

"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'" Robin Williams

April 17th meeting

Plan to attend to hear Lorraine Johnson discuss Climate change and the garden — Action in a time of crisis and what gardeners can do.

For this special meeting, we'll charge guests \$5 to attend. Do bring friends to hear what promises to be an especially interesting talk.

"Lorraine Johnson has been one of the most constant and helpful advocates of putting native plants back into the garden." (from the book *A History of Canadian Gardening*, by Carol Martin, published in 2000) Lorraine is a writer, editor and community advocate who, when pressed to describe what unifies her work, has settled on the term cultivation activist.



The author of numerous books on growing native plants, gardening for pollinators, restoring habitat, and producing food in cities, Lorraine's work focuses on people and communities growing plants, ecological health, and connection to nature and to each other.

Through her books, articles and community projects, she strives to advance the understanding that everything and everyone is connected and that, through our actions, we all have a role to play in making this world a better place for all life.

Refreshments provided by Diane Fraser & Gill Jones

Blue Frog Water Gardens

In March, we were informed and entertained by Denis Orendt of Blue Frog Water Gardens about water features for the garden – nature's stress relief. Blue Frog has been in business for ten years designing, installing, and maintaining aeration systems and ponds as well as supplying plants and equipment. They are the biggest lily supplier in Ontario. We learned that there are ways to incorporate water in large and small-sized gardens. To learn more about this important resource in Northumberland check out bluefrogwatergardens.ca

Note: Please add the following to page 5 of your copy of the Yearbook: Monday, October 16 — Speaker: **Victoria Whitney, owner, Griffins Greenhouses – Winterscaping**

Bus Tour – June 21 – Whistling Gardens and Northland Nursery

On June 21st members and friends will be able to enjoy a bus trip to Whistling Gardens and Northland Nursery (towards Hamilton, ON.) If you plan to attend, send your name and contact information and a \$50 deposit to adam@lakeshoretours.ca (Password: gardening). Or by cheque to: Lakeshore Tours, 17 King ST. E, Bowmanville, ON, L1C 1N2 Payment of the balance by May 3rd. We've sent the tour information to local garden clubs and encourage members to invite friends for this amazing day.

From Trash to Treasure

When you are preparing for the gardening season, if you find items that you no longer need or want, bring them to the Garden Club meeting in April for the table of items looking for a new home. You could bring, books, magazines, tools, pots, decorations— whatever. The proviso is that if no one takes your contribution, we ask you to take it back home. Suzi will coordinate this table that has been so popular in February and March.

Dates for your Agenda: *Mark these in your calendar*

Club Coffee Chat at Starbucks – May 3rd at 10.30 am.



Garden Club Plant Sale – Saturday May 13

This year's Plant Sale is just around the corner. As you begin working in your garden, please start digging and potting plants for the sale. And we're also looking for books, pots, garden tools and various other items that would be of interest to gardeners.

We need volunteers leading up to the sale and then on May 12th and 13th. Please check your calendars to see when you can help. At April's meeting there will be sign-up sheets for digging plants, setting up for the sale on the Friday and then for helping at the sale on the Saturday. Volunteers can help in many ways. Not every job requires heavy lifting. The more, the merrier.

Contact: Malcolm Pacey, Plant Sale Coordinator at susanpacey@yahoo.com

Member Garden Visits

When is your garden at its prime? Maybe it's early when you have an array of spring bulbs. It could be that you are especially proud of your peonies — day lilies — roses — whatever. Think about opening your garden to members for an afternoon visit. Check out the sign-up sheet at the Membership Desk at the April meeting. Or speak to Anthea or Bonnie.

Nurseries in the area open for business

Baltimore Valley Nursery, #45, -- every day, 9 to 5

Mark's Greenhouse, Ontario St, Cobourg -- Mon to Fri 9:00 to 6:00 & Sat to Sun 9:00 to 5:00.

Pineridge Garden Centre, #2, Cobourg – every day 8 to 9

This season, the Garden Club's three planters will be moved from Rotary Park to the front of the Chamber of Commerce office. Initially, they'll feature a display of **Native Plants**. We need some volunteers who regularly walk in that area to keep an eye on them to handle deadheading, trimming, and general tending. Regular watering will be taken care of. Interested? Contact Bonnie. bonnie@aprod.com

Arlene Foster, now Northumberland Master Gardener Emeritus

Arlene joined the Peterborough Master Gardeners in 2000. With a group of seven others from Northumberland, she travelled to Peterborough regularly. They saw a real need for supplying gardening expertise in Northumberland, so founded the Northumberland Master Gardeners in 2004. When asked what she had learned in her career with Master Gardeners, Arlene replied that she became very comfortable with meeting the public and speaking to other gardeners. Her favourite activity was participating in the advice clinics, especially at the Port Hope Fair. She made life-long-friends and thoroughly enjoyed travelling to fascinating destinations on the Northumberland Master Gardener trips.



Congratulations Arlene

Events for Gardeners

Lakeside Gardens of Cobourg Garden Tour — Sun June 25 10am-3pm Explore nine breathtaking gardens on Cobourg's lakefront, and showcases garden-themed works donated by local artists and artisans: small paintings, metal sculptures, stained glass, and birdhouses. All proceeds go to support Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre. Tickets \$30 (Available by May 1) For details [LINK](#)

Buffalo Garden Festival is a five-week celebration of greater Buffalo area's gardens. The garden walk is the largest private garden viewing in the world with over 350 private gardens open to the public. HNA Travels has a tour of selected gardens (July 24-26). Visit www.HNATRAVELS.COM for more information.

Port Hope Garden Tour June 10th Take time to visit nine beautiful properties in Port Hope and area. Gardens vary from intimate and tidy to sprawling and unstructured, displaying a diversity of space, plant species and whimsical themes. Tickets \$25 Visit Port Hope Garden Tour 2023 PHHF for ticket information: [Port Hope Garden Tour 2023 – PHHF](#)

Clematis: How to Identify Pruning Groups

Given there are a wide variety of clematis species and hybrids, it's difficult to figure out what type is in the garden. Unless you saved your plant nursery tag or have a popular variety that is easy to identify, it can be a bit of a mystery to learn the name. However, with a bit of sleuthing, we can narrow things down, and, while we may not find the specific name, we can figure out the pruning group, which is most important for proper care. [LINK](#)

How to Choose Native Groundcovers

When looking for plants to replace your lawn, the same factors come into play when shopping for other plants. These include soil and light conditions, moisture, hardiness zone and interactions with other plants. When it comes to native groundcovers, there are additional considerations such as the amount of foot traffic expected and the desired appearance of the planted area. Some gardeners may want the look of turf and seek a groundcover they intend to mow. Others may prefer a more natural look with a mix of heights and textures. An area may be planted exclusively with low groundcovers or they may be integrated into beds with shrubs and trees or with paths, rocks and other hardscaping. Whatever the design, native groundcovers should be diverse for maximum benefit. This will ensure an attractive blend of foliage and blooms, offering a long season of interest to both people and pollinators.

Check out the informative article in The Ontario Horticultural Association Spring 2023 Trillium Magazine: for groundcovers to consider. [LINK](#)

Hold the Baking Soda

There are all sorts of wild claims made about baking soda and gardening and most of them are complete nonsense. Plus, baking soda is sodium bicarbonate. When mixed with water or rain, it releases sodium—something we don't need more of in our soil or waterways. And no, baking soda does not make tomatoes sweeter. See the article for more debunking. And save the baking soda for — you guessed it — baking. *Baking Soda in the Garden: Is it really harmless ?* [LINK](#)

Links of interest:

How to make your own Potting Soil courtesy *Mother Earth News* [LINK](#)

According to the experts at Better Homes & Gardens, gardening will be all about exuberant colour, going big in small spaces, and native plants this year. Here's what to plant to enjoy these garden trends. Courtesy Gardening Calendar News [Read the full article here.](#)

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REMINDER: THE ROLE OF THE REFRESHMENT FOLKS INCLUDES BRINGING MILK AND CREAM, MAKING TEA AND PUTTING THE DISHES IN THE DISHWASHER AFTER THE MEETING. YVONNE LANE WILL MAKE THE COFFEE.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFILL THIS ROLE, PLEASE ARRANGE WITH ANOTHER MEMBER TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.

Many thanks to Garden Club members who contribute information for our newsletter.

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