



Lilac Photo by Angie Andruss

Uxbridge Horticultural Society



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



"Your Local Garden Club News"

April 2024 – Series 21, Volume 1

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2024 District 17 AGM

The District 17 AGM will be held on Saturday, April 27th, hosted by the Oshawa Garden Club. 8:30 – 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$35.00 and require advance registration.

Theme: ***The Time to Garden is Now – Climate Change, Biodiversity and Food Security.***

Please see page 2 of this newsletter for further details.

Dear Fellow Gardeners

Welcome back to all returning members and to all new members! We are excited to enter into another year renewing acquaintances, making new friends, sharing ideas, learning from both experts and novices, displaying our flowers, vegetables and designs, and generally sharing our mutual love for horticulture.

We would like to sincerely thank ALL the volunteers who plan and organize the many various undertakings of our Club. You participate in many ways and that is what makes organizations such as ours successful. If you are new to the Club or have not yet had a chance to volunteer, please do so. You will find volunteering personally rewarding and a great opportunity to make new friends.

We would also encourage you to participate in our Flower Shows each month. You do not need to be an "expert" to participate. The Yearbook has clear instructions on the "rules" and all members are very keen to view and admire what others grow in their gardens. Please don't shy!

So, as we start the 2024 gardening season, again welcome and happy gardening!

Sandee

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 10th:
Wednesday, May 8th:
Sunday, May 26th:
Wednesday, June 12th:

Low Maintenance Gardens with *Joanne Shaw*
Tea Gardening for Beginners with *Julia Dimakos*; Flower Show
Plant and Bake Sale, held at Sharpe's on Brock Street West
Transitioning Container Plants to Summer with *Victoria Whitney*;
Flower Show

District 17 AGM ... continued

The meeting will be held in Oshawa at the following address:

LVIV Hall, 38 LVIV Boulevard, Oshawa

There is also a Photography contest and a Flower Show contest. If you are interested in the details, please e-mail me. sbsnell@sympatico.ca

Doors open and hospitality is available at 8:00 a.m. Meeting starts at 9:00 a.m.

Cost includes morning hospitality, coffee breaks and lunch.

Speakers: **Paul Zammit and Cathy Kavassalis**

If you are interested in attending, please see our Treasurer **Cathy Peters** at our meeting this week to register and pay the \$35.00. Registration will NOT be available at the door.

Plant and Bake Sale

We will be holding our annual **Plant Sale** again this year on Sunday, May 26th in the Sharpe Farm Supplies' parking lot, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

As you clean up your gardens this spring, please put aside whatever plants you are getting rid of, splitting, thinning out and/or any extra seedlings you have grown. If you have friends or neighbours that are doing the same, please see if they would be willing to donate their plants to a good cause. Please water the plants a few days prior to the sale with diluted fertilizer.

Please bring your donations to the Sharpe parking lot around 8:00 a.m. on the 26th so that we can get them set up in time for the Sale. Please label the plants by common name and variety (if possible).

And, we are resurrecting the **Baking** part of the Sale that we had to discontinue during Covid. Please bake up some of your favourite family recipes to donate to our sale. Favourites that sell very quickly are cookies, tarts, squares, pies (large and small) and loaves such as Banana Bread. Cookies are best packaged in groups of 6 or 12, tarts in groups of 4, squares in groups of 6, etc. But you are welcome to package and wrap them as you see best for your particular items.

All proceeds from the Sale come directly to our Club and are used for events directly benefiting our members and Club events.

Spring Gardening Tips

I'll bet many of you were more than ready to get out in your gardens a number of weeks ago when it was nice for a few days. I hope that you held yourself back as the weather turned cold and snowy again. It's always a humble reminder that Mother Nature is the one in charge!

However, now that we are into April, there are a few things that you can do:

Remove Winter Protection – in the fall you may have covered plants with either mulch, leaves or man-made coverings. It is important not to leave these on too long as you want the warmth of the sunshine to reach the plants. However, once you remove the protection, keep your eye on the weather in case we get hit with another cold snap. In that case, be prepared to recover them temporarily.

Cut Back Perennials – Many of us leave our perennials up as winter food for the birds or for winter garden interest – i.e., grasses. Cut these back as the new growth has already begun.

Determine What Needs Pruning – there is no simple formula or answer to pruning. Different shrubs have different pruning requirements and timing, so please pay close attention to what each plant needs. Spring blooming shrubs such as Lilacs, Forsythia, Rhododendrons and Azaleas should not be pruned until AFTER they have bloomed. Later blooming shrubs such as Buddleia, Magnolia, Lavender, Rose of Sharon and grasses should be pruned early spring.

With regard to Hydrangeas and Clematis, you need to know what variety of these you are dealing with. For example, Panicle Hydrangeas bloom on new wood so should be pruned early in the spring, whereas Bigleaf Hydrangeas should not be pruned in the spring. The exception to any shrubs, however, is you should remove any dead or broken branches.

There are many sources for you to determine how your shrubs should be pruned – Google Search, YouTube, gardening website and good old-fashioned gardening books. Also, some of your fellow club members are excellent sources.

And if you make a mistake, it's not the end of the world. Plants are incredibly resilient and stubborn.

Water Your Plants – Once the weather starts warming up, depending on the amount of rainfall we are getting, it is important to deeply water your plants. It is better to give your plants a deep, thorough watering less often than a little watering every day.

Apply Fertilizer – although different plants may need different amounts of fertilizing (and some plants don't like fertilizer), check to see what kind of fertilizer and how much each one needs.

Plant New Plants – early spring is a good time to get new plants into the ground. Select an appropriate site, prepare the soil, plant the new plant and water well. Please remember – it is way too early to plant annuals, despite how nice the weather may be. Many a gardener has lost all her/his annuals due to a later frost or even snow.

Precious Minds Workshop

Our Club will be running a Seed Starting Workshop on Thursday April 11th from 1-2pm for the **Precious Minds** group. The workshop will take place in the basement of the Uxbridge Baptist church. We are trying to keep costs low and would appreciate any donations of pots, soil, as well as herb and flower seeds that can easily be grown in pots. We are looking for supplies for 13 people. Donations can be brought to our General Meeting on Apr. 10. If you would like to volunteer your time for the workshop that would also be greatly appreciated. Please contact Sarah at sarahfarndon@gmail.com if you would like to join and/or if you have anything you can donate but cannot bring it to the general meeting.

Precious Minds is a community organization supporting children, youth and adults with developmental challenges in North Durham. Programs are designed to engage and develop skills for life through individualized levels of support to ensure that each participant has the best experience possible.



The Beautiful Spring (by George Cooper)

*"I was here first," said the snowdrop: "look!"
"Not before me!" sang the silver brook.
"Why," cried the grass, "I've been here a week!"
"So have I, dear," sighed a violet meek.
"Well," piped a bluebird, "don't leave me out!
I saw the snow that lay round about."
"Yes," chirped a snowbird, "that may be true;
But I've seen it all the bleak winter through."
"I came betimes," sang the southwind, "I!"
"After me, love!" spake the deep blue sky.
"Who is it cares?" chimed the crickets gay:
"Now you are here, let us hope you'll stay."
Whispered the sun, "Lo! the winter's past:
What does it matter who's first or last?
Sky, brooks, and flowers, and birdies that sing,
All help to make up the beautiful spring."*

