



STREETSVILLE BLOOMS



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 21, Issue 8

www.streetsvillehort.ca

April 2015

NEXT MEETING

APRIL 14, 2015

CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH
2630 Inlake Court

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00

Meeting at 7:30

SPEAKER: MARSHALL RODGERS

TOPIC: "BATTLING THE EMERALD ASH BORER"

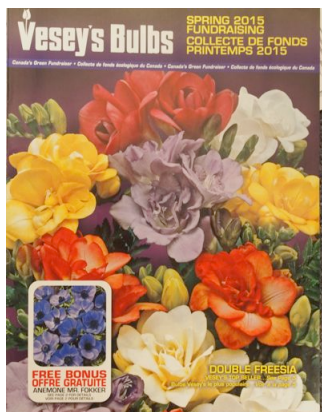
SPEAKER BIO: Marshall is currently a technician who is certified to apply TreeAzin, which is the only treatment for the Emerald Ash Borer. TreeAzin is also used to combat a number of other diseases and pests that attack a variety of trees. His work takes him all over southern Ontario. Marshall brings to us an inside look at the battle to save our ash trees.

Dean Scully, Program Chair

VESEY'S BULB SPRING FUNDRAISER:

REMINDER: Order forms must be handed in at the APRIL MEETING.

Completed orders will be ready for pick up at the MAY meeting.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April is an extraordinary month for gardeners. It's that special time of year when we see the first green shoots emerge from the soil to assure us that winter is finally over and the new growing season is upon us. The first bulbs of spring, such as the early tulips, snowdrops or scilla are particularly exciting because they bring both beauty and life to our gardens.

There is so much to be done in April that it is sometimes overwhelming. Of course, there is the inevitable clean up from winter, including the fallen branches and leaves and other debris that have blown into your yard. You may also be able to dig out some of those stubborn weeds that have popped up early.

But April is also a time to begin planting seeds, bulbs and rhizomes indoors. Our first frost-free days come up in mid-May, so early April is a perfect time for indoor planting. Tomato seeds, for example can be started indoors on a windowsill in April so that they are ready to be taken outside when the weather warms up. If you are more adventurous and you have some room you may want to use fluorescent bulbs to provide light for your growing bulbs or seeds.

Some rhizomes like Canna lilies and elephant ears take a few weeks to begin spring growth. So be sure to start them at least six weeks prior to moving them outside.

April is also a time to think about our plant sale. Are there some perennials you could contribute to our plant sale at the end of May? If your answer is 'yes', plan to dig them out of your garden in enough time so that they survive the transplant shock of moving them into pots.

We are looking forward to a very busy season at SHS and invite you to help out wherever you can. The strength of our Society is the commitment of our volunteers.

Rob & Sue Harshman, Co-Presidents

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK

Another busy night at the membership desk in March. We had 5 new members join our society! Many thanks to my helper Shirley **Boyes!** Remember, if you would like to help out, come in early there is always something to do to get these meetings set up. We thank you for your help! If you would like to volunteer you can reach me at gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com Shirley and I will not be around for the April meeting so some extra help is going to be needed. Pat and Mike Salisbury have offered to help out but **we could use a couple more volunteers.**

The sign-in desk is quite easy to work for the rest of the season, so the job basically is helping other members find their nametags. What a great way to meet fellow members! The five new members joined are **Denise Attree, Joan Boving, Dorothy Brown, Michelle Merizzi,** and **Sheila Robart-Morgan.** Let's make them feel welcome as they blend into our society! Please return your nametags in the box at the exit at the end of the evening and take a few seconds to tuck in the string.

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

Don't forget to check the new memo board for important dates and sign-ups for upcoming activities.

Grace McElhinney, Membership Chair

WHAT DO PLANTS, TREES AND NATURE DO FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY?

Some of the contributions made by plants are obvious; they provide food, material for housing, material for clothing and ingredients for medicines. They also moderate climate, reduce energy costs, improve property values, improve air quality, reduce noise pollution and enhance the appearance of private properties, and public spaces in towns and cities.

However, it is the effects that plants have on the mental health, safety, stability and livability of a community, how plants make people feel and the profound effects that are produced by interaction with plants in so many areas of a person's life that is the real evidence of how human beings are sustained by plants.



Research studies document reductions in stress, healing time, crime and road rage, improvements in memory, concentration, and self-esteem, increased worker productivity and worker satisfaction.

Lack of exposure to green space and plants has serious effects on children. In his book "Last Child in the Woods", Richard Louv refers to research pointing to attention disorders, obesity, a dampening of creativity and depression as problems associated with a nature-deficient childhood. Interaction with plants and nature helps children learn better at school.

Plants also improve quality of life and have a restorative effect on people with mental health issues such as depression; gardens have a calming effect on those with dementia. Urban green spaces provide opportunities for recreation and better physical health, but also have mental, social and spiritual benefits. These places are where people can find quiet and solitude, for contemplation or where social groups can meet and interact.

Some of the psycho-social benefits of plants have been known for centuries; poor psychiatric patients in the late 1800's often paid their hospital bills by working in the hospital gardens and their doctors noticed they recovered quicker than those who stayed indoors. Through gardening and nature-related activities what is now known as horticultural therapy makes a significant difference in the lives of many people. Gardening and interaction with plants positively affects self-image and social relationships of prison inmates.

Many of benefits discussed above are relatively unknown, but almost all of us know someone whose life has been affected by loss of a loved one, cancer and other serious illness, depression and other mental illnesses such as Alzheimer's. Many of those people will have been involved in some type of plant based therapy during their recovery and rehabilitation. Sometimes it will have been formal therapy, but it may have been 'I walked in the woods every day', or 'I just sat in the garden'.

If you would like more information on this topic or on the research that provided this information please feel free to contact me.

Monica Ross

DRAW TABLE

Many THANKS to **Debbie Webster, Joe Boyles, Debbie Parker** and **June Samaras** for their donation to the March draw table. We truly appreciate your help, as I would not be able to make up the baskets that sell the tickets that contribute to our society expenses.

THANK YOU to all members who purchase tickets at our meetings and congratulations to the winners. Think spring! See you in April.

Mary Bernier, Draw Table Chair

FOSTERING THE LOVE OF GARDENING IN CHILDREN

Spending time in the garden with children offers a great opportunity for questions, hands on learning, and experience with nature. What better way for children to gain a healthy respect for the environment? When children take an active role in planting edible plants, it encourages them to try new foods that they had a role in growing themselves.



TIPS FOR WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN THE GARDEN

Give them their own Garden Beds. Keep it small

and in an ideal location – best light and best soil – you want to set them up for success

Give them the proper tools. Cheap plastic children's garden tools don't work very well, and that's just frustrating. Give them a sense of importance by letting them use your tools.

Watering: avoid the problems of overwatering by arming your toddler/preschooler with a spray bottle for misting newly planted seeds in lieu of a watering can. It's fun for them and you have eliminated the fear of "drowning" your newly planted seeds.

Pass on Perfection: don't worry about everything being "just so".

CHOOSING PLANTS

It is important when gardening with children you choose plants with a high success rate – this will boost self esteem in the young gardener.

Choose plants that are easy to grow and have short growing seasons, high yields or make impressive statements: Sunflowers, lettuces, cherry tomatoes, nasturtiums, snow peas are just a few examples.

RECORD THEIR PROGRESS:

Take photos of the whole process, from planting, tending and harvesting. The attention they get is a great motivator for continued involvement. Send the photos to other family members.

Happy gardening – enjoy time with your little ones!

Eleonora Roberts, Children's Programming Chair

REFRESHMENTS

I wish to thank the following for Jan: **Marie**, Feb: **Marie, Christina, Carol**. March: **Martha, Marie, and Christina** for their donations to the refreshment table and I would especially like to thank **Christina Anonychuk** for volunteering to help me every month.

In April, Jill and Anita are bringing something to the meeting. If someone else would like to make a donation to the table please contact me at mary.hachey@gmail.com. We should have different members volunteering to bring something; it can be store-bought, baked, cheese & crackers, fruits & vegetables cut up, sweet or savory; about 15+ servings; no one expects you to feed the whole crowd.

If you want to bring in Hors d'oeuvres or Appetizers I will gladly put them in the oven if I get them early. I'm there by 6:30pm to make coffee if you want to drop them off. Please attach the recipe especially if it contains shellfish. Remember – our meeting place is a NO NUTS facility. Thank you everyone.

Mary Hachey, Refreshment Chair

Quit itchin' to pitch out old panty hose!

1. Tie one on...

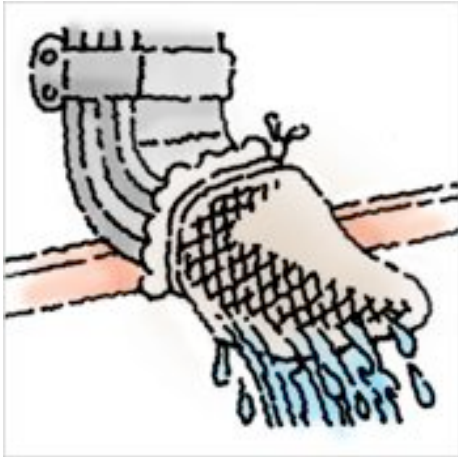
Use old nylon stockings as tethers for staking tender young trees and other new plants without chafing the bark. Gently tie up vines and floppy plants with strips of panty hose, too.

2. Grape expectations.

To protect grape clusters from bugs and birds, wrap the ripening fruit in the cut-off feet of panty hose.

3. Clean and clear.

When collecting rainwater, cover the downspout with an old piece of panty hose, and fasten it in place with a sturdy rubber band. That way, the water that winds up in your rain barrel will be debris-free.



4. Treat 'em to a trickle.

Fasten a panty hose foot to the end of a garden hose, and you'll have a terrific diffuser for gently watering delicate container plants and baby seedlings.

5. Vamoose, varmints!

To keep rabbits and other small varmints out of your vegetable garden, wrap bunches of dog or cat hair in old nylon stockings, and hang them in various areas. The critters will think that Fido or Fifi is on patrol.

Excerpt: Jerry Baker, Master Gardener
www.jerrybaker.com

WANTED

As you start your spring-cleaning there are a few things to look for that will be of use for the plant sale.

- old PLASTIC venetian blinds for labeling plants
- 4" and 6" pots (washed)
- plastic trays (washed)

Please bring to April meeting.

District 15 Annual General Meeting

Hosted by

Roseland's Horticultural Society

Saturday, April 25th, 2015

9:30 am to 3:00 pm

at

Learning Enrichment Foundation
Centre

Weston Rd & Eglinton Ave

The theme for the day

"Small but Mighty"

"A new Kind of Gardener"

presented by Carol Dunk

Registration for the day will be \$30.00 per person, with a subsidy of \$10 paid by Streetsville Horticultural Society. Cost to SHS members will be only **\$20**

Contact Lynn Merritt at 905-826-3281 or lynnc.merritt@sympatico.ca to register

before **April 7th**

**Flower Show
Continental Breakfast
Luncheon
Awards
Round Table Discussions
Vendors
Silent Auction**

PLANT SALE – MAY 23

With spring on the way, we are all turning our thoughts to plants, old and new. With just over a month and a half left before our annual Plant Sale, the committee is in full swing.

The potting crew has been one of many important groups involved in preparations; digging, dividing and potting perennial plants for the May 23rd sale day. We invite all members to become involved in the plant sale, and we also ask that you keep the potting crew in mind.

Join Us – sign up at the April meeting to dig or divide and pot plants.

Spread the Word – talk to your co-workers, friends and neighbors about the importance of our largest fundraiser and ask them if they have plants to donate. Take a sign for your lawn and put it up; or take more than one and ask for permission to put it up – do not place on boulevard.

Dig This – about 3 weeks before sale day, digging begins. If you need help digging contact Debra. Digging time slots are set in advance, usually a weekday morning, an evening late in the week and weekend mornings. The plants are then delivered to Debra's where they are divided and potted by volunteers.

Bring Them to Us – plants that are donated and dug by their owners can also be brought to Debra's the day before potting up dates or the day when pots are being filled. It is important to dig 6-8" away from the crown of plants and about the same depth to get enough of the root system for survival. We don't need your soil; gently wash or shake most of it off. Cover plants with a damp cloth or newspapers and bring them to Debra's immediately for storage. **Plants with dry roots are doomed.** Be sure to include information indicating the plant name, color, height, shade or sun, etc.

Getting Dirty – Dividing and potting takes place at 6065 Montevideo Drive on the following days:

Sunday, April 26 - 1:00 pm
Sunday, May 3 - 8:30 am
Saturday, May 9 - 8:30 am
Sunday, May 10 - 1:00 pm
Saturday, May 16 - 8:30 am

All you need to have is old clothes, gloves, a small trowel, a bottle of water and a snack to keep your energy up, along with any plants you need help with. We partner up and learn how to divide and pot all sorts of plants – a great learning experience. You can also get better acquainted with old and new members of the society.



Take Them Away – truck and trunk loads of plants in pots that have been labeled and priced will be taken to the volunteer plant sitters who will look after them until sale day. If you can transport plants from the holding sites, we will be most grateful. Protect your vehicle with plastic sheets or old shower curtains.

Whether you are donating your own plants, or someone else's, or don't have any plants to give, you can join the potting crew team preparing for the biggest plant sale ever! For further info call Debra at 905-567-4803 or debra.buckler@rogers.com

APRIL FLOWER SHOW

DESIGN THEME – SPRING TIME

- Class 1 “April Showers” a water viewing design
Class 2 “April in Paris” – a vertical design

MINIATURES

- Class 3 “Turning over a New Leaf:

NOVICE

- Class 4 “Spring Garden” a design using spring flowers

CULTURAL

- Class 5 Collection of cacti or succulents – 2 or more different cultivars in separate pots
Class 6 Crocus – 3 blooms
Class 7 Fern in pot – named
Class 8 Flowering bulbs – 3 in a pot – any cultivar (forced)
Class 9 Forced branch – less than 30 inches
Class 10 Hats Off – a design in a hat using potted plants

- Class 11 Herb in a pot – grown by exhibitor from seed
- Class 12 Orchid – in bloom
- Class 13 Saint Paulia (African violet) – single crown in bloom
- Class 14 Spring bulb – AOV – 2 blooms
- Class 15 Dish garden – 1 container
- Class 16 Begonia plant grown for its leaves

For further information contact Nicky Hall at 905 858-2553.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- Tues. Apr.14 7:30 pm SHS meeting
- Sat. Apr. 25 9:30 am OHA District 15 AGM
- Sun. April 26 - 1:00 pm SHS Potting Up
- Sun. May 3 - 8:30 am SHS Potting Up
- Sat. May 9 - 8:30 am SHS Potting Up
- Sun. May 10 - 1:00 pm SHS Potting Up
- Sat. May 16 - 8:30 am SHS Potting Up
- Sat. May 23 SHS Plant Sale – Leslie Log House

AWAKENING SPRING

She rouses from her slumber,
Stretches wide her arms,
She anticipating showing us
All her glorious charms.

Daffodils and tulips
Nod their sleepy heads
Dancing, swaying to and fro
They rise from winter beds.

Little girls don pretty frocks,
Chase butterflies and giggle.
Robins hopping here and yon
Catching worms as they wiggle.

Young boys fly majestic kites
Go fishing with eyes aglow,
Laughing, joking, wrestling
As down the road they go.

Yes, she's had quite a nap
Through the cold months of the year
And we welcome her warmly, eagerly
Beautiful spring is finally here.

SHS MEMBER RECEIVES MEDAL

Back in 2013 Mississauga-Streetsville MP Brad Butt established a new volunteerism award named in honor of the founder of Streetsville - Timothy Street.

Butt hosted his annual New Year Levee on Sunday, January 18, 2015, at the Streetsville Legion where over 200 people attended. During this special event, the Timothy Street Medals of Honor were presented to deserving individuals in the community with exemplary volunteer service.

This year among those recognized was SHS member Ruthanne Beehoo, who was honored for her community service. Ruthanne has volunteered for many years with the Rotary Club at many events and has headed up the SHS Rotary Park work for many years as well.



"This is always a wonderful annual tradition to bring people together in a social atmosphere but also pay important tribute to the unsung heroes of our community," Brad Butt said.

Congratulations Ruthanne!!

- Before you act, listen.
- Before you react, think.
- Before you spend, earn.
- Before you criticize, wait.
- Before you pray, forgive.
- Before you quit, try.

Ernest Hemingway

Questions, concerns, ideas, want to volunteer??

Call:

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