

Flamborough Horticultural Society



June 2023 Newsletter

President's Message

Greetings Members

On behalf of the Board, I wish a warm welcome to our newest members in May, Elena Bidochka, Nina Trevisan and Darryl Fletcher.

Please remember that for June, the church is booked on our normal meeting date so we are holding a cut flower workshop at Lotsa Hostas at 6PM. You will take home a lovely bunch of cut flowers in a vessel. This is great practice for flower show competitions too. The cost is \$15 to cover supplies. Please RSVP as soon as possible and send e-transfer to **fhs.treasurer@hotmail.com**, **cash or cheque made to Flamborough Horticultural Society (FHS)**. **You can drop off cash or cheque to Susan's place or Trudy's place.**

Several of your Board represented our Society at the District AGM. Cathy Kavassalis gave a fabulous talk on Invasive plants, had timely research data and presented activities of the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation. See <https://ccipr.ca/>

Please avail yourselves of our member pass for RBG: It covers up to 6 plus parkings. Contact Susan or flamhort@hotmail.com for the pass.

A couple of other people expressed interest in attending Whistling Gardens tour. Please get your fee of \$13 in to Trudy asap. We are submitting one cheque to Whistling Gardens for FHS.

Thanks to all the volunteers who showed up to pot up and help with the sale. A big shout out also goes to Sabina McPhee who loaded up her SUV with plants, Liz Henderson who helped put up the tent and organize the important holding area while customers shopped, Bert Van der Geer who supplied the ever valuable rolling carts, our organized cashiers, and Connie Godyn (organized getting a trailer too) and Roxanne Riley, Co-Chairs of the Plant Sale Committee whose organizational skills are a marvel to behold.

The Garden Walk is fast approaching and your Board needs your help. Then you get a break for the summer. We need scouts to find homes and letters dropped off at potential garden host homes, There are also slots to be filled on the **Sunday** at the tent. We need two people for the 1:30-4:00 PM time slot.

Contact Susan ASAP to volunteer.

Liz Visentin, Christine Rowe and I will be representing you at the OHA Convention in Kanata.

Best wishes Susan MacMillan

Meeting and Speaker Information

Note that there will NOT be an in person meeting at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. A special members' workshop will take place instead.

Date: Wed., June 21

Time: 6 pm

Location: Lotsa Hostas, 15 Orkney Road, Copetown, Ontario

[Location Map](#)

Upcoming Events

Garden Tour: Whistling Gardens

Date: June 14 (10 am)

[Whistling Gardens](#)

Garden Walk (Waterdown and surrounding area) June 24-25

OHA Convention

More details here: [Ontario OHA Convention](#)

Correction:

Last month's second place entry should have been attributed to Mary Blake.



May Flower Show Winners

Seven bright and colourful entries of spring blooms



First Place: Ann Cochren



Second Place: Marilyn Higgins



Third Place: Trudy Bliedung



June Garden Tasks

- Plant annuals and tender perennials.
- Pinch back mums, snapdragons, asters, dahlia and other late bloomers.
- Prune evergreens and hedges
- Mulch using grass clippings or compost to conserve moisture and to control weeds.
- Thin out crowded vegetables and annual seedlings.
- Stake or cage tomatoes, gladioli and dahlias and other tall plants
- Prune shrubs and trees after flowering
- Seed fast growing annuals such as marigolds, cosmos, calendula, and lavatera directly into the garden.
- Move houseplants outdoors gradually moving them from more shaded locations to sunny ones
- Weed and water newly planted trees and plants regularly. Water lawn and existing trees less frequently but deeply. Potted plants will need more frequent watering. Use soaker hoses to decrease water use
- Plant dill, fennel, parsley, wild bergamot, bachelor's buttons or alyssum to attract hoverflies which feed on aphids
- Use compost to mulch garden beds and trees. Turn your compost pile and water if dry.

Rejuvenation Pruning:

Over time old, overgrown shrubs become bare at the stem or produce too many weak shoots that bloom poorly. Rejuvenation pruning encourages the growth of new stems to replace old ones. Basically, remove a few of the oldest shoots cutting them to the ground and also remove spindly new shoots. Read more here about all types of pruning:

[Pruning Deciduous Shrubs](#)

Peony Trivia

June is the month when all peony lovers anticipate the annual burst of spectacular blooms. For those who will attend our garden tour at Whistling Gardens this month, we will enjoy viewing their wonderful collection.

Did you Know ?

- There are more than 6,500 varieties of peonies, with new ones being introduced all the time. They all fit into three main categories: tree, herbaceous, and itoh (a cross between the other two).
- Peonies are native to Asia, Europe, and Western North America. The Tang Dynasty of China began breeding peonies in the imperial courts in the 7th century BCE. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, they began gaining popularity in North America.
- Individual blooms can reach up to 10 inches wide and they come in every colour except blue. These plants can live for over 100 years. They make excellent cut flowers that last up to three weeks in a vase. It's possible to refrigerate them in bud form for up to three months to enjoy them longer than their bloom period.
- Deadheading helps the plant save energy for next year's blooms and prevents fungal diseases. Remove the spent blooms, but don't cut away any foliage (the plant will need those leaves to help build up flowers for next year).
- For herbaceous peonies, you can cut the whole plant to the ground after a fall frost has killed the foliage. In the spring, new growth will appear from the roots. Prune tree peonies in late spring and always remove damaged or dead wood.
- Over-fertilizing results in fewer blooms.

Garden myths: Ants and Peonies

Peonies do not need ants as is often suggested. They like peony nectar because it's sweet. The ants that are often found on peony blossoms are completely harmless to the plants and can be easily brushed off before you bring cut flowers indoors. You can dip peony heads in water and shake the ants off. Or just submerge the peony in water, ants usually fall off into the water. The ants do not harm the peonies (which also do not have any other serious pest problems) nor do they assist them.

Are Moths Good or Bad?

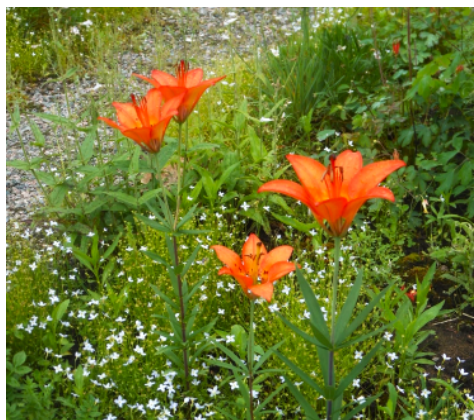
A useful measure of "good" or "bad" in nature is whether a plant or animal plays a supporting role in the local ecosystem. Native moths most certainly do both as a food source for other animals and as a plant pollinator. Note also that moths do not sting or bite humans!

The exception to moths being a positive insect are invasive, non-native species that cause harm. One example here in North America is the LDD moth or *Lymantria dispar* (common name spongy moth, formerly gypsy moth) that poses a great threat to oaks in particular and other species of trees.

Identifying Jumping Worms



Ontario's Native Lily: Wood Lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*)



Not to be confused with the orange daylily, *Hemerocallis fulva* (sometimes called ditch lily) which was introduced in the late 19th century which are now considered invasive as they naturalize rapidly in the wild, displacing native plants. Wood lily is North America's most wide ranging true lily. Unfortunately, it has been declining in the northeast and our area as much of its prairie habitat has disappeared. Also, populations of white-tailed deer, which favour it as food, have increased. Ironically, deer do not consume the non native daylilies! These beautiful, deep orangey red flowers are pollinated by hummingbirds and tiger swallowtail butterflies. They are similar to the Michigan Lily (*Lilium michiganense*), another native and more commonly found plant which grows much taller and has downward facing, curled petals



I often see these in bloom in June along RBG's Creekside Trail in Hendrie Valley.

Horticultural Terms: Well Draining Soil

This phrase often appears on plant tags, but what exactly does it mean? There is a large moisture range between conditions preferred by desert plants and wet conditions preferred by aquatic plants or those in wetlands. Most garden plants fall in between these two extremes. This is where the “well draining” feature falls. The movement of water through soil or percolation determines the type of drainage.

Soil is composed of five ingredients: minerals, soil organic matter, living organisms, gas (air), and water. A mix of minerals make up about half of this composition. These are particles of sand, silt, and clay that, depending on the proportions, determine our soil texture. The other half is pores, providing space for air and water, both things that plants need. That’s what happens with water in your garden. It is gradually pulled down through the soil by gravity. As the water leaves the soil pores, the air returns. In good conditions, the drained water ends up as groundwater, which is usually at a depth below plant roots.

As a general rule, sandy soil will drain the fastest, as it has the largest soil particles and pores (air spaces). As the smallest of the soil particles, clay has the smallest pores and most surface area for water to stick to and thus drains much more slowly. Loam soil which usually has equal amounts of sand, silt and clay most ideally fits the term, “well drained soil”.

How to Test for Drainage: Dig a hole about a foot wide and a foot deep. Fill with water and leave to drain. Once it has drained, refill within a day or two with no rainfall in between. Note the

start time. In extremely sandy soil, check every 10 minutes. In Loam or clay check every hour. After 3 hours, the test is complete. If it has drained totally in under 3 hours you have fast draining soil. If the hole is 80 to 90 percent full you have slow draining soil. If it’s about half full (with some variation to either extreme) you have well draining soil !

How to Improve Drainage? Popular advice used to be to add sand and/or peat moss to clay based soils. This has proven to not work to change soil composition. Adding organic material such as compost, composted manure, and organic mulches such as wood chips and leaves, while not a quick fix, do over the long run improve soil health and drainage. If all else fails or you want a quick fix, then building raised soil beds is the best solution.

Replace Forget Me Not

While the temporary drift of blue blooms may be pretty, pulling them afterwards and trying to keep their numbers in check as they reseed prolifically, making them invasive may be a chore one eventually wants to avoid. You can get a similar look by planting woodland phlox, moss phlox, brunnera or creeping phlox. These are beautiful alternatives with most also having blue blooms, except for the moss phlox which has pink blooms. And none are as messy!

Reading Corner:

Read here about the Conservation Reserve the Carolinian Zone, species at risk, and other research topics
[St. Williams Conservation Reserve](#)

Connon Nurseries

Please show your appreciation by shopping at Connon Nurseries 905-689-7433 Connon Nursery

Northland Nursery: Tell them you are a FHS member when purchasing and FHS will receive a rebate at the end of the season. A family run nursery at 722 Concession 5 W, Millgrove. Open 9am to 5pm 7 days a week Northland

Wild Birds Unlimited offers a 10% discount on products you buy when you mention that you are a Horticultural Society member.

To learn more about District 6 see OHA Garden Clubs and Societies in Ontario » GardenOntario.

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

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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 2023-2024

President – Susan MacMillan

Past Co-President - Trudy Bliedung

Vice President - Open

Treasurer - Trudy Bliedung Recording

Secretary - Tessa Morris Publicity - Shared

by VP and President Director at large -

Director at large - Christine Rowe

Director at large - OPEN

Facebook Admin. - Liz Visentin

Newsletter Editor - Liz Visentin

Flower Show and Trillium Judging Liaison- Ann Cochren

Committee Chairpersons

Bus Tour – Open

Caring - Open

Nominating Committee - Trudy Bliedung,

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

"I've always felt that having a garden is like having a good and loyal friend."
C. Z. Guest

OHA Website: Includes link to the Trillium Newsletter [Garden Ontario](#)