

District Dirt

Ontario Horticultural Association – District 6

ASSISTANT DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Here are your current Assistant District Directors and their assigned societies.

Bob Heil – Lynden, Paris, Port Dover, and Winona.

Liz Chappel– Haldimand, Mt. Hamilton, and Stoney Creek.

Marie Decker – Acton, Georgetown, and Milton.

Matas Eimantas – Burlington, Flamborough, and Oakville.

Sandi Remedios – Glen Morris, St George, Delhi, and Brantford

Susan MacMillan – Ancaster, Bronte, Waterford and Simcoe

Lianne Krane – District Director for District 6

Borrow, Grow, and Return!

Check out the Royal Botanical Garden's Seed Library!

Just like a public library, a seed library works on the basis of borrowing a seed for free, growing those seeds to maturity, and then harvesting and returning seeds from that plant for the next borrowers. Much like public libraries, the spirit behind seed libraries is to promote equity in food and flower growing. And much like public libraries, seed libraries are community efforts. It takes a majority of borrowers to grow the plants and return seeds for a seed library to work.

"RBG is dedicated to connecting people to plants. Our seed library is one way we nurture that connection. We provide seeds that you borrow, grow, and then return. If you are new to gardening, interested in growing a greater diversity of plants, or invested in supporting a community of growers, our seed library will help you meet those goals.

Our seed library focuses on herbaceous perennials, grasses, annuals, and trees and shrubs although some food plants are also available."

For more information visit:

<https://www.rbg.ca/plants-conservation/science/library-archives/seed-library/>

Seed Library Photos



Milk Thistle



Common Fox Glove



Narrow Leaved Cone Flower



Sweet Joe Pye Weed

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Fundraising Opportunity

In partnership with Less Mess Products Inc., District 6 has organized a fantastic fundraising initiative. For each bag of soil, mulch, or stone Less Mess Products Inc. will donate \$15 to the society and \$10 to the district.

Individual codes will be made for each society to distribute to their members and the proceeds will be sent to the society on a monthly basis.

2023 Pricing:

- Soils - \$189.95
- Mulch - \$194.95
- Aggregate - \$204.95
- River stone - \$249.95

Prices are subject to change
\$20.00 discount for society members

Please stay tuned for further instructions on how you and your Horticultural Society can benefit from this fantastic opportunity!



Festive Centrepiece Workshop Flamborough AGM



Flamborough Horticultural Society

At our AGM in November, we had a great turn out for our festive centrepiece workshop; 25 guests in addition to our members. A great time was had by all. Connie Godyn our workshop organizer and presenter sourced some great additions to the selection of greenery used; items that can be reused year after year like dried fungi, dried Pawpaw fruit, sculpted dried leaves and twigs plus other items. Connie has a real knack for design and is too humble about her skills in decorating. Connie also ran the summer cut flower workshop last year.

Members each had a selection of material with which to choose and after hearing the basic design steps, they went to work creating their own as Connie developed her arrangement (photo with the FHS banner). It was amazing how different each piece looked even though similar materials were available to each person

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Our Little Seed Library – Lynden Horticultural Society

A “Seed Library” what is it? It is just like the little libraries that have sprung up all over communities except it’s for seeds!! It can contain new seed packets, harvested seeds from gardens, some even offer books.

In the spring of 2022 one of our members came to us with this suggestion. She had seen in the Dundas Driving Park a little seed library and thought it would be a good idea for our little community, her husband would be willing to build it as a winter project for next spring. With a green light from the executives, we began to plan where it would go. By September the “Little Seed Library” was built... ahead of schedule.

It was fantastic, better than we imagined! It had a glass door on the front and inside it had 2 sliding drawers for easy access. Each drawer was divided into two rows. The base was made so it could stand anywhere, and it had holes for anchors. Painted and ready to go!! It was beautiful! On April 1st it was installed outside the Lynden United Church at the corner of Lynden Road and Governors Rd.

Inside our “Little Seed Library” we had a small selection of seeds divided into 2 categories, flower and vegetables, small envelopes for those who only wish to take a few seeds, pencils for writing information, laminated cards with planting times and how long seeds are viable information and some pamphlets. We placed a few seed packets in the drawers, then signs were placed in the village and posted on Facebook, members were informed to spread the word.

A few days later I stopped by, and the drawers were FULL of seed packets!! New and harvested, what a fantastic surprise! Through out the spring to summer the drawers have had a regular exchange of seeds and lots of positive feedback. The Facebook comments were full of community interest and excitement with many people stopping by to check it out.

In September we decided to pack it up and store it for the winter for safe keeping and the church graciously put it in a storeroom. Come April, we will pull it out and set it up again, in the meantime everyone is collecting and saving seeds for 2024 to fill it.

We had such wonderful success I encourage other societies to try installing a “Little Seed Library” in their community if you haven’t already done so, and if you are ever near Lynden swing by and check ours out.

Lynden Horticultural Society -District 6
Submitted by Darielle Clayton-Thomas, President



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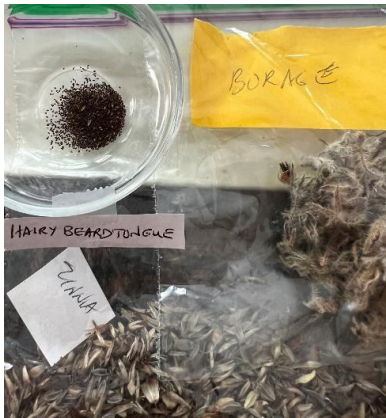
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Seedy Saturday/Sunday!

February 3rd, 2024

Flamborough Horticultural Society has a booth at Green Ventures Seedy Saturday event at the Main Hamilton Public Library 4th floor. This is a big event with vendors, workshops hosted by Green Ventures and lots of other interested supporters. Mt Hamilton Horticultural Society usually has a table at this event as well.

Susan MacMillan will send out a list of other Seedy Day Events!



FUN at Our AGMs!



Paris Horticultural Society Board



Stoney Creek Horticultural Society Board of Directors



Winona Horticultural Society Board of Directors

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Message from Lianne Krane – District Director

With 2024 upon us now, we say a hearty thank you and goodbye to 2023.

For some it was a good year and for some it was not. My hope is that 2024 is going to be great for most of us, if not all hopefully. Rain on our gardens certainly was not a problem for many of us but part of our District was hoping for more. Winter is finally here with the snow cover just in time for the really cold weather...and then another warm spell. Mother nature just can't make up her mind. As I write this note, the snow is falling and we are getting ready to snow blow and shovel our very long and windy driveway. It is great exercise, so I do not mind at all.

I am already seeing so many Societies wrapping up their AGMs and submitting their reports. I remember what a great feeling that was when it was all done. The hard part was, first off, getting volunteers and then tracking their accumulated hours. This is so much easier when you write it down monthly and I am happy to say many are adopting this habit. So many new people have stepped forward to support their boards and if your Society did not see this happen, at our Spring Breakfast February 24th in Flamborough make sure you speak to folks, ask the question, and find out how they did it. If you have not registered for this event do so quick because it is filling up fast as they have an amazing speaker...Darrell Bley from the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. 2024 calendars are filling up fast. Thank you in advance for sending me your list of speakers and activities so we can share them with the rest of the district. Also please update your websites listing on the OHA website please.

One Society you might want to come and see is Winona on August 24 at the plant sale and membership booth at the Winona Peach Festival. What a set up they have there! Seedy Saturday and Sundays and Plant Sales are going to be here before you know it and I invite you to visit another Societies event. Sharing ideas helps all our events flourish. Susan, your District Secretary, will be sending out a list again so you all have a snapshot of what is around. Many sadly will be on the same day but hopefully you can visit one that you have never been to before. Thank you, Mat, for putting the Winter District Dirt together and sorting out the many emails I have sent you as Societies send me their contributions. You folks make our District great!

Stay safe and Healthy!

Lianne

REMINDERS FROM DISTRICT 6

1. Please make sure you update or implement a Code of Conduct for your Societies. All board members must sign a copy and they are to be kept in a file.
2. Please consider implementing a Scholarship Procedure for your Society. D6 has a guideline you can use if needed.
3. Form an Awards and Grants Committee and start working on applications now. Deadlines are approaching fast. As a special incentive, the District will enter your Society into a draw for every application you send in.
4. Volunteers needed for Ancaster Spring Home and Garden show! Feb 23-25. Please contact Sandi Remedios to volunteer.
sandiremedios@gmail.com

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Ponds for All – By Tracey Kenning Lynden HS

Why a Pond?

Adding a pond is one of the best things you can do for wildlife in your garden. We are losing our ponds, rivers and streams to development and other climatic events. All of this and other factors are contributing to the decline of wildlife from frogs and toads to birds and insects. There is a lot we can do in our backyards to help. Even a small container pond can be home to some interesting visitors like dragonflies, frogs, birds and even bats and what's more, they are a natural way of pest control.

A Wildlife Pond – If you decide to invest in a full wildlife pond here are some things to consider when planning:

1. Ensure that there is a shallow end or at least a ramp to allow wildlife to access and escape.
2. Provide low bushes around the pond as cover for birds to perch on.
3. Long grasses in the pond to shelter frogs and newts.
4. Rocks and small stones on the bottom of the pond create hiding spaces for wildlife.
5. Add plants, they add oxygen to the pond water, Bees rest on floating plants to drink and they provide places for wildlife to cling and lay eggs.
6. If you seriously want a wildlife pond it's best not to add fish as they can pollute the water and eat your plants and the baby insects and animals.

How to Build Your Pond

You will need: A watertight container, old bricks, rocks, pebbles, logs, and pond plants.

1. Choose a spot, your pond will need light but not full sun all day. Either dig a hole and sink the container to ground level or place it on the surface and pile stones and logs around it so creatures can get in and out.
2. Add a layer of gravel or rocks to the bottom of your container.
3. Fill your mini pond with water.
4. Start planting you'll only need two or three plants, use the same formula you would for a container, Thriller, spiller, and filler (oxygenator) e.g., Thriller - water lily, marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) or Siberian Iris. Spiller – Pickerel Weed (*Pontederia Cordata*). Check out <https://www.inournature.ca/native-plants-for-wet-areas> for more pond plant ideas.
5. If you are worried about mosquitos, you can purchase a mini solar-powered fountain to keep the water moving



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Award Nomination Forms

AWARDS AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS AND PRESENTED BY THE SOCIETY:

Only 2 per club

- [OHA Horticultural Service Certification](#) request form
- [Ontario judging and Exhibiting Certificate](#)

AWARDS AVAILABLE TO YOUTH PROGRAMS

- [OHA Youth leader award](#) – Due to the OHA Awards Coordinator by Feb 28

AWARDS AVAILABLE BY NOMINATION FOR MEMBERS AND PRESENTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS

- [District service awards](#) – Due to the District Director by Jan. 20

AWARDS GIVEN BY THE ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION:

- [Silver Medal Award](#) – Due to the OHA Awards Coordinator by Feb 28
- [Trillium/Silver Fir Award](#) - Due to the OHA Awards Coordinator by Feb 28
- [Award of Merit](#) - Due to the OHA Awards Coordinator by Feb 28

HONOUR ROLL

- [Honour Roll Award](#) - Due to the OHA Awards Coordinator by Feb 28

SPECIAL AWARDS

- [Community Improvement Award](#) - Due to the OHA Awards Coordinator by Feb 28
- [Environmental Award](#) - Due to the OHA Awards Coordinator by Feb 28
- [Technical Advancement Recognition Certificate](#) - Due to the OHA Awards Coordinator by Feb 28

Downloadable Award Certificates

- [Youth Service Award](#)
- [District Appreciation Certificate](#)
- [Society/Club Presidents Award](#)

Please note that this is just a general information form, all the applications are found on the [Gardenontario.org](https://www.gardenontario.org) website

Grant Application & Reporting Forms

Closed to further applications – The Technical Advancement Grant

- [Tree Grant](#) - Please submit a Tree Grant Application starting January 1st and before February 28th
- [Youth Project Grant](#) - Due to the OHA Awards Coordinator by Feb 28
- [Youth Help Program Grant](#) - mail to OHA Awards Coordinator, after January 1st.

2024 GOAL!

Let's make 2024 the year that District 6 has the most awards at the OHA Convention in Guelph!

Make sure to get your applications in early and send Susan MacMillan a copy to be eligible for a fabulous prize from the District.

Your members work hard! Make sure you take the time to honour and recognize their contributions.

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OHA Convention Poster

2024 OHA Convention in Guelph

The 2024 convention will be hosted by District 7 & 8 in Guelph at the Delta Hotel at 50 Stone Rd West. Consider getting your youth groups or society members to enter photos in next years competition. This is the time to get out while the weather is still nice!

Photography Competition Categories:

- **Class 1: Rivers Flow** - Your Interpretation
- **Class 2: Gardens Grow** - Love my Veggies
- **Class 3: Shapes in Nature** - Black & White
- **Class 4: Tears of Joy** - Featuring Dew or Raindrops
- **Class 5: The Heartland** - A Rural Landscape
- **Class 6: What you Sow** - Reaping the Harvest
- **Class 7: Frosty Morning** - Your Interpretation
- **Class 8: He Shed She Shed** - A Garden Shed

Arts Competition Categories:

- **Class 1:** Blooming Along the Waters
- **Class 2:** Heartland Full of Gardens
- **Class 3:** Waterfalls and Rippling Currents
- **Class 4:** River's Edge
- **Class 5:** Bridge over Water

Publications Competition Categories:

- **Class 1:** Yearbook Cover
- **Class 2:** Yearbook
- **Class 3:** Special Event Poster
- **Class 4:** Society Brochure or Pamphlet
- **Class 5:** Newsletter
- **Class 6:** Book Mark
- **Class 7:** Show Schedule from Current Year



Delta Hotel Convention Deals:

The OHA 2024 Convention will be held at the Delta Hotels Conference Centre in Guelph

Book your hotel room at a special rate now!



Delta Hotels Conference Centre, Guelph Ontario

<https://www.mariott.com> (website)

[50 Stone Road West, Guelph, ON, N1G 0A9](https://www.mariott.com)

1-844-496-8549