

Flamborough Horticultural Society



November 2023 Newsletter

President's Message

Greetings FHS Members

Most of us will wind down our activities in the garden once the freeze occurs. The last of the bulbs are getting planted. If you could not attend the hypertufa workshop and would like to buy one, please let me know. District Director Lianne Krane worked hard putting this fundraiser together and has done some lovely filled planters. I will email you a few photos of them and pricing for large and smaller ones. I can bring it home from the dinner.

Our festive centrepiece workshop fast approaches and the AGM on Nov 15. As mentioned, the floor will be open for volunteers. All Director positions become vacant. We also currently have positions open for VP, Nominating committee, Awards committee, Garden Walk and a Chairperson for the Caring Committee. Most importantly, Connie Godyn needs a Co-Chair for the Plants Sale Committee and we need someone to help with Civic Improvement. Please consider volunteering to help spread the tasks. Send me an email if you can volunteer for a position. The Year in Review /Annual Report will go out by email as a separate document. Please also consider being a Host or Refreshment volunteer. There are still some empty spots to fill on the sign up sheet.

The sign up sheet for the Dec 6 Christmas potluck will be circulated again at the November meeting. If you are on Zoom, send an email to me if you plan to attend the potluck. I will email the spreadsheet so that you can see what is planned on the food list so far.

For anyone who has old Christmas cookie tins that you no longer need or you want to get rid of, please let me know asap and I can pick them up. There is a decorating use for them. Photo to follow.

Remember, save some seeds and we can have a seed exchange in the spring. Keep the ones that need to be cold stratified in either the fridge or in a cold shed, minimum of 30-60 days or research specific seed requirements. Seed exchanges are also welcome at other select spring society meetings if you plan to attend to hear other great speakers. Anyone with extra Dahlia tubers please let me know and I can pick them up any time now. I will store them then start the tubers early in our sunroom closer to the plant sale dates.

Best wishes Susan MacMillan

Meeting and Speaker Information

Date: Wed., Nov. 15 (AGM and workshop)

Time: 7:00 pm

Refreshments served prior to meeting

Workshop: Making a natural greens table centerpiece. Cost: \$15 .00 for members and \$20.00 for non members. To sign up, payment may be transferred to:
fhs.treasurer@hotmail.com

Location: St. Thomas the Apostle Church
715 Centre Rd, Waterdown

October Flower Show

The theme for October was to decorate a pumpkin using natural materials. Thank you to all who brought in their creative works. Congratulations to the winners:

First Place: Martha Novoselac



Second Place: Mary Blake



Third Place: Caroline Beize



Horticultural Society Events

District 6 Fall Dinner

Date: Sat., Nov. 4

Time: 6pm (doors open at 5:30 pm)

Location: Royal Canadian Legion,
223 Nichol St. West, Waterford Ontario

Guest Speaker: Bee Keeper, Kelly Moodie
All About Bees

Tickets: \$40.00 [Sign Up Information](#)

Photograph Your Gardens Now!



January's Flower Show theme will be a photograph of your summer garden. This can be a photo of an entire bed or a close up of a particular area of interest. Entries will be emailed and shown in a powerpoint for voting.

November Garden Tasks

This is the month that we finally slow down in our outdoor gardens. But this does not mean that there is no work to be done!

As I complete this newsletter late in October, we are experiencing a week of 20 degree highs and all my annuals are still in full bloom and a few tomato plants are still providing ripe fruit!

- Empty, clean and store planters where they will be dry for the winter.
- If you are using a rain barrel, it should be emptied and turned over to keep it dry during the winter months. Reconnect your downspout to direct the snowmelt and winter rain away from your foundation.
- Cold crops like brussels sprouts, cabbage, broccoli, collards and kale are made sweeter by frost so don't pull them out yet. Harvest them as long as possible.
- Make sure that evergreens are well watered.
- Spread manure, rotted sawdust, rotted straw, and shredded leaves over the garden. You'll be surprised at the difference this organic matter will make in the fertility, physical structure and water-holding capacity of the soil.
- Continue to check houseplants for insects that may have come indoors as you brought the plants inside and treat them immediately, even if you hosed them down.
- Apply a layer of protective mulch. This is where fallen leaves come in handy!
- Clean, sharpen and oil tools like shovels and hoes before putting them away for winter.

Horticultural Terms:

Perlite: This is a common ingredient in potting soil. It is a volcanic mineral that has been heated, causing it to puff up and thus it has exceptional water and air holding capacity. When added to potting soil, it helps to prevent soil from becoming compacted or drying out.

Bringing Lavender Indoors

I have tried to do this over the years with varying levels of success, most often killing the plant by overwatering!

To begin acclimatization, move the plant to an outdoor area that receives less sun for a few hours each day for a week or so, increasing time toward the end. Leave potted plants in this spot without moving for another week. Move the plant inside the house for a couple hours each day for a week, gradually increasing time inside.

Once indoors, place near a sunny window in an area with good air circulation. Water **less often** than in the summer. Allow the top inch of soil to be dry before watering again.

Perennial Seeds to Plant in Fall

These can be still planted before the soil freezes. The added bonus is that this will free up indoor space for other seedlings! Some of these also do not like to be transplanted so starting in the garden bed avoids issues.

- **Black-eyed Susan** *Rudbeckia fulgida*
- **Delphinium** *Delphinium elatum*
- **Lupine** *Lupinus* spp. and hybrids
- **Oriental poppy** *Papaver orientale*
- **Penstemon** *Penstemon* spp. and hybrids
- **Perennial geranium** *Geranium* spp. and hybrids
- **Perennial sunflower** *Helianthus* spp. and hybrids
- **Pincushion flower** *Scabiosa* spp. and hybrids
- **Purple Coneflower** *Echinacea purpurea*
- **Wild columbine** *Aquilegia canadensis*

Read more here:

[Native Perennials to Direct Seed in Fall](#)

Consider Planting Pagoda Dogwood



Lovely

Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) in a side yard bed at one of the Waterdown locations on the July 2023 garden tour.

Pagoda Dogwood is a common understory or forest-edge species throughout Southern Ontario. This tree is an excellent choice if you are looking for a small, native tree for your garden. Slow growing, its ultimate height will reach about 15 to 20 feet, but it can easily be pruned to keep it contained in a small space. Creamy, white flowers appear in late May to early June. Midsummer dark blue berries are formed on striking red stalks. These berries provide food for cedar waxwings, robins, cardinals, cat birds and chipmunks. Its nectar also attracts moths and butterflies, including the larval spring azure butterfly. In autumn the leaves turn a brilliant burgundy red shade. This tree will grow in part shade to full sun and prefers moist well drained soil. Heavy mulching will aid in moisture retention during hot, dry spells.

Hypertufa Workshop



On Saturday, October 28 Susan MacMillan and I attended this workshop that was held at District 6 Director Lianne Krane's property near Milton. The next few hours were spent learning how to measure and mix the substance which included a special concrete, peat moss, perlite and a handful of asbestos fibres added near the end to ensure a more solid bond. The ten participants made a personal planter and then proceeded to make extra planters that will be filled with succulents and sold at the District Six Fall Dinner in November. Our confidence (and speed) increased with each additional planter that we completed. I am looking forward to buying some new succulents next spring to plant in my container!

Reading Corner:

Why Our Plant Choices Matter, with Doug Tallamy.

Doug encourages gardeners to think of plants as integral parts of the ecosystem and foundational to the food chain. He studies the relationships between plants and insects, and between insects and the birds and other animals that rely on them.

[Plant Choices Make a Difference](#)

Last Chance to Plant Bulbs!

It's not too late to plant tulips! They can be planted until the ground freezes. Plant at least 8 inches deep to deter squirrels. Tamp solid down!

Hamilton Fall Garden and Mum Show at Gage Park

The Fall Garden & Mum Show is Ontario's largest Chrysanthemum show presented by City Horticulture staff. The show started in 1920 with a new theme each year. It often features up to 200 varieties of Chrysanthemums, and more than 100,000 blooms grown at Gage Park Greenhouse. This year's theme was "Medieval Mum" and it was truly spectacular. I would rate it as one of the best shows I have seen. Here are some photos that I took at the show.



Mums: Did You Know?

All mums originated from the same "parent" flower, a golden-yellow daisy-like chrysanthemum from China. Chrysanthemums can be divided in 13 separate categories based on the type of flower. Each form has a specific arrangement of rays and disk florets. Some of the best known are daisy, spider, cushion and button. Of these there are over 100 cultivars. Read more here:

[Epic Gardening- Chryanthemums](#)

Horticulture Books

A Tree Called Home: Tree Stories from the Golden Horseshoe - by Paul O'Hara

Local author, Paul O'Hara is field botanist, landscape designer, and native plant gardening expert. I read this book during the pandemic. It was one of those books that was captivating and hard to put down once you started reading. This book is a mix of botany, history, and memoir, featuring the landscapes of southern Ontario and the magnificent trees of the Golden Horseshoe. Reading this book is like going for a walk through space and time with Paul as he recollects his explorations of local forests and connects those experiences with his studies. If you are passionate about trees this is a must read!

Garden Ontario

Read the latest Trillium Newsletter and OHA news here: [Trillium Newsletter](#)

Ontario Invasive Plant Council Read the latest updates: [OIPC](#)

Connon Nurseries

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

[Connon Nurseries](#)

Northland Nursery : A family run nursery in Millgrove Ontario (722 Concession 5 W) Open (9am to 5pm 7 days a week)

[Northland](#) Let them know you are an FHS member for our Society year-end rebate.

Wild Birds Unlimited offers a 10% discount when you mention that you are a Horticultural Society member. [Wild Birds Unlimited](#)

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 2022/23

President – Susan MacMillan

Past Co-President - Trudy Bliedung

Vice President - Open

Treasurer - Trudy Bliedung

Recording Secretary - Tessa Morris

Publicity - Shared by VP and President

Facebook Admin. - Liz Visentin

Newsletter Editor - Liz Visentin

Flower Show and Trillium Judging Liaison- Ann Cochren

Director at large - Christine Rowe

Director at large - OPEN

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 Co-chairs –

Connie Godyn an open position

Sign Standardization – Ann Cochren

Speakers and Programs – Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

***"Wild is the music of autumnal winds
Amongst the faded woods."***

William Wordsworth