

The Watering Can

West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society

March Meeting

We are so pleased to be hosting our second virtual general meeting. Once again, **pre-registration is required** as seats are limited. Just send your name and email address to:

Presentation@wgc.ca

An email with instructions on how to join will be sent to you prior to the meeting.

Please don't hesitate to invite friends to the meeting too!

Membership

As our President explained during our last virtual meeting, the Club needs membership dues to fulfill our OHA and OMAFRA obligations. It would be very much appreciated if 2020-21 dues (\$15 single, \$20 family) could be sent to our Treasurer, Sheila Stumpf, by:

- e-transfer at treasurer@wgc.ca
- or by cheque addressed to the West Carleton Garden Club c/o Sheila Stumpf, 202 Charlie's Lane, RR1 Carp, ON. K0A 1L0

Thank you!



Our next Zoom virtual meeting

Tuesday, March 9th, 7:30 p.m.

"Alvars: Ontario's Wild Rock Gardens and their Special Plants"

TRISH MURPHY

Of

Beaux Arbres Native Plants Nursery

Photo above from: <https://beauxarbres.ca>



What is an Alvar?

"An **alvar** is a biological environment based on a limestone plain with thin or no soil and, as a result, sparse grassland vegetation. Often flooded in the spring, and affected by drought in midsummer, alvar support a distinctive group of prairie-like plants. Most alvars occur either in northern Europe or around the Great Lakes in North America. This stressed habitat supports a community of rare plants and animals, including species more commonly found on prairie grasslands. Lichen and mosses are common species. Trees and bushes are absent or severely stunted." (Wiki <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alvar>)

We are fortunate to have one such fragile and special ecosystem just west of Hwy 417, up the March Road on the way to Almonte - the Burnt Lands Alvar.

Alvar photo above courtesy of <http://www.lanarkflora.com/areas.html>

Seed house

Member Gay MacQuarrie has a suggestion for us to take a look at an organic seed house in the Kingston area called **Kitchen Table Seed House**. Located on Wolfe Island, just a ferry ride from downtown Kingston, their crops are grown over three acres in two separate fields. This allows crop rotation to minimize pest and disease pressure as well as provide isolation to maintain seed purity. Their sites are managed and crops are grown organically and certified by Eco Cert. They offer organic flower, vegetable and herb seeds. Kitchen Table Seed House, (613) 385-8569, can be found at the following link: <https://kitchentableseedhouse.ca>

What's On?

The 'Zoomsphere' has never been so active. We are living in a special era when we can attend as many gardening-related events throughout the city and beyond as we like and have time to. A good place to find notice of these opportunities is in The Gardening Calendar - <https://gardeningcalendar.ca>. Many events are free, some require an entrance fee, and sometimes the taped presentations are posted on YouTube or on websites for those who cannot attend. Facebook pages for the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton and of Ontario are also good resources, as well as the Facebook and Instagram pages of sister OHA hort. societies and of course, our own. Please like our FB page, and don't hesitate to share our postings. Here's an example of one of a recent Facebook posting we shared on our page.


West Carleton Garden Club and Horticultural Society

February 14 at 7:54 AM · 🌐



FEBRUARY 27, 2021 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Virtual Seedy Saturday

SAT, FEB 27 AT 10 AM EST
Virtual Seedy Saturday Toronto
 Gardening · 994 people

Let's not forget about our ongoing Photography Competition...

2021 PHOTO COMPETITION

Again, for 2021, photo entries will be submitted digitally. You can enter up to three photos each month. Photos must have been taken in Ontario in the last 24 months. Photos will be judged in November by an accredited Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) judge. The merit of each photo will be based on the OHA standards as follows:

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

Please send your digital pictures to gardens.gay@outlook.com **with the month and your name in the subject line of the digital entry**. The entries and winners will be revealed at the December meeting.

POINTER – Just as you would use elements and principals of design for flower arranging consider these for creating your “work of art” photograph. In other words, the working components of the picture employed by the photographer are combined and organized to form a complete artistic unit. When creating your picture, consider the . . .

Elements of design: Space, line, form, colour, texture, and pattern.

Principles of design: Balance, contrast, proportion, rhythm, dominance, and scale.

NOTE – This year's categories have been taken from the District and OHA 2021 photo competitions so don't forget to participate at those levels as well.

District 2 deadline for digital entries is March 31st

OHA Convention deadline for hard copy entries, postmarked no later than May 1st (there is prize \$\$!)

March – “Shapes in Nature” – a black and white photo (OHA)

April – “He Shed She Shed” – a garden shed (OHA)

May – “Spring Blossoms” – a close-up of tree blossoms; a single blossom or cluster (District 2)

June – “Tears of Joy” – featuring dew or rain drops (OHA)

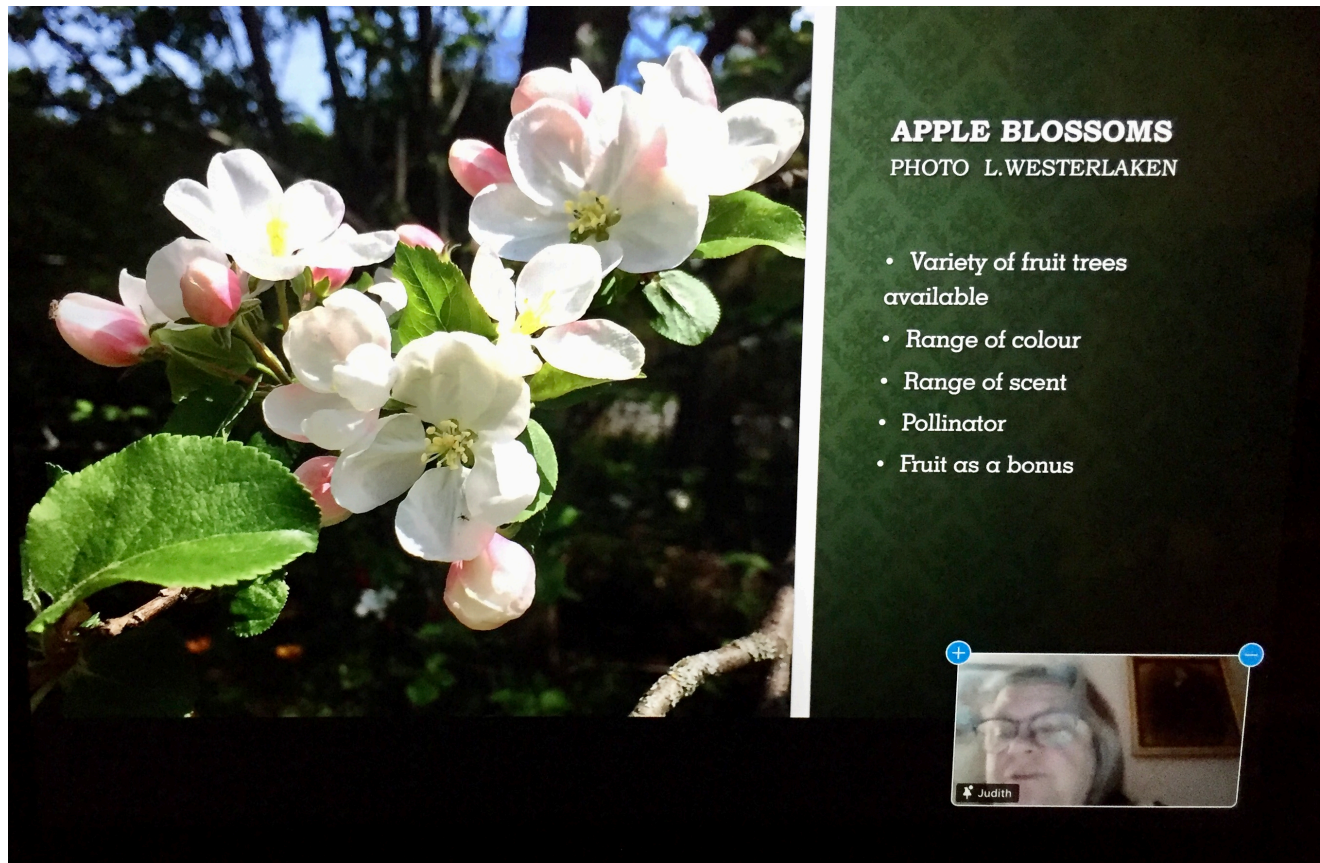
July – “In Your Backyard” – a photo of your favourite perennial. Please identify variety (District 2)

August – “The Heartland” – a rural landscape (OHA)

September – “Garden Art” – a photo of art in the garden (District 2)

October – “Fall Colours” – a single leaf or branch (District 2)

And, to give us all a taste of spring, here is a photo of one of the slides in Judith Cox's delightful presentation to us on Zoom a few weeks ago!



Judith writes a regular column entitled Veggie Bites, it can be found here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/sghortsoc/veggie-bites>