

The GardenShed

Spring 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE APPLE COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB



Spring 2021

Near Dow's Lake, Ottawa



the Garden Shed

Spring 2021

~ from the Editor

Here we are again (or still) in lock-down due to COVID-19. Hopefully we'll all be double vaccinated by the end of the summer and we can end this pandemic once and for all.

The winter just came and went, totally unnoticed in our house. I read a lot of books, watched a few movies, talked on the phone and Skype & Zoom. However, I didn't do anything about organizing the boxes of pictures and keepsakes *again* this year. Oh well, there's always next year.

In this issue, the results of the baby picture contest from the Winter Issue are in. We had guesses of **Jaclyn Smith, Bernadette Peters, Stefanie Powers** and **Stockard Channing**...but no, it wasn't them. I even got two guesses! But no, it wasn't me either. We had three right answers! Actually, baby pictures may be too hard to guess. I am wondering if next year we should use pictures of our mothers at our age to test our sleuthing abilities. What say you?

There are no recipes this issue. I guess everyone has started their pre-summer diets!

We normally do a Spring/Summer combination newsletter issue because we don't meet during the summer months and because we haven't had much of a chance to stay in touch or keep up-to-date, I decided to add a summer issue to our newsletter complement this year. So please plan to participate if you can. It will probably be sent out at the end of July. I will give you notice of the deadline date.

Spring time is such a great time of year when the new growth and new buds start popping out. Each day is a new and more wonderful canvas. I have raked off my gardens, dug in some compost and peat moss in anticipation of the planting at the end of May. I am hoping that it will be a good growing season and the summer will bring an abundance of healthy flowers and vegetables to all of our gardens.



~ Shannon

~ from the President

Well, here I sit watching the snow fall on April 21st and I am wondering WHY? I know that Mother Nature always likes to throw us a curve ball, especially in April and on occasion, in May.

There were a lot of pictures shared on Facebook today of everyone's gardens covered in snow with all the poor Daffodils and Tulips bowing their heads under the weight. Thank goodness we know that this just a minor inconvenience and we will soon be able to get out into our gardens once again. This snow will be short lived and by tomorrow the flowers will be upright and in their full glory!



We've had a long year of no activity for our garden club, but hopefully now with more people getting vaccinated we will see an end to the lockdown and be able to resume some of our planned activities. The Board of Directors had a Zoom meeting this week to do some planning for the coming year. Rest assured, we are planning on being involved in the Community.

For starters, we are planning on having our **Plant Sale on Saturday, May 29th** from 10:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m., or whenever the plants are gone! Due to COVID, we are doing things differently this year. We are not having anyone drop off plants the day before, but rather, we will meet in Victoria Square Park at 8:00 a.m. for drop off of your plants and the sale will start at 10:00 a.m. We will increase the distance between people and tables and reduce as much as possible the amount of time that people need to be together. Each table will have their own cash so as to reduce the amount of people lining up to pay and the we will have a system set up to keep the flow of people going. All Health Department regulations

will be adhered to and we will be providing hand sanitizer.

Our Plant Sale is our largest fund raiser for our club, so your participation is vital. Please remember, when you are splitting and dividing your plants, to pot them up and put tags in them to tell us what they are -- what kind, how much sun or shade, perennial or annual, etc. We have set a rain/COVID date of June 5th in case we are not able to meet on the 29th.

Since we won't be meeting in May, we have decided that there will be no Mini Spring Flower Show. We are going to do the June Flower Show though. We will have no way of knowing if we will be able to meet by that time, so we are having our **FIRST VIRTUAL FLOWER SHOW** using pictures, held on our regular meeting night -- June 15th. We have a judge who will be looking after the entries and the pictures will be sent to her for judging. More about this soon. Hopefully, you will enjoy this method of showing off your wonderful flowers, house plants and decorative displays. I know this is not ideal, but something is better than nothing at this point. Most of you have devoted yourselves to your gardens in the past year and I am sure many of you would love to share your talents with us!

Speaking of gardens, The Apple Country Garden Club is having a contest to pick the best **HOPE GARDEN** in Cramahe Township. We will be looking at gardens in Colborne and Castleton and guess what ... the members can participate! We will be looking for **front gardens** that have embraced the call to plant yellow flowers this year to represent HOPE. Let's try to make our little village come alive with yellow.

We have also chosen our Flower of the Year for 2021 and it is **RUDBECKIA – BROWN EYED SUSAN**, so if you want to show off some yellow colour in your garden, this would be a good one. Also, it is in the Flower Show as Best Flower of the Year.

Len Salvati, our Ecology Garden Director, advised us that the raised beds in the garden have had a height addition put on them and new earth added. Seedlings have already been planted in anticipation of the May sale. He also advised that there have been 2 truck loads of mulch dropped at the ecology garden and he and Don Clark have been busy spreading the chips throughout the garden.

We now have 55 members signed up for this year and we have had some new members join as well. Pretty good considering we have been in an almost constant state of lockdown for the past year.

The Garden Club will be providing the Hanging Baskets to the Community this year, but of course, COVID restrictions will apply. We had planned to do the chairs, but we have to find out if the town is going to do the planned restructuring of the main street. If we are able, chair plants will be done as well.

We will continue to have Zoom meetings with guest speakers and we must thank the Grafton Green Thumbs for including us in their meetings each month. I am busy working on the speakers list for 2022 and I will be working on the Year Book as well in hopes that we will be meeting in person come January 2022 ... keep your fingers crossed folks!



“Life begins the day you start a garden”

~ Sharron

March 9, 2021
The Grafton Green Thumbs and
The Apple Country Garden Club
present
“ALL ABOUT BULBS”
with Anna Leggatt

Anna Leggatt is a widely travelled master gardener. She is a botanist who has authored an impressive number of articles for, among others, the Globe and Mail, Toronto Life Gardening and Landscape Ontario. She also counts among her many skills and talents, award winning photography.

Ms. Leggatt has been a member, director or chair of numerous societies, including the East York Garden Club, the Kortright Centre for Conservation, and the Ontario and North American Rock Garden Societies. As well, she belongs to Rock Garden Societies in many other countries. All of which, it goes without saying, means she is eminently qualified to discuss bulbs. Her encyclopedic knowledge on the subject is first hand. She has the luxury of a greenhouse and a large shady garden that she shares with the wildlife in the area and she is compelled to create an ever changing landscape in her own space.

March 9th, 2021, via Zoom, the Apple Country Garden Club was pleased to partner with the Grafton Green Thumbs in hosting Anna Leggatt who shared her wins and losses, hits and misses, successes and failures and her wisdom and experience with the members.

So for those of you who failed Latin or you process language at other than the speed of light here is a primer on bulbs.

The true bulb (tulip, ornamental onion, daffodil); corm (crocus, gladioli); and rhizome (ornamental grasses); tuberous root, (dahlias, daylilies); and tuber (all kinds of lilies, iris); are all storage facilities for nutrients meant to supply their flowering parts with sustenance during the off season, they differ in how they do that. The tuber is an enlarged underground structure; the tuberous root is a modified enlarged lateral root which can be produced at the end or middle of a root, or it could involve the whole root; the corm is a short, vertical, swollen underground plant stem; and the rhizome is (or rather are) modified stems running underground horizontally, striking new roots out of their nodes.

Clearly the storage function of these bulbs is their raison d'être, but we must be aware that there are some negatives separating you from the glorious flower garden you crave. After all gardening is a lesson in humility at the best of times.

Here are but a few. Bulbs can rot. They can be a buffet lunch for woodland creatures and every other herbivore in the neighbourhood. They can be attacked by legions of plant specific insect such as the lily beetle. Rhizomes spread like wildfire and their underground network of “new root” nodes make it virtually impossible to remove completely.

Of course there are techniques and products to help you wage war, but it's fair to say that bulb gardening takes steady nerves and an optimistic nature.

However the results make it all worthwhile.

Our speaker shared many beautiful pictures from her own camera with us, where she found plants common to our zone, growing in very different locations and circumstances. For example here are but a few: hyacinth in stoney areas and tulips on dry mountain slopes of Iran; gloriosa lilies in the sand dunes of South Africa; Himalayan may apples in China; blue Chilean crocus in the mountains of Chile; silver shamrock, 2,000 feet up in the Andes and so on.

Your humble scribe could troll the Internet for examples of these lovely flowers but they would not be in situ. Nor would they do justice to Ms. Leggatt's photography.



Anna Leggett

The horticulture/travel log by Ms. Leggatt provided lots to think about and we thank her for her presentation.

~ Robin Y

~ *interesting facts*

~ **About the Dandelion**

- *Spring's favourite flower*

- Dandelions, from as long as 1,000 years ago were used as a food source and in folk medicine to treat infections and liver disorders. The tea is used as a diuretic.
- Dandelion can be used in the production of wine and root beer. The root of the dandelion can be used as a substitute for coffee.
- The dandelion is the only flower that represents the 3 celestial bodies of the sun, moon and stars. The yellow flower resembles the sun, the puffball resembles the moon and the dispersing seeds resemble the stars.
- The dandelion flower opens to greet the morning and closes in the evening to go to sleep.
- Every part of the dandelion is useful; root, leaves, flower. It can be used for food, medicine and dye for colouring.
- Up until the 1800s people would pull grass out of their lawns to make room for dandelions and other useful "weeds" like Chickweed, Malva and Chamomile.
- The name dandelion is taken from the French word "dent-de-lion" meaning lion's tooth, referring to the coarsely-toothed leaves.
- Dandelions have one of the longest flowering seasons of any plant.
- Dandelion seeds are often transported away by a gust of wind and they travel like tiny parachutes. Seeds are often carried as many as 5 miles from their origin!
- Animals such as birds, insects and butterflies consume nectar or seed of dandelion.
- Dandelion flowers do not need to be pollinated to form seed.



- If you mow dandelions, they'll grow shorter stalks to spite you.
- Dandelions are, quite possibly, the most successful plants that exist, masters of survival worldwide.
- A not so fun fact: Every year countries spend millions on lawn pesticides to have uniform lawns of non-native grasses and we use 30% of the country's water supply to keep them green.



~ thank you to
Sharron M and her source
- Bee Happy Gardens



~~~ *From One Gardener to Another* ~~~

One day in March this year, I glanced out my living room window looking for birds at the feeders. There were none. I thought that was rather curious as there is usually a steady supply. I sat down in my chair near the window to read a while. When I looked out the window again I saw a Cooper's hawk perched on the little table near my front door. This is only about 8 feet away from the window. Of course, there were no birds! They knew he was there to hunt so they were hiding. I watched him for a full minute before he flew off. I usually see one here several times in the winter but never this close. I just love these encounters with nature.

Saw something else this winter I've never seen before. A squirrel on the veranda appeared to be eating the highbush cranberries from the branches I had put in my winter display baskets. I have two of my own cranberry shrubs on the property as the winter display of red berries is very nice. And I thought the fruits were supposed to attract wildlife but I had never observed this before. On further examination, I found the squirrel had left the fruit and only eaten the large seed inside.

On the veranda I have one hanging basket that will need a new coco fibre liner and fresh soil in the spring. So in the fall, I decided to put an old metal cake pan on it and use it as a feeder. Well it has been a great source of entertainment for us. It is only about 8 feet away from the living room window so we have very good views of the birds who come to it. And of course the squirrels like it too. It's easy for them to hop from the top rail on the veranda to the planter. And it's sheltered from rain and snow. I know, I know -- my wild critter friends are spoiled! But they give me so much pleasure they are worth it.



April 21. I started my tomatoes, red peppers and some annual flowers today. It seemed like the thing to do as the outdoors was covered in about 5 inches of snow today.

I'm still waiting on a mail order of roots and bulbs to come. Then I got to thinking -- where am I going to put them? I don't actually have any open garden space. I suppose I could eliminate some other plants -- NOT! The other solution is to make a new garden so that's what I'll do. Where? I haven't worked that out yet.

I've read a few good books over the past year. If you are interested in nature, I highly recommend:

- 'Mother Nature is Trying to Kill You', by Dan Riskin.
My favourite chapter is 'Georgia on my Mind'.
- 'Tree – a Life Story' by David Suzuki (one of our national treasures) and Wayne Grady
- 'The Hidden Life of Trees' by Peter Wohlleben.

All are available at our local library. However, I don't know how access works during this COVID lock-down.

So far, I've potted up 15 plants for our possible plant sale in late May. I guess it all depends on the status of COVID and the weather as the day approaches. At any rate, 15 plants are not too many to care for. If the sale doesn't happen, I'll put them back in the ground for another time.

What is your most special time of day? Mine is almost first thing in the morning. My cat, Roamer wakes me up to say he is hungry and wants his morning meat. That's my Prince Roamer! So of course I get up to fulfill his wishes.

Then while my coffee is brewing, I fill all the bird feeders outside. Then it's my turn. I sit in my comfy-wumfy chair in the living room and enjoy my coffee. The house is quiet as John is not usually up yet. I can see 3 feeders from my position and I just enjoy the bird activity. This is my most treasured time of every day.

All for now.

~ Peggy H.

~~~ Little Sprout Corner ~~~

The results are in!

Which of our Garden Club members do you think these baby sprouts grew up to be?



One correct guess was made by Karen P.



Robin Y.

After living and working in Ottawa for 40 years I retired and moved to Colborne where I delight in working on my spacious gardens, have a particular fondness for the bright and beautiful colours of annuals and a particular aversion for squirrels!. There's quite a story there! I relish the camaraderie of the Garden Club and I do enjoy the speakers who have graced our podium because I learn a lot while writing the synopsis of their presentations for the newsletter.



Two correct guesses were made: one by Valerie D, one by Clair B.



Karen P.

Karen has been a member of the Garden Club since 2015. During that time she has successfully kept track of the recipients of the show awards and made sure of all updates to those trophies for disbursement at the AGM. In addition, there sure are a lot of smiley-faced youths in our town due to Karen's abilities to develop and deliver children's arts & crafts programs held at the libraries and other locations. The Ecology Garden hosts the Bug Hotel that she orchestrated with the help of the children in the community. With all she does for the Garden Club, it is amazing that she finds the time and energy to look after her exquisite and rambling gardens on her property.

No correct guesses were made



Clair B.

I moved here from Oakville in 2009 as a new retiree and started volunteering in the community, for the community; policing and also as a member of the library board.

Since becoming a member of the club in 2014 I have enjoyed holding the position of treasurer which means I manage the club's income, expenses, grant applications, reporting and our membership.

I like gardening but love cooking the bountiful harvest from the garden. I also enjoy escaping the Canadian winters for Florida and returning in the spring to prepare for the gardening season and reconnecting with the group.

And which of our Garden Club members do you think these baby sprouts grew up to be?



Member's current picture will be revealed here next issue.

Sprout #1

***- email your guesses to
acgc.gardenshed@gmail.com***



Member's current picture will be revealed here next issue.

Sprout #2

***- email your guesses to
acgc.gardenshed@gmail.com***



Member's current picture will be revealed here next issue.

Sprout #3

***- email your guesses to
acgc.gardenshed@gmail.com***

~~~ *Over the Garden Fence* ~~~

(Neighbouring Horticultural Societies)

The Horticultural clubs have been closed to public meetings due to COVID since March 2020. Where possible, there has been some effort made by the individual clubs to keep the club somewhat active during the past months.

Events shown here are planned for 2021 but due to COVID-19 are subject to change.

Brighton Horticulture meets at King Edward Community Centre, 81 Elizabeth St. 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. All meetings are on-hold due to COVID-19.

May 15	Plant Sale - Outdoor Event	Curling Club parking lot; 85 Elizabeth St.
June 12	Spring Flower Show	King Edward Community Centre
August 14	Annual Flower & Vegetable Show	King Edward Community Centre
Sept 11	Plant Sale - Outdoor Event	Curling Club parking lot; 85 Elizabeth St.

Cobourg Horticulture meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Due to the on-going pandemic, this year's speakers will be coming to us via Zoom. CHS members will receive an invitation via email approximately two weeks before each session.

May 22 & 23	Plant Sale	In driveways/yards of members
Possible Late July	4-Club Garden Tour	for members of Cobourg, Cramahe, Grafton & Port Hope

Grafton Green Thumbs meet at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. All meetings on hold due to COVID-19.

The following shows will be virtual if we don't have in-person meetings.

May 22	Plant Sale 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon	Held at various homes
June 8	Flower Show - 6:30p.m.	St. Andrew's United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd.
Sept 14	Summer Flower Show - 6:30 p.m.	St. Andrew's United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd.

Peterborough Horticulture meets at the Lions' Centre, 347 Burnham St., Peterborough, 4th Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Online! Utilizing the Zoom platform for the foreseeable future. The meeting link will be forwarded to all members a day or two prior to the meeting.

Port Hope Garden Club meets at the Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St. S., 2nd Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm. All meetings are on-hold due to COVID-19.

May 15	Plant Sale	Carol Elliott's driveway, 87 Hope St. N.
May 22	Plant Sale	Paulette Mauzer's side yard, 123 King St. S.
June 21	Flower Show	Virtual
August 16	Flower & Vegetable Show	Currently planned for in-person at this time
Casual spring & summer member's garden tours are in planning stages.		

~~ Please Join Us ...

Apple Country Garden Club (Cramahe) meets 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Keeler Centre, 80 Division Street, Colborne. All meetings are on-hold due to COVID-19.

May 29
June 15

Plant Sale, 8:00 a.m. - noon
Flower Show

Victoria Square, Colborne
Virtual

on Facebook or online at cramahehort.ca

Black-Eyed Susan - Flower of the Year



These tall full-sun loving perennial flowers bloom in late summer through fall.

No special care is required for these sweet smelling flowers which come in in shades of orange, lemon-yellow and gold.

An added bonus, they attract pollinators such as bees and hummingbirds to your yard when they start to bloom. Not only that, Black-eyed Susan's are deer and rabbit resistant.

Available as bedding plants in early spring, but are easily grown from seed as well. In fall, let them go to seed and self-sow themselves for the next summer.

- If you start early and want to get in the second round of flowering, deadhead the plants after the flower dies back. Pinch off the stems at the base. This action stimulates new growth, pushing more stems out to flower.
- To attract birds into your garden, leave some of the seeded heads on the stalks. Birds love eating the seeds, and you'll see plenty of different species arrive in your garden to feast.

- When you leave your black-eyed Susan's to seed, it results in more plants, with different hybrid colours appearing in your flowerbed the following season.
- However, these plants do seed wildly, so make sure you weed out any smaller or excess plants the following season or takeover your flowerbeds.
- Propagate black-eyed Susan's in the early springtime, just as they start to grow, or when flowering finishes in the late fall. Dig up the root ball and split it into sections using a sharp knife. Make sure each section has roots before replanting.
- Replant your newly propagated plants at least 12 to 18-inches apart. Remember to water at soil level to prevent the onset of white powdery mildew.
- Common pests affecting your black-eyed Susan's are Snails, Aphids, Rust, Leaf Spot and White powdery mildew.

The Apple Country Garden Club

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*Growing our community ...
One garden at a time.*