

The Watering Can

West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society

Spring !

It is refreshing to see the snow recede. Early spring is not without its challenges and surprise throwbacks, but the days are longer and the birds are returning, signs of hope of more clement weather ahead.

OHA District 2

A number of us are planning to go to the upcoming D2 Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday, May 3rd at the Stewart Community Centre in Pakenham. Cost is \$25 including snacks and lunch. It is hosted by Pakenham Hort. which is celebrating its 100th anniversary! More information on p.3 below. Care to join us?

Flower Shows

We will have two flower shows in 2025 - at the June and September meetings. All information is available on our website here:

https://www.wcgc.ca/documents/WCGC_FlowerShows_2025_Rules&Schedules.pdf

See p. 4 for showing tips from Gay MacQuarrie.



WCGC April Meeting

Tuesday, April 8th, 2025

Carp Memorial Hall

Doors open at 7:00 pm

Meeting starts at 7:30 pm

Members: Free, Guests:\$5

In her presentation on **Backyard Foraging**, naturalist **Tauney Stinson** shares her knowledge about common wild edibles, including many that likely grow in your yard or garden. She uses her humour and years of experience to delve into some of the ethical ramifications of foraging for wild food and suggests ways that foragers and gardeners can be stewards of the land, and gives important safety and sustainability tips for newbies and advanced foragers alike. Tauney's website: <https://foragerbee.square.site>

*Pics above courtesy of Tauney Stinson

Seedy Saturday

Thanks to you, wonderful volunteer Members, our third annual Seedy Saturday was a great success. While numbers were slightly down from past years, the crowd was very enthusiastic and the vendors were pleased with their sales. **West Carleton Online** published an article about the event after having spoken to Brenda Baird. "The most popular attraction was the Kids Corner. This is totally taken care of by our WCGC members. Children of all ages, even adults this year enjoyed filling their pots with soil; choosing three different flower seeds to plant; learning what to do at home to care for them; and hopefully be able to plant them outside in their gardens when the time comes. One little three-year-old girl was so excited to do this again this year. Last year, she attended when she was two, planted a Mexican Sunflower and it grew. They planted it outside in their garden and she loved telling everyone who came to visit that that was her flower." Thank you so much for having participated. Also, it's always so rewarding to collaborate with our sister horticulture societies and the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton.

Last Meeting

Our March meeting was well attended. Introduced was **Natalie Tovell** of Farmview Gardens, Kinburn who gave us a step by step demonstration and talk about how she sows, cares for and plants out their annual and perennial flowers which eventually become part of their bouquets offered at their roadside stand, or by seasonal subscription. Very informative and interactive, lots of questions and discussion. (*Pics above courtesy of Dan Stumpf)

Next Meetings

May 13, 2025

"Gardening with Climate Change in Mind (plus How to Garden in the New, Wild Weather we Experience)" with Bri Petersen of Urban Gardening Canada

June 10, 2025

Summer Social & Flower Show



OHA District 2 AGM Info

If you are interested in joining a group of us attending this meeting in May, please contact **Brenda Baird as soon as possible** at president@wcgc.ca and she will fill you with more information about the day. As our club has to register before the date mentioned below, please get your name and the \$25 registration fee to treasurer@wcgc.ca **at or before our April 8th meeting.**



District 2 Gardeners Group

 Invitation Letter in the Mail  - All Welcome to Pakenham on Sat May 3 for OHA District2 Annual Meeting. Please register through your society by Apr 12 2025



OHA District 2 Annual Meeting Agenda

Theme: Sustainable Gardening
Date: Saturday, May 3, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Hosted by: Pakenham Horticultural Society
Venue: Stewart Community Centre, 112 MacFarlane Street, Pakenham, ON

8:00 – 8:30 am Exhibitors and Vendors Marketplace Set Up 9:00 am 9:30 – 9:45 am 9:45 – 10:30 am 10:30 – 10:45 am Refreshment and Health Break 10:45 – 11:30 am 11:00-11:30 am 11:30 am – 12:15 pm 12:15 – 1:45 pm	• Delegate and Visitor Registration Opens • Light Continental Breakfast Buffet • Vendors Marketplace Opens • Land Acknowledgement and Welcoming Remarks – Bridie Johnson, President, Pakenham Horticultural Society • Introduction of Special Guests and Keynote Speakers – Susan Ramsay, OHA North/East Representative • Agenda Overview and Logistical Information – Bridie Johnson • Singing of the National Anthem – All Keynote Speaker #1 • Nadine Snowling, Volunteer Ottawa: Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers as Part of a Community Development Initiative D2 Photo Competition Results (digital presentation) – Ruth Anderson • D2 In Memoriam – Gay MacQuarrie (Slide Show) • Announcements – D2 AM Co-Chairs Bridie Johnson and Lori Ray • Buffet lunch • Vendors Marketplace Opens D2 Annual Meeting • Call to Order – Susan Ramsay • Roll Call – Ruth Anderson • Approval of AM Agenda – Ruth Anderson • Approval of Minutes of 2024 D2 AM – Anne Harbord • Business Arising from Minutes – Anne Harbord • Director's Report – Anne Harbord • Treasurer's Report – Darlene Bourne, D2 Treasurer • Motion to approve – Darlene Bourne • Appointment of Financial Reviewers – Darlene Bourne • New Business – Anne Harbord - o TBD • Resolutions • Nomination Committee Report – Anne Harbord
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- Election of Officers – Vicki Cubert, OHA Vice President
- Installation of District 2 Board – Vicki Cubert
- Invitation to 2025 OHA Annual Meeting – Vicki Cubert
- Call to Close the Annual Meeting (business portion) – Ruth Anderson

1:45 – 2:30 pm **Keynote Speaker #2:**
 Alberto Suarez Esteban, Nature's Apprentice Farm, Modern Sustainable Gardening Practices

- Refreshment and Health Break
- Vendor's Marketplace Open

2:45 – 2:50 pm

- OHA 100th Anniversary Award – Vicki Cubert
- D2 District Awards – Ruth Anderson

2:50 – 3:05 pm **Raffle Draws** – Sheryl Smith

3:05 – 3:15 pm **Closing remarks and Adjournment** – Bridie Johnson

NOTE - All Societies are asked to submit the names, years of service and photo of any members who passed away between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025. Please submit information to the 'In Memoriam' Chair, Gay MacQuarrie at gausens.ans@outlook.com by email before April 5.

* Image from Dist. 2 Garden Group Facebook page.

GARDENING TIPS , from Kate

This Spring, I would like to introduce you to a gift from the sun: **Soil Solarization**.

Sun Solarization is a soil management method that uses the sun to eliminate noxious elements from soil. It will destroy pest eggs, larva and adult bugs that have over wintered in the soil. And it destroys harmful bacteria, fungi and any viable weed plants and seeds that may be in the soil. It cleans soil for our home use and soil used in gifting plants to friends or to local plant sales.

It is a safe, effortless, chemical free method of sanitizing soil-borne pathogens from our gardens. Using the radiant energy from the sun, it raises the temperature of the soil, creating an environment that destroys many soil organisms and unwanted weed seeds and seedlings.

The process puts purchased bags (plastic sealed) of soil in an area of full sun, for 3 days. Turning the bags over after 2 days. Or bagging (plastic) soil from your garden that you intend to use for transplanting and processing it.

With this practice, you can have confidence that you are only gifting a plant. Happy Gardening!

TIPS FOR SHOWING, from Gay MacQuarrie

Cutting Your Specimen – If the Show Schedule asks for three blooms, pick blooms that match in size and colour as much as possible (the Judge will take into consideration the growing season, etc., that may have affected plants). The cut stem length should be as it grows in the garden but, no longer than the Show Schedule stipulates or if there is a possibility that the specimen is unstable in the container. One exception to this rule of thumb is, when cutting **Asiatic Lilies** -- cut one 1/3 of the stem and leave 2/3 thirds behind to ensure the health of the flower's bulb for the next growing season.

Showing Your Specimen – Pick a stable, clear glass container. It can even be a pickle jar. Jars come in all shapes and sizes—using a narrow-mouthed jar helps your stem stand “proudly” to its best advantage and you are recycling!

Grooming Your Specimen - It's o.k. to remove yellow leaves from your specimen if it does not affect the overall display of the specimen(s) or, if a leaf has browned edges, trim the leaf with scissors maintaining the leaf's shape. Likely, the judge won't know you trimmed the leaf!

Judging - If the judge writes “N.A.S” on your entry tag, it means “Not According to Schedule”. For example, you may not have shown the correct number of specimens specified in the Show Schedule. Pay close attention to what is being asked for in the Schedule.

Happy Showing!