



Barrie Garden Club Newsletter

Cuttings

March & April 2023

Look for us at: www.barriegardenclub.ca



Written by Kimberly Sturge



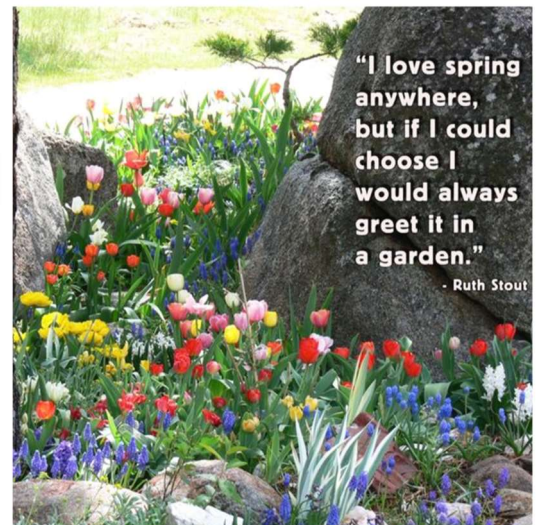
**April 4th 2023 - AGM & Paul Gellatly
(The Tattooed Gardener)
Unlocking the Potential-Big Ideas for Small
Gardens**

City living, often comes with small garden spaces. From balconies to terraces, courtyards to front yards, discover how to embrace your small space. Whether your interests are kitchen gardens, flower gardens, or something in between; the garden can be an extension of your home, regardless of size. Discover how to improve or create your own dynamic small space.



**May 2nd 2023 - Stephanie Wideman
City of Barrie - Bee City**

A Bee City is a designation that connects people, places, and pollinators. Barrie's commitment is to protect and create pollinator habitats, provide community education, and celebrate our pollinators. Becoming a Bee City means there will be more focus on pollinator conservation within Barrie's parks and future urban planning.



"I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden."

- Ruth Stout

Barrie Garden Club



April 4th

Bring a Friend!!

A Great Speaker & Yummy Snacks

Treasurers Annual Report & Auditor's Review

President's Annual Report and report of upcoming events

Installation of 2023 BGC Executive

-by Barb Collinson D16 President

Update of BGC Constitution and Bylaws



IN - PERSON

Saturday April 22, 2023,
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Creemore Legion

\$30 per person includes:

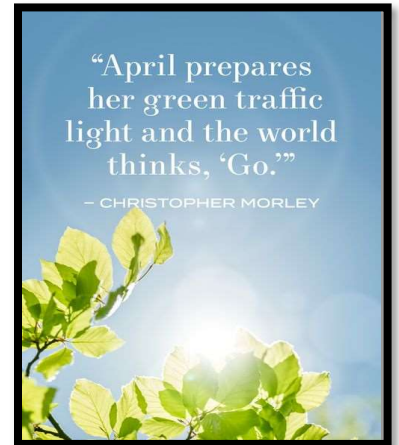
2 Outstanding Expert Speakers
The District 16 Flower Show
Huronian Rose Society - Rose Sale
Vendors of gardening related products
ARRIVAL and MORNING BREAK
REFRESHMENTS,
SOUP, SANDWICH AND DESSERT LUNCH
The Annual General Business Meeting

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND
and meet your friends from other Societies
and Clubs**

Please let your Society or Garden Club
Treasurer know you're coming (and if you
have dietary restrictions) before April 6, 2023



2023 District 16 Annual General Meeting



Some high points of the D16 Spring AGM:

- New venue! **The Creemore Legion Hall** will hold the meeting - easy parking and all on one level
- Registration reduced to **\$30 per person** includes refreshments, speakers, and flower show. **** If you plan on attending you will need to pay this to Carolyn at our April Meeting****
- **Refreshments** - coffee/tea and muffin on arrival, fruit tray and coffee/tea at morning break, buffet lunch choices - 2 soups - a vegetarian vegetable soup and a cream soup, assorted sandwich choice such as salmon, egg salad and ham and cheese (for dietary restrictions attendees must identify in advance) and dessert squares
- **Outstanding Guest Speakers:** AM - Molly Shannon - Succulent Gardening for Beginners
PM - Dr. Michael McTavish - Invasive Jumping Worms
- **District 16 Flower Show** - ask Kim for info on this
- **Huronian Rose Society** will decorate the tables with their Miniature Roses for sale and have extras for sale
- Other garden related **vendors**

Have You Got Your Tickets Yet??



50% of all proceeds go towards Keeping Ontario Beautiful and supports education for youth and adults.

It also supports environmental programs, awards and grants assisting with pollinators, tree planting and community beautification as well as post secondary scholarships.

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

March Draw winner was Sally Drummond, who is a member of the Erin Horticultural Society in District 7. The winning amount was **\$5670!!**



2023 Barrie Garden Club Photo Contest

Marvelous Mauves
Treats and Treasures (garden art)
Colour Crazy Houseplants
Gorgeous Groundcovers
"Wild About Gardening" - Native flowers
Environmental Love - Pictures from Conservation areas



Go to:

<https://gardenontario.org/convention/>
for more information!!

The OHA 2023 Convention will be held at:

The Brookstreet Hotel in Ottawa
525 Legget Drive, Ottawa, ON K2K 2W2

To make reservations go to:

<https://www.brookstreethotel.com>

Spring is finally here.
... I think ... Maybe
... Hopefully.



Important gardening jobs to do in March

Adapted from: <https://www.ruralsprout.com/march-gardening-jobs>

Be patient. Just take it one step at a time and all of your gardening chores will get done as the weather allows. Don't get mad at the rain. Refrain from being frustrated with the weeds - the ground simply demands to be covered. Most of all, be kind to yourself as you get things done at your own speed. Until April, keep planning and preparing, then planting as soil conditions allow.

Early lettuce, peas and beet greens are among the first vegetables to plant in early spring!

1. Purchase all the seeds you need for a successful growing season.

The seed packages are always so colorful - a promise of growth and abundant harvests to come. At some point though, enough is enough. After all, seeds lose their viability in a relatively short amount of time. March is a wonderful time to organize your seeds by planting dates, if you haven't done so already.

2. Start planting seeds indoors

Now, that planting time is closing in, your fingers may be starting to get itchy to sow some seeds. And while [there are some seeds you should sow outdoors before the last frost date](#), many of us gardeners will still be holding onto that excitement for quite some weeks.

3. Fertilize your garden beds

Working with the soil when it is wet, can be a tricky, if not sticky, situation. If your soil is simply too moist to work with, or frozen, it is always best to wait it out before attempting to do anything. Minimizing the damage to the soil structure is always a good thing to consider.

As such, you should refrain from compacting wet soil by not walking on it. If you must access your garden, add some planks where garden paths will be.

Once soil temperatures have warmed up enough for you to get in and get your hands dirty, March is a great time to add compost or well-rotted manure.

4. Have a soil test done

It is often recommended to have a soil test if you are using a patch of soil for the first time, then every 1 to 3 years. Naturally, you can test every 5 years if your crops are growing with few problems. It is your choice to use a [do-it-yourself soil testing kit](#), or send a soil sample into a lab for further and more detailed nutrient information.

5. Plant bare-root roses and shrubs

Everyone talks about planting when trees are still dormant. Listen to them. That is the way it works best. In March, you can still be [getting your raspberry canes in the ground](#), so long as the soil is not frozen or waterlogged. It is also a good time to plant roses, dogwoods, birches, hawthorns, cherries, lindens, plums and oak trees.

6. Prune fruit trees

Have you given your [apple and pear trees](#) a winter trim yet? Time is soon running out! As soon as the buds awaken, it is best to only go in and prune back dead wood, or wait until another chance next year.

“Spring will come
and so will happiness.
Hold on.
Life will get warmer.”

— ANITA KRIZZAN



In Case You Missed it! Candace Dressler's Colour Through the Seasons Presentation

Special Pops of Colour – Spring

Allium schoenoprasum
Chives
Dianthus 'Cheddar pinks'
Phlox subulata
Saponaria ocymoides
'Rubra compacta'
Rock Soapwort
Armeria 'Joystick Red'
Iris delavayi



Special Pops of Colour – Summer

Tradescantia 'Sweet
Kate'
Yew 'Bright Gold'
Lilium asiatica
Berberis sp.
Hemerocallis sp.
Katahdin
Clematis recta



Other Resources

- Landscape Ontario
 - <https://landscapeontario.com/perennials-in-bloom-month-by-month>
- Ontario Wildflower
 - <http://ontariowildflowers.com/main/season.php?type=1>
- RHS plantsman to learn about plant name changes
 - www.rhs.org.uk/plantsman
- Master Gardeners facebook and websites



Benefits of Backyard Birds

Wild birds are part of the local ecosystem! Attracting them to your yard means planning bird-friendly landscaping, (flowers, feeders and houses) & adding clean water to the yard... If you do these things, you will discover benefits such as:

Pest Control: Many birds eat a variety of insects that may not be welcome in a yard or garden.

Rodent Control: Larger birds, including kestrels, owls, and hawks, will provide excellent rodent control by hunting mice, voles, rats, squirrels, snakes, and other less-welcome critters in the neighborhood.

Flower Pollination: Hummingbirds, orioles and other birds that sip nectar are efficient pollinators of garden flowers.

Weed Control: Finches, towhees, and sparrows consume great quantities of weed seeds, making them effective landscapers to help control unwanted plants.

Environmental Conservation: Bird-friendly landscaping makes use of native plants. Native plants use less water and are more resistant to diseases, making them better for the local ecosystem and requiring less work to maintain.

Increased Property Values: A home that is well-maintained with appropriate native landscaping that attracts birds has better curb appeal and good value for homeowners.

Education: Observing backyard birds is a unique opportunity to study local wildlife and this is also a great way to introduce children to wildlife enjoyment and appreciation!

Wildlife Conservation: As more habitats become threatened through development, attracting backyard birds provides a critical oasis for bird and wildlife conservation, both for local species and migrating birds.

Stress Relief: Watching birds, interacting with them, listening to their songs, and taking the time to work outdoors improving their habitat can help relieve stress and promote well-being.

HOW CAN I BECOME MORE BIRD FRIENDLY?? GROW NATIVE PLANTS!!



by Gwen Petreman

Children's Author Illustrator Educator Presenter

Please visit my blog: envirogoodtoknow.blogspot.com

Native plants have had 1000's of years to adapt to their surroundings and therefore are very hardy, drought, and pest resistant.



Downy sunflowers attract chickadees, blue jays, goldfinches, and nuthatches.

False dragon heads (Obedient plants) attract hummingbirds.



Cup plants attract chickadees, blue jays, goldfinches, and nuthatches.



Asters attract cardinals, chickadees, goldfinches, indigo buntings, nuthatches, sparrows, towhees.

The fibre from milkweed is used by American goldfinches to spin nests.



Purple Cone flowers attract black capped chickadees, dark eyes juncos, American gold finches, downy woodpeckers, mourning doves, northern cardinals and ruby-throated hummingbirds.

In autumn Virginia Creepers attract woodpeckers, chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, thrushes, robins, and catbirds.



The Cardinal flowers attract hummingbirds which are attracted to red.

Native Shrubs:

Pussy willows, Chokecherry, Service berry, Button bush, Red Osier dogwood, Bush honeysuckle, Witch Hazel, Winter berry, Spice bush, Sand cherry, Ninebark, Pasture rose, Common blackberry and raspberry attract cedar waxwings, yellow-rumped warblers, woodpeckers, northern mockingbirds, and American robins.

Native Plants That Attract Pollinators:

Black-eyed Susan, Rudbeckia, Iron weed, Bee Balm, Silver weed (ground cover), Butterfly weed, Blue Vervain, Coreopsis, Purple Cone flowers, Milkweed, Cardinal flowers, Trumpet honeysuckle, Virginia Creeper, Downy sunflower, Cup plant, False Dragon Head, New England Aster.

Non-Native Flowers That Attract Pollinators:

Zinnia, Lantana, Fuchsia, Sweet Alyssum, Calendula, Daisy, Lavender, most herbs, Scarlet Runner, Portulaca, Snapdragons, Dahlia, Asters, Butterfly bush, Marigold and Salvia.



Visit Marisa's blog and website, [Food in Jars](https://foodinjars.com), for tons of recipes, tips, product reviews, and links to her books.

*I have just recently discovered this site on canning, preserving and generally making anything in jars! **Marisa McClellan** is a full-time food writer and canning teacher. Her recipes are a fantastic way to use all of that gorgeous produce that you can either buy in bulk when in season, or that you grow in your garden! These recipes make it so you can enjoy your bounty year-round!*

Check out her site at: <https://foodinjars.com>

Asparagus

Ingredients:

4 pounds asparagus trimmed to fit your pint jars and blanched in boiling water for approximately 10 seconds
3 cups vinegar half apple cider vinegar, half white vinegar
3 cups water
2 tablespoons kosher salt
4 tablespoons pickling spice
1 tablespoon red hot chili flakes
3 garlic cloves peeled
3 slices of lemon
3 pint jars (if you use the taller, 12 ounce jelly jars, you don't have to cut your asparagus quite as short and you'll probably fill four jars).

Instructions:

1. Sterilize your jars.
2. Put the lemon slice in the bottom and pack the trimmed and blanched asparagus into the jars (it's up to you to determine whether you want to go tips up or down). Tuck a garlic clove down into the asparagus spears.
3. Bring the vinegar, water and spices to a boil. Pour into jars on top of asparagus, leaving at least 1/2 inch of head space.
4. Put lids and rings on the jars and process in a hot water bath for 10 minutes (you can skip this step if you plan on just putting your pickles in the fridge).
5. Wait at least 24 hours before eating, to give the asparagus spears a chance to get sufficiently pickled.



Oven Baked Egg and Vegetable Cups

Ingredients:

2 teaspoons olive oil
1/2 large onion
1 bundle of asparagus
10 eggs beaten
3/4 cup grated cheese I often use this opportunity to finish off any odds and ends
salt and pepper.

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Cut onion into thin half moons. Wash asparagus well & trim the ends and cut into chunks of about 1/2 to 3/4 an inch.
3. Heat oil in a large skillet and add onions. Cook until brown. Add asparagus and cook until tender crisp (about five minutes). Season with salt and pepper and set aside.
4. Grease cups/jars. Using tongs, portion out the sauteed vegetables. The cups/jars should be mostly filled with vegetables.
5. Beat eggs and evenly divide between the baking cups/jars. Top with approximately 1 tablespoon of cheese per serving. Using a fork or spoon, carefully stir the contents of each cup/jar so that the cheese isn't just resting on top.
6. Place the cups/jars on a baking sheet and bake for 20-25 minutes. When tops are browned, they are done.
7. Remove from oven and let cool. If you used jars, you can put the lids on once they are cool enough to touch (the tops will be puffy and high just after baking, but like a souffle, they will fall). Store egg cups in the refrigerator until ready to eat. **They will keep up to five days.**



3 Easy Ways to Sterilize Canning Jars from  the spruce

Oven	Dishwasher	Microwave
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Line oven shelves with newspaper- Heat to 275 F- Sterilize jars for at least 20 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Run clean jars through dishwasher's rinse cycle- Time it to end when your canning food is ready	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Leave jars slightly wet- Microwave 30-45 seconds

