

Flamborough Horticultural Society

May 2024 Newsletter



President's Message

Greetings FHS Members

We wish a warm welcome to new member Elaine Malchow. Elaine was also second place in the recent flower show competition and has already jumped in to help during the last potting up. Thank you to all who helped on the two dates of our potting up. The plants have recovered from the initial transplant shock, they are growing nicely and will be ready for our May 18 early bird sale at 2 Flanders Dr. Waterdown.

You received a copy of the plants sales of our sister societies in case you want to check some of these out for plants different than what will have. Please also try and support our sister societies. Several are not on the same date as our sale. I have a rock in my garden that says "plants are like ice cream, there's always room for more." I like that motto in the hope that more plants will suppress the weeds that the rain brought us.

I told myself I wasn't going to buy any more garden books for a while but then I read about Rick Gray and Shaun Booth's "The Gardener's Guide to Native Plants of the Great Lakes Region." A stunning book; plants listed alphabetically, updated Latin names for those that needed to match their true genus, larval hosts, guides on propagation, a quick reference for sun and soil/moisture requirements at the top of each plant page, beautiful colour plates and a comprehensive index and tables at the back. You can have a peek at it if you are at the early bird plant sale.

Liz has provided you with some interesting topics in this issue as well as some upcoming free webinars. Thank you Liz!

As previously mentioned, a few of us will be attending the convention and I can take your submissions to the convention. **Tonight is the deadline to send in your photo online for the photo contest.** Please consider submitting something for the competitions and I can take it to the convention for you. You received the convention website and competitions links. There are options for one day registration as well. Even visiting the competitions is worth the quick trip to Guelph (about 37 km or 41 minutes from Waterdown).

Lastly several of you still need to get your renewal in to Trudy Bliedung. Please commit to renewing and e-transfer your \$17 to fhs.treasurer@hotmail.com or drop off the cash to her house or mine.

Best wishes Susan MacMillan

Meeting and Speaker Information

Date: Wed., May 15, 2024

Time: 7:30 pm

Refreshments served at 7pm prior to meeting

Speaker: Allyn Walsh

Topic: Annuals Amidst Perennials

Flower Show: An arrangement using any natural materials from your garden. Be creative!

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



Convention Info and Details

[OHA Convention](#)

2024 OHA Convention Competitions Consider entering! Some of our members have already entered photos!

[OHA 2024 – Flower Show Schedule](#)

[OHA 2024 – Arts Competition Schedule](#)

[OHA 2024 – Publications Competition Schedule](#)

[OHA 2024 – Youth Competition](#)

[OHA 2024 – Photography Competition Schedule](#)

[OHA 2024 – Creative Writing Competition Schedule](#)

[OHA 2024 – Words of Advice from the Judge for All Creative Writers](#)

Flamborough Horticultural Society Plant Sale

DATE: Sat., May 25 (opening day of Farmer's Market)

LOCATION: Waterdown Legion
79 Hamilton St. North, Waterdown [Map](#)

Early Bird Sale

DATE: Sat. May 18

LOCATION : To be shared with members via email

Did You Know:

There are five native species of Trilliums in Ontario: White Trillium, Red Trillium, Painted Trillium, Drooping Trillium (an 'at risk' species due to habitat loss and degradation), and Nodding Trillium. White Trilliums are only found in Southern Ontario. Trillium seeds are primarily dispersed by ants!

April Flower Show

This month's theme was to create an arrangement using spring blooms from our gardens. Nature cooperated this year by having warm weather in April for early blooms! Congratulations to the winners:

First place - Connie Godyn



Second place - Elaine Malohow



Elaine generously donated her creation of potted trilliums as a door prize.

Third place - Liz Visentin



May Garden Tasks

- Remove faded flower heads of spring bulbs. Let stems die down before removal. Fertilize now.
- Harden off seedlings before planting.
- Plant cold-sensitive vegetables like tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, pumpkins, zucchini and squash and cucumbers after the last frost and protect them if necessary. It's best to wait until the soil temperature is 60 degrees.
- Include some flowering herbs and annuals in the vegetable garden to encourage beneficial insects and pollinators to visit. This is especially important if you plan to grow vegetables such as zucchini and cucumbers.
- Turn compost piles.
- Repair lawn damage with soil and overseeding.
- Mulch and edge garden beds.
- Fertilize perennials, lawns and newly planted trees and shrubs.

Consider Dahlias if You Have Deer

While not totally deer proof, they are low on the list of desired foods. If you have overwintered the tubers, you can start them in one gallon pots about two to four weeks before the last frost date (Early to mid May in our area).

Once they've sprouted, place the pots under grow lights or in front of a sunny window (a south-facing window is best).

After the danger of frost has passed, transplant them gently into their garden location.

The tubers can also be planted directly into the garden at this time, but it's better to wait until the soil is warmer (around 60 degrees F) around late May to early June. Dahlias require full sun (six or more hours a day) and a rich, well drained soil. Incorporating compost and manure is beneficial.

Dahlias also respond dramatically to feeding, ideally a low nitrogen fertilizer. Tall varieties will require staking.

Reading Corner

Garden Ontario: Latest OHA news, Trillium Magazine, OHA 50/50 draw
[Garden Ontario](#)

Halton Region Master Gardeners:
Links to Master Gardener Sites, Horticultural Societies, Resources from Regional Organizations, Special Interest Sites gardening Sites, Native Plants and more
[Master Gardener Links](#)

Vegetable Planting Guide
[Ontario Planting Chart](#)

Importance of Pollinator Gardens



Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other small mammals that pollinate plants are responsible for the production of about a third of our foods. They also sustain our ecosystems by helping plants reproduce. This crucial process supports the reproduction of a wide range of plant species, including those that provide food and shelter to numerous other wildlife. Pollinators also contribute to the genetic diversity and resilience of plant populations, making them integral to the overall health of ecosystems.

Research led by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health concluded that doing too little to help pollinators does not just harm nature, but human health as well. This demonstrates the importance of creating pollinator gardens.

How to Create a Pollinator Garden

1. **Provide Nectar Rich flowers** which will be used as energy sources for pollinators Consider planting species such as bee balm, coneflowers, salvias, asters, and lavender, which offer long blooming periods .
2. **Incorporate Native Plants** as they have co-evolved with local pollinators, making them well-suited to the needs of regional butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.

3. **Create a Colourful Palette** planting flowers in clusters or drifts to make them more noticeable and accessible.
4. **Provide a water source** such as a shallow birdbath with pebbles or small stones for perching or landing.
5. **Avoid Pesticides** as much as possible as these chemicals can harm or kill pollinators. Try natural pest control methods to foster a balance between pests and beneficial insects.
6. **Provide Shelter** by including plants with dense foliage or create brush piles and rock crevices to provide shelter from predators and harsh weather conditions.

Register for Free Webinars

A free two part gardening program presented by Paul Zammit.

Part I - Container Gardening for Every Season (May 17 at 7pm)

Part 2 - The Joy of Growing Edibles in Containers (May 19 at 7pm)

[Register Here](#)

Need Ideas for Container Planting?

This is an excellent handout created by Paul Zammit with tips and suggestions for plant selection for all seasons and plant care.

[Container Gardening](#)

For more information, this website includes photos and ideas for creating planters for all seasons and all light conditions.

[Container Garden Design](#)

Is it Too Late to Prune Hydrangeas?

The number one reason that most hydrangeas fail to bloom is incorrect pruning. The time of year you prune makes a big difference. Knowing what type of hydrangea you have will lessen the chance of cutting off your flower buds.

Panicle hydrangeas and smooth hydrangeas form their buds on the current season's growth so they can be pruned in the **late winter or early spring** before spring growth without sacrificing any future flowers.

However, the other hydrangea varieties (showy big-leaf types including mopheads and many lace-cap varieties as well as oakleaf varieties) formed their buds in the previous year. You can safely remove dead canes but if you feel the need to prune them further, wait until **after they have bloomed in the summer** and then do not delay pruning. If you pruned in fall, winter, or early spring, that means no flowers this year.

Not sure which hydrangea you have? Then peruse this link which contains a pruning chart and photos of many varieties of hydrangea:

[Hydrangea Pruning Guide](#)

Invasive Buddleia (Butterfly Bush)

While once popular, Buddleia is now considered invasive as it is destroying native butterfly and wildlife habitats. Each Butterfly Bush can produce over 100,000 seeds that are distributed by wind. It also does not provide a habitat for butterflies or beneficial insects. Consider planting native plants to attract butterflies. Plant buttonbush, butterfly-weed and liatris spicata instead.

Native Bees are Pollinating Heroes



There are approximately 800 species of bees in Canada and roughly 400 in Ontario. Non-native honey bees do some of the pollinating work, but most of it is carried out by native pollinators—including flies, beetles, moths and butterflies—but native bees are the key to pollination. What to plant to attract native bees - colour matters! Bees can't see red, which is more attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. Bees are drawn to purple, blue, white, and yellow. Most pollinators prefer native over non native plants. Natives are also usually lower maintenance plants in our gardens as they are adapted to our region. Perennials offer the highest quality nectar and pollen but there are exceptions. Some bees are specialists, like the squash bee that prefers only squash, pumpkin, and gourd blossoms.

Annuals have the advantage of blossoming all season long. Bees flock to alyssum, cleome, zinnias, sunflowers, calendula and verbena. Herbs, if they flower, will also attract the pollinators to vegetable gardens. Planting some of the above in vegetable gardens is beneficial for plants that require insect pollination. As I was completing this newsletter near the end of April, I was delighted to see bumblebees in my flower beds! Read more here about Ontario bees: [Native Bees](#)

Garlic Mustard Management

Garlic Mustard is an invasive herb native to Europe. In recent decades it has escaped into the wild in Ontario and is now the most aggressive forest invader. Garlic mustard has two distinct life stages over its first two years. In the first year, it grows only a cluster of leaves shaped like a rosette, while a strong root system develops. Plants that survive the winter produce flowers and hundreds of seeds in their second year.

Dense stands produce more than 60,000 seeds per square metre. Stands of garlic mustard can double in size every four years. Garlic mustard seeds are easily spread by people and animals. They can remain in the soil for up to 30 years and still be able to sprout. The plant can grow in a wide range of sunny and fully shaded habitats, including undisturbed forest, forest edges, riverbanks and roadsides. Garlic mustard does not provide a valuable food source for native wildlife. Once established it can displace native wildflowers like trilliums and trout lily. It hinders other plants by interfering with the growth of fungi that bring nutrients to the roots of the plants.

There have been conflicting reports about how to manage this plant: to pull or to cut off? The answer lies in the density. For areas with a few plants like most of our gardens and outlying populations, pulling is recommended ideally in Mid May to early June before it flowers.

Do not compost. For larger areas pulling at the edges followed by cutting the plants before flowering to prevent seed production and mowing for large areas is recommended. Controlled burns are also successful. Read more here:

[Garlic Mustard](#)

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 (for online orders).

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

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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 - Susan MacMillan

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

Speakers and Programs – Connie Godyn & Roxanne Riley

*The world's favorite season is
spring. All things seem possible
in May.*

Edwin Way Teale