

# Flamborough Horticultural Society



**April 2022 Newsletter**

## President's Message

Greetings Members

On behalf of the Board, I welcome two new members in March — Debra Lawson and Catherine Penny. We hope you had a chance to meet a few members at the March meeting. It was great to see everyone again. We had 57 in attendance plus a few dedicated members who managed to see the presentation on Zoom once we borrowed a data plan hot spot due to the weak wifi. Thankyou for your patience as we dealt with the technical issues. For those of you who have not yet renewed, please do so. The Society needs your support.

While we have been hit by a cold spell this early spring, indoor seed starting is a rewarding indoor activity. There are also lots of activities for which you can register. For example, the Garden Ontario web site lists upcoming activities. See <https://gardenontario.org/events/>

In addition, the North Region Master Gardeners is hosting a Technical Day April 9th, 08:30-3:00 pm on-line (\$20). Register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/native-gardens-for-natures-sake-mgoi-north-region-mg-technical-day-tickets-259698403917>.

As the weather warms up, the Society will be ramping up additional activities. The Co-chairs of the Plant Sale Committee will be sending you a list of plants that sell well. As you evaluate your gardens in late spring, please look to divide plants needed for the sale. The sale takes place May 28th at the Waterdown Legion.

Westfield Flowers kindly donated some Dahlia tubers to the Society and over the winter Trudy Bliedung, Liz Visentin and myself have stored these. As a pilot project, these will be potted up for the plant sale.

For those of you who could not attend the last meeting, we announced that the Society will be hosting the Waterdown Garden Walk perhaps the last weekend in June. This might run the same weekend that the City of Hamilton is hosting the Open Garden Walk. The date will be finalized soon. We will be sending out an email asking for volunteers to help with the plant sale and the Garden Walk Committee, and ask that you scout gardens so that we can send a letter of invitation to the homeowners. Let's help the community take pride in beautification of each neighbourhood.

Since 2022 is proclaimed "Year of the Garden" with the main theme of red, there are many colour combinations that show nicely with red. Your Editor Liz Visentin has provided you with lots of examples and tips in this Newsletter. Happy spring!

Best wishes

Susan MacMillan

## Announcements

### Meeting and Speaker Information

**Date: Wed., April 20, 2022**

**Time: 7:30 pm (Meet and Greet at 7pm)**

**Speaker: Anna Leggatt**

**Topic: Clematis, the Queen of Flowers**

**Location: St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
Parish Hall 715 Centre Rd, Waterdown**

**FLower Show: A display in a container of  
your choice using spring flowers from  
your garden.**

**Please bring entries to the meeting.**

### Horticultural Society Upcoming Events

**April 23, 2022 AGM** Hosted by Stoney  
Creek, Venue at Immanuel Christian  
Reformed Church 61 Mohawk Road West  
Hamilton

**Sept. 24 Fall Meeting**, Host: Mt. Hamilton  
Horticultural Society at Immanuel Christian  
Reformed Church 61 Mohawk Road W.  
Hamilton

**Nov. 12 District Dinner** hosted by  
Haldimand

**\*\*\* District 6 is looking for 2 Assistant  
District Directors** (mainly for email  
communication for Societys)

### Did You Know:

There are five native species of Trilliums in Ontario: White Trillium, Red Trillium, Painted Trillium, Drooping Trillium (an 'at risk' species due to habitat loss and degradation), and Nodding Trillium. White trilliums are only found in Southern Ontario. Trillium seeds are primarily dispersed by ants!

### March Flower Show Winners

For the first time in two years, the flower show took place at the meeting with live entries! The theme was: A green display using natural plant materials.

**First Place: Liz Visentin**



**Second Place: Marilyn Higgins**



**Third Place: Susan MacMillan**



## The Year of the Garden - Celebrate with **RED**

Some ideas for red annuals in planters or hanging baskets for full sun(6 or more hours of direct sun per day): Petunias, Geraniums, Zinnias, Celosia, Nasturtiums, Verbena, Million Bells (calibrachoa), lantana, nicotiana, salvia, and mandevilla. Annual red flowers for part shade(4 to 6 hours of direct sun per day, mostly before midday): Impatiens, Lobelia, Nemesia, New Guinea Impatiens, Begonia, Fuschia, Lobelia, Balsam, and Coleus. For full shade (less than 3 hours of daily sunlight and filtered light for the rest of the day) Begonias, Impatiens and (some) Fuschia and Coleus.

### April Garden Tasks

- Top up beds with compost if not already done in fall (don't dig it in, just apply a few cms on top)
- Re-open ponds and water features.
- Remove potential sources of disease such as bent or broken branches on shrubs, diseased leaves beneath roses or any other litter from plants that were diseased last summer.
- Rake lawns lightly. Aerate and then topdress lightly with good quality compost. Consider using 25% white clover in your top-dress seed mix.
- Cut back all ornamental grasses.
- Divide your perennials as you'll want that done before edging and mulching next month.
- Repair winter damage or replace trellis and plant supports (e.g., position peony rings so stems will grow through).
- Prune vines such as wisteria and climbing roses.
- Plant trees and shrubs.
- Dig up perennial weeds.

## Junipers

Junipers are some of the hardiest and long-lived trees on the planet. Their range spans most of the Northern Hemisphere, spreading from the Arctic down to Central America and to Africa. Many junipers thrive in harsh conditions, growing in arid and extreme landscapes—some varieties even grow at high elevations in the Himalayas. In fact, junipers make up one of the world's highest tree lines at an elevation of roughly 4,800 meters in southeastern Tibet.

### Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniper virginia*)

The Eastern red cedar, native to Southern Ontario is actually a juniper, and resembles the Eastern white cedar only in name.

The reddish wood was once the main source for wooden pencils, and is still a popular choice for detailed work such as trims and window sills. The “berry-like” cones are an important source of food for many game-birds as well as songbirds, and the foliage provides shelter for many species. The bark of the Eastern red cedar grows in narrow strips. The aromatic reddish wood repels many insects such as moths, which is why cedar trunks are commonly used to store wool materials. Eastern red cedar needles are quite sharp on young branches and become flat as they mature. The cones are a deep blue and resemble berries. Seed-eating birds help to distribute the seeds.

This is an extremely hardy evergreen, tolerant of heat, drought and cold. However, it should be planted a minimum of 500 feet away from apple trees as it is an alternative host for cedar-apple rust, a fungal disease that causes serious leaf and fruit spot damage on apple trees. The disease has only a minor effect on the eastern red cedar itself.

## Wild Ginger (*Asarum Canadense*) Instead of Bugleweed



Bugleweed has been used in past years as a quick spreading, low growing ground cover. This is not a good choice as it is native to Europe, Africa and Asia. Bugleweed spreads through stolons quickly taking over gardens and when it escapes, it outcompetes native ground covers. Instead of bugleweed, consider planting native Wild Ginger. It makes an excellent ground cover for partial sun to shady locations in average to moist soils. This clump forming plant will reach heights of about 15-20cm with the foliage remaining low to the ground. Single maroon flowers appear under the heart shaped leaves in late spring. It spreads slowly by roots to form an attractive groundcover and is drought-tolerant once established and also deer-resistant.

## What is the Difference Between Daffodil Jonquil and Narcissus?

Daffodils all fall under the botanical name, *Narcissus*. *Narcissus* also often refers to the smaller variety of daffodils. Regionally, jonquils may be called daffodils but this is botanically incorrect. There are 13 divisions of daffodils, or *Narcissus*. Each division has special classifications and specific *Narcissus* plant

information delineates which class each species falls into. Is Jonquil a *Narcissus*? Yes. Daffodil bulbs are *Narcissus* and Jonquils are *Narcissus*. The overall scientific name is *Narcissus* and covers over 13,000 hybrids of both daffodil bulbs and jonquils.

Read more here:

[Daffodils/Narcissus/Jonquils](#)

## Revisiting Members' Garden Tour

Eleanor Steepe's urban garden of mature trees and perennials also contains vertically and intensively grown vegetables with continuous harvesting stages. Eleanor follows a schedule of replanting seeds, transplanting in early August and harvesting in September. Some are in pots to move into the greenhouse from late September to early October and harvested into November. This is an intensive garden with well-planned strategies for ongoing food supply.



## Delaying Spring Clean Up

Many beneficial insects, including pollinators like tiny native bees and predators like syrphid flies, lacewings, and parasitic wasps spend the winter in hollow plant stems either as adults or pupae. Cutting down the dead plant stems too early in the spring will disturb them before they have a chance to emerge. Ideally, you should wait until the daytime temperatures are consistently above 10°C or 50°F for at least 7 consecutive days. Toss cut perennial and woody plant stems onto the compost pile very, very loosely, or spread them out at the edge of the woods. Also, wait as long as possible to rake leaves out of garden beds. Scores of beneficial insects – ladybugs, assassin bugs, and damsel bugs, for example – spend the winter in leaf litter as adults. Others do so as eggs or pupae. And, adult butterflies, such as morning cloaks, question marks, and commas, nestle into leaf litter for the winter. Luna moths spend the winter in cocoons that look just like a crinkled brown leaf. As you clean up your leaves keep a sharp eye out for these insects and do your best not to disturb them.

There are also many beneficial insects and pollinators who overwinter in soil burrows as either eggs, pupae, or adults. Some examples include the hummingbird clearwing moth, soldier beetles, and many native bees. Covering the ground with a layer of mulch too early in the spring may block their emergence.

## How to Attract Toads to the Garden

Having toads in the garden is very beneficial as they naturally prey on insects, slugs, and snails— up to 10,000 in a single summer! Attracting toads to your garden mostly involves creating the right kind of habitat for toads. Provide moist hiding spots for toads to encourage them to stay. Toads make homes

under boards, porches, loose rocks, and roots of trees. You can also create a home for toads by burying a flower pot on its side or gathering flat rocks to build a toad house. Leaving fallen leaves in a small pile is also beneficial for a toad habitat. Place your new toad home in a shady spot near a water source.

Toads are amphibians which means that they live on both land and in the water and need moisture to survive. They also need water to reproduce. A small pond or ditch with water will not only attract them but will allow their numbers to grow. If these features are not available then bury a container under plants and keep it filled with water. How to make a mini pond in a container: [Mini Pond](#)

## Consider Dahlias if You Have Deer

While not totally deer proof, they are low on the list of desired foods. If you have overwintered the tubers, you can start them in one gallon pots about two to four weeks before the last frost date (around mid-May in our area). Once they've sprouted, place the pots under grow lights or in front of a sunny window (a south-facing window is best). After the danger of frost has passed, transplant them gently into their garden location. The tubers can also be planted directly into the garden at this time, but it's better to wait until the soil is warmer (around 60°F) around late May to early June. Dahlias require full sun (six or more hours a day) and a rich, well drained soil. Incorporating compost and manure is beneficial. Dahlias also respond dramatically to feeding, ideally a low nitrogen fertilizer. Tall varieties will require staking.

**Plant Growing Guide for Perennials,  
Fruits and Vegetables [Growing Guide](#)**

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## 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)

PO Box 902 Waterdown ON L0R 2H0

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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 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 – Needs a Chair

Caring – Needs a Chair

Nominating Committee – Trudy Bliedung  
and Tina Coverly

Civic Improvement – Jan Bignell

Communications Copywriter –  
Jennifer Godyn

Garden Walk – Needs a Chair

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

*I love spring anywhere, but if  
I could choose, I would  
always greet it in a garden. –  
Ruth Stout*