



Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society

April 2025

President's Message

Mother Nature threw us a curve ball this weekend by providing a couple of days of snow and freezing rain. Regardless of the weather there are so many interesting and fun things to do in horticulture.

Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society volunteers and members were productive in spite of the weather. The Flower Show Committee hosted the first of two Flower Show Workshops on Saturday morning. They had an excellent turnout of enthusiastic students in spite of the storm and slippery roads. Also on Saturday, Bri Logan and her team put on a well attended children's program called Plant a Pasta Sauce Garden at the Carleton Place Rona. Another great success for our youth programs



Sandy and I had planned to start building our new compost bins this past weekend. So we shifted gears to spend a relaxing Sunday in our basement 'grow op' bringing Canna Lily rhizomes out of winter storage to split up and prepare for the coming garden season. Never short of things to do, I started a flat of cherry tomatoes and Better Boy slicing tomatoes. After that, a flat of 4 types of lettuce and another tray of herbs, and then a session of pricking out and potting up seedlings that were started at the beginning of the month. The afternoon passed pleasantly with the smell of damp potting soil in my nostrils and tunes from Gordon Lightfoot, Rush and Tragically Hip in our ears.

Whether its learning new skills, talking plants with friends, bringing knowledge and enthusiasm to a budding generation of future gardeners, or getting your hands into the soil, there is always something fun to do in horticulture regardless of the weather.

Happy gardening,

Rick Roberts, President

May 7th Meeting - Tiny Forests, Big Impact



A Tiny Forest is a great addition to small urban spaces. They include native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers planted closely together to encourage growth. The soil they grow in has been amended to mimic the mature forest floor that would have been found at this spot long ago. Tiny Forests provide shade, reduce heat, filter rainwater and improve the biodiversity. Join us on Wednesday, May 7th to learn about Tiny Forests and their Big Impact. Our speaker will be Stephanie Benoit, Project Lead at EnviroCentre. At EnviroCentre, Stephanie's work focuses on Green Infrastructure projects such as rain gardens, pollinator gardens, and Tiny Forests. Over the past two years, EnviroCentre has installed 7 Tiny Forests in communities with low tree canopy in Ottawa.

Plant A Pasta Sauce Garden

Submitted by Bri Logan, Director

The “Plant A Pasta Sauce Garden” event on March 29th at RONA went very well despite the snow-storm. Eleven children and their parents/grandparents joined us to learn about growing pasta sauce ingredients, do some painting



of garden markers and signs, and plant tomato, pepper, onion and herb seeds. We played an on-theme “guess how many cooked tomatoes are in the jar” game as well. Janet, Barb, and Valencia were thoughtful, amazing volunteers as always. We had very positive feedback from the

kids, parents and RONA. A huge thank you to RONA for hosting, sponsoring, and inviting us to collaborate again in the future. Stay tuned for more events!

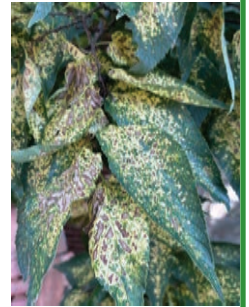


A Note From Paul

Submitted by Paul Pietsch, Past President

It's a beautiful spring day. Cool but very nice. I'm writing this to pat all of us as a group of people, our horticultural society, on the back and see the quality of members that we have. I won't try to name everyone but there are a couple of members I want to mention. Achievements and insight come to mind! The first is Brittny Lepage. She is the Dahlia Darling. Brittny has had two of her hybridized Dahlias named as new varieties. This is quite an achievement. Just like creating a painting or a new song.

Another is paying attention to Irene Tobis and Daniel Brumar for coming up with the reason for a variegated hackberry here turning out the way it does with a virus making the leaves mottled. This insight is impressive. Also some of the work being done by Bri and Rona! The flower shows we are about to have and our annual plant sale all contribute to making this a great society. There are other activities but you can come up with them on your own I am sure.



Ontario Horticultural Association (Garden Ontario)

Submitted by Linda Bartlett, Treasurer

For more than 100 years, the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA), now referred to as Garden Ontario, has supported Ontario gardeners with programs on gardening education, community events, and shows. The OHA is a volunteer, charitable organization whose mission is to provide leadership and assist in the promotion of education and interest in all areas of horticulture and related environmental issues in Ontario, through an expanding network of horticultural societies dedicated to the beautification of their communities.

The OHA consists of 19 Districts and 246 autonomous local societies; its executive council has representatives from each district, and there are over 30,000 members. Our society along with 18 other societies falls under District 2. Each society in our District hosts two or three events per year: the District 2 Annual Meeting, Flower Show and a Fall Advisory Meeting. For more information about the OHA and its structure, please visit their website at: www.gardenontario.org



“Spring is here. I’m so excited I wet my plants!”

Flower Shows 101

Participating in a Flower Show - Saturday, March 29, 2025 Workshop Recap

Despite the inclement weather, 17 ladies joined speaker, Helen Halpenny, and hostess, Heather Lebeau, at the Independent Grocery Store on Saturday morning. Helen began her talk by sharing the ins and outs of selecting and preparing specimens for a show. Using store-bought tulips, daffodils and hyacinths, she shared key elements of what a judge looks for – floral perfection. Helen explained the guides in the OJES book which judges use in evaluating specimens.



Helen then created two beautiful bouquets. As she worked, we learned the difference between traditional and modern design, colour selection, and key points for creating different types of bouquets. Following a short break, Helen demonstrated how to create a miniature design. Participants received a stand to put together and to use to ensure that the arrangement is within the guidelines for a miniature design. Then, we all had the opportunity to create our own. At the end of the session, the designs were placed on a table and Helen provided words of wisdom. The miniature designs were beautiful. Everyone enjoyed the morning.

The Flower Show Committee are anxiously awaiting the May Show to see all the bouquets and miniatures that will be entered. There will be novice categories for both these designs. Please, remember that if you have entered a design in an open category or won a Red ribbon in a novice category in the past, you may not enter the novice category.

The 2nd Workshop will be held on the 26th of April. There are still spaces should you wish to join us and learn about creating two more floral designs.

Creating a Design for a Flower Show

Speaker Linda Bartlett will demonstrate how to create two more designs from the upcoming May Flower Show Schedule. Participants will be invited to create their own Decorative Parallel design.

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Community Room, Upper Level, Independent Grocery Store
9:00 am to Noon

Please pre-register by April 18th by email to CPDHSflowers@gmail.com.

The workshop is open to current CPDHS members. If anyone who is not a member wishes to attend the workshop, they will be required to purchase a CPDHS membership for \$15.00. **Note:** There will be a cost of \$10.00 per participant for the workshop to cover plant material.

OHA Certified Judging School

District 3 and District 1 have are hosting an OHA Judging School starting in August 2025. It has been years since a Judging School has been offered in this area. The Judging School would be set up to run over 2 to 2.5 years and consist of 5 sessions of 2 days each. Each session will have experienced and knowledgeable Design and Horticultural speakers and demonstrators who will walk participants through the curriculum. There are a few spots left, so if you are interested, please email Penny Stewart at pssloves2garden@gmail.com.

2025 FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

Barb Clarke, Barbara Fowler, Doreen Harris, Valencia Logan, Heather Lebeau

For any questions, please email: CPDHSflowers@gmail.com.

NOTE: Updated May Flower Show on the next two pages. Changes highlighted in red ink.

CPDHS SPRING FLOWER SHOW

May 7, 2025

Exhibits may be placed from 6:00- 7:00 p.m. before the regular meeting.

No entries will be accepted after 7:00 p.m. when judging starts.

Entry tags will be available on the evening of the Show, as well as at the April meeting.

RULES GOVERNING FLOWER SHOWS

General Rules

1. All exhibitors, except where expressly noted, must be current members of the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society.
2. All entries must be labelled using entry tags provided by the Society.
3. The Flower Show Committee reserves the right to add, delete, or divide classes.
4. Care will be taken with the exhibitor's property, but the Society will not be responsible for any loss or damage.
5. The judge's decision is final. Judges may withhold an award if, in their opinion, the exhibit is not worthy.
6. Judging will be in accordance with the Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticultural and Design, Second Edition, 2019 (OJES), available from the show chair. Please refer to the OJES for information and definitions.

Rules for Horticultural Specimens

1. The exhibitor must have grown the horticultural specimens.
2. An exhibitor may enter a maximum of two entries in each of the specimen classes, provided that each entry is of a different cultivar.
3. Exhibitors will provide their own containers: clear, uncoloured glass for horticultural specimens is recommended.
4. For educational purposes, exhibitors are encouraged to name their specimens.
5. Houseplants must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least 3 months.
6. Harmful, scarce, protected, or endangered plants must not be entered. Please refer to OJES, page 14.

Rules for Design Classes

1. Only one entry is permitted per class per exhibitor.
2. **Novice Entries - members can show as a Novice for two years or until they win a red ribbon in the Novice category. They can enter the Open classes at any time, but cannot then return to Novice.**
3. Fresh plant material may come from your garden or any other source.
4. Fruit, branches, and decorative wood may be used, and dried and/or treated material may be included. No artificial plant material is permitted.
5. Accessories are permitted unless otherwise noted.
6. Plants in soil are not permitted.
7. Exhibitors are responsible for correct placement of their entries. Members of the Flower Show Committee will be available for assistance.

Awards

Entries earning First, Second, and Third Place, and Honourable Mention will be recognized on entry tags. Best in Show ribbons will be given for each division. Additional ribbons may be given at the judge's discretion. Annual awards will be presented at the Society's December meeting.

Points will be accrued as follows:

First Prize: 5 points Second Prize: 3 points Third Prize: 2 points Honourable Mention: 1 point
Best in Show: 5 points

DIVISION 1: HORTICULTURE

Section A: Spring Flowers

- Class 1: Tulipa, (Tulip), single – 1 bloom
Class 2: Tulipa, (Tulip), any other – 1 bloom
Class 3: Narcissus, (Daffodil), single – 1 scape
Class 4: Narcissus, (Daffodil), any other – 1 scape
Class 5: Iris, (Iris) – 1 stalk
Class 6: Any other flowering bulb or corm, named – 1 stem
Class 7: Any other flower that's blooming in your garden, named – 1 bloom, stalk, stem, spike or spray
Class 8: Flowering branch, 1 stem, not to exceed 24" above rim of container
Class 9: Collection of Spring flowers, 3-5 different cultivars, named – 1 stem of each, in a single container

Section B: Houseplants

- Class 10: Flowering Houseplant – 1 pot, pot size not to exceed 10" in diameter
Class 11: Foliage houseplant – 1 pot, pot size not to exceed 10" in diameter

DIVISION 2: DESIGN

Theme: Bring on Spring

Designs will be staged on a white table covering and have an allotted space of 22" in width.

- Class 12: **Ray of Sunshine** – a Modern Line design
Class 13: **Bless My Blooms** – a Bouquet of Spring flowers, Open Class
Class 14: **Bless My Blooms** – a Bouquet of Spring flowers, **Novice Class**
Class 15: **Spring Delight** – a Miniature design – will be displayed on a black stand, which is 6" wide x 6" deep with a 6" tall backing, sitting atop a 12" high tube, Open Class
Class 16: **Spring Delight** – a Miniature design – will be displayed on a black stand, which is 6" wide x 6" deep with a 6" tall backing, sitting atop a 12" high tube, **Novice Class**
Class 17: **Growing Side By Side** – a Parallel design, Decorative, Open Class
Class 18: **Growing Side By Side** – a Parallel design, Decorative, **Novice Class**
Class 19: **Here Comes the Sun** – a Design

DEFINITIONS

Bouquet: A design artistically created by grouping plant material, with or without accessories, using their own stems. May be inserted into a holder or container.

Design: A combination of fresh and/or dried plant materials, with or without other objects arranged to create an artistic unit. A design may include container(s), base (s), and/or accessories. The designer uses the elements of design: space, line, form, colour, texture and pattern in the accepted principles of design: balance, rhythm, proportion, scale, contrast and dominance to interpret the theme and/or class and create a design of harmony and distinction.

Modern Line: A design in which line direction is dominant, characterized by a minimum of plant material and other (optional) components. Line is strongly defined and either vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. Lines may extend from more than one area of interest and in different directions. Plant material used to form the line has bolder forms than that used in Traditional Line Design. Focal area should not destroy the strong linear thrust.

Miniature: A design with maximum dimensions no more than 12.7 cm (5") in height, width, and depth including any container, base and/or accessories.

Parallel: A design in which three or more groupings are placed in a parallel manner with open spaces between the groupings. The parallel directions may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. The design is in one container or in containers combined so as to appear as one unit. There are two types of Parallel Design: Vegetative and Decorative.

Decorative Parallel: A design in which plant material can be used in less naturalistic ways. This type has a more contemporary feel, with fewer components and bolder forms. Non-plant material can be used, e.g., copper pipe, plastic grid, etc.

(Source: Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards 2019)

Jumping Worms—A Peril to Our Northern Forest

By Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners

For most of my gardening life, I believed that lots of earthworms in my garden meant my garden soil was healthy. A few years ago, I was surprised to learn that all earthworms in Ontario are, in fact, invasive species. Native earthworm species were wiped out in Ontario by the glacial ice sheets that covered the landscape. When the glaciers retreated, they left behind earthworm-free ecosystems. For thousands of years since, our ecosystems have evolved to recycle nutrients and decaying organic matter through a multitude of fungi, invertebrates, and bacteria.

And then, the earthworms arrived.

Earthworms devour leaf litter that most of our native plants and insects rely on, much more rapidly than our native decomposers. They burrow into the soil to feed on the leaf litter and severely impact existing soil structure and nutrient availability. Most earthworms move slowly on their own and are mainly transported through human activities.

Sadly, in the summer of 2021, invasive (pheretimid) jumping worms were confirmed in gardens and ravines in Ontario. The term “jumping worms” refers to several species of invasive earthworms that damage gardens and forests. At least two of the species identified, *Metaphire hilgendorfi* and *Amyntas agrestis* are known to be particularly harmful to our northern forests.

A healthy forest develops a thick blanket of duff (leaf litter) that slowly decomposes over time. This layer creates a home for insects, amphibians, birds, and native flowers. When worms devour the litter, the stored nutrients are released too quickly for the plants to capture.

How did Jumping worms get here?

Like many invasive species, jumping worms were brought to North America from Europe and Asia by the horticultural industry. Their eggs in little cocoons were likely in the soil and roots of imported plants. Once they arrived, they spread further in potted plants, compost, and mulch.

Jumping worms have become a leading ecological concern in hardwood forests, agriculture, nursery production and home gardens. They:

- ▶ Have a smooth white clitellum (ring) in contrast to the raised pink one in other earthworms. (figure 1)
- ▶ Writhe like snakes and can jump when startled.
- ▶ Live one year.
- ▶ Mature in August or September leaving behind tiny egg-encased cocoons that overwinter to become next year's worms.
- ▶ Can reproduce without fertilization. One worm can launch an invasion.
- ▶ Grow to about 20 cm long.
- ▶ Occupy the top 5 cm of soil, unlike earthworms which burrow deeply.
- ▶ Turn all fallen organic matter, including seeds, into material that resembles coffee grounds.

They can halt the regeneration of trees by eating their seeds and have the potential to dramatically change soil structure, impact forest ecology and reduce biodiversity (see figure 2)

There is hope and it is up to us, the home gardeners, to help stop the spread.

- ▶ Certain fungi kill them. (Entomopathogenic fungus, *Beauveria bassiana*, shows some promise).
- ▶ Some soaps kill them.
- ▶ Solarization of compost and mulch may help, but it must get it hot enough.



Figure 1

- ▶ Sharp angular particles like biochar, sand and diatomaceous earth may deter and kill worms when ingested.

Please be on the look out for Jumping Worms.

What can we do to prevent the spread?

- ▶ Inspect all plants and soil for these worms, eggs or cocoons and remove any you find.
- ▶ Do not move plant material to cottages or other properties that contain any worms.
- ▶ If you find jumping worms, contact your local Canadian Food Inspection Agency office (CFIA) Tel: 647-790-1100.

To test for jumping worms, use a dilute mustard solution. Mix 4 L of water with 40 grams of ground yellow mustard. Pour slowly into the soil. This drives any worms to the surface. Put the worms in a sealed plastic bag and leave in the sun for at least 10 minutes before discarding in the garbage. Do not compost as any eggs in them may still be viable.

Controlling the spread is crucial

Avoid buying mulch, compost, nursery stocks, or potting mixes from areas with established infestations, as these may contain egg-filled cocoons which are difficult to distinguish from the surrounding soil or debris.

Check with your provider to determine if compost or mulch has been heat treated to at least 400C for at least three days. Become familiar with the look and castings of jumping worms. Soil with jumping worms looks like coffee grounds and is very loose. If you think you have jumping worms, do not donate plants and materials to a plant sale or to a neighbour.

They may also be introduced as bait worms. If bait worms are used, it is vital to follow all proper procedures, euthanize worms before disposal, and never dispose of unused dead or live worms into the environment.

- ▶ Thoroughly clean tools, shoes, and vehicles when moving from one site to another.
- ▶ Only purchase compost, mulch, or other organic matter that has been heated high enough and long enough.
- ▶ Remove adult jumping worms. Place in a plastic bag and leave in the sun at least 10 minutes. Dispose of the bag in the trash.
- ▶ Remove soil from all plants before transporting them.
- ▶ Wash roots by completely submerging plant roots in water and washing away remaining soil. Water is enough to remove soil and other materials from the roots.
- ▶ Buy bare-root plants when possible.
- ▶ Do not buy jumping worms for bait, vermicomposting, or gardens.

Plant sales are used by many horticultural groups as a source of income. If jumping worms are known to be in your area, sell only bare-root plants. Remove all soil from the plants and submerge the roots in water. This process also reduces the risk of transferring weeds and invasive insects and plants to someone's garden.

Most of our garden helpers—birds, snakes, frogs, and salamanders—enjoy snacking on insects, caterpillars and earth worms but will not eat jumping worms. They try them and spit them out. Moles, it appears will eat them.

Jumping worms have been spotted in Western Ontario, Toronto, and Hamilton. It may not be long until they reach Eastern Ontario. Please watch out for these pests that are so dangerous to our forests and help control the spread.

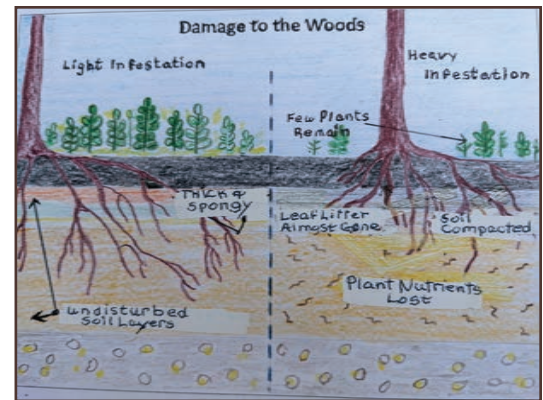


Figure 2 - Drawing by Gail Labrose

Carleton Place & District



Horticultural Society

JOIN US!

*Our mission is to support
and educate fellow
gardeners and encourage
those new to gardening.*

Membership Benefits

- Gardening interests for all ages
- Expert speakers
- Flower shows & workshops
- Huge plant sales
- Discounts at garden centres
- Group volunteer gardening
- Social networking

cphorticulture.ca

Garden Ontario
KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL

Irene Tobis and Linda Bartlett have created a more practical banner incorporating an updated emblem (see below for a description), which we will use for all future society and community events. The banner will be 2ft x 6ft and is framed with an upright stand that rolls down for easy transportation.

About the Blue Flag Iris

Submitted by Irene Tobis, Vice-President

Native to eastern Canada and northeastern US, the Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*), also known as Harlequin Blue Flag, Larger Blue Flag, or Northern Blue Flag, is most often encountered at the water's edge or in seasonally flooded meadows but adapts well to garden settings as long as it is not subjected to extended periods of drought. It prefers full sun to partial shade and blooms May through July.

The epithet *versicolor* means "variously coloured". The flowers may be any shade of purple or violet-blue, but are always decorated with yellow on the falls. In the Iris family (*Iridaceae*), its several blooms grow on a sturdy stalk among tall, graceful sword-like leaves that rise from a basal cluster, 2-3 feet tall. The name "flag" is from the middle English *flagge*, meaning "rush" or "reed."



It has been the provincial flower of Quebec since 1999, having replaced the Madonna Lily which is not native to that province. Photo from along St. Lawrence River by Nichole Ouellette/ouellette001.com (cropped) under Creative Commons license.

2025 District 2 AGM

The Pakenham Horticultural Society is pleased to host the OHA District 2 General Meeting on Sat May 3, at the Stewart Community Centre, 112 MacFarlane Street, Pakenham. Our theme is "Sustainable Gardening" and we are pleased to have two speakers during the day.

There will be two speakers, vendors, and a raffle. Lunch will be served, as well as breakfast snacks. We will also have the business meeting for District 2. The cost to attend this event is \$25.00. If you would like to attend this event please let me know so we can register you.

Linda Bartlett, Treasurer

This newsletter is published by the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society and is distributed to its members free of charge.

We depend on our members for its content. If you would like to contribute, please send your submissions to: cphorticulture@gmail.com

Editor, Design and Layout: Linda Bartlett

Contributors - Articles and Photos: Rick Roberts, Barb Clarke, Barbara Fowler, Bri Logan, Paul Pietsch, Dale Odorizzi, Irene Tobis, Linda Bartlett

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/carletonplaceanddistricthorticulturalsociety>

Visit our website: www.cphorticulture.ca