



Streetsville Blooms

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

www.streetsvillehort.ca



Volume 29, Issue 9

May 2022



Next Meeting

May 10th, 2022

Streetsville United Church

274 Queen Street South

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting starts 7:30pm

Co-President's Message

May is the busiest time of year for Streetsville Horticultural Society!

PREMIUMS: Our May 10th meeting is "**Premium**" night when all members in good standing present will receive a free plant. If you are a paid-up member of SHS you will receive a premium (a gift) at our May meeting. If you have a family membership you will receive 2 premiums, single memberships will receive one. Members **MUST** be in attendance to receive their premium. Any plants left over at the end of the night, will be available for purchase.

Plant sale signs will be available for pickup at this meeting. Place your sign on your front lawn not on the boulevard, city personnel often remove signs that are on the boulevard.

PLANT SALE: Our Plant Sale is on Saturday May 28 at the Leslie Log House property as it has been since 2016. The house will be open so Plant Sale volunteers can take a break when needed. Some SHS members will be providing refreshments for our workers. The Plant Sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year and provides the money we need for everything the Society does.

Preparing for that day as well as the work on plant sale day takes many hands and lots of volunteer hours.



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How can you help?

1. WE NEED PLANTS! Now that our gardens are jumping to life; do the gardeners walk. It's easy - just put your head down and walk your garden paying close attention to what's happening at ground level. If a plant is too big, divide it and donate part of it, if it never really did what you wanted, give it a chance to thrive and donate it to the plant sale, someone else's garden could be better suited for that plant!

When you choose plants to divide for the sale, split off a healthy section that will be divided into smaller sections by our potters and will do well once transplanted into pots. Over the past years' our plant sale customers have told us how impressed they are with the quality of our plants, that they are strong and healthy. They sell more quickly than ones that are too small to be successfully transplanted.

No invasive plants such as ribbon grass, or goutweed.

Almost all perennials you have in your gardens will be accepted with thanks.

PLUS: Shrubs, saplings, fruit bearing shrubs such as black currants, raspberries, strawberries.

Donated plants should be identified by both species and colour; the species is the easy part. Is this a Monarda or a Geranium, etc.? Our customers want to know the flower colour for the plant they are buying. Place dug up plants in plastic bags or cardboard boxes along with a note with your name, plant name and colour of flower. Drop off your plants to:

Carol Ashford	1750 Melody Drive, Streetsville
Monica Ross	6978 Chilcot Court, Meadowvale
Dean Scully	6592 Eastridge Road, Meadowvale
Janice Ward	3157 Alfresco Terrace, Meadowvale
MaryAnn Brown	29 Alphonse Cres, Streetsville

Daylilies and **bearded irises** have not been a best seller recently, if you want to donate them, we need to know the variety if you don't know the variety, we really need to know the colour. We have daylilies and irises left from the 2018 plant sale.

1. Due to potential problems with Asian Jumping worms, we will not be accepting pre-potted plants. All donated plants will have the soil removed.

Plant donations will not be accepted after May 18. If you are unable to dig up plants in your garden, please call one of us and we will arrange for someone to come and dig them up. Monica 905-824-7283, Carol 905-858-0748

2. "Plant care givers" are needed for our newly potted plants until plant sale day. All the plants need is a suitable space in part sun to part shade, it could be on a patio, a drive, or unoccupied garden space, all you need to do is water them.

3. Plant Transportation: from Pengilley's nursery to the holding locations. If you have a van, or pickup; please help us out. Timing could be on Wednesdays, or any other day or on the weekend, during or after potting up times.



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4. We need people to transport the plants from the holding sites to the Leslie Log House on the evening of Friday May 27th and early in the morning on Saturday May 28th to arrive at 6.30am

Our first potting up - very cold and few volunteers. Some of the plants we potted.



Remember: **WE NEED YOUR HELP AND WE NEED YOUR PLANTS!!!** Carol & Monica, Co-Presidents

Rotary Park



It rained on the day we were supposed to clean up the park, so we did it the following day - Earth Day.

There were five of us and in 2 hours we made a really big difference. A big thank to you all.

We plan to work at the park on May 5th and 19th if the weather will cooperate. The bulbs, Magnolia and Japanese flowering cherry should look great in the next couple of weeks. ✂ Jon Eldridge



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Speaker of the month,

Topic "Heart of Turtle Island: The Niagara Escarpment" by Mark Zelinski.



Our speaker on May 10th is a professional photographer, publisher, writer, painter, filmmaker, Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society, member of The Explorers Club and winner of the Canadian Governor General's Medal. His internationally acclaimed photography books include forewords by HRH Prince Philip, The Honourable Lincoln Alexander and The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau. He will cover the flora and fauna, landscapes and culture of the escarpment which most of us will be quite familiar with.

Like the Galapagos and the Serengeti, The Niagara Escarpment is designated as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. One of the world's unique natural wonders, The Escarpment defines an area across Southern Ontario and Manitoulin Island. Its ecosystems support hundreds of at-risk species that coexist alongside the most densely populated and heavily developed region in Canada. -

Mark will be bringing some of his signed photography books to our meeting, they will be available for 40% off retail to our members, no tax on cash purchases.

Martin Ford was our speaker in April. I was asked for his website.

<http://www.Urbancottagelandscapes.com>.

Some of us found it quite hard to hear his talk - which was a shame. ✂ Jon Eldridge

Litter Pick Up at Leslie Log House

Well, the litter has all been picked up and the property is looking great. We had two "keeners" who came out on Saturday, April 23rd, even though the forecast for the day was for rain. Thanks to **Steve Fenech** and **Viv Holmes** who gathered up a slew of litter.

On Sunday, April 24th the other members who had signed up showed up and picked up the rest of the trash that was laying around the property. Many thanks to L to R: **Marcia Spear, Robb Dods, Monica Ross, Martha Witney, Vicki Cook, Judi Kokis, and Carol Ashford**. Lastly, we will not forget to mention **Grace Nelham** who not only picked up trash but took a picture of us with our treasure for the Archives!



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BLAST FROM THE PAST

MAY 1989

Seasonal Tips:

- Prune shrubs and trees after flowering, fertilize lawns, plant vegetables, strawberry plants and raspberry canes.
- Remove dead leaves from the roses and destroy them.
- The daffodils and tulips will give us some welcome colour then after remove the flower heads only and give them some fertilizer for next years' growth.
- Prune roses 5 or 6 shoots per plant.
- Take some photos of the bulbs and flowering shrubs for future photo contests.

Plant Sale:

The 1989 Annual Plant Sale will be held on the Lawn in front of the IGA plaza and all donations of perennials, shrubs, box plants etc. Will be accepted 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 on May 20th. Helpers and tables also wanted. Please label your plants with the name of the plant and price.

Meeting:

Speaker Bill Pratt, a Master Gardener will be speaking on "Roses I have Killed". Mr. Pratt will be talking to us about Roses and as you can see by the title, he does it with humour.

Thanks:

Thanks to Ed and Ruth Caston, Mary and Lloyd Dobson for attending the OHA booth at the Home Show recently held at Exhibition Place. If anyone would like to represent SHS at the Canadian Exhibition in August, please contact Bob Blackburn. He is always looking for volunteers for this booth.



Spring Premiums:

Premiums will be given out at the May meeting to paid up members. Still time to pay your **1989** membership. \$5.00 single \$7.00 family. ✂ Carol Ashford



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Native Corner: Blue cohosh- *Caulophyllum thalictroides*

A spring favourite of mine, the blue cohosh is always a great sign that spring is really underway. And the fully developed plant is a very common site in the understory in our forests. The graceful elongated naked stems of the blue cohosh push up out of the soil looking much like a stalk of purple asparagus. The tiny yellow flowers open before the elegant ferny leaves unfold. They are so inconspicuous that they are easy to miss. There is a bluish cast all over the leaves called a “bloom” which makes it even more mysterious.

After insects pollinate the flowers, the ovary



Copyright © Walter Muma

bursts open as the seeds enlarge and develop outer coats, also blue, looking somewhat like berries. They turn into the plant’s major attraction as something to observe, but given how poisonous they are, looking is the only thing one should do.

Cohosh is an Algonquin word used by indigenous peoples for several different and unrelated species, including black cohosh and white cohosh. All three species had medicinal uses. Blue cohosh was and is particularly important in matters of the uterus. Because it induced childbirth it was called papooseroot. In 1828, American naturalist C.S. Rafinesque wrote “The root was the only part used, usually in a tea. In smell and taste, it partakes of Ginseng and Seneca root, and is sometimes mistaken for both. It is sweetish, a little pungent and aromatic. It is used for rheumatism, dropsy, cholic, sore throat, cramps, hiccup, epilepsy,

hysterics, inflammation of uterus etc.”

By the mid-1850s, it was being sold in drugstores in powdered form or as the raw root. It was eventually included in the list of Canadian Medicinal Plants and the Dispensatory of the United States. In the 1950s, a



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French-Canadian pharmaceutical researcher, J. Auguste Mockle, confirmed that indeed, a chemical in the plant, called caulosaponin, provokes strong uterine contractions.

Today, blue cohosh is still a popular herbal medicine, used to bring on menstruation, ease painful menstruation, and hasten childbirth. But knowledgeable herbalists warn about its powerful alkaloids, which can cause heart problems and dangerously stress the kidney. Don't even think about trying it without reliable professional advice, and never combine it with other medication.

Again, just a quick reminder about the North American Native Plant Society Plant Sale happening Saturday May 14th, at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. In just a few short weeks you'll be able to have as many Native Plants as your hearts desire!

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**

Best Milkweed Varieties for Monarch Butterflies

by Robin Sweetser (January 19, 2022), published in the Old Farmers Almanac



Milkweed Is on the Menu!

Monarch butterfly populations have declined by a shocking 90% over the past 20 years

What has happened to our Monarch butterflies? Many factors have contributed to this horrific loss, including climate change, weather extremes, loss of winter habitat in Mexico, and widespread use of pesticides. While these are problems that will take years to change, one thing we can do in our own yards today is use less or no chemicals. A very easy thing we can do is to

plant milkweed!

Not only will you help these valuable pollinators, but you'll treasure the presence of fluttering friends in the garden!



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Milkweed is the only food Monarch “babies” eat! It’s that simple. When the caterpillars hatch out, they can start feeding immediately on the milkweed leaves. Toxins in the plant make the adult Monarchs and their larvae taste bitter to predators, protecting them from hungry birds.

It is such an effective deterrent that other butterflies, such as the similarly-colored Viceroy, are also avoided by predators just in case they are bitter too. If you decide to grow milkweed in your yard, be aware that the cardiac glycosides contained in the plants are toxic to pets and people also.

Milkweed Varieties

The milkweed genus (*Asclepias*) is fairly large, with 73 species native to the US and over 100 in North America. They support 12 species of butterflies and moths, including the Monarch. Choose ones that are native to your region and are right for your situation. Here are a few to consider; they have wide native ranges and are frequently available as seeds or plants:

Common milkweed smells so sweet they should make a perfume from it!

Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is a hardy perennial that will thrive almost anywhere in the US, especially east of the Rockies and into Canada. It needs sun, reaches 2 to 6 feet tall with wide, gray-green, velvety leaves, and is an aggressive grower. Don’t plant this in your flowerbed or it will take over. It has a wide-spreading root system and needs an area all its own, where it can really stretch out. It has pale purple-pink flowers that are very fragrant and attract many pollinators in addition to Monarchs.



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Butterfly weed is a bright spot in the garden that attracts all kinds of pollinators.

Butterfly weed (*A. tuberosa*) is less aggressive than its common cousin, growing only 1 to 2-1/2 feet tall. It is commonly grown in gardens, adapts well to moist or dry soil, and its orange flowers are very showy. It likes full sun and is hardy in Zones 3 to 9.

Swamp milkweed has thinner leaves and more colorful flowers than common milkweed.

Swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*) is also more well-behaved than common milkweed, forming clumps rather than spreading out. It grows 2 to 4 feet tall, has deep rose-pink flowers, and is shade tolerant. It will grow in wet soil near lakesides or damp marshlands, but also grows well in average garden soil and is hardy in Zones 3-9.



Showy milkweed (*A. speciosa*) is native from west of the Mississippi into California and north to Canada. It has pastel pink flowers on 2- to 4-foot tall plants. It is drought tolerant, making it a good plant for arid plains and prairie-lands, though it grows well in moist garden soils as well. It needs full sun and is hardy in Zones 3-9.

Submitted by  Grace Nelham

HAPPY MOTHER  DAY



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Photo Contest 2022

Class 1	"Fungi are the grand recyclers of the planet." Paul Stamets
Class 2	"A host of golden daffodils, fluttering and dancing in the breeze." William Wordsworth
Class 3	"What a lovely thing a rose is!" Arthur Conan Doyle
Class 4	"Close to you" – The Carpenters, leaf or leaves close up.
Class 5	"Ripe vegetables were magic to me." Michael Pollan

Photo Contest Rules

- Closing date September 2022 meeting.
- All pictures must have been taken by the competitor and **should be nature related**.
- Coloured photos, unless otherwise specified, no larger than 4" x 6".
- One entry per class per single membership.
- Two entries per class, one per person in a family membership.
- If photo does not meet category, it will be rejected.
- Previously submitted photos not allowed.
- Photos taken in 2022.

Judge for the contest: Robert McCaw, he has judged our photo contest for 10+ years. www.robertmccaw.com.



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Sansevieria Tip



I have a Sansevieria plant – also known as a Snake plant – it is now blooming for the second time.

The blooms open at night and smell lovely. I googled to see if that is a normal occurrence. The reason why it blooms is because the plant is root bound or not getting enough water.

In my case, I know it is root bound and will have to repot when the weather is warmer. I usually do that sitting on a stool in the middle of the lawn, so there is little cleanup. I just rake out the excess soil to nourish the grass. ✂ Ursula Evanoff

PHOTO GALLERY



One Sunday morning I found a skunk trying to get out from under my shed, but he/she only could get half way through and was stuck and was stressed.

Luckily it was back end in, so I didn't have to worry about spraying until it got free. It managed to squeeze itself out a space of 2 inches wide x 4 inches deep. I removed a paving stone underneath it and he limped away. ✂ Steve Fenech