



HORTIGRAM



Volume 59 No.1

Newsletter of the London Horticultural Society

Jan, Feb & March 2024

LONDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2024 EXECUTIVE

President... Nadine Weedmark

P. President... Pat Graham

1st Vice... *Vacant*

Secretary... Paula Granger

Treasurer... Will Svirida

Directors

- Sherry Dailey
- Brenda Gallagher
- Dianna Garber
- Maggie Levesque
- Eva Norman-Vestergaard

The **Hortigram** is published 3 times a year; January, April, and September, to provide LHS members with information and upcoming events.

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In an effort to reduce our paper consumption, we would prefer to send your **Hortigram** electronically. Please provide us with an updated email address.

LHS Memberships are due now!

A membership is **\$15.00** or **\$25.00** for a family membership. Students **\$10.00**.

Memberships run on the calendar year

Cheques are payable to
London Horticultural Society
c/o Will Svirida
210-770 Viscount Road
London, ON. N6J 3T3

We accept e-transfers at
london.horticultural.society@gmail.com



L.H.S. General Meetings

- Our meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month at the **Civic Garden Complex**, 625 Springbank Drive at 7:00 p.m.



Monday, January 22 , 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Hort Shorts - Society Information Sharing Night

- Join us for an informative evening presented by various members of our society as they teach us some gardening tips and share interesting experiences they have had in their own gardens.
- [Door prizes and refreshments \(lug-a-mug\)](#)

Monday, Feb 26, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Brenda Gallagher – Sanctuary and Healing Gardens

- Research has shown that spending time outdoors is beneficial to our wellbeing. This presentation demonstrates how gardens can improve your physical, mental and spiritual health. Tips on how to create sacred spaces and gathering areas; garden features that make your space unique; and healing activities that can be done in the garden are discussed.
- [Door prizes and refreshments \(lug-a-mug\)](#)

Monday, Mar 25, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Kimberly Nikkel – Propagation Demystified

- Come learn some basic propagation techniques used for common garden and house plants. This presentation will cover leaf cuttings, root cuttings, offsets and division, all with the help of a few simple tools.
- [Door prizes and refreshments \(lug-a-mug\)](#)

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram

If you have any questions or general inquiries please contact us at london.horticultural.society@gmail.com

Directors Meetings

Are held on the second Tuesday of
the month at the Crouch Library
Tuesday Jan 9 - 6:30
Tuesday Feb 13 - 6:30
Tuesday Mar 12 - 6:30

Paid members are welcome to sit in
on any Directors Meeting

*Garden as
though you will
live forever*



In 2024, Communities in Bloom
encourages planting orange
flowers in honour of Indigenous
communities as we celebrate
ways plants can add warmth and
energy to our green spaces.

*A garden; where
children can
delight in nature
and discover a
passion for plants*

Blue Jays and Acorns

In fall, acorns begin to drop from oak trees. It is amazing to think that this little nut may someday grow into a mighty oak.

Not all the seeds are viable, however. Some may become infested with a fungus or acorn weevils, which lay their eggs inside the acorn and the growing larvae feed on the nut. To determine viability, acorns can be dropped into a bucket of water and those that sink have a fairly good chance of germinating.

It is reasonable to think the energetic squirrel is the biggest distributor of acorns. However, their dispersal is not as impressive as the blue jay. For centuries these birds have played a major role in scattering acorns and regenerating oak forests.

Blue jays have a fondness for the nuts and are able to transport them at astounding levels.

They are known to carry off 100 acorns a day during harvest and a single jay may hide 3000- 5000 nuts in one season. While squirrels bury acorns only a few feet from the mother tree, blue jays can move the nuts up to 3 kilometers away. This cache of acorns is more likely to be buried in open areas where available light ensures favorable growing conditions for the new seedlings.

Another interesting adaptation is the blue jay's ability to carry up to five acorns per trip. The bird accomplishes this by flying with three in its throat or "gular pouch", one in its mouth, and one on the tip of its beak. The most amazing mark of genius, however, is that blue jays have the aptitude to preferentially select acorns that are most likely to germinate. They can tell a good nut from a bad nut and have been shown to discern fertile acorns with 88% accuracy.

Like other birds that hide and store food, such as chickadees and nuthatches, blue jays too have a remarkable ability to remember where they hide their cache and return later in the season to retrieve them. Of course they don't find all their buried nuts. Some get left where they are planted and these few may sprout and grow into a new oak.

Submitted by Brenda Gallagher

Royal Botanical Garden Year Round

Did you know that our society is a member of the Royal Botanical Gardens? We have passes that can be used one time, as well as a year-round membership and parking pass. If you are planning a visit, speak with Eva Norman-Vestergaard. This beautiful garden is located at 680 Plains Rd W, Burlington, Ontario.

Beautifying London One Tree at a Time

Every spring, the London Horticultural Society continues to plant one or two trees to help beautify our city. In the past, these trees have found homes on church properties, school grounds and in front of small businesses where sufficient room was available.

For the last several years the tree of choice was serviceberry, a small native tree that blooms in early spring and later provides a small fruit that is enjoyed by birds.

In 2023, two serviceberries were planted at Urban Roots, a non-profit organization that revitalizes underused land in the City of London to grow and distribute high-quality, organic vegetables and herbs. If you have a location that may be suitable for the spring of 2024, please contact one of the directors.



Oak Wilt

Oak Wilt is a vascular disease caused by the fungal pathogen *Bretziella fagacearum*. The first known case of Oak Wilt in Canada was confirmed in Niagara Falls, Ontario, May 2023. Although all oak species are vulnerable, those in the red oak group (red, black and pin) are most susceptible, frequently resulting in death within 2 to 12 months of infection. Species in the white oak group (burr, swamp white and white) are more tolerant of the disease, and may survive infection for one or more years while displaying decline symptoms.

The fungus grows on the outer sapwood beneath the bark of infected oaks, restricting the flow of water and nutrients within the tree. The fungus is spread from infected to healthy trees by two means; insects carrying the fungal spores and through root grafts. In addition, the fungus can be spread by people via infected wood products, fire wood and nursery stock.

When a diseased red oak dies, fungal mats develop on the trunk in spring and fall (these mats are not produced on living trees or white oaks). The fungal mats, which emit a sweet aroma, attract Nitidulid beetles, also known as sap or picnic beetles. While feeding, the sticky spores adhere to the insect's body, which they then carry from infected trees to fresh wounds on healthy trees. To help reduce the spread of Oak Wilt, avoid pruning oak trees between April and August.

While insects are an important dispersal mechanism, it is estimated that 90 percent of new infections occur between neighbouring trees through root grafts. While the fungus can survive above-ground for a year after the tree has died, it can survive considerably longer on tree roots below-ground, and intertwining roots facilitate infection to adjacent oak trees.

Submitted by Brenda Gallagher



Upcoming Events

Nature in the City series, Nature London

Every Tuesday from Jan 16 to Feb 20
All talks are at the Wolf Performance Hall
251 Dundas St.
Visit their web site: www.naturelondon.ca

Lambeth Horticultural Meetings

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month
unless otherwise posted.
Lambeth United Church at 7:30 pm

Seedy Saturday, London Middlesex Master Gardeners

March 2, 2024 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
At Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre
656 Elizabeth St.
Visit web site: www.londonmiddlesexmastergardeners.com

Seed to Table Course

Presented by London Middlesex Master Gardeners
Starting March 12 to April 30, 2024
Hands-on vegetable gardening course
At the Civic Garden Complex
625 Springbank Drive, London
For more information and to register, visit our website:
www.londonmiddlesexmastergardeners.com

*We would like to congratulate Gail
McInnis. She received a Lifetime
Membership at the 2023 Annual
General Meeting in November*

Service Pins 15-40 years

Eva Norman-
Vestergaard 40
Mary Cooke 35
Brenda Gallagher 30
Daryl Bycraft 25
Marianne VanTol 25
Sherry Dailey 20
Gail Dimson 20
Sophia Borowski 20
Nadine Weedmark 20
William Cooke 20
Gail McInnis 15
R. Angela Atkinson 15
Maggie Levesque 15
Anne Polischuk 15

Service Pins 5-10 years

Marion Weedmark 10
Erica Stichhaller 10
Gisela Wasse 10
Gail Sneddon 10
Sarah Rigalyi 10
Pat Graham 10
Winnifred Jette 10
Dianna Garber 10
Betty Lou Simpson 5
Carolyn Walsh 5
Shirley Gelinas 5
Tammy Goodenough 5
Elizabeth King 5
Jim Read 5

*2024 perennial plant of the year is
Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'*

Crop Rotation

Crop rotation can help avoid soil-borne root diseases and increase soil fertility

- Leafy greens and those in the cabbage family need nitrogen the most.
- Nitrogen-fixing species (legume family) provide this nutrient to other plants in their immediate vicinity.
- Root veggies need potassium.
- Fruits like phosphorus.
- Rotate based on plant families since pathogens are host-specific.
- Heavy feeders that deplete soil nutrients are garlic, squash and tomatoes.
- Most at risk for root diseases are the onion family and potatoes.

Leek Gratin

4 medium sized leeks (use white and pale green parts only)
½ tsp salt
1/8 tsp freshly ground black pepper
2 Tbsp butter
2 Tbsp flour
1 cup milk
½ tsp dried thyme
1 cup grated aged cheddar cheese
3 Tbsp breadcrumbs

Preheat oven 425 F

Cut leeks into ¼ in thick slices. Transfer to colander, rinse and drain.

Heat leeks over medium heat in a covered pot (stirring occasionally) for 7-10 minutes, until leeks are tender. Uncover and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Stir in butter. Once melted, stir in flour. Add milk and continue to cook for 3-4 min or until leeks are covered with sauce.

Transfer the leeks to an 8 inch square baking dish. Sprinkle with thyme and a layer of grated cheddar. Sprinkle bread crumbs on top. Bake for 15 minutes or until golden and bubbling.

London Horticultural Society

Photo Contest

Categories

- 1) The Garden Landscape
- 2) Wildlife in the Garden
- 3) Beauty in the Details (a close-up)

Entrant Information:

On the reverse side in the upper left corner, the entrant should record;

- 1) Name of entrant
- 2) Title of print (optional)
- 3) Category
- 4) Month and year photo was taken

- ✓ *Closing date for entries is October 28, 2024*
- ✓ *No digital enteries will be accepted*
- ✓ *Awards will be available at the AGM in Novemeber*

Since we were unable to hold a photo contest in 2023, photos for this year's show can be taken in 2023 or 2024



LONDON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2024 PHOTO CONTEST RULES FOR ENTRY

- Only paid members of London Horticultural Society may submit entries in this competition
- Photos must be recent and the work of the entrant
- Photo size must be 8" x 10" or 10" x 12" for clarity, and must be unframed
- Photos must be mounted on 12" x 16" black bristol board
- Each entrant may submit only 1 (one) photo per category
- Winning photos will be published in the Hortigram, and may require images to be provided digitally for this purpose
- Photos may be disqualified at the discretion of the judges
- All possible care will be taken to safeguard entries; however, the Society assumes no liability for loss or damage

