

Newsletter

London Fanshawe Horticultural Society
where people grow with their gardens



Past & present presidents (l to r) at the 20th anniversary celebration
Bob Crowhurst, Bev DeMelo, Vince Chicoine, Ann Larkin, John McLeod.
Absent in photo: Kelly Olsen

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a busy time for our Society this spring.

We kicked off our 20th Anniversary activities in March by bringing back the speaker from our very first meeting (in 2003)! Jim Mabee inspired everyone by his great talk on summer bulbs.

We continued our anniversary celebration meeting in April. More than 100 members attended, eager to hear from our enthusiastic speaker, Ben Cullen. It was a fun time for all. I hope you enjoyed it.

(Photo gallery at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/fHwb1wBk8MkYmbxY7>)

Then there was the Plant Sale in May. The sale was huge success thanks to all of you who helped out in any way. It is our major annual fundraiser and will help secure our finances this year. See the report on page 3.

We also had a super bus trip on June 7. Everyone enjoyed visiting four unique garden centres and shopped until the bus overflowed with plants! A special thanks to Bev DeMelo for organizing this day trip.

(Photo gallery at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NYy8vbzJ4626h16f9>)



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

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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)

I look forward to the upcoming garden walks in June and July. I hope you can come out to enjoy some of our members' interesting gardens. Details of the walks are elsewhere in the Newsletter.

One of our objectives this year is to return to pre-Covid membership levels of 200+ members. I am pleased to report we are now at 207 members! Thanks to all those who have renewed. Welcome to new members.

This has been a challenging spring in the garden. A rather cool and wet April was followed by a record low rainfall in May with a week of 30+ degree temperatures. As I write this note, it has been 25 days with no significant rain. There are forest fires coast to coast and there is a smell of smoke in the air right now. While no single event is absolutely linked to climate change, overall trends are there. Deluges of rain; temperature increases over past decade; 100-Year events happening more frequently and needing re-evaluation. All these and more point to climate change.

This leads to the question of how we, as gardeners and folks concerned about the environment, can adapt? What can we do to keep our environment and gardens resilient and thriving? What changes do we have to make? Lots to think about and act on as we move through summer.

Enjoy the interesting articles in this Newsletter thanks to the excellent work of contributors and our editor, Gigi, and assistant, Ola.

Happy gardening,

Bob Crowhurst

"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments." Janet Kilburn Phillips

2023 GARDEN WALKS FOR MEMBERS by John McLeod

Mark your calendars!

We have arranged five very interesting and different gardens for our members to visit this summer – two in June and three in July.

DATE: Invitations for Saturday June 24

1. Marilyn Lyons' garden at 1353 Rideau Gate from 10 am to 2 pm.
2. Barbara Madill's garden at 14 Carrick Lane from 10 am to 1 pm.

DATE: Invitations for Saturday July 29

1. Joanne Sanborn's garden at 798 Hamilton Rd. from 10 am to noon.
2. Ola Nowosad's garden at 1870 Standfield Road from 10 am to 1 pm.
3. Cheryl Smith's garden at 153 Madison Ave from 12 pm to 3 pm.
(just around the corner from Joanne)

There will be reminders sent out prior to the garden walks each month.

A huge thank you to our members who have volunteered to open their gardens this summer for us to enjoy.



Spring garden walk at the McLeod's.

2023 PLANT SALE RESULTS by Bob Crowhurst, Plant sale Captain

One word for this year's plant sale – tremendous!

Many factors helped: good weather; a great selection of plants in prime condition; the right quantity of compost for the day; many eager volunteers; many buyers looking for bargains. All of these resulted in fantastic sale results. Having lots of volunteers helped made the sale go very smoothly. I hope it was enjoyable for all.

On behalf of the Plant Sale Committee, many thanks! I will not include names because someone may be missed and the sale's success was a real team effort.

To each of you who helped in any way, a big THANK YOU. Take a bow.

Sales

Plants	\$5900
Compost	\$1500
Total Sales	\$7400
Expenses	\$1300
Net	\$6100

Total plants for sale – 1900 (a record number for sure!)

Including 400 tomatoes from Jennifer Smout and 220 plants grown at our greenhouse space.

Total volunteer hours over 800+

Including credit for time you spent potting up plants to donate.

On Friday, prior to plant sale day, 15 yards of compost were turned into 540 bags by 25 hardworking volunteers.



The calm before the storm.



Happy shoppers, lots of them.



Photo credits: Joanne Sanborn, Vince Chicoine, John McLeod, Bob Crowhurst, Gigi Wong.

2023 Colour of the Year

Plant Purple

Purple has a variety of effects on the mind and body, including uplifting spirits, calming the mind, enhanced feelings of spirituality and encouraging imagination and creativity. Purple was named Communities in Bloom's colour of the Year for 2023. From lilacs to coneflowers, from coast to coast, let's paint the country purple this year! <https://www.communitiesinbloom.ca/>

Fittingly, our society's flower is **Clematis 'Jackmanii'**, a lovely deciduous vine that gets covered with a profusion of velvety dark purple flowers from early to late summer.

How to grow and care for Jackman's Clematis

By David Beaulieu | Updated on 09/29/22

Jackman's clematis is one of the most popular of all flowering vines—so commonly grown that some gardeners despise it for its very popularity. But popular plants generally gain their popularity for good reasons. Jackman's clematis is a vigorous yet compact vine with fabulous flowers. Its large 5-inch blooms are a delicious dark purple, making it one of the prettiest flowering vines. Clematis vines are often used to camouflage eyesores in the landscape, or for landscaping around mailboxes, where the vine is trained up a mailbox post as a decoration. It can be trained up almost any vertical structure, from garden walls to small trees.

Clematis can be planted in the spring, late summer, or early fall.

This vine is fussier about the way it is planted than most plants. It is best planted so that the top of the root ball is a full 3 to 4 inches below the level it was in the nursery pot. Planting at this depth promotes the development of "latent" buds below ground level. Their presence is your insurance policy against the clematis wilt disease that sometimes infects above-ground vegetation.

This perennial is a true climber. It will twine its way around any support (trellis, etc.) that you provide for it. A wide variety of structures can serve as support for the vine's vertical growth, whether they are existing features in your landscape or features that you create specifically to showcase the plant. Many growers train their clematis vines to climb upon other plants (shrubs and vines, mainly). Just remember to clean up in fall by cutting back this growth, which will allow you to "hit the reset button" for next year.

For full article including details on care needs (light, soil, water, temperature and humidity, fertilizer), pruning, propagating, growing from seeds, repotting, overwintering, and pest and diseases, see <https://www.thespruce.com/jackmans-clematis-vine-4125599> (Accessed June 10, 2023).

Additional resources:

Does Clematis Wilt Really Exist? By Robert Pavlis <https://www.gardenmyths.com/clematis-wilt-really-exist/>

How to Grow Clematis By Kathy Laliberte <https://www.gardeners.com/how-to/grow-clematis/8203.html>



Editor's note: Jackmanii received as door prize at LFHS's 15th anniversary.

Garden Trends 2023

By Frankie Ferragine

Garden trends for 2023 – what’s in store for us?! This year’s garden trends encourage you to create your very own natural haven. Things are always better in the garden!

From growing our food to creating inviting spaces, gardening gives us roots to grow better environments, stronger communities, fresher food and happier people. Isn’t that just what we need after the last few whirlwind years?!

Trend #1 – Vegetable Gardens & Garden to Table

2022 was a challenging year for salad lovers! Romaine lettuce hit an all-time high. Canada’s Food Price Report 2023 predicts that food prices will continue to rise, with an average family of four spending \$16,288.41 this year. That’s an increase of up to \$1,065.60 from what we saw in 2022.

One way to combat increasing prices is to grow your food at home. While you may not see huge savings in the first few years, every little bit counts. And adding a vegetable garden is rewarding in so many different ways!

There’s something special about serving a meal with ingredients straight from the garden to your table. You can’t beat that freshness! It’s a chance to see firsthand what goes into growing what we eat. Studies show teaching our kids to grow fruit and veggies encourages them to eat a wider variety of foods.

BRING THIS TREND TO YOUR GARDEN

Is this the year you’ll start growing your food at home? [Food to Grow](#) is full of ideas to get you started! Whether you go all out and create a whole veggie garden, or add a few pots of tomatoes, what matters is that you start!

Trend #2 – Container Gardening

Container gardening is a cost-effective, flexible way to transform dull spaces into interesting places! Containers are perfect for smaller spaces, can be moved around and switched up with the seasons. With home ownership at an all-time high, rising inflation, and smaller property sizes, we’re all looking to create beautiful spaces without breaking the bank.

BRING THIS TREND TO YOUR GARDEN

Whether you fill them with flowers, greenery, fruits, or vegetables, containers give you the freedom and creativity to change looks, themes and feels. Your options are limitless! Choose large containers with proper drainage and use good quality soil specifically designed for potted plants. [Pot it Up](#) is full of my best tips to help you grow thriving containers.

Trend #3 – Happy Colours!

I’m going against popular thought here! I usually follow Pantone’s colour of the year, but I’m swaying in a different direction this year. For 2023 Pantone has chosen Vivid Magenta, said to “vibrate with vim and vigor. It is a shade rooted in nature descending from the red family and expressive of a new signal of strength. Viva Magenta is brave and fearless, and a pulsating color whose exuberance promotes a joyous and optimistic celebration, writing a new narrative.”

While I agree with the messaging, I predict that bright, happy colours will burst into 2023. After years of despair, people will turn to yellows, pinks, purples and oranges to cheer up and inspire smiles!

...continued on next page

BRING THIS TREND INTO YOUR GARDEN

You will see these happy colour trends in pots, plants, and home décor. There's nothing like a bright and cheerful colour palette to cheer up a bland space. Heck, even if this trend doesn't catch on, I want 2023 to be colourful!

Trend #4 – Gardening for Climate Change

We are feeling the effects of climate change throughout the world. Locally, in Ontario, we've seen double-digit winter days, violent summer storms, and extended periods of drought. The west has continued to deal with forest fires; hurricanes have pounded the east. Weather is making headlines globally!

Making environmentally friendly choices isn't a trend but a necessity. Conserving water, saving energy, and using fewer pesticides are smart choices for our environments and communities.

BRING THIS TREND INTO YOUR GARDEN

Small changes can make a big difference. Switching out gas-powered mowers or garden tools for battery-operated ones lowers emissions. Planting trees helps cool our neighbourhoods and clean our air. [Rain gardens](#) help deal with flash flooding in urban centres.

Trend #5 – Retro Vibes

The '70s are back! Vinyl is being spun on turntables across the globe; teenagers are tuning in to protesting, and vintage fashions are hitting the runways. Will shag carpets be next? After the last few years of neutral colours, we're all ready for a change. A modern twist of the fun & funky vibes of the 70s might be just what we need.

BRING THIS TREND INTO YOUR GARDEN

If your daughter's university apartment looks like you stepped back into 1972, don't worry, she's on trend!! Bring 70s colours into your garden and home with a mix of avocado green, sunset orange and earthy tones. Bring it inside with terra cotta pots, macramé hangers and spider plants.

Trend #6 – Garden Retreats!

Mental well-being should be a top priority in 2023! After years of isolation and changing times, we all know the importance of maintaining and improving our mental health. Studies show connecting with nature benefits our overall mood, helps us combat stress, and fills us with feelings of calm. Plants have healing properties!

BRING THIS TREND INTO YOUR GARDEN

Whether indoors or out, a garden retreat is a calming space that satisfies your sense of smell, sight, sound, touch, and taste. Imagine a place to sit surrounded by lush greenery and beautiful flowers, birds chirping, and the scent of jasmine in the air. Create a calming space to reflect, relax and meditate.

2023 garden trends encourage us to get our hands dirty, surround ourselves with colour, eat freshly grown food, and slow down to appreciate all that Mother Nature has to offer! Trends come and go – some you may follow, some you will not. Just remember that anytime you are in the garden, you are doing yourself and your community good.

Wishing you all an epic 2023! Let's get dirty and grow together!

Source: <https://frankieflowers.com/2023/01/06/garden-trends-2023-6-top-trends-from-frank-ferragine/> (Accessed June 10, 2023).

A June Beetle Feast!

By Christa Wise, Naturalist Intern

Walking through The Arboretum grounds a few weeks ago, I noticed that the main road was littered with the remains of large beetles. Every few feet there seemed to be a new beetle body, but they never appeared to be intact – they were always broken open or I would only find one part of the beetle. Clearly, something has been having a feast, but what could be causing all this beetle carnage, and what exactly are these beetles? It seemed to me that they appeared overnight and in large number too.



Along the road, there are many beetles just like this one: only part of the beetle's outside remains.

The outside of a dead June Beetle, with only one wing, a leg, the head, and a wing covering remaining. It is on a gravel road.

Stopping to inspect them closer, I recognized who these unfortunate insects were – June Beetles. Some might know them as May Beetles or June Bugs, but they all are referring to beetles in the genus *Phyllophaga*. Names can be incredibly powerful tool for understanding a behaviour or trait associated with an organism. In our case, June Beetles emerge as adults from their underground homes in late May and throughout June, hence the name. Their genus name can even give us insight into their behaviour. *Phyllo* means 'leaf' and *phaga* meant 'to eat' or 'eater.' So, from these names, we now understand that these beetles are often found in May and June, and they eat leaves!

Having identified the beetles as members of *Phyllophaga*, the question of who has been causing this beetle carnage still remains. Determined to figure out who has been eating all these beetles, I take a walk through The Arboretum early one morning, hoping to catch what ever it is in action. The European Starlings have been particularly active as of late, with nearly full-grown young following their parents around, begging for food. Common Grackles are wading through the grass along side the starlings, all of them searching intently for food. Perhaps these are the culprits of all the beetle bodies, so I sit, wait, and watch. After a time, a starling flies from the grass to the road with something in its beak – a June Beetle! As the beetle is still flailing its legs around helplessly, the starling starts to rub it against the gravel road.



Two adult June Beetles trying to bury themselves for protection.

Beetles, like all insects, have an exoskeleton that surrounds their body to help protect them and to give their body support and structure. Beetles also have elytra, which are hard coverings on their backs that hide the wings and protects them. While that is all well and good for the beetle, for the starling who doesn't have teeth or stomach acid, that exoskeleton and elytra are in the way of the juicy, delicious insides. By rubbing the beetles on the road, the starling is rubbing off the inedible exoskeleton to get at the softer insides. Left behind on the road, after the starling has had its fill, is a partial body of the June Beetle, just like all the others I've been finding! Watching, I see many more birds inspect the June Beetles from starlings and grackles to Blue Jays and Eastern Kingbirds.



A Blue Jay inspecting the remains of a June Beetle.

So, it would seem that as the June Beetles emerge by the hundreds, the birds of The Arboretum are being treated to a decadent feast – they only have to get rid of that pesky exoskeleton first!

Source: <https://mailchi.mp/uoquelph/june-newsletter-13526388?e=77eeead93d>

Also of interest...



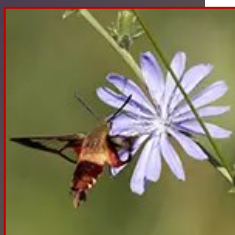
“Garden Party” Flower Show June 24 1:00 – 6:00 pm
presented by The Lambeth Horticultural Society
at Lambeth United Church, 4268 Colonel Talbot Rd.
\$5 admission: door prizes, dessert, tea or coffee included.
Everyone is welcome to enter in the show.
<https://www.lambethhort.com/>



Butterfly Catch and Release June 24 12:00 – 3:00 pm
DROP-IN event and open to all ages hosted by Thames Talbot Land Trust
at the Meadowlily Nature Reserve, 17 Meadowlily Rd. S.
Join Western University's Dr. Nusha Keyghobadi in the meadow to learn about butterflies and how to catch (and release) some butterfly friends with a butterfly net.
https://www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca/p2n2023_butterfly_catch_and_release



Bloomin' Tour August 13 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Hosted by the London Middlesex Master Gardeners.
Enjoy a tour of 6 unique gardens located in London and north of the city in Middlesex County. Each garden will have Master Gardeners on site to answer questions.
Tickets \$15/person go on sale on July 1st at <https://bit.ly/2023BloominTour>
<https://londonmiddlesexmastergardeners.com/bloomin-tour-sunday-august-13th-2023/>



Insects Through Binoculars - Butterflies, Dragonflies, and More! July 8 9:30-11:30 am
Workshop at The Arboretum, University of Guelph
Bring your binoculars or borrow ours for this 2-hour walk in search of some spectacular six-legged creatures and learn a little about their fascinating biology along the way.
Fee: \$12 (plus HST) per person, per day.
<https://arboretum.uoguelph.ca/educationandevents/workshops#insecthike>



Garden Ontario (OHA) 50/50 Raffle Draw date: July 21
Your ticket purchase not only helps to support education for youth and adults, it also supports environmental programs, awards and grants assisting with pollinators, tree planting and community beautification as well as post secondary scholarships.
<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>



Use our code: FANHORT23
Give & Grow fundraiser this year.
Every time you use our code to order from Big Yellow Bag, you save \$5 and LFHS receives \$10.
<https://www.bigyellowbag.com/orders/new>



PODCAST SPOTLIGHT by Maureen Beamish

Growing Roses Sustainably

September 9, 2021 | 50 min <https://joegardener.com/podcast/growing-roses-sustainably/>
Paul Zimmerman is a rose specialist and loves to teach gardeners about roses. He says that their care is simpler than most gardeners realize as long as the rose is suited for the climate. I listened to this podcast back in 2021 and want to share the information with all rose enthusiasts.