



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

May 2019 - Series 16, Volume 2

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Dear Fellow Gardeners:

What a great turnout we had at last month's meeting! It was really nice to reacquaint with so many returning members and welcome new members. **Dr. Ellen Chin's** presentation was informative and interesting, but I'm not sure how many of us have had the chance to put her advice into practice yet, given the never-ending cold and wet weather that just doesn't want to let go.

Don't forget to pick up your plug of this year's herb – Garden Sage – at this month's meeting. If you are unable to attend, please ask a friend to pick it up for you or let **Angie Andruss** know and she will keep one aside for you.

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered for our events, activities and meetings. We couldn't have the great club that we have without you!

In this month's newsletter, I cover a number of events that are down the road somewhat, but my hope is that more of our multi-talented members will consider entering some of these events/shows!

Here's to spring!

Sandee

Fundraising with Otter Greenhouses

From April 15th to June 2nd, we are fundraising with **Otter Greenhouses**. When you buy your flowers at **Otter's**, remember to let the cashier know that you would like your purchase to go towards the Uxbridge Horticultural Society fundraiser. At the end of the season, a percentage of our purchases will come back directly to our group.

Otter Greenhouses flowers are always of a very high quality and you can find Otter's located at:
315 Medd Road, in Epsom
www.ottergreenhouses.com

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 8th:

Guest Speakers: **Sharon Bognar, Mirela Lazaroiu, Rose Sharrard** Topic: "How to Start Plants from Seeds"

Sunday, May 26th:

Plant & Bake Sale, H.H. Goode & Son parking lot, Brock Street West

Wednesday, June 12th:

Guest Speaker: **Suzanne Catty** Topic: "Growing and Making Potions and Lotions from the Garden"

Plant and Bake Sale

Just a reminder that our annual **Plant and Bake Sale** will be held on **Sunday, May 26th at the H.H. Goode & Son Parking Lot.** As many of you know, although we “officially” run the sale from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., we have many keeners ready to buy earlier than 9:00. So for those of you bringing plants and baked goods (and we hope many of you are able to), please have your items at the Sale as soon after 8:00 a.m. as you can, as they still have to be priced. Please contact **Cathy Van Hezewijk** (Baked Goods) or **Angie Andruss** (Plants) if you cannot bring them to the sale in the morning and need to drop them off before Sunday.

For the plants you bring, please include the name of the plant, a picture if possible and as much information as you have for prospective buyers.

We welcome all baked goods -- the items that sell particularly well include pies, loaves, squares, brownies, tarts and muffins. Squares, brownies, tarts and muffins are usually packaged in groups of six but depending on the item, packaging in groups of 4 is fine too. These will also be priced at the Sale.

All baked goods sell very quickly so if you are interested in purchasing any, be sure to get there early!

Congratulations Rick

Congratulations to our very own **Rick Causton** on his re-election as District 17 Director at the Annual General Meeting on April 27th!



Our Monthly Flower Shows

Each month, we are treated to a wonderful flower show, thanks to the entries of many of our members. The success of our shows depends on the participation of our members. Please remember you don't need to be a seasoned gardener to enter your flowers and designs in the show.

Each month there are different categories and classes, the details of which can be found in your Yearbook. **Yvonne de Ruiter** is our Show Chairperson and does a fabulous job of organizing and managing our shows each month. If you have any questions regarding the shows, the process and entries, please speak with **Yvonne**. We all look forward to these shows each month and your participation would be very warmly welcome!

“The World’s Favorite Season is the Spring. All things seem possible in May.”

... Edwin Way Teale

Welcome New Members

Ruth Catterall
Gerri Lynn O'Connor
Eleanor Winters

Sara Chignall
Barbara Pratt

Chandra Cutter
Annette Snodden

2020 Flower of the Year – IRIS

Our Flower of the Year next year will be the Iris. The photo for the Yearbook Cover is selected by you, the members, by voting in September on photos taken and submitted by our members. The rules for submission are outlined on page 19 of this year's Yearbook. Get your cameras ready as Irises, depending on the variety, bloom spring to midsummer.

In summary – one entry per person; rectangular in portrait format only, can be a single flower, a bouquet or in a garden setting, does not have to be in your garden and must be submitted by August 31st, 2019 to **Rose Sharrard** at renaudrose@gmail.com.

Pine Ridge Garden Club Trip to Whistling Gardens

The Pine Ridge Garden Club has arranged a day bus trip to **Whistling Gardens** in Wilsonville, Ontario and has extended an invitation to members of our Club who would like to join them. The date of the trip is June 13th and the cost is \$ 65.00, which includes the bus, entrance to the gardens and bus driver tip. If you are interested, please contact Anna Spencley or the Pine Ridge Garden Club.

For those of you not familiar with Whistling Gardens, please browse their website at:

www.whistlinggardens.ca

The gardens are really incredible and we would like to thank Pine Ridge for inviting our members to join in.

Hydrangea Macrophylla

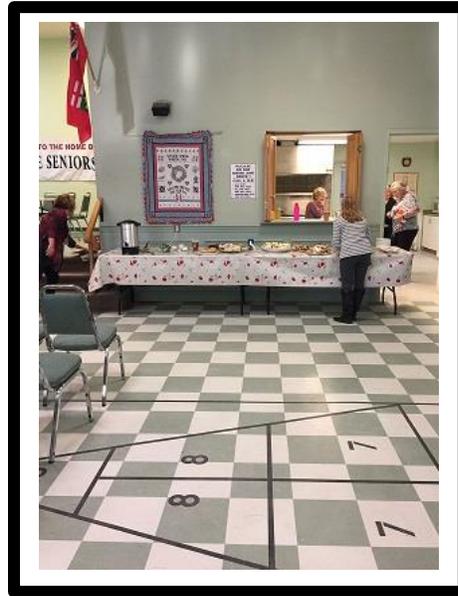
Both **Mophead** (full large headed flowers) and **Lacecap** (flat wide flower clusters) **Hydrangeas** are classified as **Hydrangea Macrophylla**. Both are generally easy to grow and thought of as "old fashioned" shrubs. They are water-loving plants and need a steady water supply or they will wilt. Having said that, they do not want to live in soggy soil or standing water but want well-drained soil with plenty of organic matter. Give them a home in your garden where they get morning sun and afternoon shade.

The biggest question people have about the **Hydrangea Macrophylla** (and hydrangeas in general) tends to be about pruning and the answer depends on when they flower. **Hydrangeas** that flower once a year generally bloom on the previous year's growth and should be pruned immediately after they flower so they have time to set buds for the following year. Some of the newer repeat-blooming varieties bloom on both old and new wood and can be pruned pretty well anytime. There is plenty of information on pruning the many varieties of **Hydrangea Macrophylla** on the internet, so if you are unsure, check the recommended pruning for your particular variety.

Examples of popular **Mophead Hydrangeas** include "Endless Summer Blushing Bride", "Let's Dance Moonlight", "Let's Dance Starlight", "Nikko Blue", and many in the "City Line" series, amongst numerous others.

Examples of **Lacecap Hydrangeas** include "Lady in Red", "Twist and Shout", "Blue Wave", and "Bits of Lace".

Before you purchase your hydrangeas (and of course you can't have just one), be sure that you check the growing zone. Many hydrangeas are fine in our zone, but some prefer the slightly warmer zones 6 to 9.



Above left: Dr. Chin had everyone up stretching
Above: Kitchen volunteers getting the Refreshments set up



Above left: Collage for AGM of some of our 2018 activities
Above right: At AGM – left to right: Bev Latva, Yvonne de Ruitter, Gail Wood, Rose Doyle (standing), Brenda Bertram, Margaret Bishop, Pam Kuiper and Gillian Iszard
Left: Cathy Peters, Chris Page and Joyce Brown



***It's exciting to see things coming up again, plants that you've had twenty or thirty years.
 It's like seeing an old friend.***

... Tasha Tudor