



# Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

*Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association*

[www.streetsvillehort.ca](http://www.streetsvillehort.ca)



Volume 29, Issue 7

March 2022



**Next Meeting**

**March 8th, 2022**

**Streetsville United Church**

**274 Queen Street South**

**Doors open at 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting starts 7:30pm**

**Speaker**

**Jeanne McRight**

**Masks are required**

## Co-President's Message

Our March meeting will be in person, it will be great to see everyone again.

As spring slowly approaches gardening related programs and events are starting to appear.

The Mississauga Seed Library reopens on March 5th. On opening day there are several online events, check them out at the link below. Grow your own vegetables, herbs and plants at home with borrowed seeds from the library. All of our seeds are organic and non-GMO. There are many online Seed Library programs <https://www.mississauga.ca/library/using-the-library/seed-libraries/>

As our gardening year takes off, we are looking for volunteers. Some of these activities will require only 2-4 hours, two or three times a year. Photo Contest, Premiums Chair, Publicity, this involves placing ads on many local online calendars for the Plant Sale and Open Houses.

The Flower Show convener is active in May, June, September and October.

The Draw Table chair will be active at our general meetings, will also collect donations for the table, and set up the table at each meeting.

Several people could share the Greeters position, to welcome and answer questions at the sign in table from new members.

Refreshment table donations will be organised by Martha Witney and Viv Holmes.

Don't forget we intend to have a plant sale this year, so start thinking about the plants that have grown far too big over the last 2 years and just have to be divided.

Take care and see you all soon

Carol and Monica



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## Speaker of the month-"Blooming Boulevards - low maintenance boulevard gardens" by Jeanne McRight



Jeanne is the founder of Blooming Boulevards. A professional visual artist and educator, she is a Master Gardener and holds a horticulture diploma from the University of Guelph. She focuses on environmental conservation, specializing in native plants, woodland restoration and naturalized landscaping. In 2015 she initiated an amendment to Mississauga's Encroachment by-law, permitting residents to create boulevard gardens. She is a deeply committed advocate for environmentally sustainable horticultural practices.  **Jon Eldridge**



Streetsville Horticultural Society will be holding a photo contest at our March Meeting. This contest will be judged by fellow members of the Society.

Go back through your photos to find entries for the categories. We would ask that you submit your color, 4" x 6" photos with your name and class on the back at the beginning of the March meeting.

Your photo(s) will be displayed and voted on by the members in attendance and 1st, 2nd & 3rd, winners of each Class announced at the end of the meeting.

One entry per class per person, or in the case of a family membership 1 entry per class per other member of the family.

### **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE NATURE RELATED**

The Classes are:

Class 1 "A Clump of Spring Flowers from Bulbs"

Class 2 "Baby it's Cold Out There"

Class 3 "Yellow"



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## Membership Desk



February: Carol Zarb a previous member renewed, and two new members joined, bringing the total membership to 76.

Welcome to new members **Karen Anderson** and **Simone Tranter** who joined last month. We look forward to seeing them at our next in-person meeting. ✂ **Shelley Dodd**

## Leslie Log House



Although we have not been doing any gardening at the Log House this winter, I have tried to take daily walks on the property when the weather was not unbearably cold.

It is a lovely place to walk, even though some of the property is fenced off by the pipeline company. You can follow the path and walk down to the bottom of the property and walk along the top of the steep bank. You never know what you might see down in the valley. Lots of animal footprints and even the occasion deer or coyote.

An older couple have placed quite a few bird feeders on the big walnut tree and along the path leading to it. They also carry peanut butter and liberally slather it on the branches of the trees for the chickadees and woodpeckers.

If you haven't visited this property, take the time to have a walk on a sunny winter day, I am sure you will enjoy yourself! ✂ **Carol Ashford**



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## **Blast from the Past: Originally published in the February 1995 Newsletter**

### ***Things To Do in March***

Plant Flower and Vegetable seeds indoors.  
Prune fruit tree and grape vines.  
Start tuberous begonias in pots.  
Press garden perennial back into ground if they've heaved  
Spray fruit trees with dormant oil.  
Prune back overgrown shade trees and hedges.  
Repair rodent damaged trees and shrubs with tree dressing.  
Treat houseplants with water soluble fertilizer (e.g., 20-20-20)  
Prune summer flowering shrubs.

### ***Promotion / Fund Raiser***

We will be offering T-Shirts and Tote Bags with the Streetsville Horticultural Society's logo imprinted thereon for sale at the March meeting. Cost per item will be \$15.00

### ***Green Thumb Tip***

Perhaps one way to "have it all" when ordering seeds is to compare notes with friends. One rarely uses an entire packet of seed; by splitting orders and sharing seeds you can have access to many more varieties.

### ***Novice of the Year Award***

The Novice of the Year Award for Flower Show was presented to Monika Schouten for her participation in the 1997 Flower Shows.

### ***Note from Mary Gilbert***

Folic Acid - The name is becoming familiar as a necessary part of our diet. It promotes good health-forming red blood cells and is a preventative for Cancer. It can be found in fresh, dark green vegetables, e.g., Brussel Sprouts, Broccoli, Spinach etc. If you are planning to grow vegetables this year, include some spinach in the flower garden. It looks nice and you can pick the leaves, wash and cook them. Lasts all summer until the frost hits.

✂ **Carol Ashford**





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## Native Corner: Yellow Birch- *Betula alleghaniensis*



I'm a fan of all our Birches, but my favourite has to be the Yellow Birch. They seem to have such character, tending to have a gnarly old look to them, as if they've been witness to history. My favourite specimen that I've found is the subject of this month's photo. I found it while I was roaming around Terra Cotta. It was growing out of limestone rock, believe it or not. Its growing conditions have caused it to look like it's been there for centuries – probably one of the coolest examples out there.

In autumn, the Yellow Birch turns a gold so luminous it outshines all the trees around it. Only eastern North America is graced with Yellow Birch. It grows in deeper shade and in a wider variety of soil types than White Birches, though, like them, it seldom grows in pure stands. It is often accompanied by other Birch species or by Striped Maple or Mountain

Maple. The long horizontal markings on its bark are the lenticel cells that allow gas to pass between the inside and outside of the tree.

Mostly associated with the climax forest (the most stable stage of a forest's evolution), the yellow Birch is also known as a fugitive species, one which takes advantage of any break in the forest canopy to seed. When an old tree falls or is knocked over by the wind, yellow Birch seeds germinate quickly. It is monoecious - separate male and female catkins grow on the same branch. The tiny greenish male catkins appear in spring along with the leaves. During late summer, the females form at the end of long shoots in clusters of two or three. When they become receptive, the males shed pollen for three to five days. By August or early September, little winged nutlets begin to ripen.



*Betula alleghaniensis* grows to 100 feet high. The leaves are dark green above and light yellow-green below with serrated edges. It has pale grey-brown bark with a slight yellow almost metallic cast. Either the bark or the yellow fall colour gives this Birch its common name.

Birches produce seeds by the thousands for at least 40 years. As they fall to the ground in cold October weather, the wind scatters them in all directions. Few seeds survive since most are gobbled up by birds and animals. The remainder must find a receptive place, but not in leaf litter, which will smother them. Once



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the warmth of June arrives, they germinate in the most unlikely spots on mossy logs, decayed wood, rotten stumps, or cracks in boulders. Driven by a gust of wind, they can even perch on the face of a cliff. Some birches appear to grow on stilts because the seeds originally landed on stumps. The stump eventually rots away, leaving behind the thick roots, which seem to leap out of the soil. These above ground roots are known as prop roots.

Red-shouldered Hawks use the Birch as an important nesting site. During the winter, many other birds will feed on the brown seed of catkins, and, in spring, white-tailed deer can be seen browsing on pale saplings. As a food source for humans, however, the Birch was limited. The Algonquin of Quebec mixed the sap with that of maples to extend the syrup they had acquired from other species and the Ojibwe used the combination of both saps as a drink. Since the wood is soft, it was used for lumber or in making birchbark canoes. The Ojibwe used the bark to make storage containers, sap dishes, rice baskets, buckets, trays, and winnowing dishes as well as ordinary eating vessels.

Birch was also a medicinal plant. Many native peoples used the bark as an emetic, to remove bile from the intestines, as a blood purifier, or to treat other internal blood diseases. Cleansing rituals and acts of purification, extremely important to these peoples, were conducted regularly. The Iroquois boiled up bark and water to treat what they called "Italian itch". The Mi'kmaq heated the bark and used it as we use hot water bottles. They also made trumpets for calling game, and torches for night fishing, an important part of their food gathering routine. Finally, as a cleansing ritual, Native Americans placed birchbark in coffins when they buried their dead.

As a commercial wood, birch came into its own in 1840, when John Dresser of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, invented a hand-cranked veneer lathe. This tree, considered one of the finest veneer trees, has a slightly pink overtone in the yellow wood and a beautifully figured grain with lustrous sheen.

Birch furniture is usually made with this species because, once it is stained and varnished, the nearly white sapwood deepens to pale gold.

Today it is marketed as Canadian silky wood and is much prized for cabinets, paneling, and marquetry. Much of the birch harvested nowadays, however, ends up as toothpicks, popsicle sticks, tongue depressors, dowels, and clothespins.

I hope to see you out and about exploring! 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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## Plant poaching

Sources for this information: <https://anaturalcuriosity.org/plant-poaching/>  
<https://www.vox.com/down-to-earth/22935166/succulent-plant-poaching-jared-margulie>

Plant poaching is the **illegal removal of rare and endangered plants from their natural habitats**. Illegal plant poaching can occur on government land or on private property when plants are taken without regard to laws and regulations which have been created for the plants' protection.

As houseplants have become more popular over the last few years, plant poaching and theft has also increased. The drastic increase in houseplant hobbyists is obvious to those who've been in the hobby for many years.

The increase in houseplant hobbyists in some areas of the world has been so large that a term has been coined to represent it, *Plantdemic*.

In some areas the Covid pandemic has also increased the amount of poaching because many people are out of work and looking for any way to make money for themselves and their families. The reality of the situation is that plant poaching is one job that requires no application and can be pretty lucrative as long as you don't get caught.

The plants that are most susceptible to poaching are those which have gained a lot of attention on social media. Some of these plants include rare aroids, carnivorous plants, hoyas, orchids, succulents and cacti, and many others.

Plant poaching has been around for a long time. Though it isn't as publicized as animal poaching, it has an equally large effect on the vital balance needed to maintain healthy ecosystems.

### Many Poached Plants are Heading Toward Extinction



One example of this is the poaching of small rosette succulents, like the Dudleya, in California. These succulents help to prevent erosion on rocks and cliffs in places that are too dry for many other plants to survive.

Experts are concerned that many commonly poached plants will become extinct. This concern is supported by the large number of plants labelled as endangered which are also commonly stolen from the wild.





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Venus Flytraps are a type of carnivorous plant that only occur in the wild in a very small (75-mile radius) section of the United States in the subtropical wetlands of North and South Carolina.

They occur naturally there as understory foliage and have developed their unique ability to consume insects due to the lack of nutrients in the soil.

Because they are such small, low-dwelling plants, they are easily blocked out by taller flora. Nature ensures their survival through regular natural fires which controls the larger plants from snuffing out the flytraps. However, people have taken over some of the Venus flytrap's natural habitat and are now suppressing the natural fires to control overgrowth, causing many flytraps to perish under larger foliage.

The loss of flytraps due to habitat destruction and fire suppression doesn't

account for additional plants that are poached and sold as houseplants. And the reality of the situation with Venus flytraps is that they are readily available as tissue cultured and seed grown specimens, so there is no reason to take plants from the wild anymore.

## **It is Especially Sad to See Iconic Plants Disappearing from the Wild**

These cacti grow incredibly slowly, taking up to 50 years to reach 3 feet in height, equating to less than an inch of growth each year. They typically do not begin to grow arms until they are at least 70 years old.

These tree-like cacti, besides being living pieces of history, provide food and shelter for desert animals.

Because of their popularity and infamy, they are coveted by many and sought after by collectors. It is for this very reason that poachers are interested in them as they can sell for up to \$100 a foot.





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Saguaro cacti are perhaps the most famous cacti with their upturned arms. They can grow to over 40 feet tall and live for 150 years or more.

These cacti grow incredibly slowly, taking up to 50 years to reach 3 feet in height, equating to less than an inch of growth each year. They typically do not begin to grow arms until they are at least 70 years old. These tree-like cacti, besides being living pieces of history, provide food and shelter for desert animals.

Because of their popularity and infamy, they are coveted by many and sought after by collectors. It is

for this very reason that poachers are interested in them as they can sell for up to \$100 a foot.

The increase in poaching was pushing Saguaro cacti toward extinction so park rangers developed a plan to protect the remaining cacti by inserting microchips in them.

While this method has proved to be pretty effective at protecting many saguaro cacti, there are still huge number of smaller species that are also being poached to devastating levels due to their popularity within the houseplant industry.

Globally, one-third of cacti are at risk of extinction. Half of those are at risk due to poaching.

## **The countries that are most susceptible to poaching**

There is a group of countries that are particularly susceptible to poaching due to the vast amount of biodiversity there. These 17 countries are referred to as megadiverse. Although the countries combined account for less than 10% of the land on Earth, they house over 70% of the biological diversity. The complete list of megadiverse countries is below:

Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, United States and Venezuela.



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Poaching is one of the largest illegal trades, behind only drugs, humans, and counterfeit currency.

Ways to avoid buying poached plants

1. Get to know the seller and ask them how they obtain their plants
2. Buy from nurseries that share where their plants are from openly

3. Avoid buying rare and expensive plants from sellers that you do not know much about

Be particularly careful when shopping for rare aroids, carnivorous plants, succulents and cacti, air plants, and other epiphytic plants (like hoyas, orchids, dischidia, ferns, etcetera). These plants are highly susceptible to poaching and are suffering as a result of it.

Thank you for caring enough about the plants that we love to do some homework to ensure that our houseplants are not being stolen from nature! ✂ **Nury Garzon**

*"It's our job to figure out how not to kill the things we love" [...] "and to use our appreciation to protect them instead."*

Quote from Don Waller as part of [Crimes Against Nature](#), written by Lynne Warren, The National Wildlife Foundation



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## GARDENING

### POPULAR POTPOURRIS FLORAL

Rose, jasmine, and orange blossom are the primary scents of floral potpourris. They retain their scents when dried and are used for color and texture. Other fra-

Pick flowers on a sunny day after the dew has evaporated. Use petal colors of yellow, pink, rose, and purple, which retain their colors best when dried. White petals can turn an unsightly brown, and some red flowers become very dark.



grant favorites include heliotrope, honeysuckle, jonquil, lilac, lily-of-the-valley, mock orange, nicotiana, peony, pinks, dame's rocket, stock, violet, and sweet William. The best flowers for color are black-eyed Susan, borage, cornflower, delphinium, geranium, hydrangea, larkspur, marigold, nasturtium, periwinkle, poppy, and zinnia.

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Taken from  
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THE OLD  
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## POLLINATOR PARADISE - NATIVE PLANT LIST

On February 8th our speaker was Taya Kehler from Riverwood Conservancy. She gave a talk on new gardens at Riverwood that are predominantly native plants. I look forward to seeing them in the Spring perhaps we could have a group outing there? Below is the list of plants used in the new garden. Monica's comment "Be careful, some of the plants on this list are endangered, and along with others are not suited to hot dry conditions in full sun."

Witch hazel	Heath Aster Smooth Aster	Pale Purple Coneflower
<b>Dogwood</b>	Sky Blue Aster	Prairie Smoke
Ninebark	New England Aster	Yarrow
Big bluestem	<b>Canadian Ginger</b> **	Wild Blue Indigo
Little bluestem	Columbine	<b>Cardinal Flower</b>
Black-eyed Susan	Common Boneset	<b>Great Blue Lobelia</b>
Oxeye Sunflower	<b>Spotted Joe Pye Weed</b>	Bee Balm
Anise Hyssop (Yellow Giant)	Hairy Beardtongue	<b>Wild Bergamot</b>
Anise Hyssop (Purple Giant)	Field Pussytoes	Prairie Dropseed
Butterfly Milkweed	<b>Culver's Root</b>	Gaura
<b>Swamp Milkweed</b>	Mountain Mint	Lupin
Common Milkweed	Pearly Everlasting	<b>Foamflower</b>
Blazing Star		

