

# Flamborough Horticultural Society



**January 2022 Newsletter**

## President's Message

Happy New Year Members

Most of the Flamborough area did not get the white Christmas to finish off December that we had hoped to see but the milder weather has allowed for more hikes and other outdoor activities.

Our gardens can still be quite interesting as we view the overwintering birds eating leftover seeds or fruit from our trees, plants, spent flowers and bird feeders. Recently, in our urban back yard, we had 20 juncos, seven cardinals, two downy woodpeckers, a hairy and one red-bellied wood pecker, besides the many goldfinches, house finches, six doves, sparrows and one fat rabbit. It is such a joy when we help feed other animals. To be part of the great "backyard bird count" see <https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/great-backyard-bird-count/>

The highly infectious Omicron variant has created more restrictions and put a damper on gatherings; especially for those who are still awaiting their booster shot. There are reports that acquiring Omicron is inevitable but a milder case might be an acceptable trade-off. Many people do not personally know someone who acquired the Delta variant but that soon might not be the case with Omicron.

Your Newsletter Editor is helping you get through the cold winter by presenting interesting new topics and in the next few Newsletters, photos of the 2021 Garden tour to help brighten your winter. We hope that you enjoy these and will consider allowing your own garden to be part of the tour in 2022.

Please consider entering the flower show competitions in 2022. Variety is always good.

Stay warm, safe and healthy.

Best wishes,

Susan MacMillan

## Meeting and Speaker Information

Date: Wed., Jan. 19, 2022

Time: **7 pm**

Speaker: Pam MacDonald "Evolution of a Garden and a Gardener"

Location: Online Zoom. A link will be emailed to members prior to the meeting date.

Flower Show: Photograph of a winter landscape showing a horticultural scene email entries by Jan 17 to [flamhort@hotmail.com](mailto:flamhort@hotmail.com)

*In seed-time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.*

–William Blake (1757–1827)



## January Gardening Tasks

Use this time to give your indoor houseplants a good cleaning. Dust settles on leaves and clogs "pores"(stomata), hindering photosynthesis as well as gas and moisture exchange.

Prepare seeds that require stratification if you have not done so already.

Check all house plants closely for insect infestations. Quarantine holiday gift plants until you determine that they are not harboring any pests.

Add garden record keeping to the list of New Year's resolutions. Make a note of which

varieties of flowers and vegetables do best and which do poorly in your garden.

Watch for and brush off ice and snow from tree and shrub limbs to prevent breakage.

Don't forget to feed the birds!

Try forcing Amaryllis and paperwhite narcissus or any other type of bulbs.

Start slow seeds such as Geranium and Begonia seeds.

This is a good time to sit down with a good garden book or to peruse gardening websites!

## Marcescence

Some deciduous trees exhibit a trait known as marcescence. This is when leaves senesce and wither, yet are retained on the tree until late winter or early spring. The best known marcescent species are American beech and various oaks. It's been hypothesized that the leaf retention helps to limit the herbivory of developing buds. Hidden by shriveled foliage, they are less likely to be seen and consumed by deer and other mammalian herbivores.

Since this trait is primarily seen in young trees or on the lower branches of mature ones, these branches are particularly prone to browsing by wildlife. This is a strong theory. Others have suggested that it gives trees an edge in early spring. Fallen leaves have the ability to act as thermal conduits by absorbing heat from the sun. Anyone who has walked through the woods or on a frozen pond during the winter has undoubtedly noticed leaves sunken into the snow and ice. If enough of these land atop accumulations at the base of the tree, they may allow the sap to begin flowing slightly earlier—even a single day would be advantageous in an evolutionary sense. Look for these on woodland walks!

## Revisiting Our Members' Garden Tour (July 2021)

As we find ourselves in the depths of winter this month, it's a perfect time to revisit our summer garden tours via photos! Susan MacMillan, our President opened her Waterdown gardens to members, giving them a chance to stroll under trees and around various beds featuring many native shrubs and flowers as well as bird feeding areas. Here are some photos for those who missed it and for the rest of us who would like to revisit Susan's gardens!

### *Shasta Daisies, Red Hot Poker and Pond*



### *Lilies and Phlox*



### *Back gardens from above*



### *Back gardens*



### *Front garden, cardinal flowers*



### *For reference:*

*Scientific names of Ontario trees and shrubs with a link to fact sheets and photos !*

[Ontario Trees and Shrubs](#)

## Perennial Plant of the Year 2022 *Little Bluestem (grass)* *Schizachyrium scoparium* and cultivars



The Perennial Plant of the Year program began in 1990 to showcase a perennial that is a standout among its competitors! Perennials chosen for this honor are suitable for a wide range of growing climates, require low maintenance, have multiple-season interest, and are relatively pest/disease-free.

The wider selection of *Schizachyrium scoparium* cultivars are selected by perennial experts in several regions of North America. For the Canadian region, Tony Post of Brookdale Treeland Nurseries - Valleybrook Farm, selected the 'Standing Ovation' cultivar. "This selection adds excellent texture to the summer garden," Post said. "Burgundy highlights add late season interest. Seed heads are attractive, particularly when backlit."

### Carousel Cultivar



Patty Steinhauser of Stonehouse Nursery picked the 'Carousel' cultivar for the Great Lakes region. "This uniquely mounded selection forms a wide clump of blue-green foliage that emerges nearly horizontal and matures into strong, upright stems that remain standing through inclement weather and winter," Steinhauser said. "It takes on pink, copper and orange-red tones in fall topped with tiny seed tufts."

### Try Planting These Native Berry Producing Trees for Birds

An added bonus is that they add winter colour and interest in the garden! Most of these are also suitable for small yards.

These trees will attract cedar waxwings, robins, bluebirds, jays, vireos, kingbirds, juncos, warblers and perhaps even wild turkeys! These foods are particularly crucial during spring and fall migration and winter.

***Mountain Ash (Sorbus americana)***  
***Canadian Serviceberry (Amelanchier canadensis)***  
***Nannyberry (Viburnum lentago)***  
***Winterberry (Ilex verticillata)***  
***Red Osier Dogwood (Cornus sericea)***

Read more about them here (along with a few other notable species).

[Native Berry Producing Trees](#)

### For Reference

Scientific names of Ontario trees and shrubs with a link to fact sheets and photos (great site to read more about the trees mentioned above). If you are researching native trees for your yard, this is an excellent guide.

[Ontario Trees and Shrubs](#)

## Caring for Indoor Blooming Bulbs

Once you have successfully 'forced' your bulbs to bloom, or brought home purchased ones, you'll want them to stick around for a while! Here are a few tips on what to do once your bulbs have bloomed indoors.

### Keep it Cool

Your blooms will last longer if they have the opportunity to spend much of their time in a cooler environment. Most homes are kept in the neighborhood of 70°F, but cooler temperatures will extend the life of your plant. So, while you can certainly enjoy its beauty and fragrance during the day, if you place your plant in a room that is around 50° to 60°F at night, you'll double the length of time they'll last in bloom.

### Provide Adequate Light

Both types of spring-flowering bulbs tend to reach for the light when grown indoors because, in nature, they grow in full sun. Unfortunately, this takes a lot of the plant's energy and results in their stems becoming weak or "leggy" enough that they might topple over. Keeping a grow light that emits little to no heat (such as an LED or fluorescent grow lamp) about a foot above them will keep their stems short, and they will last longer in bloom. If you do not have grow lights, place them in the sunniest window and turn them regularly.

### Avoid Overwatering

Spring flowering bulbs will wilt if they don't get adequate moisture, but you also don't want to overwater them. Watering every few days, when the soil is dry to the touch, is ideal—you don't want to keep your beautiful flowers in soggy, wet soil!

## Mystery Plant' from the Amazon



In 1973, a scientist stumbled upon a strange tree in the Amazon rainforest in the floodplain forest of the Manu River. This 20 foot tall plant with vibrant orange fruits shaped like paper lanterns flower at the end of both the wet and dry seasons, bearing either male or female flowers. He collected samples of the plant's leaves and fruits, but not only were they unable to identify the plant as a species that had previously been described by scientists, they couldn't even declare it a new species, because they couldn't tell what family it belonged to. The mystery plant sat for years in the Field Museum's herbarium, a library of dried plant specimens.

Finally, in a new study published in the journal *Taxon*, scientists analyzed the plant's DNA which revealed that the mystery plant's closest relatives were in the Picramniaceae family, which was a big deal to the botanists because it didn't look anything like its closest relatives. It was finally given a scientific name: *Aenigmanu alvareziae*. The genus name, *Aenigmanu*, means "mystery of Manu," while the species name is in honor of Patricia Álvarez-Loayza, who collected the first specimens used for the genetic analysis. It's worth noting that while *Aenigmanu alvareziae* is new to scientists, it has long been used by the Indigenous Machiguenga people. It is now being studied as a potential anti-cancer drug.

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[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)

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## MISSION

The mission of the Flamborough 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 horticulture.

## Directors for 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

Publicity – Shared by VP and President

Facebook Admin. – Liz Visentin

Newsletter Editor – Liz Visentin

Flower Show and Trillium Judging Liaison

— Ann Cochren

## Committee Chairpersons

Bus Tour - Open

Caring - Open

Civic Improvement - Jan Bignell

Communications Copywriter -Jennifer

Godyn

Garden Walk - Open

Meeting Hospitality - Ann Williams

Membership - Janet Waterfall

Nominating Committee - Trudy Bliedung &

Tina Coverly

OHA Website Monitor - Phil Longstaff

Spring Plant Sale -Connie Godyn &

Roxanne Riley

Sign Standardization - Ann Cochren

Speakers and Programs - Connie Godyn

& Roxanne Riley

*"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle."*

*Barbara Winkler*