

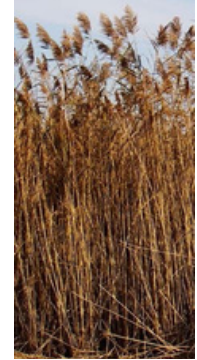
# *Sprucedale & District Horticultural Society*



## 2024 - STARTED WITH A PHRAG(mites)

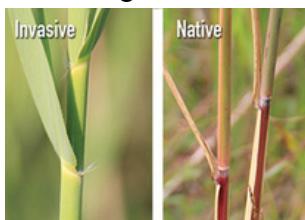
Our first meeting of the year was held on March 18 at the Emsdale Community Centre. It was certainly a full house with so many new and returning members attending.

We were thrilled to invite Karen Martin and Marilee Koenderink from Near North Enviro Education Centre - NNEECN to learn all about the Invasive Phragmites Australis. Some brave souls even came out in the bitter cold to view phragmites stands growing at the Evergreen Heights Public School driveway.



The presentation was super informative with a hands-on presentation that included photo boards and albums, samples of tools used to eradicate the phragmites such as cane cutters, spade and saw. There were specimens of phragmites stalks with plumes (which have over 2000 seeds) and the very large roots. Invasive Phragmites spreads quickly with 40-60% of the rhizomes up to 10 meters are below the ground. This plant releases toxins from its roots into the soil and can even kill surrounding plants. It does prefer areas of standing water and the roots can grow to very long lengths which allow it to survive even in fairly dry areas.

## Phragmites



One of the most important things to remember about any invasive species is PREVENTION. There are 3 main things that we brought back with us which were: 1) Share what you Learn, 2) Map IT and 3) Use Best Practices.

To top it off we also learned all about iNaturalist -<https://www.inaturalist.org/>. iNaturalist helps you identify the plants and animals around you while generating data for science and conservation.

They also touched briefly about other invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and others that grow in our areas.

Plus hard copies of the following handouts were available or they can be accessed by going to the web sites listed below:

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/grow-me-instead/>,

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/fact-sheets/>

and will recommend the Best Management Practices documents on this site:

<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/resources/best-management-practices/>



Thanks to both Marilee and Karen from NNEECN for a fantastic presentation. To view the presentation just click here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iEQUEG3hgTyyRkcr76FpIRg3UjXO\\_9Ss/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iEQUEG3hgTyyRkcr76FpIRg3UjXO_9Ss/view?usp=sharing)

## DISTRICT 18 AGM - MAY 4

Upcoming in 6 weeks, our society is hosting the 2024 District 18 AGM with the theme of Forest Gardening. The AGM includes a Flower and Photography Show, Silent Auction, Tasty Luncheon, Inspiring Guest Speaker, Swag Bag, Door Prizes and a Mystery Craft.

Thanks to those who have already volunteered their time to create beautiful decorations, and offering to help with providing an item for our breakfast. We will still need a few volunteers to help set up the morning of the event. Please let us know if you can help.

Details will be forwarded soon. If you haven't been to an AGM in the past, this is the one you shouldn't miss.

Garden Ontario - District 18 AGM  
Sprucedale & District Horticultural Society  
Presents:

**FOREST GARDENING, FORAGING & LAND STEWARDSHIP with Chris Gilmour**



Forest Gardening is an ancient way of tending and working with the forest to provide food and medicine for humans while also sharing the land with all the other beings who rely on it. Join us for an introduction to sustainable wild foraging, mushroom growing, and working with native edible and medicinal plants both in your garden and the surrounding woods and wetlands.

Chris Gilmour is a naturalist, wild forager and outdoor educator from the Muskoka region. Along with his wife Laura, they live on a modern-day homestead where they have been practicing forest gardening, mushroom growing and wild foraging for over a decade. His experience and expertise are recognized internationally. Learn more at [www.chrisoutdoors.ca](http://www.chrisoutdoors.ca) and [www.wildmuskoka.com](http://www.wildmuskoka.com). You can also find him on YouTube and Instagram as @ChrisOutdoorsON



**May 4, 2024 - 1:00 PM**  
Emsdale Community Centre  
25 Joseph Street  
Emsdale, Ontario POA 1J0

A limited amount of tickets available to the general public.  
Contact: [sprucedalehort@gmail.com](mailto:sprucedalehort@gmail.com) for details.

# FUNDRAISING 2024

### GIFT TABLE



We are going to have a gift table at each meeting where tickets will be sold for a chance to pick one of the special gifts on the table. We would like donations of items that are practically new or new that are still usable. No chemicals.

If you have any ideas for other fundraising events please contact Lori Sild: at: [lorisild500@icloud.com](mailto:lorisild500@icloud.com)



### MAY 18 HOPE'S CLOVER FARM NOVAR

This is our BIG fundraising event and we will need everyone to bring their plants - outdoor perennials, shrub cuttings, house plants, vegetable seedlings and seeds. The more the better - it will be a huge sale.

If you have any extra pots - please bring to the meeting in April to distribute to those who want to participate but need pots to put the plants in for the sale.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE UPCOMING MEETING  
APRIL 15, 2024 - 7:00 PM**

**EMSDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE**



**CLIMATE CHANGE AND YOUR GARDENS**