

the gardener

ABOUT US - FOR US - BY US

NOV 2019

P.O. BOX 21032, Stratford, ON, N5A7V4

<http://gardenstratford.org/>



“To plant a garden, is to believe in a better tomorrow.”



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AGM

Monday November 25th

6:30 PM

6:30: Mingle with refreshments and sweets

6:50: AGM- report , revised constitution

7:30: Speaker – Anita Jacobson

Stratford Festival Gardens

8:45 Installation of officers

This is our last meeting of 2019; please come, mingle and celebrate the columniation of our year's work while we get ready for 2020!

PURCHASE **2020 MEMBERSHIPS** @ THE AGM

[Would make a great Christmas gift and the snow tells us it is just around the corner!]

15\$

Cozyn's Garden Gallery / Flowers On York / Indoor Farmer Hydroponics / Klomp's Home & Garden / Sebringville
Garden Centre / Stratford Blooms / Tri-County Brick
ALL THESE (10% on regular priced products)

Klomp's Landscaping & Hot Tubs / (15% bulk soil/mulch)

2020 OHA CONVENTION – HOSTED BY DISTRICT 10

JULY 17TH - 19TH London, Ontario
The Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre
591 Wellington Rd. South, London, ON

This year the convention will be calling for over 150 volunteers from our District

Please consider volunteering and / or attending.

There will be Plenary Speakers, Competitions, Vendors, Displays, Seminars & Bus Trips

Friday Night Social “Hoe Down” & Silent Auction

Saturday Evening Banquet, Keynote Speaker & Awards Ceremony

<https://gardenontario.org/convention/>

Did you know?

There are several special interest groups in the SDHS.

The “**Seedy Sowers**” exchange seedlings every spring

The “**Plant Rescue**” group digs mature gardens (on request), using the plant material for the plant sale or public gardens. In autumn, this group holds workshops to collect seeds and cuttings from public gardens. The seeds are given to the Local or the public library “Seed Library”.

The **Iris group** meets weekly at the Iris Bed. See Marg or Sheila

The **Public Gardens** groups tend community gardens - see Mike Matthews

The “**informal**” **garden tour group** arranges carpooling to visit gardens in the area.

To be added to the email list for any group, fill out an “interest form”,
email sdhd1878@outlook.com

2019 At a Glance:

Subject: Thanks X 1,000,000!

Saturday, May 25th plant sale was a great success!

The proceeds will cover our student bursaries as well as a good portion of general meeting expenses.

We couldn't have done it without you. Many thanks for all your help and support

Plant Sale Committee



Hi everyone,

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support of the Garden Tour this past Sunday (July 7th). It was such a beautiful day and we had a highly successful event with 431 people enjoying the gardens. We raised over \$5000. which enabled us to exceed last year's sales and will allow us to fund the work we do this coming year. We are very grateful for your help in achieving this goal.

A special thank you to the homeowners who worked so hard to make their gardens so spectacular. Without your willingness to open your gardens, the tour could not happen. Thanks to those who worked in the gardens and also Master Gardeners greeting the public. Thanks to the members who purchased and sold tickets as well as those who worked behind the scenes to promote the tour. The baking donated was much appreciated by all of our guests. Home-made cookies are the best!

The Garden Tour Committee worked very hard for several months to pull this off. BIG THANKS to Marg O'Reilly, Ron Nichol, Shelly Meyers, Jinny MacDonald, Sharon McDonald, Felicity Sutcliffe, Larke Turnbull and special thanks to Board Treasurer, Karen VanBaren.

We thank our sponsors and the merchants who agreed to sell tickets for us and of course we could not have pulled this off without the great support of our community.



Respectfully,

Felicity Sutcliffe & Mary Hoffman

Garden Tour Committee

2019 At a Glance [Continued]

Proceeds of the May Plant Sale went to Student Bursaries:

Bursary Award Submission – Owen Switzer, pictured right →

This is the second year that the SDHS has awarded three students with our \$500 Bursary Award. With the additional Bursaries, from 1 per year to 3, we have opened up the entries to all of the Public and Catholic Secondary Schools in Perth County. This resulted in an increase of applicants in 2019 to 7 students. As our award is available to any student that will be attending post graduate education in horticulture, agriculture, landscaping, or a related field, the job of our Bursary Award members has become increasingly difficult as well.

The quality of the students competing for the award is very high. In 2018 we had a student apply who graduated with an overall average above 95%.



Photo taken by Karen Roberts

Many thanks go to Don Farwell, Nancy Lupton, and Dorothy Van Esbroec for taking on the difficult task of choosing the final three. We all agreed on the first two picks at the start. Coming up with the third recipient was more challenging but we managed to come to an agreement and informed the successful students. All of our Members contribute to our ability to offer these students some financial support as they graduate and enter college or university and you all deserve credit for supporting this program

- Submitted by Owen Switzer



OHA TriKum - Autumn 2019

July 19th – 21st OHA Convention was held in Windsor, Ontario this year. Two of our members, Bernice Barratt & Sheila Love Phillips, were awarded for their entries into the flower show. This included various divisions such as, but limited to: design, flowering fruiting branches and vines, annuals or biennials. To find more information you may visit:

<https://gardenontario.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-awards-presentation-conv19.pdf>

2019 At a Glance [Continued]

September 30th – Flower Show held at the Festival Inn prior to the night's speaker hosted an array of vegetables, flowers, photographs and artistic displays. Thank you to all who participated in making the event enjoyable and congratulations to those who won prizes!



ENCOURAGE SOLITARY POLLINATORS IN YOUR GARDEN

A flower must be pollinated to reproduce. Pollen moves from the anthers to the stigma in some way; wind, birds, bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, and flies all do this vital job. About 1/3 of all our food crops and 90% of all flowering plants rely on animal (this includes insects) pollinators. 'Solitary' pollinators are insects which do not live in hives or nests with others of their kind.

Sadly, pollinator populations are declining due to habitat loss, pesticide use, disease and fragmentation of habitat. Fragmentation refers to the isolation of one area of habitat from others, often caused by deforestation and human habitation. There are simple ways to encourage pollinators to live in your garden.

- Plant a variety of native flowering plants which will bloom throughout the season
- (Dandelions are flowers which bloom very early and although they are not the best source of nutrition for bees, are still valuable. This doesn't make me love the dandelions in my grass, but makes me feel a bit better, since I have LOTS.)
- Avoid use of pesticides and herbicides.
- Don't clean up your garden in fall, and don't clean up too early in spring. The insects need places to spend the winter, then need to warm up in spring before they venture forth.
- Leave a little 'mess' in your garden year 'round. A pile of twigs and leaves in a quiet corner, or a stump with peeling bark can provide a home for insects.
- Avoid use of landscape cloth. Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences says "70% of all the 20,000 species of bees nest underground".
- Have water available for bees and other insects. A shallow glass or ceramic dish with a few pebbles and water will do the trick. Clean the container regularly and change water daily.
- Build and maintain a bee hotel.



Insect Hotel This is a human-built structure designed to augment habitat for pollinator insects. It can be large or small, complex or simple and provides shelter for bees, butterflies, moths, lady bugs, beetles, flies. If long hollow spaces made of plant stems are part of the design, solitary bees will lay eggs in them.

- Avoid using plastic straws since they will hold moisture and encourage mold and fungi.
- A bee hotel needs to be somewhat sheltered, facing the sun and off the ground at least 3 feet. Further reading tells me that pine cones are not ideal, so I will replace mine with hollow stems.
- A bug hotel must be maintained. Clear out dead cells (bees failed to hatch and hollow stem is plugged), and any material which has mildewed at the end of the summer. Check in spring after winter inhabitants have left. All material will need to be replaced after 2 or more years to avoid buildup of mold, mites and parasites.

Bee hotels can be purchased, but building one is fun. [Perhaps a great winter project with children or a Christmas gift?]

Do some research to make sure you are optimizing the opportunities for the insects. There are a few suggested websites below.

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

<https://seeds.ca/>

<https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/>

<http://nativepollinator.com/>

<http://wildforbees.ca/>

<https://www.pollinator.org/canada>

P.S. Solitary bees are unlikely to sting. They just want to be left alone.

- Submitted by Leslye Glover

Exciting Sage

I was able to spend a month in England this year and used the time to tour a number of gardens. I was awakened to the world of *Salvia*, in particular to 'Hot Lips' Sage or *Salvia microphylla* 'Hot Lips' also known as *Salvia* × *jamensis*.*

Jame Sage is the common name for the naturally occurring hybrid, *Salvia* × *jamensis*. In northern Mexico near the Village of Jame (pronounced "ha-may"). Mountain Sage (*Salvia microphylla*) and Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*) share native territory, and hybridize to produce Jame Sage. In horticulture, any complex hybrid involving these two species is also called *Salvia* × *jamensis*.

Many of the most beautiful and commonly grown *Salvias* are in this group. They grow in a wide range of climates, and are often used as outstanding container plants. **Hummingbirds, bees and butterflies all visit them, making them a staple in a wildlife-friendly garden.**

Family Lamiaceae

In one particular garden there were three specimens of Hot Lips *Salvia* - red, white and 'hot lips'. These bushy plants stood nearly a metre tall and were full of blossoms, very attractive. Unfortunately, they are zone 7, and need special care here, perhaps climate warming will change this!



Genus *Salvia* can be annuals, biennials, herbaceous or evergreen perennials, or shrubs. They have paired, simple or innately lobed, often aromatic leaves and 2-lipped flowers in whorls, forming simple or branched spikes or racemes

S. × *jamensis* is a bushy shrub to 100 x 50cm, evergreen in mild localities, with aromatic ovate, toothed mid-green leaves. Red, rose-pink, salmon pink, orange or creamy yellow flowers are borne in terminal racemes, in summer and autumn

-Submitted by Dennis Rawe[dgr]



Our members working in the Society's Perennial flower bed
in front of the Stratford Public Library



**Made the kitty a planter of
'cat grass' this year.**



Oct 28th – Chat - Ornamental Grasses with Master Gardener: Penny

Forrester, which won perennial plant of the year 2001, is a popular ornamental grass commonly being used to fill in garden spaces throughout the seasons. Ornamental grasses aren't just for decoration appeal; they add interest, provide movement, provide food and shelter for wildlife, and can act as a visual screen as well as adding winter interest. Just in case 'Jack Frost' doesn't make it interesting enough!

Choose clumping grasses (rather than spreaders)

Choose grasses that won't compete with your other plants

If plant is a spreader limit its space

Grasses like full sun and well-drained soil; extra watering is seldom needed.

Cut down in the spring 8-10". If it seeds/spreads you may want to cut it down before seeds mature.

Some shorter grasses grow well in shade or part shade. Shorter grasses work well as a border or to add texture. Suggestions such as pennisetum; burgundy bunny hardy dwarf, or blue eyed grass; part of Iris Family, or Japanese Blood Grass; spreader.

Ribbon grasses can easily get out of control such as Reed Canary Grass; an annual; but can be used as "thrillers" in potted plantings.

Most importantly- do your research on what type of plant it is, if the seeds will spread to places you do not want – of if the plant will! A member said a Zebra Grass wrecked their asphalt-**be warned.**

Speaking of WARNINGS- the next articles are about invasive plants!

“ If this short screed were included it might be regarded as educational and save an unsuspecting gardener from grief.”

...Dennis.

Hawkweed

Pilosella caespitosa ([synonym](#) *Hieracium caespitosum*), commonly known as yellow **hawkweed**, is a genus of the sunflower family Asteraceae, and closely related to dandelion, chicory, prickly lettuce and sow thistle, which are part of the tribe Cichorieae.

The seeds are shiny, black, and plumed. After maturing they are dispersed by wind, clothing, hair, feathers, and some vehicles that disturb fields or soils. Hawkweed persists and regrows each year from rhizomes and often spreads by stolons,

Hawkweed prefers silt loam, well-drained soil: coarse textures, moderately low in organic matter. . **Its presence can be an indicator of low soil fertility or slightly acidic soils.** It has, in the past, been used for healing eyesight. Pliny the Elder [a Roman author, a naturalist and natural philosopher,] had recorded information regarding how other species, specifically hawks, utilized Hawkweed specifically believing that they would eat it in an effort to improve eyesight.

*Not recommended for all gardens ~ can be extensive, creating a dense mat of hawkweed plants (a colony) that practically eliminates other vegetation.

- Information Submitted by Dennis Rawe.from.[Wikipedia](#)

A Rogue's Gallery of Invasive Plants



Photo: Julianne Labreche

A rogue's gallery of invasive plants

One of my first visits to Point Pelee National Park was in the spring of 1987. You may know Point Pelee as one of the best places in North America to observe spring birds, and as a beginning birder, I joined a guided walk around the park. Bird identification was the main topic, but I recall the leader paused to point out a plant.

“Here is an interesting plant species that we are just starting to see in Point Pelee.”

That new plant was garlic mustard, a highly invasive species that now grows just about everywhere. Garlic mustard has the redeeming feature of being an excellent addition to spring salads, but it is mainly known as an invasive weed gardeners try to eradicate. If you have a personal list of invasive plants, chances are very good that garlic mustard is on it.

I also wouldn't be surprised to find goutweed on your list of invasive plants. Goutweed has many names (such as ground elder and bishop's weed) and is among the most frequently nominated species to be pulled on sight. But you will find a carefully tended and controlled goutweed patch in Stratford's Shakespearean Garden, because Shakespeare probably knew its white flowers (it is sometimes called "snow-on-the-mountain") and reputed benefits as a cure for, well, gout. It can also be a tasty table green, especially when harvested young. Visit [colorfulcanary.com](#) for a collection of recipes compiled as "If You Can't Beat It, Eat It." Despite possible merits, a little goutweed can very quickly become too much goutweed. In my opinion, it belongs on your list.

Dog-strangling vine is an invasive species that seems to have no redeeming features. [continued next page]

Julianne Labreche, an Ottawa master gardener who volunteers at the Central Experimental Farm, describes it as a “wicked invasive.” A member of the milkweed family, dog-strangling vine might appear to be a plant to encourage a possible monarch butterfly habitat, which it is not, because monarch caterpillars will not eat it.

Perhaps the best thing to be said about it is, as Julianne points out, there is no evidence that it has ever actually strangled a dog. A dog-strangling vine can grow as tall as two metres (6.6 feet), spreading very rapidly to create dense mats. Like milkweed, its seeds have feathery tufts that enable them to be widely dispersed by wind. Its roots produce chemicals that discourage the nearby growth of other plant species (a process known as allelopathy which you may know if you have tried to grow anything in the immediate vicinity of a black walnut tree), and new plants can develop from small bits of root left behind in weeding. In fact, it seems generally agreed that the roots can survive for a long time after being pulled, and they should not be added to compost. The recommended best practice is to place pulled plants in black garbage bags and leaving them to “cook” in the sun for at least a few weeks before adding them to landfill.

Dog-strangling vine is a serious problem in parts of Ontario such as Ottawa, where it is widespread on the campus of Carleton University and the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.

Stratford’s parks, forestry and cemetery manager Quin Malott says it has been found in this area, but “isn’t a serious problem – not yet.” He adds that he and his colleagues are concerned about other invasive species, particularly Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed, in Stratford’s Dolan Conservation Area.

Japanese Knotweed is a very tall bamboo-like plant with impressive white flowers. In fact, it was sold as an ornamental species until relatively recently. I can vouch for how difficult it is to eradicate.

Giant hogweed is well-named, with records of plants growing as tall as four metres (more than 13 feet)! Giant hogweed also exudes a very toxic sap that can cause very irritating and painful skin irritations and even blindness.

Try not to make my mistake. When I first saw giant hogweed many years ago in my early days of gardening, I was so impressed that I gathered seeds to plant at home. Fortunately, I consulted a more seasoned gardener who strongly advised against my plan.

In other gardening news, Garden Stratford (Stratford and District Horticultural Society) will meet Monday, Oct. 28, at Stratford’s Festival Inn. Come at 6:30 p.m. to join an informal “Garden Chat” led by master gardeners. Topic: Ornamental Grasses. At 7:30 p.m., we will welcome guest speaker Trevor Barton. Trevor’s topic: Guelph Enabling Garden: Gardens For All. No charge and everyone is warmly welcome.

My great thanks to Julianne Labreche and Quin Mallot. There are many internet resources for more information about invasive species in Ontario. A good place to start is invadingspecies.com.

- *From The Beacon Herald by Doug Reburg*

<https://www.stratfordbeaconherald.com/opinion/columnists/a-rogues-gallery-of-invasive-plants>



Fall Meeting Notes

Speaker: Trevor Barton – Guelph Enabling Garden; Gardens for all

Oct 28th

Location of gardens: Guelph Enabling Gardens 681 Woolwich St., Guelph, On N1H 3Y8 in Riverside Park
<http://www.enablinggarden.org/>

“Enabling Gardens” are designed for children, elderly, families, community members with varying degrees of physical & cognitive abilities. There is a mission to provide, regardless of abilities.

Trevor, co-founder and chair, said the idea came in 1999 but actually came into fruition in 2005. Key features include horticultural therapy- a public therapeutic garden, ¼ of an acre in size, located in publically accessible Riverside Park. Accessibility includes being wheelchair friendly and extends to plant signage in brail and latin. Gardens host a selection of sensory interests, our feature for the Garden Show, if you recall. Sight, smell, sound, taste and touch are all considerations.

Run by only 8 part time staff and funded by the United Way; there are a lot of volunteers who work on the ventures of ‘Enabling Gardens’ and many past/present affiliates such as master gardeners, communities in bloom, as well as given use of city land. They run events including carving pumpkins for Halloween, workshops run by volunteers or Stories with the Storytellers guild every Friday night in the summer. There is a garden share which is won by lottery awarded to groups with submissions for gardens. Some gardens are kept for the elderly and/or youth programs they run. Volunteers are so very important. Work parties like UofG or a group supplied by the United Work are very helpful with the more physical work.

Speaker: Bob Wilfong – Doon Heritage Village – Saving Heritage Seeds

Sept 30

Bob, who works with the Region’s ‘Doon Heritage Museum’, spoke to us about the nature of the museum. Going back to life in the 1914’s and implementing the ‘kitchen’ garden. When a garden was used to grow the household vegetables all in the back yard- for the whole year. Bob noted particular plants which were grown in this time. Mennonite purple stripe bean, Mennonite orange tomato, citron melon (pickling or marmalade filler), ground cherry (good for pie), and Musk plant; which used to be an ornamental variety; has since been extinct.

Bob also works with Seeds of diversity doing Seed Banking, with the Canadian Seeds Library. Micro-seed banking, member seed growers, seed saving training and Canadian Seed Library info can be found: <https://seeds.ca/>

Efforts included; Pollinator Conservation & Sustainability and Pollination Canada, NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research : https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/index_eng.asp and more specifically the ultra-violet seed disease treatment “to fight against seed borne plant diseases”: <https://www.seeds.ca/d/?t=006b914300000899>

Bob then went on to speak about cuts of heritage varieties; heritage seeds being the best for an organic garden. There are efforts to catalogue seeds of known and unknown varieties of all fruits and vegetables.

We were provided some great **“Basic Seed Saving”** tips.

90% of the seeds will be “dry seeded” which means when the pod is dried out the seed is ready.
10% of the seeds will be wet without pulp such as peppers or melons. Rinse the sugar off and air dry @ room temperature; an oscillating air in the area should help the process.

Tomatoes- Rub the Jelly off of the seeds then dry & keep. You can soak in container for a few days, 'ferment' then separate/rinse liquid from seed.

Store seeds in a DRY & COOL area – do not store in a fridge or freezer unless it is in an airtight jar.

If you are propagating your own potatoes- they may get smaller and produce LESS potatoes; however; we were told by Bob, if you cut the eyes off and insert to soil; you can start potatoes in a small pot then plant outside!

SPEAKING OF SEED SAVING...

SDHS Members,

We are still looking to collect more seeds this year. Can you help us out? We can use any type of seed you or your friends might be able to share. If it is too wet to collect seeds, please contact me at amainland@quadro.net and we can make arrangements for someone to pick the seeds up from your place once it dries up.

How the seeds will be used:

- 1. Seeds will be packaged & distributed during the Seedy Sunday event next year**
- 2. Seeds not given away at Seed Sunday will be distributed at our 3/20 meeting**
- 3. Remaining seeds will help restock the Stratford Library, Seed Library**

Note: Please mark your seed with the name of the flower the colour and any other information growers might need to know.

If you have any questions, please contact me at amainland@quadro.net
Thank you for your help and support on this project!

Regards,
Alice Mainland



Have extra plants? Consider saving them for the May plant sale.

It's not too late to pot up and store your spare plants for the winter....simply divide and pot them up, water them and place in a sheltered location. Tip the pots slightly so water drains off and face them to the east. Cover with branches, leaves, hay after a hard frost. Uncover in spring.

Alternately, take cuttings from herbs and flowers - mints, tarragon, scented geraniums, osteospermum, Michaelmas daisies, tradescantia and begonias - place them under lights (I use 4 foot fluorescents , on from 7 pm to 7 am) and pot them into 3 inch pots after a month or as soon as new leaves are showing.

If you have too many of anything, remember the swap table at each general meeting!

- Maureen Cocksedge

It is SQUASH season – Perfect Soup Weather!

Recipe Submitted by Doug Reburg

ROASTED SQUASH WITH TAHINI

1 small butternut squash
1 Tablespoon oil
salt and pepper to season
3 Tablespoons tahini
1/2 cup plain yogurt
1 teaspoon cumin
1/2 teaspoon finely chopped (or squished) garlic
1 Tablespoon lemon juice
3.5 cups arugula or other salad greens
1 tablespoon black sesame seeds

Preheat the oven to 350F. Peel the squash and cut it into large chunks. Toss it in the oil, season with salt and pepper, then put the chunks on a baking sheet. Roast for 30 minutes or longer until the butternut squash is tender (I like it to take on a bit of dark colour), then allow it to cool.

To make dressing, mix tahini, yogurt, cumin, garlic and lemon juice to a smooth paste and then season with salt and pepper to taste.

Toss salad greens and pile onto a serving plate. Top with squash, add a spoonful of the dressing and garnish with a sprinkling of sesame seeds.

From Michele Cranston *Marie Claire Easy*, Thunder Bay Press, 2005

No, I don't have any idea who Marie Claire might be, nor do I know why Ms. Cranston has chosen this title.



← Found on Facebook – Member Bernice Barratt doing a demonstration floral arrangements @ Stratford Public Library a 'recipe' for continuing interests in horticulture



P.O. BOX 21032,
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<http://gardenstratford.org/>

Society email: sdhs1878@outlook.com

Newsletter email: newslettersdhs@gmail.com



INVITATION - 2020

**There are many opportunities to get involved
with your Society. Please check all your areas of interest.**

Join the Board - 9 meetings a year, first Mondays _____

Public Gardening - which garden _____

Help at Events / Workshops

- Stratford Garden Festival -March
- Plant Sale - last Saturday in May
- Garden Tour -July 5TH 2020

Help at Meetings

- Hospitality Welcoming Display boards
- Set up Sell Draw Tickets Swap Table
- Publicity - place notices online

Join an Interest Group

- Floral Design Interest Group - Design of the Month
- Plant Rescue / Seed Collection

Behind the Scenes - Join the team

- Membership Photography Archivist
- Program / Education / Workshop Planning
- Social media / Website administration
- Newsletter Posters Garden Design

Do you have **information or expertise to offer? Please explain.**

What **workshops / trips** would you like to have?

What **topic** would you like at regular meetings or garden chats?

Can you **recommend any speakers?**

Please give contact details

Would you like to car pool to nearby horticultural events?

Yes / No

Suggestions:

**Please hand this in at any meeting, give to any Board member or email to sdhs1878@outlook.com
Thank you for taking the time to help us learn more about member wants and needs.**