allowed to form multi-stemmed clumps. There are many other different varieties of Serviceberries and can come in bush, shrub, or tree form. Cons: they have a habit of producing suckers which can be useful if you want it to expand into a screen or thicket, but it can take over your garden if left to it. Maintain growth control by regularly (once or twice a year) clipping off any suckering shoots at ground level. So, as you can see like any bush/shrub/tree it has its pros and cons but also has a lot going for it and would be beneficial to any yard.

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### Trivia Answers:

1. Saffron
2. Bluebell flowers
3. Lily
4. Hyacinth – Hyacinth Bucket (pronounced 'bouquet') is a character from 'Keeping up Appearances' and the Hyacinth Macaw the largest flying parrot from South America.
5. Yes. A spade is a tool primarily for digging, typically stunted and less curved than a shovel.