

Flamborough Horticultural Society



January 2024 Newsletter

President's Message

Greetings FHS Members

Thankyou again to all of the volunteers who helped make the December potluck a success. It was nice to see so many of you. Please send us your feedback about the dinner and the November Festive arrangement workshop by January 8 (our board meeting date) so that we can better plan for next year.

For those of you who were unable to attend in December, congratulations went to Jan Bignell who won the President's award. Jan has chaired the Civic Improvement Committee for several years and coordinating civic beautification with her team. Thanks also goes to Pearl Hoogerdyk who won the OHA Horticultural Service Award. Pearl has contributed greatly to the plant sale through growing seedlings, donating plants, answering questions at the plant sale and providing gardening advice at the Garden Tours. The Lifetime membership achievement award could not have been more deserving and two people stood out for their years of service including donating prizes, being hosts, baking refreshments and volunteering during the plant sale. Congratulations to Annamary and D'Arcy Kilham who have been active with the Society for 30 years.

For those of you who have not yet done so, please consider renewing your membership soon and look to bringing on new members to help the Society grow. You can e-transfer to fhs.treasurer@hotmail.com, drop off cash or cheque to me at 2 Flanders Dr Waterdown or to Trudy at 294 Carlisle Rd, Carlisle. Alternatively, you can pop a cheque in the mail (see last page for our address). Please support your local horticultural society by renewing.

The sign up sheet to bake for the District Spring breakfast on Feb. 24 that we are hosting will be sent to you soon. If you have room in your freezer, it's a good time to bake something.

Let's also give a pause to those we lost and think fond memories of them. Alex Mathieson who died Feb. 9, Ina Vrugtman, on May 11 and Marion Fraser Dec 9, 2023. Give a quiet toast to them and remember a joyful time together.

As we celebrate January 1, 2024, I thank all of you for a great year and wish you the best for 2024. Celebrate with those you love.

Best wishes Susan MacMillan

Meeting and Speaker Information

Date: Wed., Jan. 17, 2024

Time: 7:30 pm

Refreshments served prior to meeting

Speaker: Kristen Martyn

Topic: Gardening for Birds

Flower Show: A photo of your summer garden.

Email to flamhort@hotmail.com by Jan. 15

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

Green Venture Proudly Presents the 13th
Annual **Seedy Saturday Hamilton**. FHS
will have a table there.

Date: Saturday, February 3, 2024

Time: 10am - 3pm

Location: Hamilton Central Library 4th
Floor, 55 York Blvd, Hamilton.

January Garden Tasks

Gardeners NEVER stop gardening!

- Consider placing a live, cut Christmas tree outdoors to provide shelter for birds and protection near feeders
- Potted Christmas trees should be planted outdoors in pre dug holes
- Order and begin to browse seed catalogues
- While it may be too early to start seeds indoors, it's not too early to purchase or to order seeds (last year some places ran out of stock)
- Check indoor plants for insects such as mealy bugs, scale and spider mites. Mites and scale can also live on ledges and windowsills, so wipe them down with soapy water
- Look for bud swell on early spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia, willow and cherries. These branches can be cut and brought indoors to force blooms. With the mild weather this may happen early this year!
- Start stratifying perennial seeds (if you have not done so already) that require this treatment. With the ground not yet frozen seeds may be planted outdoors right now.



Flamborough Horticultural Society
Invites you to bring your mug and join us for the

District 6 Spring Breakfast

Saturday February 24, 2024

At St. Thomas the Apostle Church,
rear Parish Hall

715 Centre Rd Waterdown
(North of Parkside Dr.)

Doors open at 8:00 am

Register at flamhort@hotmail.com

Guest Speaker: Darrell Bley

Winner of the Outstanding Educator of the Year for 2020

Topic: The Coniferous Forests of Canada



Christmas Potluck

Our second Christmas potluck was enjoyed by 45 guests on Dec 6th. The weather cooperated making for safe driving. Susan, our president presented a variety of awards and numerous guests won door prizes.

Perennial Plant of the Year

Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'.



The Perennial Plant Association announced the 2024 Perennial Plant of the Year, *Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana'. This is definitely a plant for large spaces or background planting as it reaches 5 feet tall and 4 feet wide in ideal growing conditions. It is known for its impressive flowers, held on tall and sturdy stems from midsummer to early fall. Hummingbirds, butterflies – especially Eastern Tiger Swallowtails – and other pollinators are attracted to the nectar-rich flowers. It provides a bridge between early and late summer flowering perennials and is resistant to powdery mildew.

Read More Here:

[Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'](#)

Living Planet Report

The Living Planet Report is the World Wildlife Fund's flagship publication. Released every two years, this report provides a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and the

health of the planet. The Living Planet Report Canada is Canada's complementary publication. Originally released in 2007 with follow-ups in 2017 and 2020. The full report was also updated in 2022:

[Living Planet Report 2022](#)

The “Art” of Forcing Blooms

I have had a long time tradition of buying potted up almost ready to bloom bulbs like tulips later in January to add some colourful cheer once Christmas decor has been packed away for another year. Here are some tips for forcing bulbs:

- Choose a pot that is at least twice as tall, and as wide, as your bulb. Fill the pot with light potting soil and plant the bulb, pointed side facing up, just below the surface.
- If you are planting tulips, the flat side of the bulb should be placed next to the rim of the pot since the largest leaf will always emerge and grow on that side, producing a more desirable looking pot. I never knew this!!!
- If you are planting multiple bulbs in one pot (which will give you a beautiful, full display) make sure to plant the bulbs close together, but never touching one another.
- Most bulb types are going to need a chilling period before they will flower with the length of time varying by type of bulb. If in doubt, a basic rule to remember is to leave your bulbs in their cooling spot until they are showing signs of growth, such as roots coming out of the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot or a fresh stem sprouting about two inches out of the top of the bulb.

Donate Your Christmas Tree

December 28 – January 9, 2024

The annual tree collection returns!

RBG needs a maximum of 2,000 trees for its stream restoration projects. Spruce and fir species are preferred. Community members are asked to pre-register ahead of the drop-off this year. Drop off location will be provided in the registration form.

[Registration Form](#)

Seed Storage Tips

Keeping seeds organized can be a challenge! There's the question of how to organize and categorize. But did you know that your seed storage conditions can also affect the viability and germination rate of your seeds? Seeds can be stored for longer than a year, but the viability decreases over time. For example, Lettuce, corn, onions, and parsley don't last as long as cucumbers, radishes, tomatoes, or eggplants. This explains why my very old packet of parsley seeds produced no plants this year!

Choose a cool, dark, dry location, where there aren't any temperature fluctuations. Humidity, moisture, and direct sunlight can affect the longevity of the seeds. A cool, dark closet or cupboard is ideal. While a basement can be damp, if your packets are stored in an air-tight container, they should be okay. While a refrigerator can provide cool conditions for seeds, there could be too many temperature and moisture fluctuations for proper seed storage. After reading this fact in my research, I moved the seed packets I had in my fridge into the basement pantry! As well, freezing can kill some varieties of seeds. Of course if one is cold stratifying seeds, then the freezer is an option. The best container for seed storage is an airtight one. Plastic baggies work well. Placing packets in glass jars will prevent them from potentially

becoming rodent food! Some gardeners use small silica gel packets, which absorb moisture, to ensure their seed storage is absolutely dry. In future, I will stop discarding them and save them for seed storage.

Shrub Covers

Avoid using plastic to cover your plants. Plastic can trap moisture against the plant and result in frost damage when it freezes. Look for shrub covers made from breathable fabrics that are resistant to damage from wind and harsh storms. Burlap is a good choice. New shrubs and small trees are especially vulnerable to harsh winter temps. They benefit the most from shrub covers.

Snow can act as a protective layer, however thawing and freezing can damage or kill a newly planted shrub. A good layer of winter mulch can protect the roots while a cover protects the plant. So far it's been a mild winter with most plants not needing protection, but cold spells are bound to occur so it's not too late to cover plants!

Winter Escape!

In February 2023, Trudy Bliedung, our Treasurer joined the following garden/sightseeing tour, enjoyed it very much and would recommend it to other members. Apparently, there is still limited space available on the 2024 Cuba Garden/Culture tour Feb 24 to Mar 5.

If anyone is interested, please contact the tour organizer, Tom, at your earliest convenience. Also, there is space available on his Birding tour - Mar 5 to 16, 2024.

All tour details can be found by visiting www.cuba1tours.com which has been specializing in tours of Cuba for more than 20 years.

Revisiting Our Members' Garden Tour (June 2023)

Our Garden Tour seems a very long time ago as we hang up a new calendar and welcome 2024. Our gardens are now dormant, trees are bare and garden tools are put away for the winter. This is the time of year when I enjoy browsing through seed catalogues, garden magazines and old garden photos as I await the first spring blooms. Here are some wonderful gardens from our tour: Both of these feature the impact of a small focal tree in a mostly hosta bed.



Hamilton Environmentalists of the Year (EOY) Awards



The 2023 EOY Awards ceremony was held on October 27, 2023, at the LR Wilson Hall at McMaster University. Congratulations to Susan, our president and her husband, Les MacMillan who were awarded the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System Landowner Stewardship Award. This award recognizes a landowner who has contributed to ecological corridors between Cootes Paradise Marsh and the Niagara Escarpment. Ecological corridors are special pathways that plants and animals use to find food, friends, and safe places to live. The MacMillans have contributed to these local ecological corridors by creating pollinator gardens and planting native trees and shrubs on their property in Waterdown. They also led the effort to remove invasive buckthorn and garlic mustard on City of Hamilton property behind their house, helped plant native plants there, and have been active volunteers in the community through the Bruce Trail Conservancy over the past 4 years.

Trudy Bliedung (our treasurer) and I were pleased to attend the award ceremony which also recognized other outstanding environmentalist citizens including a number of young people who are making an impact in our communities. Congratulations!

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

PO Box 902 Waterdown ON L0R 2H0

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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 2023/24

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 - Verna Scovell

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

