

GROWING TOGETHER



Cobourg Horticultural Society Newsletter

Autumn Edition 2020

MARTHA'S MEMO:



I am delighted to finally put together this long overdue newsletter, after our garden club endured a 6 month hiatus. Unlike other years, it was a challenge for me to find content for the Spring newsletter because of so many cancellations — plant sales, garden tours and other community activities that in normal years would have my day calendar bursting at the seams, all cancelled or postponed.

However, you'll note this edition is the result of contributions of many of you; the members of our club. Some content dates back to email suggestions I received from you over the Winter, but is still relevant even now. It has reminded me that at-home gardening was among the only things that wasn't cancelled due to COVID-19, and brought refuge for myself and neighbours.

With a little extra time on my hands this past Spring and Summer, I found more time to enjoy the little treasures that our garden and wider back yard seem to provide every year, but that I was often too busy to notice because of pre-COVID distractions. For example: the daylily that bloomed in literally a day; the bird's nest that births new life; the interesting and sizable spider that made a home in a tree; or the smell of the roses after a rainfall. Not a weed was left

untouched, and we trimmed our hedge at least twice. My husband and I harvested more tomatoes than two people could ever eat, and we enjoyed a nightly serenade by song birds while dining on the outside deck.

In the media, all of a sudden gardening was cool! Garden centres, despite a delayed opening, were the most popular place to be in June and July. I likely could have solicited volunteers armed with the luxury of time, and seeking refuge outdoors, to tend to just about anything in my yard, so long as it was garden related.

Being outside provided more time to visit with neighbours from a distance over the fence post to share plants, tips on warding off pests, and even tool lending. I could set my watch to those common faces who would frequently walk or cycle by; the dog walkers too.

It's no secret that gardening is good for mental health, and builds stronger communities, but it's tremendous how much this year, especially it helped me and helped others to feel a little more normal, when nothing else did. So as we embrace the Fall season, I encourage you to find ways to use your garden to brighten someone's day. Here are a few examples:



Cobourg
Horticultural
Society

How can a gardener brighten someone's day?

- Donate some of your garden fresh produce to a local foodbank
- Bake or cook a meal inspired by the fruits of your garden and deliver to a friend or neighbour.
- Cut a small posy or stems from your garden. Then set them in water, and place out on a table at the end of your driveway with a sign welcoming others to take one.
- Snap pictures of your garden, to print as photos for the front of a greeting card and mail a special message to a love one.
- Volunteer to water or weed, or collect trash at a community garden.



Chinese Lanterns

Chinese lantern plants are hardy perennials that offer some colorful fall interest and can be grown equally well in the ground and in containers. Their signature “lanterns” are seed pods that start out green and mature to a bright pumpkin-orange at the end of the growing season in early Fall. They make for a lovely cutting as an indoor floral arrangement. Chinese lantern is not difficult to grow. In fact, it can grow aggressively and spread quickly via underground rhizomes and by reseeding via the pods. For this reason, it is considered invasive in some areas. Chinese lanterns are best planted in the Spring after the danger of frost has passed with a barrier in the ground to protect it from spreading too much.

Botanical	<i>Physalis alkekengi, Physalis franchetii</i>
Common	Chinese lantern plant, winter cherry, ground cherry
Plant Type	Herbaceous perennial
Mature Size	2 feet tall and wide
Sun	Full sun
Exposure	
Soil Type	Average, medium moisture, drained
Soil pH	Neutral
Bloom Time	Midsummer
Flower	White
Color	
Hardiness	Zones 3 to 9
Native areas	Eurasia

Source: The Spruce.com



In The Garden

Hosted by Ingrid Schumacher, was on the road this summer visiting gardens around Northumberland!

Listen to past episodes online by clicking [here](#)

A special "shout-out" to Dora Body, a CHS Member who was interviewed on August 26 about the Cobourg Ecology Garden!

Don't Forget to Fall Back!

Daylight Savings Time



Sunday November 1, 2020

Change clocks back 1 hour, and check batteries in Smoke Alarms & CO detectors!

Our Horticultural Society's Annual Fundraising Plant Sale - 2020

Written by **Yvonne Michalski**

"Never doubt that a small, committed, thoughtful group of citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Attributed to Margaret Mead (who among other talents, I am sure was a gardener!)

On a lovely warm and sunny morning this past May, Clive and Yvonne and several other intrepid members of the Cobourg Horticultural Society, set up their driveways for their contribution to the Cobourg Horticultural Society's annual plant sale. Ann and Greg Hancock led the charge a week earlier (May 9) and the rest of us joined in later, most on Saturday May 17th. This year we decided to host our fundraiser *en plein air*, so to speak, out in the safe fresh air.

At our place, as in all the other driveways, there were lots of last minute preparations. At Yvonne and Clive's, lists of names, prices and descriptions of almost 100 plants dragged out of our back forty were taped to fences and a garage door. Tables were roughed out and platforms set up by "the man". Patient but eager neighbours waited politely until the appointed time and the party was on. Masked and distanced, the contents of our garden along with many donations, left for new homes in the community.

How nice to meet our many neighbours again, as well as a few new friends after being stuck inside for so long, due to COVID and a spring that seemingly took forever to arrive. Even Mayor Henderson dropped by with his dog. Where Saturday was frenetic for the morning, Sunday was slower but steady. Everything from tomatoes and herbs to shrubs, annual and perennial plants and small trees. Even some cool indoor plants, all gratefully received and passed along to eager customers. Some unusual items made an appearance like a box of fiery red Canna lilies, Dahlia and a delightful variety of Catmint, *Cat's Pajamas*, a *nepeta* hybrid, not usually found in garden centres. (photo). It is now found in author's flowerbed, still pumping it out after 2 dead headings. And no, cats are not interested in catmint.

In the end, we'd managed to bring in **over \$2,000** and made much of our community happy in a way only a garden can. Our heartfelt thanks to these people and others who donated pots, my apologies to those I have inadvertently overlooked:

Anne and Greg Hancock
 Marion Castleton, our fearless treasurer at large, with a big truck!
 Diane Taylor
 Valerie and Elaine Cowling
 Gord and Patricia Gilchrist

Many kind folk dropped off donations and I never got to thank them. Brian Garrison, thank you again for your generosity and for shoehorning us in for a few hours. Martha, as usual, you make yourself indispensable. Clive, my helpmate, you too! Great fun, but perhaps a onetime adventure ☺

Below: Yvonne in her garden



Catmint purchased from the sale



F.E Köhler's Botanical Drawings of Medicinal Plants

– Submitted by Sharon Thompson –



Köhler's Medicinal Plants (or, **Köhler's Medizinal-Pflanzen**) is a German herbal book written principally by Hermann Adolph Köhler (1834 - 1879, physician and chemist), and edited after his death by Gustav Pabst. The work was first published in the late 19th century by Franz Eugen Köhler of Gera. Its complete title is *Köhler's Medizinal-Pflanzen in naturgetreuen Abbildungen mit kurz erläuterndem* (Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/>)

While you can buy downloadable compilations on Etsy and other sites, all of the illustrations as well as the text are available to download free elsewhere because all three of the illustrator's volumes are now in the public domain. The **Missouri Botanical Garden** has a rare book site where it can be found for to view <http://www.illustratedgarden.org/mobot/rarebooks/title.asp?relation=QK99A1K6318831914B1>

Follow the navigation tabs immediately above the book description to get to each volume, the text, or the illustrations. The main download tab in red beside the MBG name at the top of the screen provides information for both windows and Mac users on how to download and save in different sizes.

And, for the eager beavers, you can browse the library's entire botanical collection by either title or author! One could get lost for the entire day in that site! - Sharon

The **Harvest Moon** is the full Moon nearest the start of Fall or the Autumnal equinox. This usually means it's the September full Moon though it can also fall in early October, coming anywhere from two weeks before to two weeks after the equinox.

So what makes the Harvest Moon different? There are just slightly over 12 complete Moon cycles every year, on average (there being about 29.53 days in a synodic month). The Harvest Moon isn't like the other Moons. Usually, throughout the year, the Moon rises an average of about 50 minutes later each day. But near the autumnal equinox, the difference is only 30 minutes. Also, the Full Harvest Moon rises at sunset and then will rise near sunset for several nights in a row because the daily difference is at a yearly minimum. It may almost seem as if there are full Moons multiple nights in a row! The abundance of bright moonlight early in the evening was a traditional aide to harvest crews, hence the "Harvest" Moon.



Source:
The Old Farmer's Almanac

This year's harvest moon occurred on **October 1**

A Little Tale of Hope During a COVID Spring...



Submitted by Jennifer Darrell

The above photograph of the snowdrops is evidence of a miracle, really, since the entire front garden of a friend's house was dug up last fall to fix a leaky basement. All of the soil was removed, creating a 6 or 7-foot trench around the wall of the house. The dirt that had been removed was then dumped back in the trench to re-fill it. The result was a big, uneven pile of mud. Now, after a long winter, those snowdrops you see in the photo pushed up through the disturbed ground in the exact same spot as they always do, year-after-year. How?

Perhaps it's a reminder that little gifts of hope do really happen all around us.
Stay safe, stay well, stay home...

A Visit from the Hummingbird Moth

Written by Yvonne Michalski



Last August while in the garden, I was surprised by a buzzing noise and a tiny hummingbird like insect flitting around on one of my butterfly bushes. It so resembled a hummingbird in its demeanour and energy, except that it was very much smaller and a moth, not a bird. These moths and hummingbirds seem to frequent similar flowers as well. Who knew? The last time I was charmed by one of these lovely clearwing moths was when I was a girl out fishing. So, I guess that they are rather rare in some areas although not threatened. Someone had a cellphone handy and was able to shoot a short video. These exquisite creatures start their lives humbly, as a large, green tomato hornworm. There's evidence of another caterpillar on my potted Tumbling Tom tomato plant — droppings and munch marks. I anticipate another generation of hummingbird moths. The hornworms can be controlled several ways, by Mother Nature and by gardeners, but know that these lovely moths start out their lives this way. You cannot have one without the other, the ugly duckling of the insect world.

A photo of the Yvonne's visitor:



How to Make a Succulent Tree



Bring the beauty of succulents to your holiday table with a miniature Christmas tree filled with the pastel plants. This centerpiece will be the center of conversation around your table.

It's an ambitious project, but the skills are simple: shaping chicken wire into a cone, filling it with dampened sphagnum moss and placing it in your favorite planter. Assemble a collection of succulents in various sizes, shapes and colors, and carefully place them in the topiary. Use floral pins to secure the plants in place.

Here are some pointers for success with the succulent Christmas tree project:

- ✓ This project used approximately 100 succulents of various sizes. The finished tree is about 14 inches high and 7 inches in diameter.
- ✓ Select four to five different succulent varieties to add texture to the finished centerpiece.
- ✓ Look in your succulent collection for the "babies" that sprout from the mama plant.
- ✓ These smaller succulents are an ideal filler for this project.

Tip: Growers are continually sourcing new varieties and colors of popular succulents. Look for the latest succulents in red and deep purple. When you add another color, you add dimension and contrast to your tree design.

Source: Home Depot.com

Our Virtual
October Meeting:
"Growing Hydrangeas in
Your Garden"

Presented by Karen Durnin and Gini Sage,
Durham Master Gardeners

October 7 at 7:30pm



A Hydrangea Tip Sheet is available from
Durham Master Gardeners Website [HERE](#)

Keep watch in your email for a list of future
virtual meetings!

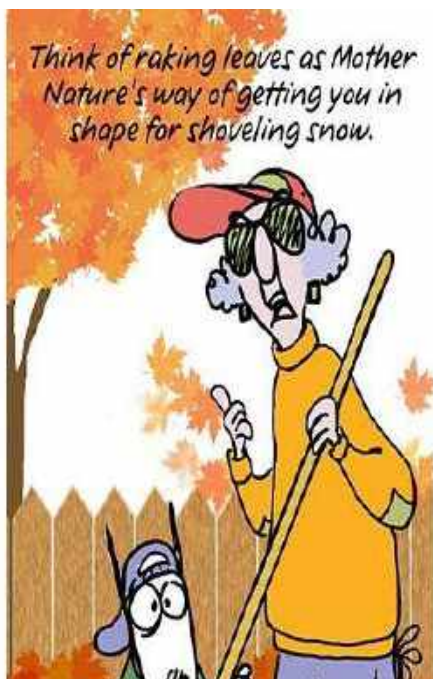
We're Thinking of Teresa..



For those of you who may be loyal customers of **Pineridge Nurseries** on Hwy 2 west in Cobourg, we were saddened to recently learn that owner **Teresa Tukendorf** is in hospital battling cancer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her and her family at this difficult time. Teresa and her late husband Henry have run the iconic Cobourg greenhouse for over 47 years where they poured their heart and soul into the beautiful flowers and plants they grew, while raising their two sons, Daniel and Derek.

It is anticipated that this may be the last year for Pineridge Nurseries, and with supply of Christmas greenery at a short supply due to impact of a COVID summer, Derek anticipates he will have to close the greenhouse early this year (likely by the end of October). Currently Pineridge has a large assortment of Fall annuals and perennials, pumpkins and gourds, platters and pots, indoor plants and fertilizers, spring flowering bulbs, paper whites and amaryllis bulbs ready to plant. We encourage you to support the business before its closing this year.

A gardener's giggle... :)



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