



Oakville Horticultural Society February 2018

February Monthly Meeting
Date: February 12, 2018
Location: Knox Presbyterian Church, 89 Dunn Street
Set-up Volunteers: Larry Urbanoski, Don Dusha, George Gordon
Hospitality Volunteers: Marie Decker, Margaret Larson, Judy Bridges and Don Dusha
Flower Show Clerks:



Paul Zammit, a graduate of the University of Guelph, is the Nancy Eaton Director of Horticulture at the Toronto Botanical Garden. He is an energetic and passionate speaker who is much in demand and has presented across Canada and in the United States. In recent years, Paul has presented in Germany, Switzerland and Bermuda. He has appeared on numerous occasions both on television and in print. For the summers of 2016 and 2017, Paul had a weekly gardening column providing gardening advice on the CBC Here and Now radio program. In October of 2014, Paul led a 10 day garden and food tour on the island of Sicily. In February 2016, Paul and his wife participated in a week of gardening study at Great Dixter in England. In 2017, Garden Making selected them both as two of Canada top 20 shaping gardens across Canada.

Paul has been awarded the Young Professionals award by the Perennial Plant Association. He is also the recipient of an Industry Service Award.

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Like many gardeners, I am an irrepressible optimist, and it does seem that the days are getting longer and more spring-like – yippee! This hibernation period is needed, I suppose. It's the perfect time to catch up on Society paperwork and connect with fellow members to discuss and anticipate the many fun events we are planning for the year.

Before looking forward, I want to congratulate the 2017 Award Winners for Horticulture and Design, as presented on January 8. (The details are listed later in this newsletter.) I think you will agree that the OHS is privileged to have so many talented members and I hope that more of you will participate in the exhibits to start up again in March. If you don't already have the 2018 Showbook, you can find it on our website. Once again, the OHS is offering a much-needed hit of blooming colour with the Fun with Flowers event planned for Family Day at Iroquois Ridge Community Centre. The Plant Sale committee will be meeting soon, to make sure every detail is mapped out for another successful event on Saturday May 19, and the Garden Tour trio (Florenda, Diana and me) has made substantial progress with the garden lineup for the 2018 tour, planned for Sunday June 17th. Helen will be reaching out to the Junior Gardeners soon, as that activity begins in May. We will be accepting young gardeners over the age of 6, with no upper limit indicated, and hoping to have a full program this year.

Florenda will be replacing Margaret Larson on the Draw Table – many thanks to Margaret for all her efforts over the last year. Margaret will be continuing and expanding the Monarchs and Milkweed outreach that has earned her many well-deserved awards and will be combining her efforts with other OHS pollinator initiatives. The more we are able to raise awareness about these important facts of the natural world, the better off we will all be.

To close on a time-sensitive note, if you have not gotten around to renewing your membership, please plan to do that this month. There are so many benefits to membership – the company of other enthusiastic gardeners, great speakers and events, info-packed newsletters and great website and Facebook presence, to name a few. I look out at my garden with such pleasure every day and I realize that the improvements I've had the confidence to make are largely due to the many things I've learned as an OHS member. It's bliss to be in the garden – it's almost as wonderful to be talking about gardening!

Until next time, I'll be dreaming of spring.

Paula



In Memory of Jane Hardman

It is with great sadness we note that our gardening community has lost a valued member on December 24, 2017 long time OHS member, Jane Hardman.

A member since 2003, she served the OHS in many roles. She was a member of the various committees, worked at the plant sale, donated plants to the plant sale and helped to organize the AGM potluck. Jane was awarded the President's award for her hard work for the OHS in 2015. She was a very personable member and attended almost every meeting she could over the years. She will be missed by many especially her neighbour—Kathie Dick.

We offer our condolences to her family. Her name will be added to the Ontario Horticultural Association "In Memoriam" book.





**Come and Join us on
Monday, February 19, 2018**

Family Day - Fun With Flowers

Believe it or not, this will be the Oakville Horticultural Society's eighth year, celebrating Family Day by hosting "Fun With Flowers". Many of the same families participate every February – over 100 people – that's a lot of fish tins! Participants and volunteers alike are delighted by the abundance of beautiful flowers so generously donated by local businesses. The rich colors, varied shapes and textures must remind many of being in a candy shop – so much choice! Incredibly, many original designs evolve in a very limited time frame. "The Experienced" are also extremely clever at packing as many flowers as possible into a tiny can.

This feat takes years of experience!

If you've never attended this event, you may want to join us on February 19 at Iroquois Ridge Community Centre, 1051 Glenashton Drive in Oakville. The chaos starts around 10:00 am.

Just follow the big smiles (and line ups). Bring along your secateurs!

Volunteers should be there at 9:15 am.



Have you renewed your 2018 Oakville Horticultural Society Membership? You need to do so by March 31, 2018. Please bring a cheque or cash to the next meeting on February 12, 2018 and renew!!!

Winter is here! It is cold, damp, a blustery and snowy day! If there's anything I hate about winter, it's shoveling snow. It takes forever, it's exhausting—and it leaves my back so stiff, I feel like it'll never be straight again. As I shovel, I focus on my goal - clear the snow. In my home, a warm, glowing fireplace awaits me. I will prepare a hot chocolate drink, collect some homemade cookies and continue catching up on my outstanding gardening materials.

In addition, I have just reviewed TVO's Monthly Prime Schedule and note that TVO will be presenting a number of Recreating Eden programmes which were recorded in Canada. You can view this schedule at:

<https://www.tvo.org/schedule>

On February 3, 2018 at 10:00 pm, TVO will present: The Renegade Scientist - Diana Beresford-Kroeger of Merrickville, On. She is a gardener who combines her medical training with a love of botany.

I have discovered another winning gardening programme called: Secret History of the British Garden. Horticulturalist and historian Monty Don looks for answers as he digs into the fascinating history of British gardens over the past 400 years, showing not just how they changed, but what drove their transformation.

My "Bucket List" is forever expanding it now includes many more fascinating places.

P.S. Do not forget to set up your PVR to record all the programmes. Another method is streaming the programmes by using your computer. Happy viewing, Myroslawa!



It often happens to children - and sometimes to gardeners - that they are given gifts of value of which they do not perceive until much later.

- Wayne Winterrowd



Congratulations to the following OHS members, for their excellent horticulture and design exhibits over the past year. They have been awarded trophies and cash prizes for the show year -

Nov. 1, 2016 – Oct.31, 2017.

Class of Distinction (Eaton Trophy)	1 st Marie Decker 2 nd , 3 rd - not awarded
Chairman's Trophy (Wand Trophy)	1 st Mary Cameron 2 nd tie- Marie Decker and Mary Rose
General/Novice Trophy (Allison Trophy)	1 st Mary Rose 2 nd Cathy Kavassalis
Miniature (Noad Trophy)	1 st Marie Decker 2 nd , 3 rd - not awarded
Overall Decorative (Cup of Excellence)	1 st Mary Rose 2 nd Mary Cameron 3 rd Marie Decker
Highest Horticulture (Stratton Trophy)	1 st Mary Cameron 2 nd Rob Welsh 3 rd Marie Decker
Combined Hort / Decorative (Wye Trophy)	1 st Mary Cameron 2 nd , 3 rd - not awarded
Men's Highest Horticulture (Bell Trophy)	1 st Rob Welsh 2 nd Don Dusha
Best Red Rose (Red Rose Tea Trophy)	Mary Cameron

Cash Awards Nov. 2016 – Oct. 2017

The following members who earned ten points, or more, in our Monthly Shows, were presented with cash awards of 20 cents per point. Trophy winners and runners up are also awarded additional prize money. Cash is awarded for points in Judge's Choice and Educational Exhibits but these points do not count toward trophies.

Bridges, Judy; Cameron, Mary; Decker, Marie; Dusha, Don; Kavassalis, Cathy; Pitman, Wade; Rose, Mary; Ryan, Cathy; Schleicher, Elizabeth; Welsh, Rob



O my Luv's like a red, red rose

That's newly sprung in June

Robbie Burns





Gilwell Oak has been crowned UK Tree of the Year 2017

This year's winner with 1792 votes is a marvellous oak tree located in the heart of Gilwell Park in Essex.

The British public cast their vote to not only celebrate the visuals of the tree but the Fantastic story it tells. The Gilwell Oak has overseen the growth of a local scout group since early 20th century and is still regarded as a tribute to the scouting movement today. The Gilwell Oak won the England shortlist and was chosen by the panel of experts to be the UK Tree of the Year.

The tree will represent the UK at the European Tree of the Year in 2018.



In 2015, the Duchess of Northumberland added a Poison Garden containing a hundred killer plants to her Alnwick Gardens in Northern England. Over 600,000 visitors a year pass through the sixteen acre gardens, and the idea came from seeing children lose interest during tours of the garden. “Children love to hear about the gory side of the death of people who have eaten or been fed plants”, said Alnwick’s head gardener. “That’s what captures the imagination of a child, and if you can do that, then hopefully you get them hooked on gardening” (Don’t worry, the garden is well fenced, signed, and patrolled).

If an animal feels threatened, it can run away or hide, and if a bird feels threatened, it can fly away, but a plant must stay put, despite being a tasty treat for an animal, bird, or insect, so what is it to do if it is to stay alive and multiply? Well, plants are by no means defenceless, and over millennia they have developed many ways to outwit predators.

Some plants rely on physical barriers such as thorns, spikes, prickles, hairs, and thick skins, but chemicals are by far the most common means of defence. The list of chemicals synthesized by the plant or taken up from the soil in their defence is long, and includes alkaloids, polypeptides, amines, glycosides, oxalates, calcium salts, resins, and phytotoxins. Some are absorbed by ingestion and some by contact, and paradoxically some of these chemicals have pharmaceutical value (think digitalis from foxgloves), and much exploration and research is being done to develop new pharmaceutical products from plants, many from tropical rain forests.

Insects are by far the most prolific predators of plants, and some plants rely on attracting beneficial predatory insects which attack the bad guys. You can help by planting varieties which attract these insects.

Many of the plants on Ontario’s Noxious Plant List are there because they are hazardous to grazing animals, and an extreme example of this occurred in Australia in 1907, when seven hundred cows died overnight after grazing on a noxious weed in a new pasture. Milkweed was removed from the list in 2015 because it was realized that it was the sole source of food for the caterpillars of monarch butterflies.

Landscape Ontario has a list of about eighty garden and house plants, shrubs and trees of which some parts are toxic to some degree, including many which you probably grow in your own garden or house. However, death or serious illness from ingesting these, particularly by children, is very rare probably because, except for some berries, they are not attractive, or if they are they are so bitter that they are spit out rather than swallowed.

A few of the most toxic are:

- Castor Bean (seeds)
 - Yew (black seeds inside the non toxic red berry flesh)
 - Oleander (all parts toxic)
 - Rhododendron (all parts toxic)
 - Lily of the Valley (all parts toxic)
 - Narcissus (all parts toxic)
 - Monkshood (all parts toxic)
 - Delphinium (upper leaves and flower toxic)
 - Foxglove (all parts toxic)
- Sweet dreams, there really isn’t much to worry about.

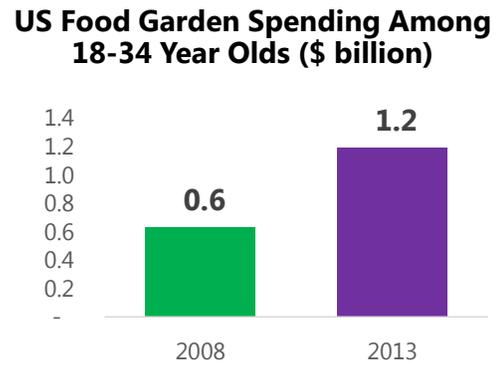
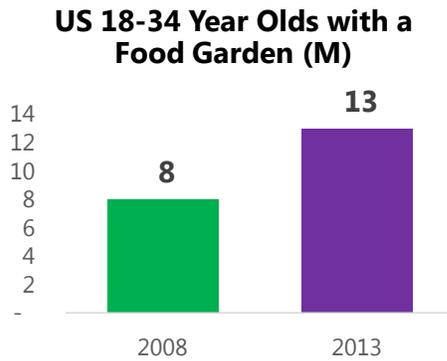
David Marshall



Even bees, the little almsmen of spring bowers,
know there is richest juice in poison-flowers.

(John Keats)





Rise in Home Food Gardening

There is a surprising new trend on the upswing. Young people are growing more food, both personally and professionally. A recent Washington Post article (<http://wapo.st/2isolfZ>) states that for only the second time in the last century, the number of farmers under 35 years old is increasing. And the majority of these young farmers are highly educated first time farmers who like the idea of selling local organic specialty goods. The data for home food growers is consistent with these trends. A report from the National Gardening Association (<http://bit.ly/2jC6mZ1>) suggests that 35% of US households reported a food garden in 2013, which is 5 points higher than reported in 2008. But the really exciting part is that the growth was driven by 18 to 34 year olds. The number of food gardens in this demographic grew 62% and the spending grew 89% in this time frame.

In Canada, the stats are consistent. 57% of all households report growing either fruit, herbs, veggies or flowers. The range by province varies from 51% on the low end to 68% on the high end (congrats Manitoba). And Loblaws just published its 2018 Canadian Food Trends (<http://bit.ly/2B31sbS>). The first trend mentioned? GIY or Grow it Yourself. It's a beautiful thing, the younger generation coming to show greater appreciation for local, natural, high quality foods.

At Seed Voyage, we believe we can have a role to play in the further development of this market. Seed Voyage connects local veggie growers and eaters through a simple online marketplace that gives everyone convenient access to the best homegrown produce in the community. Marketplaces are helpful in propelling adoption of new trends. With Seed Voyage you can get access to the wonderful produce being grown in your own neighborhood, which might give you some great ideas for your own garden. Seed Voyage should also allow and encourage you to plant more things, knowing that excess produce will not go to waste. You will be able to convert those amazing fruits and veggies into cash, which you can use to cover your garden expenses or to purchase other delicious food across your community.

Try us out for free at seedvoyage.com.



Renew your Oakville Horticultural Membership



Go ahead, get dirty—and improve your health

*You're just a dirt magnet, aren't you?"
"Didn't I tell you to stay out of mud puddles?"
"Oh, you decided to make mud pies, did you?"*



These are the perpetual chants of mothers everywhere, as they try to keep their children clean when they play outside in the yard. You would think after centuries of kids wanting to experiment what it feels like to get dirty, moms would have learned to either live with dirty children or invent Teflon children's clothes. But now it turns out that keeping children clean is not only futile, it is actually bad for them. Researchers have recently concluded that getting dirty is good for you and has significant health benefits.

Barefoot in the park

Walking barefoot on natural surfaces like soil, sand, or grass is good for you. It is called "earthing." Overlooked for many years, earthing has amazing benefits like increasing antioxidants, reducing inflammation, and improving your sleep.

Why does earthing work? Planet Earth has its own natural electrical charge and human health improves when we're tapping into this energy. Still other research found that earthing benefitted skin conductivity, moderated heart rate variability, improved glucose regulation, reduced stress and boosted immunity. This research indicates that electrons can act as antioxidants.

Not surprisingly, sidewalks and shoes with plastic soles or other man-made materials do not transfer any health benefits to your body. Leather-soled shoes provide at least some transfer of electrons.

Apple founder Steve Jobs famously walked barefoot in the office. Meetings with him were frequently walking meetings around Palo Alto that would last for hours; yes, he walked barefoot outdoors, too.

"Barefoot in the Park" (1967) is also a pretty good romantic comedy based on a Neil Simon play starring Robert Redford, as an uptight New York lawyer, and Jane Fonda, as his free-spirited wife. If you can't get outside for whatever reason, this film will increase your endorphins (the "happiness" hormone), by activating your funny bone.

Go "forest bathing"

For those suffering from mild depression, a 2-hour walk in a forest or green space can be as effective as taking prescription medication. Brisk walking increases endorphins the feel-good hormones, that improve your mood, lower your heart rate, lower stress, and boost your immune system to fight disease. And while countryside walks cannot cure mental illness, the combination of exercise, solitude, quiet and the beauty of the natural world can be incredibly calming and re-energizing, according to Psychology Today.

The Japanese have given this a name: Shinrin-yoku, meaning "taking in the forest atmosphere," which is part of ancient Shinto and Buddhist meditation practices. The more colloquial name is "forest bathing" and the Japanese government poured \$4-million U.S. into research between 2004 and 2012 on the benefits of forest bathing. So, we now have conclusive proof that spending time in nature reduces healthcare costs—by billions. Best of all, the price of forest bathing is: free.

An additional benefit of forest bathing, many believe, is that plants, trees, water, and sunlight absorb negative energy like sponges. In the winter, houseplants can provide some of these health benefits indoors.

Soil is a microbiome

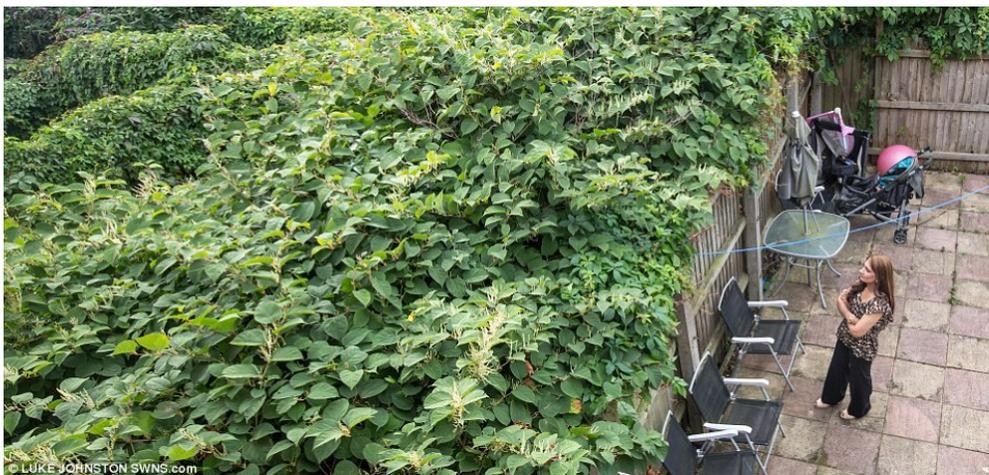
Since the early 2000s, scientists have been experimenting with reintroducing soil bacteria into humans. The results of several studies showed that beneficial soil bacteria can act as anti-depressants and can strengthen our immune system and improve our emotional health, essentially validating earlier research.

Skip the anti-bacterial soap

There is new research that says that anti-bacterial soap may actually be making us sicker. The two main ingredients, triclosan and triclocarban, are used in hospital operating rooms when surgeons scrub in, but used every day by the general population may be making us sicker by lowering our overall resistance to disease. Both chemicals have a tendency to overproduce a gene called mexB, which causes your gut to reject common prescription antibiotics for when you really get sick. So, ditch the anti-bacterial soap and the hand sanitizer, and go back to regular bar soap. When you get out in your garden, get good and dirty. It's good for you.

Submitted by: Jana Schilder 8





My husband saves me anything interesting about gardening, from the number of papers he consumes. So when I read the headline “Weed That Took Over the World” in one of them I was hooked.

Fallopia japonica sounds lovely and indeed it has many attributes a gardener would enjoy, it grows tall, interesting leaf, lovely sprays of white flowers in the fall and a clump is

established quickly. But, and this is the problem, it spreads like wildfire and is difficult to eradicate.

The international Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (!) has listed it as a global plant pest. In Australia, it is illegal to have it on one’s property and in the US, it is scheduled as an invasive weed in 12 states. In the UK, there are laws to control it including a 1990 act classifying it as “controlled waste” which also controls nuclear waste!

It was introduced to Europe by the German botanist and physician Phillip Franz von Siebold. Born in 1796, he was commissioned in the Dutch army and travelled as a ship’s surgeon. In 1823, he was posted to the small island trading post Dejima in Nagasaki. He was one of a handful of non native inhabitants on the island and held joint role of doctor and scientist. Once he was allowed out of Dejima, he pursued his interest in plant hunting with greater vigour. He set up a glasshouse and a small botanical garden at his home and began collecting indigenous plants with a team of Japanese plant hunters. Unbeknown to the authorities, he was also sending plant specimens home to the Netherlands, including hosta, wisteria, magnolia and hydrangea. He smuggled out seeds from tea plants – a commodity the Japanese guarded vigorously – to Batavia. From here the seeds were distributed to Java establishing the tea industry there and breaking Japan’s monopoly. Eventually it all caught up to him and in 1829 he was accused of spying for Russia because of the detailed maps of Japan found in his possession. Expelled from the country he returned to the Netherlands with a collection of more than 12,000 specimens, which remain the subject of research today. Among these was a female plant of *Fallopia japonica*. Every bit of wretched stem and root of Japanese knotweed outside Japan is genetically descended from that one plant. It is interesting to note that the only place in the world that Japanese knotweed is not a problem is in Japan where it is found in volcanic scree where nothing else will grow. Natural pests, fungi and diseases keep it in check. (Most information for this piece was obtained for an article in the Financial Times March 2016 by Matthew Wilson of Clifton Nurseries, London)

To Ontario. Below are web sites with a lot of information regarding Japanese Knotweed but I have taken some of the more relevant information that may be of interest from www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca

Other sites to explore are: www.ontario.ca/invasivespecies, www.invadingspecies.com or www.invasivespeciescentre.ca

Regarded as one of the world’s top 100 invasive species by the Global Invasive Species Database, Japanese Knotweed can harm biodiversity, the economy and society. It forms dense thickets of bamboo like vegetation that aggressively outcompete native plants, and negatively impacts wetland and riparian (water’s edge) areas. Its extensive rhizome (root) system can cause major problems for public and private infrastructure.

Japanese Knotweed spreads primarily along riparian areas where it can be dispersed by moving water.

The stems die back each fall and the dead stalks remain standing over the winter. Numerous new stems emerge in the spring (usually late March – early April in southern Ontario) from the over-wintering root

system. The juvenile stems resemble asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*) spears and are purplish in colour, fading to green as they mature.

Japanese Knotweed grows rapidly; stems can grow up to 8 cm(3”) per day.

The plant can grow 1 m(3.2ft) in height in three weeks, with the mature plant



reaching full height by the end of July. This plant grows in large bamboo-like clumps, reaching heights of 1-3 m (3-10 ft.).

Hollow, jointed stems have reddish brown solid nodes and look similar to bamboo. It quickly develops large underground root systems (rhizomes) which account for two thirds of its total mass. These rhizomes can extend more than 2m(6ft) deep and 14-18 m(45-59 ft) in length, and can spread outwards at a rate of about 50 cm/year (19") in optimal conditions. Due to this extensive underground biomass, Japanese Knotweed is a very persistent plant. Pieces of the stem or rhizome as small as 1 cm can produce new plants within 6 days if they are submerged in water.

Buried rhizomes can regenerate from depths of up to 1 m, with 2 cm being optimal for regeneration. There are established populations across southern, central and eastern Ontario (in over 20 different municipalities). In Canada, the primary distribution is in Ontario, Quebec, and the Atlantic Provinces with isolated populations in Winnipeg, Manitoba and southern British Columbia. It is also widespread in the north-eastern United States and Europe. It is somewhat intolerant of persistent freezing conditions, and as a result, its spread may be confined to more southerly parts of Canada. However, as the climate warms it may be able to spread further north. Ontario should be prepared for Japanese Knotweed to spread within the Province as the average temperatures rise.

Road and railroad rights of way and waterways are the main geographic pathways for spread. This plant can significantly damage infrastructure. It is able to grow through concrete/asphalt up to 8 cm thick and building foundations. It is of particular concern in new housing developments. In the United Kingdom, developers must dispose of soil containing knotweed fragments at hazardous waste facilities.

In Ontario it is not known how prevalent it is in the horticultural industry. Road maintenance, forestry operations and construction activities may spread these plants further.

Japanese Knotweed is not a federally regulated plant species. Nor is it regulated in Ontario.

In other parts of Canada, the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia have listed Japanese Knotweed and the other knotweeds on their provincial noxious weed lists.

A municipality can pass a property standards bylaw under the Building Code Act to address the presence of weeds deemed noxious or a threat to the environment or human health and safety. A municipality can also regulate Japanese Knotweed due to concerns for flooding and infrastructure damage.

Just for interest the Oakville.ca site has an invasive herbaceous species list (2010) and knotweed is on the list as highly invasive, though called *Polygonum cuspidatum* rather than *Fallopia Japonica*.

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Early growth of Japanese knotweed



Diana

Flowering of Japanese Knotweed



February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28			

March						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 4 Twig ID (RBG)
- 7 Birding with Experts (TRC)
- 8 Eco-Movie night: Jane (HGS)
- 11 Nine Things I learned about other people's garden (LVB)
- 17 Birding with Experts (TRC)
- 20 Coyotes: The Wolf Among Us - An Update (TRC)
- 23 Starting Plants from Seed in a Horticultural Therapy Program (RBG)
- 27 Garden Designs for Beginners (RBG)
- 1 Backyard Harvest: Organic Vegetable Gardening (LVB)
- 3 Propagation (RBG)
- 4 Tree Bark ID (RBG)
- 8 Eco-Movie night: Chasing Corale (HGS)
- 10 Winter Pruning Workshop (RBG)
- 19 Made in the Shade Garden Designs (RBG)
- 21 Hardscaping in the Garden (RBG)
- 24 Birding with Experts (TRC)
- 7 Beginner Bonsai (LVB)
- 11 Backyard BeeKeeping 101 (RBG)
- 14 Dividing Perennials (PPCP)
- 18 How to Prune and Grow Roses (LVB)
- 21 Raised Bed Gardens (LVB)
- 21 Pollinator Garden (PPCP)
- 23 Design and Plant a Pollinator Garden (RBG)

Halton Green Screens (HGS) 171 Speers Road, Unit 25 Oakville, ON 905 466 3939

Lee Valley Burlington

Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG)

680 Plains Road West, Hamilton/Burlington 905-527-1158

Plant Paradise Country Gardens (PPCP)

16258 Humber Station Road, Caledon East, ON 905-880-9090

The Riverwood Conservancy (TRC)

4300 Riverwood Park Ln, Mississauga, ON 905-279-5878



February 8	Eco-Movie Night: Jane
	Drawing from over 100 hours of never-before-seen footage that has been tucked away in the National Geographic archives for over 50 years, award-winning director Brett Morgen tells the story of JANE, a woman whose chimpanzee research challenged the male-dominated scientific consensus of her time and revolutionized our understanding of the natural world. Set to a rich orchestral score from legendary composer Philip Glass, the film offers an unprecedented, intimate portrait of Jane Goodall — a trailblazer who defied the odds to become one of the world's most admired conservationists. Film.CA Cinemas Address: 171 Speers Road, Unit 25, Oakville
February 12	Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street
	Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street
February 19	Family Day: Fun with Flowers Family Day in February
	What could be more fun than flower arranging for a mid-winter horticultural celebration? More information in the newsletter.
February 24 - 25	Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale
	The Annual Show showcases the beauty and diversity of orchids. Saturday: noon to 5 p.m.; RBG Centre Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; RBG Centre
March 2	RBG Speaker Series: Perennial Design to Simulate Nature
	Join Roy Diblik for an evaluation morning of dynamic garden design using regionally reliable perennials along with native plants to stimulate natural settings. Friday March 2, 2018 8:30 am to 12:00 noon at the RBGT Centre. Fee \$100.(M10% off) Preregister by February 21.
March 2	RBG Speaker Series: Perennial Plant Communities “The Know Maintenance Approach”
	Roy Diblik's thoughtful way to design perennial plantings welcomes fresh contemporary styles and plant diversity integrated with responsible maintenance concerns. Friday March 2, 2018 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the RBGT Centre. Fee \$18.(Members \$6.00) Preregister by February 21.
March 8	Eco-Movie Night: Chasing Coral
	Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world. Since our journey began, we knew that if we could capture visual evidence of coral bleaching, we could reveal the phenomenon in a powerful way. Now it's time to connect the story to action. Chasing Coral was directed by Jeff Orlowski and produced by Larissa Rhodes. The film took more than three years to shoot, and is the result of 500+ hours underwater, submissions of footage from volunteers from 30 countries, as well as support from more than 500 people from various locations around the world. Film.CA Cinemas Address: 171 Speers Road, Unit 25, Oakville
March 9-18	Canada Blooms
	For more information please visit their website: www.canadablooms.com
March 12	Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street
	Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street
April 14	2018 District 6 AGM and Flower Show
	<i>“Spring is Simply Grand!”</i> 2018 District 6 AGM and Flower Show Hosted by: St. George Garden Club, Glen Morris Horticultural Society, and Lynden Horticultural Society. Date: Saturday, April 14 th , 2018. Location: South Dumfries Community Centre, upstairs (Elevator in lobby) 7 Gaukel Road, St. George. Speaker/Demonstrator: Susan Suter “How to Grow Flower Designers” Tickets \$15 - available at the door. Join us for fun, food, and fabulous company!
April 21	RBG Plant Faire
	RBG is proud to present its second annual Plant Faire, a great way to get a head start on the gardening season, find unique plants for your home garden, and speak to passionate gardening professionals. More details coming soon!

A Few Notes from Small Trees for Small Spaces

Tree size is a function of genetics, growing conditions & practices.

Practices that can keep trees small:

- Containerize
- Plant tightly (e.g. hedges)
- Prune or shear but do not top (this is a harmful pruning practice)
- The ISA's Trees are Good website offers helpful information www.treesaregood.com/
- Pleach or Espalier
- Coppice or Pollarding (Useful for a limited number of tree species like dogwood (*Cornus*) and willow (*Salix*). (See for instance <https://www.rhs.org.uk/about-the-rhs/publications/magazines/the-garden/2013-issues/january/How-to-pollard-and-coppice-shrubs>)

Genetics

Tree height can vary greatly within a species and there can be notable regional variation. Mutations naturally occur producing smaller variants. Dwarf and fastigate (columnar) cultivars of trees abound. Examples of fastigated native trees include: *Acer saccharum* 'Monumentale', *Acer x freemanii* 'Armstrong', *Acer rubrum* 'Columnare', *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Slender Silhouette', *Juniperus virginiana* 'Taylor', *Populus tremuloides* 'Erecta', *Picea glauca* 'Iseli' etc. Other dwarf native cultivars include *Pinus resinosa* 'Morel' and *Pinus strobus* 'Nana'. Some dwarfs are grafted as standards to fix height like the Eurasian *Acer platanoides* 'Globosom' or grafted *Caragana arborescens* 'Walker.' Reversions can occur and should be pruned out when possible.

Trees are propagated:

- ◆ FROM SEED - Genetically diverse, no vegetative propagation involved.
- ◆ OWN ROOT - A true clone from micropropagation, cuttings or layering.
- ◆ BUD or GRAFT onto clonal rootstock.
- ◆ BUD or GRAFT onto seedling rootstock.

CLONES PROVIDE UNIFORMITY BUT REDUCE BIODIVERSITY

Fruit Trees are grafted or budded onto a compatible rootstock selected for hardiness, disease resistance and size control. For a list of nurseries offering fruit trees in Ontario visit:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/resource/trnursry.htm>.

Lewis's Hardy Fruit Trees & Giant Pumpkins is a source of some particularly hardy varieties for container growing, like the diminutive Juliet Cherry.

Most Valuable Genera for Moths and Butterflies (Doug Tallamy): Oak, Cherry, Willow, Birch, Poplar, Crabapple, Blueberry, Maple, Alder, Hickory, Elm, Pine, Hawthorn, Blackberry, Spruce, Ash, Basswood, ...

http://enst.umd.edu/sites/enst.umd.edu/files/_docs/Table%20from%20Doug%20Tallamy%20Sheet1.pdf

Oakville features the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and Deciduous and is just north of the Carolinian boundary. It is classified as Ecodistrict 7E – 5 and Seed Zone 37. A list of native tree species appropriate for this region can be found on the Forest Gene Conservation website: fgca.net. They provide a helpful *Native Species Table* showing shade, drainage and soil requirements:

fgca.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Spp_InfoTABLE_2012.pdf .



“BETWEEN EVERY TWO PINES
IS A DOORWAY TO A
NEW WORLD.”

— JOHN MUIR



A few examples of small to medium trees native to Southern Ontario in the 10 to 20m range

- Blasam Fir *Abies balsamea* 20m (US native Fraser Fir *Abies fraseri* 15m)
- Tamarack *Larix laricina* 20m
- Eastern Red Cedar *Juniperus virginiana* 10m
- Black Spruce *Picea mariana* 20m
- Eastern White Cedar *Thuja occidentalis* 15-25m
- Ohio buckeye *Aesculus glabra* 15m
- Birch: Cherry *Betula lenta* 20m (25m) (END); Gray *B. populifolia* 10m
- Blue Beech *Carpinus caroliniana* 8m
- Northern Hackberry *Celtus occidentalis* 15m
- Dotted Hawthorn *Crataegus punctata* 8-10m
- Cucumber Magnolia *Magnolia acuminata* 15-20m
- Ironwood *Ostrya virginiana* 12m
- Bur Oak *Quercus macrocarpa* 15m (30m) Black Oak *Q. veluntina* (20m)
- Sassafras *Sassafras albidum* 20m

A few examples of native shrubs in the 4-12m height range

- Mountain Maple *Acer spicatum* or Striped Maple *A. pennsylvanica*
- Speckled alder *Alnus incana*
- Serviceberries: *Amelanchier arborea*, *A. laevis*
- PawPaw *Asimina triloba*
- Dogwoods: *Cornus alternifolia*, *C. florida*, *C. racemosa*, *C. amomum* etc
- Hazelnuts: *Corylus americana*, *C. cornuta*
- Hawthorns: *Craetagus* spp.
- Eastern Wahoo *Euonymus atropurpurea*
- Witch-hazel *Hamamelis virginiana*
- Winterberry *Ilex verticillata*
- Plums and Cherries: *Prunus americana*, *P. nigra*, *P. pennsylvanica*, *P. virginiana*
- Common Hoptree *Ptelea trifoliata*
- Sumacs: *Rhus glabra*, *R. typhina*
- Willows: *Salix bebbiana*; *S. discolor*, *S. serissima*, *S. exigua*, *S. eriocephala*, *S. lucida* etc.
- Elderberry *Sambucus racemosa* spp. *pubens*, *S.nigra* ssp. *canadensis*
- Mountain Ashes: *Sorbus americana*, *S. decora*
- Bladdernut *Staphylea trifolia*
- Viburnum - *V. lentago* (least susceptible to Viburnum beetle), *V. cassinoides*, *V. recognitum*, *V. trilobum*
- Prickly Ash *Zanthoxylum americanum*

Native species that can be used for hedging include: *Eastern white cedar*, *Eastern red cedar*, *Elderberry*, *Chokecherry*, *Beaked Hazel*, *Hawthorn*, *Musclewood*, *Pines*, *Ninebark*, *Serviceberry*, *Viburnum* and more. An old but useful resource: Trevor Cole. 1955. HEDGES FOR CANADIAN GARDENS. Ottawa Research Station, Ottawa, Ontario.

Many local nurseries carry native stock. The Credit Valley Conservation Authority posts a list of Native Plant Nurseries:

<http://www.creditvalleyca.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/CVCNativePlantNurseries.pdf>.

Evergreen plant database evergreen.ca can be very helpful. To learn more about the growing

conditions for specific plants use the Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder resource:

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx.

More questions – email Cathy Kavassalis c.kavassalis@gmail.com





CANADA BLOOMS
MARCH 9-18, 2018
 Enercare Centre, Toronto
 Co-locating with


NATIONAL HOMESHOW
 PRESENTED BY RE/MAX

Monday-Wednesday
 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Thursday-Saturday
 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Sunday MARCH 11
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sunday MARCH 18
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Join us, where

"Spring is Simply Grand!"

2018 District 6 AGM and Flower Show



Hosted by: St. George Garden Club
 Glen Morris Horticultural Society
 Lynden Horticultural Society

Saturday, April 14th, 2018

South Dumfries Community Centre, upstairs
 (Elevator in lobby)
 7 Gaukel Road, St. George

Speaker/Demonstrator: Susan Suter
"How to Grow Flower Designers"

Tickets \$15 - available at the door

Please bring your Society's Banner
 and a \$20 to \$25 Door Prize.

Join us for fun, food, and fabulous company!



Please visit their website for more information: <http://www.gardenontario.org/>



Recreating Eden

February 3 TVO – 10:30 pm

Ep. 7 - The Renegade Scientist: Diana Beresford-Kroeger of Merrickville, Ont., is a gardener who combines her medical training with a love of botany.

Recreating Eden

February 3 TVO – 11:00 pm

Ep. 10 - You Grow Girl: Graphic designer Gayla Trail's website YouGrowGirl.com became the online destination for young, urban apartment dwellers hankering for green spaces.

A Park for All Seasons

February 7 TVO – 10:30 pm

Sleeping Giant

Sleeping Giant Provincial Park offers breathtaking scenery, including a stone formation of gigantic proportions.

Recreating Eden

February 14 TVO – 10:30 pm

Ep. 2 - The Mona Lisa of Parterres

Princess Claudia inherited what is now considered the best-preserved Renaissance parterre garden in Italy.

Recreating Eden

February 17 TVO – 10:30 pm

Ep. 8 - Growing Up

Many have seen Birgit Piskor's garden located in the heritage district of Victoria, British Columbia. It continually receives attention from magazines to television to national gardening awards and is noted as a must see by Victorian Garden Tours.

Recreating Eden

February 24 TVO – 11:00 pm

Ep. 4 - Saving Cities

Geoff Cape is not your ordinary gardener. Through his Toronto-based organization Evergreen, Geoff and his colleagues have been helping communities design green spaces for all to enjoy.


Garden Days
Les **Journées** du **Jardin**

June 16-24, 2018

Canada's Annual Celebration of Gardens and Gardening

It's never too early to start planning ...

We are pleased to announce the dates of **Garden Days 2018 – June 16 to 24**, inclusive. National Garden Day will be celebrated on **Saturday, June 16**, the opening day of Garden Days 2018.

Garden Days is the nine-day celebration of the vital role that gardens and gardening play in our communities and our lives.

This nine-day period provides activity organizers, especially schools, much more flexibility to host a weekday activity or a series of activities and /or to host activities on either or both weekends, the choice is yours!

For more information please visit: <http://www.communitiesinbloom.ca/june-16-24-2018/>



The Master Gardeners of Ontario began the campaign to have a Canadian national flower and nearly 10, 000 Canadians voted for Cornus canadensis, Bunchberry. A petition has gone to Parliament and a local Toronto MP spoke to it in the House. Now, it's time for more Canadians to speak up.

Here is a letter that you can copy, customize and send.

M. Trudeau's email address is justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

To the Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau:

M. Trudeau,



I am supporting the Canadian Master Gardeners in urging the Canadian Government to designate Cornus canadensis as Canada's National Flower. A petition to this effect was presented in Parliament in December by MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, and was backed by the votes of almost 10,000 Canadians in a nationwide poll in 2017. This native plant, which grows in every province and territory, is known as Bunchberry in English, Quatre-temps in French and Kawiscowimin in Cree.

Native plants have never been at such risk, both in Canada and globally. They are under threat from destruction of wild areas, the spread of non-native invasive plants and the lack of awareness in the general public about the role that native plants play. When you take the time to name something and recognize it, you imbue it with power. The Ontario trillium is a good example of that. Its designation encourages people to both protect the plant in wild populations and plant it in private gardens.

Representing environmental awareness, inclusion, and togetherness, Cornus canadensis can be a new symbol of Canada for the next 150 years. We ask the government to make this announcement official as soon as possible.

With respect and thanks,

Your Name Here.

You can also change the salutation and send to:

Your local MP. Find the correct email address here:

<http://www.ourcommons.ca/parliamentarians/en/constituencies/FindMP>. Type in your MP's name and you should be directed to his or her bio page with email contact info on it.

The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, at Melanie.Joly@parl.gc.ca

Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party, at elizabeth.may@parl.gc.ca

Andrew Scheer, Leader of the Official Opposition, at andrew.scheer@parl.gc.ca

The more letters we send, the greater the chance of being heard. Please also send this email to your gardening friends and family, and encourage them to make noise.

Let's make this happen in 2018!

