

*One of the most beautiful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides*

*W.E. Johns*

## April 15th Meeting

We will hear from **Ben O'Brien, owner of Wild by Design**, located in Prince Edward County. His is a naturalistic garden design business that specializes in artfully crafted gardens. Since 2014, he has worked on projects ranging from small town gardens to large rural properties, and urban public spaces. Ben will discuss his experiments with gravel gardens and how these innovative methods have been used in both private and public gardens.



Refreshments: Karen Hawkin and Mara Burke

## The Dirt on Soap

In April, MJ Pilgrim, master gardener, discussed ways to deal with bugs in our gardens. She noted that 90% of bugs are beneficial. In particular without bugs, there would be no birds. Her approach is to minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides.

“If you must use a spray, make sure you know why you’re spraying by identifying the issue. Use the correct spray at the correct strength approved for the particular disease or pest,” she said. Pests and disease occur with greater frequency on stressed plants. Healthy plants attract beneficial insects which can help to deter ‘bad’ bugs. Weeds can be controlled by hand-pulling, solarizing/mulching, or weeding tools. MJ provided this list of resources:

- Halton Master Gardeners “Dirt on Soap” used for the basis of her presentation with permission
- GardenMyths.com, (Ontario Master Gardener Robert Pavlis)
- Cathy Kavassalis/Claudette Sims, MGOI: Neem oil: Why MGs Do Not Recommend It
- University of Nevada, Reno: Horticultural Oils: What a Gardener Needs to Know
- MJ Pilgrim, mjpilgrim@live.ca

**Social Gathering:** Join a group of members for the regular coffee gathering May 1st 10:30 am. at Starbucks, Port Hope. Everyone is welcome

## Tool Sharpening at April 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Many members indicated a great interest in having items sharpened at our April meeting. With this strong interest, please **only bring one or two items**. To ensure this event goes as smoothly as possible, please follow these steps.

1. Label your tool
2. Place it in a labelled bag
3. Place \$10 in the bag
4. At the meeting, take your bagged item/s to the table at the far end of the hall
5. You will be asked to sign a waiver. (Required by the church, not Dave Hayford, the sharpener.)
6. At the end of the meeting, pick up your sharpened item/s.

## Plant Sale, Saturday May 11:

### Message from Plant Sale Coordinator, Malcolm Pacey

Fellow gardeners: Time to get into our plant sale mode. Start looking in all the corners of your garden to find little (or big) gems that you can part with for this year's plant sale event. We'll be selling all items at either \$5 or \$10. So dust off your Garden Gnomes and get them working. (We can also sell the gnomes and other garden items.) Bill Kamula will bring some extra pots to our April 15 meeting.

Happy digging.



## June Garden Tour:

Carpools will be arranged for the Dahlia May and Schoolhouse gardens visit on June 19th, 2024. The main stop is the afternoon visit to Schoolhouse Gardens in Warkworth. Earlier in the morning, we will visit Trenton to see the flower fields of Dahlia May Flower Farm and also visit their farm stand. Lunch will be taken in Warkworth where you will have time to browse the shops and have lunch. Entry to the garden will be \$20 and lunch and incidentals will be up to you.

## Interesting Links:

**Trowel Talk, March 2024:** Direct Seeding in the Garden [LINK](#)

**Gardening Calendar:** Edible Flowers you can grow [LINK](#)

Design a garden from scratch in 17 steps [LINK](#)

Cut lettuce from a garden (properly!) [LINK](#)

**Cold Springs Flower Farm Open Floral Studio Days:** It's an opportunity to stop by Kelsey's workshop in Cold Springs and chat about all things flowers, mechanics, and design. Check out favourite tools, pick her brain, etc. No formal teaching at these events – just some spontaneous floral design. On Fridays from 6 to 8pm on June 28, July 26, August 23 and September 27.

**OHA, District 4, Skills Update:** June 12, 9:30 am – 11 am. **Spread your Wings** Celebration Event, 11:30 – 3:00 pm, Lang Pioneer Village. Interested? Contact Bonnie for details.

**Earth Day:** See attached 2024 OHA Earth Day Celebration pdf.

**OHA Convention:** See attached 2024 OHA Convention Announcement Final. Pdf and 2024 Convention Program Overview Final. Pdf.

## Topics of interest

When you buy a new plant, photograph both sides of the label then save the photo to a "Garden Plant" folder. You can also photograph plants that you see in garden centres and other gardens and save them to a "Wish list" folder.

**Oshawa Peony Festival** June 8th and 9th at the Carriage House, McLaughlin Estate [LINK](#)

There is a bus from the grounds of the Peony Garden if you wish to visit both venues.



### Grow me instead Guide:

Annually thousands of new plant species are introduced in the horticulture trade. Many species can become invasive and when they escape gardens and enter natural areas, they outcompete native plants and can be costly to remove. The Ontario Invasive Plant Council's Grow Me Instead Guide was created to assist gardeners to make informed decisions, helping to educate and avoid the use of invasive plants. [LINK](#)

**Cards to Members:** Do you know a member who is ill, has had surgery or has lost a loved one? Contact Paulette Mouzer with the details so we can send these members a card and message from the club. [pmouzer@sympatico.ca](mailto:pmouzer@sympatico.ca), 905-885-0288.

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**REMINDER:** THE ROLE OF THE REFRESHMENT FOLKS INCLUDES BRINGING MILK AND CREAM, MAKING TEA AND PUTTING THE DISHES IN THE DISHWASHER AFTER THE MEETING. YVONNE LANE AND DARLENE MACK WILL MAKE THE COFFEE.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFILL THIS ROLE, PLEASE ARRANGE WITH ANOTHER MEMBER TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.

Many thanks to those who contribute information for our newsletter.

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