



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 28, Issue 6

February 2021

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Next Meeting

Tuesday February 9

Common Garden Myths

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Social Chat starts 7:00pm

AGM starts 7:30

Please send any photos you wish to share to Maureen Dodd


President's Message

Dear SHS Members, Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on ZOOM on **Tuesday February 23, 2021 at 7pm**. This is the AGM that would have taken place in November 2020 but was deferred due to COVID restrictions on gatherings.

At this meeting, as is usual at our AGM, we will be asking our members to vote to approve our reports and records for the 2019-2020 year. This includes our financial records. All the reports except the financials were included in the November 2020 newsletter. We will send the reports and ZOOM details to everyone prior to the AGM.

We are required to have a quorum to approve our records; that is a minimum of 20 members in attendance at the AGM, otherwise we cannot proceed with the current year's operations. Please do not assume that your attendance will not be needed.

At the AGM we will also be electing the new BOD. We ask all our members to participate in our AGM meeting and support the continued operation of our society. Barb O'Malley the Director of District 15 will be joining us via Zoom as District 15 Representative.

A reminder that you do not have to have a specific job or significant responsibilities to sit on the Board. There are other roles that are important too, that can be done without being on the BOD. Please consider volunteering in an area of your interest, even for a few hours. We hope that everyone is staying well and engaged in satisfying "lockdown" activities. Let's hope for a mild winter and an early spring  **Janet and Marg, Co - Presidents**





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If you are interested in an online Virtual Floral Art Show go to the Garden Club of Toronto website.

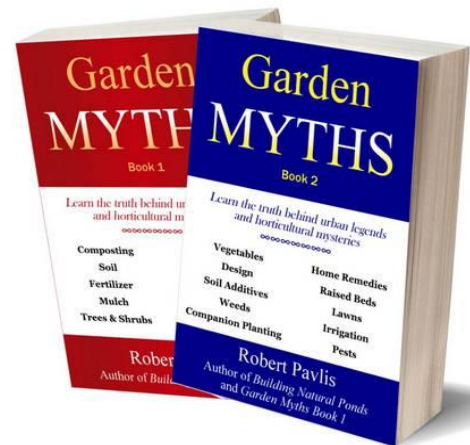
<https://canadablooms.com/reconnections-2021-a-virtual-floral-art-show/>

Speaker of the Month: 'Gardening Myths' by Robert Pavlis

Robert Pavlis has presented to SHS previously; in September 2016 he talked about Designing Your Fall Garden

Robert is a well-known speaker, and educator with over 40 years of gardening experience. He is the author of several books, including one on Garden Myths. He has a fascinating gardening blog; GardenMyths.com. His talk will examine common garden myths, often found in traditional garden advice. He debunks myths and misconceptions about how-to, when to, and why to. He uses science based information to understand plants and their environment.

Learn how to garden more effectively by understanding how plants actually grow and thrive. What works and what doesn't, and more. Sometimes garden myths can be quite amusing, others are just plain wrong or at least misleading.



As the owner and head gardener of Aspen Grove Gardens, a private six-acre botanical garden, Robert grows 3,000 varieties of plants. If you have gardening myth questions you can ask Robert Pavlis for his opinion.

✂ Janet Shaw

From the Membership "Virtual" Desk

Hello everyone, Vivian Holmes, the previous Membership Chair, has relinquished her position and I have taken on the role. Once you step into someone's shoes, you come to realize what an outstanding job they have done to keep members on track and the paperwork organized!

Although the pandemic has made it impossible to meet in person, 32 members joined the January Zoom meeting to socialize, share photographs or stories, and learn about rock gardening. Our membership has declined this year to 78, but I am hopeful with Spring only 47 days away, that it will blossom and grow.

Membership has many benefits, one of which is the monthly newsletters full of lots of information. Please make sure that you have updated your contact information by emailing me Shelleydodd62@gmail.com or sending it by Canada Post to Membership, 128 Queen St. S., Box 42048, Streetsville, Ontario, L5M 1K8.

I look forward to introducing myself and seeing your smiling faces at the membership table, when we are safely able to meet in person again! ✂ Shelley Dodd.



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Leslie Log House

We have two new additions to the Leslie Log House property - a Chimney Swift Chimney has been added on the lawn of the Log House, and facing that, on the cement pad that has sat empty forever, a beautiful new bench.

A bit about Chimney Swifts:

Before European settlement brought chimneys to North America, Chimney Swifts nested in caves, cliff faces, and hollow trees. Their numbers rose accordingly, but a recent shift in chimney designs toward covered, narrow flues are unsuitable for nesting and may be contributing to a decline in this species' numbers.

Chimney Swifts are among the most aerial of birds, flying almost constantly except when roosting overnight and

nesting. When they do come to rest, they never sit on perches like most birds. Their long claws are suited only for clinging to the walls of chimneys and other vertical surfaces.



Swifts even bathe in flight: they glide down to the water, smack the surface with their bodies, and then bounce up and shake the water from their plumage as they fly away. Large numbers of Chimney Swifts roost together in a single chimney during the non-breeding season. There's warmth in numbers: during cold nights, the temperature inside a chimney roost can be 70°F warmer than outside. Unmated swifts continue roosting together in the summer, sometimes in large groups. But the species does not nest colonially: you'll find only one breeding pair nesting in any one chimney. The pair may tolerate other non-breeders roosting in their chimney.

The Chimney Swift uses glue-like saliva from a gland under its tongue to cement its nest to the chimney wall or rock face. Sometimes an unmated swift helps the breeding pair rear the young. The young outgrow the nest after about two weeks and have to cling to the nearby wall, in many cases even before their eyes are open.

✂ Carol Ashford



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Native Corner: Eastern White Pine – *Pinus strobus*

Certainly, one of my favourite native trees at any time of the year, the Eastern White Pine almost has a regal quality to it. The stands of statuesque, windblown, feathery giants must have been quite the sight to see for newcomers to the land many, many years ago. Living to approx. 200 years (but some to an amazing 450 years), these grandparents of the forest have seen it all, from blizzards to blazing summers, sunsets to sunrises, and calamities to creations. Before the arrival of Europeans, white pine stands in Eastern North America contained an estimated 2 billion cubic metres (!) of lumber.

The average height of these perfectly straight trees was 150 ft - 80 of which were free of branches. To Native Americans, the Eastern White pine represented a cultural keystone. From a symbol of unity to medicine to a source for repairing canoes, it was a resource used for much more than simple construction. To Europeans, the Eastern White Pine represented a forest of ship masts. The wood was white yet strong, light, fine-grained, easy to

work with and didn't warp. Its growth was swift – a shocking 16 inches a year – and it seemed in endless supply. This was a tree that would help build the greatest navy the world had ever seen.

Almost cone shaped in its youth, it morphs into a horizontal branching pattern in old age. Although found in separate parts, both male and female flowers are found on the same tree i.e., monoecious. The female flowers start as small cones at the ends of the main branches right at the top. When they are ready to be pollinated, they turn green. The yellow-green male seed cones ripen into a light brown several weeks before the females are ready. They release pollen into the wind in such enormous clouds of yellow dust that it has been described as "raining brimstone". Once the pollen is shed, the male cones drop off. The females stay on the trees for two years. Every five years or so, the females produce 400 cones and up to 18000 seeds, spreading 700 ft in all directions. Most of the seed ends up as food for wildlife – a veritable buffet for red squirrels!

Pines produce resins used to make tar, pitch, turpentine and rosin. These compounds have been used for centuries for caulking and waterproofing the wood, rope, and canvas of ships. Native Americans used pine resin not only to seal the cracks of canoes, but also as medicine. They applied the antiseptic resin to wounds to help them heal and boiled it up with water to make a tonic said to cure everything from coughs to smallpox. Pine needles, which are high in vitamins A and C, were used to make anti-scurvy tea.

When European settlers arrived with the tools to fell very large trees, they discovered a new source of ship masts in North America. Lucky for them, pines grew conveniently near waterways where settlers erected their earliest



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large buildings – sawmills. By 1682, there were 24 sawmills operating in Maine alone. With masts from the New World fetching up to 100 pounds apiece, Americans grew rich and were able to bring slaves back to work on their estates. Only fur was the pine's rival in commercial greatness for the dollars that accrued to the colonies.

The British parliament under William III passed laws reserving trees for the Crown. Burning, which the Native Americans had done to manage the forests and clear away undergrowth, was strictly forbidden. As a result, forests became darker and denser and competition is not the White Pine's strong suit. The struggle over the ownership of the trees was only part of the settlers' grievances leading up to the American Revolutionary War, but it was a significant part. In 1774, Congress stopped the export of pines to Britain. After gaining their independence, Americans cut down trees at an indiscriminately furious rate. By the end of the 19th century, once vast stands had been logged out and the white pine had changed from the predominant species to just one among many in the mixed forest.

The official tree of Maine, Michigan and Ontario, the Eastern White Pine has a short taproot, and the roots spread outward. The bark is greyish-green when young, and dark grayish brown in older specimens. The bluish-green needles come in bundles of five, each three to five inches long. Found in fertile, moist, well-drained soils, this pine supports various species including the Imperial Moth larvae. White pine seeds are favoured by black bears, rabbits, red squirrels and many birds. The bark is eaten by mammals such as beavers, porcupines, rabbits and mice and when bald eagles build nests, they prefer the upper reaches of these towering pines.

The next time you're wandering in our wonderful outdoors, see if you can find one of these quiet giants of the forest. You never know what they've been witness to.

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

The Power of Yellow!

I was inspired and uplifted to read Mark Cullen's article in the Toronto Star January 23rd about the Communities in Blooms "Hope is Growing" 2021 campaign.

<https://www.communitiesinbloom.ca/cibs-hope-is-growing-article-toronto-star/> Communities in Bloom (CiB), and its partners, are working together to summon everyone across Canada, and beyond, to create "Hope Gardens for 2021".





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The CiB goal is to see the land awash with gardens featuring **yellow**, the international colour of hope.

"Whether flowers, fruits, shrubs or vegetables – just plant the seeds! From parks to playgrounds, front yards, back yards, balconies, baskets, boulevards, barrels and planters, wherever there's an empty space to grow, there is room for a plant."

<https://www.communitiesinbloom.ca/>

Most people associate hope with a situation that they wish would end and that they could move past.

Desmond Tutu once said,

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness."

Hope whispers that things will get better."

There are so many varieties of easy to grow yellow plants. Mark Cullen's article mentions forsythia, sunflowers, marigolds, Jerusalem artichoke, summer squash, and black-eyed Susan. And there are so many more: spring daffodils, yellow mums, yellow coneflower, yellow canna lily, helianthus, the list goes on.

In another 6 weeks or so I will be starting some seeds and corms and now plan to start more yellow varieties than usual to embrace and spread the sentiment of Hope in my neighborhood. I'm glad I save so many marigolds seeds.

You can share photos of your Hope Garden on the CiB Facebook and Instagram sites and be eligible for national and global recognition. I think it would be a fun project for SHS members who "Go Yellow" this season to share our "Hope Gardens" with our SHS members at our Zoom meetings. ✂ Janet

The Ontario Horticultural Association Trillium Newsletter Winter edition is now available at

[2021 Winter Trillium » GardenOntario https://gardenontario.org/2021-winter-trillium/](https://gardenontario.org/2021-winter-trillium/)

The Trillium is the quarterly newsletter of the OHA, bringing you the latest news of what's going on in gardening in Ontario. The online version is free and can be found at the link above.

This edition the OHA team has created a remarkable issue for you to enjoy: Get ideas for virtual meetings, plant sales, fundraisers, and activities. It includes articles from many Horticultural societies. Read all about the innovative ways our garden clubs and societies have found to stay connected amidst the restrictions and challenges.



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The Cloud Forests of the Island of Hawaii; The Hawaiian Islands are 2,500 miles from the nearest continental landmass and have developed unique ecosystems.



What is a cloud forest?

A cloud forest is a sub-ecosystem of rainforests. Cloud forests have almost 100 percent humidity and the presence of clouds even in the dry season. They are found at altitudes between 1000 and 2500 metres. A cloud forest must be in a tropical environment, there are no temperate cloud forests.

Their defining characteristic is persistent cloud cover/fog at the vegetation or ground level that ensures that the tree crowns are regularly in contact with cloud water. Cloud water directly condenses on the vegetation surface in cloud forests as precipitation.

Cloud forests are located at much higher elevations than rainforests and are much cooler. This temperature difference contributes to the mist and fog that is often visible in cloud forests.

Cloud forests form where clouds intersect mountain slopes with major height differences between the highest peaks and the lowest valleys. Vegetation differences also exist. Cloud forests have abundant vegetation like a rainforest; however, their plants tend to be smaller. Some trees even become crooked due to their exposure to wind, sun, and cooler temperatures.





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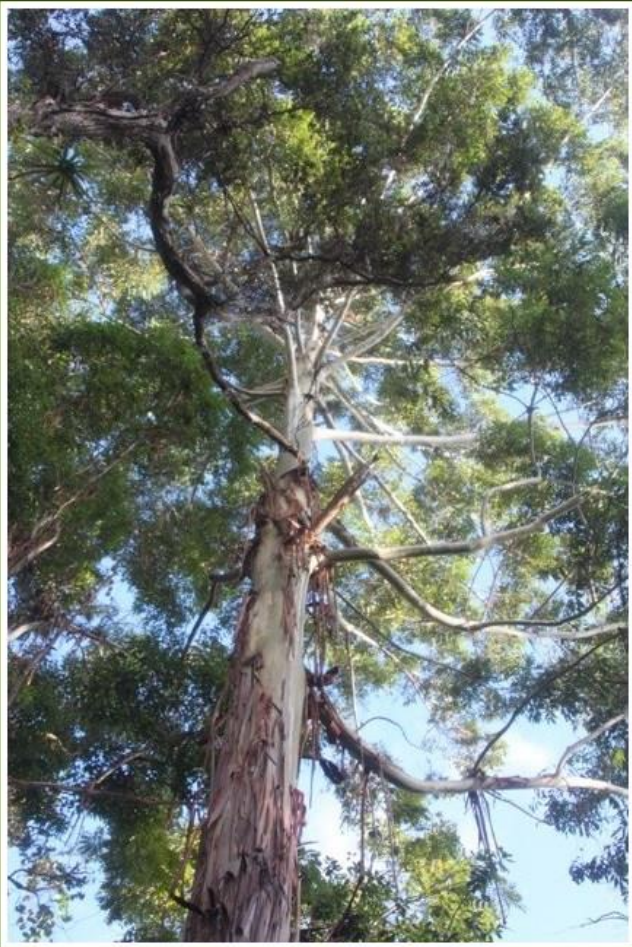


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There is a significant number of epiphytes (air plants) among the trees in a cloud forest. Tree trunks are almost always covered with mosses, bromeliads, ferns, and other plants. There are deciduous trees in a rainforest, cloud forests are evergreen.

The most significant characteristic of the Hawaiian cloud forest is the lack of soil, lava underlies the entire area often at a depth of less than 15 cm, as seen in this picture of roots on the surface. The unique climate conditions in this area are created by a lack of tradewinds, which are blocked by the high volcanic mountains of Hualālai, Mauna Loa, and Mauna Kea.



Hawaii's forests both cloud forests and rainforests also play a significant role as watersheds. Without vegetation and forest cover, most of the islands' rainfall would quickly run off unused into the ocean. The cloud forest can absorb moisture from passing clouds that condenses on the thick vegetation.

A keystone species is the glue that holds an ecosystem together. The Koa tree (picture to the left) is the keystone species in the Hawaii cloud forest. It provides food and habitat for Hawai'i's native insects and provides nutrients for all other endemic under-story plants in the cloud forest.



Other significant plants in the Kohala cloud forest are the Ohia trees that are the first plant to grow on lava.



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Many different orchids and various ferns cover most of the ground in the cloud forest.

The Medinilla orchid >



<The shrimp plant- a bromeliad

The huge Hapu'u tree fern is a large tree that provides nurse log functions for other plants. >





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There are no native animals in this cloud forest. In fact, there are only 2 native mammals, a seal and a bat. There are many native birds mostly ground nesting. The island's isolation has resulted in flocks of various nectar-eating forest birds collectively known as honeycreepers, feeding on orchids and other flowering plants. They include rare species such as the akepa, amakihi, apapane, elepaio, and oma'o. Orchids provide nectar and pollen to most of the area's birds and insects.

<The elepaio

The amakihi bird on an Ohia Tree>



Threats to the cloud forest

Land clearance for pasture and housing has allowed feral animals including cattle, goats, sheep and pigs access to the cloud forest sanctuaries. The pigs eat the young of ground nesting birds.

Much of this information is taken from a paper I wrote for a University of Guelph Course: Ecological Design

I visited the Kona Cloud Forest sanctuary in October 2018; For more information: <https://www.konacloudforest.com/>

Monica 



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PHOTO GALLERY By Grace Nelham



Types of Rock Garden

Sand bed, Checkerboard, Alpine lawn, Crevice garden and typical plants for troughs.

Rock Garden Soil: 1/3 coarse sand, 1/3 good garden loam & 1/3 organic material.

Suitable flowers for Rock Gardens

Iris 'Katherine Hodgkin', Aubretia, Veronica bombycina, Campanula carpatica, Tulipa turkestanica, Opuntia, Pulsatilla vulgaris and Lewisia cotyledon.

