



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 27, Issue 5

February 2020

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NEXT MEETING: February 11, 2020
Streetsville United Church

274 Queen Street South

Doors open 6:45 p.m.

Meeting starts 7:30 p.m.

The Presidents Message

A winter delight is watching birds gather at the garden feeders. Although still in the depths of winter, throat feathers of the yellow finches at my feeder are becoming more golden, a sure sign of warmer weather! Cardinals and juncos pick up the seed remnants off the ground and the odd blue jay joins in. A friend has a squirrel proof (baffle protected) platform feeder in her yard which she stocks with peanuts; the blue jays call out to let her know when the nuts are gone, and they want a refill!

Bird feeders are a great way to observe bird behaviours and provide

excellent nature photo opportunities. Our February speaker, Dave Taylor, will give us insight into how to create optimal bird photographs.

Perhaps this will inspire some of our members to enter our March Photo Contest. Categories and rules are listed below. ✂ Janet Shaw, Co-President





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March Meeting Photo Contest

We will be holding our third annual member judged photo contest at the March meeting. The topic is **"Favourite Flower Photo"**. There will be 2 categories, colour; and 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
- Please submit your photos before 7.15 pm

Speaker of the month "Birds and Blooms; Photographing Birds Near and Far"

Dave Taylor 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/Consultant for The Riverwood Conservancy, a non-profit group that provides for all ages at Riverwood 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.

He is also an avid public speaker who frequently speaks to local naturalist clubs and other organizations that have a keen interest for nature.



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Flower Show Volunteers Needed

Those of you who attended the AGM will recall that Anita and Alex King have volunteered to run the 4 annual flowers shows for 2020.

Flower show judging starts at 7:15pm and as a rule is finished before speakers present at 8pm, so you will not be missing the speaker's presentations.

It would be most helpful if they had a couple of clerks to help with the set up, take down, and assistance during judging. Clerking is a great way to learn more about flower show requirements, and much can be learned from judge's comments. I know we have several members new to participating in flower shows; this would be a great opportunity to learn more and be involved in your society.

Please see Janet Shaw for more information.

Plant Sale Wants and Wishes

Yes, it's early, we have a favour to ask.

As many of you know if we can get them, we use cut up old venetian blinds for our plant labels. Both plastic and metal are okay.

If you find something like the blind in this picture on the side of the road, or hiding in your basement or garage we will be really thrilled to have them!

☞ Thanks Monica and Carol



PLANT PORTRAIT: IRIS

Bearded irises are one of the most loved garden plants; they are available in an incredible range of colours, in sizes ranging from 20 cm to more than 100cm.

Irises are hardy, reliable, easy to grow, deer-resistant and drought-tolerant. They also attract butterflies, hummingbirds and make lovely cut flower bouquets.

They are completely hardy in southern Ontario. They require well-drained soil and a sunny location (6-7 hours plus of direct sunlight per day). Disease is common in shaded locations or when the soil is poorly drained and remains damp.

How to plant- bearded irises grow from rhizomes, a bulb like structure that looks like a strange carrot. Each section will only bloom once, a new section grows from the end of the previous part. As time goes on, the centre of the clump will have no flowering stalks. The old rhizomes must be removed.

When to divide irises- Overcrowded rhizomes like those in the picture below produce fewer flowers, every three to five years, it is necessary to divide by removing and replanting the small rhizomes. Disease is also more likely because the crowded rhizomes restrict drainage.



The best time to transplant iris is in the summer, after the iris have finished blooming. They can be divided in the spring; this works better with large overgrown clumps because there is less plant material to dig up. How to divide irises- lift the clump out of the ground with a spade or fork. If possible, lift the whole mass out whole, but if you can't do this, carefully break the clump into smaller parts and then lift them out.

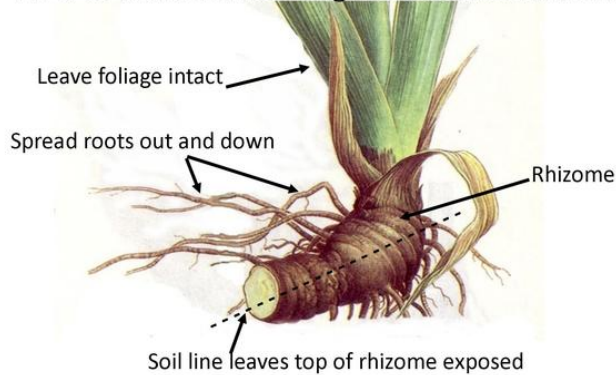
Shake the clump to remove any loose soil. Using your hands or a hand fork split the clump into manageable pieces. A good rhizome will be about as thick as your thumb, have healthy roots, and have one or two leaf fans. Large, old rhizomes that have no leaf fans can be discarded.

Check all of the divided iris rhizomes for iris borers and disease. The iris rhizomes should be firm and not soft. Remove any diseased, black, dry, mushy or hollow rhizomes and discard in the trash. You can use a serrated bread knife to cut smaller portions of rhizome 4 to 6 inches long.

If any rhizomes are diseased, wash your cutting tool with dilute bleach or rubbing alcohol after removing the diseased parts-pictures below.



How to Plant Reblooming Bearded Iris Rhizomes



Detach the new young rhizomes from the clump and neatly trim off their ends. Trim any long roots by one-third, cut the long leaves to about 6 inches in length. Then replant the rhizomes about 6 inches apart. This works best when the rhizomes are replanted the same day.



Winter: Jobs to Do

by Paul Zammit of the Toronto Botanical Gardens

1. Evaluate the placement, form and framework of evergreens, trees and shrubs, ornaments and structures. Make notes for changes and additions.
2. Carefully tie twine to damaged or crossing tree and shrub branches. Use these flags to prune out the selected limbs during the appropriate season.
3. Catch up on gardening literature and review seed catalogues.
4. Start an indoor vermiculture bin to produce compost all winter.
5. After a wet snowfall, check evergreens, especially those around the house that may be affected by snow sliding off the roof, and gently brush heavy snows from branches.
6. Stock up on seed-starting supplies; clean plant stands; create a calendar of when to start seeds.
7. Clean garden tools that were missed at the end of fall.
8. Monitor indoor plants for insects and disease.
9. Top up bird feeders regularly.

GARDENING TRENDS 2020

1. Gardening Vertically



One of the best and easiest ways to add green to a small space is through vertical gardening. Mount a staghorn fern and hang it as a focal point

Propagate plants in wall vases. Arrange wall planters in your kitchen for growing herbs or microgreens. Build a planter wall on your fence and create your own vertical jungle with a living wall kit. Elevate planters on your porch or balcony and fill a few wall planters with trailing plants for a waterfall of greenery.

2. Turning to Tech for Houseplant Help

If your indoor space doesn't get enough light, try adding some grow lights. To decide if your light is enough? There's an app for that! With the [Plant Light Meter](#), simply point your phone camera towards the light source to see how much light is available. If you need help remembering to water (you're not the only one!), give self-watering pots a try.



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3. Composting for a More Sustainable Garden

Though sustainable gardening isn't new, we are happy to see that it's a movement that continues to gain traction. Over the last few years we've seen gardeners switching to natural methods of pest control and taking steps to support local pollinators. One more way to garden sustainably is through composting.

4. Adding Water for Yourself and the Birds

"The presence and sound of water in the garden is sparkly, restorative, refreshing, and relaxing". More and more gardeners are turning their gardens into retreats for relaxation, and including a fountain is part of the plan. If a fountain isn't your thing, consider adding a bird bath. Birds need clean water to bathe and drink, so placing a birdbath in your garden and cleaning the water regularly will make a huge difference for birds in your area.

5. Keeping it Low Maintenance

You can enhance the beauty and ecology of your land by choosing to plant native trees, plants, shrubs and grass (plants that occur naturally within a specific region) on your property. These species require less maintenance, increase biodiversity, provide food and shelter for local wildlife and species at risk, prevent erosion and are well adapted to local soil conditions so require less maintenance. Examples:

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia Hirta*), foxglove beardtongue (*penstemon digitalis*), Heart-leaf

Foamflower, (*Tiarella cordifolia*), For a complete selection of native plants: <https://cvc.ca/your-land-water/countryside-stewardship/stewardship-resource-centre/home-and-garden/selecting-native-plants/> (copy/paste the address into your browser if the link doesn't take you there)

6. Including Plants that Perform Double Duty

Scent. There's nothing quite like walking through a beautiful garden and encountering plants with delightful fragrance—it's a treat for the senses.

Food. blueberries, dewberries, thornless blackberries, and raspberries. —easy access to delicious fruit!
"These shrubs are fairly carefree and great fun to grow,

Cooling effects. Do you have a south-facing room in your house that gets unbearably hot? Plants can help! By installing an expandable trellis on the wall directly outside of the room and planting a quick-growing vine such as passionflower at its base, the plant will eventually block the sun from heating the wall.

Mosquito repellent plants, plant them in or near the places where you spend the most time.



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8. Bringing the Foodie Experience

Growing your own food is continuing to increase in popularity as people become more concerned than ever with what they eat and how it's grown. And it's no secret that the best way to be sure you are getting top-quality produce is to grow it yourself.

It's exciting to see vegetable gardening merge with the outdoor entertaining trend: Hosts take dinner guests out to the garden to pick fresh ingredients and then make a meal together. It can be as simple as sprinkling fresh basil and other veggies on top of a pizza before barbequing it or picking some fresh sprigs of mint for a mojito.

9. Immersing Yourself in Beauty

More and more people are realizing the restorative effects of being in nature (in fact, did you know that some doctors are [prescribing time outdoors to their patients](#) as way to help with chronic disease and increase health and happiness?).

Taking a trip to a botanical garden or arboretum is a great way to immerse yourself in the beauty of plants and take a time out from the stresses of the real world. Plus, when you visit local gardens, you'll get lots of great ideas for plants to add to your own garden. If you're looking for a garden, visit the Royal Botanical Garden has lots to see.

Source: <https://www.gardendesign.com/trends/2020.html>





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UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE AREA

Orchid Society of the Royal Botanical Gardens 39th Annual Spring Show and Sale

RBG, 680 Plains Road W., Burlington, ON <http://www.osrbg.ca>

Saturday February 29, 2020 Noon- 5pm

Sunday March 1, 2020 10am - 5pm

Seedy Saturday

Hosted by Chinguacousy Garden Club and Horticultural Society and Brampton Horticultural Society
Century Gardens, 340 Vodden ST E, Brampton. ON L6V 2N2

Saturday February 29, 2020 9am - 3pm

Canada Blooms

Enercare Centre, Toronto

March 13-22



SHS-OHA Fundraiser

Please remember the fundraiser!! There are some lovely and interesting seed combinations available in this catalog so please take a few minutes to review the options. Priced at \$10 and \$15, these also make an excellent gift idea for any upcoming special occasions. Cut flowers, perennials, butterfly attractors, the English country garden, the herb garden – so many choices, just to name a few!!!

Remember that the order forms and money need to be returned at the February meeting as we must get them back the OHA team.

You can return any unused order forms, flyers, and envelopes that could be reused in the future.

Thanks everyone for your support!!