

# Flamborough Horticultural Society



**August 2022 Newsletter**

## President's Message

Greetings Members

The July 2nd to 3rd Waterdown and Area Garden Walk was a huge success with 36 garden hosts including some of our members opening up their gardens. First time garden hosts expressed thanks for being invited, found it fun and were delighted that they were able to participate.

Tessa Morris and Garden Walk tent volunteers were also busy answering questions, handing out guides/maps /bookmarks, and encouraging visitors who live in the area to come to our Sept. meeting. Liz Visentin also went around taking photos of some of the gardens. Thankyou to all who volunteered. Several Waterdown residents had never been to some of the areas on the Walk and really enjoyed it.

Some of our members were recently busy judging for the Trillium awards. While Ward 15 has many beautiful gardens, only 20 Trillium Awards are allowed to be handed out. The process was greatly improved this year with geomapping and online entry of the scores directly into the geo map. Maps were also provided for judging. The IT/technical team, chairperson Ann Cochren, City liaison Theresa Phair and other Trillium Committee members are to be congratulated for these streamlined improvements. Please consider judging next year. The improvements are great.

I was judging in Dundas but as Ward 15 coach, got to help Ann Cochren with Pink judging and deliver the Pink Trillium award to 19 Mays Crescent Waterdown — Lynn and Morley were also hosts on our garden walk and Lynn plans to attend the September meeting as does Effie, one of our other first time Garden Walk hosts at 39 Howard.

This Saturday is the Pot Luck at Pearl's — 994 Safari Rd so please RSVP [flamhort@hotmail.com](mailto:flamhort@hotmail.com) if you can attend. It looks to be the better of the two days proposed.

For anyone who can help post items and information on the District 6 web page, the volunteers who do this are looking for help. Please consider volunteering to post.

July seemed to go quickly so let's hope it does not feel that way for August.

For those of you who can make it, see you at the pot luck.

Best wishes Susan MacMillan

## Announcements

### Meeting and Speaker Information

Date: Wed., Sept. 20 2022

Time: 7:30 pm

Meet and greet: 7:00pm

Speaker: Charlie Briggs

Topic: Creating the Monarch Award  
Winning Garden

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

Flower Show: Pelargonium:Our  
Society Flower Celebration! A single  
potted geranium.

### Members — Potluck

#### August 6 (rain date August 7) at 11am

Pearl Hoogerdyck is graciously hosting a members' potluck at 994 Safari Rd. Plan to arrive at 11:00 to see the gardens then we will have lunch and visit.

In addition to her garden tasks, Pearl has built a larger new deck, almost entirely on her own, that overlooks one of her gardens.

If you know of anyone (friend/neighbour) who would like to join the Society membership bring them along to meet people in this tranquil environment and to get to know other members. RSVP to: [flamhort@hotmail.com](mailto:flamhort@hotmail.com)

### Horticultural Society Upcoming Events

Sept. 24 District 6 Fall Meeting:

Host: Mt. Hamilton Horticultural  
Society

Location: Immanuel Christian  
Reformed Church 61 Mohawk Road  
W. Hamilton

Nov. 12: District 6 Dinner hosted  
by Haldimand Horticultural Society.

### Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) in Your Garden

(by Susan MacMillan)

While checking my Spicebushes, two oversized “fake” eyes of the spicebush swallowtail caterpillar stared up at me.



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What a treat to know I was helping feed them. Eight instars at various stages were found. This is an important time to remove any spider webs to give tiny eggs a fighting chance in the wild. Once they are instars/caterpillars, they have crafty ways to avoid predators. The tiny instars start out looking like bird droppings. When the larvae have progressed to their fourth/last instar and are nearly ready to pupate, they turn a yellow-green color and are marked by two large black dots with a white highlight. The placement of these dots creates the illusion that the caterpillars are common green snakes. Mimicking snakes in movement helps the caterpillars to ward off predators (mainly birds at this stage but also parasitoid wasps). These caterpillars are also crafty, spinning silk to fold or close a leaf or

<sup>1</sup> Spicebush caterpillar Photo by Susan MacMillan

piece of leaf together. The caterpillar resides in the enclosed leaf when it is not feeding and they feed mostly at night to avoid predation from birds. Other larval food sources are sassafras, camphor trees, red bay, and sweet bay.

Native to the eastern parts of North America and Canada, Spicebush is an aromatic shrub often found growing in swampy woodlands, forests, ravines, and riparian areas but you can successfully grow it in your garden without this much moisture.

Spicebush has the added benefit of producing delicate flowers in spring (they are dioecious; male and female flowers are on separate shrubs), changing to a bright yellow in Fall and providing juicy red berries. It is easy to grow, needs little care (other than space and sun) and has an allspice scent when you rub the leaves.



Read more at Gardening Know How: Spicebush Information: [Learn About Growing A Spicebush](#)

Read More about the Spicebush Swallowtail Butterfly here: [Spicebush Swallowtail](#)

## August Garden Tasks

- Prune climbing roses
- Cut out old raspberry canes
- Seed winter vegetables like lettuce, spinach, and kale and radishes
- Clean up dropped fruit to discourage pests
- Remove garden debris to reduce next year's cutworm population
- Continue to cut grass high (minimum of 3 inches)
- Keep weeds pulled before they flower and if not enough time to keep up with weeding, cut off the flower heads before seeds mature
- Harvest tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, beans and other vegetables to keep the plants producing.
- Check for powdery mildew on peonies, phlox, bee balm, and other plants. Remove severely damaged foliage and discard in the trash.
- Remove spent flowers from perennials and annuals to encourage reblooming.
- Divide and replant clumps of bearded iris so that they have time to form new roots and flower buds before the onset of cold weather.
- Sow seeds of biennials, such as hollyhock, Canterbury bells and foxglove.
- Stop fertilizing trees and shrubs. Fertilize roses for the last time this year.
- Divide peonies and daylilies in late August through September.
- Harvest onions and garlic as the tops dry and fall over.

## Pollinator Garden: Key Elements

Try to group plant species together instead of single plants throughout your garden. For example, planting a large patch of echinacea. Mass planting helps pollinators spot resources more easily, pollinate more efficiently, and spend less energy collecting pollen and nectar. Bees tend to collect pollen from one type of plant at a time. Pollinators also require a source of freshwater. You can provide a safe water source in your garden by filling a shallow dish with water and marbles or rocks. Bees and other pollinators can land on the marbles and collect water without the risk of drowning. It is important to change the water often and keep it full, as bees and other insects will return to the source. By incorporating these ideas into your garden, you can provide crucial habitat and nutrition for many pollinator species that are currently at risk. You can help out the honey bees by choosing flowers that have white, yellow, blue or purple flowers. This will help them spot resources in your garden more easily! Pollinators will also go crazy for aromatic flowers, such as lavender and anise hyssop!

## Types Of Shade

### Part or Partial or Half Shade

- 4-6 hours of sun per day, mainly in the afternoon when the sun is strongest.
- Garden beds that receive this same amount of sun in the mornings are considered 'light

shade' and plants preferring half shade will not grow as large or quickly with the same amount of afternoon sun which is more intense.

### Dappled Light

- This type of shade is usually created by the canopy of trees overhead.
- Light still gets through but it's not harsh and the total effect is less light than partial or half shade areas.

### Shade or Full Shade or Dense Shade

- Whether the shade is created from an obstruction like a house, or dense tree canopies overhead, these are deeper shade areas without any direct sun.

## Tips for Growing Zinnias

One of the first things one notices about zinnias is the flower formations. They come in single, double, and semi-double flowers ranging in diameter from small to large. These can be on single or multiple stems, in heights ranging from inches like Zinderellas to Benarys at several feet tall.

If you are aiming for a more pollinator friendly garden, look for simpler, single, daisy-like zinnias with accessible nectar and petals the bees and butterflies can land on and forgo the double, fluffy dahlia like ones. Suggested varieties include Zinnia 'Lilliput', an heirloom variety from the 1870s, and Zinnia 'Zowie', a long-blooming butterfly magnet.

Once they come into bloom, pinching (removing some stem tips) and



deadheading (removing the spent blooms) to ensure bushy, flowering plants.

## How to Make a Butterfly Feeder



A butterfly feeder is only one way to attract butterflies to your garden. If you want to keep them really happy, you will need to have plants that serve the needs of all the life stages of the butterfly. Adults need nectar, a safe place to lay their eggs, food for their larvae and a place to form chrysalides (cocoons).

In addition to the right plants, butterflies like full sun, a place to rest their wings, and a place to drink. An easy way to create a butterfly sanctuary is to plant bright flowers that love full sun, add a flat rock to the garden for the butterflies to bask, and put a small shallow pan of water out for them to drink.

Butterflies consume nectar, which we make with sugar and water or fruit juice. To give variety, you can add ripe to overripe juicy fruits like strawberries, mangoes, nectarines, watermelon, and bananas. Just chop the fruit into chunks and spread it across your feeder. Simply replace the fruit when it dries out, shows signs of mold, or starts to rot.

If you want, you can also add a clean dish sponge soaked in sugar or honey water. Use warm water for honey. Use one part honey or sugar to 9 or 10 parts water since a solution too concentrated in sugar will dehydrate butterflies. Place a sponge in the center of a plate. Spoon some of the sugar water mixture onto the sponge until it is saturated, but not overflowing. Then hang the butterfly feeder from a tree branch. Check the feeder regularly to make sure there is plenty of sugar water in the sponge.

Butterflies are attracted to red, yellow, orange, pink, and purple colours, so keep that in mind when selecting fruit. If you are worried about ants getting in on the feast, you can add a bit of water to the dish as a deterrent.

Did you know that butterflies adore mud? They congregate around muddy areas as this gives them salt and minerals/nutrients. You can help them out by placing a shallow dish of water out for butterflies. They often avoid birdbaths and other pools because the water is too deep. A shallow dish gives them access to water for drinking and puddling. Adding some gravel, sand or mud at the bottom helps, as well as rocks for basking in the sun. Some Ideas for Making Butterfly Feeders

### [Do it Yourself Butterfly Feeders](#)

Read the latest Ontario Horticultural Society news and the summer 2022 edition of The Trillium [Garden Ontario](#)

**Connon Nurseries** and Terry Vanderkruk are great supporters of our society. Please show your appreciation by shopping at Connon Nurseries 905-689-7433

[Connon Nurseries](#)

**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, corrections or submissions. 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 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  
Nominating Committee - Trudy Bliedung,  
Tina Coverly  
Civic Improvement – Jan Bignell  
Communications Copywriter –  
Jennifer Godyn  
Garden Walk – Open  
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

**[OHA 50/50 Fundraiser](#) - for a chance to WIN!**

*A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken!*

*James Dent*