



Uxbridge Horticultural Society



"We Bring Gardening Down to Earth"
www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com



"Your Local Garden Club News"



The Year of the Hydrangea - photograph by Sandee Basten-Snell

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District AGM 2021

Time sure does fly! It doesn't seem that long ago that we (the UHS) hosted the District AGM in It will be our turn again in 2021! And as events such as these take a lot of ideas, planning and successful execution in order to be successful, we will be asking for members to both participate on a planning committee and/or submit ideas and suggestions beginning later this fall.

Anyone that has attended a District AGM can tell you what an interesting and fun day it is! And a wonderful opportunity to meet members from other Horticultural clubs. Stay tuned !

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

It's hard to believe that August is already upon us! That sure happened fast!

Our gardens are now coming into what could arguably be their most glorious time! Certainly they are with our flower of the year – the Hydrangea. Unfortunately, also making their unwelcome presence felt this time of year are Japanese Beetles. These little insects can wreck havoc very quickly on many of our plants and flowers. On page 2, I provide a bit more information on these nasty little bugs and how to deal with them.

On page 3. we are also providing an update on the Children's Garden at the Uxbridge Public Library. This is but one of the gardens that we as a Society look after and we are excited to be able to contribute to the Township in this way.

Thank you very much to those maintaining the other gardens in and around town managed by our volunteers. They all look magnificent and are much appreciated by locals and visitors alike.

Don't forget to submit your Iris photo for the Yearbook Cover Photo Contest. Please see submission details on page 19 of this year's Yearbook or contact **Rose Sharrard**.

Have a great month!

Sandee

Upcoming Events

- August 14th: Guest speaker: **William Grainger** Topic: "**Geraniums and Pelargoniums**"; Flower Show
- September 11th: Guest speaker: **Wayne Hingston** Topic: "**Orchids and Hoyas**"; Flower Show; Yearbook Cover Photo Contest
- October 9th: Guest speaker: **Gini Sage & Elaine Davidson** Topic: "**Herbs around the World**"; Flower Show; Photo Contest

Fall Fair – Horticulture / Agriculture

A reminder that if you have a few hours to spare the weekend of the Uxbridge Fall Fair (September 6 – 8) to volunteer in the Horticulture / Agriculture building, your assistance would be much appreciated.

If you are able to help out, please see **Ena Wassenaar** at this month's meeting or call her at (905) 985-0792.



July Flower Show Results

Our first place winner is **Sharon Bognar** with 107 points, second place is **Cathy Van Hezewijk** with 71 points and third place goes to **Angie Andruss** with 65 points.

They are followed by **Joyce Brown** (62), **Ena Wassenaar** (11), **Rose Sharrard** (10), **Denise Minns** (8), and **Louise Saunders** (3).

Best Delphinium goes to **Ena Wassenaar** and **Angie Andruss** wins **Best Rose**.

Congratulations everyone!

Yvonne



Japanese Beetles

The Farmer's Almanac describes **Japanese Beetles (Popillia Japanica)** as "small bugs that carry a big threat". If you have any in your garden, you will know this to be true. They are non-discriminatory in their choice of plants to feed on, and are horticulturally classified as pests to literally hundreds of species.



Japanese Beetles were accidentally introduced to North America from Japan in the early 1900s. Known as prolific breeders, they are ½ inch in length with metallic blue-green heads, copper backs, tan wings and small white hairs lining each side of the abdomen. They lay their eggs in soil in June which then develop into grubs that overwinter and emerge the following year as adult beetles. The damage can be substantial and happen very quickly, especially if they feed as a group, which often they do.

While there are a number of methods to try and reduce the damage by Japanese Beetles, unfortunately the most effective one for gardeners is handpicking them off (they are fairly slow so this is not hard to do). You can either squash them in a kleenex/paper towel or put them in a solution of dishwashing detergent and water, which causes them to drown. I prefer the fast, squish method.

Japanese Beetles like Geraniums (I can attest to that) but it seems they quickly get dizzy from the natural chemicals and fall off the plant, usually before doing too much damage, making them easy to dispose of. If you have plants that beetles find very delicious such as roses, hibiscus, petunias, etc., you might want to try planting geraniums close to them.

A final word of caution – if you are thinking of trying sprays and dusts, keep in mind that these are **highly toxic** to bees and other pollinators! If you do choose to apply these, make sure you don't apply them at the time of day these generally visit your garden (mid morning – mid afternoon in many cases.)

Library Children's Garden

The new design of the Children's Garden at the Library will be posted at the meeting this week for you to have a look at. This design process came about as the huge Spruce in the garden at the Library was beginning to cause some structural concerns and overtake the garden due to the extensive root system and branch spread.

A small group of members undertook this project and once completed, presented it to the Library Board along with the corresponding estimated project costs. These were subsequently approved. Cleaning out the existing soil and irrigation system and replacing those with new soil and an upgraded system will be taking place late summer/early fall. Once completed, the garden will be planted by our group of volunteers.



*Angie & Sharon making
Dinosaur steps for Children's
Garden*

Photo Contest Reminder

This year's photo classes, along with the rules of submission, can be found in our Yearbook on page 28. There are 10 Entry Classes to choose from – or enter all of them, one entry per class. Please submit your photo entries by August 31 to Lyn May : lynmay4@sympatico.ca

Hydrangea Paniculata (Panicle Hydrangea)

Native to China and Japan, there are many varieties of **Hydrangea Paniculata** – the more well-known ones include **Vanilla Strawberry** (picture on the front of our 2019 Yearbook), **Pinky Winky**, **Grandiflora**, **Limelight** and **Greenspire** to name just a few. New varieties are being introduced each year, some of which are smaller and would be a great addition to a smaller garden (BoBo, Little Limelight, for example.)

What's not to love about this plant? It can endure harsh winters, is not overly fussy about soil type, endures drought conditions much better than the Hydrangea Macrophylla, will do well in sun or part-sun placement, has sturdy stems that don't collapse or droop in rainy conditions, and forms buds on new growth in the spring so harsh winters will not kill any buds as they might with mopheads, lacecap or oakleaf hydrangeas.

Hydrangea Paniculata are a perfect choice of plant either as a standalone or part of a hedge or a border. And the panicles themselves are great for flower arrangements and for drying.

The best time to prune Hydrangea Paniculata is late winter as it will bloom on the current year's growth.

The Scent of August

***Bright sunlit skies; Nature's warm colours; The smell of seasons about to change
The hint of new beginnings; Knowing something wonderful is around the bend***



Above three pictures from **Carol Pasternak's** presentation "Drama in the Butterfly Garden"

Right: **Angie Andruss** took home a chrysalis. Under her granddaughter's care one week later – this beautiful black swallowtail butterfly hatched!



Flowers and Designs from July Meeting

What's in Season

Tomatoes
Raspberries
Plums
Peas
Peaches
Nectarines
Lettuce
Garlic
Cucumber
Celery

Squash
Potatoes
Peppers
Pears
Onions
Melons
Grapes
Eggplant
Corn
Cauliflower

Carrots
Cabbage
Broccoli
Blueberries
Beets
Beans
Apples