

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Number 2

Wednesday February 23, 2022: Virtual Meeting, 7pm



February 23: Anna Leggatt, “Starting Seeds”

Anna comes to us highly recommended from other societies in our area. She is a self-proclaimed “mad gardener, gardening in a comparatively large garden in Toronto with lots of shade and visiting mink, deer and groundhogs.” She comes to us with lots of great qualifications:

- Former High School teacher: Botany, Chemistry
- Worked for 30 years at the Kortright Centre for Conservation
- Past Chair of the Ontario Rock Garden Society and former editor of its Journal
- Former Program Director for East York Garden Club (now Life Member)

Anna is also a Toronto Master Gardener and has written articles for Toronto Life Gardening, Landscape Ontario and The Globe and Mail. She has travelled widely, photographing wildlife and mountain plants (+scenery and culture) in New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Western China, Japan, India, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, the Rocky Mountains, Bering Sea, Arctic Canada, South Africa, Kenya, Namibia, Europe – U.K., Spain, France, Greece, Dolomites, Iran, French Polynesia, Bali.

Anna loves shrubs, bulbs, rock gardening, wildflowers, Japanese effects, working with stone and changing her garden design. She wants to grow vegetables. However, deer and groundhogs would like her to as well!



Mark your Calendars:

Saturday, June 4th, 2022
9:30am-11:00am
Fleming Park Clean-Up
Day!

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President's Report:

It's a bright winters day! Our situation right now involves these: Snow. Cold. Wind. Ice. I don't mind the first 2, but the second 2 are not my favourite. However, I have lately come to appreciate the quiet beauty of our community after a snowfall, even if it's cold. I've enjoyed hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing through trails recently, and even did a bit of trail blazing -- that's a workout. Snow on evergreens never ceases to amaze me with its beauty.



Winter is the time to dream of what we want for and from our gardens. I'm not a "journaler" but many of you are, taking note of what is planted in the garden, what's removed, moved, needed. I do have plans, they're just not as concrete as some folks. To be honest, I have never accomplished all the tasks I wanted for a season; not once. I have sometimes added tasks in the spring that I hadn't considered before and were definitely not on the virtual overview list. Thankfully, the garden is patient, and "you do you" always applies.

As we are meeting online again this month, I would ask each of you to reach out to another member to say hello. If you're joining our February meeting early, you can briefly share an update. I do miss us being together! Our current plan is to continue with Zoom until restrictions are lifted, obviously. We will resume in-person meetings as soon as we're allowed.

By the way, what are some of YOUR garden plans? **Secondly, for the February meeting, I'd like you to come prepared to share your "happy gardening story" in 4 words.** Four words exactly -- and **GO!**

❖ **MJ Pilgrim**

Birds in Winter

For birds to survive in the winter, it's food + feathers =heat. Birds must maintain a core temperature of 105 F. Meantime their feet cool down to 30F. To maintain their body heat they fluff out their feathers which thickens the insulation around their body. At night they reduce heat loss by seeking shelter out of the wind and cold. Chickadees can go into controlled hypothermia to save energy!

Birds may shiver all night long and burn most of their fat reserves which must be replenished the next day. For this reason, they eat as much as possible and chase away others who get in their way so they may keep eating.

So, if we want to help our feathered friends survive our cold winters let's be sure to keep those feeders filled!

(Info source the Cornell Lab)

❖ **Shaun Pyper**



Timing is Everything



Thinking about what seeds you have for planting this Spring? We all have seeds from last year, possibly the year before that and the one before that- Right? Admit it, some we have had for a long time. But are they still going to germinate when we finally take the time to get them into the ground? Check out this [great article from Seeds of Diversity](#) about testing your seeds for their viability and if they will, in fact, sprout.

Take some time now, while we are still buried in snow, to check the seeds you already have. But, if you are still hankering for something new and different, you might want to consider looking at the offer from Veseys, (on Prince Edward Island and listed on Seeds of Diversity Seed Map) that a local farmer has offered to share with us. See below:

To PHS members from Janet Dawson from Indian River Acres Farm:

"I wanted to share with you some of the deals Veseys is offering this year so that all of your horticultural colleagues can benefit. Happy to help spread the word about these deals! For anyone ordering vegetable seeds and flower seeds, they can use our farm code **IRA22** to get free shipping for seeds all year to your home address. There is no minimum order amount to get this deal.

For anyone ordering bulbs, Veseys is offering a couple of deals that people can choose from (note that time sensitive bulb order must be made by March 9):

- Choice one is free shipping on orders over \$50 by using promo code SC2FR.
- Choice two is \$50 off for orders over \$150 by using promo code SC250.
- Choice three is \$100 off for orders over \$250 by using promo code SC210.

Janet Dawson & Kevin Cornish, Indian River Acres

Maybe consider putting a large order together with friends and family! Just remember- don't wait too long this time to get them into the dirt!

◆ **Laura Jack**

Gardens Plus is Hiring!

We are expanding our customer service team! Own transportation required. 2-3 days a week from late March to end of June. Contact Dawn via info@gardensplus.ca before Feb 26th.

Of Tulips and Pennies...

It's February, so when I saw a bright bunch of tulips at the grocery store this week, I just had to buy some to remind myself that spring would come again. When I got them home, they were drooping a bit, so I went hunting for some (old) pennies because, you know, mom said that was the thing to do. Which of course got me wondering, does this really do anything?

Naturally I turned to my friend Google to find the answer. Not sure about the drooping part – I suspect water does more to help the tulips straighten up than the copper, but what the copper does do is provide a natural fungicide that prevents bacteria from growing in the water. According to some sources, a shot of apple cider vinegar, bleach or even vodka can have the same effect and keep your fresh flowers looking nice for longer. Who knew?



On the penny front, I did say that I went hunting for old pennies, and there's a good reason for that. Canadian pennies made between 1942-1996 were 98% copper, whereas pennies made after 1997 had only a token amount of copper and likely have minimal beneficial effects. And of course, with the discontinuation of pennies entirely after 2012, finding pennies new or old is not as easy as it used to be! If you can't find a penny, a small piece of stripped household wire or piece of copper pipe will work as well. Thanks to inquiring minds and the internet, another mystery solved.

❖ Mary-Rose Daigle

PS – Of course as treasurer, I had to find a way to entwine flowers and pennies into my submission, didn't I? 😊

All For Love.....



It'll soon be Valentine's Day when thoughts of flowers turn to roses. In last February's newsletter, our treasurer Mary-Rose Daigle [explained the meaning of flower/rose colours](#) to your valentine, so I thought I'd investigate the rose family in total.

Did you know that some of your favourite fruits are actually in the rose family? Apples, pears, peaches, cherries, raspberries, strawberries, and more are from that family, making them cousins to the long-stemmed Valentine's Day variety.

The Rose family, known as Rosaceae, is made up of 2,830 species of plants. The family is primarily found in the north temperate zone. If you look closely at the flowers on these herbs, shrubs, and trees, you will notice the similarities. Flowering plants from the Rose family have a cup-like shape with five petals and oval-shaped leaves.

Most rose species are insect pollinated and produce a variety of fruit. In fact, the rose family is divided into four subfamilies based primarily on fruits: Spirea subfamily has dry fruits that open on one side; Rose subfamily has either dry fruits that do not open or fleshy stone fruits; Plum subfamily with a drupe (central stone seed); and lastly the apple subfamily with a pome (fruit flesh surrounding the fruit).

While these plants are all classified in the rose family currently, that may not always be the case. In the past, botanists classified plants using plant morphology; the study of appearances and visual characteristics such as how many leaves or petals a plant has. Today, botanists also use DNA to identify plant relationships. This has and surely will lead to more future plant reclassifications.

So, it may not always be the case that you could hand your loved ones a basket of Courtlands and still end up smelling like a rose. I'd suggest that you take advantage of this next Monday while you can. 😊

◆ **MJ Pilgrim**

Bus Trip - Whistling Gardens - Monday, June 6th



After 2 years of Covid restrictions, I can't believe I'm writing this, but the PHS is planning a bus trip this coming June!!

We'll head to Whistling Gardens, near Brantford, a 2 1/2-hour drive from Peterborough. Years ago, the PHS did a bus trip there and Darren Heimbecker, the owner and creator, gave us a fascinating tour of his 22 acres of gardens and incredible collection of conifers, many of them rare and unique species. It is a magnificent garden, and this is their 10th anniversary. There will also be a stop at Northland Nursery north of Hamilton for their \$8 perennials. 😊

The trip will occur on Monday, June 6th when the peonies are at their peak bloom period. Whistling Gardens is home to North America's largest public peony collection with over 1,200 varieties. Joe and Hazel Cook have donated 600 varieties from their collection at Blossom Hill. Depending on numbers, if we were to go with about 30 people, the approximate cost would be \$75 each. All Covid protocols at the time of our trip would be followed, of course, and a double vaccination would be required. If you think you would be interested in this trip or have any questions, please email me at patdevilliers@hotmail.com. No deposits are required from you until close to the time of the trip, so it is not a commitment. Fingers and toes crossed!

◆ **Pat De Villiers**

PHS Garden Tour?

Members, we need your help! Do you or someone you know have a notable garden? We would love to include it on our first-ever public garden tour in and around the city of Peterborough. This requires little effort on the part of the garden host. Any questions? Email Shaun Pyper at: bagofwoods@hotmail.ca. Thank you.

◆Shaun Pyper



Nominate a Garden Hero in Your Neighbourhood

Is there a beautiful garden in your community? If so, you can nominate the gardener to be a GARDEN HERO this summer. The Peterborough Horticultural Society will be placing GARDEN HERO signs in gardens around the city to recognize the gardeners in our area, the contribution they make to horticulture and the happiness they bring to us all. Whether it's big or small, traditional or wild doesn't matter so long as it brings you joy. If you have a neighbour who loves to garden and you'd like to recognize them as a GARDEN HERO, email us ptbohortsoc@gmail.com with the address. All nominations will be kept anonymous, of course. It'll be our secret. ☺

◆Sandra Caswell



Halton Garden Week

For anyone who is interested, here is a link to the [Halton Garden Week](#) event. It is free and some of you may be interested in some of the sessions. Dates: February 24th-27th, 2022.

◆Sharleen Ward



Garden Centre People Needed!

Peterborough Landscape Supply is in need of a full-time Garden Centre Manager for their Keene Road location. They are also looking for other full- and part-time garden centre help for both locations (Keene Rd/Lansdowne & Lansdowne/Kawartha Heights). If you're interested, please contact John Walsh, 705 749-1428 or via email at pls1@live.ca.

More about our Feathered Friends

For the past few months I have been entertained by the black-eyed juncos visiting and spending their days at my feeders. Of course that led me to wanting to know more about them so I found out some interesting tidbits about them.



Their nickname is "snowbird" because they seem to bring snowy winter weather on their wings as they migrate. Their breeding habitat is coniferous or mixed forest areas throughout North America, ranging from subarctic to high-altitude mountain forests in Mexico and Central America south to Panama. Northern birds usually migrate farther south; southern populations are permanent residents or latitudinal migrants, moving only a short distance down slope to avoid severe winter weather in the mountains. These birds forage on the ground. In winter they often forage in flocks. They eat insects and seeds. They usually nest in a well hidden location on the ground or low in shrub or tree. In the colder months they travel in flocks of 15 to 25 from northern evergreen forests to backyards all over Canada and the USA. Banding records show that a junco bird can live to be 11 years old. When it is cold outside, juncos grow down jackets, their coat of feathers are 30% heavier in winter. You can attract juncos to your feeders with millet. (Sources of info from Wikipedia.)

◆ Anita Clifford

Some "Cool" Jokes to get us through winter:



SORRY, SON...THERE'S NO APP FOR THAT

◆ Donna-Marie Fennell

Q: Why was the snowman sad?
A: Because he had a meltdown!

Q: What do you call a dog in the winter?
A: A chili-dog!

Q: What is a snowman's favourite drink?
A: Iced-Tea!

Q: What do you call a snowman with a cup of tea?
A: Melted!

