

# PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 162

January 2023

Number 1

**Wednesday January 25 @ 7pm ONLINE with ZOOM**

## **Astrid Muschalla, Kingston MG, “The Future of Garden Design”**

Design fundamentals are important, but a landscape isn't static... it's a living system. Astrid, an ecological garden designer for over 20 years, shares her main tips to help you create a satisfying landscape – not just for humans but for the biodiversity needed to keep your landscape sustainable and thriving amidst climate change.

**Virtual only on ZOOM. Members will receive the Zoom link 2-3 days prior to the event.** January and February are dark, cold and often weather-meeting-prohibitive, hence the Zoom option. 😊



Astrid Muschalla is an ecological horticulturist and living soils consultant. She is also a master gardener and has helped educate college students and the public in best practices for creating healthy, vibrant landscapes. She lives on Wolfe Island, the first of the 1000 Islands, and grows the majority of her own food as well as ornamental and native plants. Website: [www.astridknowsplants.com](http://www.astridknowsplants.com)

## **President's Message**

It's hard to believe that it has already been 8 years that I've been in this role. I've truly enjoyed it — but it's the board and membership that have made it enjoyable. Thanks to each of YOU; we're making a difference. We're positively affecting our children, our grandchildren, our neighbours, and our communities with beautiful, useful gardens that brighten our corner of the world and put healthy food on our tables. Our dedication to Fleming Park is beautifying our city. 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**

## **Our Christmas Donation Tables**

Happy New Year to all the amazing members of PHS! Do you remember the colorful mound of donations on the tables at our November meeting?? While we were walking about in the big snowfall before Christmas, just know that because of your generosity so many were enjoying all the beautiful warm woolies donated by you.

A total of 86 pairs of warm and colorful socks were donated for men, woman, and children along with a new pair of boots. Then add 19 toques/hats, 17 pairs of mitts/gloves, 5 pairs of slippers, 4 scarves and 2 blankets. You get the picture. Too bad I didn't take a picture of our tables !! Next year remind me....

web: [peterboroughhort.com](http://peterboroughhort.com) newsletter submissions: [ptbohortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ptbohortsoc@gmail.com)

mail: P.O. Box 1372 Peterborough, ON K9J 7H6 instagram: [ptbohortsoc](https://www.instagram.com/ptbohortsoc)

facebook: [Peterborough Horticultural Society](https://www.facebook.com/PeterboroughHorticulturalSociety) twitter: [@PtboHortSoc](https://twitter.com/PtboHortSoc)

The next morning after items were sorted, Anita Clifford and myself delivered 4 large bags of gifts to Brock Mission and Cameron House for Women and Children. With so many donations this year we also delivered to YES (Youth Emergency Shelter). The delicious goodies left over from the refreshment table all went to the hungry guys at Brock Mission. Everyone was so appreciative of the early Christmas gift.

We also tried something new this year, giving you the option of donating food or cash. For every dollar donated Kawartha Food Share can purchase \$4 dollars in food. So, the grand total was \$368.75... and I will let you do the math! The non-perishable foods totaled 40 pounds. Thank you, thank you to our PHS members.

♦ **Annie English, Anita Clifford and Shaun Pyper**

## Which Holiday Cactus to You Have?

**Did you know there are 3 holiday cacti? These are the Thanksgiving cactus, Christmas cactus and Easter cactus.** The Thanksgiving and Christmas cactus have practically the same flower and bloom around the same time, so how do you tell which one you have? Take a look at the leaves: the Thanksgiving cactus is sometimes called the “crab cactus” because its leaves have pointed notches, whereas the Christmas cactus looks similar but its notches are more rounded.

The Easter cactus has smoother leaf edges and a star-like flower, different from the other two, and blooms later winter. Most of us likely have a Thanksgiving cactus or a Christmas cactus.



Here are some things to know about caring for this plant and helping it to bloom again next Christmas.

Say ‘cactus’ and images of dry cracked earth and unrelenting sunshine leap to mind. But not so for the holiday cactus. These cacti are found in the understory of Brazilian rainforests. They are *epiphytic succulents*, or ‘air plants’: they grow in the humidity, hanging from tree branches, and take nutrients from the air and mist that falls upon the rainforest.

Even though we grow them in a pot on a counter or table, knowing how they thrive in the wild can teach us how to care for them at home. Say ‘rainforest’ and I think of dappled sunlight and humid air. Hence, keep your holiday cactus in a bright location, out of direct sunlight, and with high humidity, like a kitchen or bathroom.

### Time to renew for 2023

**We’d like to welcome new members too!**

**Our membership fees are a great deal: \$20 for single and \$25 for a family (Guests for our great speakers are welcome for \$5 a visit)**

Your membership will give you access to our fun and informative newsletter, in-person meetings with guest speakers and vendor discounts. If in-person meetings are not possible, we ‘Zoom’ the meeting to you in the comfort of your own home! (Many of which are recorded for future reviewing).

**January and February meetings will be Zoom meetings but you can still renew and join us!**

**Instructions for online and print/mail renewal and new memberships can be found at: [peterboroughhort.com/join-us](http://peterboroughhort.com/join-us) Let us know what you would be interested in learning this coming year. We can plant some new ideas together!**

♦ **Laura Jack**

Water the plant when 1/3 of the soil is dry – use your finger as your tester – and then water thoroughly until it drains out the bottom. But don't leave the pot sitting in water - remember, it's an 'air plant' so it doesn't like soaking wet roots. Provide a basic fertilizer monthly in fall and during the blooming season and twice a month the rest of the year.

Their bloom cycle is triggered by the shorter days and cooler nights of fall. Therefore, to encourage budding out next year, this fall make sure your plant gets only about 8 hours of indirect light per day and is placed in a dark cool spot in your house at night, ideally about 10-15C. The result should be a plant in full bloom in about 6 weeks.

I hope you enjoyed a holiday cactus this year and that yours blooms magnificently again next year.

(<https://empressof dirt.net/identify-christmas-cactus/>)

◆ **Sandra Caswell**

## **In memory of a Grand Tree which had to be cut down after the Derecho storm in May 2022**

I'm still standing tall and proud, while trees around me are succumbing to age and infirmity. Several years ago, my buddy across the street was felled by a sudden gust of wind! Some keep losing limbs, and city workers cut others down. Two of us have lived in harmony on Garrod's boulevard for decades. My companion has been struck by lightning, and is struggling. The senior gentleman said he would part with "him", but he doesn't want anything to happen to me! New trees are planted, yet it isn't the same. Our brotherhood of Norway maples lined Prince Street for decades, and we looked resplendent in spring with our fresh green foliage, and glorious in autumn with our arching canopy of gold. Now there must be diversity, using only native species, according to the experts, so the street will have a different appearance.



Living on the street isn't easy, with the heat of summer, extreme cold in winter, blizzards, sleet, hail, wind, rain, and drought. I've experienced them all! Once I was assaulted by an out-of-control car. 😞 The squirrels run up and down, chase each other, seek shelter, build nests in our branches, and raise their young. Crows perch on high, and "caw" to their mates. What a racket! A variety of birds visit us from season to season. People love us- if only we weren't so messy, dropping keys almost year-round. They don't seem to care that we are just trying to reproduce. Tar spots on our leaves may be a sign of climate change. Apparently, they are aren't harmful, but I don't like being covered with blemishes. At least I can shed them.

When we were young the neighbourhood was quiet, except when the boys played road hockey, and yelled "Car". Today the teens are skateboarding, and vehicles speed, and shortcut to avoid traffic lights. Two years ago, there was a massive upheaval when the road was reconstructed! Our roots got chopped off, with little concern for our survival. I fear our days are numbered.

I have provided shade, shelter, air purification, and beauty for the homeowners and wildlife. There is a mix of residents from singles to families of all ages. They like living in this old neighbourhood, and I'm part of the attraction.

◆ **Elaine Goselin**

[ **Do you have a story to share? We LOVE getting stories from members. Email them to [ptbohortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ptbohortsoc@gmail.com) ]**



## A Rare and Interesting Plant

When trying to write an article in our Canadian January on horticulture, it often involves a string of non sequiturs.... So here was mine for this month.... My computer screen saver happens to rotate through a series of pictures of fungi that I have taken over the years... endlessly fascinating, but that's a topic for another day. Then I looked outside at the snow falling, covering the ground in a blanket of white. Somehow that got me thinking about a very interesting plant that I love to find while walking in our Ontario woodlands: the Ghost Pipe (or Indian Pipe as my mother would have called it). It's latin name is *Monotropa uniflora*.



Ghost Pipe is a fascinating plant. Although it looks like a fungus, it is not. In fact, it is a perennial wildflower from the **Ericaceae** family of flowering plants (blueberry, cranberry, heather) that is parasitic in nature. It does not produce chlorophyll which gives most plants their green coloration, but rather feeds off surrounding fungus by tapping into fine fungal threads called mycorrhizae. The mycorrhizae get their sugars from surrounding photosynthesizing plants and provide those plants with minerals in exchange. The Ghost Pipe more or less tags along for a free lunch on this process, which is what makes it parasitic in nature. The entire plant is a ghostly white colour, and extremely delicate. They are often found in humus rich, damp environments but due to their delicate nature are usually found well off the beaten paths.

They are native to this region, so keep your eye open for these beauties ... but you'll have to wait until Spring to see one.... Counting down!

♦ **Mary-Rose Daigle**

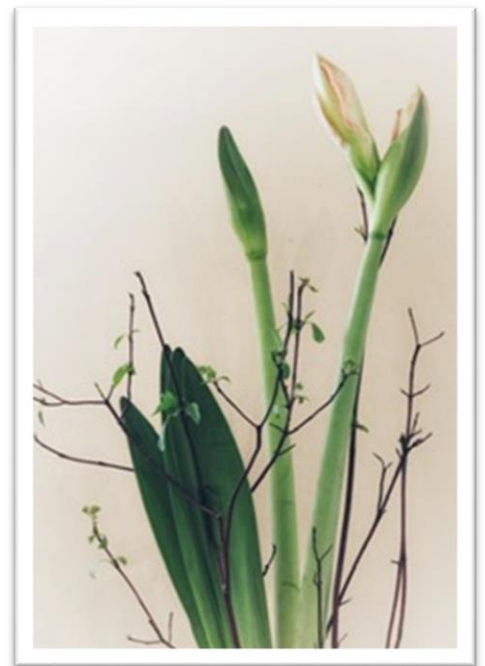
## Amaryllis Meaning of Colours

January is usually when my amaryllis blooms only because I did not get it planted early enough to bloom for Christmas! This year I thought that some of my dogwood branches would make terrific supports for my amaryllis. The result so far has proven to be a good solution, also I now have dogwood sprouting their first leaves for Spring! At the time of the photograph my amaryllis was not in full bloom. In looking up some information on amaryllis I found the meaning of their colours interesting. When considering giving an amaryllis as a gift, consider the colour as well.

**Red Amaryllis.** Mostly red amaryllis represents love, passion, and attraction. In China, it is believed to be a lucky flower. Red amaryllis is also used to show your attraction to someone.

**White Amaryllis.** White is another popular colour of amaryllis and similar to the red one it has different meanings. It represents purity and spirituality, but on the other hand it is used to express mourning and sadness. The second meaning is considered more applicable because this flower is often brought to funerals.

**Orange Amaryllis.** It symbolizes positive and optimistic energy which leads to happiness and good health. Those who bring this to their home wish that the flower can surround the house with a positive vibe all the time.





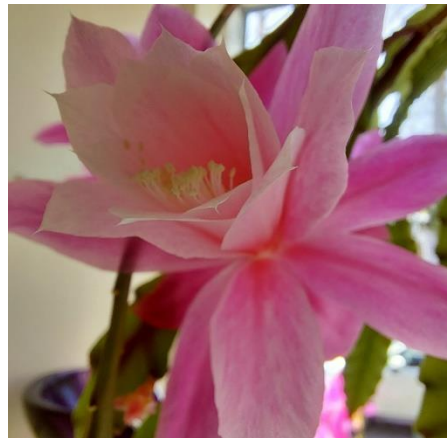
**Pink Amaryllis.** Although the colour pink is associated with romance in most situations the pink amaryllis flower can be a gift for someone as a symbol of friendship.

**Yellow Amaryllis.** The colour yellow serves as a symbol of pure happiness. A yellow amaryllis flower is a symbol of the innocent joy that comes from a sunny day.

**Purple Amaryllis.** Purple flowers are often associated with nobility, royalty, and grandeur. The purple amaryllis can also symbolize spirituality. The deepness of the colour purple can also have romantic connotations with it.

❖ **Anita Clifford**

## Orchid Cacti: Botanical name “Epiphyllum”



I inherited these Orchid Cacti from my mother Doris Huffman. She loved unusual plants. She described them as big gangly, rather ugly plants that had gorgeous flowers for 2 weeks in late spring. The large flowers appear from notches along the edges in the leaves. The foliage is long, flattened, narrow stem-like leaves with scalloped edges that droop and dangle to 20 inches long. Best in a hanging basket or regular container high on a shelf or table.

Plant in cactus style soil in an east or west window. It like cool conditions in winter to set flower buds. Root bound is good. Treat very similar to an orchid. They root very easily from cuttings.

❖ **Anne Young**

## Perennial Plant of the Year: Rudbeckia 'American Gold Rush', Black-eyed Susan

‘American Gold Rush’ is a stunning focal point in perennial borders and meadows and is brilliant when massed in public or corporate landscapes. Butterflies caper over the blooms and songbirds feast on the plentiful seed long after the flowers have passed—the seedheads provide winter interest too. Garden companions are many, including alliums, asters, sages, and native grasses such as little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*).

[credit: <https://perennialplant.org/>]





PETERBOROUGH AND AREA MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT:

## A DAY FOR GARDENERS 2023

We are thrilled to be back and hope you can join us!!

**Saturday March 4, 2023**

- ❖ Activity Haven, 9:30am to 3pm
- ❖ 180 Barnardo Avenue, Peterborough, ON



Three Seminars,  
lunch & door prizes

Cost: \$50 early bird

\$55 after Feb 14

Come join us for a fun day of  
learning, lunch and friendship!

Select one seminar from each session. All seminars  
are presented by Peterborough Master Gardeners.

**Session 1:**

- ❖ What Plants Eat: How plants get their nutrients OR
- ❖ Supporting Pollinators

**Session 2:**

- ❖ Drought Resistant Plants OR
- ❖ Successfully Propagating Butterflies

**Session 3:**

- ❖ Native Plant Garden Design OR
- ❖ The Dirt on Soap: Home remedies, herbicides and pesticides


**Ask your Gardening  
Questions: Visit "Over the  
Fence with the Ptbo Master  
Gardeners" on Facebook!**

About: An initiative of Peterborough  
and Area Master Gardeners to connect  
the local gardening community.

Great for asking gardening questions,  
staying up-to-date with environmental  
initiatives, and keeping informed about  
gardening events in our area. They're  
happy to answer any questions that you  
may have, and many questions will be  
answered immediately or within 24  
hours! Recent posts have included  
"Winter Sowing 101", "Free Wood  
Chips", and a link to a Smithsonian  
article about non-native birds. Worth a  
visit!

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/  
overthefencepeterborough](https://www.facebook.com/groups/overthefencepeterborough)

[\[Click here to Register Online for the Day for Gardeners\]](#)

**Garden Ontario** 

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**OHA'S**

**50/50 DRAW**

**Next Draw:**

**March 16, 2023**



<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha>

50% of all proceeds go towards  
Keeping Ontario Beautiful!

## Blue Frog Water Gardens

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## Gardening in a Changing Climate

**THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH JAN TO APRIL 7:00 PM ON ZOOM**

SPL is teaming up with Stratford and Area Master Gardeners for a new Zoom series! Join us and learn how to adapt your garden practices in our changing climate.

- January 19 | Lorraine Johnson | Climate Change and the Garden
- February 16 | Jen Llewellyn | Plant Health for a Changing Climate
- March 16 | Sean James | Fusion Gardening
- April 20 | Cathy Kavassalis | Transforming Landscapes in a Changing Climate: Beware the Sleeping Beauties

Register at [splibrary.ca/gardening](https://splibrary.ca/gardening)  
 Questions? Contact Robyn at [rgodfrey@splibrary.ca](mailto:rgodfrey@splibrary.ca) or 519-271-0220 x 132









Register at:  
[splibrary.ca/gardening](https://splibrary.ca/gardening)

## Upcoming Events

**Save the Date – Saturday March 4, 9:30am-3pm:** Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners are hosting the Annual “Day in the Garden” at Activity Haven. “Everyone Welcome!” See [peterboroughmastergardeners.com](https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com) for more information and to register -- \$50 (early bird before Feb 14) includes a catered 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](https://www.soos.ca).

**OHA District 4 AGM – Saturday April 1:** 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - hosted by the Norwood Horticultural Society. Contact MJ if you wish to attend, free to first 5 requestors: [ptbohortsoc@gmail.com](mailto:ptbohortsoc@gmail.com)

**“Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle....  
 A seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream.” ~Barbara Winkler**

## Did You Know?

- ✓ The first greenhouses in history were built in Rome in A.D. 30 under the orders of Emperor Tiberius who wanted to eat a cucumber a day. Andrew Faneuil in Boston built the first greenhouse in North America in 1737.
- ✓ The earliest gardens were strictly practical and were used to grow food and medicinal herbs. Around 1500 B.C. in Egypt, the first decorative gardens appeared.
- ✓ While ancient Romans and Assyrians were renowned for their beautiful gardens, the value of gardens as an aesthetic place declined during the Middle Ages. Monasteries, however, served to continue the tradition of garden design and the improvement of gardening techniques.
- ✓ There is a garden in England called The Poison Garden. It is home to 100 murderous plants. Visitors to this dangerous garden are prohibited from smelling, touching, or tasting any of the plants.

