

Flamborough Horticultural Society



March 2024 Newsletter

President's Message

Greetings FHS Members

We wish a warm welcome to new member Christine Scheewe. Christine is also a member of Stoney Creek Garden Club and enjoys the different newsletters societies have to offer.

Thank you again to all the volunteers who made the hosting of our District 6 breakfast such a success. The speaker Darrell Bley wowed us with some beautiful photographs of his trips with students and certainly had a lot of content for us to absorb. Our sister societies loved our food contributions and leftovers went to happy homes.

All of you received the Seedy Saturday/Sunday schedules but if you cannot find them please email me and I can send you a copy. The event in Haldimand is always good and they have vendors as well. The Oakville / Halton is a must see event too.

As we get through this weird February weather the March 4 to April 2 road closure on King road will allow the Jefferson salamanders migrate over to their vernal ponds to lay eggs on the old McNally property that was donated to the Bruce trail. Thus begins new life and a real promise of spring.

Thankyou to members who have volunteered so far for the Hamilton Spring Tide Bulb Show. The event really gets one geared up for spring and helps us do membership drives for both Flamborough and our sister societies. Before we know it, the preparation for the plant sale will be upon us. Here is the beautiful centerpiece created and donated by Gene Ditner. The winner was thrilled.



Photos courtesy of Trudy Bliedung.

Best Wishes,
Susan MacMillan

Meeting and Speaker Information

Date: Wed., March 20, 2024

Time: 7:30 pm

Refreshments served at 7pm prior to meeting

Speaker: Sean James

Topic: 20+ Bulletproof Plants

Flower Show: Decorate a small potted tropical plant using natural materials

Email to flamhort@hotmail.com by Feb 13

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

February Flower Show

In contrast to January's flower show, this month's entries were photos of winter gardens. It was quite fitting that we got a nice snowfall the week before our meeting! Thank you to the people who contributed their photos to this month's competition. Once again it was not an easy task to choose a winner! Congratulations to: First Place: Janet Waterfall, Second Place: Marilyn Brown, Third Place: Liz Visentin

OHA - "Since 1906, The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) has led Ontarians in all things horticultural. This organization is an integral part of this province's cultural fabric. The Board is made up of Officers and Directors from all corners of Ontario – from the shores of Lake Ontario, to the Shield country of Northern Ontario."

OHA website and Garden Ontario Newsletter:

[Garden Ontario](#)

OHA 50/50 Draw

Garden Ontario 50/50 Raffle #8 -
Grand Prize ticket deadline Mar. 16
2024

[Garden Ontario Raffle Tickets](#)

Seeds of Diversity Home Page

[Seeds Of Diversity](#)

Seedy Saturdays

Still a few upcoming in nearby regions

[Seedy Saturdays](#)

Orange is the colour chosen by Communities In Bloom and the Canadian Garden Council for 2024

Spring Tide Bulb Show

Hundreds of bulbs will be on display along with a vendor marketplace, cafe and flower shop

Date: March 8-17

Time: 9am to 5pm

Gage Park Greenhouse, Hamilton

Free admission and parking

[Bulb Show](#)

March Garden Tasks

Spring 'officially ' arrives this month!

- Put your gardening plans on paper. Remember to rotate crops in your vegetable garden to avoid issues with diseases
- If you see some early buds on your forsythias or pussy willows, place them into a vase.
- Start propagating stem cuttings of geraniums, coleus and fuschia by the end of the month.
- Plant slow germinating seeds inside, like impatiens, peppers, eggplants, begonias and geraniums and seeds for early spring blooms such as pansy, verbenas, alyssum and dianthus.
- This is a good time to repot houseplants before they begin their spring burst of new growth! If new growth is appearing on plants, fertilize them very lightly.
- Cut back ornamental grasses to 3 to 4 inches before active growth begins. Do not cut carex.

Which Bulbs to Plant in Spring?

Summer bulbs, also called tender bulbs, are planted in spring and flower and leaf out in summer. Gladioli, calla lilies, caladium, begonias, crocosmias, agapanthus and elephant ears are common examples of summer bulbs. Some will bloom later in summer or for a longer time, like dahlias that bloom into

the fall. Summer bulbs should only be planted after the ground warms up and there's no longer a threat of frost. If purchased before planting time, store them in a cool, dry spot until planting or start indoors. [Top 10 bulbs to Plant in Spring](#)

Early Spring Caveat!

As the days get warmer we may feel the urge to begin work in our gardens! However, you may be causing damage in spite of your good intentions!

If the soil has thawed in the area you choose to work in, then it is vitally important to protect the soil. Standing on newly thawed, wet soil will compact it causing damage. If you are working in a flower bed, stand or kneel on a piece of wood to distribute your weight.

Inspect your plants regularly. Some perennials heave out of the ground during the freeze/thaw cycle. Gently press them back into the thawed earth.

Aggressive raking can harm delicate roots and pull out plants. Leave debris to protect your plants and to feed the worms. Stay off the lawn if possible – leave raking until the soil is drier.

Seed Labels Explained

If labels **F1**, **OP**, **heirloom** and **hybrid** used to describe seed are puzzling to you this should help to clarify the terms.

What does (OP) open-pollinated mean?

Open-pollinated (OP) seeds are produced by a plant pollinated by bees or other insects, bats, birds, wind, or even humans. Some plants, like beans, even pollinate themselves. When planted, the seed that formed via this type of fertilization will grow a plant that looks and acts like its parent plants.

Does a Mild Winter Mean More Insects?

Unfortunately, there is no simple “yes” or “no” answer to this question! There are many variables affecting insect population size: humidity/moisture, habitat suitability and food resources, just to name a few. What may be good for one species is not necessarily good for another. Furthermore, natural variation in population size occurs from year to year in most species.

However, This year there are reports that certain insects will be emerging or becoming active earlier than normal. But seeing insects in March doesn't necessarily mean that we will be seeing more of them later in the season. Most insects have a limited life span so if they emerge earlier, their flight season will end earlier. One of these will be blackflies as they usually emerge when trees begin to form buds. Winter temperatures have little impact on their populations, but reduced snowfall and lack of rain in spring decreases the number of eggs that will survive.

As for mosquitoes, in Ontario most species lay winter hardy eggs that hatch when conditions are right – typically after

snowmelt. Given that mosquitoes breed in pools of standing water, the current lack of snow and if there is a dry spring, means that conditions are less-than ideal. However if it's a rainy summer, later generations will be more plentiful! As for grasshoppers, a warm, dry winter actually enhances the survival of grasshopper eggs resulting in increased populations. Blacklegged deer ticks that carry Lyme disease have a greater survival rate following a mild winter and more so if there is a lot of rain late spring.

First Spring Butterflies



[Ontario Butterflies](#)

Butterflies emerge in late winter or early spring as soon as temperatures reach about 13-15°C. With the forecast for the end of February and early March, it could be a very early butterfly season in our area! Some of the first butterflies to watch for in the spring are Mourning Cloaks (as shown in the photo), Eastern Commas and Millbert's Tortoiseshells. The adults of these species hide in the leaf litter. Consider planting early spring native blooming flowers and shrubs to feed these butterflies

[Early Spring Native Blooms](#)

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 and Sharon Hall

Sign Standardization – Ann Cochren

Speakers and Programs – Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

Winter 2023/24 Trillium Magazine

Now available online on the Garden Ontario website.

[The Trillium News](#)

Reading Corner:

Ontario's Old Growth Forests

<https://www.oldgrowth.ca/>