



# STREETSVILLE BLOOMS



**Streetsville Horticultural Society**

*Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association*

**Volume 21, Issue 5**

**JAN. 2015**

## **NEXT MEETING**

**JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

**CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH  
2630 Inlake Court**

**DOORS OPEN AT 7:00**

**Meeting at 7:30**

**SPEAKER: MARILYN CORNWELL**

**TOPIC: "FROM SNAPSHOT TO GREAT SHOT:  
EXPLORATIONS IN GARDEN AND  
FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY"**

**SPEAKER BIO:** Marilyn Cornwell is a gardener and photographer living in Grimsby Ontario, in the heart of Niagara Wine Country. She spent the last thirty years in the world of IT and management consulting. In 2008, she started her second career as a garden photographer. While she still maintains a foot in the consulting world, her main activities are gardening and photography. Her garden activities included moving her antique conservatory greenhouse from Toronto to Grimsby.

Marilyn's photographic work is about color, pattern, and form. She recently exhibited her work at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. Her series "Marveling the Mushroom" draws great interest. It explores the intricate and graceful patterns to be found in this fascinating plant.

Find out the tips and techniques of floral and garden photography and enjoy photographs of beautiful flowers and wonderful gardens along the way. The emphasis is on the techniques for great floral and garden compositions rather than technical aspects of cameras and equipment. Learn the techniques by touring public and private gardens that are designed well. In these gardens a good image becomes much clearer to the average person. Gardens include Longwood Gardens, Chanticleer, Toronto Botanical Gardens, and the Royal Botanical Garden plus private gardens.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

We hope you had a great Christmas and have started a positive New Year. January is a time when many people make New Year's Resolutions and we would like to challenge you to think of a new kind of Resolution.

But before we go any further, we'd like to give you some background. An expression, which is widely used, is this one: 'Many hands make light work'. We all know this to be true, because when a group of people band together to tackle a job, they can do it much more quickly and efficiently than if they worked on it alone.

At Streetsville Horticultural Society we believe in this principle very strongly. In fact, almost all the projects we have undertaken have depended on a group working together co-operatively. So as we look ahead to the New Year, here is a challenge we set out for all our members. Why not make it your New Year's Resolution to commit to helping us on one or more of our projects this coming year? Not only will we be able to accomplish more than ever before, but also you will have the satisfaction of giving back to Mississauga something tangible for all the city has given to us.

Our Society is growing and together we know we can accomplish much to continue to beautify our city. When the weather warms, we encourage you to join us at any of our projects and see what a difference we can make together.

Sue & Rob Harshman, Co-Presidents

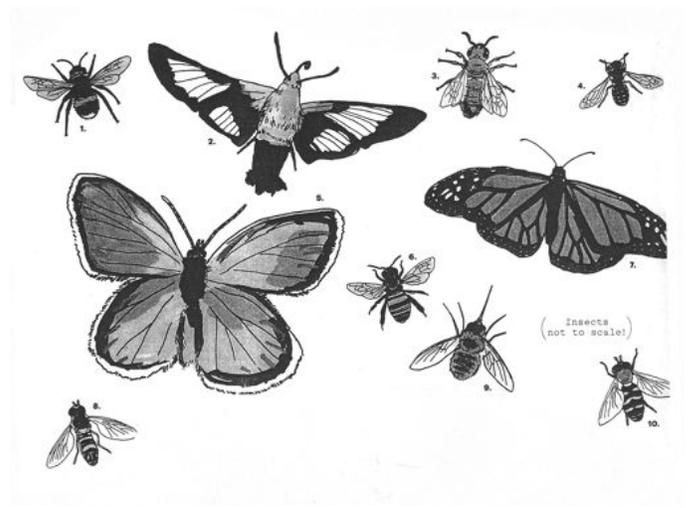


## FRIENDS OF THE FLOWERS

Step away from the insecticide. Unlike hornets and yellow jackets, most pollinators rarely sting, and they're essential to food production. "Native bugs met North America's pollination needs long before Europeans imported honeybees," says Doug Tallamy, author of 'Bringing Nature Home' (Timber Press). To entice them, start by planting native species: Local flora attracts local fauna.

1. Common Eastern bumblebee (*bombus impatiens*) Traits: Large, fuzzy, with yellow or orange and black bands. Females' legs have pollen baskets. Noisy. Favorite flowers: Clover, rosemary, sunflower, willow. Trivia: it rests on leaves' undersides.
2. Hummingbird Moth (*Hemaris* genus). Traits: hovers in place like its namesake; has a long tongue that collects nectar. Favorite flowers: Phlox, bee balm, honeysuckle, and verbena. Trivia: unlike most moths, *Hemaris* is active during daylight hours.
3. Native bees (4,000+ species) Traits: vary by species; the sweat bee is shown here. Favorite flowers: not picky; they love anise hyssop, blazing star and fruit crops. Trivia: they don't live in large hives, are solitary and often burrow underground.
4. Pollen wasp (*pseudomasaris* genus) Trait: clubbed antennae. Favorite flowers: western wildflowers such as beardtongue and scorpionweed. Trivia. It's vegetarian! Unlike other wasps, it feeds its young pollen instead of critters like spiders and insects.
5. Karner blue butterfly (*lyceoides melissa samuelis*) Traits: males are violet-blue; females are grey-brown. Favorite flowers: butterfly weed, leafy spurge, blazing star. Trivia: It's named for the New York town where Vladimir Nabokov discovered it.
6. European honeybee (*apis mellifera*) Traits: Fuzzy, about a half-inch long, smaller than the bumblebee. Favorite flowers: Sage, verbascum, lemon balm. Trivia: after it uses its stinger, it dies. Needs a hand with pollination from native bees, due to its declining population.

7. Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) Traits: orange-brown with black veins, lined in black with white spots. Favorite flower: Milkweed, for the poison that makes monarchs unpalatable to birds. Trivia: it's the only butterfly that makes a two-way migration.
8. Hoverfly (*syrphidae* family) Traits: resembles a yellow jacket. Can hover and dart forward and backward quickly. Favorite flowers: Yarrow, coyote brush, buckwheat, feverfew, wild mustard. Trivia: its larvae often prey on aphids and other pests.
9. Bee fly (*bombyliidae* family) Traits: fuzzy like a bumblebee, but with two wings (rather than four) and large, faceted fly eyes. Favorite flowers: Desert and alpine flora, such as scrub mint and penstemon. Trivia: females lay eggs in other bees' nests.
10. Drone Fly (*eristalis tenax*) Traits: like a stingerless honeybee, this kind of hoverfly has only one pair of wings and an hourglass pattern. Favorite flowers: Alyssum, cosmos, Queen Anne's lace, statice, lupine. Trivia: it mimics bees by shuttling between flowers.



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*"When faced with senseless drama, spiteful criticisms, and misguided opinions, walking away is the best way to stand up for yourself. To respond with anger is an endorsement of their attitude."*

*~Dodinsky*

## CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

In case you missed it, the Christmas Workshop was a great success. Sixty-seven members participated in the workshops. **Nicky Hall** demonstrated how to make a table centerpiece. She had lots of examples prepared ahead of time and everyone enjoyed making their own. Well done Nicky!



↑ **Grace McElhinney** shows off her beautiful arrangement as well as new member **Carroll Newcombe** ↓ with her design.



Member **Phil Walker** prepared kits for those who wanted to make a bee lodge. Phil did a terrific job and must have spent many hours cutting and drilling all of the wood prior to the meeting so we could get right to it. Thanks Phil! All in all a great evening enjoyed by everyone who attended!!



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## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK

Thank you to my wonderful helpers on the desk in December, **Shirley Boyes, Marie Kothari** and **Marg Rowan**. **January** helpers will be **Marie Kothari** and hopefully **someone else!** Remember to volunteer to be a helper either with me on the membership desk or with **Mary Hachey on the snack table**. It's always a rush to set up so if you can come a little earlier and help with any type of set-up it will be appreciated.

We are looking for helpers for the New Year so please sign up for 2015. The coming months are simple; you will basically be helping other members find their nametags! What a great way to meet new friends!

Remember to hand in your nametags at the end of the evening, and take a few seconds to tuck in the string. There is a box at the exit to toss in your tags. We still have some prize money that needs to be picked up. Check in with me if you have not received yours.

I hope everyone has a lovely Christmas with friends and family and I look forward to seeing many of you at the first January meeting we've had

in a long time. Many of you head south in the winter months, so enjoy and we will see you soon! There are so many things to look forward to in the New Year with our society! Cheers!

Grace McElhinney, Membership Chair

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## **GARDENING MYTHS, OLD WIVES TALES, MISTAKES AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS**

We let garden myths, mistakes and superstition waste our time or harm our plants and trees, some of these mistakes are caused by inaccurate or outdated information, a lot of them are assumptions; something that is accepted as true without any proof. The assumption that plants and people are similar organisms is responsible for many myths.

That's the way 'it's always been done' or 'my father/mother/the lady down the street etc always did it this way' or similar reasoning doesn't mean these ideas have ever been evaluated.

Gardening has its share of these concepts, some have obvious beginnings in garden history, others have just happened without any apparent reason. The problem – they often steer us away from simpler and easier methods of working. Also these myths convince us that we can't grow a particular plant or take on a project because it's too difficult, complicated or time consuming. Especially for garden beginners some of these ideas can create lots of problems.

Sometimes garden myths can be quite amusing, others are just plain wrong or at least misleading. For some of my favorites read on!

- ❖ A tree branch that is 2 feet off the ground this year will move higher up the trunk as the tree grows; this statement is just wrong. Trees grow from branch ends not the top, however human trunks or legs do grow, so your arms are higher off the ground when you are 10 than when you are 2.
- ❖ Watering in sunlight damages leaves; a pervasive myth, science says 'No' and

common sense should tell you the same thing, if this were true every time we have a summer thunderstorm and then brilliant sun our plants would be damaged, farmers would not be able to irrigate their crops without damaging them. Water droplets on a leaf do not focus the sun's rays. The main reason for not watering in the heat of the day is because it is a very inefficient use of water; the water evaporates quickly from the soil surface before it has a chance to be absorbed by the plants.

- ❖ Add sand to clay soils to improve them; this is a good way to create concrete in your garden, sand added to clay soils binds the particles together making things worse not better. Adding organic matter, such as peat moss, compost, or well-rotted manure, is a better way to improve clay soils
- ❖ Paint all pruning wounds with tree paint; this idea is based on the human comparison, we put bandages etc. on cuts, trees don't heal the way we do, they isolate the damaged area and bypass it, they don't grow new bark the way we grow new skin. Research has shown that the trees recover from pruning and wounds much better without our help. Tree paints and dressings are not necessary and can cause problems, they can seal in moisture and disease, and they prevent the tree from closing off the damaged area.
- ❖ Newly planted trees should be pruned to offset any root loss; is a bad idea, it decreases the trees ability to create the food and growth substances necessary to produce new roots at exactly the time the tree needs it the most.
- ❖ It's okay to ignore plant labels; the information is very important, it tells you how big the plant will get, how much sun, shade, or water is needed. It will also tell you if a particular soil type is necessary. It should be obvious that planting a tree that will grow to 25 feet tall and wide in the space between the front door and garage is a mistake, it is equally obvious that people ignore this valuable information, all you have to do is take a stroll around your neighborhood. We would never buy a puppy without knowing if

it was a St Bernard or a Chihuahua. The wrong location for a tree, shrub or plant can mean many hours spent trying to control the ultimate size. It often means poor health, appearance and ultimate death of the plant. Most of us have limited time and money to spend on our gardens. Bad choices mean wasted time and money.



❖ “My neighbor gave me this plant, she has lots of it”. Beware of well-meaning friends and neighbors; why do they have so much they are willing to give away? Remember that plants other people are willing to give away are very often, the ones that grow too big, too fast and cause problems in the garden.

Monica Ross

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## REFRESHMENTS

Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments during the year and to those volunteers that help me get set up and ready. Also thank you to the board for the lovely assortment of goodies for the Christmas Workshop.

I will be in touch with those of you who have volunteered to help me in the New Year. Thank you everyone! Happy Holidays and see you in the New Year.

Mary Hachey, Refreshment Chair

## PHOTO CONTEST

Just a few points pertaining to photography. Remember, all great shots come from trial and error, and a lot of luck.

### FRAMING

This is a technique to use when you want to draw attention to something in your photograph. By framing a scene or a subject, say with a window or an archway, you lead the viewer’s eye to the primary focal point.



### HAVE A CAMERA ON YOU AT ALL TIMES

You can’t take great photos if you don’t have a camera on you, can you? DSLR, point-and-shoot or smart phone, it doesn’t really matter. As long as you have access to a camera, you’re able to capture those spontaneous and unique moments in life that you might have otherwise missed.

### SHOOT WITH YOUR MIND

Even when you’re not shooting, shoot with your mind. Practice noticing expressions and light conditions. Work out how you’d compose a picture of that scene over there that interests you, and what sort of exposure you might use to capture it best.

Again, here are your categories for 2014 - 2015:

Class 1	“Falls Bounty”
Class 2	“Winter Delight”
Class 3	“Peek A Boo, After the Snow”
Class 4	“Rain Drops”
Class 5	“Fallen Wood”
Class 6	“A Rose (close up)”
Class 7	“Fruit on a Vine or Branch”
Class 8	“Floral Tapestry”

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Fabulous 2015!

Henry Schouten, Photo Contest Chair

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*The book is called opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.*

## BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

2 medium butternut squash  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
1 Royal Gala apple, peeled and chopped  
¼ cup butter  
900 ml carton chicken broth  
1 cup whipping cream  
½ tsp. dried sage  
Generous pinches cinnamon and salt  
3 tbsp. maple syrup



Place whole squash in microwave for 2 minutes to soften. Cut in half lengthwise. Remove seeds and brush generously with melted butter. Place in 425° oven for 1 hour (middle rack). This saves chopping and peeling. After one hour you can scoop out the cooled squash easily.

Melt butter in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and apple. Stir often until onion softens, 5 minutes.

Add broth, cream, squash, sage, cinnamon & salt. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium low. Simmer covered stirring often until squash is mushy. (20 – 25 minutes).

Blend with an immersion blender or ladle soup into regular blender in batches and whirl until smooth and creamy. Return to pot and stir in maple syrup. Add more broth or water if too thick.

Ladle into bowls, top with dollop of sour cream and sprinkle on some dried dill.

Keeps 5 days in fridge or freeze up to 3 months.

Carol Ashford



## CHRISTMAS CACTUS

Flowering from December to February, the Christmas cactus *Schlumbergera x buckleyi*, is aptly named. The large, curled magenta flowers make a wonderful display for the festive season.

Keep the plant in a well-lit location away from direct sunlight – too much heat and light can stunt growth and burn the leaves. It should also be away from drafts, heat vents, fireplaces or other sources of hot air.

The plants benefit from being outside during the summer months, from June to the middle of September as this ripens the new growth. Find a sheltered spot from the bright sun but remember to bring the plants back indoors before the evenings become too cold.

### Add fertilizer to assist plant growth.

Plants that are actively growing should be given a blooming houseplant-type fertilizer. This is best done for a plant that is 2-3 weeks old.



Follow the label

directions for how much and how often to feed.

Fertilizing is important to keep the plant in good condition; the joints are fragile and can break apart if the plant descends into poor health. Generally, it should be fertilized 2-4 times a year with a 20-20-20 feed, but stop feeding about a month before the buds appear (this usually means stopping by the end of October).

Once the flower buds form, do not disturb the plant or let the soil dry out; otherwise the buds will drop and you will lose your Christmas display.

Questions, concerns, ideas, want to volunteer??

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