



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 28, Issue 9

May 2021

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 11th

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Successful culture of Rhododendrons

and Azaleas in Ontario gardens

by Kevin Kavanagh

Social chat 7 pm

Meeting starts 7:30pm

Co-President's Message

The board of directors is continuing to meet via Zoom each month. Currently we are discussing plans for premiums which are usually given out at the May meeting.

Some options are, finding a central location where members would be able to pick up their premium. Or delivery to members' homes, much the same way the poinsettia delivery was done in December 2020.

Both of these options would require volunteers to staff a pickup location or to deliver plants to member's homes.

The district 15 AGM will be held virtually on May 15, 2021 at 1:00 pm. The district is looking for one or two members for the Assistant District Directors, people who are interested in participating in the activities of the larger OHA organization.

Gardening at the Leslie Log House and Rotary Park started the last week of April, if you are interested, please contact Carol Ashford or Jon Eldridge. We will also be doing garden work at the Pollinator Park in Streetsville, so far, we have 3 volunteers for that location. We are waiting for additional details from the city before getting started at Pollinator Park.

We have city approved Covid precautions for community gardening, including proper physical distancing, in this case a good rule is stay a yard/rake distance apart, mask wearing if proper distancing is not possible and providing hand sanitizer for volunteers.

If you have any suggestions for future speakers, activities or just have a comment please get in touch. Contact us at streetsvillehort@gmail.com

✂ Carol Ashford and Monica Ross, Co-presidents



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Speaker of the Month: "The successful culture of Rhododendrons and Azaleas in Ontario gardens" by Kevin Kavanagh. Kevin is the owner of South Coast Gardens and Consulting, a small specialty nursery and landscape design business that he launched in 2005 in heart of Ontario's 'Carolinian zone'. Although an avid gardener for much of his life, Kevin spent most of his early career in the field of nature conservation working for organizations such as The Nature Conservancy of Canada and World Wildlife Fund Canada. Kevin's long-standing interest in native plants was fully ignited while undertaking graduate field studies in the diverse eastern forests of Carolinian

Canada, the Appalachian Mountains and the U.S. southeast. Today, Kevin gets great satisfaction from working with clients to design and install gardens that provide benefits to pollinators, birds and incorporate elements of Ontario's gardening heritage. Kevin holds a B.Sc. (Hons.) from McGill University, a M.Sc. from York University and several years of post-graduate research in Botany at the University of Toronto. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Niagara Chapter of the Rhododendron Society of Canada and is a member of the Brantford Master Gardeners. Kevin is the author of several book chapters and articles celebrating Canada's wild places and the rich plant life of the Carolinian zone. ✂ Jon Eldridge, Speaker Chair

Rotary park

We held our Spring cleanup on Earth Day, April 22nd. It was quite cool with a few snow showers but five of us turned up (the most permitted at present) and we did good work. Thank you for braving the weather!

We work every other Thursday morning and if the weather allows and authorities permit, we plan to be there again on May 6th. We would welcome any new helpers and if you are interested, please contact me and I will add you to the list, or just show up! We are there from 9.30 a.m. ✂ Jon Eldridge





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Beautiful Blooms! At Rotary Park by Grace Nelham



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Leslie Log House

On Saturday, April 24th a few of us gathered quietly at the Leslie Log House to gather up the trash winter had deposited on the property. Amazing that so much trash could accumulate now that we have garbage cans with lids. Guess most of it came from the windows of cars driving past on Mississauga Road. Thanks to: Enza & Nick Lafratta, Dean & Debbie Scully, Anita & Alex King, Monica Ross, Robb Dods, Viv Holmes, and Grace Nelham for donating their time.

Some of us worked in the gardens digging up weeds, of which there were plenty, while others marched around the property picking up cans, bottles, paper, plastic, etc. The weather was cool, great for working and we

accomplished a lot. We got it done and since there is plenty of room to spread out, we were in compliance with public health rules. There is, of course, still work to be done in the garden.



On April 27th a couple of us went to Pengilly's where we dug plants from Sarah's garden which she generously donated to SHS. The next day Viv Holmes, Monica Ross and myself went to the log house and dug them in, hoping they will survive over the summer with the possibility of having a plant sale in the fall. We got them all planted just in time for the rain to water them in.

The Log House is a beautiful property with many interesting things to see. The occasional deer, coyote, robins, cardinals, bluejays, rabbits, many wildflowers etc. The apple blossoms are just beginning, so if you want an enjoyable walk, come and have a look. If you do decide to walk there, please check yourself for ticks when you leave as they are around. ✂ Carol Ashford





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My Phalaenopsis Orchid got sick!

My beautiful orchid, which I got from my daughter, was plagued with mealybugs. After it blossomed very nicely (and I was on the moon because for first time in my life I have a blossomed orchid), I noticed white spots and suddenly was infestation of larvae coated with a waxy secretion.

Panic was my first reaction. Second, google and do research, Then, treatment and management.

According to the available information I proceeded to: First, isolate the plant to avoid infestation to others.

Second, control the pest by using alcohol, probably the most popular home remedy against mealybugs is to swab and daub plants with a cotton-tipped swab or ball of cotton dipped in isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol. The common 70% isopropyl available in stores is satisfactory. Remove all mealybugs, large and small. Afterwards, you will still need to repeat the alcohol treatment to remove the tiny yellowish spots which are the recently hatched crawlers.

Pay particular attention to the folds, crotches, branch bases, midrib areas, and roots.

Clean the whole area, pots and check other plants. Finally, thanks nature for the opportunity to learn.

✂ Nury Garzon





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Native Corner: Sharp Lobed Hepatica – *Anemone Acutiloba*



Depending on whom you ask, Spring seems to be the most exciting time of the year! With each coming year, the Earth reliably wakes from its dreamy winter solstice to greet us with new life. If you really pay attention, everything seems to be moving in springtime – always with the promise and excitement of new things to come!

Early spring blooming wildflowers are typically small, lovely, and very delicate looking. But looks can be deceiving! Most are actually very tenacious, often with multiple strategies geared to enable them to survive and reproduce. With such a plethora of native ephemerals making their appearance at this time of year, this month's choice is the always reliable Sharp Lobed Hepatica (although the Round Lobed variety would have been an equally good choice).

Hepaticas are always a treat for the eyes after a long winter. They launch themselves early in the year and are often concealed under the dried-up leaves of the deciduous woodlands they favour. The newly emerging flower stems, bracts, leaves and fruits are hairy, a characteristic that discourages herbivores, and may also help keep the plant's tissues warm during cool spring days and nights until the exquisite half inch anemone like flowers emerge. The hepaticas belong

to the buttercup family and are related to columbines, anemones, and baneberries. There are two native hepaticas: round-lobed, which grows in acidic soil and the sharp-lobed variety which grows in limestone soil. Apart from the shape of the lobes of the leaves, both varieties look the same. If they grow in the same woods, they often hybridize.

Hepatica is able to get a head start on the blooming season because its leaves remain viable throughout the winter, gathering energy and photosynthesizing when conditions permit. When the warmer spring days arrive, Hepatica is ready to go full steam ahead with photosynthesis. With such a short blooming season at a time of year when weather can be unpredictable (making photosynthesis difficult) spring ephemerals have to be efficient about how they allocate their energy. The early flying solitary bees and flies that are their likely pollination partners are interested in nectar, but they need pollen more. Many bees and flies consume pollen for the nutrients it provides, and female bees also harvest pollen to feed their larva. Pollen is a very effective reward to attract these visitors, so effective that Hepaticas have evolved not to put any energy into producing nectar. Hepatica does hedge its bets a little though. It protects its pollen by closing its flowers at night, and on rainy days. If cross-pollination doesn't happen, Hepaticas are able to self-pollinate. Bee visitors include honeybees, small Carpenter bees, Mining bees, and Sweat bees. Regardless of how pollination is achieved, ants disperse Hepatica seeds, as they do for about 30% of spring blooming plants. They are enticed to do this by the nutritious food packets (*elaiosome*) that are attached to the seeds. Ants take the seeds back to their nest, eat the elaiosome, and discard the seed, usually in a location that is rich in soil nutrients and safe from seed-eating birds.



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Found in dry woods rich in organic soil and growing four to six inches high, the flowers ($\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch across) come in clusters with up to 12 sepals (rather than petals) which close at night and on cloudy days. Three-lobed leaves unfurl from the base of the hairy stem once the blooms are fully open. They replace the old leaves after flowering to make the plant evergreen. No two clusters of Hepatica are alike – they come in all shades and sizes: some snow white, some pale pink with just a tinge of violet, some deep purple, and others the purest of blues – the perfect contrast against the backdrop of the browns and tans of the decomposing leaf mulch surrounding them.



The scientific name comes from the Greek for “*liver*, *hepar*”. The lobed leaves were thought to resemble the shape of the liver, and as the leaves fade, they do indeed take on a recognizable liverish tone. During the European Renaissance, it was thought that if a plant resembled a body part, it would be effective in treating diseases of that body part (the ‘Doctrine of Signatures’). As a result, the Hepatica native to Europe was used in preparations for treating liver ailments for many years, but more recent scientific testing of Hepatica has refuted its efficacy.

Native Americans made no claims for the use of hepatica in liver complaints. The Cherokee chewed the root to relieve a cough and the Chippewa used a decoction (a boiled down syrup) of the root to treat convulsions in children. The Potawatomi used the root and the leaves as a tea to relieve vertigo. The roots alone were considered an excellent dye.

The plant also had some rather odd qualities attributed to it. According to James Mooney, who wrote about the Cherokee in 1885, “those who dream of snakes drink a decoction of this herb and the Walking Fern to produce vomiting, after which the dreams do not return”.

Mooney also wrote that in the Carolina mountains, “a girl can infallibly win the love of any sweetheart she may desire by secretly throwing over his clothing some of the powder made by rubbing together a few heart leaves which have been dried by the fire”.

Hepaticas are fairly easy to spot on a sunny day in the spring – they don’t like to be crowded, so look at the edge of trails or around the bottom of trees. Happy spotting!

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

✂ Heather Marchment



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The Boxwood Tree Moth Program

The box tree moth (BTM) (*Cydalima perspectalis*) is an invasive pest causing severe damage to boxwood (all *Buxus* species), a popular broadleaf plant used in residential and commercial landscaping. Native to China, Korea and Japan, it has since spread to 29 countries and was first detected in Toronto by an amateur entomologist in the fall of 2018. The method of introduction into Canada is unknown. Since the initial program conducted by CFIA in 2019, research on the box tree moth has expanded to include government agencies (OMAFRA), industry representatives (Landscape Ontario) and researchers.

My name is Abbie Wiesner, and I am a graduate student from the University of Guelph working on the program with Jennifer Llewellyn (OMAFRA), Alexander Rimmer (UofT) and Guo Cheng (UofT). Together with other industry partners, we are investigating the Box tree moth (BTM) in Ontario with a focus on determining the pest's biology and current geographical spread. This is achieved through pheromone trap monitoring and conducting physical plant inspections throughout the summer.



We are searching for participants who have boxwood on their property and who can:

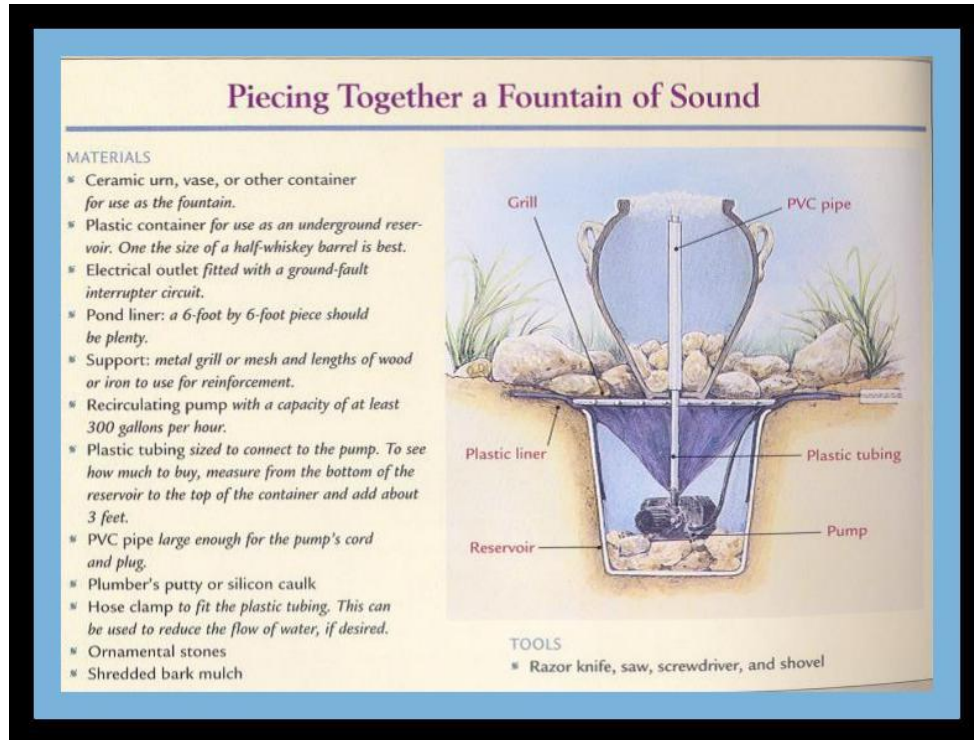
- Host and hang a box tree moth trap approximately 1 meter from the ground, within 20 feet of boxwood plants, from May to September 30th, 2021
- Open the trap on the same day each week and email me (Abbie at awiesner@uoguelph.ca) the number of BTM moths found (with photos of moths found)
- Hold a pheromone lure in the freezer, open the packet and drop the lure into the trap on August 15th (each trap comes loaded with a 3 month lure)

Please let me know as soon as possible if you'd like to participate in our 2021 program. Feel free to share this message with friends and family as we are interested

in hosting traps across Southern Ontario with a focus in the following areas: East York, Scarborough, North York, Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Woodbridge, Brampton, Mississauga and Oakville.

Additionally, as temperatures warm in the coming weeks, keep an eye on your boxwood plants for signs of feeding BTM larva (caterpillars). If larvae are found, consider contacting me before applying treatment as our team would be interested in collecting larval samples.

Garden Projects- 2 easy water features using a plastic tub or garbage container.





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HAPPY MOTHERS DAY



A sandalwood tree gives fragrance even to the axe that chops it to pieces.
- Tamil proverb