

The GardenShed

AUTUMN 2019

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE APPLE COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB



JAPANESE MAPLE

Photo by Barrie Wood



The GardenShed

~ From the Editor

After a short foray into cooler temperatures, the autumn weather has about-faced and is now almost balmy again. I am writing in the last few days of October, and have been coat-free all week. Someday soon – maybe when the threatened rain starts tomorrow – I might be forced to forsake my sandals for shoes and socks, but not quite yet. Flowers are still blooming in my garden and though the veggies have slowed down, they are soldiering on, untouched by frost.

It's pretty hard not to enjoy this prolonged sunshine and warm weather, but I have to admit it's posing a bit of a moral dilemma for me. If this unseasonably pleasant weather is actually the result of global warming, should I be enjoying it? I'd love to know how you feel about this conundrum.

Regardless of warmer temperatures, a sure sign that winter is indeed coming is that our Garden Club activities are winding down for the year. For those of you who are new to the club, our last meeting of 2019 will be on November 19th. It's our Annual General Meeting, at which our executive officers are invested and prizes are awarded. It is also a great, old-fashioned pot-luck dinner, so make sure you arrive hungry, because I can pretty much guarantee that the food will be terrific. I look forward to seeing you there!

~ Lorelyn



A decorative pumpkin from our October flower arranging workshop.
– Photo by Sharron MacDonald

~ From the President

Well... fall arrived with a thud. As I write this it's 7 C and it looks like another round of rain. (Where was that in July and August?) It's time to start the annual clean-up of the gardens and yards, putting away potted plants and generally tidying up before the end of gardening season.

Our fall program got off to a somewhat surprising start as we found out a week before our September meeting that we had been bumped from our usual space at the Keeler Centre. At a hastily called meeting, Billy, Sharron and I went over the options, and after discarding the possibility of using the arena floor (that was in the process of being flooded for skating) it was decided that we could use the lower inside lobby, which we would have to share with the figure skating club that would be holding registration at the same time. We



persevered and - even though the acoustics were less than optimal - Susan Chan provided a very informing talk on pollinators and how to provide a welcoming environment in our gardens to promote their proliferation.

As well, Joanne Titus and her helpers rose to the occasion and organized our Fall Vegetable and Flower Show which, although somewhat cramped for space, still managed a great showing. To those who participated: thank you. The veggies were well represented, the flowers, in spite of a somewhat unforgiving summer, looked beautiful and my favourites, the arrangements, were all cleverly thought out and displayed. Well done to everyone!

With the fall comes the end of our club year and a look forward to our programs for 2020. We are planning a full schedule and also a return of our highly successful Trash and Treasures sale in August, so start saving those items and trinkets. We also need a location for this year's sale (SO VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!). With it also comes the need to fill some positions on your executive. We are still in need of a Vice President, and several committee chair and program director slots are wanting to be filled.

If you are interested please contact any of the current executive between now and our AGM in November. It is a chance to give back to the club, it's enjoyable and it's really rewarding.

So that's it from me this issue, short and sweet, and, as always ... may the sun always be on your back and the rain out of your boots, and good gardening everyone.

~ Jim



Cori Hall's beautiful photo took first place in our October Photography Show.



~~ September, 2019 Presentation ~~

POLLINATOR GARDEN DESIGN

with Susan Chan

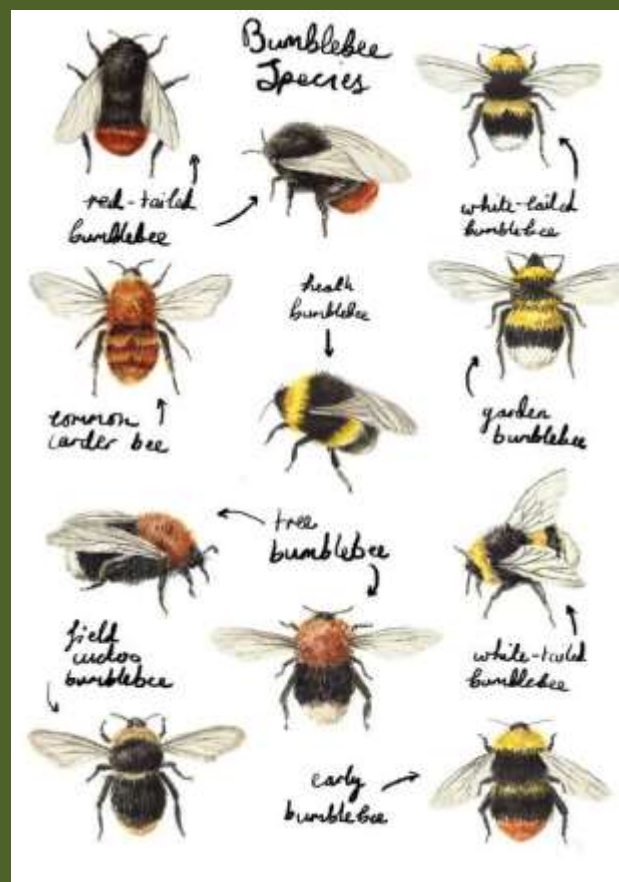


Susan Chan presented “Pollinator Garden Design” to the Apple Country Garden Club on Tuesday September 17, 2019. Susan has an extensive academic background, culminating in her current pursuit of a PH.D at the University of Guelph in Environmental Science. She also teaches courses at Trent University. Outside academia, Susan works with many organizations, notably Ontario’s farmers, to make the conservation of native pollinators more understandable. Her book on the subject is called *The Landowner’s Guide to Conserving Native Pollinators on Farms: a Technical Guide for Preserving and Creating Habitat for Pollinators on Ontario’s Farms*.

Why, Susan asks, should we care about pollinator gardens? Because pollinators and their habitats provide for our food and that of native animals, in fact they affect every rung of the biodiversity ladder. Pollinators enhance the reproduction and genetic diversity of about 80% of the plant species

and more than half of plant species are completely dependent on pollination. Although there are many pollinators (wind, humans, animals etc.) bees are the most valuable because their fuzzy bodies are purpose-built to gather pollen from flowers. So, let’s talk bees.

There are over 400 species of bees in Ontario (20,000 worldwide) and there are three specific types of bees: honey bees (which are domesticated) can forage 3 to 5 km from their hives and if they sting, they die; bumble bees – about 15 types, shown below – can forage 1 km from home and



are peaceful but will sting if provoked and do not die in so doing; solitary bees – about 382 types – can forage 100 to 500 km from their underground nests.

Another important fact about bees: generalists, such as the honey and bumble bee, can forage anywhere (they need April to November flowers, so that when one is finished blooming another begins); specialists only visit specific plants (eg. squash, thistle) within a narrow bloom window. Farmers can build farm “towns” by mass planting to attract the specialist bees. It’s important to leave stems to provide homes for these bees.

What do bees need – how to create a habitat:

- Nest, hive, underground rodent tunnel
- Access to building materials (they need mud to build walls of the cells)
- Water
- Flowering plants
- Protection (from exposure, pesticides)

Honey bees need man-made beehives and a wide range of flowers. Bumble bees need rodents’ nests, small boxes, flowers April to October, protection from pesticides, overgrown wild spaces and shelter for overwintering. The April flowers are a necessity when the bees emerge in the spring. Bumble bees are territorial but will not sting unless their nest is threatened. Solitary bees are generally not aggressive, live in the ground or in hollow stems, soil or rotten wood, need April to October flowers, access to mud, leaves, petals to make nests, and protection from pesticides. Their nests are vertical tunnels with 3 to 5 nest cells, where the larva eat the stuff in the cells. Several unique bees can be found in any garden or farmer’s field. For example, the

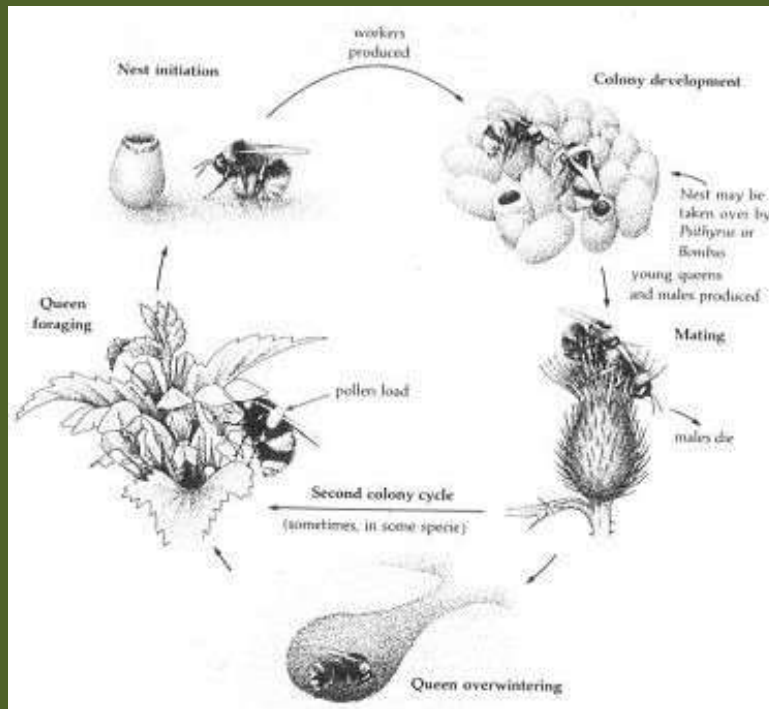
leaf cutter bee has an elaborate ‘string of cells’ nest and will cut your rose leaves and petunias. The wool carder bees shave the hairs off lambs’ ears to use as building materials for their nests!

In summary, Susan stressed that the most important human contribution to the habitat of bees is to have a garden that is in continual bloom. This takes planning and design. If a plant or type of plant isn’t thriving, check the soil, water, sun exposure etc. and move things around until you get it right. It will be a relief to those of you who prefer a groomed lawn, to know that ground nesting bees like mowed grass!

Create pollinator hotels with the dried stems of, for instance, phragmites, the most dreaded of noxious weeds, because these are the perfect habitats for some types of bees. In fact, consider the value of weeds and don’t obliterate all of them from your garden. Let vegetables and herbs go to flower. The Ceratina (small carpenter bee) like to nest in dead wood stems, so manage your raspberry plants accordingly.

These words of wisdom can be found in the book mentioned above and in the transcripts of Susan’s lectures and courses. Clearly this is a lifetime passion for Susan Chan, both an avocation and vocation, and we would do well to listen to her plea. This is something that an individual can do to mitigate further damage to our planet.

Happily, thanks to some of Cramahe’s Garden Club members, ably led by Karen Prins, there are bug hotels and motels in our Castleton and Ecology Gardens, and in the hands of the children who frequent the workshops put on by the Apple Country Garden Club. Every little bit helps.



The above is the lifecycle of a bumble bee colony, just another of Susan's intriguing charts. Thanks very much to Susan Chan, who can be reached at peponapis@yahoo.com and (705) 652-0059

~ Robin Young

~~ Fall Vegetable & Decorative Flower Show ~~



Photos by Sharron MacDonald

~~~ Giggles from the Garden ~~~

I am sure many of you who read this column in *The GardenShed* often say to yourselves, “Wherever does Barrie find those ideas? They are so clever and funny – and so original!”

Oh. . . You didn’t. Well, **some** of you must say that to yourselves . . . ok **ONE** of you might briefly entertain this thought – never mind!

The point of it is, it’s a massively cerebral job, that sucks up all my waking moments, (except maybe when I’m practicing my guitar, biking, baking, canning, listening to jazz, playing crokinole, reading, or maybe even gardening). But I sit here today, bereft of ideas, humorous or otherwise. But then, out of the blue, the Editor-in-Chief of this *GardenShed* forwards me an email and .. voila! ... salvation (and plagiarism) is at hand!! I had looked at doing something humorous with all the Latin nomenclature in botany and seed catalogues, but didn’t get enough hits to continue. And now this classy clay garden marker appears:

Bloomis Notimus. And this: ***Insectus Attractis***.

And lo and behold, there’s a whole bunch of them, better than anything I could ever make up:

Herbaceous Invaseous, ***Mudis Alloverus***, ***Fungus Amungus***, and ***Itsa Whatsis***.

We find a certain wistfulness over failure:

Plantum Whydibuyum, ***Foodus Varmiticus***, ***Peakus Lastweekus***, ***Flora Failforsureus***

Here’s the admission of obsession:

Gardenitis Uncontrollus, ***Plantaholica Uncurablis***, and ***Costa Fortunii***.

And the age old bargaining between Humans and Plant Life:

Quid Pro Grow (that is, we work ourselves to a frazzle, and Nature does whatever she wants),

Weedis Victorious leading to ***Twigga Mortis***.

UNLESS we dig deeper, schlep more compost, hoe harder, water more thoroughly, and weed more often, in which case we deserve clay markers that say:

Notorious Laborious, ***Satisfactum Sufficientus*** and ***Worthitus Maximus***.

All these (minus the last two, which I *did* make up myself) are available from Amaranth Pottery Supply in Kingston (amaranthstoneware.ca) for \$11.00 each. Other cool stuff there, too. I thank them for their wit and creativity. I’ll rejoin you myself next time.

Still enjoying raspberries from the late-fruiting first year cane,

~ Barrie Wood



~~~ Bug Hotel in Castleton ~~~



Senior kindergarten and Grade 1 students from Northumberland Hills Public School in Castleton each made a section to the bug hotel.



With the help of Karen Prins and her team, they then each made and decorated a bug hotel of their own to take home.



Once all the sections were put together, Len Salvati installed the new bug hotel in our Castleton garden.



~~~ Over the Garden Fence ~~~

(Neighbouring Horticultural Societies)

Brighton Horticulture meets at King Edward Community Centre, 81 Elizabeth St. 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Upcoming meetings: Nov.26, **Sue Hawley** of Hawley Gardens: Lovely Weeds, plus AGM, Installation of Officers & Potluck Dinner at 5:30.

Cobourg Horticulture meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Upcoming meetings: Nov 6, **Carson Arthur**, *The Future of Gardening* + AGM; Dec 4, **Doug McCrae**, *Birds & Wildlife in Your Garden* + Christmas Greenery Exchange + Christmas Design, Photography & Craft Show.

Grafton Horticulture meets at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Upcoming meetings: Nov 12, **Julie McCuaig** of Quinn's Blooms, *Creating an Outdoor Wonder* + AGM; Dec 10, Christmas Pot Luck; Jan 7/20, **Bev Silk**, *Garden Snippets – Year in Review* + Chili Supper.

Peterborough Horticulture meets at the Lions' Centre, 347 Burnham St., Peterborough, 4th Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings: Nov 27, **Vikki Whitney**, *Winterscaping: Not Your Average Holiday Décor*.

Port Hope & District Horticulture meets at the Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St. S., 2nd Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm. Upcoming meetings: Nov. 18, *Ideas for Planters and Other Decorations*; Dec. 16, Various Garden Styles from the documentary series *Gardens of the World with Audrey Hepburn*, plus Christmas Flower & Photography Show; Jan. 20, AGM, speaker tba.

~~~ From One Gardener to Another ~~~

About two months ago, I put all my little red lupines in the ground for the winter. I also mulched them. They put on a good bit of growth and they look good. Hope they all survive till spring.

This year, I've run into some conflicting information regarding the way to grow lupines. In Lois Hole's book *Perennial Favorites*, she states that lupines dislike acidic soil and that they grow well in poor or alkaline soil and can withstand periods of drought.

In another book, Brian Davis says severe drought seems to be the only thing that upsets lupines. The soil they like is neutral to acid, as alkaline soils may be too dry. This actually fits in with how I cultivate them, using about four times the usual amount of peat moss. I thought they liked a slightly acidic soil (hence more peat) but it may be that my method simply retains more moisture. At any rate, I find that the Russell hybrids are still the best choice.





So ... who do you believe for advice? This is where older, experienced gardeners are valuable, because you can ask for advice and hopefully avoid mistakes. Or, of course, you can still do it your way and observe the results. If they are not satisfactory, then you can try another method.

Did you know that too much sun, especially between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. can damage plants with very thin leaf skins or membranes? In strong sunlight the fluids within the leaf can boil and damage the leaf cells, causing scorching and the death of the leaf. If this happens too often, to too many leaves, the plant may die. I see this quite frequently, mainly in hostas. Many people have bragged to me that they "can grow hostas in full sun". Sure .. if the soil is consistently moist and it's a sun-tolerant variety. But observe the plant – it may be telling you it is *not* happy. Move it to a place where it gets a half day of sun.

Plant selection: when you are choosing plants at a nursery or garden centre, look for bushy plants with foliage that shows no

sign of distress or of pests or diseases. This is not usually a problem with a reputable supplier, but it is still always wise to check. And don't be afraid to tip the plant out of the pot to check the root system. Plants are available in so many places these days, not just at garden centres and nurseries, but if you want properly named varieties and healthy stock, it is worth seeking out a specialist nursery. And please, whenever possible, support smaller micro-nurseries. It would be a shame to lose them all, as the people who run them usually have extensive knowledge and often have unusual or older varieties not commonly available.

About five weeks ago we had another willow tree go down in our yard. I heard the wood fibres cracking behind me and I turned around to watch it go down. It's actually kind of interesting to see (as long as you're a safe distance away) because it's almost in slow motion. Luckily, I was on the other side of the property this time. The main trunk landed on our huge woodpile (from three previously standing willows). It took John and me a week and a half to clear the twiggy brush to be able to get around the property. Also, a lot more logs were added to the woodpile. It also tore down the clothesline – again. So the moral of this story is, please do not plant willows. They may look nice for you now but when they age they can be trouble for future generations. I think that's about eight willows down now. Only nine more to go! We are now taking bets on which one is next. All for now,

~ Peg Howden





Garden to Table

Peg's niece Sarah's Sweet Potato Soup

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| ¼ c. olive oil | 3 onions, diced |
| 4 garlic cloves, minced | 2 celery ribs, sliced thinly |
| 8 c. vegetable broth | ½ c. diced tomato, peeled & cubed
(or a whole can) |
| 2 medium/large sweet potatoes | ¼ tsp. nutmeg (or more, to taste) |
| 1 carrot, sliced thinly | dash cayenne pepper (to taste) |
| 1 ½ tsp. salt | 2 tbsp. minced parsley |
| Black pepper | |
| 5 c. torn kale, spinach or chard | |

1. Heat oil in pot, sauté onion, celery and garlic 10 minutes.
2. Stir in all other ingredients except greens. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 45 minutes until potatoes are tender.
3. Puree 2 c. or so in the blender and return to pot.
4. Stir in greens and cook 5 minutes more.

~~ Please Join Us ~~

... on *facebook* or online at cramahehort.ca

... or at a meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month
in the Keeler Centre in Colborne.

Final meeting of the year:

Tuesday, Nov. 19th Doors open at 5:00
Pot Luck Dinner at 6:00

AGM, Installation of Officers and Awards

The Apple Country Garden Club

President: **Jim Detenbeck**
detenbeckgary@gmail.com

Secretary: **Trish O'Brien**
twillow_51@hotmail.com

Treasurer: **Clair Breton**
clairbreton@bell.net

Newsletter: **Lorelyn Morgan**
lgm@sympatico.ca



The last rose of summer.
Photo taken in Lorelyn's garden on Oct. 29th by Barrie Wood.

Growing our community...

...one garden at a time.

