



CARLETON PLACE & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

May 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone. Happy month of May to all. But it still feels so much like the beginning of April. Most of you by now are into prepping your gardens for the summer. Please remember our plant sale later this month.



Some things are blooming here most notable the double flowering bloodroot. I have a piece of a root for the door prize. I also have a couple of trilliums and Dutchmans

breeches in bloom. This is a cousin to bleeding hearts. I know you have read this before and will read it again, but please save some of your plants for our plant sale on May 28. Of course as there usually are at most of these meetings there will be signup sheets. Just ask for information if you are not sure of what is going on. Bring a friend. Renew your membership. I hope to see you all there.

Paul Pietsch.

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

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EXCITING NEWS

We are finally having our annual Plant Sale again. This is our biggest fundraiser for the society. Saturday May 28, 2022 from 8:30-11:30 am at the Victoria School Museum Garden, 267 Edmund St. Carleton Place.

In order to make this Plant sale possible, we need your help.

We are looking for all types of perennials already in pots; ready to be displayed and



purchased. So, when you are working in your garden; dividing and moving plants please put some in pots for the Plant Sale. Please name the plants and if possible, colour of flower. Use a popsicle stick, or a piece of old plastic blind works really well.

The plants can be dropped off at the Victoria School Museum Garden on Friday May 27 between 4:00 and 7:00 pm or earlier during the week at Rick Robert's house, 238 Lyndhurst St. Carleton Place. Ricks cell number is 613-451-3013.

Also, we need volunteers for the Plant sale –organize and price the plants on the Friday evening as well as early Saturday morning, help people select plants, tallying up the plants and help transport to vehicles. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the room.

We are looking forward to seeing your plants and then you at the Plant Sale.

Pot a plant or two for the society!

Happy Gardening!

CPDHS Board of Directors

MAY 14 FASCINATOR WORKSHOP

By Laurie Graham

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Town is holding a Queen's Jubilee Garden Party on Saturday June 4th, from 1 to 4 pm, in the Victoria School Gardens. As a contribution to this event, we will be providing a display of floral fascinators made by members. Some of you have already agreed to participate, and we hope others will be inspired to do so. To encourage and inspire participants, we are holding a fascinator-making workshop, hosted by member Linda Bartlett. It will be held in the Carleton Place Library on Saturday May 14, from 10 am to noon. The majority of the materials will be provided (details to follow) and the cost is \$10, payable by cash or cheque at the workshop. Come out and have some fun creating your own masterpiece!



TABASCO SAUCE AND MARIGOLDS

By Paul Pietsch



How do insects like the emerald ash borer and iris borer identify their host? What needs to be realized is that the plants these individual insects attack are the only ones they can eat. If all the trees in an area are maple, then the emerald ash borer is out of luck, and it does not decide to munch on elm or other species of trees instead.

So how does the emerald ash borer even identify ash trees? Maybe through a plant identification course at Algonquin College? Was that a botanical name or a common name? All joking aside, how do the insects find their hosts with all the greenery around, whether it be ash, elm, iris, morning glory, or lily? All these insects are very picky eaters. Granted, some insects like aphids will have many hosts, but some are also very specific.

What this all comes down to is a smell or, more precisely – pheromones. Insects have an incredible sense of smell, which is part of the solution. So often, we are told tabasco sauce or marigolds ward off insects like cabbage moths and many others. The smell given off by marigolds masks the scent of the plant you are trying to hide. Another problem is planting several of the same plants together (like iris), compounding their scent and making them easier to find. Just like planting all ash on a boulevard – it will make their smell stronger and thereby much easier for the insect to detect. That is why the devastation over the years has been terrible. So what to do?

Unfortunately, not much can be done other than masking the plants' smell so that the insects have a tougher time finding them. Marigolds, Tabasco sauce, or any other strong smell just might give the susceptible plants an edge. As already mentioned, mixing vegetable plants and ornamentals together might just have the insects flying around in circles....confused. So there is some hope.

GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

By Sandra Schappert

Since joining the Climate Change Group, I had the opportunity to speak with a well-known Fieldnaturalist, Cliff Bennett, to see if he had any pearls of wisdom to share about Gardening during Climate Change. He had two concepts to share with me: **“Plant Trees”** and **“Monitor the life in your garden.”** Let’s just say that led me to my pursuit of research in Gardening for Wildlife.

2022 having been declared the YEAR OF THE GARDEN by the Canadian Gardening Council and our Federal Gov’t. It seems an opportune time for us to focus on practical steps then to protect and conserve those plants and wildlife species that are struggling due to Climate Change.

While humans are, in part, responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, it would be appropriate for us to learn how to change some of our habits in ways that enable diverse species to become more resistant to these changes. After all, protecting their habitat will ensure their survival and ours! However, a quote from a Canadian Wildlife Federation article suggests that (1) *“One of the biggest unknowns is the degree to which humans will be willing to change behaviours to reduce greenhouse gas emissions”* and take conservation action.

So if you’re willing to give Wildlife Gardening a try, here are a few tips about creating a wildlife-friendly garden, which will offer a means of preventing the worst-case scenario. As well, we have a chart for evaluating your current garden and planning for changes to it, which I obtained from The Wildlife Federations Education Course.

The main Habitat Elements that we are looking for to protect and conserve plant and wildlife species would be year-round sources of Food, Water, and Shelter.

FOOD – by Planting a diversity/ referring to a variety of shapes and sizes of plants to provide a means of obtaining pollen, sap, berries, seeds, bark, leaves, etc. and storing it, both naturally and through artificially provided food sources; such as bird feeders, suet and seed balls, etc., and without worrying about squirrels eating everything by providing food specifically for them.

WATER sources, both natural, such as shorelines and creeks, or artificially placed water features, such as fountains, birdbaths, insect dishes, ponds with sloping sides for ease of access, and remembering the importance of keeping these containers clean to prevent infections. While also keeping in mind water conservation through practices such as watering in the morning to reduce evaporation, and by watering deeply and less frequently, or watering the around the base of plants using watering cans or soaker hoses instead of sprinklers.

SHELTER, which means providing nesting and resting spaces and protection from the elements and predators through the presence of preferably native, deciduous, and coniferous trees and shrubs, flowering and shade plants, host plants for caterpillars, etc., grasses, vines, etc., brush piles, rock piles, logs and snags etc./old trees for cavity dwellers and homes for a variety of species that often reuse these shelters; not to mention those artificial shelters such as bug hotels, birdhouses, and roosting boxes, etc.

Last but not least is Green or Earth-Friendly gardening practices: referring to avoiding pesticides through companion planting, composting and mulching, water conservation, and other strategies which may be brought to your attention by our speakers this year and through sharing of tips among ourselves.

By Collaborating with like-minded organizations such as Field Naturalists, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, other Horticulture Societies, and keeping in touch with local municipal initiatives, and by searching out other resources; such as those listed on our Research Handout, you will learn tools to move your love for gardening to the next level, and these will be key to planning strategies to protect biodiversity in the future.

As Doug Tallamy states, *“We are (2)“Nature’s Best Hope.”* A closing thought from YouTube, (3) *“We can’t do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good we can do.”*

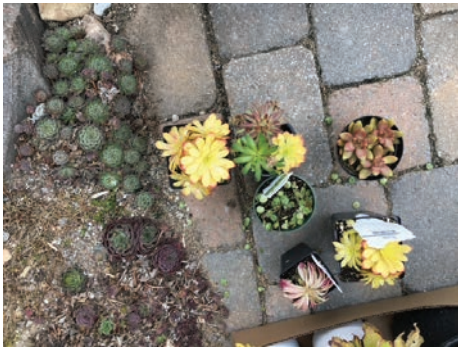
References:

- (1) Canadian Wildlife Magazine, Sept.- Oct. 2021
- (2) Doug Tallamy- Nature’s Best Hope -Author 2020
- (3) Shelby – YouTube referenced by Berit Erikson

WHICH CAME FIRST: THE HENS OR CHICKS?

By Paul Pietsch

These are simply amazing plants! Hens and chicks are in the genus *Sempervivum*. Translated, this means – always (*Semper*) and alive (*vivum*). And that is what they are. Another common name is houseleek which refers to the growth of some species on thatched roofs in England. They were supposed to give protection from lightning.



Hens and chicks, like air plants (not related), are monocarpic. If you pay attention to when they bloom, you will see that the flower stalk grows from the middle of the rosette. This flower stalk robs the plant of all its nutrients and consequently dies after flowering. *Echeveria* (a tropical plant very similar to *Sempervivum*) does not send up flower stalks from the middle but from leaf axils on the side of the short stem. They live to flower again.

As you can see from the photos, hens and chicks are tenacious. They cling to rocks. These hens and chicks have clustered on these rocks for several years now. They grow best in a lot of sun, hot and dry. I hardly ever fertilize. They are starting to make relatively large clumps. Initially, I pressed a few into depressions in the rock. Also, note the size of the tiny Semp compared to the dime. These plants have gone through several winters.



The larger one is not the largest I have tried, which had a diameter of six inches and died. It seems the larger the mature rosette, the less hardy they are.

These plants are easy to propagate. They do it on their own by producing multiple offsets. Propagation can also be achieved by cutting off individual leaves. Let them callous for a couple of days, then lightly stick the cut end of the leaf in well-drained soil and forget about them. In a couple of months, you will have plants to give to the plant sale.

CPDHS JUNE 1ST MEETING

For Peat's Sake - Sphagnum Moss & Northern Peatlands - Nicole Sanderson

Nicole is a peat bog scientist, currently work for a research centre based in Montreal and have worked for ~10 years in peat from just outside Ottawa all the way to the Arctic and the UK. She mostly gets blank looks when she tells people she researches Sphagnum / peat moss... except from gardeners!

Join us on Wednesday, June 1 at 7:00 pm to learn all about mossy fun facts, including photos of mosses in exotic faraway locations. Peat bogs are amazing ecosystems, so often unknown. Did you know one of the most famous peat bogs in the world is right outside Ottawa? Sphagnum moss is used so widely for gardening, but how much do people know about it?