



April
2023

GEORGETOWN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Hello April!

Well, as I write this, the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and there are little patches of spring buds emerging. Hasn't this week been such a gift of good weather?

I received one of those mass emailings from Sheridan Nurseries this week in my inbox. Perhaps you did too. As the weather has been so nice this week, I was eager to open it, especially as the title was 'Winters Over-Why Aren't My Plants Growing?' Sigh! We are all eager to get into our gardens, but the best smile for me as I navigated this email was the line, "You can't rush nature!" So true. (I will not mention the cooler forecast for next week) The article, as it continues, states that mid April is still a little early and that we must be patient as some plants just require a little more time.

Sheridan Nurseries has been a good supporter of the GHS over the years. I am happy to say that they will be supporting us again this year at the plant sale, so is it time to check your garden? Maybe you will have a plant or two as a donation to our Annual Plant Sale on Friday, May 12. Let us know.

Let's keep in touch.

-Carol Mathison

Meeting- April 19 7:30 PM
Norval United Church - 14015 Danby Rd.

Claudette Sims

"Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation"

Claudette joined Master Gardeners of Ontario in 2004 and served on the Board of Directors as President for six years. She was a regular panelist and lead on the weekly CBC radio online garden chat for many years and has subbed in for Ed Lawrence on the radio, a thrilling but scary experience. Claudette is currently the admin for the very successful Master Gardeners of Ontario FB group which has exceeded 36K members. Claudette is working with friend and Master Gardener Cathy Kavassalis to further the work of the Canadian Coalition for Invasive Plant Regulation. Her most recent garden passion is planting larval host plants for butterflies and specific native plants for specialist bees.



Cherry Blossom Time!

Every year at this time people flock to High Park in Toronto and other places to see the Japanese Cherry Blossoms or Sakura in full bloom. Why not plant your own tree and enjoy the blossoms in your own backyard!

Japanese Blossom trees need full sun and well-drained soil. They are not tolerant of extremely cold winters, so choose a location that will protect the tree from the elements. They grow 15 to 30 feet high, so plant them 10 to 20 feet from other plants, trees or shrubs. They grow 1 to 2 feet per year.

Only water the tree during prolonged dry periods of the summer. They do not like soggy soil. Fertilize once per year in the spring.

They do not bear fruit.

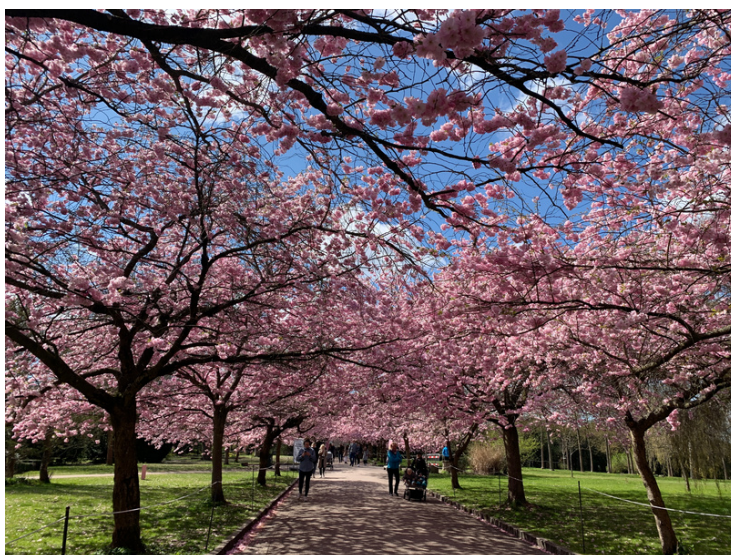
The tree is most vulnerable to sudden temperature drops if its blooms are fully open. If it is small enough, you can cover it with plastic or sheet.

Some of the varieties found at High Park are Someiyoshino *Prunus Yedoensis* matsum, *Prunus x yedoensis* 'Akebono' and Kwanzan 'Fugenzo' *Prunus serrulata*.

If you would like to see blossoms this year, it is predicted they will start blooming around April 20-28. Depending on weather, they can last from a few days to a couple of weeks.

Check out the following places:

- High Park in Toronto
- Centre Island Park in Toronto
- Spencer Smith Park in Burlington
- Royal Botanical Garden in Burlington
- Gairloch Gardens in Oakville
- Gage Park in Hamilton
- Kariya Park in Mississauga (near Square One)
- Joyce Archdekin Park in Brampton



PLANT SALE 2023 TIME TO DIG!!!

It's finally that time of year! Dig in, get dirty and help provide plants for our Annual Plant Sale on Friday May 12th, 2023, 6pm to 8pm at the Gellert Community Centre.

If you need help digging up your garden please let Karri know by **April 20th** . She will arrange a time with you and send in a team to come to your rescue.

Please contact **Karri** at fyi_411@hotmail.com (underscore between lower case i and 4)

SOIL will be delivered sometime within the next week. An announcement will go out to everyone once it arrives.

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR:

- DONATIONS for Silent Auction - please consider your business and family connections or any new unused items you may have
- CANVASSERS for Silent Auction are still needed for two areas in Georgetown - Contact Cheryl to get more details
- TABULATORS for the checkout to add together the pre-priced plants for each customer before directing them on to the cashiers.

OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE PLANT SALE

We have been offered a table to promote our Plant Sale at the **ECO-FEST FILM NIGHT** at the LIBRARY on **April 26th**. Please let us know if you are interested.

Mary Megelink - mary.megelink@sympatico.ca

Cheryl Strachan - healthyessentials@sympatico.ca



On Friday, April 21, 2023, local schools and businesses are asked to go outside and clean up around their property for 22 minutes.

This year a few of the GHS members will be meeting at the entrance to the Greenwood Cemetery, 100 King Street in Georgetown, at 1 PM. Please join us if you can for 22 minutes... bags and gloves supplied! Gloves for clean-up events are sponsored by Superior Glove (Acton location).

EARTH DAY

April 21, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Via WebEx

SPEAKER'S TOPICS

MICHAEL MCTAVISH - JUMPING WORMS

"Jumping worms" are a new group of non-native earthworms that have recently been found in Canada and pose an ecological threat to both gardens and natural habitats.



Learn more about jumping worms, their impacts, how to identify them, and what to do if you see them.

CATHERINE MCGILL - KITCHEN GARDENS

The how, what and why we have kitchen gardens, tips to help you grow your own food and what to do with your bounty.



- The WebEx link has been shared to Societies/Clubs and on our GardenOntario Facebook page.
- This event will be first-come, first-serve and opened up to the first 1000 individuals logged on to the WebEx Account.
- The WebEx Account will be live starting at 6:40 p.m.
- *All cameras and microphones must be turned off to ensure viewing pleasure by all.*

Join from the meeting link

<https://gardenontario.webex.com/gardenontario/j.php?MTID=mca6400374dcb7f1723a8497f71e67a61>

Tickets Still Available



Oakville Horticultural Society

OHA District 6 AGM and Flower Show

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Doors open at 8 am for flower show entries

Business meeting: 9:15 am

Presents

“We Lived the Garden Life!”



Sir John Colborne Centre
Southeast Corner of Lakeshore Blvd. and Third Line
1565 Old Lakeshore Rd., Oakville L6K 1S8

Speaker - Catherine Kavassalis

“The serious impact of invasive plants in gardens and flower shows”

Tickets - \$20 and prepaid - space is limited so purchase early

Cheques made to “Ontario Horticultural Association District 6” and mailed to:

Bob Heil at 56 Glen Cannon Dr., Stoney Creek L8G 4E1

Etransfer to ohadistrict6treasurer@gmail.com stating name, society and email address .

Let me preface this book review (new book from our local library) that I am one of the people who use the term invasive as something that has very negative effects on our land, plants, birds, and water but I found the book quite interesting and learned some things from my read.

Where do Camels Belong?
Why Invasive Species Aren't All Bad

By Ken Thompson 2014 Greystone Books Limited and Bound by Friessen

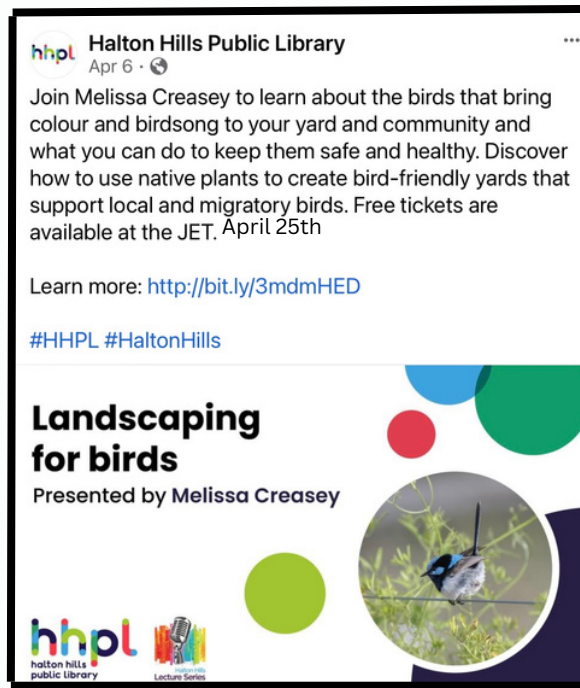
From the first page the author wades right into how we define native species. He makes a compelling case the 'nativeness' is an elusive and immeasurable quantity, we live in a world where it has been elevated to a primary concern, if not the primary concern of conservationists. Consider the camel which first evolved in North America 40 million years ago. Titanotylopus (largest camel to have ever lived) stood 3.5 meters tall and lived in Texas, Nebraska and Arizona for about 10 million years. It migrated to South America and to Asia via the Bering Strait. Camels became extinct in North America about 8,000 years ago. Their Asia descendants are in North Africa and South West Asia and also some in Central Asia. Their South American descendants are closely related to Llamas, alpacas, guanacos and vicunas. The author asks where do Camels belong?

He deals with the harms from non-native invaders and well as the benefits and give much for his audience to think about. For instance on Guam, naïve bird populations plummeted with some species going extinct. The introduction of the brown tree snake into a virtually snake free environment spelled danger to the birds. The small gregarious White Eyes roost together on a branch sitting shoulder to shoulder so that the snake can eat them one by one without the others taking flight in a kind of ornithological kabob. When the bird populations were reduced the snake turned to rats, lizards and other small mammals. Closer to home he outlines the journey of the Zebra mussels. Their impact on the environment, water pipes, etc makes it a win for one of the invasive bad news stories.

Take our little brown bunny that was native before the glaciers and now its back. Looking at a plant or creatures DNA can tell us where the creatures/plants roots are. The issues with 'nativeness' is that it is fragile. Once it's gone it's gone forever. The impact of human intervention especially on large scales and its timing and the law, policies that drive it will determine the depth of damage. Humans' propensity to move plants, animals and insects around the planet, sometimes deliberately and often accidentally break down all the normal barriers to dispersal. There is no going back.

He deals with multiple examples of attempted eradication of invasives – very often failures. Why does this occur? When only a minority of introduced species thrive they can have enormous and devastating impacts on the native systems. Reading this book should challenge the many assumptions that we have about both natives and non-natives. I found it a compelling read and hope you might find that also.

-Submitted by Susan Quirk, GHS member and Mississauga Master Gardener



Share The Wealth

Starting at our April meeting we will be having a Share The Wealth draw rather than a raffle draw. Tickets are 3 for \$2. Make sure you bring lots of cash. You may be sharing some of the wealth!



Yearbooks

If you will not be at this meeting and have not received your yearbook yet, please contact Christine Williams to arrange a porch pickup.

williamsc1539@gmail.com