



Oakville Horticultural Society March 2020

March Monthly Meeting
Date: March 9, 2020
Location: Knox Presbyterian Church, 89 Dunn Street
Set-up Volunteers: Cathy Kavassalis and Larry Urbanoski
Hospitality Volunteers: Sheelagh Rowland, Liz Day, Diane Burton and Christel Mahncke
Flower Show Clerks:



Ken Brown is a horticultural consultant, writer and photographer. He received his bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Guelph and has a horticulture teaching degree from the University of Toronto. He owned and operated "The Plant Manager" an interior landscaping company for 20 years, where he built and maintained a wide variety of public and private interior gardens. Ken is a certified horticultural judge and a frequent speaker at meetings and seminars. Ken has been published in several magazines and papers and you can [visit his blog](#) for great gardening tips

His topic will be: Vertical Gardening.

**Please attend the meeting
and
think about bringing a guest
free of charge!**



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Well, the Claytons have returned to Oakville, after a lovely break in warm and sunny Spain! Many thanks to Wendy, Larry and the rest of the Executive for keeping the OHS train on track in my absence. It is much appreciated.

We have certainly had a real taste of winter lately, but I do believe the days are getting longer and spring cannot be far away. Our annual Fun with Flowers event on Family Day was a great success (see story and pictures below) and once again, we participated in Oakville's Seedy Sunday where we had the opportunity to meet the many gardening enthusiasts of Oakville.

Another great late winter tradition is the Canada Blooms show. We will have reduced price tickets available at our next meeting on March 9th, so think about attending – it will be taking place at the Enercare Centre in Toronto, from March 13th to 22nd this year.

The Plant Sale committee will be meeting soon, to make sure every detail is mapped out for another successful event on Saturday May 16th. Plans are in place to stage this at Glen Abbey United Church again this year. Helen and Nino will be reaching out to the Junior Gardeners soon, as that activity begins in May. As for the Garden Tour, we are still looking for beautiful gardens to include. Please think about beautiful gardens in your neighbourhood or maybe opening up your own garden for the tour, scheduled for Sunday June 14th.

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 know I have said it before - it's bliss to be in the garden and it's almost as wonderful to be talking about gardening! Until next time, I'll be dreaming of spring.

Paula



Plant of the Year
Sincerity Dahlia

CANADA BLOOMS

PRESENTED BY
MarksChoice

EXCLUSIVE TO
HOME HARDWARE

MARCH 13-22, 2020
Enercare Centre, Toronto

Co-locating with
HOME SHOW
THE BIG ONE

presented by
BEYAL

Mon-Wed: 10 am - 8 pm, Thurs-Sat: 10 am - 9 pm,
Sun Mar 15: 10 am - 6 pm, Sun Mar 22: 10 am - 5 pm



Birds Of A Feather!

VISIT
Canada Blooms
And Enjoy

HOME SHOW
THE BIG ONE

1 Admission
2 Great Events!

CANADA BLOOMS
PRESENTED BY
MarksChoice
EXCLUSIVE TO HOME HARDWARE

MARCH 13-22, 2020
ENERCARE CENTRE
Monday-Wednesday 10am-8pm
Thursday-Saturday 10am-9pm / Sunday 10am-5pm

SPECIAL GUEST \$20

CANADABLOOMS.COM

One of our members, Celia has acquired (16) Canada Blooms tickets which will be available at the March meeting. If anyone is interested in purchasing a ticket(s) please contact Florenda (905-842-5793) to reserve one or more. Cash only - \$12 each.



Kim Peel receiving her trophy.



Mary Rose receiving her numerous awards

Mary Cameron receiving her trophy.



Robert Welsh receiving his trophy.

Wade Pitman receiving his award.



Photographs attributed to:
ELIZABETH SCHLEICHER

society award night news...



Congratulations to all our winners!





This year's free flower arranging workshop for kids and their parents/grand parents was another roaring success! This was the ninth year that the Town of Oakville asked the Oakville Horticultural Society to undertake this activity held at Iroquois Ridge Community Centre. Since the Town does not provide monetary support for this activity, it would not have been possible without the generosity of some local flower vendors and our big hearted volunteers. This activity has been hugely popular and every year we seem to have more people wanting to participate. This year we held 5 sessions, and had 180 flower arrangements created by kids and their parents.

Our Oakville Horticultural Society (OHS) volunteers worked hard collecting flowers, putting oasis into the fish tins, transporting flowers and trimming the vast amount of floral materials the morning of the event in order to be ready for the first group scheduled for 10:15 a.m. After each group was finished, it was time to clean off the tables and restock the containers with more fresh flowers for the next group.

At the start of each session, basic instruction was provided to the participants by Marie Decker on the principles of putting together a pleasing, balanced flower arrangement and then eager hands went to work creating many unique colourful arrangements. The children and adults looked pleased with their handiwork and expressed their appreciation at having the opportunity to create and take home a cheerful floral arrangement of their very own making.

Special thanks again to Flower Deco on Lakeshore West, a consistent and generous supporter of this annual event. Our other sponsors this year included Metro at Dorval/QEW and Upper Middle and Eighth Line as well as Fortino's on Lakeshore near Kerr St.

It is not too early to start saving your fish tins for next year's event since it looks like we will need at least 180 again for next February. Just bring them to any of our monthly meetings and drop them off at the raffle table.

Florenda Tingle



Photographs attributed to:

ELIZABETH SCHLEICHER

Thank you to all our volunteers!





Photographs attributed to:
ELIZABETH SCHLEICHER



Sarnia Horticultural Society



District 6 Breakfast Meeting at the Colborne Centre



district news....





“The Eat the Bug Cookbook, 40 Ways to Cook Crickets, Grasshoppers, Water Bugs, Spiders, Centipedes and their Kin”

Yes really there are dozens of books and YouTube videos extolling the virtues of eating bugs, and many environmentalists and entomologists say this is the way of the future. They may have a point when you consider that to produce one pound of beef requires 1800 US gallons of water, (including water use to produce the cows food and so on), not to mention the amount of grazing land used and the methane produced by flatulent cattle. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is thirty times more potent than carbon dioxide

Of course bugs are a staple and even a delicacy in many parts of the world. Our delicate Western sensibilities will probably be modified by the demands of countering climate change in the future as the “ick” factor disappears.

According to a United Nations report, there are more than 1,900 edible insect species on earth, hundreds of which are part of the diet in many countries. Two billion people eat insects regularly, cooked or raw. Many insects are packed with protein, fibre, good fats, vitamins and minerals. For example mealworm, the larval form of a darkling beetle has protein, vitamins, and minerals on par with fish and meat. Entomophagy is the name given to the consumption of insects of food, and over a hundred countries around the world are entomophagous.

Here are a few of the more common insects use for food: grasshoppers, crickets, locusts, ants, termites, grubs of many kinds, woodlice, earthworms, stink bugs, scorpions, beetles, butterflies, moths, bees, wasps, and water boatmen.

Okay, maybe insects are a sustainable superfood, but what do they actually taste like, good or yucky? Well it depends how they are cooked, (generally fried or roasted or sometimes ground into flour), how they are seasoned, what they are fed on, and most of all who you ask, because it is pretty subjective. Here are a few examples:

Hornet - Like mussels (also believed to be a powerful aphrodisiac in Japan);

Termites: - Like crispy bacon;

Caterpillar: - Like meaty vegetables;

Black ants: - Citrus;

Grasshoppers: ?;

Water beetles: - Like green apples;

Scorpions and spiders: - Like crab or lobster (cooking destroys the venom);

One writer, on first tasting the giant water beetle, said, “there is simply nothing in the annals of our culture to which I can direct your attention that would hint at the nature of its flavour”. I am not sure if that was complimentary or derogatory.

Too bad we missed it, but on August 27th, the International Culinary Centre hosted its first “Cooking with Bugs” class called “How and Why We Eat Bugs.”

As the French say Bon Appetit - Happy dining, David Marshall



I’ve long believed that good food, good eating, is all about risk. Whether we’re talking about unpasteurized Stilton, raw oysters or working for organized crime associates, food, for me, has always been an adventure.





**Thank you to
all our
volunteers!**

society news.....



The Tree That Is Live -Tweeting Climate Change

With a little help from scientists, an oak in the Harvard Forest is sharing updates about its life.

IF YOU'VE BEEN SWEATY AND miserable, resenting summer and aching for a cool breeze, you're not alone. A northern red oak in the Harvard Forest in Petersham, Massachusetts, has been hot, too.

The tree hasn't been complaining about it the way humans do; *Quercus rubra* doesn't whine or get wrung out and cranky. But oaks—and the beech, birch, hemlock, white pine, and maple trees growing nearby—are going through “the same environmental things that we experience,” says Clarisse Hart, the director of outreach and education at the Harvard Forest, a 4,000-acre outdoor research laboratory owned and managed by the university. Humans are different from trees in so many ways, except for the ways we aren't. Trees, Hart points out, are “absolutely experiencing heat, rain, growing, breathing, sweating, eating, doing all of these things that we do.”

For the northern red oak, that includes tweeting about a heat wave.

At 85 feet tall, this particular tree soars above many of its peers, and it's more substantial, too, with a thicker trunk and a bigger crown. It's also one of the most senior trees in its community, the forest's Prospect Hill Tract. Much of the forest was flattened in the fierce, 186-mile-per-hour gusts of a hurricane that wailed through in 1938.

To Tim Rademacher, a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University and Northern Arizona University, what really distinguishes this tree from its neighbors is that it is equipped with a slew of sensors that feed data to a bot that he built to communicate to the world what is happening in and around the tree.

Rademacher had considered other trees for the Twitter treatment, including a maple. (He really loves syrup.) But this one stuck out as a good candidate. The species is really common in the area, and Rademacher and his colleagues hoped that familiarity would make it relatable. “We wanted something everyone could find in their backyard,” he says. Also, this specimen already had fans from when, a few years ago, journalist Lynda Mapes placed it at the center of her book [The Witness Tree: Seasons of Change With a Century-Old Oak](#), which used the Harvard Forest as a microcosm for the wonder of the leafy realm and the threats posed by a glut of carbon dioxide and a warming climate. (The paperback comes out in August 2019.)

The tree has been tweeting from the [@awitnesstree](#) account since July 17, 2019, when it introduced itself as “one of the oldest living organisms on the internet!” (Clearly, the tree hasn't yet met [@SUEtheTrex](#), the Field Museum's chatty, [67-million-year-old](#) *Tyrannosaurus rex*.)



The Tree That Is Live -Tweeting Climate Change continued...

The tree will continue to fire off automated dispatches roughly six times a week for the foreseeable future, drawing on data coming in from sensors wedged into the tree and scattered around its neighborhood. One of the sensors, for example, punctures the bark to measure the flow of sap. Because sap’s journey through the roots, branches, and trunk is affected by water and temperature, keeping tabs on it helps researchers understand how the tree is responding to heat and drought. “The last two days were extremely hot for July,” the tree tweeted on July 21. “When is this heat wave going to end?”

Other sensors, called dendrometers, measure seasonal and daily fluctuations in the tree’s trunk and branches. We know that growth rings document a tree’s expansion, year-to-year, over its life, but trees also bulge and shrink on a daily scale as they soak up water and then transpire it through their leaves. Scientists hope that understanding those patterns will shed more light on how the cells themselves help store carbon dioxide and offset greenhouse gas emissions. “This year, my trunk has grown roughly 1.5 mm (0.06 inches) in diameter,” the tree tweeted on July 24. It went on to describe its interior life, in a way: “The ‘late wood’ rings I am producing now look darker, and contain more carbon, than my faster-growing ‘early wood’ rings.”

The account also draws from images captured by the PhenoCam—a digital camera that snaps photos looking up at the tree’s canopy every 30 minutes - in addition to soil temperature, air temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind speed, and more gathered four times an hour at a nearby weather station. The PhenoCam is one of roughly a dozen positioned throughout the forest to collect information about leaves, wildlife, and more.

Scrolling through the Twitter feed is a bit like leafing through a diary. “We knew that we wanted the tree to speak in the first person,” Hart says. “That was important to us.” The team figured that the perspective “would be more engaging for the audience,” says Shawna Greyeyes, a rising sophomore at Coconino Community College in Flagstaff, Arizona, who is spending the summer working on the project as an intern at the Harvard Forest. “How many accounts are there with a tree speaking for itself?” At the same time, Rademacher adds, “We’ve tried to make sure that all of the messages are data-driven or environmental facts, things we know for sure, and not about how the tree ‘feels.’”

It’s a tricky balance. If the tree reports that it’s hot, that’s an objective observation—based on comparing the day’s temperature to decades of data—maybe playfully masquerading as a subjective one. But the tone is friendly and conversational—so much so that, a reader would be forgiven for forgetting that there wasn’t a brain, opposable thumbs, or a smartphone involved.

“My trunk and branches are on the fast track!” it tweeted on July 22, evoking a kid chuffed about a growth spurt. “My trunk has grown 0.255 mm and my branches 0.279 mm so far this month.” (Every little bit counts.) On July 21, it noted that the average temperature had worked out to 80.5 degrees Fahrenheit, making it “the 24th hottest day I can remember.” There is a growing body of research into what, exactly, plants “remember,” but this tweet was actually referring to the Harvard Forest data archive, which reaches back more than 55 years.

“We want to connect people to what’s happening around them.”



World Environment Day is held on June 5th every year. It isn’t a public holiday, it is an environmental awareness day, run by the United Nations. It is sometimes also unofficially called Eco Day or Environment Day. The aim of the Day is to raise awareness of the environment and specific environmental issues.



The Tree That Is Live -Tweeting Climate Change continued

It's pretty common for researchers to strap sensors to their subjects, from whales to trees, but this data doesn't usually reach the general public in any direct, accessible way. "We want to have it be so that a person who knows nothing about trees could understand it," Greyeyes says.

Rademacher also dreams about innumerable riffs on the concept, where almost anything could be outfitted with sensors and narrate its experiences of the changing world through a bot. "I'm dreaming of an 'IoT,' but an internet of trees, not things," he says. An estuary could tweet about salinity and or storm surge, a mountain could tweet about erosion—and what a user chooses to follow could reflect their particular region or interests. "If you live in Arizona, you could follow a ponderosa [pine]," Rademacher muses. "We want to connect people to what's happening around them."

The project is funded by the National Science Foundation, and when that grant runs out, Rademacher will try to find a full-time position somewhere. Before he leaves, he hopes to set up the tweeting tree to communicate sustainably and self-sufficiently, so it can keep going without him. Scaling up the idea would require making the sensors and hardware a little tougher and more concealed, and cheap and self-contained, with a nearby wireless connection.

We can't know how the tree "felt" about the recent heat wave in the Northeast, but Rademacher suspects that the data holds a sense of how the tree experienced a particular day. He imagines that on a scorching afternoon, the tree would stop photosynthesizing—the process is "too stressful"—and would shut the pores in its leaves to avoid losing water and wilting. He expects to see proof of this in the sap-flow record.

These specifics matter to researchers, but on a broader scale, the project is also a call for the casually curious—not just botanists and arborists—to look closely and sympathetically at our non-human neighbors. The trees, insects, birds around us—they're all weathering the same changing world. We share it, after all.

Accredited to Atlas Obscura BY [JESSICA LEIGH HESTER](#) JULY 25, 2019

Cosmos bipinnatus 'Cupcakes Blush'

Mexican Aster 'Cupcake Blush', Cupcake Series

Plant Type: Annual

Height: 120cm (48") Grows up to 3-4 ft. tall (90-120cm) and 20 in. wide (50 cm)

Sun: Full Sun Performs best in full sun, in average, moist, well-drained soils.

Sow: Indoors 5-7 weeks before last frost, or direct seed into prepared beds after last frost.

Transplant: Harden off and transplant once soil has warmed in the spring.

Days to Maturity: 90-100 days

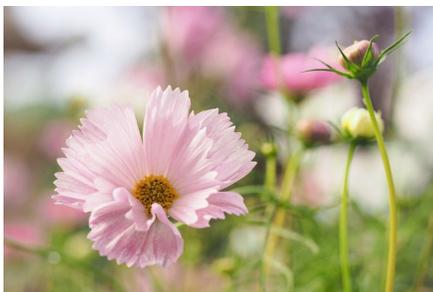
Plant Spacing: 25-30cm (9-12")

Pinch: Yes

Potential Harvest Yield: 6-8 stems per plant

Harvest Tips: Harvest when buds are just cracking, but have not yet fully opened. For double varieties, let open half-way before picking.

Growing and Harvest Information: Ideal addition to beds and borders, containers, cottage gardens, prairies and meadows and cutting gardens. Keep an eye out for aphids, slugs, gray moulds. Propagate by seeds. Pinching of dead blooms will promote continuous blooming.



What Are Haskap Berries?

Haskap is the Japanese name for *Lonicera caerulea*, also known as Edible Blue Honeysuckle or Honeyberry. Haskap is an ancient Japanese name of the Ainu people of Northern Japan for the fruit meaning “berry of long life and good vision”. The first introduction of the cultivated plant to Canada was at Beaver Lodge, AB in the 1950s. The fruit was bitter and not palatable. It has been found in the wild in every province in Canada except for British Columbia.



The name “Haskap” was chosen as the brand name that have been applied to new varieties bred by the Fruit Program at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Haskap berries come from varieties common to a circumpolar species native to northern boreal forests in Asia, Europe, and North America. It is mainly found in low lying wet areas or high in mountains, in a variety of soil and growing conditions.

Most people mistaken the fruit as part of the Vaccinium Family (Blueberries and cranberries), when in fact the fruit is just as closely related to tomatoes. It comes from the Dipsacales Order and is related to the Snowberry and Elderberry.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lonicera_caerulea

What Do Haskap Berries Taste Like?

Haskap have their own unique taste, color and texture. They have very tiny seeds that can be eaten with the berry. The taste has been described as tart/sweet and juicy, like a raspberry. They have a powdery blue skin, like a blueberry but the skin is quite thin and melts in your mouth.

How do Haskap berries grow?

Haskap berries grow on bushes that form a globe shape and can grow 5-7 feet tall over 5-7 years. It is one of the first fruit crops to set and ripen in the growing season (earlier than strawberries by a few weeks) and continue to produce berries into the fall. Most commercial harvesting occurs in the last weeks of June and into late July, depending on the geographical region. Bushes are well behaved.

- Don't sucker.
- Have no thorns.
- Need little pruning in early years.
- Tend to fruit when very young.
- Drought and cold climate friendly.
- Although low to the ground when young, the berries are easy to pick.
- The bushes are a globe shape that are great in landscaping.



Accredited to:

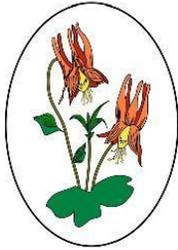


Jardin Majorelle – a Moroccan Oasis created and designed by artist Jacques Majorelle

The Jardin Majorelle in Marrakech is one of the most visited sites in Morocco. It took French painter Jacques Majorelle (1886-1962) forty years of passion and dedication to create this enchanting garden in the heart of the “Ochre City”. French fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent and his partner Pierre Bergé bought Jardin Majorelle in 1984 to preserve the vision of its original owner, French landscape painter Jacques Majorelle, and keep it open to the public. The garden, started in 1924, contains a psychedelic desert mirage of 300 plant species from five continents. At its heart lies Majorelle's electric-blue art deco studio, home to the **Musée Berbère**, which showcases the rich panorama of Morocco's indigenous inhabitants through displays of some 600 artefacts.

in the garden of ...





Get Ready for Spring!

Milton & District Horticultural Society's

2020 Seedy Saturday

& Garden Show

Saturday, March 28th — 9am to 3pm
at the NEW Sherwood Community Centre
6355 Main Street W., Milton

HEAR EXPERT SPEAKERS

9:30 to 10:30 am
 Katherine Granger on
Growing good food

11:00 am to noon
 Emma Biggs on
**A kid to kid guide to
 gardening**

12:30 to 1:30 pm
 Sean James on
**Rain gardens and
 wet areas**

2:00 to 3:00 pm
 Tony Hornick on
Super simple sprouter

Interactive
 Kids
 Activities

Free
 Seed Exchange

Unique
 Vendors &
 Exhibitors

Seeds, Bulbs &
 Plant Sales

Raffles for
 Prizes

Gardening
 Information

**A donation of \$5 per adult
 is requested (includes free coffee)**
Kids are FREE



For the details, visit www.miltonhortsociety.com

did you know.....





Weather ALERT: According to Environment Canada a possibility of a Heavy Snow Storm is expected within the next few days.

Heavy Snowfall is extremely hard on our local wild birds. There are a few steps we can take to help our feathered friends sustain the snowstorm.

Food: Ensure your feeders are filled with high energy, high quality food (easy to consume foods such as de-shelled sunflower hearts is a great choice in the winter).

Suet: Add suet which is rich in fatty energy and help birds. If you don't have extra feeder, add suet nuggets to your regular seed. The extra fat plus energy helps our birds stay warm.

Access: If you are using a platform feeder or a hopper with a large deck, ensure the snow is brushed away so the birds can find the food and use the feeder.

Water: Ensure your birds have access to water. A heated bird bath is a great way to ensure ongoing access to water, but if you don't have one, put out a small bowl of water each morning which will give your birds a few hours of access to water before it freezes.

Protection: Hang a Roosting House or roosting pocket to give birds a place for shelter during the snow. A roost box will help the birds remain warm and can shelter multiple birds at once.

If we all do a little, it can mean a world of difference for our feathered friends.

Thanks for your help.

Accredited to: The Urban Nature Store



Cross Pollination March 2020 Issue

<https://haltonmastergardeners.files.wordpress.com/2020/01/cross-pollination-2020-02-.pdf>



Check it out! Lots of interesting news and information!



March 9	Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street
	Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting commences at 7:30 pm
March 13-17	Canada Blooms see attached poster for details.
	See attached poster for details.
March 12	RBG Speaker Series: Debbi Goodwin: A Victory Garden for Trying Times
	7 to 8:30 p.m.; <u>RBG Centre</u> Ever since her childhood on a Niagara farm, Debi Goodwin has dug in the dirt to find resilience. She experienced the healing power of a garden during sickness and loss. Learn about the history of Victory Gardens and how the garden she created and wrote about in her memoir, A Victory Garden for trying times, helped her carry on in her fight against an enemy she couldn't see and, later, nurtured through her grief. \$18 (\$6. for RBG Members) - pre-registration required.
March 16	Monthly Executive Meeting at Oakville Room, Town Hall
March 26	RBG Speaker Series: Jillian: Get the Facts on Medical Marijuana
	7 to 8:30 p.m.; <u>RBG Centre</u> Have you ever wondered if cannabis is suitable therapy for you or a loved one? Are you unsure about how to get cannabis that is legal and approved by Health Canada? Jillian Henderson from Bodystream discusses how to navigate the system to stay on the right side of the law. She shares examples of real patients who have tried cannabis as medicine. She discusses the benefits as well as the precautions and warnings so you can stay safe while still managing symptoms. \$18 (\$6. for RBG Members) - pre-registration required
March 28	Milton 2020 Seedy Saturday and Garden Show
	9:00 am - 3:00 pm Free admission but the not-for-profit society is asking for a \$5. donation per adult in the family, which includes free coffee. Location: Sherwood Community Centre and Library, 6355 Main Street W. There will be seed exchange, 24 vendors, exhibitors ranging from bulbs to garden décor. see poster in newsletter.
April 7 to 28	RBG : Design Your Ideal Garden
	Fee: \$210. 6:30 - 9:30 pmat the RBG Centre Work with an experienced landscape designer to create your ultimate backyard. Using simple steps and plenty of examples, we'll create plan drawings for your ideal garden. Discuss decks, privacy for an urban retreat, rain gardens and incorporating vegetables, native plants, composting, shade structures, permeable paving and more.
April 13	Monthly Meeting at MacMillan Hall 89 Dunn Street
	Monthly meeting will be held at the Knox Presbyterian Church 89 Dunn Street. Doors open at 6:30 pm, meeting commences at 7:30 pm
April 18	RBG Speaker Series: A Trail Called Home: Tree Stories from the Golden Horseshoe
	2to 4:00 p.m.; <u>RBG Centre</u>
April 25	RBG Plant Faire
	9:00 am - 2:00 pm Free admission. RBG is proud to present its third 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.



Bring your own mug and get one free draw ticket at the door!!!!

