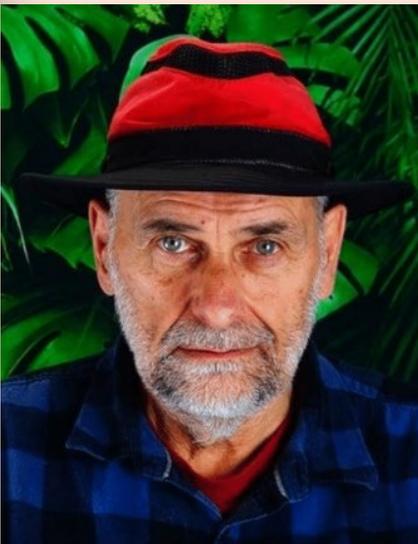


Peterborough Horticultural Society

Volume 165 February 2026 Number 2

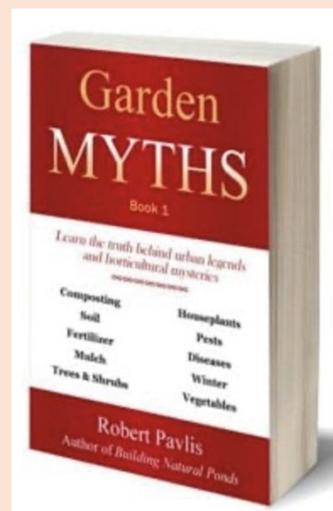
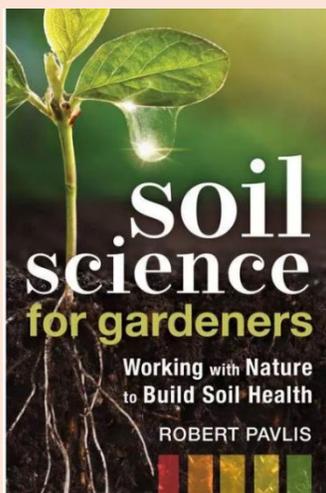
**Wednesday February 25th, 2026 @ 7pm, Zoom ONLY:
Understanding Soil by Robert Pavlis**

Please note: in person meetings will return in March!



Robert will be speaking to us about Understanding Soil and will discuss the basic components of soil and what makes good soil. He will explain the importance of microbes in building soil structure, and how gardeners can improve this. There will be discussion about some common soil myths and ways to add nutrients to the garden. As well, a new topic in gardening – the rhizosphere – will be presented. The rhizosphere is a thin layer around roots that will change the way you think about soil.

He's written a number of books including *Food Science for Gardeners*, *Building Natural Ponds*, *Soil Science for Gardeners*, *Plant Science for Gardeners*, *Compost Science for Gardeners*, *Microbe Science for Gardeners* and *Garden Myths*. He also publishes a weekly blog called GardenMyths.com as well as a YouTube channel and podcast both called Garden Fundamentals.



President's Message – February 2026

As February settles in, our gardens are resting under several feet of snow, but every gardener knows that this quiet season is filled with possibility. The lengthening days remind us that spring is approaching, and now is the perfect time to plan, dream, and prepare for the growing season ahead.

February is ideal for reviewing garden notes, ordering seeds, and exploring new plant varieties. It is also a great time to check stored bulbs and tubers, clean and sharpen tools, and start seeds indoors for crops that need a longer growing period.

Our society continues to be a wonderful source of knowledge and inspiration. I encourage you to take advantage of upcoming meetings, speaker presentations where we can learn from one another and share our collective passion for horticulture. Be sure to read our monthly newsletters showcasing interesting articles and upcoming events.

Though winter still has a firm hold, signs of spring are quietly on their way. May this month be filled with planning, anticipation, and the joy that comes from imagining another season of growth and beauty. Plan to attend the many Seed exchanges in Peterborough and surrounding areas next month, you might be inspired to plant something new this year!

Wishing everyone a warm and sunny month ahead, enjoy your indoor plants and remember to send us a photo of a favorite one for our Indoor Plant Show.

Reminder – February meeting will occur on Zoom only

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**
PHS President



Membership Reminder

Memberships are annual, running from January to December. We will begin accepting membership payments for 2026 in January.

Wait! What happens if I'm not sure if I renewed my membership?

If you aren't sure if you've renewed for 2026:

- DO NOT renew until you check. Double payments, late payments and missed payment can be very confusing for everyone.
- DO send us an email and ask us to check for you. The email address is:
ptbohortsoc@gmail.com

What do you get for your \$25 single or \$30 family membership?

- Nine of our amazing newsletters
- Nine general meetings, first two winter meetings on Zoom, all with great speakers.
- Prize table
- Opportunity to sign up for the PHS bus trip (cost & location to be announced)
- Discounts of 10% from local horticultural vendors

We have great speakers lined up this year and are looking forward to sharing our horticultural interests and stories with you!

Ready to renew or sign up for the first time?

For membership renewals & forms, check out our [Membership page](#) (peterboroughhort.com- Printable membership form can be found there.)

For Renewals- if your contact information has not changed:

- Please send an **e-transfer** in the amount of \$25 (individual) or \$30 (family) to **ptbohortsoc@gmail.com OR**
- Print and fill out [form](#) and mail it to **M.R. Daigle 512 Dickson St Peterborough ON K9H-3K1** with a **Cheque** in the amount of \$25 (individual) or \$30 (family).

If your contact information has changed OR you are joining as a new member:

- complete this [online form](#)
- payment options are an e-transfer or cheque -see bullet points above

Winter Flower Show

Or, we just couldn't wait until Spring!

There's a heavy layer of snow and frost over all of our gardens but that doesn't mean we aren't enjoying some greenery in our lives. Houseplants are a simple way of keeping your green thumb active throughout the year. We'd love to have a look at the greenery in your homes, please share photos of your houseplants for our virtual winter flower show. It's easy!

Take a picture of your favourite houseplant and share it with our club. Send your photo to ptbohortsoc@gmail.com, the pictures will be posted on our website and on social media, and we will vote in person on our favourites at our April 22 meeting.

There are very few rules: the plant must 'live' in your house, it's not a seedling that's just germinated or a cutting you are hoping will root. We also need the name of the plant.

Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, so we have included two categories to meet all possibilities:

- **The House Special** – it’s alive, it thrives, and you love it.
- **The Nonconformist** – it’s alive – barely, not thriving, but still holds a place in your heart.



House Special



Nonconformist (but loved 😊)

BUG Club Corner

For 2026 (and possibly longer?) we will be posting articles on common bugs, helpful and unhelpful varieties. We welcome contributions from members, responses to articles and ideas/suggestions on dealing with the "bad guys" and helping the "good guys".

Shoo Fly! Soil Gnats

Soil Gnats are tiny flies that live off the fungus in potting soil. They are very tiny flies that do not bite, but they lay their eggs in the soil of plants. They are harmless to humans and pets but their eggs hatch into larvae and survive by eating the fungi, organic matter and roots of your potted household plants! You will know when you have them, because they start multiplying and flying around and trying to go up your nose!



Treatments:

There are different strategies to deal with them: my first defense is to choose a good quality potting mixture that does not have soil in it. You want one that drains quickly and does not stay moist on top for days. This may sound silly but read the label and list of ingredients. I look for Fafard potting mix for indoor plants, cheaper ones are often already infected with Gnat eggs.

I also water my plants from the bottom once established. This has proven to be a great strategy to prevent creating too much moisture in the top 1-2-inch layer of your plants soil-less mix. Keeping it dry on top can kill any eggs that any pesky Gnats might lay and

breaks the Gnats' life cycle. I also keep some of those ugly, gross, yellow sticky tape, death traps for the Gnat flies to capture them so they can't lay any eggs. These sticky tapes will slow down their procreation, but you might need more methods to break the cycle:

Some people use a diluted solution of one part of regular household hydrogen peroxide with three-parts water sprayed directly to surface of the pot soil. It will target eggs as well as larvae. You might need to repeat a few times over several weeks-let the top of soil dry in between. (The spray is safe for pets and humans but remember hydrogen peroxide can discolour fabrics and tabletops)

Another solution can be made by soaking crushed Mosquito Dunks granules in water for 24hrs. and using it to water plants. The crushed granules can also be mixed into the topsoil of the pot and when watering your plant, they will be activated and the larvae will eat them and die. (Mosquito Dunks are composed of BTI Bacteria-Bacillus thuringiensis and are used for standing water to kill mosquito larvae. Safe for people, pets and environment) Don't use peroxide spray for a few weeks after using Mosquito Dunks -it will kill the BTI effectiveness!



Prevention:

Check every new plant you bring into the house. Keep in isolation for a few weeks to be sure it doesn't carry Gnats in. You will need to check **All** your plants, especially if you suddenly notice a lot of flies turning up in different rooms of your house.

Start with the right potting mix, keep the top layer of pots dry, and set up some sticky tape so you can see if flies are starting to show up. Don't let them multiply. We can now sit still in the evening and not be waving our hands wildly about swatting flies away – we do enough of that in the summer!

Pictures From: sagegarden.ca

❖ **Laura Jack**

A promotional poster for the Garden Ontario 50/50 Draw. The background is light blue and green with a floral pattern of white and yellow flowers on the right side. The text is in various colors and fonts. At the top left is the Garden Ontario logo. Below it is the title '50/50 Draw' in large pink letters. Underneath is the slogan 'Grow Your Luck This Spring! Your Tickets Could Bloom Into Cash!' in teal. The draw date 'Draw: March 28, 2026' is in pink, with '50% Goes To The Winner!!' in teal to its right. Below that is 'GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!' in bold blue. At the bottom, it says 'Proceeds will support Garden Grants and Education in Ontario' in teal, followed by the URL 'https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/ontario-ha' in pink. The website 'www.GardenOntario.org' and licence number 'Licence # RAF1449351' are at the very bottom in small black text.

SEEDY SATURDAY Visit our website for full details

Start the 2026 Garden season with a visit to the Minden Seedy Saturday.

- Visit local garden, ecological, and seed vendor booths
- Sit in on our demonstrations and information sessions
- Participate in the local seed exchange
- Get advice from Haliburton County Master Gardeners
- Participate on FEEL interactive activities and Childrens area



MARCH 28
10:00 – 2:00 PM

10:30 Cheryl Fraser The Bee Project: Discovering the Bees around you
11:30 Basic indoor seed sowing demonstration for beginners
12:30 Basil Conlin of Haliburton 'Micromeadows Seed Orchards- Preserving Genetic Diversity'



Minden Community Center, Upper Level 55 Parkside Street, Minden, ON



Minden & District Horticultural Society

<https://mindenhorticulturalsociety.ca>



www.facebook.com/groups/mindenhorticulturalsociety/



North Kawartha Public Library

Save the Date!

APSLEY SEEDY SUNDAY

March 29
11am - 2pm

175 Burleigh St. Apsley



PHS Speakers for 2026

Zoom Meetings

Feb. 25: **Robert Pavlis** "Understanding Soil"

In Person meetings at the Peterborough Lion's Centre

Mar. 25: **Vern Bastable** - "Trees and Shrubs"

April 22: **Pam Clarke** - "Xeriscaping"

May 27: **Joey Azzarello** - "Pond Gardens"

June 24: **"Ask Me Anything"** – Perennials, Pests and Pollinators: Panel of Experts

Summer Break so no-one has to come in from the garden!

Sept. 23: **Dave Ellis** – "Wildlife Photography"

Oct. 28: **Jessica York (Branch Ranch)** – Demonstration of Seasonal Decor

Nov. 25: **MJ Pilgrim** - "Christmas Trivia"
PHS AGM will take place after MJ's talk

Emails to Peterborough Horticultural Society Members

We recently transitioned to a new email system for sending out broadcast messages to our members.

Our first message from this system - January's Zoom meeting reminder - ended up in some members' "junk" or "spam" folders. This sometimes happens when email providers don't yet recognize a new sender.

If you don't see one of our messages, please check your junk or spam folder.

When to expect emails from us:

- **Mid-month: Newsletter**
- **Monday before each General Meeting: Meeting reminder**



To help ensure our emails arrive in your inbox, you may want to add our new email address to your Safe Senders list. Here are a few simple ways to do that:

How to add us to your Safe Senders list:

- **Gmail (Google Mail):**
Open one of our emails → Click the three dots (:) near the top right → Select "Filter messages like this" → Create filter → Check "Never send it to Spam" and save.
- **Outlook / Hotmail / Live / MSN:**
Right-click one of our emails → Choose "Junk" → Select "Not Junk", then click "Always trust email from this sender."
- **Yahoo Mail:**
Open our email → Click the three dots (...) → Select "Add sender to contacts."
- **Apple Mail (iPhone/iPad/Mac):**
Open our email → Tap or click the sender's name → Choose "Add to Contacts."

Thank you for your patience as we update our technology!

❖ **Anne Trudel-Inglis**
PHS President, On Behalf of the Board

Gardening Resources

OHA Garden Ontario website <https://gardenontario.org> lots of downloadable resources and the Autumn 2025 Trillium

Peterborough Master Gardeners website is <https://peterboroughmastergardeners.com/> read the blog, ask questions, find events in Peterborough area.

There are a lot of websites, books and groups that provide resources – if you have a favourite one, please let us know and we will share in the newsletter

Upcoming Events and Activities

Events

March 8th – Peterborough Seedy Sunday 2026

March 28th – Garden Ontario 50/50 draw
– Minden Seedy Saturday

March 29th – Apsley Seedy Sunday

April 25th – A Day for Gardeners

