



STREETSVILLE BLOOMS



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 21, Issue 6

www.streetsvillehort.ca

February 2015

NEXT MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH

2630 Inlake Court

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00

Meeting at 7:30

SPEAKER: SHARI LYN SAFIR

TOPIC: "THE A – Z OF GROWING GORGEOUS ROSES ORGANICALLY"

SPEAKER BIO: Shari Lyn Safir is known as the 'Rose Lady'. For the past six years, her specialty has been landscaping with roses. She has been President of the Greater Toronto Rose Society, National President of the Canadian Rose Society and served as Vice-President of the World Rose Federation for North America. She is a Master Gardener and rose judge and was selected as an international rose judge at the World Rose Trial in California in 2010.

Shari will be speaking at our General meeting in February on "The A - Z of Growing Gorgeous Roses Organically." Come learn why you should purchase bare root vs. potted roses. Shari will be sharing fascinating tips for the beginner gardener.

Whether it is your first time growing roses or not, you won't want to miss the abundance of information guaranteeing your roses will be the envy of the your neighborhood.

Dean Scully, Program Chair

Imagine if trees gave off Wi-Fi signals. We would be planting so many trees and we'd probably save the planet too! Too bad trees only produce the oxygen we breathe!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the last few months we have had some excellent speakers and workshops. Every month when we have our meetings we have a chance to get together with others interested in horticulture, share ideas and have a great time together. However, we need to remind ourselves that membership in our Society also includes involvement in our community.

One of the goals in our Constitution is to encourage others to make our city a better place through planting trees, bushes and flowers. By being involved in our community our influence goes far beyond the membership of our Society. We are meant to be influencers.

This, of course, can mean different things for different members. Some of our people have gone into schools to share our goals. Others have become involved with their condominium organizations. At our tree-planting event in November, we invited a Brownie troop to help us plant trees. In all these situations, we reached out into the community and invited them to become involved in making Mississauga a more beautiful and more livable city. Our members have also transformed and maintained two city gardens – Rotary Park and the Leslie Log House - both a testament to our Society's commitment to the environment. And that is the way it should be.

As we look ahead to the arrival of spring, we encourage you to think of any way you can become more involved in making our city a more attractive and enjoyable place to live. Let us know what you are doing. Together we can accomplish exciting things.

Rob & Sue Harshman, Co-Presidents

DIDJA KNOW:

Did you know when you receive the link to the SHS newsletter you are on the new SHS website?

Check it out after you read the newsletter.

SHOOTING FLOWERS LIKE A PRO

The 2015 flower-growing season is rapidly approaching and it will soon be time to grab your sunscreen, hat and camera and head outside to capture the beauty of nature. Unfortunately, most times the results of taking a picture do not match what the viewer sees. Presented below are tips for the amateur photographer to elevate his photo beyond snapshot level into a truly beautiful photograph that really conveys the magic of a flower.

- Set your file format size to as large as you can for prints and cropping options;
- Adjust your digital camera to the lowest ISO setting available, usually ISO 100 or 200 to achieve maximum image quality with minimum noise;
- Change **White Balance** to **Daylight**;
- Use a tripod to reduce camera shake. The ideal type is a heavy, sturdy tripod with legs that can splay out so you can photograph close to the ground. You can fine-tune a composition using a tripod and keep the point of focus exactly where you want it.
- Use a remote cable release on your shutter to reduce camera shake. As an alternative, the camera's built in 2-second self timer can be used for sharp photos.
- There are three ideal times to shoot flowers:
 - On cloudy, overcast days, the shadows are soft as the sun is hidden behind the clouds and the rich colors of the flowers aren't washed out by the harsh direct rays of the sun;
 - Just after a rain when the sky is still overcast and the raindrops are still on the petals;
 - On a sunny day, shoot in the early morning or late afternoon. To make the most of this light, shoot with a long zoom lens and position yourself so the flowers are backlit;
- Use a telephoto lens to isolate a flower from its surroundings. A long lens set to its widest aperture or smallest f-stop number can put both the background and foreground out of focus so the viewer's attention is held where you want it;



- Use selective focus. Choose where you want the viewers to look. Direct the eye to a certain point. If you are shooting one flower, isolate the subject, shoot on macro mode and move the camera around until you get the right focus. Take five or more single images until you get the right focus;
- Use contrast between the subject and its background. If the subject is rich, vibrant and colourful, move your camera around until the background is plain – blue sky, green lawn or wooden fence;
- Get in close to the subject and fill the frame with one flower. The closer you get the more critical focus becomes. Try focusing on the stamen and pistil and the centre of the flower remains crisp while the petals appear blurry;
 - Turn off autofocus. Depth of field is so narrow in close-up photography that precise focusing is critical, even with small apertures. To ensure your shots are sharp where you want, try switching to manual focus and doing it yourself;
 - Use the live view LCD screen rather than eye piece to adjust focus;
- Shoot in manual mode. Forget automatic programs; manual mode enables you to choose the aperture and shutter combination that will give you the result you want. Checking your histograms will show you if you need to change a setting in order to produce a correctly exposed image. Bright flowers can fool your camera into underexposing, so shooting in manual and checking histograms can overcome this;
- Shoot from a variety of angles and take a lot of pictures. Get to know your subject – first from a distance and slowly work your way in for intimate shots. The more you stay with the subject, the better you get to know it;
- Shoot flowers from a different angle. Instead of shooting down on flowers, shoot from the side or underneath. Unique angles make flower shots more interesting;
- Place your “key” flower in a position that uses the **rule of thirds** for the most impact;

- Remember the wind. Even the gentlest of winds can affect flowers and move them. Use a faster shutter speed if needed;
- Use a little spray bottle filled with water to spray the flowers yourself to fake a just rained look on your blooms;
- Shoot flowers on a black background. Use a piece of black velvet or black velour, or a black suit jacket. Leave a few feet between your flowers and the black background (so the light falls off and the black looks really black) and then shoot away;
- Use a white background. Buy a seamless roll of paper from you local camera store or two or three sheets of white mounting board. Use one behind the flowers and one off to the side to reflect natural light back onto the white background so it doesn't look gray;
- Use non-direct sunlight when shooting indoors. Shoot near a window for side lighting;
- This winter use flowers from your local grocery store and PRACTICE.

By Debra Lemire

WANTED

Spring Cleaning? Don't know what to do with that unique Christmas present you received?

We are looking for new or very gently used items for our Draw Table. Please bring your items to the meeting and give to Mary Bernier.

Draw Table funds help pay for speakers, room rental, premiums, etc. Thanks for your help!

DRAW TABLE

My January article went into cyber space, so it did not get published. December was such a great meeting, I would like it to be acknowledged, and so I bring it to you in the February Newsletter.

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** goes out to **Nicky Hall**, for donating her time and talent, to produce three beautiful centerpieces to inspire us all and for

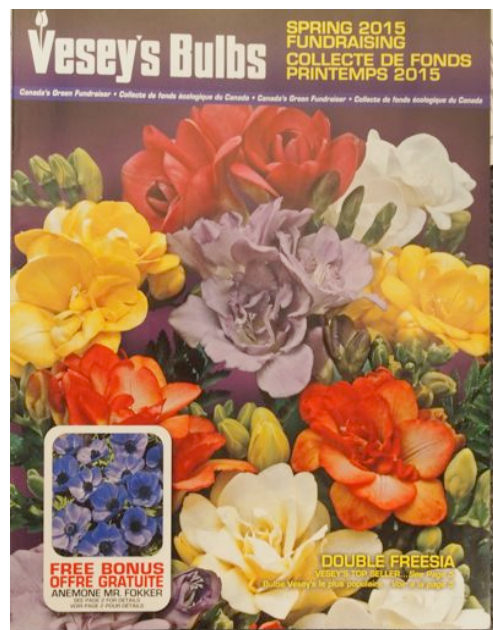
donating them to the draw table to raffle off at the end of the meeting.

The lucky winners of the beautiful centerpieces where: **Pam Blair, Gerry Bryan** and **Debbie Lemire**. *Congratulations* to you all, I am sure they made an exquisite addition to your Christmas Table.

The lucky winner of the two baskets was **Sunita Hall**. Congratulations on your big win Sunita.

Thanks to all who purchased tickets these past few months; your generosity and support of the Draw Table is greatly appreciated. We are off to a good start this year, I am hoping the 2015 season will be the best ever for the Draw Table.

Mary Bernier, Draw Table Chair



VESEY'S BULB SPRING FUNDRAISER

Catalogues and order forms were given out at the January meeting. If you weren't in attendance please be sure to pick up your Vesey Catalogue at the February meeting. It's simple: Talk to your friends and neighbors and sell them some Spring Bulbs!!! And.... there is an added bonus if you sell more than \$40 worth of bulbs!!!

Order forms must be handed in at the March meeting and Orders will be ready for pick up at the April meeting.

DO INVASIVE SPECIES SPREAD IN WINTER?

During the winter season in Ontario, most trees have lost their leaves, low growing plants are covered in snow, and aquatic plants are frozen under ice, but that doesn't stop invasive species from invading new ecosystems. Here are a few species that can be spread to new areas even when most plants and animals have gone into dormancy or hibernation.

Phragmites- the large feathery seed heads of this plant is very visible during the winter. Disturbance of these reeds by wind, snow or human activity can spread the seeds to new areas, where they can germinate after the snow melts.

European Buckthorn – This species is sometimes referred to as "starvation food" for wildlife. Birds and animals tend to avoid this species unless they have run out of other food sources, which can happen in winter when snow and ice make it difficult to forage. Buckthorn berries have a laxative effect on wildlife, which ensures the seeds are spread rapidly and widely.

Oriental Bittersweet – This perennial invasive vine with its bright orange berries has been used in the cut floral and craft industries in the past; especially for holiday décor like wreaths or cut branches in urns. If decorative arrangements are placed outside, the berries can easily be moved by birds and animals to new places by being ingested and then deposited through droppings.

Forest Pests – Invasive insect larvae like emerald ash borer and the Asian long-horned beetle, are found in between a tree's bark and heartwood. They will still survive once wood has been chopped and stored for firewood. Wood stored for several months outside over the winter could contain larval insects that will emerge in the spring, and attack any host trees that may be nearby. That is why it's so important to not move firewood, no matter what time of year it is.

Aquatic Plants – you wouldn't think that ice fishing could be a pathway for aquatic plants to spread, but species like Eurasian water-milfoil, fanwort, and hydrilla can all reproduce from plant fragments. An ice auger can easily break up plant parts under the ice, and if not properly cleaned after use, the fragments could spread via the auger to new sites, where plants may not have been previously found.

*Excerpt: Invading Species Awareness Program
Newsletter*



WHOSE JOB IS IT?

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK:

A New Year and our first January meeting since I've been a member; what a great turnout! Many thanks to my desk helpers **Marie Kothari** and **Shirley Boyes**! Remember, if you would like to help out, come in early, there is always something to do to get the meeting set up. Last week member **Christina Anonychuk** emailed me and volunteered some time for set-up and she worked with **Mary Hachey** getting the snack table set-up. We thank you for your help! You can reach me at gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

The job basically is helping other members find their nametags at the sign in desk. What a great way to get to know fellow members! We had 2 new members join us last month and they are **Laurie Power** and **Nelly DeBoer**. Let's make them feel welcome as they blend into our society!

Remember to hand in your nametags at the end of the evening and take a few seconds to tuck in the string. There will be a box at the exit to toss in the tags.

We still have some prize money that needs to be picked up so please check in with me if you have not received yours.

Grace McElhinney, Membership Chair

"If you really want to do something, you will find a way. If you don't, you will find an excuse."

Jim Rohn

PRUNING PART 1

The topic of pruning causes more questions than most other garden topics put together.

Pruning is a systematic part of plant maintenance involving the selective removal of parts of a plant, such as branches, buds, or roots. Flower buds, fruits and seed pods may also be pruned. Many home gardeners feel they ought to prune, but are not sure why or how.

Why should I prune? Do I have to prune? No you don't actually have to, but it will improve the health of your plant, improve the appearance of plants, improve the quality and quantity of flowers and fruit, maintain and improve plant health, including foliage, stems and branches, and restrict growth and size. The least mentioned reason for pruning is safety; large tree branches can and do fall endangering the people or houses below them.

Trees and shrubs in the wild aren't pruned; I'll just leave everything to grow. Well Mother Nature does prune, branches break in wind and other bad weather, animals such as rabbits and deer prune plants by eating them. They don't prune carefully and often leave ragged cuts that are entry points for disease and don't have aesthetic appeal.

Almost all types of plants are pruned: annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees are all pruned. We may not think that deadheading marigolds, or removing dead or dying leaves on perennials as pruning but it is, so you already do some pruning.

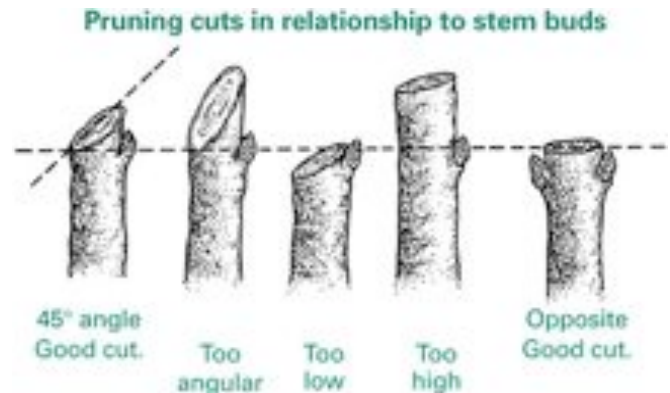
When do I do it? Most annuals and perennials do not have extensive pruning needs, deadheading spent flowers, and cutting back stems that have grown too long or tall along with cutting down old or dying foliage in the fall is all that is usually necessary.

Corrective pruning on all plants because of injury or dead tissue, should be done as soon as the problem is noticed. Stray or broken branches can be trimmed back any time. If a shrub is too big, you don't need to worry about cutting off whole branches at a particular time of year, as you wanted to reduce the overall size anyway. If you do make a mistake, plants are very forgiving. You may miss a season of flowers but the plant will recover for the next year.

Remove branches that are dead, diseased, or damaged. Try to remove the pruned material out through the crown; do not drag the material through

the branches. Dragging diseased branches through the crown can spread the disease through the tree. When shaping shrubs think of their natural growth habit and remember that each shrub is inherently programmed for a certain size, profile, and branching pattern. Make cuts that support these features and preserve the essential character of the plant. Lollipop shapes look unattractive.

In fact, pruning stimulates growth. When you cut back a shoot, you cause buds on the remaining part of the branch to break into growth. Note, however, that a characteristic known as apical dominance causes the topmost buds to grow the fastest and the longest. This is useful if, for example, there is a hole in a tree, shrub or hedge that you want to fill. By pruning surrounding branches back to a bud pointing toward the hole, you can encourage growth into the empty area.



Shrub pruning is a common cause of confusion and worry to many gardeners. Spring blooming shrubs develop their flower buds during the summer and fall of the previous year. This is what is meant by "blooming on old wood." The branches or twigs the flowers are on grew last year. Pay attention to when your shrubs flower. If they flower before the start of summer (June 21) they are spring flowering. These shrubs have a resting period of about three to six weeks before they begin preparing flower buds for next year's bloom. They need to be pruned shortly after the flowers die back, if you wait longer than 6 weeks you are removing next year's flowers.

Shrubs that bloom in summer and fall 'bloom on new wood', that is branches and twigs that grew this year. These shrubs can be pruned in the early spring before new growth starts. Because pruning stimulates new growth do not prune any flowering shrub in late summer or autumn. This might

stimulate new growth, which is susceptible to damage by cold temperatures.

A lot of pruning frustration for home gardeners can be avoided by careful selection of the trees and shrubs for your garden. All plants grow; a shrub that will grow 2 metres wide and 3 metres tall should not be planted next to your front door, or under the garage overhang. They may be small and 'cute' when young but just like a St. Bernard puppy, they grow far faster than you think.

It doesn't matter if you planted the problem shrub or tree or it was already there it doesn't mean it has to stay forever. If you have to prune a shrub multiple times during the growing season, it is in the wrong place. Either move it or get rid of it. Then plant a more carefully selected shrub in its place.

Tools to use include a good quality hand pruner; bypass pruners are better for cutting live wood, anvil pruners tend to squash the branches or stems and are best used on dead wood. Loppers are like a long handled bypass pruner used for larger branches and those higher up. A pruning saw works well on old wood in confined spaces. Hedge shears if needed are meant for trimming hedges not shrubs or trees. Chain saws are not pruning tools.

Use good quality, sharp and clean tools. Clean your tools after pruning each plant to prevent spreading disease. A solution of one part chlorine bleach or rubbing alcohol with ten parts water is quite effective. If you can't reach a branch while standing on a stepladder, you should hire a professional.

A home gardener should have a good pruning book, with how-to information for a wide range of plants. "The Pruning Book" by Lee Reich is an excellent resource. "Pruning and Training" by Christopher Brickell and David Joyce provides how to prune guidelines for many plants, trees and shrubs. Cornell University, New York state has an excellent publication called "An Illustrated Guide To Pruning Ornamental Trees And Shrubs". This guide has lots of diagrams and detailed instructions.

To download it go to

<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/uhi/outreach/index.htm>
the link is at the bottom of the page.

by Monica Ross, The Garden Lady

Image: courtesy Rutgers University New Jersey

POPPIES IN THE MOAT

From 5 August 2014 to 11 November 2014, a major artistic installation entitled 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' saw the Tower of London's famous dry moat filled with over 800,000 ceramic poppies, creating a powerful visual commemoration for the First World War Centenary.

Grace McElhinney has received a poppy from the Tower of London moat that was on display this fall in London. Stop by and see the poppy and a small pictorial display.



Streetsville Horticultural Society can be found on the following calendars this month:

On-line

www.snapnorthmississauga.com/event

<http://gardenmaking.com/>

www.icangarden.com/event/

www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/eventscalendar

www.mississaugalife.ca/events/

<http://markcullen.com/newsletter>

In-print

SNAPD Mississauga North (Community Calendar)

Mississauga News (Community Calendar)

Questions, concerns, ideas, want to volunteer??

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