

Our September meeting was well attended last Wednesday. Members report that they enjoyed the program and the opportunity to mingle at the end of the meeting and have a cold drink and treat.

We were especially pleased to welcome three new members last week, bringing us up to 95 members in 2023. I don't know if that is a record, but it is indeed encouraging.

I didn't take as many photos as I'd have liked but will share what I have. If you take photos at future meetings and are willing to share, send them to me at [cpdhsmembers@gmail.com](mailto:cpdhsmembers@gmail.com) for inclusion in the Meeting Recap.



Members beginning to arrive

Here's a recap of the September meeting.

#### **Introduction:**

CPDHS President Paul Peitsch began the meeting by inviting the treasurer and others to briefly present their reports. We are in solid financial shape and growing. After that, event coordinators brought us up to speed on topics including the upcoming Flower Show in October and the 2024 Photography Contest. Please see the attached September newsletter for details.



#### **Show and Tell:**

Our new Show and Tell segment provides a few minutes at the beginning of each meeting for members to share a personal horticultural tip or tragedy.

This month **Irene Tobis** took 4-5 minutes to share a shade VS direct sunlight success she enjoyed while relocating plants that were planted by a previous owner. She brought along healthy green leaves from a shade plant that she moved from direct sun to dappled shade, the yellowed, unhealthy looking leaves of one that remained in direct sun. A perfect example of the right plant in the right place'.

The second Show and tell item was shared by **Daniel Brumar** about an interesting experiment he did this summer. In the spring, Daniel used a discarded plastic bottle to create an unsupervised terrarium on the bottom of the Mississippi River. He laid the bottle on its side, put enough stones and bits of soil in the bottle to keep it from floating. To that he added a bit of various plant matter, sealed the bottle with whatever air was in it and placed the bottle on the bottom of the river where it was about shoulder deep. Daniel retrieved the bottle last week and brought it to the meeting. Shockingly, the bottle contains its own healthy appearing biosphere, green plants and all. Wonder how many members are going to give that a try next summer... I know I will.



BTW, if you have an interesting horticultural success or failure to share please reply to this email. I'll pass on your interest on to *Show and Tell* coordinator Daniel Brumar to schedule you into next month's meeting.

#### **THE MAIN EVENT - *Bulbs, Bulbs and more Bulbs. Fall Gardening for a Spring Show***

Paul Peitsch was our featured speaker this month. As the title suggests Paul gave us a great overview with lots of detail, pictures and physical examples of bulbs, corms, tubers, tuberous roots and rhizomes.



With the bulb (et al) planting season in front of us, his choice of topic was timely. There were lots of great questions and Paul was generous with his knowledgeable responses. Paul also brought some packages of spring bulbs that were given away as door prizes at the end of the meeting.

#### ***Plant Exchange***

We tried something new this month!. One of our newer members suggested hosting a plant exchange at our September meeting. Several members participated and went home with a new plant to try out in their garden.

Members could take a maximum of 3 plants to the meeting for swapping for plants that other members brought. Perennials, packages of bulbs, & houseplants qualified. This is an experiment that we hope to build on as we fine-tune it. We are interested in comments and/or suggestions from members.

#### ***Social Time - Meet & Greet***

Time allocated at the end of the meeting to have a treat and beverage together. It was a welcome opportunity for our members and guests to meet and mingle. I especially enjoyed meeting some of the new members and learning a bit about what their plans are for their gardens and flower shows. Drinks and treats were supplied by members of the executive.

Please provide your feedback on having an informal social time at the end of meetings. Is it something you want to see continued? Would members be willing to bring cookies or other treats to these gatherings?

**Conclusion**

Hope I've provided a reasonably complete recap of this month's meeting. Let me know if I've missed something critical.

Next month our featured speaker is from the **Ottawa Bonsai Society** presenting the topic of **Bonsai for Beginners**. More details will be provided well before the next meeting which is scheduled for October 4th. In the meantime check out the attached September newsletter for more details on upcoming events such as the **Flower Show** in October and the **Photography Contest**.

Happy gardening, Rick

**Member Communications**

**Carleton Place & District Horticultural Society**

Coordinator: Rick Roberts