

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Wednesday June 23, 7pm -- Double Bill Zoom Virtual Meeting: Joe & Hazel Cook from Blossom Hill, and Anna Mizyn from Anna's Perennials



Blossom Hill Nursery specializes in delphiniums and peonies as well as other hardy perennials. Our plants, including delphiniums and peonies are grown in our own fields. The peonies are propagated by division or grafting but not micro-propagation. Our peonies have won many awards including American and Canadian Championships.

Our interest in horticulture and nature, lead us to beekeeping twelve years ago. Blossom Hill honey bees provide honey, beeswax candles as well as mated queens and nucleus colonies. Our unique location with many perennial beds and natural areas provide amazing honey and strong bees. We planted our 12 acre

field into a native wildflower/tallgrass prairie meadow surrounded by native trees and shrubs two years ago. It is a perfect location for our main apiary.

Anna Mizyn; Anna's Perennials

Anna Mizyn is originally from Poland and came to Canada in 1989. In Poland she spent 2 years at Horticultural College, and worked at the local Farmers Co-op. In her spare time, she worked in local orchards, and grew and sold some of her own plants.

After moving to her "cottage" (97 acres on the west side of Pigeon Lake) from the Toronto area with her new husband in 1994, her gardens were growing, and after two years, she started selling a few plants and seedlings out of that location, thus, Anna's Perennials was started.

Anna's European background, and formal schooling at college gives her a different perspective towards her style of planting, and incorporating many of the plants that are not popular here, but are in other parts of the world.

Anna is a mad gardener as she is always looking for a new plant, collecting seeds and trying to grow plants that others say aren't possible in our area.



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President's Message

Greeting's members and friends! As I type this, it's an absolutely beautiful day -- hot and sunny. I plan to spend quite a bit of time in the garden today. Love the sun, but could seriously use a few drops or buckets of rain now?

I don't know about you, but I'm interested in the speakers for the June meeting. Joe & Hazel Cook are doing amazing things with their wildflower meadow, and a virtual trip to visit with Anna Mizyn from Anna's perennials is never a bad thing!



June 23 is our last general meeting before we break for the summer. It's also **hopefully** our last virtual meeting for a while before we can meet in person. If I don't see you at that event, I wish you and yours a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. If you have any suggestions for making the PHS better, please don't hesitate to send them along. ptbohortsoc@gmail.com

Make it a great summer!

❖ **MJ Pilgrim**

"Rumbly, Tumbly, Bumbly bee"

Wow- everything has just exploded out of the ground in the last two weeks. Plants and insects are making up for lost time! All manner of bees and pollinator insects are zipping around doing their best to cross pollinate everything in sight so we can ultimately enjoy the fruit and vegetable 'produce' of their labour. My sister suggested this lovely, joyful, poem that captures all this action around us!

Bumble Bee	Where are you taking
Black and yellow	Your golden plunder
Little fur bee	Humming along
Buzzing away	Like baby thunder?
In the timothy*.	Over the clover
Drowsy	And over the hay
Browsy	Then over the apple trees
Lump of a bee	Zoom away.
Rumbly	
Tumbly	
Bumble bee.	



by Margaret Wise Brown

*Timothy is a type of grass, often grown intermixed with clover plant.

❖ **Laura Jack**

Who doesn't love Lupins?



As I cycle about and see Lupins growing in so many gardens this time of year, I'm super jealous because Lupins hate my garden. What am I doing wrong? Well, I've done some reading and here's what I've learned.

Soil is no doubt the culprit. I'm working with very heavy clay out here near Havelock. Lupins prefer sandy, well-drained soil, on the acidic side. Next spring I'll amend a sunny section of my garden with sand for drainage and some peat moss and pine needles for acid. Fingers crossed I can amend the soil enough to make some Lupines happy.

I may even try to start a few Lupins from seed. This can be tricky because they have a long taproot and don't like to be disturbed. I've read that a peat container transplanted right into the garden can work or a very deep pot where you can scoop the seedling out without damaging the root.

I love the look of Lupines in the garden, and with any luck, I'll have some of my own next year!

❖ **Sandra Caswell**

Dealing with invasive plants

Last spring, I was hired to "clean up" a garden in the avenues. I usually check out gardens before agreeing to work in them, but didn't in this case. The homeowner wanted me to trim their shrubs and I was recommended by a neighbour. So, off I went. When I got to the home, I was dismayed to see that pretty much every invasive plant that I battle on a daily basis was there in those gardens. Lily of the valley, creeping bellflower, buckthorn, bugle weed, mint and goutweed were all present.



The best way to avoid problems in YOUR garden is to become familiar with which plants are aggressive. If you can identify them, you can take steps to control them. Invasive plants seem to swallow everything up in their path. They wind their way around other vegetation, spread wildly, and seem nearly impossible to tame. Many plants that are known to be aggressive spread by underground rhizomes.

I was browsing through Facebook marketplace, and someone was even trying to sell creeping bellflower in particular! You may say, "But I have the perfect spot for invasive plant X"... That may

be true, but does your neighbour? When you move away, will the new homeowner know how to control that aggressive spreader? Please, don't sell them, and don't buy them.

The easiest way to eliminate the problem of invasive plants if you have them is to MOVE. Seriously. The second easiest way is to dig everything out of the garden that you want to keep and black tarp that garden for 6 months. The more active way is to start digging. For lily of the valley, the roots are so thick that you'll need a sharp shovel and you'll need to be prepared to dig down at least a foot. Place the plants you've dug into a black plastic bag and leave it on your driveway or in a hot place for a few weeks. Do not put them into your composter! Then, survey the area every 3 to 4 days to continue the battle. DO NOT plant anything close to the area you've been working in for at least 2 months, maybe 3 after you've dealt with the last outbreak.

You may consider removing up to a foot of soil in an affected area, laying down heavy cardboard, and sifting the soil back into place using something like a plastic milk crate with holes in the bottom. The sifting should catch roots and parts of roots.

Some plants, like creeping bellflower, are almost impossible to control. The current knowledge on dealing with these plants is to not pull them, but to continually cut them off at ground level. They are easy to pull, but it's the fleshy mother root down below that will continue to send plants up to catch sunlight. The theory is that cutting them will starve the plant and it will eventually give up, although this may take a LONG time.



My word of wisdom before adding plants to your garden are these: If you get the plant for free, there's a good chance that it's aggressive. Watch a new plant for one full cycle to determine its habit -- if it pops up elsewhere in your garden, quickly shovel prune it!

❖ MJ Pilgrim

To Milkweed, or Not to Milkweed??



Last summer I was thrilled that a milkweed plant was growing in my front garden. When it started growing this year, I was happy to see it back but I did not like its location so I thought I would transplant it. Unfortunately, when I tried to dig it out, it broke at the root, so I lost it. Within one and a half weeks there were 7 new plants that had spread into the garden, three of which were growing into my day lilies. I strongly encourage people not to plant the common milkweed plant in their flower gardens! I was not aware how invasive this plant was, and I should have done some



research. I was just trying to do my part for the butterflies! I know that milkweed is a host plant for butterflies and so important to their life cycle, but the plant needs to be in fields. I could not believe its root system, it is extremely invasive, and their roots are strong! You need to work with a pruning saw to get rid of the roots. Milkweed spreads through underground stems and tends to form clumps above ground. Hoping this information is helpful!

❖ **Anita Clifford**



The Official Trees of Canada



In Canada we are home to 30 million hectares of forest, officially protected by Federal, Provincial and Regional Authorities. The official tree of Canada is the Maple and the native types are Sugar, Black, Silver, Bigleaf, Red, Mountain, Stiped, Douglas, Vine and Manitoba Maple. Each Province/Territory has their own official tree and here is some interesting trivia.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ...Western Redcedar

ALBERTA...Lodgepole Pine

SASKATCHEWAN...White Birch

MANITOBA... White Spruce

ONTARIO...Eastern White Pine

QUEBEC...Yellow Birch

NEW BRUNSWICK...Balsam Fir

NOVA SCOTIA...Red Spruce

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND...Red Oak

NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR...Black Spruce

YUKON...Subalpine Fir

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES...Tamarack

NUNAVUT...None ...very few trees

❖ **Annie English**



Corkscrew Hazel... she's one Twisted Sister!



My first introduction to a corkscrew Hazel was at a new clients' house and the tree amazed me! I had never seen anything like it and loved working around the curly-cue branches. Unfortunately, as I worked toward the end of spring and leaves were still not showing, the owner told me she suspected the tree had died a few years before, but she didn't have the heart to remove it! She had vines planted at the bottom and eventually they grew upwards by wrapping around the branches and twigs, using them for support. She loves decorating the tree for Halloween because it takes on a spooky look! After a winter ice storm, it's very beautiful and magical, especially when the winter sun shines on it.



Hazels have reportedly been around since the last Glaciation but were more "recently" found on the Frocester Court Estate in Gloucestershire England in 1863. It was a natural mutation or sport in a hedgerow on the estate. Symbolism of the Hazel includes enlightenment, wisdom, inspiration, divination, understanding, creativity, the divine sage, and knowledge.

Hazel's flowers are called "catkins", as they resemble a kitten's tail, and the branches were used by diviners to find water. Oddly enough, it is when it's misshapen, puckered and twisted leaves come out, that the tree looks it's worst! One theory is to plant it where it can be seen in March only when the catkins appear, and not seen the rest of the year! A challenge to be sure.

As with a lot of things, "the beauty is in the eye of the beholder". Personally, I like Hazels ... one of those things in nature that's so ugly, it's pretty!

❖ **Donna-Marie Fennell**

Photo courtesy of MJ Pilgrim and Ptbo Landscape Supply

How I Inherited a Monster....



Well, not a monster exactly, but a Monstera.

I think I shared in an earlier article that as much as I love my garden outside, I've never been much of a houseplant person for whatever reason. This changed somewhat when my youngest son, who happens to have a diploma in horticulture, recently moved out west to take a job and downloaded his copious collection of houseplants to me. One of these was a Monstera that he grew from a single leaf, which now dominates my upper hallway.



I took the time to do a little research on the Monstera as I had little knowledge. For those who don't know them, the Monstera, true to its name is a large plant with leaves like Swiss cheese: full of holes. There are a large number of varieties of Monstera according to my research, but the most common is the Monstera Deliciosa which mine appears to be. They are highly prized and collected, and the more intricate and varied the leaves, the more valuable they appear to be. I have to admit, when a new leaf opens it is quite a delight as they literally unfurl themselves over the space of a couple of days. I am including a picture of a new leaf that emerged last week I have to admit, this plant may make a houseplant lover of me yet!

❖ **Mary-Rose Daigle**

Rhubarb....who knew?!



At this time of year that are so many things to choose to be your favourites. Some of mine are; dog walks in the woods, swimming in a lake, wild leeks, morel mushrooms, and the feature of my post for June, rhubarb. Did you know the following about rhubarb?

- Rhubarb is a vegetable
- Rhubarb is higher in calcium than milk per cup, rhubarb has 380 mg, while milk only has 300mg
- Rhubarb roots were known to be used in Chinese medicine, known to aid in digestion
- Rhubarb is really, really big, in Alaska!

I'm sharing a recipe for Rhubarb Pineapple Jam that was introduced to my mom in the early 80's by my now 97-year-old neighbour, mom still makes it, and it's a fam favourite!

Ingredients:

5 cups of rhubarb
¼ cup water
1 can (20 oz) crushed pineapple, undrained
5 cups white sugar
1 6oz pkg strawberry Jell-O

Into a saucepan add the rhubarb, pineapple, water and sugar, bring everything to a boil over medium heat, cook until the rhubarb is tender, about 20-30 min. While the jam is cooking, sterilize the jars, remove the jam after the rhubarb has broken down, add in the Jell-O until completely blended. Ladle into recently sterilized glass jars, (key here is hot jam, and hot jars) I lightly tighten the lid, and as they cool, you will hear the lids pop as they seal. Alternatively, if you don't want to store on the shelf, you could freeze. Enjoy this jam on ice cream, toast, pound cake, or whatever you fancy. Enjoy, from our kitchen to yours!

❖ **Elane Kalavrias**

PHS Photo Submissions:

Eileen Sibbitt







MJ Pilgrim



Donna-Marie Fennell





Mary-Rose Daigle







Sharleen Pratt

