

A WORMS EYE VIEW
FERGUS AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 2019



Winter Is All Downhill From Here!

Monthly Meeting
Wednesday February 20

Victoria Park Senior Centre
7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Please join us for a night of fellowship and fun
For more info please contact Connie Di Pisa at 519-843-4866

Our Guest Speaker for February

Our Guest Speaker for the upcoming Members' Meeting on February 20th will be Christine Gilhuly, who will speak on the topic of "Lazy Gardening". The focus will be on how to approach gardening with a view to overcoming the physical and mobility challenges facing the aging, but still enthusiastic, gardener.

Christine has been an active member of the Kitchener Master Gardeners since January 2007, happily volunteering her time to help people learn more about gardening. She gives gardening talks locally, including at the Lee Valley store in Waterloo, and offers gardening advice at events such as Canada Blooms.

She has a special interest in starting seeds and starts hundreds of seedlings every year in her basement. She lives and gardens with her family in Waterloo

Fergus & District Garden Recognition Program

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, and at the January Members' Meeting, the Society Board of Directors has had general discussions about launching a program to recognize and honour local gardens of particular beauty or interest. These would be gardens which contribute to the beautification of our community by providing an outstanding display of flowers, shrubs and trees. Unusual garden design and layout may also be factors in recognition. Recognition would come in the form of a plaque, prominently displayed in the front of each qualifying garden.

At present, this is an idea still under development, but help is needed in the form of more involvement by the general membership of the Society.

First off, a small volunteer group is needed to fully develop the program, in terms of the rules, program name, and judging of gardens. The Board is too large a group to run the program, and a smaller, dedicated committee is needed.

On a more widespread level, all members need to be alert to identifying notable gardens which might qualify, and to turn in nominations to the program committee.

If any members are interested in helping to get this program under way, please make your willingness known to any Society Board Member. Names and contact information can be found in the 2019 Yearbook, which was distributed at the January Members' Meeting

Membership to our Society is now available.

This is a reminder that your yearly membership fees are due in January. Once again the fees remain at ten dollars per member. The membership committee will be available to collect your dues at 7:00 pm, before our meeting starts

You will be given a sheet with your contact information on it, and you will be asked to check that everything is correct. You will also be asked if you do, or do not wish to receive emails from the Fergus and District Horticultural Society. You can circle “yes” or “no”, sign the form and hand it back. You will receive your new membership card and your yearbook.

July 11th 2019 Bus Trip

- 8am sharp, departure from Centre Wellington Sportsplex
- 6pm, approximate return to Sportsplex
- All Ontario Horticultural Society members welcome
- Cost for the trip is \$45, (lunch to be determined shortly), payable when you reserve your spot. Cheques will be deposited on July 1st.
- Please contact either Karen Eddie at 519-856-9881 kareneddie22@gmail.com
or Bernie Siegmund at 519-843-6870 bernie.siegmund@everus.ca, for more info or to book your tour.

First stop will be Riverwood Gardens not far from Durham and Hanover followed by a coffee break at Tim Hortons in Durham.

Continuing north on Hwy. 6 to Blossom Hills near Holland Centre.
On to Owen Sound for a lunch break on the water, (to be arranged shortly).

Then eastward to Willow Farm Grasses near Walters Falls.

From there we head to Kimberley and Artemesia Daylilies.

Last stop, Froggies Song in Flesherton.

To see pictures and learn a bit more about the gardens, visit www.ruralgardens.ca
Hope you'll join us!

Introduction of the new OHA 2nd Vice President!

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you and share what it is that I would like to accomplish in my first year on the OHA Board. My name is Joanne Rachfalowski, and I am the 2nd Vice-President. I am married and have 4 great kids (and a wonderful husband). I grew up in Toronto and moved to the Barrie area 32 years ago. I love animals (3 dogs), running (ran the Boston Marathon in 2015), my cottage (Stony Lake) and of course GARDENING!

I am very excited about my new role and want to hit the ground running, so to speak, after the insightful talk that Carson Arthur gave at this year's Convention. To sum it up with a quote from Carson:

“Bring the change that the OHA needs. Learn to communicate to the next generation of gardeners.”

This is how I would like to start:

Firstly, I am now responsible for the GardenOntario Facebook Page and think it would be a great if as many of you and your members/families would “Like” the Page. I also intend to change the cover photo often (at least monthly) so as to showcase some of the stunning pictures taken by members. It might be a picture of a garden or a flower in a garden, or an amazing Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter Container that you or a group in your club created for the community. We will also be creating Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest Accounts. These will need pictures too.

Second, I am going to spearhead an initiative to create (with the help of my sons) a number of YouTube videos. The thinking behind this is: to create an online community by showcasing the incredible people and personalities we have in our clubs; to capture and preserve the wisdom and experience of our membership, so as to serve as a permanent knowledge base for current and future members, and; to reach out to the next generation of gardeners (many of whom are our children or grandchildren) using the medium that they are most comfortable with. In fact, one of Carson's suggestions was that we start at the beginning with a Gardening 101 series, so as to make it easy for our future members to become hooked on gardening, just as we did.

This brings me to my third point, I am going to need a lot of help! I need everyone to send me your ideas on: what has worked for your club; examples of how you have been able to increase membership; ideas for the YouTube videos we can produce; your pictures, and so on. Every time I attend one of these conventions, or visit a new club, or even just attend a meeting at my home club, I come away in awe of the talent and knowledge and the willingness to share, that I encounter. I know that we can really make a difference, and who knows – maybe there is a budding YouTube star among you! Working together and sharing our ideas, will benefit all of us.

I intend to meet as many of you as I can, and to get to know as many of your communities as possible. I hope I can count on all of you for your ideas and support to help us go forward. My email address is: joannerachfalowski@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Joanne

Interview with Katherine Granger

I am excited that my interview with Urban Farms Greg Peterson from Phoenix Arizona has been published! Here is the interview and a recipe.

<https://www.urbanfarm.org/2019/01/26/418-kat-granger/>

Cheers!

Kat

BEAR THOUGHTS

I hope nothing scared you today
(or other days).

Being scared is a constant experience in the forest. There so many scary things. Sudden loud sounds. Violent insects. Squirrels (in general). Accidentally breaking things. The possibility of squirrels organizing and planning things. Fish eyes (very scary).

Sometimes, it feels as though there is no escape from all the awful scary things in the forest. Even when I am alone in my cave, resting or napping or sleeping, I can experience being scared. Sometimes my mind wanders to scary places without my permission, bringing terrifying ideas and images to me that I did not ask for. So even within my bear mind, outside of the context of the forest, scariness is right there, waiting to make me feel upset and uncomfortable and unstable.

It is difficult, and it is something I hope you have not had to experience, at least not today. You being a creature of the wherever you are from (I assume the forest, just a different part of it) surely have experiences with being scared. I am certain that you have faced scary things. I am certain that you have even overcome and fought off scary things. Maybe you have even been a scary thing to some other creature (I know this can happen by accident quite easily (sorry, opossum I sat on in the dumpster)).

But should you find yourself scared, I do hope you know a few important things about the feeling. It is, for example, quite temporary. No matter what strange forest thing is haunting your mind or body, being scared will eventually go away. It is a short lasting feeling that you will most certainly defeat and move away from with time.

And of course, it is important to know that you are never the only one who is scared. Most things are always scared a lot of the time, and things that do not seem scared are just very good at hiding it (even rocks probably get scared (maybe (I have not tested this theory))). And even knowing that you are not alone should help conquer your being scared.

I hope nothing scared you today or any other day, but if you did get scared, it is okay. I promise.