



# Streetsville Blooms



Streetsville Horticultural Society  
*Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association*  
www.streetsvillehort.ca

Volume 26, Issue 6

February 2019

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## NEXT MEETING:

**February 12, 2019**

**Streetsville United Church**

**274 Queen Street South**

Doors open 7 pm  
Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

### President's Message

#### Coming events

Our March meeting will include a member judged photo contest. The topic is "Favourite Nature Picture". There will be 2 categories, colour or black and white.

The Rules are:

- The photos must have been taken by the person entering the photos.
- You may enter a maximum of 2, 4 X 6 pictures per category. There is no time restriction as to when the photos were taken
- They may not have been entered in any previous SHS or OHA photo contests
- Put your name on the back of your photos

District 15 AGM will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> and will be hosted by Credit Valley. More details about exact location, cost, flower show and photo contest categories will be available by early March. We will be subsidizing the attendance fee again this year. Rebates will be given at the SHS May meeting to those who attended the district AGM.

VALENTINE'S DAY

**Buy a Raffle  
Ticket!**



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## How to make sure your Amaryllis will rebloom

A friend asked me the other day how I get my amaryllis to rebloom, hope this helps.

Most of us have probably bought or been given an Amaryllis, when it blooms we are thrilled by the size and colour of the flowers. The blooms fade after 2-3 weeks, many people just throw them out when the blooms die, but it isn't difficult to make sure it will rebloom.

The basics; the plant we refer to as Amaryllis, belongs to the **hippeastrum** species and is native to the tropical and subtropical regions of South America and the Caribbean.

The Amaryllis genus is native to South Africa where winter temperatures are between 0C and 10 C. So we have 2 plants called the same, one is a botanical name and the other is a common name, and it gets confusing.

You can google how to get your Amaryllis to rebloom and will get many results. I have success with my plants re-flowering, often other people seem to have no success. I think some of the techniques that don't work well are because there is confusion about the climate in the areas where these plants are native.



Tropical areas usually have a dry or drier season, not a cold season when plants die back to the ground. In the dry periods some plants die back and then regrow when rain starts again. If we look at the directions given for planting a newly purchased Amaryllis, it says all you need to do to start growth is water them. That makes sense if they start new growth after a dry period.

## This is what I do

After the flower dies cut down the stems to the bottom. Just as with other bulbs the leaves need to keep growing to regrow the bulb for next year's flowers. So keep the pots in a sunny location and fertilize them. It is easy to over fertilize so read the instructions, then feed them half the recommended amount, twice as often, that way you don't run the risk of over fertilizing, half the amount every two weeks seems to work. I use a basic all purpose fertilizer sometimes a granular type, other times a water soluble type. Stop fertilizing in late August.

After night temps are above 10C I put them outside on my front path in a planter box. The area gets lots of light but little direct sunlight. The bulb should stay dry and the soil should be barely moist, they can rot easily. Make sure your container has drainage holes. I have thought about putting soil around the pots, but haven't because it would keep the soil in the amaryllis pots damp. They stay outside until late September-early October.

I have a large potted tree that is outside on my back patio in the summer that has to come inside at the same time. The large pot spends the winter in my kitchen by the patio doors, a sunny location. When I bring the amaryllis in I put the pots on top of the soil in the large pot.



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I water very little for about 6 weeks, sometimes longer; don't fertilize during this time, the leaves will dry out and probably die back. The dry period is when the bulb is dormant.

This is where some directions tell you to put the pots in a cold, dry place such as a cold basement or garage for up to 2 months, I have never done this. It seems like this idea is suggested because spring blooming bulbs like daffodils, tulips or the South African Amaryllis require a significant cold, dark period in order to bloom.

After the dry period, water well once, keep the pots in a warm, sunny spot, don't water regularly until you see new growth. Remember that sometimes the leaves will start to grow before the flower spike, and sometimes the flower spike will come first. You can tell the difference right away because the leaves will be flat and thin, and the flower spike will be thick and fat. If leaves start growing first it doesn't mean it won't bloom. After the flowers die back start the same method again.

Failure to flower can be due to drying off bulbs too early, growing in excessively shady conditions, under-watering or under fertilizing the previous summer. Theoretically you can count back 10 + weeks from when you want the plant to rebloom and that will tell you when to start the dormancy stage. I think this suggestion is one of the reasons for no repeat flowers, because it shortens the amount of time the bulb has to regrow, the same way that cutting back daffodil or tulips leaves too soon reduces flowering in subsequent years. ✂

Monica

## Speaker's Corner

Our speaker for February is Dave Taylor. His topic is "Birds and Blooms".

Dave is a wildlife photographer and the author of more than 40 books and several magazine articles on wildlife and ecology. As a highly regarded wildlife photographer, Dave also focuses his efforts on producing educational videos and material about wildlife for school curriculums.

Dave has travelled throughout the world capturing nature with his camera. He frequently visits Tanzania where he guides wildlife safaris and where his Tanzanian drivers have given him the nickname "The Professor".

After teaching science and geography for more than 30 years and teaching nature photography and writing for more than 25 years, Dave is currently the Educational Program Director for The Riverwood Conservancy, a non-profit group that operates a nature park in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. In the past, he has worked with The Wild Bird Clinic (Project Eyes) and has met with a variety of organizations on outdoor education programming and wildlife issues.

## From the Refreshment Coordinator

Thank you to the following Maureen Dodd, Franca Ambrozic, Mary Hachey and Janice Ward for their delicious contributions to our refreshment table. I also thank those who contributed and whose names I didn't get. I want to encourage contributors to submit their volunteer hours which includes things like the time you spent baking or shopping. Thank you to Monica Ross for donating a coffee percolator to replace the one that died. Happy New Year to everyone. ✂

Refreshment Coordinator, Heather Walker



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## Streetsville Historical Society

Carol Ashford will speak at the historical society meeting on February 14. The topic is "History of the gardens at the Leslie Log House".



If you took your name tag home with you, remember to tuck it back in your pocket for our up-coming meeting. Looking forward to seeing you at February's meeting!

## From the Raffle Table

We have some great gifts for yourself or your special valentine. Come check us out and purchase your tickets, don't forget your toonies! . ☺



## From the Membership Desk

Well, it looks like time just keeps moving on. A month ago we were busy with our holiday preparations, looking for some precious "metime" to sit with a cup of tea, and taking in all the excitement of the season. And here it is February 2019 already! And in case you are counting down to Spring ... ONLY 69 days to go!

48 members enjoyed Elizabeth Schleicher's beautiful presentation of her recent visit to Copenhagen. Her knowledge of roses and pictures of her walks through many rose gardens was astounding. I particularly enjoyed the different shades of the pink roses – my favorite.

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Please remember to wear your name tag at all times while at our meeting .... It will make it much easier for us to get to know one another. Pick up your name tag when signing in at the desk and return it at the end of the meeting.





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Asma and Franca

## Ways to Have a Sustainable Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is devoted to love, but for the environment, Valentine's Day is bad news. The billions of cards that are sent contribute to deforestation and most end up in landfills. Did you know that chocolate and flower-growing producers are among the biggest users of pesticides? Here are a few ways to make this Valentine's Day a sustainable holiday to remember.

### 1. Cards

If you're a fan of paper cards then this year embrace your creativity and create your own card out of reclaimed paper or search out a local artist who makes their own cards from recycled materials. There are also commercial cards available made from recycled materials so you have no excuse not to buy an environmentally responsible one. Alternately, this year, use technology to show your partner how much they mean to you. There are lots of free e-card sites available so search one that you like and send it to your sweetie.

### 2. Flowers

Nothing tells your partner that you're their Valentine like a bouquet of flowers. Unfortunately, bouquets of flowers may last only a week or so. Give something that will last longer, like a nice herb plant? If you enjoy cooking together, adding home-grown herbs to your meals will make them taste that much better! If you want to stay with the traditional flower route, visit your local farmers market and see what flowers are in season. You may get a better deal than in flower shops and you'll be supporting a local grower.

### 3. Chocolate/Wine

Most people like to enjoy a nice bottle of wine or champagne to create a romantic evening. Research the type of wine you like, and see if the wine is made from organic grapes or at least grown sustainably. Valentine's Day wouldn't be complete without the classic box of chocolates. Buy fair trade chocolate this year. You'll be expressing your love via the world's best product and helping chocolate pickers receive the best price available for their cocoa beans.



Another idea when buying chocolate is to purchase dark or cacao chocolate for its health benefits. These types of chocolate can help lower blood pressure and cholesterol.



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## 4. Romantic Getaway

If you want to have a true eco-friendly Valentine's Day, then get outside and enjoy nature. Go skating, skiing, snow-shoeing, or any winter activity that gets you outside to enjoy fresh air and get some exercise.

Weather permitting, pack a picnic and enjoy a meal outdoors.



Enjoying the beauty of Mother Nature and reconnecting with nature is a great way to show your love for the environment.

## 5. Dining

Consider making your partner a special romantic meal this year using organic food ingredients.

## 6. Gifts

Be creative and search out some eco-friendly gifts. The best Valentine's gift you can give doesn't require you to generate any waste, just tell your partner three special words – "I love you." After all, Valentine's Day is about celebrating love — so show your partner you care by telling them how you feel.

<https://greenerideal.com/guides/sustainable-valentines-day/>

## How to regrow romaine and other vegetables from the stem

While looking for tips on growing romaine indoors on the winter I found this interesting idea. It could be a great activity for kids. Next time you have a head of romaine lettuce give it a try.

1. Eat your lettuce, cut the leaves off about 1 inch from the bottom.
2. Place remaining stem in a shallow dish of water (about 1/2 inch). I used a very small plastic container
3. Place on a window sill or under grow lights.
4. Change water in bowl every 1 to 2 days.
5. It is fascinating how quickly the new shoots start sometimes roots will start to grow on the bottom.
6. After 10-12 days, your lettuce is as big as it's going to get. It won't be a big head of lettuce, but it will be big enough to put in a sandwich, or as part of a salad.

If you let it get bigger the leaves start to change colour and it will get bitter. Sometimes it doesn't work well but you can always try again with another lettuce. You can also use the same technique with green onions and celery; check out <https://www.wikihow.com/Grow-Lettuce-from-an-Old-Lettuce-Stem> for more information; [http://www.gettystewart.com/how-to-regrow-](http://www.gettystewart.com/how-to-regrow-romaine-lettuce-from-the-stem/)



[romaine-lettuce-from-the-stem/](http://www.gettystewart.com/how-to-regrow-romaine-lettuce-from-the-stem/)