

# Flamborough Horticultural Society



**November 2022 Newsletter**

## President's Message

Greetings Members

On behalf of the Board, I wish a warm welcome to our newest members, Karen Carmichael, Helen Nichol, and Michelle Beltrame. We have had a total of seven new members in October! You have joined a great group of gardeners.

We need two volunteers for the roles of Director. The roles are currently to support to Board Meeting functions. The Society is only as strong as its volunteers to help spread the tasks so please consider volunteering. For anyone wanting information about the roles please email me.

The November speaker presentation and workshop is by Lil Taggart. Try your hand at making a festive table display. Consider it as a practice session if you are entertaining over Christmas. To help offset the cost, if you have any greenery like pine, fir, cedar or boxwood consider bringing some in for the workshop.

Our Annual General Meeting and Awards will take place Wednesday November 16 just prior to the speaker. All positions will be considered open to anyone. Our Assistant District Director (ADD) Liz Chapple will install the newly elected officers. See the last page of this newsletter for other openings and contact the Nominating Committee for your commitment to volunteer by using the [flamhort@hotmail.com](mailto:flamhort@hotmail.com) email.

So far we have had a good response for interest in the Dec, 14 Christmas potluck so stay tuned for information on the food list. For members who do not have email, you will be contacted by a Board member about assistance in attending the potluck.

There is a lot happening in other Societies. Several of us and spouses are attending the District 6 dinner hosted by Haldimand Horticultural Society where the talented author and speaker Paul Knowles will present. Deadline to prepay and register is the 1st week of Nov. We are part of the big family of District 6 within the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). To learn more about the District see [OHA Garden Clubs and Societies in Ontario » GardenOntario](#).

Best wishes Susan MacMillan

## Announcements

### Meeting and Speaker Information

**Date:** Wed., Nov. 16 (AGM)

**Time:** 7:30 pm

**Meet and greet:** 7:00pm

**Speaker:** Lil Taggart - a floral designer will be doing a powerpoint demonstration on floral design, followed by a hands-on design workshop for those who have prepaid (further details will be emailed to members and also available on the Facebook page).

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

**Flower Show:** No flower show this month.

**Note:** There is a potluck turkey dinner planned for December 14.

Read the latest Ontario Horticultural Society news and the summer 2022 edition of The Trillium. Deadline for Trillium submissions is Dec 1.

[Garden Ontario](#)

[OHA Garden Ontario Fundraiser](#)

[Trillium Newsletter Archives](#)

### Horticultural Society Upcoming Events

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

[District 6 Dinner](#) Come out for a fun evening \$40 for the dinner e-transfer to [ohadistrict6treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:ohadistrict6treasurer@gmail.com)

Hear speaker and author Paul Knowles

## October Flower Show

Congratulations to our winners for having beautifully decorated pumpkins. They all looked fabulous, making judging quite challenging!

First place - Marilyn Higgins (center)

Second place- Mary Blake (right)

Third place - Lynn McArthur (left)



## Did You Know?

Over 90% of backyard birds rely on butterfly and moth caterpillars to feed their young? Many butterflies and moths overwinter among fallen leaves. While it may not be practical to leave all leaves on the ground, do attempt to leave some either by making small piles along the edge of lawns and most certainly cover beds and gardens with leaves. This will also provide winter protection for plants as well as building the soil when the leaves decompose next spring. There is no need to rake leaves off beds in the spring!

## Consider Planting Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)



This native fern stays green right through the winter holiday season. It's no surprise this plant was awarded Christmas fern as its common name. Another possible reason is that the individual leaflets on the fronds resemble Christmas stockings.

New silvery-green fronds unfurl in early spring, growing in rhizome-spreading clumps that work well in borders or as accent plants. They are useful as erosion control on slopes. This fern pairs well with perennial wildflowers and other shade-loving ferns and is suited for most soil types making it ideal for woodland or cottage gardens. They do not grow well in very heavy clay soil and are prone to rot if left in standing water for long periods of time. While mildly drought tolerant, they do need deep watering during hot, dry periods at least once a week.

Although they stay green in winter, the fronds lose their upright, arching shape and lie flat on the ground. But, provided they aren't covered in snow, they provide good shelter for the birds visiting your

gardens. In the spring, birds will use the fronds for nest construction.

While they are deer resistant, herds have been observed grazing on them when their preferred food sources are scarce.

It's easy to add more Christmas ferns to your collection by propagating them through root division in early spring. If well cared for these ferns can live up to fifteen years!

## November Garden Tasks

This is the month that we finally slow down in our outdoor gardens! But this does not mean that there is no work to be done!

- If you haven't already, get your new spring flowering bulbs planted now.
- Empty, clean and store planters where they will be dry for the winter.
- If you are using a rain barrel, they should be emptied and turned over to keep them dry during the winter months. Reconnect your downspout to direct the snowmelt and winter rain away from your foundation.
- Cole crops like Brussels sprouts, cabbage, broccoli, collards and kale are made sweeter by frost so don't pull them out yet. Harvest them as long as possible.
- Make sure that evergreens are well watered.
- Spread manure, rotted sawdust, rotted straw, and shredded leaves over the garden. You'll be surprised at the difference this organic matter will make in the fertility, physical structure and water-holding capacity of the soil.
- Continue to check houseplants for insects that may have come

indoors as you brought the plants inside and treat them immediately

- Apply a layer of protective mulch. This is where fallen leaves come in handy!
- Clean, sharpen and oil tools like shovels and hoes before putting them away for winter.

## Horticultural Terms:

**Frost pocket:** A depression in the ground into which cold air drains but from which it cannot escape, thus causing it to be an area prone to frost injury before other areas.

**Microclimate** - This is a spot within a garden that differs from the surrounding environment. Some examples would be a wet spot where water collects during rain, a spot that remains warmer in the winter - often due to a structure, a spot that is sheltered from the wind, a south facing garden with full sun, an exposed and shady north facing garden, a slope, etc. You can add features to your garden that will alter its microclimate. Hedges, fences, trees, walls, patios and water features all have the ability to control the wind, sunlight, and temperature thereby creating microclimates.

Read more about how to create and to use microclimates in your garden:

[Micro climate within a garden](#)

## Green Gardening Demystified

Robert Pavlis (Master Gardener ) spoke at the October Meeting on this topic. He shared scientific research to either validate or to refute or to define gardening terms and claims. His main premise was that “gardening: is neither green nor sustainable BUT we can make green

choices such as using organic fertilizers, and composting.

For further reading here is a link to his website (which has many articles and links to various topics and the facebook page as well)

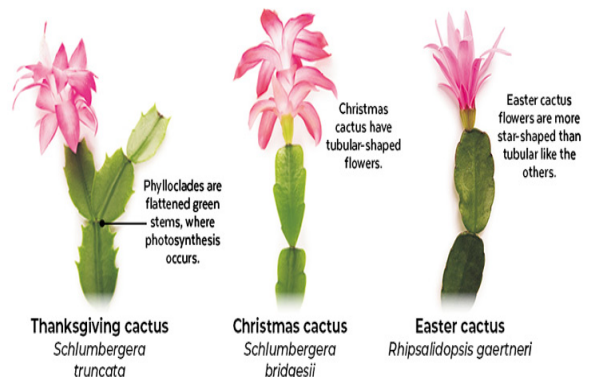
## [Gardening Fundamentals](#)

## Christmas Cactus

Despite its name, the Christmas cactus is not a cactus. While it is a succulent and does store moisture in its leaves, members of the Schlumbergera family are not considered a true cactus. This means that they aren't as drought tolerant as a true cactus, so they need to be watered more often, and they can't take the heat of the direct sun. Christmas cactuses are tropical plants rather than desert-dwelling plants.

Many use the term, “Christmas Cactus” for their house plant which may actually be a Thanksgiving Cactus. This explains why it always blooms BEFORE Christmas! You can tell the Thanksgiving cactus apart from the Christmas cactus by the shape of its leaves.

## IDENTIFYING HOLIDAY CACTI



## Are You Saving Your Tender Bulbs?

Plants with tender bulbs will require a period of winter dormancy. Expensive bulbs are worth the effort of overwintering. Some of these include:

- **Caladiums**
- **Calla lilies**
- **Cannas**
- **Dahlias**
- **Elephant ears**
- **Gladiolus**

For tender bulbs in pots, stop watering and allow foliage to die back. Store pots in a cool, dry location. For bulbs in the ground, dig them up and cut the foliage back. Brush off as much soil as possible and allow them to dry for a week or two. Pack them loosely in a cardboard box or open container, separated by shredded newspaper or dry peat moss. Keep in a cold, dark place. Pot them up in the spring about a month before they are to be planted outdoors.

## Perennial Seeds to Plant in Fall

These can be still planted before the soil freezes.

- **Black-eyed Susan** *Rudbeckia fulgida*
- **Delphinium** *Delphinium elatum*
- **Lupine** *Lupinus* spp. and hybrids
- **Oriental poppy** *Papaver orientale*
- **Penstemon** *Penstemon* spp. and hybrids
- **Perennial geranium** *Geranium* spp. and hybrids
- **Perennial sunflower** *Helianthus* spp. and hybrids
- **Pincushion flower** *Scabiosa* spp. and hybrids
- **Purple Coneflower** *Echinacea purpurea*
- **Wild columbine** *Aquilegia canadensis*

## Bringing Lavender Indoors

I have tried to do this over the years with varying levels of success (most often killing the plant)! Here are some tips for bringing these plants indoors.

To begin acclimatization, move the plant to an outdoor area that receives less sun for a few hours each day for a week or so, increasing time toward the end. Leave potted plants in this spot without moving for another week. Move the plant inside the house for a couple hours each day for a week, gradually increasing time inside. Once indoors, place near a sunny window in an area with good air circulation. Water **less often** than in the summer. Allow the top inch of soil to be dry before watering again. I am certain that mine met their demise from overwatering!

## Plant this Native Tree for Winter

**Interest: Showy Mountain Ash**



(*Sorbus decora*)

This is an ideal small tree with four season interest. In the spring it has clumps of white flowers. Late summer, bright red berries appear. Fall brings a yellow hue to the leaves. After the leaves drop the orange berries persist, providing a burst of colour against the snow. It also provides winter food for birds such as robins and blue jays, as well as squirrels who eat the berries.

**Connon Nurseries** Please show your appreciation by shopping at Connon Nurseries 905-689-7433 [Connon Nurseries](#)

**Buy your bulbs at Northland Nursery and FHS receives \$1 donation per order. Tell them you are a FHS member**

**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 2021-2022**

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  
Two Director positions - **OPEN**

## **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

*Wild is the music of the  
autumnal winds amongst the  
faded woods.*

*William Wordsworth*