

March-April 2023

Garden Dispatch

London Fanshawe Horticultural Society
where people grow with their gardens

Eager as we gardeners are, it is easy to forget that it is not advisable to compact the soil by getting out there too early. So, what to do when the days become longer and the weather becomes warmer? Indulge on podcasts? Enjoy some good reads? And best of all come out to an in-person meeting – speakers, books, and door prizes!



Photo credit: Sharlene Grant, Gigi Wong

If you missed the March meeting, here is a list of the summer bulbs, tubers, and rhizomes our speaker Jim Mabee shared with us. Did you know you can grow eddo, turmeric and ginger purchased from grocery stores? Thank you Linda Hawker for taking notes and sharing the full list below.

Agapanthus (African lily)	Allium
Astroemeria (Peruvian lily)	Alocasia/Colocasia
Anemone	Bletilla (Ground orchid)
Caladium	Calla Lily
Curcuma	Dahlia
Dutch Iris	Eremurus (Foxtail lily)
Eucomis	Freesia
Ginger (Zingiber officinale)	Gladiolus callianthus
Gloriosa	Hymenocallis/Ismene (Spider lily)
Hardy gloxinia (Incarvillea)	Ixia (cornflowers)
Liatrix (Blazing star)	Asiatic and Oriental Lily
Lycoris (Spider lily)	Nerine bowdenii
Ornithogalum (Star of Bethlehem)	Oxalis
Ranunculus	Scadoxus
Sparaxis	Tigridia
Triteleia	Zephyranthes



UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 20
20th Anniversary Celebration
(members only)
~ start time 6 pm ~

~ ~ ~
May 18
In-person Social

~ ~ ~
May 20
Plant & Compost Sale at Eastern Star Temple

~ ~ ~
June 7
Spring Bus Trip
(members only)
~ Tickets sale Apr 20 @ 6 pm ~

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<https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/77/>

Email us at:
londonfanshawehortociety@gmail.com

Online store:
<https://london-fanshawe-horticultural-society.square.site/>

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[London-Fanshawe-Horticultural-Society](https://www.facebook.com/London-Fanshawe-Horticultural-Society)



PODCAST SPOTLIGHT by Maureen Beamish

Favorite Spring Greens Mar 3, 2023 | 60 min

<https://www.finegardening.com/article/episode-130-favorite-spring-greens>

For those members who are keen on starting seeds, this podcast can get you growing and harvesting before the May 24 weekend!

Houseplants Tuneups Mar 4, 2023 | 27 min

<https://awaytogarden.com/houseplant-tuneups-and-some-plants-to-covet-with-longwoods-karl-gercens/>

This article inspired me to take cuttings of pathos and other plants to root and then pot up for our potential plant giveaway at The London Food Bank.



NEW GARDENING BOOKS from LPL by Ola Nowosad

Creating a garden retreat: an artist's guide to planting an outdoor sanctuary / Virginia Johnson.

Grow more food: a vegetable gardener's guide to getting the biggest harvest possible from a space of any size / Colin McCrate & Brad Halm; photography by Hilary Dahl.

Grow now: how we can save our health, communities, and planet – one garden at a time / Emily Murphy.

How to garden indoors & grow your own food year round: ultimate guide to vertical, container, and hydroponic gardening / Kim Roman.

Modern dried flowers: 20 everlasting projects to craft, style, keep and share / Angela Maynard.

Plant Grow Harvest Repeat: grow a bounty of vegetables, fruits, and flowers by mastering the art of succession planting / Meg McAndrews.

The garden refresh: how to give your yard big impact on a small budget / Kier Holmes.

The healing garden: cultivating & handcrafting herbal remedies / Juliet Blankespoor.

The month-by-month gardening guide: daily advice for growing flowers, vegetables, herbs & houseplants / Franz Böhmig.

The rooted life: cultivating health & wholeness through growing your own food / Justin Rhodes.

The urban garden: 101 ways to grow food and beauty in the city / Kathy Jentz & Teri Speight.

To boldly grow: finding joy, adventure, and dinner in your own backyard / Tamar Haspel.

Fearless gardening: be bold, break the rules, grow what you love / Loree Bohl.

Finally, a title that may be intriguing for readers of mystery novels.

A Botanist's Guide to Flowers and Fatality / Kate Khavari.



Photo credit: Lois McLeod

On the Magic of Spring Bulbs and Peonies

by Lois McLeod

While winter was enjoyably mild this year, it did play a game with the gardening aficionados among our members. Those of us who planted pots of spring bulbs last fall may be enjoying their flowers earlier than expected.

I have been enjoying crocuses blooming in the garage! More than 30 pots of various bulbs are waiting there anxiously to bloom. The temperatures were not cold enough in their often-freezing winter home and so they continue to awaken early. Who would have guessed that they sense the recent climate changes!? If you procrastinated last fall in planting up your pots, you have a better chance of the blooms emerging in the expected time for potted spring beauty.

In a recent newsletter from the Prairie Peony Society, a hybridizer, Joshua Scholten of Peonyshop Netherlands, was recognized for his outstanding contribution to the peony world. In 2022, he submitted over 200 new peony cultivars to be registered by the American Peony Society. Only Professor Saunders had accomplished such a superb contribution and his work was over many years.

Few of us, it was noted, can afford the high prices that new peonies command (<https://www.peonyshop.com/>). Yet many of us who have ordered from Peonyshop can say we have a peony that was grown in his fields. Through his hybridization of peonies, Joshua creates more beauty for our gardens and leaves an outstanding legacy in the world of peonies.

Benefits of Garden Journaling

by ChatGPT* (Source: <https://chat.openai.com/chat>)

Garden journaling has many benefits, including:

Record-keeping: Garden journaling allows you to keep track of what you've planted, when you planted it, and how it's growing. This information is helpful for planning future gardens, identifying patterns and trends, and making adjustments to your gardening practices.

Memory aid: By keeping a record of your garden, you can easily remember which plants performed well, which ones struggled, and which ones you want to plant again. You can also note down any special memories or moments associated with your garden, making it a meaningful keepsake for years to come.

Problem-solving: If you encounter any problems in your garden, such as pests, diseases, or poor growth, your garden journal can help you identify the cause and find solutions. By tracking your observations and actions, you can learn from your mistakes and improve your gardening skills.

Inspiration: Garden journaling can inspire you to try new plants, techniques, and ideas. By keeping track of your successes and failures, you can develop a better understanding of what works in your garden and what doesn't, giving you the confidence to experiment and take risks.

Relaxation: Writing in a garden journal can be a calming and therapeutic activity, providing a chance to connect with nature and reflect on your experiences. It can also be a creative outlet, allowing you to express your thoughts and ideas through words, sketches, and photos.



*ChatGPT stands for "Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer." It is a large language model developed by OpenAI that uses deep learning techniques to understand and generate human-like language.

What Else is Going On?

Native Plant Sale at Westminster Ponds Centre

Order your plants between March 1 and May 13 for pick-up on May 27

<https://westminsterpondscentre.ca/event/native-plant-sale-2023>

The Plant Library

Learn about tips and information of select species for creating a healthy native plant community suited to the conditions of your site. <https://acultivatedart.com/plant-library>

Spring checklist

The London and Middlesex Master Gardeners has a good spring checklist for gardeners.

<https://londonmiddlesexmastergardeners.com/spring-checklist-garden/>

Box Tree Moth

Webinar on Identification, Biology and Management in Ontario <https://gardenontario.org/box-tree-moths/>

Look for these signs this spring <https://landscapeontario.com/box-tree-moth-look-for-these-signs-this-spring>

Spotted Lanternfly threatens Ontario's native trees

New invasive pest threatens many of our native tree species, including maples, poplars, pines, and cherries.

<https://lfpress.com/news/local-news/invasive-pest-threatens-ontarios-maple-pine-trees-officials>

Help prevent Spotted Lanternfly in Ontario.

<https://www.ontarioparks.com/parksblog/spotted-lanternfly-invasive/>

Top 8 Free Plant Identifier Apps in 2022

Ever wanted to identify a plant when you're out and about? If so, the right app could be your new best friend!

<https://www.freeplants.com/free-plant-identifier-apps/>

Free Garden Journal Printables

Mix and match pages can help you create a journal that works for your individual garden and personal preferences.

<https://www.greeninreallife.com/free-garden-journal-page-printables/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Earth Day clean up – April 22

Constitution Park (accessible via Grenfell Dr or Trossacks Ave) is LFHS's adopted park. The established flower bed by the splash pad is the culminated work of our members. Help us with a quick spring cleanup on this year's Earth Day.

Covent Garden Market Planting – June 4

Be ready to get your hands dirty. We are planting annuals to help beautify downtown London.

New pollinator garden

LFHS will be providing funding, guidance, and plant material to a group of Grade 8 students at Louise Arbour French Immersion School. Interested in this initiative? Talk to one of the Board members.