

Sprucedale & District Horticultural Society



Wow, the meeting on September 18, 2023 was absolutely jammed packed with all sorts of fun information and even a People's Choice Mini Flower/Veggie Show.



Garden Decor - Glass Flowers for your Garden

Jeanette Dunke Collings, one of our members gave a very informative presentation on how she creates beautiful flowers for your garden with recycled glass and china pieces. Her husband Ben is enthusiastically involved with searching for unique collections of glass at yard sales and antique stores. To be able to create one of the beautiful glass garden flowers you have to collect lots of inventory. So far Jeanette has created more than 400 garden flowers.

How does she do This?

After choosing which pieces that she would like to use for her creation, she has to drill holes in the centre of the pieces using a drill press. She stresses to always use safety glasses when dealing with glass. The drill bit she uses is a 1/4" diamond drill hole saw. To drill the glass, you have to immerse the glass in water. Go slow, take your time and when the drill goes through the glass to the other side it is done.

Once the chosen pieces (usually 3 or 4 different size pieces) are drilled, it is time to assemble them together. To do this she uses a 1/4" carriage bolt and then places a washer and a rubber "o ring" in between each piece and then puts them together with a lock washer and nut. To hide the screw in the middle she creatively uses recycled old earrings that she glues on.

The final step is to make the garden stake. She uses a 1/2" thin wall electric rigid conduit cut to length and drills a 1/4" hole near one end and fills that end with outdoor caulking(to keep the water out).

Before attaching the flower, the stake has to be pounded into the ground in preparation to "Planting" in your garden. The last step is to insert the bolt that is attached to the flower through the drilled hole in the stake and tighten with another washer and nut.

Voila - A beautiful Flower for your Garden - Best part you don't have to water it! Thank you Jeanette and Ben for sharing your creativity with us.

Hugelkulture Gardening



Lori Sild, our Vice President shared how to create a Hugelkultur garden. The word Hugelkultur in German means mound made of wood and in Europe is a very popular way to create a garden. The process is like a type of Lasagne Garden that involves layering different natural materials to create a garden that will thrive over time.

There are a few methods, you can either create a mound right on the top of the ground, or you can dig a space the size that you would like your garden to be. Remove any debris such as stones and roots when digging the hole. The 1st layer is decomposing wood, 2nd layer green material such as moss or green kitchen scraps, 3rd layer would be manure, triple mix or any soil usually about 6 inches.

To create this garden start in the fall as it is a great time to collect the tree debris - stumps, branches, fallen leaves, etc and have it ready for the spring when you build your own Hugelkultur garden.

Lori shared that most of her gardens on her property have been built this way and she has been very successful with growing a variety of plants and bushes. She said that this type of gardening can take time for all the material to decompose and create super rich growing media, however initially berry bushes, fruit trees and perennial flowers can be planted. Once a good base is created, your Hugelkulture garden will not need to amended for up to 25 years.

Image and more info at:
<https://thedruidsgarden.com>

Mini Flower/Veggie Show

Our Mini Flower/Veggie Show was a super success. Lots of members participated and it was so much fun to decide which one to vote for in the "People Choice Awards". There were 4 categories:

Biggest Vegetable - The winner was Ron Patton for his monster Squash.

Most Quirky Vegetable - The winner was Nick Paroschy for his Yellow Zucchini.

Best Specimen Flower - Only 2 entries from the same person (Lori Sild). She decided to drop this category and give 2 prizes to the Best Flower Display.

Best Flower Display - Jodi Thibeault won 1st and Carol Armstrong for 2nd.

Congratulations to the winners.



Sprucedale & District Horticultural Society

OCTOBER MEETING

When: Monday, October 16, 2023
Time: 6:00 pm - doors open at 5:30
Place: Emsdale Community Centre
32 Joseph St, Emsdale

END OF YEAR - POT LUCK DINNER
 (Bring something tasty for all to share)
 (Bring your own dishes, cutlery, serving dishes and serving utensils)

AGM 2023
 (Think about Volunteering for a position on the Executive & Directors for 2024)

BOOK SALE
 (We are selling a selection of Horticulture Books from our Library)

Please think about volunteering

MEET...LEARN...SHARE...GROW...SMILE

Please think about volunteering