



VOLUME 167 -- ISSUE 7 -- SEPTEMBER 2023

PETERBOROUGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Established in 1861, a proud supporter of our community.

A Message from the President

MARY-JANE PILGRIM

Welcome back from your summer pursuits. We've got a great lineup of speakers for the fall, and interesting topics that we think will suit everyone. I'm intrigued by this month's speaker and the "relaxing" nature of the information that he is sure to share with us. Hammocks? I'm IN.

I'm also looking forward to a meeting filled with flowers from the Flower Show – read below for information on how you can become involved. Come early if you wish to have a good look at them.

Fleming Park is looking amazing! Our committed team of volunteers has been working wonders all summer. If you haven't already, be sure to drive past or better yet, walk through and enjoy the gardens. Congratulations to Fred Doris, Annie English, Susan Leask, Lois Scott, Daniel Nadeau, and Connor Daigle for a continued job well done.

I hope to see you all again in a few weeks!

MJ

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PHS Meeting: Wednesday, September 27 @ 7:00 pm @ the Lions Community Centre

DAN COOPER - GARDENING FROM A HAMMOCK

Dan Cooper has been a Master Gardener for over 25 years and is the co-author of *Gardening from a Hammock*, a book on low-maintenance gardening.

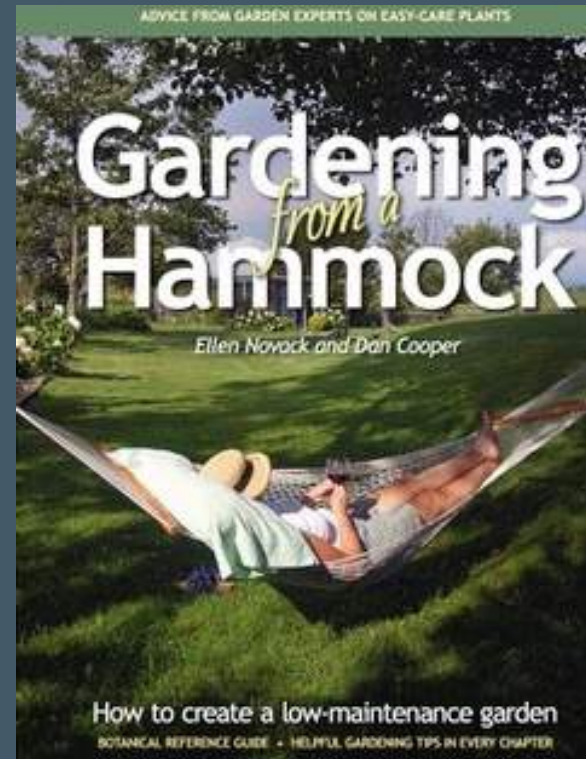
An avid world traveller, Dan is a published travel writer and photographer who has visited, written about and photographed gardens in North and South America, Southeast Asia, Australasia, China and India. Dan is also a member of the Garden Writers Association and his articles have appeared in garden and travel magazines and newspapers around the world.

His photos can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/yajruk4z> and his travel blog can be seen at www.moissecoper.blogspot.com

Dan's entertaining 45-minute presentation is inspired by his book *Gardening from a Hammock* and features plant suggestions, gardening tips, plant combinations for low-maintenance gardening, and much more. *Gardening from a Hammock* shows you how cut down on the time spent on gardening chores so that you have more time to enjoy your garden.

In his talk, Dan reveals the secrets and successes of 17 well-known Ontario gardening experts, including, Paul Zammit, Dugald Cameron, Marion Jarvie, Marjorie Mason, Lorraine Flannigan, Frank Kershaw, Martin Galloway, and Jim Lounsberry.

Master Gardener Dan Cooper will be selling his Botanical Reference Guide, which is a companion piece to his best-selling book *Gardening from a Hammock*. The guide details all of the plants in the book and in the presentation and will be available for sale at \$5 after the presentation. For more information about *Gardening from a Hammock* or Dan's presentations, please contact Dan at GreenGardens@Bell.net





A quiz on spring-flowering bulbs!

MARY-JANE PILGRIM

Any time now until ground freeze is a great time to plant spring bulbs.

1. What is the recommended planting depth for most spring-flowering bulbs?
A) 1 inch
B) 3 inches
C) 6 inches
D) 10 inches
2. Which of the following is a suitable location for planting spring bulbs?
A) A sunny spot with well-drained soil
B) A waterlogged area
C) Heavy clay soil
D) Deep shade
3. To encourage root development before winter, it's important to:
A) Plant bulbs in the spring
B) Water bulbs sparingly
C) Plant bulbs in the shade
D) Water bulbs thoroughly after planting
4. What is the purpose of adding bulb fertilizer when planting spring bulbs?
A) To deter pests
B) To provide immediate nutrients
C) To prevent overwatering
D) To extend the bloom period
5. Which critter is known for digging up and eating spring bulbs in the fall?
A) Squirrels
B) Ladybugs
C) Earthworms
D) Robins

Answer Key: 1B, 2A, 3D, 4B, 5A

Do you have stories to share? We love getting stories from members! Email them to ptbohortsoc@gmail.com





Cercospora Leaf Spot

LAURA JACK

Our summer this year got off to a hot start then a wet cold snap and then hot, wet and humid weather. It was a bit of a rollercoaster, but my 2 large Rugosa pink rose bushes on the hill took off as well as everything growing around them. I was admiring the full flush of blooms on one of the rose bushes when I suddenly noticed the thinning layer of leaves. On closer inspection I realized the older leaves were full of spots and holes. The new leaves were emerging intact but not for long! I did a big clean up around the bush, thinned out all the plants around it, and ended up cutting out old stems and crisscrossing branches to improve air flow.

I did some searches with Mrs. Google and discovered I had a particularly aggressive form of leaf fungus. I started to strip the bush, but realized that more would be necessary to stop it spreading since I noticed some had already started to reach other plants. Many searches revealed that heavier, copper based, fungicides would be needed, with repeated treatments. I don't like spraying anything that might affect the many types of bees, and birds that frequent my gardens so I kept searching the net. To my surprise I discovered sites that talked about the merits of using up to 50% milk with 50% water and spraying plants on a sunny day. It was important to use at least 2% milk or higher fat content since the protein in the milk, combined with sunlight created an effective fungicide!

I started using one cup milk with one cup water in a fine spray and noticed visible results within a couple of days. It was killing the fungus and giving new leaves a chance to grow and feed the bush. It does not smell bad and dries quickly. In fact, I found that if I went out early in the morning with a light wind, I could stand down wind and get a pretty good light milk facial and skin toner while spraying the bushes! Needless to say I have continued to repeat the treatments, about once a week, since Cercospora is quite pernicious and aging skin can always use a little help! This fall I will gather all the leaves around it and throw them out- do not compost them! Like any fungus it will hide in plant debris and even soil over the winter.

In my searches I also learned that Cercospora also enjoys hydrangea leaves as well as leafy vegetables like Spinach, Beet greens and Swiss chard. Next spring, I will do another cleaning around the base of the bushes and I will watch for any dark spots on leaves or dark circles under my eyes! A little spritz of milk can do wonders!





ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

FLOWER SHOW - SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

What's blooming in your garden? Explore your garden about a week before our flower show on September 27th. Look for blooms that match specimen entries as well as leaves, grasses etc. that can be used in the design categories. Flowers can be collected 1 day before the show. Keep them in a cool area out of the sun.

Our 2020 year book p. 22 describes all specimens and design specifications for the show. #23 in the list is for first timers only, so give it a try! We don't get many entries in the design categories and we'd like to see more.

The show will again be held in the room behind our meeting room. This can be easily accessed from the back parking lot. Enter through the gate, then through the back door.

Weather permitting, we will have a table where you can fill out your entry cards. All specimens must be accompanied by a card.

Participants may arrive between 6:50 and 7:50 to set up their specimens. All specimens must be displayed in a clear glass container. Judging will begin promptly by 7pm.

Flower Show Committee

FALL RAFFLE OPPORTUNITY

This fall, we have a special raffle opportunity for you all. Maura Holek, our PHS Secretary and accomplished artist, has painted the PHS Geranium as a fundraiser. It has been professionally mounted and is frame ready.

We will be selling raffle tickets \$5 each for the months of September, October and November, and the draw will take place in November!





ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & OTHER NEWS

FLOWER SHOW - SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

THE SCHEDULE:

Must be in place with completed entry cards at 6:45 pm. Judging begins at 7:00 pm.

Prize money: 1st place - \$3.00, 2nd place - \$2.00, 3rd place - \$1.00 (to be presented night of show).

Best in Show – Prize \$5.00.

Judge's Choice – Prize \$5.00. First time exhibitors are not limited to Class “1” only.

SECTION A: SPECIMEN (Cut Flower)

CLASS A

1. For 1st time exhibitors – “Bring your best bloom” – one stem
2. Aster or Chrysanthemum – 1 spray
3. Marigold – 3 stems – medium or large blooms
4. Marigold – 1 spray
5. Collection of Herbs - 3 stems, 3 different cultivars
6. Dahlia – 1 stem, 4” and under
7. Dahlia – 1 stem, 6” and over
8. Dahlia – 1 stem, under 6”
9. Zinnia – 3 stems, same cultivar or 3 different cultivars
10. Hydrangea – 1 bloom
11. Ornamental Grass Collection – 3 stems, same cultivar, max. 36” high
12. Ornamental Grass – 3 stems, different cultivars
13. Rose – 1 spray, any cultivar, named if possible
14. Rose – 1 bloom, any cultivar, named if possible
15. Anemone – 1 stem
16. Any other annual – 1 stem, NAMED, multiple entries will be allowed provided they are different cultivars
17. Any other bi-annual/perennial – 1 stem, NAMED, multiple entries will be allowed provided they are different cultivars
18. Sedum – 1 stem
19. Stem with seeds/berries – 1 stem, NAMED, max. length 18”
20. Assorted cut flowers – same cultivar or different cultivars, 5 stems
21. One bloom – small, floating in water
22. One bloom – large, floating in water



SECTION B: DESIGN

23. For the 1st time exhibitors – “A Design Inspired by Fall Colours”- in container
24. “A Design Inspired by Fall Colours” – in container
25. “Season of Gold” – Vertical design (pg. 25) – in container
26. “Halloween” – a design with flowers in a seasonal container