



Flamborough Horticultural Society

- April 2021 Newsletter

Dear Members

We warmly welcome new members in March; Joy Magwood, Jane Morris, Katherine Pelletier and Jackie Riddle. The Society will be richer with your participation on Zoom, volunteering, or when we meet again in person.

Spring is here and you will notice details in this Newsletter about the importance of adding yellow to your garden this year. Yellow is often that nice pop of colour seen from a distance when driving or walking past a garden. Many of the yellow plants are long bloomers (e.g., Coreopsis, Gaillardia etc.). Perhaps you have yellow plants that need thinning, ready to donate them for the plant sale.

Great News! The spring plant sale will take place on Saturday May 22 in the parking lot of St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Physical distancing and other safety measures will be practiced. Stay tuned for details from the Plant Sale Committee via the flamhort email address. They will be looking for volunteers to help donate and label plants that are good sellers, potting up, a wagon to deliver plants to a nearby vehicle, setting up signs and helping provide advice to prospective buyers the day of the sale. Committees rely on volunteers to help spread the work so please volunteer some time.

While the pandemic continues to keep us from meeting in person, we have had great speakers on the Zoom presentations. Many of the Societies are embracing Zoom technology and members new to Zoom meetings are realizing it is not hard to access the Zoom presentations once the software is loaded on desktops or tablets. It is a nice way to see member faces and connect. If you go to some of the other Society and gardening websites you will see how well the different forms of technology is being embraced, from online plant sales, seed exchanges, gardening seminars, etc.

Annamary Kilham, Chair of the Caring Committee works hard on behalf of the entire membership to make sure that other members know that we care about them. When someone is ill, grieving from the loss of a loved one or recovering from injury or surgery, Annamary connects with the person through phone, correspondence or in person. For privacy reasons we are not posting this information but if you know of someone who has experienced any life changing events, please send a message to flamhort@hotmail.com so that Annamary can continue to provide solace or send healing thoughts on behalf of the Society.

Happy Gardening,
Susan MacMillan

Meeting and Speaker Information

April Meeting: Join us on zoom. A link will be emailed to members prior to the meeting.

Date: Wed., April 21

Time: 7 pm

Speaker: Jeff Mason,

Topic: “Cool Plants”

Flower Show Theme:

Harbinger of spring : A photograph of a display of a variety of spring flowers from your garden, using 2 to 5 glass containers.

Email entries to: flamhort@hotmail.com

It's membership renewal time. Please support your Society and send us your \$15.00 renewal for 2021. 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.

Spring Trivia

Honeybees are more likely to swarm during the spring. They swarm as a way to start new colonies from successful ones. Surprisingly, swarming, they are very docile and the most friendly they will ever be all year long.

The Jack in the pulpit has an odd name and is indeed pollinated by gnats (how annoying)! It's a tuberous perennial that is also known as Indian Turnip. These plants can live 20 to 100 years, and the sex of the flowers on a single plant can change from year to year.

Flower Show

The theme for the March Flower Show was “Ode to the Green” - A design in a green container using live green, natural materials. This month we had 8 entries emailed in by our members. Congratulations to the winners:

First Place: Liz Visentin



Second Place: Arie Vanspronzen



Third Place: Vivienne Reaveley



Did You Know?

An herb is the leaf of a plant. A spice is from the seed, bark, root, berry, or bulb.

There are over 20,000 species of edible plants in the world. However, just 20 species provide 90% of human food

Broccoli is actually a flower. The word "broccoli" from the leaf of "broccoli" is related to the Latin word broccus, meaning "shoot, protruding tooth, small nail," which also gives us the word "broach".

Lemons are technically berries. Specifically, they are a hesperidium, a berry with a leathery rind.

While the buttercup looks innocent, it is among the more deadly garden plants. If eaten, this innocent-looking flower can cause painful death resulting from organ and nervous system intoxication.

The daffodil's name is from the Old English, affo dyle, or "that which cometh early," because it is one of the earliest blooming flowers

Dandelions were used as a food source and as a medicine for at least 1,000 years. European immigrants purposely carried seeds to America, where greens were used for salads and teas. Dandelion roots were served as a vegetable course, or were dried and used as a coffee substitute. The flowers were used to make dandelion wine and to make a yellow dye for wool. The genus is taxonomically complex, with some botanists dividing the group into about 34 macrospecies, and about 2000 microspecies.

April Garden Tasks

- Do not work the soil until it is dry enough to crumble when you squeeze a handful and do not walk on your wet garden as compaction will occur.
- Edge garden beds.
- Rake out perennial and vegetable beds removing dead leaves and stems which may harbour insect eggs and disease.
- Rake out dead grass from lawns.
- Give your lawn its first fertilizing of the year.
- Repair lawn damage with topsoil and seed.
- Mulch beds 2 to 3 inches deep.
- Remove dead, diseased and damaged wood.
- Prepare Garden beds for planting by top dressing with compost or other organic material.
- Remove rose protection. Prune and apply dormant spray before the buds break.
- Turn the compost pile at the beginning of the month and bury its contents in the garden bed at the end of the month.
- Start cucumber, melon, tomato and squash seeds indoors.
- Start cool weather vegetables outside such as peas, spinach, lettuce, onions, beets, and garlic.
- As spring bulbs emerge and/or bloom, photograph their locations so that in the fall you will know where to plant additional bulbs.
- Begin to split or to move ornamental grasses.
- Wait until there have been at least 5 consecutive days of above 10 degrees Celsius weather before cutting stems.

Consider Planting Witch Hazel



If for no other reason than its time of winter bloom, witch hazel is a valuable landscaping plant—but it's also attractive in the spring and summer with its dark green leaves and graceful, spreading vase shape. Rather, most species it blooms from January to March. The fragrant, tasseled yellow blossoms often appear against a background of early snow. Other types of witch hazel flower in late fall or even December. As the shrub blooms, its previous year's fruit matures. The seed capsules explode with an audible pop, shooting their two hard, shiny black seeds several yards from the parent plant.

For much of the year, witch hazel, or winterbloom, is a shrub that grows mostly unnoticed along shaded stream banks and in damp woods from Georgia to southern Canada. Witch hazel not only pops with color, but also has blooms with a wonderfully spicy fragrance. They're very hardy and are not prone to a lot of diseases.

Being shade tolerant, witch hazel is often used for naturalizing wooded areas, but these plants actually perform best in full sun (or, filtered shade in hot zones) and develop brighter fall foliage when planted in the open.

Another Harbinger of Spring:

Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)

If you have been out walking in marshy areas or wetlands, you may have also seen pointed, burgundy shoots actually pushing their way through snow! These are emerging Skunk Cabbage plants which are thermogenic meaning that they are able to raise their temperature above that of the surrounding air. Botanists are not completely sure why thermogenic plants generate large amounts of excess heat, but most agree that it has something to do with increasing pollination rates. The most widely accepted theory states that the endogenous heat helps in spreading chemicals that attract pollinators to the plant. Skunk Cabbage provides pollen, shelter and warmth for foraging bees.

Its blooms appear by the end of March, followed by leaves. It's a long lived perennial, with some sources stating that they can live up to 100 years. The common name is derived from the foul smell that it emits. When crushed it has an odour like strong onions with a bit of skunk mixed into it!

Emerging Skunk Cabbage: Read more here: [Skunk Cabbage](#)



Communities in Bloom

Submitted by Jan Bignell, chair of the Civic Garden Volunteers committee.



This is the title of the Communities in Bloom campaign for 2021. They want to encourage people to plant Hope Gardens.

Across Canada and beyond, the goal is to see the land awash with gardens featuring **yellow**, the international colour of hope. Whether it's flowers, fruits, shrubs or vegetables – just plant the seeds! From parks to playgrounds, front yards, back yards, balconies, baskets, boulevards, barrels and planters, wherever there's an empty space to grow, there is room for a plant!

Since their Mission is to “enhance the quality of life and the environment through people and plants in order to create community pride,” this would fit well with our local society's mission too!

I would like to encourage our members to do this in their gardens to spread hope as we battle on with the pandemic. Also, I want to suggest to our Civic Garden volunteers that we plant some yellow as well.

Snow and First Blooms

Winter meets early spring! Photo sent in by one of our members, Erika Friesen.



Snowdrops announce the imminent arrival of spring! They are one of the first plants that appear while the ground is still covered with snow and one of the first of all spring flowers to burst into bloom.

There are about 20 species of Snowdrop (genus *Galanthus*) in the family Amaryllidaceae. Some species also flower in late autumn and winter. They are composed of six white inner and outer tepals (undifferentiated petals and sepals) and basal linear leaves. While the seeds attract ants for dispersal, most plants multiply by offsets and the plant dies back shortly after the fruits have opened.

Snowdrops are usually planted in drifts of grouped bulbs, and they will gradually spread over time. As petite plants that require good drainage, snowdrops are also well suited for rock gardens where they will provide some early-season interest. And they are a natural choice for woodland gardens.

Roses

Our March monthly meeting speaker was Marie Decker who gave an interesting and informative presentation on Roses. To follow up Marie's talk here is some more:



Roses were extensively grown in the Middle East during the Roman period, where they were used in food, as confetti at celebrations, for medicinal purposes, and as a source of perfume.

The world's oldest living rose bush is thought to be 1000 years old. Today, it continues to bloom on the wall of the Hildesheim Cathedral in Germany.

While the rose may bear no fruit, the rose hips (the part left on the plant after a rose is done blooming) contain more Vitamin C than almost any other fruit or vegetable. Many natural Vitamin C supplements derive the vitamin from this source, next time you are at the health food store have a look on the shelves - you will be surprised!

Out of all the colors, there are no black roses. What might sometimes be referred to as a black rose is actually a dark red rose. A good example, "The Black Rose of Turkey", is a breed that appears pitch-black to the eye, but actually has a dark reddish colour.

The world's most expensive rose is a 2006 variety by famed rose breeder, David Austin that was christened Juliet (featured in side photo). Breeding the rose took a total of 15 years and cost 5 million dollars. The striking flowers have beautiful, large-headed blooms in the form of deeply cupped rosettes with around 90 petals. Juliet is now considered the world's most expensive rose cultivar. However it is far less expensive to purchase today!

Nikita K. Rulhoksoffski from San Onofre California bred what has come to be known as the largest rose ever. The rose was pink in color and measured approximately 33 inches in diameter. The world's largest rosebush is a white Lady Banksia located in Tombstone, Arizona. The rose bush spreads over an arbor that covers over 9,000 square feet.

Sudhir Khetawat of Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India, claims to have produced the smallest rose, 'Diamond Rose'. Its flowers are only 1 cm (less than 1/3 inch) in diameter. Its buds are the size of a grain of rice.

People have been passionate about roses since the beginning of time. In fact, it is said that the floors of Cleopatra's palace were carpeted with delicate rose petals, and that the wise and knowing Confucius had a 600 book library specifically on how to care for roses. Napoleon's wife Josephine so adored roses, she grew more than 250 varieties.

Cavriglia in Italy is the largest private rose garden in the world, having over 7,500 different varieties of roses.

Read more here:

[Canadian Rose Society](#)

Tree Trivia

The ginkgo tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) is among the most ancient of plants still in existence. It's the only one of its species with no known living relatives. With its roots in China, the Ginkgo (or Maidenhair tree) has made its way around the world to become a popular landscape tree, despite the fact that the female produces foul-smelling fruit (best to grow a male!).

Bamboo is the fastest growing plant on the planet and it has been recorded with a growth rate of 46 inches or 118 centimetres in a 24 hour period.

The redwood or *Sequoia sempervirens* is the world's tallest-growing tree - 275 feet (83 m) in height and 25 feet (7.6 m) in width.

An acre of trees can absorb as much carbon as is produced by a car driven up to 14,000 km

A mature birch tree can produce up to a million seeds in a year.

Trees improve water quality. As rain falls to the Earth, it is slowed and filtered by trees, helping it soak into the soil. Trees then serve as natural sponges, collecting and filtering rainwater and releasing it slowly into streams and rivers. They also prevent soil from eroding into our waterways, reduce stormwater runoff, and lessen flood damage.

There are 60,000 tree species in the world and many are threatened with extinction. Brazil, Colombia, and Indonesia have the highest totals for native tree species.

Carolinian Tree: Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)



The Tulip Tree gets its common and scientific names from the tulip-shaped yellow-green blooms that it produces every spring, as well as the lobed shape of the leaves. Its distinctive tulip-shaped leaves and large green and orange cup-shaped flowers make it easy to identify.

It is one of only two wild magnolia species found in Canada and are native to our Carolinian Zone. This majestic species usually lives to be 150 years old but can live up to 300, and can grow up to 35 to 50 m tall! Mature forests of tulip-trees can be found in Backus Woods near Long Point.

It is good practice to plant these species in our landscapes in order to help restore rare species and to protect local biodiversity.

However, beware that a Tulip-tree will require a lot of space as it is the tallest and fastest growing hard-wood tree reaching a height of 23m (75 feet). It does best on moderately moist, deep, well drained, loose textured soils and it rarely grows well in very dry or very wet conditions or in shade. Read more about Carolinian Trees here:

[Carolinian Trees](#)

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.

P O Box 902 Waterdown ON L0R 2H0

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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

President – Susan MacMillan
Past Co-President - Tina Coverly
Past Co-President - Trudy Bliedung
Vice President – **Open**
Treasurer -Trudy Bliedung
Director/Recording Secretary - Tessa Morris
Director - Ann Cochren
Director - Liz Visentin
Director - Liz Visentin
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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
Publicity - Shared by VP and President
Spring Plant Sale – Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley
Sign Standardization – Ann Cochren
Speakers and Programs –Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley