



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 27, Issue 11

October 2020

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The President's Message

Welcome October! Happy Thanksgiving! It's the time of year when we gardeners reluctantly put our gardens to bed, our minds already filled with ideas for next spring. This year is slightly different. While our gardens may have appreciated the extra attention from their owners being at home more, we were not able to share them with our friends and neighbours as much as we usually do.

And as Thanksgiving approaches, we are still in the clutches of this COVID pandemic and not sure how much celebrating will be happening. It's very disheartening to say the least. However, we still have much to be thankful for; it could have been so much worse, and still could be if we let our guards down now. SHS will not be able to meet in person again this year but we still have our "community" and we will keep in touch with each other via the Newsletter and perhaps other yet-to-be-discovered avenues.

Please share pictures and stories with Nury, our newsletter editor that you might have shared over a cup of coffee with fellow members under normal circumstances. We are looking into the possibility of virtual meetings and other ways of keeping connected until life gets back to some kind of normal. The Board is meeting every month, virtually, so please share any ideas that you have around ways that our SHS members can stay in touch. The SHS mailbox is streetsvillehort@gmail.com. Stay safe, be well.

✂ Marg Rowan and Janet Shaw, Co-Presidents



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Membership Desk

I MISS EVERYONE'S SMILING FACES!!!



September/October is the time for your membership renewal in the SHS, and if you haven't renewed yet, please take the few minutes to complete the renewal form which can be found on our web site, or print it and mail it along with your membership dues to:

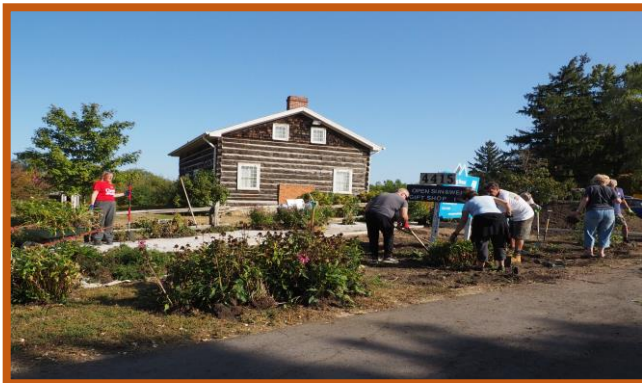
Streetsville Horticultural Society
PO Box 42048
128 Queen Street South
Streetsville, ON, L5M 1K8

Please make sure we have your most up-to-date email address which is only used to communicate SHS information. Looking forward to seeing you! ✂ Viv Holmes, Membership Chair

Leslie Log House

Anyone would find it hard to believe, when looking at the front bed at the LLH, that all of the plants had been removed, soil added, and plants replanted all in one day!

On Sept. 23rd a small group of volunteers arrived at the LLH at 9:30 a.m. They began gently digging all the plants out of the front bed. Plants were set aside according to species, so they did not get mixed up. We started shovelling soil into the bed and by 11:30 we had put all of the 6 cubic yards of Triple Mix into the bed.



We took a short break for lunch and then went back at it.

While some of the volunteers replanted the bed according to a plan Monica had made, others started moving the 6 cubic yards of compost into all of the other beds surrounding the log house. It was quite a project but our volunteers were like a well-oiled machine. By 4:00 p.m. all of the compost was in place and plants planted.

None of this could have been possible had it not been for our volunteers. So, here's to: **Dean Scully, Monica Ross, Viv Holmes, Grace Nelham, Steve Fenech, Jon Eldridge, Nury Garzon, Maryanne Brown,**



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Shelly Dodd, John Dodd, Marg Rowan and myself, who all worked tirelessly to complete the deed. Three Cheers!!!



October 7th will be our last day at the LLH for this year. We still have a few projects to complete and then will wait to get back to work again in the Spring. Thanks to ALL the volunteers who came out over the summer. Without you we could not have done it!!!

✂ **Carol Ashford**, Leslie Log House Garden Chair

Treasures Found at Leslie Log House

This one was on the white rose bush today!

"Caterpillars that cause allergic reaction or irritation to the skin are very hairy and are from the families Lymantriidae (tussock moths) and Arctiidae (tiger and wasp moths). Their hairs are connected to or contain venom glands and break off very easily. These hairs can get stuck in your skin and cause itchiness and inflammation, or even be inhaled and cause irritation in your airways. Different people may have different levels of sensitivity to these caterpillars".

Excerpt from Credit Valley Conservation



Last week a garter snake!

This species is widespread and abundant in Ontario and has demonstrated the ability to persist in many human-modified landscapes and can be found in a wide variety of habitats, including forests, shrublands, wetlands, fields and rocky areas. The greatest threat to this snake is road mortality; eastern garter snakes are killed in exceptionally high numbers on roads throughout Ontario. Seeing 10 to 15 dead garter snakes on the road during an hour of driving on a nice summer day is not uncommon.

✂ **Grace Nelham**



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Rotary Park

Several years ago, a tree was planted at Rotary Park in memory of Bill Duke a long term member of Streetsville Hort, unfortunately that tree died over the past winter, this fall a beautiful flowering cherry was donated by the Society as a replacement.



University of Guelph Trial Gardens Open House 2020

Several SHS members will recall that in August 2019 a group of us attended the *University of Guelph Trial Garden Open House* at the Turfgrass Institute in Guelph. We were given a personalized tour of the plantings by the Trial Garden Manager Rodger Tschanz, who was the speaker at our April 2018 SHS meeting.

The purpose and intent of the Trial Gardens per their website: *"The trial garden's 1,400 square metres of growing space allows gardeners to see what flowers and plants perform best in southwestern Ontario's climate. It's the only university operated ornamental trial garden in Ontario and is part of a network of research centres across North America set up to determine which plants grow higher and fuller, bloom quicker, stand up in extreme weather conditions and resist common plant diseases."*

"Greenhouse growers, seed companies and landscapers use the trial garden's results to choose species that will be successful in and around South-Western Ontario. The facility also offers researchers the opportunity to examine new uses for old plants. The garden also participates in the All-American Selections bedding plant trial. The program was established in 1932 to promote new seed varieties with superior garden performance. At the end of the season a panel of judges submit their rating scores and the winner is allowed to advertise this distinction on their packaging. It's a tradition to have the public vote on their favourite plants during the annual open house of the Guelph Trial Gardens. It is an opportunity to find out what type and colour the public is attracted to."

This year, due to COVID 19, it was uncertain whether the Open House would go ahead, but on August 12th I received an email from Rodger stating that the Open Houses were a go! Though this information was shared



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with SHS Members by email, it was very short notice and likely prevented most members from attending. At both locations, online pre- registration through Event Brite was required, and sign in upon arrival. At U of G face masks were required as well.

I attended both Landscape Ontario and the University of Guelph trial gardens on consecutive days. Both were wonderful and included many of the same plants, however the U of Guelph plantings and varieties were more extensive. Before this year I was not aware that Landscape Ontario Gardens were a part of the U of G trial gardens. I have often noticed them in front of the beautiful LO building while approaching Milton on Hwy 401. Per the LO website the changes to the LO trial gardens this year were as follows:

"1. A large container trial has been installed to compare the performance the annuals in containers vs. the landscape.

2. A large multi-year perennial trial has been planted with more than 160 entries.

3. A pollinator research garden has also been planted to compare native pollinator activity on exotic and native plant species.

4. Display beds commemorating the 25th anniversary of the introduction of the Wave petunia.

5. Our usual landscape trial for various annuals and our ongoing shrub and hydrangea trials."

Roger told me that the majority of perennial plantings at LO were only done this year so it will be a few years before they are as well established as those at the U of G location. It is worth noting that the LO gardens can be visited anytime!

As usual, attendees at both locations were provided with flags to mark the perennials and annuals they appreciated the most. I include photos of a few plantings I admired. The Supertunias were really remarkable, they are slightly larger than calibrachoa (million bells), come in many colours, and look great either in the ground or in pots. Other favourites: Crushed Velvet Mix Kwik Combo, Summerina Sunblazer Echinacea, Maestro Sedum, Summer Gold Helianthus, Flame Thrower Cajun Spice Coleus, and Brainiac Lightning Gold Celosia.





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There is so much interesting and educational information on both the U of G and LO websites, they are well worth browsing through. You can view selected favorites from previous years and much more.

<https://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/trialgarden/>; <https://landscapeontario.com/trial-garden-program-sees-major-expansion-in-2020>

✂ Janet Shaw

Monarch Butterflies

I noticed several years ago that while I had lots of Monarch butterflies around and lots of milkweed, I never saw any caterpillars or cocoons in the garden. I concluded, rightly or wrongly, that the reason for this was that I have a lot of ants and earwigs around and that they eat the tiny monarch eggs off the milkweed before they have time to grow.

A few years ago, I decided to try taking in the milkweed leaves as soon as I saw the butterflies laying eggs to see what would happen. I ended up with lots of tiny little caterpillars that grew into big caterpillars in a matter of weeks. I took a few of the bigger caterpillars and put them back in the garden to finish their natural cycle but kept some which spun cocoons from some large twigs and chicken wire that I kept over the box where I was feeding them.

This year I am happy to say that I launched 11 healthy butterflies over the course of a few weeks. Nothing quite like it.





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First the green cocoon starts to turn black and you wonder if it's not doing well. Then you realize that you can see orange and black, the colours of the monarch wings inside the now-translucent cocoon.

Then the wings start to flutter and stretch, and there is a full-size butterfly! It takes several hours for the butterfly to fully emerge, during which time it is critical not to touch it. I tried to ensure mine were in the sunshine for several hours while they went through the final part of their transformation.



I let them crawl on my hand, held it up to the sky, and off they would go. Such a miracle of nature.

✂ Marg Rowan

"As it is in heaven"

As I was looking for a topic for my article for this issue, I came across this Swedish Movie. Nothing to do with gardening, but everything to do with what we do. These people met to rehearse, they have a coffee break, they fundraise, they listen to each other, they are all sorts of human characters: the invidious one, the jealous, the "disabled", the bullied, the happy, the seller and so on.

The choir is just an excuse, for them, to meet, to leave an unhappy relationship just for a few hours or to do something different and just have fun. Are you following me?





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While watching the movie I thought about us: The Streetsville Horticultural Society. We are not “professional performers”, we meet to be together, to chat, to learn, to have physical activity or to be alone and obviously, to garden.

However, at the end of the day, as Carol puts it in her article, we do big and amazing things: look at the Leslie House, Rotary Park, and the newsletter...



Here is the plot: Daniel Daréus is a successful and renowned international conductor whose life aspiration is to create music that will open people's hearts. His own heart, however, is in bad shape. After suffering a heart attack on stage at the end of a performance, he retires indefinitely to Norrland in the far north of Sweden, to the village where he endured a terrible childhood of bullying.



Daniel buys the old elementary school in the village, and soon after is asked to come along one Thursday night and listen to the local choir. He is only asked to listen, and maybe offer some helpful advice, but their intentions of persuading him to help are obvious. He eventually agrees to help, albeit reluctantly. Daniel approaches the parish minister to seek for the position of cantor. He starts helping the choir grow and develop, rediscovering his own joy in music.

I don't want to spoil it for whoever wants to see the movie. It is available at public library of Mississauga (hoopla). But I want to express that The Streetsville Horticultural Society is the equivalent of “the choir”. We as individuals do what is in our power but together, we do amazing things. The time that I expend doing small tasks brings me joy, purpose and opportunity to learn and grow. Thank you for that. ✂ Nury Garzon





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Native plants vs nativars: What is a nativar?

To answer this question, we need a definition of a native plant. In Canada a native plant is usually defined as one that was present before settlers arrived. Exactly which plants were present varies across the country.



A cultivar means cultivated variety; it is a plant variety that has been produced in cultivation by selective breeding. It is man made and not found in nature. A nativar is a cultivated variety of a native plant.

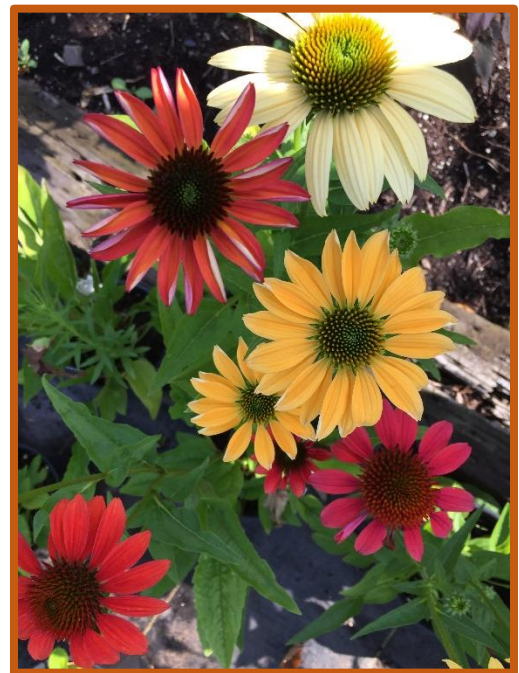
<An example of a native plant is *echinacea purpurea*, an example of a nativar is *echinacea* "Magnus" a deep purple version, another example is *echinacea* "Tomato Soup" which is bright red. Because most recent cultivars are tissue cultured or genetically modified not hybrids created by cross pollination, they are often sterile, they do not produce seed. The easiest

way to tell if the plant is a cultivar is that cultivars have formal names in quotes after *echinacea*, so 'Tomato Soup', 'Cheyenne Spirit', 'Daydream' and many more. >

When we choose native plants for restoration or creating a pollinator friendly native plant garden, they need to be the species that occurs in the wild. The wild *echinacea* lives for 4-6 years, drops viable seed every year and continually replaces itself. As *echinacea* does not spread by root, it is important that seedlings grow to replace the parent plant. Sterile nativars do not produce viable seed, many die after 2-3 years and need to be replaced at a cost of \$25+. They produce less or no pollen and therefore less food for bees. Some *echinacea* nativars have such complicated flowers that bees cannot find the pollen if it is there.

There is a growing concern that cultivars of native plants are not ecological equivalents to their purely native gene collections. It has raised additional questions about what native really means and to what percent of "native" a plant must be to maintain their ecological role in urban landscapes. Garden centre customers are confused because the created native cultivars are labelled as natives but they don't behave like natives.

Plants that are created with unusual coloured leaves often do not attract pollinators





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Other common natives seem to have more valuable cultivars, most monarda spreads by root and the flowers of many cultivars seem to have retained their bee accessible shape. Monarda also attracts hummingbirds and butterflies so if anyone ever creates a white monarda don't expect it to attract hummingbirds!

The lesson here is to pay attention to the plant names, if you want the latest cultivar go ahead and buy it, but make sure you have the original species to provide food for pollinators and future replacements for the parent plant.

<https://xerces.org/blog/cultivar-conundrum>

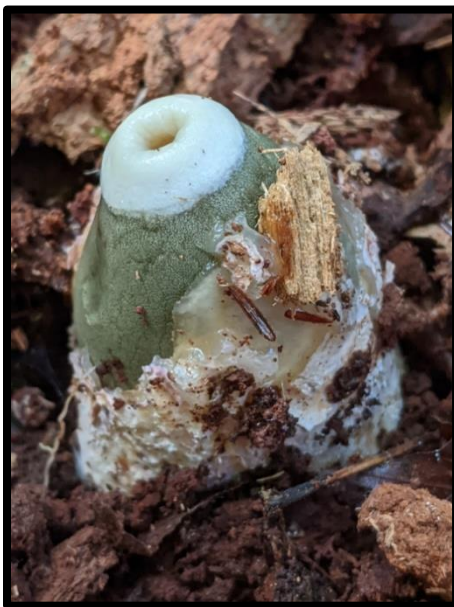
<https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/garden-scoop/2019-12-28-native-vs-nativar>

<https://www.ecobeneficial.com/2014/04/native-cultivars-vs-native-plants/>

<https://content.yardmap.org/learn/nativars-native-cultivars/> this article is fascinating

✂ Monica Ross

Native corner: Ravenel's Stinkhorn – *Phallus ravenelii*



I thought I would spice things up this month and write about a new hobby I've been fascinated with for the past couple of years.

Mushrooms - one of the most fascinating things Mother Nature has gifted us with.

The wealth of

information on this topic is quite simply, unending, and I won't attempt to summarize here, but I thought it might be fun to

introduce you to something special I found on a hike last week. As I

was photographing another mushroom, I noticed something poking through the wood debris. I explored further and found something I'd never seen before (picture on the left). Having no idea what it was, I snapped a picture and made a note to investigate further. Later on, I stopped for a snack and started Googling. My search ended with the Stinkhorn family. In particular, Ravenel's Stinkhorn. When I returned to the same spot on the way back less than 2 hours later, there was no need to search for this mushroom – the smell was something that couldn't be missed – a mix of sweaty socks and something rotting.





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The stinkhorn was easy to find as a result, and I took the picture on the right. I researched a little more when I got home and found out so much more about this amazing fungus. Now that I know more – I wish I had stayed and filmed a time-lapse of this rare find emerging!

Stinkhorns are fungi you usually smell before you see.

They begin as egglike structures with an outer covering and a layered interior that may be multicoloured and is partly gelatinous and odorless. The egg opens by expansion from within, and a single, stalk-like extension or a number of arms emerge. The spore mass is embedded in a green slime that becomes strongly fetid (I'll say) as the mushroom matures. This spore mass is either atop the stalk-like structure or arms, or is deposited along the inner surface of the arms. The odor attracts insects; the spores, which are not airborne, adhere to the bodies of the insects and are dispersed by them. Stinkhorns are very common in urban areas, especially in parks and about cultivated plantings, from summer to fall (this was a first for me!).

These weird and wonderful mushrooms have been connected to witchcraft, disease and the devil (being called devil's eggs). They even come up in very early literature – in fact Pliny the Elder wrote about them in his Natural History, 1st century AD.

Ravenel's Stinkhorn, named after Henry William Ravenel (a mycologist from South Carolina), is found from August to October. They can be single or clustered, on wood debris, rotten stumps, or sawdust. The "spike" can reach up to 20cm (!), with a 3-4.5 cm cap which is smooth and covered with olive brown to dark brown slime, developing a small hole with a white rim at the tip of the cap. The mature mushroom only lasts a day or two before subsiding.

As always, never dig up plants from the wild, and don't buy from nurseries that do.

✂ Heather Marchment.

Plant Sale 2021

There will be a plant sale next year! We won't know for quite some time exactly how it will work. Several Hort Societies held plant sales this year, with online sales, or online or telephone booking for plant shopping times.

So, what can you do? You know the answer, do the gardener's walk, do a walking tour around your garden and take notice of what is too big, or not earning the space it takes up, or you just decided it's not for you.

Make a list, take a picture of the plant showing where it is in the garden, put a stake or some sort of marker next to it, so it doesn't get overlooked next spring. Put the list in a safe place, or download the pictures, and save them in a plants to donate file, and remember where the safe place is! ✂ Monica Ross





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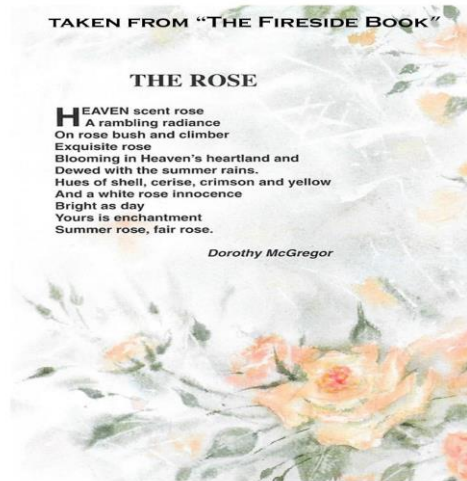


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PHOTO GALLERY

Roses from Grace Nelham





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Coral charm peony with over 50 blossoms

"The peony is named after **Paeon** (also spelled Paeon), a student of **Asclepius**, the **Greek god** of medicine and healing. In Greek mythology, when Asclepius became jealous of his pupil, **Zeus** saved Paeon from the wrath of Asclepius by turning him into the peony flower."



Double delight rose - the most fragrant rose in the world - it look beautiful & has an amazing fragrance.

✂ Carol Zarb

Hummingbirds by Steve Fenech





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