



# 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*

July 2019 - Series 16, Volume 4

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### **Members Only Garden Tour**

Please note that this year's **Members Garden Tour**, originally scheduled for Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, **has been cancelled for this year.**

We are hoping to reinstate this Tour for next year and we ask that you consider including your garden on the tour. Please don't think your garden isn't "nice" enough, big enough, won't be of interest, etc. Every garden has its own beauty and interesting qualities, and the idea is not only to enjoy the natural beauty of each garden but to pick up new ideas and see plants that you might want to consider adding to your garden. Please see **Debbie Watson** for further information.

### **Dear Fellow Gardeners:**

It was so nice to hear all the great feedback regarding **Suzanne Catty's** presentation "*Growing and Making Potions and Lotions from the Garden*" at last month's meeting. We always appreciate your feedback and comments as this helps us stay on track, ensuring that our presenters and their topics are interesting, relevant, educational and entertaining. If you have suggestions for presenters in future years, please speak to **Pam** and/or **Rose**.

If you have been by the Uxbridge Library (at the back) in the past week, you will have noticed some changes taking place in the Children's Garden – one of the gardens the Uxbridge Horticultural Society maintains. Please see page 2 for more details.

For those of you interested in making your own organic fertilizer, **Sharon Bognar** has recommended one you can make from stinging nettles. Please see page 3 for further details.

As this beautiful summer has finally descended upon us, it is time to enjoy the weather, the lovely gardens and flowers that come with our summer season and the many activities in and around the Uxbridge area. There are also lots of gardening events and shows in both the Durham Region and further afield which you can check out at [www.gardenmaking.com](http://www.gardenmaking.com) – Events Calendar.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable and safe summer!

*Sandee*

### **Upcoming Events**

Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>:

Guest speaker: **Carol Pasternak** Topic: *Drama in the Butterfly Garden*

Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>:

Guest speaker: **William Grainger** Topic: *Geraniums and Pelargoniums*

Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>:

Guest speaker: **Wayne Hingston** Topic: *Orchids and Hoyas; Yearbook Cover Photo Contest*

## June Show Results

A big thank you to everyone who made our show so beautiful! It's nice to see more and more people showing their garden lovelies.

Our first place winner was **Angie Andruss** with 71 points and nipping at her heels was **Joyce Brown** with 70 points, with third place going to **Cathy Van Hezewijk** with 54 points. They were followed by **Sharon Bognar** (45), **Ann Broughton** (27), **Yvonne de Ruiter** (18), **Rose Sharrard** (12), **Nancy Vincent** (10), **Denise Minns** (6), **Chris Page** (5), **Louise Saunders** and **Ena Wassenaar** (4), and **Lyn May** and **Pam Roycroft** (3). **Angie Andruss** won **Best Iris** (see picture, right).

Thank you **Ann Broughton** and **Enid Jones** for helping the judge.

**Yvonne**



## Library Children's Garden

The **Children's Garden** is located on the lower level of the Uxbridge Library, by the lower parking lot. This is one of the gardens that we, the UHS, maintain.

There was a large spruce tree growing there that was posing an increased liability risk to the library building, foundation, retaining walls and roof. A small committee, comprised of **Rick Causton**, **Agnes Croxford**, **Angie Andruss**, **Sharon Bognar** and **myself (Sandee)** was formed to redesign this garden once the spruce was taken down.

Prior to taking the tree down, we needed to "save" many of the plants growing underneath to replant once the existing soil was replaced and a new irrigation system installed. **Thank you SO MUCH** (left to right in picture) to **Angie Andruss**, **Joyce Brown**, **Chris Broughton**, **Ken Croxford**, **Agnes Croxford** (photographer) and **Marg Causten**, for taking on this task, and to **Rick and Marg Causton** for "babysitting" the plants until replanting time.

Once the Library Board approves the new design, we will have it available at a future meeting for those who are interested in seeing it.



***"I have found, through years of practice, that people garden in order to make something grow; to interact with nature; to share, to find sanctuary, to heal, to honor the earth, to leave a mark.***

***Through gardening, we feel whole as we make our personal work of art upon our land."***

## ***Uxbridge Fall Fair***

The **2019 Uxbridge Fall Fair Books** are now out and available for pick up at both the Township Office and the Library. The Book is also on the Uxbridge Fair Website – [www.uxbridgefair.ca](http://www.uxbridgefair.ca) – and always has the most up-to-date information.

The Adult entry section for Flowers starts on page 32 of the Book and features a wide variety of entry options from individual flowers (i.e., Dahlia, Geraniums, Gladiolus, Marigolds, Phlox, and many others); page 36 lists the Floral Design categories; and Vegetables, Herbs and Fruit categories start on page 37. Please check these out and consider entries from your garden.

For the youngsters in your family, please see the Junior Flowers and Vegetables Section, starts on page 43 of the Book.

Please see ***Bev Latva*** if you would like more information or have any questions.

## ***Organic Fertilizer***

***Sharon Bognar*** has kindly shared with us her recommendation for making organic Nettle Fertilizer – also often called Nettle Tea. Nettle tea is rich in nitrogen, chlorophyll, magnesium, sulfur, iron, potassium, copper, zinc and calcium – all of which supplement plants as well as activating compost.

The process itself is quite easy. Nettles are common weeds which grow pretty much everywhere and are usually found in partially shady areas such as fence lines or forest edges. They are dark green with leaves growing in pairs opposite each other. The leaves are heart-shaped and have a toothy ridge around the perimeter.

A word of caution – Stinging Nettles are so called for very good reason. THEY STING AND THE STING LINGERS!! Wear gloves, long sleeves and long pants to avoid the little hairs on nettles that bring on the sting. Be sure to use scissors or garden clippers rather than your hands.

Cut healthy leaves, checking them for holes or black specks which are signs of pests on the plant. Cut enough nettles to fill a bucket and then fill the bucket almost to the top, preferably with rainwater. Make sure you leave enough room at the top of the bucket for a layer of foam which may develop. Cover the bucket. As it develops a bit of an unpleasant odor as it brews, place it in a warm and sunny place with good ventilation.

Stir it every 1 to 2 days or so – the Nettle Tea should be ready in about 2 weeks, when it stops bubbling. When ready, filter it if not using the “tea bag” method below.

\* “Tea Bag Method”: You can also put the leaves in a cloth bag and tie it closed before adding the water. This works like a tea bag and makes filtering easier when ready.

To use as a fertilizer, mix 1 part Nettle Tea with 10 parts water (1:10) and pour some of the mixture at the base of plants where the roots will absorb the mixture more easily. Can be applied every 3 – 4 weeks during the growing season.

Nettle Tea will last up to six months. If started in the spring, this should get you through the growing season.



Above left: Speaker **Suzanne Catty**  
Above middle and right: Viewing the flower show

Below left, middle and right:  
June Flower Show Designs



### **Deadheading Tips**

The term “deadheading” simply refers to the practice of removing dead or spent flowers from plants. This practice should be done regularly as it:

- Encourages the plant to set more flower buds – thus more flowers
- Helps plants conserve energy and redirect their energy to improving/maintaining general plant health
- Prevents seed formation
- Makes the plant and your garden neater

I try and do deadheading every couple of days. It just takes a brief stroll around your garden (and planters) and also offers the opportunity to check your plants for any pests or diseases.