

The Blooming News

Stoney Creek Garden Club & Horticultural Society



Winter 2019 Newsletter

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Stoney Creek Garden Club

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Membership meetings held at The Church of our Saviour the Redeemer at 23 Lake Ave S.

January 14 – Membership meeting

Feb 11 – Silent Auction/Bake Sale

Feb 23 – District 6 Spring meeting

March 11 – Membership meeting

April 8 - Membership meeting

May 13 – Membership meeting

Message from the President

This year begins a new chapter for me as I take on the duties as your new President. This transition will be made easier with the help of the other board members who I know will be there to provide assistance.

One of our goals is to keep our members informed of the new and upcoming events, through regular messages, our website and newsletters.

Our Past president and Program Director, Liz Chapple, has been busy lining up our speakers for the coming months. Be sure to come and enjoy the various topics. Guests are always welcome.

The Board has also been working with the Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce to install a new service sign at Queenston Road just east of the Value Village plaza. This new service sign will be erected sometime this year and reflects our updated logo. Watch for it in the near future.

In closing, I want to remind everyone to be sure to renew their membership and consider volunteering. It is your participation that makes Stoney Creek Garden Club a success.

See you in January

Judy Wrobel





So you want to make your poinsettia re-bloom for next Christmas.

1. Keep the plant in a west or south window. Water only when dry to the touch.
2. When all danger of frost has passed, plant outside where it will get bright morning light. Cut the stems back to about 6 inches and make sure some leaves remain. As new shoots grow, the tips of the stems can be cut back to encourage bushy plant.
3. Dig up and replot the plant in the fall. You will probably need a bigger container. Once indoors, find a location where the poinsettia will get 14 hours of continuous, uninterrupted darkness and 10 hours of bright light. After two months of the long night-short day lighting, colored bracts will begin producing.



Alternately:

1. Compost the poinsettia when it gets scraggly
2. Buy a brand new one next Christmas

Meetings:

Guests always welcome.

January 14 – Paul Knowles will give his humorous take on how gardeners can get through the dreary wintertime.

February 11 – Annual Silent Auction and Bake Sale event

February 23 - : District 6 Spring Breakfast 9:00 am – noon. Connon Nurseries 656 Robson Rd., Waterdown. Hosted by the Flamborough Horticultural Society. Speaker Marilyn Cornwell, The Evening Garden, a new and informative talk

March 11 – Speaker Sean James with the topic “Soil and the things living in it.”

April 8 – Speaker Victoria Bick – Historic Garden Co-ordinator at Dundurn Castle will speak about the Kitchen Garden at Dundurn Castle as a showpiece for Victorian Horticulture.

May 13 – Speaker Marilyn Cromwell – The Romantic Garden. Marilyn is a photographer and a gardener who has devoted herself to understanding the relationship between great garden design and great photography.

June 10 – Annual Strawberry Social.

A Christmas Centerpiece Workshop was held with 14 creative people:





The Little Brown Bat – on the endangered species list. Here are some facts:

(facts taken from Canadian Wildlife Federation website)

Habitat: Little Brown Bats do not usually migrate to destinations outside of Canada, but, individuals can move up to 1000 km from summer roosts to winter roosts where they hibernate. These winter roosts are called hibernacula. Hibernacula are generally in caves or abandoned mines, and are chosen for their high humidity and stable, above-freezing temperatures. The Little Brown Bat is a true hibernator (it slows down its metabolism, heart rate, and breathing).

Diet: Little Brown Bats feed on a great variety of small, flying insects and are capable of catching over 1000 insects in just one hour. Little brown bats feed on those that have an aquatic larval stage, such as mosquitoes, midges, and mayflies as well as moths, beetles, and other flying insects.

Behaviour: Bats use echolocation to navigate and find food as they fly. It works by sending out pulses of high-frequency sound that creates a returning echo when there is something in their path. Contrary to the myth that bats are blind, little brown bats have excellent vision. Although echolocation is important, they also use visual cues, especially during long distance migration. There are a number of predators that feed on little brown bats, such as raccoons, hawks, owls, and snakes. They are dependent, therefore, on finding roosts that provide protection from these predators while still being close to food and water sources. Little brown bats form a strong attachment to their maternity site and will return year after year to the same location.

Threats and What You Can Do:

Pesticides harm bats by poisoning or reducing their food supply. They can also kill bats when farms are sprayed in the early evening when bats begin to hunt.

White-nose Syndrome is a disease that is killing alarmingly high numbers of bats that overwinter in caves. Scientists are working quickly to discover a cure.

Wind turbines kill large numbers of migratory bats each year.

If you would like to help bats in your area you can provide roosting sites by putting up a bat house. Little brown bats are one of the bats most likely to use bat houses.



FLOWER SHOWS

Flower Shows were not held during the 2017-2018 year. The Board is interested in holding events that are of interest to all members. If you would like to take part in or help organize flower shows this year, please let President Judy know and provide your suggestions for success.

What Gardeners do in the winter:

Read Seed Catalogs

Sitting by the fire with the latest gardening catalogs and with a cup of tea is a great way to pass a winter day. Catalogues are free and you can order on line. With a few catalogs winter becomes a time for dreaming and hoping.

Visit a Nursery

While many garden centers have been replaced by bland, big-box home stores, there are still wonderful nurseries out there—and they're usually open in the winter. Stop by and check out houseplants, seeds, tools, and more. Nothing will get you in the mood for Spring faster than a rejuvenating visit to a local nursery!

Become a Garden Artist

Drawing and painting is a fine way to express your love of horticulture. There are often classes offered through local arts centers, or just work at home at your own pace. Whether a landscape or a detailed botanical close-up, creating garden art works wonders for the soul.

Go Online

Surf the Internet to find zillions of garden pages and fellow planters to chat with. Facebook alone sports a million horticultural Pages and Groups to join, connecting you with a wide-world of green-thumbers just like you.

Clean Your Tools

Maybe not the most exciting job, but a necessary one. Keep your shovels, forks, clippers, and trowels in shape by making sure they're clean and any moving parts are well-oiled.

Hopefully you took lots of photos of your garden. Look at them carefully and decide what you liked and what you'd like to change. Checkout the gardening section of your local library. Yes, you can find information on line but there's something very satisfying about picking up a book of beautifully photographed gardens. The library also has gardening magazines including back issues.

Dress warmly and go for a walk.

Look for interesting, "exfoliating" types of tree barks (like Paperbark Maple, Acer griseum), ornamental grasses, various mosses and lichens, and the red branches of dogwood shrubs. Notice how plantings, containers and garden art enhance the winter landscape.

Come to the next Stoney creek garden club meeting on January 14 to hear Paul Knowles give his humorous take on how gardeners can get through a dreary winter.



Thank goodness my seed catalogs finally arrived. I almost starting cleaning the house.

