

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 156 **January 2017**

Number 1



Wednesday, January 25, 2017 7:00 pm

Speaker: Marcy Adzich "Edible Urban Ecology -- Food Forests and Beekeeping in our Urban Community"

Marcy Adzich has been exploring the flora and fauna of built and natural landscapes since she was a child growing up on the outskirts of suburbia near Edmonton, Alberta. Always bringing home tadpoles, baby birds and various plants, Marcy looked for ways to bring "wildness" back to her home and the ever increasing, constructed landscape. Over the past 2 decades, Marcy has dedicated herself to developing skills and knowledge of local ecology, permaculture practices and food systems from Oregon to Ontario.

Presently, Marcy has the rewarding opportunity to fulfill the manager role of Ecology Park -- a 5 acre nature sanctuary managed by GreenUP, a local non-profit environmental organization. She is currently directing the Community Beekeeping Program as well as the "Planting Our Future" initiative, encouraging the integration of local food systems with urban forest and residential planning. Marcy's passion is fun, interactive environmental programming that focuses on the relationships between people's needs and the connections to the immediate natural environment.



President's Message

It's hard to believe that it has already been two years that I've been in this role. I've truly enjoyed it — but it's the membership that has made it enjoyable. I've received so many messages and encouragements from people who let me know that we're making a difference and that we're on the right track as a Society and as a Board. We're making a difference with our scholarships, our community grants, and our dedication to Fleming Park. We're making a difference to our children, our grandchildren, our neighbours, and our communities with beautiful gardens that brighten our corner of the world and put healthy food on our tables. Good job, PHS members! As we begin a new year, I hope that we do so TOGETHER. Everyone who volunteers of their time and energy strengthens the entire Society. Let's endeavour to have a lot of fun while we're doing it! Make it a great start to a great year!

❖ **MJ Pilgrim**

Yearbooks

At the January meeting, you will receive your 2017 Yearbook. Jen Bird and MJ Pilgrim are our yearbook editors, and they have again done a fabulous job. Thanks so much, Jen and MJ! You will find the yearbook to be an invaluable reference for dates and information all year long.

LUGAMUG: Don't forget to bring your coffee mug and wear your **Name Tag** to our meeting. **Web:** peterboroughhort.com

Newsletter Submissions: ptbohortsoc@gmail.com **Mail:** P.O. Box 1372 Peterborough, ON K9J 7H6

facebook: Peterborough Horticultural Society & The Peterborough Garden Show **twitter:** @PtboHortSoc & @PtboGardenShow

Review of the Weather Cancellation Procedure

If we decide to cancel our Wednesday night Society meeting, an e-mail will be sent out to all members by noon of the meeting day. Also, a notice will be sent to the local radio stations Oldies 96.7, Fresh 100.5, and Country 105. It is rare that we have to cancel but it is good to be prepared!



Hospitality

Our Christmas meeting held in November showed just how generous the members of our Society are. It was a meeting of giving, with donated items for our goodies table. The table for mittens, scarves, gloves and hats was flowing over. A first this year was the warm, woolen men's socks donated to Brock Mission along with our usual tray of Christmas baking... twenty -two pairs in total! Pat Lounsbury sorted the mountain of knitted items shared with Crossroads Women's Shelter and the Salvation Army. The next day our non-perishable food items tipped the scales at 161 lbs. Thank you everyone for surpassing your giving last year!

❖ **Annie English & Donna O'Brien**

OHA Winter Trillium Newsletter

Includes articles about:

- A new OHA pollinator initiative
- GardenOntario Week 2017
- Societies getting ready to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary
- Two special awards won by OHA members
- A successful collaboration of two Societies
- OHA Society activities
- OHA awards & grants
- 2017 Convention information (Also on website)

<http://www.gardenontario.org>

Grants for Community-Driven Greenspace Projects

❖ **Thanks to Cauleen Viscoff for passing this information along.**

Scotts Canada is pleased to be offering this exciting opportunity to Canadian communities. Grassroots Grants, which range from \$500 to \$1,500, will be awarded to selected projects across Canada. From edible gardens to pollinator habitats, urban farms to sensory gardens, GRO1000 supports all types of community-driven greenspace projects and places priority on programs that heavily involve youth. The benefits that gardens provide to a community and its residents are significant, and even more so for children. Research shows that spending time in a garden helps improve a child's cognitive ability, develops healthy nutrition habits, and increases positive self-understanding, responsibility and maturity. If you are or know of a recognized charitable organization or non-profit group committed to establishing or expanding a community-based garden, green space or pollinator habitat in Canada, applications for the 2017 GRO1000 Grassroots Grants are now being accepted online.

See: www.gro1000.com

Membership

Remember to renew your 2017 membership at the table at the entrance of the Lions Centre. You will receive your name tags at the January 2017 meeting. There are no forms to fill out for those renewing this year. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the first meeting of 2017.

❖ **Membership: Cathy Lowes & Cauleen Viscoff**

Perennial Plant of the Year 2017: *Asclepias tuberosa*

❖ Thanks to Dianne Westlake for passing this information along.

Virtues: It is drought tolerant and deer resistant. It has long-lasting orange flowers that appear in summer. Its flowers feed adult butterflies, and its stems and leaves serve as larval hosts for monarch butterflies, grey hairstreaks and queen butterflies.

Common name: Butterfly weed, orange milkweed, pleurisy root

Exposure: Full sun

Season: Summer, for flowers

Flowers: Flat-topped clusters of upright orange flowers appear throughout the summer. One plant will produce a multitude of flowering stems.

Foliage: Light green, stiff, long and narrow leaves line the stems.

Habit: Grows to 2 feet tall and wide with a bushy habit.

Origins: The 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year is a USA native. It occurs naturally throughout most of the eastern two-thirds of North America. Its native habitats include prairies, open woods and hillsides.



An Opportunity for Involvement with Youth

Dalhousie Youth Support Services is a non-profit agency in the community that works with local youth (ages 12 to 18). They are starting a new program in February and are looking for community members and volunteers who are able to contribute their skills and provide youth with new learning experiences, particularly with respect to horticulture. The hope is for volunteers to contribute approximately one hour per week with their group of young people.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact Ashley Calder. She can be reached by email at acalder@dyss.ca or phone at [705 749 5705](tel:7057495705).

Upcoming Events

Save the Date – Saturday March 4: Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners are hosting the 2nd Annual “Day in the Garden” at Activity Haven. “Everyone Welcome!” See peterboroughgardens.ca for more information and to register -- \$30 which includes lunch.



SOOS Orchid Show and Plant Sale – February 11 & 12: Southern Ontario Orchid Society – 11am to 5pm both days at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. More info: www.soos.ca See the website for a \$2 discount coupon.

Canada Blooms -- March 10-19: Enercare Centre, Toronto. Our own Caileen Viscoff is speaking on the Hortus TV stage On March 19 at noon, and the Peterborough Garden Show has a booth from March 15-19.

Get the Jump on Spring -- Saturday February 18: Toronto Botanical Gardens, 10am-4pm. Annual Horticultural Open House presented by a committee of volunteers along with the Toronto Botanical Garden and the OHA.

Seedy Sunday -- March 12: Peterborough's 12th annual seed swap and sale, 12noon – 5pm Emmanuel East United Church (formerly George St. United). Same place, new name! Free admission.

OHA District 4 AGM – Saturday April 1: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - hosted by Fenelon Falls, Senior Citizens' Centre, Fenelon Falls

PHS Beautification & Community Grants – Deadline April 1

March Speaker Series in Northumberland (Port Hope) – Kevin Elchuk, Darren Heimbecker, Marion Jarvie, Paul Zammit (see poster below). \$40 for all 4.



“One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it brings.”

~W.E. Johns

Did You Know?

- ✓ You don't need to be a dedicated composter to reap similar benefits. Call it cheating, but applying used coffee grounds, eggshells, chopped-up banana peels, and other organic matter directly to your soil (no composting required) can offer plants nutrients as they decompose. For already-growing beds, scatter and bury the items within the first few inches of soil.
- ✓ Got a cold? Green sweet bell peppers have twice the vitamin C of oranges. Red and yellow bell peppers have four times as much. Ounce for ounce, broccoli has more vitamin C than an orange and as much calcium as a glass of milk. Tomatoes are also an excellent source of vitamin C. One medium tomato provides 40% of the recommended daily amount!



A Peony Story

This is the true story of the journey of an insignificant little 2" peony sprout to its naming, recognition and honour at the powerful American Peony Society. It started about 12 years ago with a PHS bus trip to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton. It was June and the purpose was to admire the peonies in bloom and see the Peony Competition on at the time. The leading peony hybridizer at that time was John Simpkins, and along with his award winning peonies, he had tables of little 2" peony sprouts for sale for \$2 each. His surplus. They were a mystery - you had no idea what colour or features each would have. I don't know of any of us who did not leave with at least one! Who can pass up a mystery, even a 2" one!

I planted mine at home and watched through the summer as it grew, wondering what it would be. The following spring, I noticed it was the first to emerge and was larger and more vigorous than my more established peonies. But it continued to be a mystery, not blooming that second season. In the meantime, I moved and like any good gardener, my favourite plants moved with me.

It was 3 years until the first single bud appeared. When it opened, I was so excited! It was a single and yellow! My first of each type. As the years passed the blooms became more prolific. I shared my excitement over my new peony with Joe and Hazel Cook of Blossom Hill and invited them to come see it when it was in bloom. They were impressed and interested in getting a piece of it to propagate. So that fall they came, shovels in hand, to dig up and divide my special peony and take a couple pieces of it for themselves.

Without the knowledge and expertise of Joe and Hazel, that would have been the end the story, except for sharing with friends and inviting people to come and see it when it was in bloom of course. But Joe and Hazel felt there was something special about it and knew of the prominent hybridizer John Simpkins with whom it originated. When their peonies were established enough, they took a few blooms of it to the national competition of the American Peony Society where its bloom attracted praise, recognition and admiration. However, owing to its origins, the peony was not formally named or registered so could not be entered into competition. Thus began the long process of its naming and formal registration. Joe and Hazel wanted to name it after me, but as I was just its "foster mother" and not the true hybridizer, it became "John's Dream".

Just this year, it has been officially named and registered and has been made available to growers. Perhaps in a few years when it has had time to grow and been more widely propagated, we will see it at Shows, in gardens and even our local garden centres.

An interesting aside is that at an American Peony Society silent auction fund raiser, a piece of "John's Dream" was purchased for \$370. US. Wow! What a journey!



❖ **Thanks, Pat de Villiers, for sharing your story (and your peony!) with us. Amazing.**

Peterborough Horticultural Society

P.O. Box 1372, Peterborough, ON K9J 7H6 -- peterboroughhort.com

Membership 2017

****NEW**** Returning members can renew quickly at the Membership Desk and do not have to fill out this form unless an address change is required.

- ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal with address change
☐ Single @ \$20 ☐ Family @ \$25
☐ Please indicate if you wish your yearbook (and nametag) to be mailed to you.
If so, please include \$5.00 to cover cost of postage.
☐ In accordance with the anti-spam law, please check your consent for the receipt of emails for PHS
related information to the email listed or on file. Please add **ptbohortsoc@gmail.com** to your safe list.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Please list the names of members who are included in the Family Membership.

Please make cheques payable to: **Peterborough Horticultural Society.** Do not send cash in the mail.

Tell us a little bit about yourself! There are many ways you can participate within the PHS. Circle all interests.

Regular Committee:	Board of Directors	Archives	Bus Trips	District and OHA
Scholarships	Grants			
Fleming Park	Flower Shows	Hospitality	50/50	Library
Membership	Newsletter	Nominating	Program	Public Relations
Website	Yearbook	Twitter	Facebook	Computer Skills
Other:	_____			

Plant Sale: Friday: Set-Up, Pricing and Organizing Plants.

Saturday: Overseeing the Sale of Plants. Clean up.

Garden Show: Set up (April 7/8)	Tear down (April 10)	MuscleTrucks	Greeters
Children's Garden	Admission Ticket	Committee	Cash Room