

The GardenShed

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE APPLE COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

Winter 2024



Cramahe Township, Telephone Road
Photo by Shannon S.



~ From the Editor

Well, here we are....another year older and deeper... (well, you know the saying). I hope everyone had a great holiday season and that once all the goodies are eaten and the leftovers have been made into some new recipe and frozen for another day, you're ready to settle in and relax with seed catalogues and garden design magazines.

2023 was a pretty good year for the Apple Country Garden Club. We got to meet regularly ...and mostly....without masks...

We had a very good summer and Fall with much sunshine and enough rain that our gardens were growing happily and successfully.

Happy New Year



This issue is about closing off the year 2023, celebrating our successes, setting out plans for the coming year and getting ready for the 2024 gardening season.

Because the majority of the members said they were interested, 2 of our 8 scheduled meetings this year will be in the form of open forum discussions. *Talkin' about gardening is what I'm talkin' about!*

Also, I've included some repeat entries, as reminders for most, but helpful for our newer members.

I was afraid that I would have to include a cover picture of dull green landscape because we've really had no meaningful snow up till now but lordy, lordy....here we are....snow has come and winter can be real after all.



~Shannon

the GardenShed

Winter 2024

~~Entice your Houseplants to make it through Winter

No matter what, Winter is different for houseplants. Humidity in your home is lower (~20 percent), sunshine is extremely limited. Not surprising that they complain by dropping leaves and flowers and....just look unhappy.

Here are some tips:

- Water only when your plants need it, even stop watering altogether.
 - Tropicals: when leaves begin to droop or drop, soil very dry to the touch
 - Too much water shows is indicated by yellowing leaves.
 - Misting plants for humidity is an excellent way to add moisture without over-watering.
 - create a more humid climate by putting a dish filled with stones and water
 - Cactus, Snake Plant, African Violet: when your finger shoved deep into the soil is not cool.
 - Do not let plants stand in water
 - Do not fertilize
 - Dust with a damp cloth
- Avoid Cold Air Exposure
 - place plants in an area where the temperature is warm and constant
 - avoid draughts from outside air
- Light, as in sunlight, is at a premium at this time of year and so it is natural that your plants will not be at their very best.
 - group all you plants together to give them the best environmental care
 - sun loving plants like hibiscus or bougainvillea will lose their leaves
 - you can add supplemental light by using grow lights, being careful to follow instructions on how close to place them to your plants.
- Bugs Ugh!
 - Our homes are dryer now encouraging the aphids, mealy bugs and red spider mites.
 - Use a rubbing alcohol soaked cloth to wipe away mealy bugs, spray away aphids and spider mites with tepid water every day.

~~How to Germinate Perennials during the Winter Months

Components:

1. Clear plastic container with clear plastic lid (shoe-box size). Available at the Dollar Store. Punch numerous holes in the bottom and in the lid of the container.
2. Perennial seeds of your choice.
3. Potting Soil.

Method:

1. Fill the plastic container to 1/2 full with potting soil.
2. Dampen the soil thoroughly but do not soak.
3. Sprinkle your perennial seeds onto the soil.
4. Cover the seeds with potting soil as per the seed package instructions.
5. Cover with the lid.
6. Place in a sunny (south exposure is best) location outside in the snow.
7. Let nature run it's course until the end of May. Moisture will freeze and melt through the container and the sun will bring the sprouts to life.
8. Transplant when the weather is warm and sunny

~~Warm up winter with soup lovers herb gardens

If you're a soup lover, you're an herb lover. Here are some of the best herbs to grow for your home made soups.

For hearty soups choose Bay Leaf, Rosemary & Oregano. These herbs grow well together in a south-facing window and let dry out before watering.

For creamy soups choose Parsley & Lemon Balm. These herbs like full sun and should be kept moist but well-drained. The flavour of lemon balm is perfect for lightening up creamy soups, use parsley to garnish.

For Vegetable soups choose Basil
Plant densely, place in a south-facing window and let the soil dry out before watering. Basil is excellent in minestrone and other vegetable soups.

Do you like winter Countertop Herb Gardens?

Here's a fun and easy way to create an herb garden using old tin cans and wine corks.

What you need:

- cleaned out tin cans
- spray paint
- Wooden skewers
- wine corks

To Do:

- apply two coats of spray paint to the outside of each can, let dry.
- wrap a length of raffia around each can several times, then tie into a bow.
- fill cans with soil and plant herbs or pop in a store-bought herb pot
- write the herb names on the corks, push skewers into the corks and add skewers to the soil.



~~ From one Gardener to Another~~

Ecology Garden Update

Thank you to Megan N. and her 'handy hubby' for this new Seed Box which was designed, built and installed in the Ecology Garden this year. It is just waiting for spring and will be filled up for those of us who want to swap seeds for early planting.



Also, look to the spring season for the addition of a new raised garden bed to be incorporated into the community vegetable gardens. As always, Len S. is hard-working to keep the gardens in good shape. Volunteers are always needed too!

Plant Sale

We had a wonderful day for the Plant Sale this past year.....the weather was fantastic!, the customers were plenty, all the members worked hard at gathering and bringing in the plants and attending the tables and the plants were luscious and healthy. We did sell quite a bunch of them too!



Bev Silk, Secretary of District 4 Horticultural Society was **honoured** with the **Trillium Award** at this year's OHA convention. Bev has been a member of horticultural societies since 1990s, has taken on numerous roles that run the gamut from director, secretary, and president all the while overseeing youth programs, organizing, exhibiting and judging flower shows,

This esteemed award is presented by the OHA for outstanding service in the areas of beautification, conservation, ecology, and administration at the Society, District, and/or Provincial levels. Also for the work in planting within a Society and community as well as leadership in the promotion of Horticultural Societies, their programs, membership and other worthy efforts.

Congratulations! And Well done Bev!



Cozy up Vases

Cut a long piece of an old knit sweater or scarf to fit around a plant's vase or pot, then wrap the piece around until it's entirely covered. To finish, secure the fabric in place with a few straight pins.



~~ Closing off the 2023 year ~~
~ Presentations

At the October 24th meeting of the ACGC, Julie Powell of *Quinn's Blooms & Greenery* joined us to once again show us how to *Design a Fall Table Centrepiece*. Quinn's is a full service retail outlet in Cobourg, providing floral designs for all occasions including cut flowers, hand-tied bouquets and vase arrangements.

Julie brought us a variety of fall plants and flowers and each of us, following her instructions, her suggestions and our own creativity, produced some very impressive floral arrangements.



On November 26, the **Annual General Meeting** was held along with the pot-luck dinner to close the year off.

During the year, numerous flower, photography, decorative and vegetable shows are held as part of the general meetings.

In those meetings, entries are judged and a winner is proclaimed. The awards for the winners were presented at the annual meeting.

Arthur and Marjorie Rutherford Trophy

- awarded to the exhibitor with the most points in shows over the season:
Valerie D.



Members Memorial Trophy,

- judged by the membership and awarded to
Shirley R.

Joan & Harold Hamden Silver Rose Bowl,

- awarded to the exhibitor with the most points in the Decorative Section:
Valerie D.

25th Anniversary Trophy,

- awarded to the exhibitor with the most points in the Potted Plant Section:
Valerie D.

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Rose Bowl,

- awarded to the exhibitor with the most points for roses:
Valerie D.

Amy Gresham Memorial Trophy

- awarded to the exhibitor with the most points for the 'Flower of the Year' – Cosmos
Pat J.

Hoselton Studio Trophy

- awarded to the novice with the most points:
Pat C.

Lenna Broatch Photography Trophy

- awarded to the exhibitor with the most points in the 'Photography Section'
Cori H.

Certificates of Appreciation are awarded each year to those who participated generously in exhibiting their entries at the various shows but were non-trophy winners.

April M., Ingrid A., Jo Anne T., Len S., Karen P., Claire B.

President's Award Shannon S.

Members are awarded an OHA *Length of Service Pin* after 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years. Above that level *Life Membership* is awarded. At this year's Annual General Meeting we had a number of members attaining those milestones.

Cori H.	5 year Pin
Len S.	10 year Pin
Shirley R.	20 year Pin

June J.	16 years Life Membership Certificate
Jo Anne T.	17 years Life Membership Certificate
Shirley R.	20 years Life Membership Certificate
Sharron M.	24 years Life Membership Certificate

Congratulations to all of you!

During the AGM, it was agreed by vote to name Nasturtium as the
Orange Flower of the Year 2024.

In addition, the Executive Board were sworn in to their positions for the coming year. The Board members are listed in the 2024 Year Book.

In Memoriam

our members lost in 2023



Marjorie Bailey, member since 2003

Mary Guest, member since 2014

Pat Johnston, member since 2005



~~~ ***Over the Garden Fence*** ~~~  
***(Neighbouring Horticultural Societies)***  
**2024**

**Brighton Horticulture meets at King Edward Community Centre, 81 Elizabeth St.  
 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.**

|                                              |                  |        |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| Sun Worshiper Succulents: Cacti & Succulents | Christine Gilbey | Jan 23 |
| Tools and Starting New Gardens               | Paul Battilana   | Feb 27 |
| The Dirt on Dirt                             | Carson Arthur    | Mar 26 |
| Tomato, Tomato, Tomato                       | Suzy Gabany      | Apr 23 |

**Cobourg Horticulture meets at Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy),  
 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.**

|                                       |                             |       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Soil Management & Plant Fertilization | Jeff Gardner & Chris Riddle | Feb 7 | 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm |
| Small Scale Naturalization Projects   | Carolyn Oster               | Mar 6 | 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm |
| Invasive Species                      |                             | Apr 3 | 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm |

**Grafton Green Thumbs meet at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2nd Tuesday of the  
 month at 7:00pm.**

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

|                                                  |                               |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| An Appetite for Gardening: Incorporating Edibles | Sean James                    | Jan 24 on Zoom  |
| Tropical Treasures                               | Paul Gellatly                 | Feb. 28 on Zoom |
| One of Anna's Amazing Talks                      | Anna Mizyn, Anna's Perennials | Mar. 27         |
| Rain Gardens                                     | Laura Keresztesi, GreenUp     | Apr 24          |

**Port Hope Garden Club meets at the St. John's Parish Hall, 33 Pine Street North, Port Hope, Ontario,  
 3rd Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm.**

*~~ Please Join Us ...*

on *Facebook*; online at [cramahehort.ca](http://cramahehort.ca)

## **The Apple Country Garden Club**

Meetings: Keeler Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
80 Division Street, Colborne

***Fourth*** Tuesday of the month 1:30 p.m. Jan, Feb, Mar.



**President:** Sharron MacDonald  
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**Secretary:** Trish O'Brien  
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***Growing our community ...  
One garden at a time.***