

The GardenShed

WINTER/SPRING 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE APPLE COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB



What's the Buzz

Photo by Sharron MacDonald



The GardenShed

~ From the Editor

Well, here I go again!! I have been oh so grateful to Lorelyn for offering to take over the newsletter from me a few years ago. She has done an exceptional job and seeing that no one wanted to tackle this job when she could no longer do it, I have decided to give it another go. Lorelyn has left me with a wonderful set-up and hopefully, I can continue in her footsteps!! I certainly hope that I can do the job as well as she did. Thank you Lorelyn for all your hard work and for creating this colourful and entertaining newsletter.

Now, what to talk about. The weather seems a good place to start. We have had a "Winter" this year....not to be confused with some of our other Winters in the past. I am sure that all the snow is good for something, (I am told farmers like snow) and of course kids love it. I must admit that I do like snow. Coming from B.C. 40 years ago, I was not used to seeing very much snow and what we did have would be gone in a very short time. So, I do enjoy seeing it, but not for prolonged periods. We had a very strange Winter this year and Spring is following suit. While the days recently have been sunny, the winds have kept things quite chilly. The nights are very cold for this time of the year and as I write this I understand we are supposed to have snow on April 1styes that's right....April Fools Day. I am told this is not a joke, so hopefully it won't last long. We need a little sunshine, as the old song goes. I know I have talked to a number of people lately who have said that they have found this Winter very long and they can't wait for SPRING! As gardeners, we all anticipate the arrival of

Spring because we have all planted bulbs in the Fall and we anxiously await their arrival. Of course, thanks to the squirrels, they may arrive somewhere entirely different than where you planted them, but hopefully they will show up somewhere, maybe even on your own property.

We have a busy year planned for the group and we hope that you will enjoy coming out to see the guest speakers, take part in a workshop and especially, we hope to see you come out to help with some of our fundraisers. We also are planning on doing the hanging baskets and the chair project again this year and of course, we will need help with that! Another item that I would like to talk about is the Plant Sale which will take place on Saturday, May 26th. While you are out in your gardens this Spring, would you please take note of any plants that you might divide up for the sale. Maybe some of you have already started plants inside that you could share with us. In any case, if you are thinking of donating to the club, **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** be so kind as to label your plants for easy identification. For those that have not done this or don't know what we require, here is what we would like. If you know the common name of the plant, please put a marker in the pot to indicate what it is. No need to use the latin name, unless you happen to know it, but please use the common name as well. Also, it is greatly appreciated if you can tell us what kind of growing conditions the plant requires, for example, does it need sun or shade, or perhaps it can survive in both. What kind of soil does it require....sandy, loamy, wet, dry, etc. Any information you can provide increases the chances of someone taking that plant home. I know some of us are well educated when it comes to plants, but for



the most part, we are just like the people who want to buy the plant. So the more they know, the more we know. It slows down the process when we have to stop every couple of minutes to look up in a book what the heck we are trying to sell. Remember, this is our largest fundraiser of the year!! The more we sell, the more speakers, workshops and maybe some trips that we can provide the membership. I would also like to encourage some of you to take part in some of the District 4 events that happen during the year. It is an excellent way to meet other gardeners, learn something new and also keep abreast with what the Ontario Horticulture Association is doing on our behalf. I am happy to say that 7 of us will be going to Cobourg on April 7th for the District 4 Annual General Meeting. The guest speakers this year are from our own back yard..... Wicklow Way will be speaking about Organic Gardening. Should be very interesting.

*While I know that some of you may have been able to get away to somewhere "SUNNY", the rest of us poor souls have been content to stay at home, cozy and warm with our seed and flower books, dreaming of what we want to order so that we can be all ready when the ground is finally ice free! We are now looking forward to the sunny days of Spring and to the coming months so we can be in the **DIRT** once again.*

~ SHARRON



A couple of beautiful Dahlias
Apple Country Garden Club 2018 Flower of the Year

~Vice- President's Message

Well, I certainly didn't see this coming!!

As you all know we have had a few changes at "The Hort", I mean the **Apple Country Garden Club**, one of which is a change of the guard of our newsletter. Lorelyn has certainly set the bar high, for which we truly thank her and wish her well.

Sharron has taken over the editorship, for now, and has asked me in her most persuasive manner to assume her role in providing the "Presidents", now "Vice Presidents Message".

So here goes....

Spring is usually a gardener's best season, so full of hope and plans, before the onset of summer's reality.

After the snows had melted enough the first time to allow it, I took a walk around our property. Snowdrops have started to poke their way above the still frozen gardens. The Squirrel community (which never seems to suffer from the cold of winter), were busy doing what squirrels do, digging up the walnuts that they



buried in the fall, or at least digging around looking for them. Maybe they'll leave the bird feeders alone now, but I doubt it.

They are also hard at their other duty, that of swapping out all those tulip and daffodil bulbs we so diligently planted in the fall. I can't wait to see the display in our neighbours gardens and the woodlot beside the house.

So much for philosophy, back to the real world.

The garden club has seen an unusually large turnover of convenors, directors and volunteers this past fall and winter. We thank them all for their hard work and dedication, and, while we have been able to fill some of the positions we are still looking for volunteers to take over some of these duties.

With apologies to any that I may have unintentionally missed, on behalf of the executive and the general membership I want to thank the following for their time and energy working on shows, committees and the executive:

Barry Wood & Lorelyn Morgan; Carol & Gord McArthur; Peggy Howden and last but surely not least Joanne Titus & Kris Rahn

With the above in mind we still have a few key positions on the executive and need volunteers to look after events during the year. Remember it's your club and its success depends on participation of all its members.

Getting off my soapbox and back to business, don't forget the plant sale coming up the end of May. It continues to be our biggest fund raiser. The proceeds go a long way to pay for speakers, supplies and materials that we use throughout the year. It also helps to keep the membership fees down, and is a great way to share plants,

trees, flowers and shrubs among the membership and with the general public. It also has enticed a couple of our newest members to join.

We always need lots of volunteers to help with the sale and of course a large and varied supply of donated plants and gently used garden tools, and decorative items. It's the last weekend of May, so get planning.

This past year has seen a number of very successful youth oriented projects, the bug hotel in the eco garden, Christmas and March break craft days at the library. We are hoping to continue these programs and we thank Karen Prins and her volunteers for all their time and energy. It should be noted that one of the initiatives that was put forward at the last OHA convention by the incoming president Rose O'Dell was youth involvement, so we are, as always ahead of the curve.

The other initiative that we plan to expand this year is the chair project begun last summer. The decorated chairs and flowers on the streets of Colborne and Castleton were a great success and drew many favourable comments from the public and the township council and staff. So go get an old chair and paint it up, add flowers and display it proudly on your property. We will also be looking for volunteers to paint additional chairs at "Trish's paint shop and chair emporium", so stay tuned for future notices.

We are also going to prepare the hanging flower baskets for the town. We are still looking for a committee chairperson for this project and time is running short.

With all that, let me finish with Happy Gardening and may the sun always shine on



your back and the rain stay out of your garden shoes. Bye for now.

Jim

~~ February Presentation ~~

~~The Apple Country Garden Club~~

*To prune or not to prune? That is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, (leave it to Mother Nature)
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,
And, by opposing, end them? (prune!)*

Even Hamlet wasn't sure whether to prune or not and if so when, where and how. And, presumably, whether or not said pruning would improve the aesthetic and life span of the plant in question.

The Apple Country Garden Club members welcomed David Rettalick, someone who has been pruning for decades and who was kind enough to share his expertise with the enthusiastic group on a chilly January afternoon.

David's Garden is best known for unique Lilies and Glads and pruning! It is situated at 673 County Road 28, RR#1 Millbrook, Ontario, Canada Mobile:705-991-2336 Farm: 705-939-668891-

January 16th, 2018 Presentation Pruning with David Rettalick



Any discussion on pruning must first categorize the plant varieties. Trees, bushes, vines, fruits, deciduous, evergreens, hedges and so on.

When pruning trees begin visual inspection at the top of the tree and work downward.



Use *The 1/3 and 1/4 Rules of Pruning*, that is never remove more than 1/4 of a tree's crown in a season and ideally, main side branches should be at least 1/3 smaller than the diameter of the trunk. For most deciduous (broadleaf) trees, don't prune up from the bottom any more than 1/3 of the tree's total height. Where possible, try to encourage side branches that form angles that are 1/3 off vertical that form "10 o'clock" or "2 o'clock" angles with the trunk.

Hedges should be pruned so that water & snow doesn't pool inside the foliage. They should be rounded and wider at the bottom.

Remember Ed Lawrence's "5D" pruning rule: cut out the Dead, Damaged, Diseased and Dangerous, and prune for Desirable.

A question from the floor brought this advice for pruning concord grape vines:

Prune back to two canes in the first winter after planting.

Cut the tops off the canes during pruning season when they have reached the desired height,

Select the healthiest, most vigorous canes at the top of the trunk.

There are two types of grape pruning – cane pruning and spur pruning. Mature plants should be pruned yearly to remove all growth except new 1-year- old fruiting canes

and renewal spurs (a cane pruned back to one to five buds). To cane prune, select two to four new fruiting canes per vine. When? During dormancy.

For bushes, you have to determine when they bloom and ideally prune after the blooms die. Before considering pruning of bushes like hydrangea, make sure you know whether it blooms on old wood on just on the new wood. There are new varieties every year and it is very important to know what "family" they belong to, as each is individual in its pruning requirements.

A gardener is only as good as his/her tools and David spoke to that subject, with the caveat "Don't buy cheap equipment". The illustration below should be cut out and taken shopping with you, because the proper name for a secateur, loppers or hedge shears may not always spring to mind. What is imperative is to know the specialized tool required for the job at hand. Some of these tools look similar but are made for entirely different jobs. And sometimes it is better to hire a tool with an expert attached.



~ Robin Young

~~ WINTER AND SPRING YOUTH PROJECTS ~~

Over the Winter and then into the March break, our Youth Project Leader, Karen Prins and a few other hardy souls worked with a number of children at the Colborne and Castleton Libraries. The goal of the projects was to teach the children about nature and to hopefully foster a desire to learn about gardening.

The 2 Winter projects consisted of a wooden painted house at Christmas and a Pine Cone Birdfeeder and Cranberry and Popcorn strung on string to put in either your tree in the house or outside to feed the birds. Both projects were well received and there was a lot of interest from the kids.



~ Sharron



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

March 20, 2018 – first day of Spring. REALLY! Could have fooled me. Usually by now there is at least a hint of warmth. Apparently not this year – not yet. However, I still walk outside around my yard every day. Actually, what I’m doing is looking for evidence that all my old “friends” have returned. So far all I see are the clumps of snowdrops at the front. I’m sure that soon I’ll see the tulips and daffodils. I know where they are located, but nothing yet. Last Fall I put in NEW batch of parrot tulips (my favourites), but I can’t seem to remember where! When they show, they will be “new” friends and I’ll remember their location.

One thing I love about my place is that the front part facing south is the first to show and grow in Spring. Then the west (driveway) side is next to bloom. Then the spring bulbs on the north side begin to show. There are some gorgeous blue Scilla there, (blue – my favourite colour). Currently this area still has 2 feet of ice and snow on the top of the garden. It will be awhile yet. The way these 3 gardens are planted though, I have early Spring colour for an extended time around 3 sides of the house. Then, in different areas, but mostly on the east side, I have many Primroses, also one of my favourite plants. Last year I started some Victorian Laced Primroses from seed. I have many little plants that overwintered in the ground. They should bloom this year. I’m hoping for several of the different colours. Have you seen them? Gorgeous!

I guess I’m feeling nostalgic this year because I want to look for seeds of some annual “old friends” that I have not grown for many years.

I may edge the sunny beds in Alyssum – purple most likely, although it also comes in white and mauve. It also has a sweet fragrance. Nice as I walk along the sidewalks. Behind that I may put California Bluebells (*phacelia campanularia*). Have you ever grown them? They are the most incredible shade of blue. Easy. Seed directly in sandy, well drained soil, in full sun. Sprouts in about 10 days and blooms about 4 – 5 weeks later. It may cease blooming after several weeks, but you can sow more seed every 2 – 3 weeks or so to keep the blue going. Can also cut it back and water it to encourage it to bloom again in the Fall. Also, bees love this plant.

In the same sunny, sandy garden, I’ll plant California Poppy seed directly in the soil. I prefer the original colour of medium orange, but mixes now contain bronze, yellow, cream, red and pink forms. The botanical name is “*eschscholzia California*”. That’s a tongue twister!!

Another one of my favourites for full sun, dry sandy soil areas is good old Portulaca. It is not tall and not good for bouquets, but it blooms non-stop in the summers heat with beautiful jewel-like colours. Also, no dead-heading needed. I often use it in planters in full sun as it does not need or want constant watering or feeding.

For a tall annual good as a cut flower, I like the old Cosmos variety called “Sensation”. Easy from seed in full sun. Blooms all Summer into Fall. Dead heading recommended. Another tall old favourite of mine is Cleome (spider flower). Comes in white, pink and a deep pink they call purple. I like the purple one and would have as many plants as possible, mainly because the hummingbirds love to go along a row or mass of these to feed. Beautiful on a misty morning before the sun breaks through. Get out there with your camera!! Who knows – you might even get a hummer in a photo. One warning though. The stems are sticky and prickly – you may need gloves when cutting them for the vase

These are just a few of the many lovely annuals available. Try some!! That’s all for now.



~ Peg Howden ~

~~~ MUSINGS FROM BARRIE WOOD ~~~

Some of you may have friends who are not Gardeners, but Ordinary People. It's no shame, lots of us do. It can be problematic, however, when the conversation turns to "Things Horticultural", which of course, it will. Like many a specialty, gardening has its jargon and hidden meanings and shorthand phrases, which are a mystery to outsiders. To help all concerned, here is a small translation sheet as a sample for "*Understanding GardenerSpeak.*" Pass it to your Ordinary Friends before embarking on a tour of your garden.

Ordinary Person: How's the spring cleanup going?

Gardener: Not too bad.

Translation: I should be able to stand almost straight by tomorrow and regain the use of my legs within the week.

OrdPers: I think that's called a *faux pimpinellifolia spinosissima rugosa*, isn't it?

Gard: Oh, I just call 'em weeds.

Trans: I been pullin' them damn things up since before you were born, Sonny. If you want to talk Latin go see the Pope.



OP: Wow, that is a beautiful rose bush.

Gard: Well, there are a few holes in a few leaves and the fragrance isn't what it should be, too dry really, and the red should be a darker shade, I'm thinking of moving it, too much sun here, and when the west wind rolls off the lake, it's a problem, but maybe next year.

Translation: Darn right it is.

OP: Wow! How do you get those to grow so tall?

Gard: I dunno, just lucky, I guess . . .

Translation: Yeah, that, and a daily measured watering of Moroccan herbal tea and blackstrap molasses, plus covering the surrounding soil



with a mix of dried Lebanese myrtle and Sicilian Tarragon, with six coyote teeth pushed into the ground to slowly release a canine dental compound that drives away the miniscule beetle that would otherwise destroy the rootlets, thereby stunting the growth.

OP: Why do you garden?

Gard: Oh, I like seeing things grow.

Translation: I like the rush of things on the push when the weather finally turns warm, I like the way dirt smells when it's still in the palms of your hands, before it goes around those tiny green tendrils that have only a small chance of making it - but a much better chance when I am on the case; sometimes I lie down among the zucchini vines to try and really *hear* them growing. Don't tell me I can't! I like trying to see that FIRST day that the tulips and daffodil shoots make their appearance – but I'm never early enough, they are too impatient to wait for the likes of me.

OP: How long do plan to keep gardening?

Gardener: As long as I possibly can.

Translation: As long as I possibly can.

~ *Barrie*



DECORATIVE WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 20, 2018

We had a great workshop with Rose O'Dell and we had a number of guests that day. We had 5 from Brighton Garden Club and 1 from the Trenton Garden Club. We also had 3 local ladies join us and 2 of them became members!! We learned how to choose our flowers and greenery, prepare our containers, wet and cut our oasis and how to arrange our flowers in the oasis. It is amazing to see how everyone of us did completely different arrangements using the same source material. There is something to be said for "creativity" and it is great that we all have such individual ideas about what we want to create. It was a lovely afternoon and thanks to Rose, I think we now all have an idea how to create a decorative arrangement. I will be waiting to see what will show up at the next Flower Show!!

~ Sharron ~



The Apple Country Garden Club March 20th, 2018 Presentation

Dear reader, I would like to offer you story of personal growth brought about by Leslie Abram.

The Apple Country Garden Club was privileged to welcome Leslie who is a naturalist, environmental advocate, yoga studio owner, blogger ("Wildlife of Easter Ontario") and an extraordinarily talented photographer of a world out of sight to most of us driving by on life's highway.

Only the exceptional few of us who have the curiosity, the skill and a calling to examine the abundant life around us, have seen or indeed imagined the images that Leslie brought us.

Let's take a moment to look at some of Leslie's exquisite photos. Such as this charming

Leslie Abram Small Wonders – a Closer look at Tiny Worlds

Hummingbird drawn to her gardens by bright red Monarda which is purposely planted.



Or these adorable baby Hummingbirds playing together while the parents seek food.



Look at this Ambush Bug sitting on a goldenrod, perfectly camouflaged.

Dragonflies are our allies, eating midges and mosquitoes, and many other flying insects, including smaller Dragonflies!



Here is a Jumping Spider with it's four sets of eyes (two sets shown here). He is hiding from the camera having spent the last few minutes in the fridge to ensure he was "mellow" enough to photograph.



And (following) the grim sounding Assassin bug, aptly named when you know it uses its short three-segmented beak to pierce its prey and then suck the body fluids from its victims. A characteristic of the family is that the beak is curved and lies in a groove between the front legs.



The predatory Stink Bug is able to change the colour of the eggs she lays to blend into the colour of the top or underside of the leaf on which they are laid. Scientists do not know how she does this because it seems to spontaneous depending on the location circumstances.



It isn't possible to cover all the glorious "macro" photographs Leslie shared with us, but I would strongly recommend signing up for her blog www.leslieabram.com to join the wondrous world she investigates. In particular, look for the pictures using refracted water drop photography. Truly amazing.

As gardeners, we can perhaps be forgiven for waging war on the insect world, but these photographs and the accompanying facts and figures, open up a whole new option. Work with the insects and birds that surround us; create a garden that will attract and nourish them; take the time to seek out their tiny world, like that of the ubiquitous Praying Mantis below, and enjoy!



I truly believe that this glimpse into the world of insects and birds could melt the heart of the most fervent anti-environmentalist. Lets all take a vow to be more caring and more curious, we live in a wondrous world.

~ Robin Young ~



~~ OHA News ~~

District 4 AGM

April 7, 2019 Cobourg

Garden Ontario Week

Trough Out Ontario

June 9 – 17, 2018

June Celebration Event (Noon - 3:30)

June 13, 2018 Naval Club

Peterborough

Skills Update 9:30 – Noon

Lunch and Awards – Noon – 3:30

Four Club Garden Tour

June 24, 2018 Port Hope

12:30 – 4:30

OHA Convention 2018

July 27 – 29, 2018

Ambassador Hotel Kingston

Fall Seminar

October 27, 2018 Coboconk

9:00 – 3:30

OHA Convention 2019

Windsor (District 1)



~~~ *Garden to Table* ~~~



It's SOUP Time!

BLACK BEAN SOUP

This recipe is for an “Instant Pot” (pressure cooker) but could be adapted quite easily to a regular soup pot.

1 ½ cups dry black beans, soaked as usual	1 tbsp. oil
1 cup onion, chopped	3 cloves garlic, minced (can use more)
1 tbsp. ground cumin (can use more)	¼ tsp. chipotle powder or smoked paprika
6 cups broth (I used a mixture of chicken and water)	(I used smoked paprika, a little more than ¼ tsp)
2 tsp. dried oregano	1 large bay leaf
Soy yogurt or sour cream	½ to 2 tsp. salt, to taste (I added more)
	Cilantro, chopped to garnish

Drain soaked beans and set aside. Heat oil in the Instant Pot by selecting (Saute). Add onion and saute for 2 mins. Add the garlic, cumin and chipotle powder. Add beans, broth, bay leaf and oregano. Stir well. Close and lock the lid. Select (Soup/Broth) and cook for 7 minutes. When the 7 minutes is up, let the pressure decrease naturally (Natural Release). Carefully remove the lid. Remove the bay leaf, if used. Mash the beans with a potato masher or put in a blender or keep as is. Add salt, if using. Garnish with a dollop of soy yogurt or sour cream and a sprig of cilantro.

This recipe is courtesy of “The Veggie Queen”, also known as Jill Nussinow. You can view her at <http://www.theveggiequeen.com/> **ENJOY**



~ Clare Phillips

~~~ *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: April 24, **Dealing with Drought**. Ewa Bednarczuk, Lower Trent Conservation.

Cobourg Horticulture meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Upcoming Meetings: April 4, **Orchids, African Violets and Tropicals**. Marg Burley. May 2, **Growing Gracefully – Evolution of a Garden**, Sean Jones.

Grafton Horticulture meets at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Upcoming meetings: April 10, Orchids, African Violets, Air Plants and More, Marg Burley. May 8, Fuller Native and Rare Plants, Peter Fuller.

Omeme Blooms Garden Club meets at Trinity United Church, 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Upcoming meetings: April 16, **Invasive Plants in Our Area**. Kellie Sherman.

Peterborough Horticulture meets at the Lions' Centre, 347 Burnham St., Peterborough, 4th Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Upcoming meetings: April 25, **Flora of Peterborough**, Rachel Flora, May 23, **Foodwebs, Ecosystems and Climate Change**.

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: April 16, **Gardening as Time Goes By: Challenges and Solutions**, Charlie Dobbins, May 8, **Visit to Cobourg Greenhouse**, Stu Dafoe, Horticulturist, Town of Cobourg. .

Plant Sales

Brighton: May 8, Plant Auction with auctioneer extraordinaire Jim Nelson, 6:30 for 7:00 p.m. auction, King Edward Community Centre

Cobourg: May 19, 9:00 a.m., Columbus Community Centre

Grafton: May 12, 9:00 to noon, Haldimand Memorial Arena

Omeme: May 19, 9:00 – 11:00, Omeme Legion

Port Hope: May 12, 8:30 – 10:00, Port Hope Town Park/Fall Fair Centre, 81 McCaul St.

Flower Shows



Brighton: June 2, Spring Flower Show

Cobourg: May 2, Spring Mini Flower Show

Grafton: May 8, Spring Flower Show

Omeme: June 19, 7:00 June Flower Show

Peterborough: Peterborough Garden Show at the Evinrude Centre, April 13 (5 – 9 p.m.), April 14 (10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
April 15 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Port Hope: May 14, Mini Spring Flower Show. June 18, June Flower Show.

~~ 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.

Upcoming:

April 17th, 7:00 p.m.

True North Daylilies
Tim Hobbs

May 15th, 7:00 p.m.

Ann's Perennials
Anna Mizyn

May 26th, 8:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Annual Plant Sale
Victoria Park, Colborne

June 19th, 7:00 p.m.

Building a Pollinator Garden
Carlotta James
And
June Flower Show

President: **Sharron MacDonald**
sharron@start.ca

Vice President: **Jim Detenbeck**
detenbeckjg@gmail.com

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

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

Newsletter: **Sharron MacDonald**
sharron@start.ca

*Growing our
community*

one garden at a time.

CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

