

A WORMS EYE VIEW
FERGUS AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
APRIL 2019



Is Spring Finally Here?

Monthly Meeting
Wednesday April 17

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

President's Message April 2019

We've all been looking forward to spring I'm sure and have plans to get started in our gardens as soon as we can. I am certainly glad to see the last of the snow and ice. I'm hoping for a nice, lovely spring and watching everything come back to life. Spring always seems to bring a sense of renewal and promise to our busy lives.

While watching your gardens come back to life please keep an eye out for any plants you may like to divide and donate to our plant sale coming up quicker than we realize on May 11. Potting up is on May 3, 10 and 11 if you have any time to donate.

The District #7 Spring AGM hosted by Mount Forest & District Horticultural Society is coming up on April 13 and will be a nice start to spring events. Earth Day is April 22. Any plans to celebrate Mother Earth? We will also be at the Home & Leisure show May 8-10 with Pansies for the children to pot up for Mother's Day.

I'm looking forward to our guest speaker, Diana Pooke and to seeing all of you at our meeting on April 17. As always, any suggestions or ideas you may have for your board are very welcome.

Enjoy getting out in the garden as soon as things dry up a bit but remember to take it easy at first. Busy season ahead but an enjoyable one.

Happy Spring!

Connie

Our Guest Speaker for April

Our Guest Speaker for the upcoming Members' Meeting on April 17th will be Diana Pooke, who will speak on the topic "Ornamental Grasses and Sedges".

Diana is a Mississauga Master Gardener. She is co-editor of the Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society's Journal, a long-time member of the Executive of the Georgetown Horticultural Society, and an accredited horticultural judge for the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Diana and her husband Bill garden on a three-quarter acre site near Georgetown, Ontario. She has a passion for perennials and a fascination with ornamental grasses, and enjoys sharing her hard-won experience with a wide range of horticultural audiences.

Please come along and welcome Diana at our next meeting.

April 22nd is Earth Day

What will you do to celebrate this day?

This was the question posed to our Society by the 2nd Vice-President, Joanne Rachfalowski of the OHA. It was discussed at our March 6th Board meeting and we realized that April 22nd is Easter Monday this year. As our Diggin' in the Dirt group is normally out on the Tuesdays, we thought we would help our community by picking up debris not only in our gardens but in the general downtown area.

Of course, you may do your own activity at home on the 22nd and this could be any of the following:

- * Turn out the lights when not in use
- * Do not buy or use plastic water bottles.
- * Walk to do your errands instead of driving to each and every one
- * Pick up garbage or winter debris – that is on public land or side of the road
- * Cook from scratch – do not use processed foods
- * Buy local produce (that has not travelled thousands of kilometres)
- * Ride a bike

Check out the Earth Day website for many more activities that you can do – not only on Earth Day but each and every day.

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.

July 11th 2019 Bus Trip



We'll be leaving at 8am sharp from Centre Wellington Sportsplex and returning around 6pm. All Ontario Horticultural Society members are welcome. Cost for the trip is \$45, add \$20 for buffet lunch, payable when you reserve your spot. Your cheques will be deposited on July 1st.

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.

The Falls Inn at Walters Falls is our buffet lunch destination, you may opt in or out for the buffet. Be sure to wander over and view the river and falls. 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 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.

Hope you'll join us!

May 11th Save the Date!

Looking ahead to Spring we are already thinking of our big fundraiser the 20th edition of the Best Bloomin' plant sale on May 11th. With this recent cold and snowy weather one is hard pressed to believe Spring will come but it will. A few weather forecasters are saying Spring will come on strong and quickly so cheers to that! Your committee is already organizing and preparing for the plant sale. Hopefully members will be thinking of plants you are able to divide and donate. As in previous years we will have two potting up days the two Fridays before the sale May 3 and May 10. Sign up sheets will be circulated at the April meeting. We hope you will consider helping out it is a great social time as well as work.

A group of society members recently attended a day conference where the topic was use of native plants in the landscape and indeed this is a trend we are starting to see. I remember from past plant sales people asking about native plants. So if you have any native plants suitable for splitting we would most welcome them. If space allows in your garden maybe this is the year for you to try a new perennial and hopefully in a few years there will be something new to donate to the sale.

Michelle Goff



Diggin' the Dirt

Our first Diggin' day for 2019 was planned for April 16th. It would be nice if we could get some of the Gardens cleaned up for Easter Weekend. If that date doesn't work for us we will try again Tuesday the 23rd. of April.

Some Cannas have been potted up and are in the Greenhouse growing happily. Some of the Cannas will be used in the Gardens but most will be kept to sell at the Plant Sale.

A group of us will be going to the Greenhouse on April 17th. to discuss with Claire B. the possibility of planting succulents in containers to be used in some of the Gardens. We can also check out the annuals that Claire has growing for the Gardens in Fergus and Elora.

Our group is looking forward, once again, to getting out in the Gardens.

Doreen and Julie.

Flower Shows

Our first Horticulture and Design Show for 2019 is May 15th.

It is not too early to think about what you will have in your gardens for the first show. Maybe some of you will decide to enter a Design for the first time. Look at the Design categories and get you thinking caps on.

If you have any questions about any of the entries asked for or the designs, call Doreen, 519-843-4637.

Liz, Sue and Doreen.

Choosing the right plant for the right location makes gardening easier

Ron Stevenson, Fergus Horticultural Society

"Location" is a common real estate phrase that is also applicable to gardening. Gardeners can make their gardening experience a whole lot easier by simply choosing the right plant for the right location. And this is the best time of year to evaluate a garden's performance.

I personally have a preference for many common, old-fashioned perennials that certainly proves the mantra of location, location, location. Being partial to *Rudbeckia hirta*, (black-eyed Susan), because of their traditional summer show, I planted them in my front and back yards. The stand in the back garden is absolutely glorious. Numerous golden blossoms on tall sturdy stocks, bathe in full sunshine. Not so much in the front garden. The plant is spindly with much smaller and fewer blooms. Reason being is the lack of full sun. Obviously, plants grown in the right location will be best suited to their site. They will establish roots quickly and be healthier.

Rudbeckia is a member of the Asteraceae family and requires full sun. Like the whole family, the plant tag specifies that it will grow in partial shade but the results are radically different. Asters, daisies and sunflowers are all members of the group. It has been said it is the largest family of flowering plants, comprising about 1,100 genera and 20,000 species that grow best in full sun.

Most vegetables and tomatoes require full sun to bring the plant to fruition. It should be noted that a vegetable garden that has a minimum of six hours of sunshine will provide "acceptable" results. Healthy plants will be much better equipped to withstand problems than those that are struggling with an incorrect environment.

Gardening can be disheartening, to say the least, when plants get too much or too little sun, water or air circulation. Too much of anything will allow insects or disease to ravage. Naturally, if they are under stress, they will have less energy to fight off an attack. To prevent any unnecessary growth problems, gardeners need to choose the right plant for the right growing space. Experience will become the best teacher. Begin evaluating the growing area by considering each of the following points. This should help in planning what plant could be selected for the area. How much sun does the space get? A minimum of 6 hours is considered full sun. Partial sun/shade has 4 to 6 hours. Shade has less than 4 hours. Is the soil somewhat dry or wet? Research each plant's needs as some prefer dry soil while others thrive in moist conditions. Drainage is critical for some plants.

It is also essential to consider that many shrubs and trees have root systems which will "suck up" all available moisture. In essence they will hoard all available moisture making the soil almost arid. Is there a secondary water source? Daily watering may be required during the growing season or in a drought. Is the flower bed close by or out of the way? Close gardens will remind gardeners of daily maintenance requirements. Out of the way areas easily allow the gardener to simply forget about the garden's needs.

High maintenance plants planted in an in-face location will remind the gardener to keep up with routine maintenance. It's only natural, if it is seen, gardeners will weed, prune, deadhead or inspect for insect damage. Those plants that require little maintenance or ones that can be neglected for a period of time could be placed in an out-of-the-way spot.

Where is the flower bed located? Proximity to brick walls can be an unforeseeable problem. Naturally, a brick or cement wall has the potential of holding heat if it has been baked in sun during the day. The wall will radiate heat during the day and well into the evening. Obviously, this heat will be excessive and continue to dry out the soil.

All plants are rated for a hardiness zone. This rating scale is defined by a geographic area and specific category of plant life. It includes the plants ability to withstand minimum temperatures of the zone. This rating is important when planting perennials, shrubs and trees. Knowing individual zones will help in the identification of the plants that will be very winter hardy.

BEAR THOUGHTS

It is true.

I am always at least a little scared.

Many things frighten me for many reasons. There are far too many to list now and here, but here are a few key scary things that are particularly scary:

- Shouting
- Yelling
- Screaming
- Being shouted/screamed/yelled at
- Misplaced rocks

There are many more, of course, and I tend to focus on these scary things often. They constantly plague my bear brain as I wander throughout the forest. Most of my interactions and decisions are even rooted in these scary things, despite the fact that these scary things are not interested in my every interaction and decision.

So why do I do this? Why do I let very reasonably scary things take such control over me and my life in the forest? I earn nothing in return. The scary things keep being scary even if I try my hardest to avoid them. To some extent, their scariness has an even extra scary element to it because of the control I allow these scary things to have. To add to the list of scary things:

- Letting scary things control you

I am not certain as to how I can change this dynamic. I know it needs to be changed, though. Letting scary things get the best of me serves nothing, not even the scary things themselves. I wish it were as easy as simply ignoring the scary things, but I do not believe it is. Often, it is very difficult to convince my bear brain to not think of a scary thing. Even though I do control my bear brain thoughts and ideas, they do tend to stray and when they do, they tend to stray toward scary things.

How can you conquer something that can seem to have such control over you?

I suppose, however, scary things do not have direct and endless control over the interactions and decisions I make, despite those interactions and decisions being rooted in my avoidance in scary things. Perhaps this is where I need to make a change or at least try to make a change. The scary things are always there. They are always in the forest, and they are always in my bear brain. However, despite their scariness and their influence, scary things cannot make me do anything. It is a difficult path to navigate, but if I do not try, the scary things win something they do not even seem to want to win.