



# The unflower

*The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society Newsletter!*

Volume 18

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June 2023

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*The Smiths Falls Horticultural Society meets every third Tuesday of the month through the months of February to June and From September to November. The meetings are held at the Smiths Falls Legion located on 7 Main Street East, Smiths Falls at 7:00pm.*



## **Quote of the Month:**

I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it is always June.

*L. M. Montgomery*

Hi Everyone

It's hard to believe that this month's meeting is the last one of the season. Time seems to be accelerating!

I hope you are able to keep up with the water requirements in your gardens. Fifteen years ago, I used to water my perennial beds twice a season – mid-July and mid-August. Last week I found myself watering the beds at the beginning of June! A good incentive to get the mulch down and replace struggling plants with more drought resistant ones. Of course, the bit of rain we got yesterday afternoon beat down all of my peonies!!!

As gardeners we like to consider ourselves good stewards of nature and the environment – planting native plants and ensuring the pollinators have plenty of food and a safe place to lay their eggs. One thing that bothers me at this time of the year is the amount of plastic waste that is generated – soil and mulch bags, plant pots, and trays. Many companies are slowly trying to reduce their plastic footprint and it's certainly nice to see some plant vendors recycling their pots and trays, but it seems that more could be done. Consider reusing the pots to start your own vegetables and annuals next year; reuse soil and mulch bags for garbage (fewer black bags); and consider getting small loads of soil and mulch delivered (maybe a neighbour has a utility trailer). Every little action helps.

We are having a busy meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, a panel of Master Gardeners, a flower show, photo contest, and yummy treats. See details further on in this newsletter. Be sure to bring your most pressing gardening questions for a chance to have an expert solve them for you.

Check out page 5 for an article written by Board member Gail McCormack reminding us to be on the look out for invasive plants as we are shopping this season.

Finally, be sure to take a break from all your hard work and spend time enjoying your garden this summer!

## Society News

### Plant Sale

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the plant sale. We had lots of great plants and raised \$1,012 to help fund our activities for the year. Many thanks to **Andress' Independent, Canadian Tire, Giant Tiger, Gemmell's, and Garden Market** for their generous donations of plants for our auction. Also, a big "thank you" to **John Joynt** who acted as auctioneer for the event.

### Beginner to Winner

Our first floral design workshop in May produced some great results. **Shari O'Driscoll** attended the first workshop and won the novice category in our May flower show and also placed third in one of the other design categories.

Our second "beginner to winner" workshop was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The participants were led through the specifics of the design categories in our upcoming flower show. Here is a picture of the beautiful results:



We hope to have another workshop in September – stay tuned for details on how to sign up.

### May Flower Show

Our first judged show for the year was a great success. We had 32 total entries in the various categories, including 10 entries in the design categories. Congratulations to **Lorna Stewart** and **Madeline Archer** for multiple first place wins. Below are a few of the design entries:



## Food Bank Garden

**Steve Svarckopf** and his team have installed the food bank garden behind the Heritage House Museum. There will be a bounty of tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, and zucchinis to be donated to the Smiths Falls food bank over the season. Many thanks to those that lent their time to help with the planting. Thank you too, to those that donated plants, and to the businesses that provided supplies.

If you'd like to help with the watering this summer – send him a message at [sunsetriders@aol.com](mailto:sunsetriders@aol.com). The season has been divided into weekly slots and you can offer your services for one or two of them.



## Code of Conduct

The Ontario Horticultural Association is encouraging all Societies to establish a code of conduct for their society. We have been very fortunate that the members of our Society have always conducted themselves in a respectful manner. However, the Board felt it would be prudent to have a document in place should an issue ever present itself. It will provide a set of guidelines to follow in resolving any issues that arise. The Board members have all read the document and initialed each page. An electronic copy will be circulated before our meeting next week and will be available on our website at <https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/283/>

One requirement of the code is to establish a committee to resolve any issues that come up. We are looking for four to five volunteers to form this committee (Board members are not eligible). In the highly unlikely event that an issue arises, the committee will work with those involved to resolve it.

## Change of Venue

Beginning in September our meeting venue will be moving to the **Smiths Falls Civitan Club**, located at **12468 Highway 15**. The space will provide us with easier access – no stairs and a large parking lot.

We are very grateful to the **Smiths Falls Legion** for providing us space for our executive and general meetings, plant sales, and workshops over these past many years. They have been very accommodating to our needs. Anneke Wilson and Lorna Stewart have agreed to continue to maintain the Legion's gardens on behalf of our Society.

## Next Meeting – June 20<sup>th</sup> , 7pm

There will be a change of pace at our next meeting. We will once again have a panel of Master Gardeners to answer all your gardening questions. We are also bringing back our dessert social and ask that you bring a treat to share with the group. To reduce waste, be sure to bring your own plate, utensils, and mug. Coffee, tea, and water will be available. We will once again be meeting on the main floor of the Legion.

We are also holding our second judged flower show of the year – see next page for the list of categories.

### Photo Contest:

Congratulations to **Christine Nigelsky** who took first place in our May photo contest for her picture of “A Spring Garden”. **Aline Hicks** and **Carol Stanley** took second and third respectively. See their photos on the following page.

The theme for **June** is “*Glorious Iris*”. Below are the themes for remainder of the 2023 season.

Month	Theme
September	Sunflowers Galore
October	An Autumn Tree

Photos must be first time entries, taken by the member, and submitted without visible ID. If you can't attend the meeting but would like to enter a photo, the entry can be submitted by a friend.



Christine Nigelsky



Aline Hicks



Carol Stanley



## June Flower Show

Please consider entering a few of your flowers and veggies in the flower show this month. The show will be judged, and winners will accumulate points throughout the year. The person with the most points at the end of the year will be awarded a prize at our November AGM.

Below are the various classes. You can enter as many classes as you wish. Guidelines and other helpful hints are included on pages 8 to 9 of this Newsletter. **GOOD LUCK!!**

### HORTICULTURE

Class 1	Iris	1 stem
Class 2	Rose	1 bloom
Class 3	Rose, Grandiflora	1 spray
Class 4	Rose, Floribunda	1 spray
Class 5	Peony, one cultivar	3 blooms
Class 6	Peony, collection	3 stems different cultivars
Class 7	Sweet peas	3 stems
Class 8	Any other bloom/bulb/ tuber/corm	1 stem

### EDIBLES

Class 9	Strawberries	5
Class 10	Peas	5 pods
Class 11	Green onions	5
Class 12	Herbs, collection	3 different herbs displayed together in water

### DESIGN

Class 13	Lush and Green	Foliage design
Class 14	Standing on Guard	Parallel design
Class 15	Tiny Bubbles	Miniature design

### NOVICE

Class 16	Tea Time	Small design in a teacup
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## Upcoming Events

### August Garden Visit

“Save the Date” - We have arranged for a tour of a special garden in Perth. The tour is booked for the evening of Tuesday, **August 15<sup>th</sup>**. Because of insurance requirements, the tour will be open to members only. Details will be emailed closer to the date.

## OHA 2023 Convention – “Rock Your Garden World”

Our District is hosting the upcoming OHA convention being held in Kanata at the Brookstreet Hotel July 21- 23, 2023. This is the 115<sup>th</sup> OHA convention and looks to be a fun weekend with several bus tours and other activities planned. The keynote speaker is Michael Runtz who will be speaking on “the importance of pollinators”. Check out this video outlining the weekend’s events -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8wEaeGTnPW>

Laura Hunter and Debra Bellevue are coordinating the volunteers for the event. There are six other members of our Society volunteering for the weekend. Thanks to everyone for representing our Society at this event.

## Beware of Invasive Plants!!!

By Gale McCormack

Many popular garden plants are now listed by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) because, not only do they take over our own backyards, but they can also move into ecologically sensitive areas, where many of our beloved native flowers grow, including plants like Trillium and Bloodroot.

Three common plants to watch out for include Lily-of-the-Valley (*Covallaria majalis*), Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), and Daylily (*Hemerocallis Fulva* – ditch lily). These plants are popular with gardeners because they are easy-care, easy to find, and quick-growing ground covers. Unfortunately, their aggressive underground root systems can make them impossible to contain, and over time they will out-compete other, more desirable plant species. They can also leave gardeners overwhelmed and frustrated, as we try to cope with what are sometimes referred to as garden ‘thugs’!

A few alternatives to these three invasive plants include **Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)**, **Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)** and Michigan Lily (*Lilium michiganense*), which is native to North America. There are many others. Below are just a few online links to explore. Keep in mind that gardening is an ongoing process, and we are all learning as we go. Garden societies are helpful venues for sharing our experiences and knowledge.

The OIPC offers free, comprehensive booklets on invasive plants and suggested (native) alternatives: [www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/)

In Our Nature also offers several excellent resources on gardening with native plants: <https://www.inournature.ca/resources>

Gardening Know How features numerous articles on the topics of natives, invasives and gardening in general: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/weeds/can-native-plants-become-invasive.htm>

## Other News:

### Communication

Have you checked out our Facebook page “Smiths Falls Horticultural Society”? **Bonita Lucas** is taking over ownership of updating our site this year. The postings cover a wide variety of garden topics, both for “newbies” and more experienced gardeners. You can also find notifications of our monthly meetings and other events throughout the region. <https://www.facebook.com/sfHorticulturalSociety/> Be sure to “share” this information with all your Facebook friends to spread the word about our group. *(Did you know? You don't have to belong to Facebook to access the information on the site!)*

Our web site is: <https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/283/> Here you can share tips on gardening, leave messages to SFHS, access our local District 2 website as well as the Ontario Horticultural Association website. Thanks to **Jess Dahl** for keeping our website up to date.

Please contact our President, **Laura Hunter** at 613-485-4206 for any information you may require about our horticultural society.

### 2023 Program

Month	Topic
<b>February 21</b>	Movie Night – <i>The Gardener</i>
<b>March 21</b>	Edible Trees and Shrubs
<b>April 18</b>	Colour Through the Seasons
<b>May 16</b>	Summer Bulbs
<b>June 20</b>	Ask a Master Gardener and Summer Social
<b>July</b>	NO MEETING
<b>August</b>	NO MEETING
<b>August 15</b>	Garden Tour – Perth
<b>September 19</b>	Bringing Your Houseplants Indoors
<b>October 17</b>	Scheuermann Vineyard and Winery
<b>November 21</b>	Annual General Meeting
<b>December</b>	NO MEETING
<b>January 2024</b>	NO MEETING

### SFHS 2023 Executive

Name	Position
<b>Laura Hunter</b>	President
<b>Debra Bellevue</b>	Vice President
<b>Debra Bellevue</b>	Treasurer (Interim)
<b>Ruth Anderson</b>	Secretary/Membership
<b>Madeline Archer</b>	Flower Shows
<b>Jess Dahl</b>	Garden Ontario Website
<b>Anita Frigan</b>	Newsletter/Bursary
<b>Kathleen Lang</b>	Director
<b>Gale McCormack</b>	Programming
<b>Steve Svarckopf</b>	Foodbank Garden

## Flower Shows Rules and Helpful Hints

Each exhibitor will accumulate points towards prizes and trophies, which are awarded at our AGM banquet. In addition, anyone from our society is invited to exhibit in the District 2 show. All members are encouraged to try their hand at design.

### Rules:

1. The flower show area will be open to exhibitors one hour before the meeting time. All entries must be in place by the start of the meeting. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Entries will remain in place for 30 minutes after the meeting.
2. Non-exhibitors must remain away from flower show tables while exhibitors are setting their exhibits. Spectators will have ample time to view the show after the meeting.
3. The decision of the judges shall be final. Judges may withhold an award if, in their opinion, the exhibit is not worthy.
4. The show is open to any member of the Smiths Falls Horticultural Society.
5. Points will be awarded according to the following scale: 1<sup>st</sup> = 5 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 4 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 3 points, Just for Showing = 1 point.
6. Judging will be in accordance with the new **Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticulture and Design**, Publication. Please refer to it for definitions.
7. The Society assumes no responsibility for loss or damage.
8. Entry tags will be supplied by the Society. Whenever possible, put the name and cultivar of the plant on the tag.
9. More than one entry per person is allowed in each class in the **Horticultural Section**, provided they are different cultivars. In the **Horticultural Section**, all plant material must be grown by the exhibitor
10. One entry per person is allowed in each class in the **Design Section**. Plant material may be obtained from any source. Accessories are permitted, unless otherwise stated in the show schedule. Dried or preserved material may be used, but fresh material must dominate. **All designs must be the work of the exhibitor.**
11. All containers are to be waterproof and supplied by the exhibitor.

Consult the complete set of standards and definitions used in our flower shows that are contained in the booklet **Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticulture and Floral Design**. You can obtain your own copy from the Opportunity Table for \$10. If you have any further questions about showing, contact Madeline Archer at [lookformadeline@gmail.com](mailto:lookformadeline@gmail.com) or (613) 283-1032.

### Special Note:

To be eligible to compete in the **novice design class**, an exhibitor must have accumulated **less than** twelve points as a novice in the Smiths Falls HS during the course of the previous year. Anyone who has accumulated twelve or more points in the novice design class by the end of the show year is eligible to win the society's novice trophy. Novices are not limited to only exhibiting in the novice class, they are in fact, encouraged to enter any of the other design classes if they are so inspired.



## HELPFUL HINTS and DEFINITIONS

Definitions and hints are found in the ***Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards For Horticultural and Floral Design*** booklet, produced by the Ontario Horticultural Association and the Garden Clubs of Ontario. Copies are available through the Smiths Falls Horticultural Society. Members are encouraged to purchase their own copy for handy for reference.

### Tips for Those New to Showing

1. Read the rules – if 5 onions are asked for, it's no use displaying 4 or 6.
2. Don't display fruit and vegetables which are under or overripe – if you'd cook with them, they're probably ready for display.
3. Don't overcrowd your floral vases. While the judges are looking for quality of flower, an attractive arrangement will endear you to the judge. Floral foam can be used to hold the stems in place. Try to arrange them for a balanced overall look.
4. Cut stems several inches longer than needed, and place immediately in water.
5. Rough rule of thumb: Plant materials should be 1.5 - 2 times the height of the container.
6. Don't enter too many classes. It takes a long time to gather, inspect, choose, and stage each exhibit well.
7. Pick everything the morning of the show when everything is fresh.
8. Look out for pests – gently shake flowers to dislodge bugs or place them near a white background to encourage them out.
9. Have buds but not flowers, experiment with hair dryers. The warm air from the hairdryer encourages the plants to bloom much faster than they otherwise would, creating a much more vibrant and open-looking flower on demand. Turn the hairdryer on to a low setting and aim it at the plants, making sure to only use it in 60 seconds bursts and keep a good distance to avoid damaging the petals.
10. If anything is less than perfect don't display it no matter how proud you are of it. Wilting leaves, marked or blighted vegetables and dying petals will all lose you points.
11. A specimen should be fresh, clean, and in its perfect stage of development. Faults are cuts, mechanical injury, bruises, dirt, rain spots, pollen on cup, too old or too young, anthers brown, ovary swollen, sheath badly injured, mutilated, or absent.
12. Read up on the rules – if you know what the judges are looking for you are more likely to have the confidence to give it a try.
13. Don't be disheartened if you don't win. At least you tried. Look around, see where others were better and set out to beat them and yourself next year!

## GLOSSARY

**Foliage Design** - A design in which foliage dominates.

**Parallel Design** - A design in which three or more groupings are placed in a parallel manner with open spaces between the groupings.

**Miniature** - a design with maximum dimensions no more than 12.7 cm (5") in height, width and depth including any container, base and /or accessories.