

WINONA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Newsletter April 2024



Green, Green Glorious Green!

April showers did indeed bring the green, the buds and the flowers!

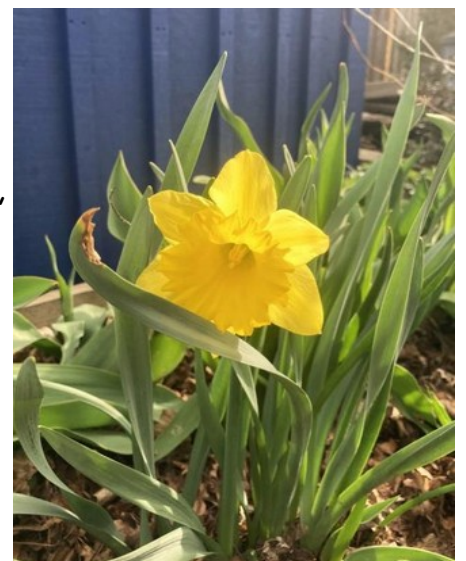


And the birds, and the light... **It's spring!**
Visited Wild Birds Unlimited (our February speaker) in order to keep this cardinal from injuring himself attacking the intruder in the mirror! Below is my new bird protection program :D



Happy 95th WinHort

Our society was established on **April 10th, 1929!**
Thank you members for your contributions to this longevity. Your selfless giving of time, knowledge, and of course, plants is invaluable. You are the **big heart** in our society!



Thank you members for planning to attend and inviting your family, neighbours and friends to our 95th birthday celebration dinner on Sunday, 27 October. Enjoy the warmer and brighter days and the gradual return to your beloved garden!

Hélène

II Cor 13.14

17 April 2024

Notices and Events

ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

680 Plains Road, Burlington

Speaker Event: 40 Days & 40 Hikes – Sunday, April 28 2pm

In 2022, Nicola Ross walked her own, looping, 950- kilometre journey along the much-loved, Bruce Trail, and now shares excerpts from her latest book, *40 Days & 40 Hikes: Loving the Bruce Trail One Loop at a Time* (published by ECW Press in Toronto). Event is free with garden admission. *Pre-registration required.*

The Joy of Birding (Intermediate)

Small groups of birders, along with instructor, Catherine Manschot, spend 2-3 hours exploring bird behaviour, adaptations, and migration. Spring dates include: April 19 & 23; May 22 & 28; and June 5 & 9.

\$20 (+ service fee & HST) *Must pre-register.*

RBG offers a great lineup of fun, and educational programs for all ages. Call 905 527-1158 or visit their website www.rbg.ca To borrow the WHS member's passes contact H el ene or Krysl.

GARDENONTARIO EARTH DAY CELEBRATION (via WebEx) – Friday, April 19 7pm

WebEx will open at 6:40pm to admit the first 1000 individuals. No registration necessary.

Speaker, **Claudette Sims**, will discuss "**A Gardening Conundrum: Why are invasive plants sold in nurseries?** Plus, the OHA Conservation and Environmental Committee will give a report on What's new for Societies/Clubs

<https://gardenontario.webex.com/gardenontario/j.php?MTID=m6b12b0a7c3fb639d96eb9241a0ff747d>

EARTH DAY - Monday, April 22

Earth Day is a reminder of the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability, encouraging us to come together and take action for a healthier planet and brighter future.

See more at: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/> and <https://earthday.ca/2024/>

D6 AGM & FLOWER SHOW – Saturday, April 20 8am to 1pm

Caledonia Lions Hall, 177 Haddington St., Caledonia

Hosted by Haldimand Horticultural Society, celebrating their 40th Anniversary. Attendees are encouraged to wear red for the Ruby Anniversary or orange for colour of the year. Speaker is Lorraine Johnson on "Putting more native plants back in the garden". WHS will have five or six members attending.

DOORS OPEN ONTARIO (Hamilton area) – Saturday, May 4 to Sunday, May 5 10am to 4pm

Explore over 50 sites, including 4 walking tours. Three of interest are: Battlefield House Museum & Park (Sunday only. Take in the Dunington Grubb landscape (which includes the impressive Battlefield Monument) and hike around a 13.8-hectare (34-acre) patchwork of meadow and forest); The Cotton Factory (Saturday and Sunday. The Imperial Cotton Factory, built in 1900, ran as a factory until 1972. It has been repurposed as the largest creative hub in the Hamilton area): and Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum (Saturday only. An idyllic setting is the perfect venue for music, with beautiful, landscaped gardens and walking trails)

For full list, go to: <https://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/>

HORT SOCIETY PLANT SALES

Lincoln Garden Club and Horticultural Society: Saturday, May 11, 8:30am to 2:30pm, at Vineland Research Station Barn, South Service Rd (across from carpool parking lot). <https://www.lincolngardenclub.ca/>

Stoney Creek: Saturday, May 11, 8am to noon, at Battlefield Park. Activities available for youths 5-11 yrs old.

Ancaster: Saturday, May 18, 8am to 1pm, in Ancaster Food Basics parking lot. Pre-order heirloom tomatoes: details at <https://ancasterhort.org>

Oakville: Saturday, May 18 8:30am to 11am, at Glen Abbey United Church, 1469 Nottingham Gate, Oakville
Many beautiful perennials. BYO boxes to take your plants home. <https://oakvillehort.org>

WHS NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, May 15 7:30 pm

St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Winona

James, from Dynamic Daylilies, will give a talk on what's new in the world of daylilies.

Member plant exchange. See page 4.

WHS BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, May 22 7pm

At Anne's.

OHA 116TH CONVENTION 2024: The Heartland of Gardens Growing and Rivers Flowing – July 12 to 14

Hosted by Districts 7 & 8, at the Delta Hotels Conference Centre in Guelph

A fantastic 3-day event packed full of wonderful bus trips, exciting seminars, delicious meals and more! WHS will subsidize the cost of registration. Various rates apply, but Early Bird discount ends May 10. For all the exciting details, go to <https://gardenontario.org>.

Tonight's Speaker

We first met **Cathy Swain** through Van Noort Bulb. (Up until a few years ago, their eastern office was right here in Winona, and for many years they have generously sponsored us with tulip and daffodil bulbs for Peach Festival.) In her position as Assistant Manager/Sales, Cathy's was the voice on the phone when we called for a donation, and she always did her best to help us out!

Cathy started gardening at a young age alongside her Mom, and her British grandfather; he would regularly enter floral competitions and grew prize-winning roses and dahlias. Cathy preferred being outside in the garden – weeding the veggie plot was much better than doing household chores – so it's no surprise that she continued her horticultural training after high school. Cathy has worked for years as a floral designer, and taught floral design as well. To keep her knowledge growing, she has also taken many courses through Landscape Ontario.

From 2006 to 2021, Cathy worked for Van Noort Bulb Co. and traveled much of Ontario, following up with customer concerns and sales. Now retired, she has time to focus on gardening, seed propagation and travel.

Although spring flowers, like tulips and daffs, are the ones that come to mind when we mention bulbs, there is so much more! Tonight, Cathy's fast-paced, informative talk on Summer Bulbs, will show us how to bring a world of colour into our gardens, from Summer through Fall.

Fun with Pollinators

By Mike Guerin



When you say "pollinators" to most folks, I would imagine the first image that comes to mind is a honey bee, and then maybe other bees. Well that is part of it, but nowhere near it all.

I did a presentation to a local Cub group in December and started it off by asking who liked vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice cream. I then noted that all 3 are dependent on pollinators to grow the vanilla beans, coco beans and strawberries that allow us to enjoy these items.

Pollination is when pollen is moved from one part of a plant (the anther) to another (the stigma). Pollen is little grains that help the plant make flowers ... and then seeds and fruits. The pollen is usually yellow, and it is what can make some people sneeze. The plants can use colour, smell, guides on the flower (like a runway) and shape to attract the pollinators.

Pollinators help produce 1 of every 3 bites of food we eat. Between 75% and 95% of all flowering plants on the earth need help with pollination – they need pollinators.

Who Pollinates?

Birds, bats, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, small mammals, and most importantly, bees are pollinators. They visit flowers to drink nectar or feed off of pollen, and transport pollen grains as they move from spot to spot. More than 1,000 of all pollinators are vertebrates such as birds, bats, and small mammals. Most (more than 200,000 species) are beneficial insects such as flies, beetles, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths and bees.

Pollinators are found on every continent except Antarctica. Many are very familiar to us, including bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Lesser known pollinators such as flies, moths, wasps, and beetles are also crucial to the reproduction of the plants around them. Some are only pollinators in certain parts of the world - like bats, who pollinate in what's known as the "Equator belt", including South and Central America, Africa, and Asia; and lemurs, whose habitat is limited to Madagascar.

There are over 800 species of native ground and twig nesting bees in Canada, half are native to Ontario, and 90% are solitary bees. Most of these bee species live a solitary life; a minority are social and form colonies or nest in aggregations. Native bees visit and pollinate many crops; in many cases they are better at transferring pollen than honey bees. Our native bees can do more to support agricultural endeavours if their needs for nesting habitat are met and if suitable sources of nectar, pollen, and water are provided. Bees come in a variety of body shapes and sizes, and even have tongues of different lengths. Native bees visit the widest range of flowers and crops of any pollinator group.

Some plants are pollinated by the wind (*open pollination*) – including corn, beets and spinach. Some *self pollinate* mainly, including carrots, onions, red peppers and lettuce. 80% of vanilla comes from Madagascar and is *hand pollinated!*

What can we do to help them?

Native plants are organisms that are indigenous to a given area in a specific geologic time. They have evolved over time with other native species in the area, including native pollinator species. Given that they have co-evolved, native pollinators are best equipped to pollinate native plants, and derive the most nutritional content from native species. Native plants also require less care than invasive plants and are therefore excellent choices for your garden!



Mike's bee hotel

Resources cited in this article:

Xerces Society <https://www.xerces.org/>

Pollinator Partnership <https://www.pollinator.org/>

Pollinator Pathway <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>

Pollinators Paradise Project

<https://www.hamiltonpollinatorparadise.org/>

Were you there when the moon eclipsed the sun?



Photos by Ryan Inch

Member Plant Exchange May 15

Spring in Canada can be full of surprises, but somehow Mother Nature always delivers, and returns to us our cherished plants. If you find you have too much of a good thing, why not dig some out to swap or share at next meeting's plant exchange? It's best to dig and pot plants in advance if possible, so they will be unstressed and inviting for the meeting, but clumps in plastic bags have been known to work in a pinch. ;) Please label plants with name/variety/colour, if possible, as well as any specific growing requirements. Nothing to bring? No worries, we usually have lots, and no one needs to go home empty-handed!

If your plants are too young to share at this time, don't forget we will need plants in August for Peach Festival. Maybe consider designating a corner of your garden as a place to grow up some healthy specimens? If they are early bloomers, a picture would be nice to include with the plant when you take it to the park.

HPL Plant Exchange

Select branches of the Hamilton Public Library are also having plant exchanges. Bring plants, cuttings, seeds or bulbs to these locations, to trade with other gardeners. **Red Hill**, Thursday, April 18, 2pm; **Concession**, Saturday, April 27, 2pm; **Saltfleet**, Saturday, April 27, 11am-2pm.

It's Going to be a Great Party!

Looking ahead to our 95th Birthday Party and D6 Fall Dinner on October 27, there will be lots of ways our members can help make it the best party ever! But to get things started, we are asking for donations for two, big, draw prizes. We've been gifted two, full-size wheelbarrows, and the idea is to fill one with "cheer", and the other with "plenty". For "cheer" we are asking our members to donate a bottle of wine, or spirits, or some beer – whatever you like, and especially good if it is produced in this area - to fill it up. (If you don't drink, this might be the time to re-gift that bottle a thoughtful neighbour gave you last Christmas!) The "plenty" wheelbarrow will be filled with gifts like garden tools, ornaments, and other worthy items, so might be a better option for

some. Again, re-gifting is okay, as long as what you donate is new and in perfect condition. Tickets will be sold for each wheelbarrow, and two lucky winners will take home their barrow full of cheer, or plenty. We'll remind you again before then, but please plan to bring your donation to the September meeting. And many thanks!!

OHA 50/50 Draw

Don't miss out! The next GardenOntario 50/50 Draw is on July 14, 2024. Proceeds support grants to subsidize gardens across Ontario and contribute to education towards Keeping Ontario Beautiful®. Ten tickets are always only \$10 but this draw features 100 tickets for \$20; 300 tickets for \$50 or the best value and amazing opportunity with 800 tickets for only \$75. <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

Volunteer Week, April 14-20, 2024

OHA President, Sharlene Desjardins, tells us this is Volunteer Week, and what better time to thank our members for the time and effort they give to our hort society?! Thank you! We really appreciate you!

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart!” (Elizabeth Andrew)

Members' Corner

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Who would you like to have as future speakers? What kind of topics or activities interest you? Share gardening tips or pictures of your yard or garden. Please, drop us a line, send an e-mail or talk to one of the Board members. This is the 2024 Board:

President – Hélène Brûlé-Besner
905 977-9329 hebrulebesner@gmail.com

Vice-president – Mark Shufflebottom
905 226-3127 shufflebottom.mark@gmail.com

Secretary – position open

Treasurer – Krys Moraal
905 643-4592 krysm@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor &
Past President – Joy Brunel
905 643-3073 potsherds@gmail.com

Directors:
Georgina Beattie Ryan Inch
Anne Bono Maggie Martin
Greta Carpenter Rien Moraal
Mike Guerin Rosemary Salisbury

Mailing address: WHS
P. O. Box 10596,
Winona, ON L8E 5R1

Website: <https://gardenontario.org/society-listing/entry/553/>