

The Watering Can

West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society

February Meeting

Just in time for Chinese New Year, travel with WCGC member **Gay MacQuarrie** on her 2014 trip to China where her photos capture the spirit of the Chinese people's love of nature and all things living. She will describe some of the gardens enjoyed by emperors of past millennia as well as more humble gardens of today.

Mini-Flower Shows

Apart from our regularly scheduled spring and fall flower shows, we are introducing some themed mini-flower shows this year. See page 4 for more details. Start forcing some bulbs now for the March meeting.

Photo competitions

Similarly, we will have members' choice and judged photo shows this year (details below). Get those phones and cameras out and share your pics with your fellow Members. Remember: 4"x6", matte finish format, please.



February Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Carp Memorial Hall, Carp

Design & Garden Delights of China

with WCGC member **Gay MacQuarrie**

Members: Free, Guests: \$5





Forcing Bulbs

"The easiest bulbs to force are paperwhites because they don't require chilling. Forcing – coaxing, actually – is the term used to describe the process that stimulates bulbs to bloom out of season. Among the most commonly forced bulb flowers are amaryllis, paperwhite narcissus, muscari and hyacinths. Certainly they are the easiest. However, other bulbs that can be forced include colchicum and miniature iris. When selecting bulbs for forcing, look for varieties that are specifically recommended.

Add just enough pebbles or glass marbles to hold the bulbs in place. Don't cover them.

Add water to the container. It should reach the base of the bulbs, but not touch the bulbs. Place container in a sunny spot, step back and watch 'em grow! You'll see roots in a day or so, and in three to five weeks you'll have gorgeous flowers.

When the bulbs have finished flowering, add them to the compost pile. Bulbs forced without soil use all their energy for that one bloom, and paperwhites, even when forced in soil, rarely revive in the garden"

Almonte Seedy Saturday

Saturday February 9, 2019 9am to 3pm

Almonte Civitan Hall, 500 Almonte St,
Almonte, ON

Speakers all day, 40+ vendors & not-for-profits, door prizes, and seed swap. Admission is \$2 at the door, kids 5 and under are free. Net proceeds from the door prizes, admission, and seed swap will be donated to the Mississippi Mills Seed Lending Library.

Two upcoming flower shows of note:

♦If you like Ikebana: <http://ikebanaottawa.ca/programs.html>

♦If you like orchids: https://www.ottawaorchidsociety.com/show_info.html

(Article opposite taken from <https://www.hgtv.com/design/outdoor-design/landscaping-and-hardscaping/how-to-force-bulbs-indoors>)

(Pic below:<http://www.plantfoundry.com/category/forcing-bulbs/>



(Keep for future reference)

New for 2019 - PHOTO SHOWS !

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter and above, re-introduced in 2019 is the monthly photo competition. Each month will have a specific theme (see below). Bring your 4" x 6" matt-finish photo to the general meeting.

Photos will be displayed for all to enjoy. March, April, October and November will be People's Choice. May, June and September photos will be judged as per the Ontario Horticultural Association standards as follows:

- horticulture value – 40%,
- photographic value – 40%,
- appearance and impact – 20%

March meeting – People's Choice – "A winter wonderland"

April meeting – People's Choice – "A Spring ephemeral"

May meeting – People's Choice – "A colourful display"

June meeting – "Serenity" – include water or a water feature in your photo

September meeting – Your favourite flower – close-up, one or more blooms

October meeting – Nature's Bounty – your interpretation

November meeting – People's Choice – "Funny Fungi" – a picture of fungus/fungi

Questions may be addressed to our Flower and Photo Show coordinator, **Gay MacQuarrie** at gay_macquarrie@hotmail.com

We will remind you of upcoming competitions in the monthly newsletter.

(Keep for future reference)

Also New for 2019 - WCGC Mini Flower Shows!

Apart from our regularly-scheduled flower and veggie show in May and September, we are scheduling some Mini shows to add interest to our meetings. The first Mini Show will be in March, and you will need to start now by forcing some bulbs in time for blooms in March.

March Mini Show - PEOPLE'S CHOICE – a dish of forced bulbs

April Mini Show - PEOPLE'S CHOICE – Easter Cactus or other flowering potted plant

May Mini Show - PEOPLE'S CHOICE – a dish garden

October Mini Show – PEOPLE'S CHOICE – an indoor potted plant grown for it's foliage

"PEOPLES CHOICE" means that you, our member, will be voting for best in show!

Also,

CHALLENGE PLANT - Seed packets will be distributed at the February meeting for those interested in growing our 2019 "Challenge Plant" – *Celosia cristata* or Cock's Comb. If you take seeds, it is asked that you enter a specimen in the September Flower Show in "Challenge Plant" category. NOTE: only 15 packets of seeds will be distributed to interested growers on a 1st-come, 1st-served basis to those arriving at the meeting.

Questions may be addressed to our Flower and Photo Shows coordinator, **Gay MacQuarrie** at gay_macquarrie@hotmail.com .

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