

GROWING TOGETHER



Cobourg Horticultural Society Newsletter

Autumn Edition 2017

KEEPING THE MOMENTUM OF CREATIVITY GOING WELL INTO FALL...



- Written by Martha Baldwin



Is it just me, or does the momentum for creative gardening need a bit of a boost this time of year? The shorter daylight in the evenings and cooler mornings pose a challenge for feeling inspired, especially when summer annuals are no longer looking their best. It doesn't help that some garden centres close up shop for the season long before the end of September and that the big box stores seem limited to the same old array of fall chrysanthemums that constantly need water. But cheer up! With a click of a mouse and a bit of extra thought, you can easily locate an array of ideas to regain that same creative feeling we all have in the early days of spring. Here's a few that I'm going to try:

A big trend for fall weddings and home decorating is to incorporate white and orange pumpkins as the base for a planter overflowing with a variety of **succulents**. This is a relatively straightforward craft that even the grandchildren will enjoy and can adorn the front step or your hall table. If succulents don't do it for you, consider **heuchera** (otherwise known as **cora bells**). The variety of colours including "southern comfort" (an orangey hue) or "black taffeta" (a deep purple) or even "electric lime" (the name says it all) – are endless! Next, try repurposing **marigolds**, **calendula** or the dried head of **sunflowers** from your vegetable plot. Or why not forgo flowers all together? I like the look of a tall topiary filled from upside down with an array of miniature gourds and pumpkins. If used as part of a

decorative urn, simple **French ivy** can fill in the base. Don't forget the colour and fragrance that can be blended with the use of vegetables and herbs, including **swiss chard**, **kale**, **rosemary**, **parsley**, **squash**, **ornamental peppers** and even **apples**. We know Fall is a good time to divide perennials, but why not incorporate some of them into your fall decorating, such as **perennial grasses**, **dried hydrangeas** or even **boxwood**. And certainly don't forget **dog wood**, **white birch** and **bitter sweet berries** (or even orange berries from an ash tree). These all add finishing touches to create more than your average planter. Finally, if we're lucky to escape frost for a little while longer, it's certainly a time to be thankful for late bloomers like **dahlias**, **asters** and **flowering sedum**. Well, what a bounty, who knew? Happy Fall!



October Calendar Notes

October 14, 2017 – Baltimore Valley Garden End of Season Centre Plant Auction, Starts at 9am

Take advantage of great deals on most remaining in stock perennials, trees, shrubs, 10% buyer's premium, 5599 County Rd 45 – For more details: (905) 372-2662.

October 26, 2017 - Harvest Stew for United Way

Join Northumberland United Way and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northumberland for our annual Harvest Stew! Stop by for a selection of warm stews, soups, and chili, the perfect treat for a cool, Fall day. Held from **11:30 am – 1 pm** at the Colborne Legion. Tickets available in advance at Northumberland United Way and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northumberland, 62 Swayne Street, Cobourg.

October 28, 2017 – Ontario Horticultural Society, District 4 Fall Seminar, 10am-3:30pm, Dunsford Community Centre, 26 Community Centre Rd, Dunsford in the City of Kawartha Lakes **Theme: Autumn Glow** - Cost \$25 incl. lunch & speakers. Email: district4@gardenontario.org



Cobourg
Horticultural
Society

OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS & SPEAKER SERIES

October 4, 2017

Deborah Poole

Rock Gardens and More

*Awards Presentation

.....

November 1, 2017

Jeff Mason

Amazing Begonias

* Also Our AGM

.....

December 6, 2017

Yvonne Stadke

Christmas Plants and Arranging

* Also our Greenery Exchange

All meetings held at the Cobourg Columbus Centre, Join us for coffee, treats and social time before meetings officially commence at 7:30pm

What are Frost Dates?

A **frost date** is the average date of the first or last light freeze that occurs in spring or fall. Note that local weather and topography may cause considerable variations. The possibility of frost occurring before the given fall dates is 50 percent. According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, 2017 edition, Cobourg Ontario's frost date is October 28. Our total growing season was 155 days.

The classification of freeze temperatures is based on their effect on plants:

- **Light freeze:** 29° to 32°F—tender plants are killed.
- **Moderate freeze:** 25° to 28°F—widely destructive to most vegetation.
- **Severe freeze:** 24°F and colder—heavy damage to most plants.



Fall Tool Care



Before you wrap up the gardening season and head indoors to take a well-deserved rest, make sure that all of your gardening tools are properly cleaned and stored for the winter. As with all relationships, the more attention and effort you put into it, the longer and better the relationship. Don't be caught off guard next spring when you grab your shovel, pruning shears, or garden fork only to find that it's rusted, splintered, and dull!

Fall is the best time to assess the condition of your gardening tools. Some may only need a good cleaning, but others may need some maintenance or repair before being put away for the winter. Of course, it's not always easy to find the time (or energy!) to do everything you "should" do. So here are the things you must do each fall if you want your tools to last:

Clean and Dry Your Tools

This is the easiest thing you can do to keep your tools in good working order – but it's probably the task that most of us don't do on a regular basis. So before you put your gardening tools away for the winter, make sure that they're as clean as you can get them. Why? Because there are elements in soil that can corrode metal and rot wood. For tools that come in contact with soil, remove all the dirt from the blade or tines. A strong jet of water from a hose should do the trick. For clay or caked on dirt, use a stiff-bristled brush and a bit of elbow grease. A toothbrush works well for smaller tools. Wipe down the shaft and handle as well. For cutting tools (such as loppers, pruners, shears, and saws), make sure you remove any sap from the blades. Turpentine works well for this or you can buy a solvent specifically developed for use on cutting tools. Be careful of those sharp blades as you clean them! Finally, dry everything thoroughly. An old towel or cotton cloth is perfect for this.

Remove Any Rust

As you clean your tools, make note of any rust that isn't easily removed – these areas will need special attention. Use steel wool or a wire brush to take off any visible rust. For heavily rusted tools, you may want to try a wire brush attached to a drill bit – it will make quick work of removing rust from a large area, such as a shovel blade. Always be sure to wear safety glasses as bits of wire will often fly off the brush! To prevent rust from returning, coat metal parts with a thin layer of oil. There are many options here, such as WD-40 or a similar aerosol lubricant, motor oil, cooking oil, and linseed oil. I prefer not to use petrochemical-based oils so I use boiled linseed oil, but any of these options would work.

Clean and Protect Wood Parts

Don't let your wooden handles look like the one on the left. Cold winter air can dry out wooden handles and shafts, leading to splinters and even cracks. After cleaning and drying your garden tools, give the wooden parts a light sanding with fine to medium sandpaper to remove any splinters. Then wipe down the surface with boiled linseed oil (apply it with a rag) to prevent the wood from drying out. Use enough oil to thoroughly coat all surfaces. While you're doing this, check for any cracks in wooden handles or shafts. Consider replacing any damaged handles now so your garden tools will be ready in the spring.

Winterize Watering Equipment

Cold weather causes water to freeze and expand. If there's water inside the enclosed part of a hose, watering wand, or sprinkler, it could burst, split, or crack. So before freezing temperatures set in, drain all the water from your watering tools and store them in a dry location out of the sun (sunlight can degrade hoses). Coil your hose (avoid any kinks or folds) and store it neatly. If you hang it on the wall, use a hose storage reel or two large hooks; don't drape it over a single hook as that will cause the hose to kink and possibly crack.

Store All Tools in a Dry Place

After all of your work to clean and protect your gardening tools, proper storage is an absolute must. A shed, garage, basement, etc. will do – just make sure it's dry. And to ensure that no moisture will harm your tools, hang or place tools in a dry place.

Apple and Cheddar Drop Biscuits – Canadian Living, 2015



Ingredients

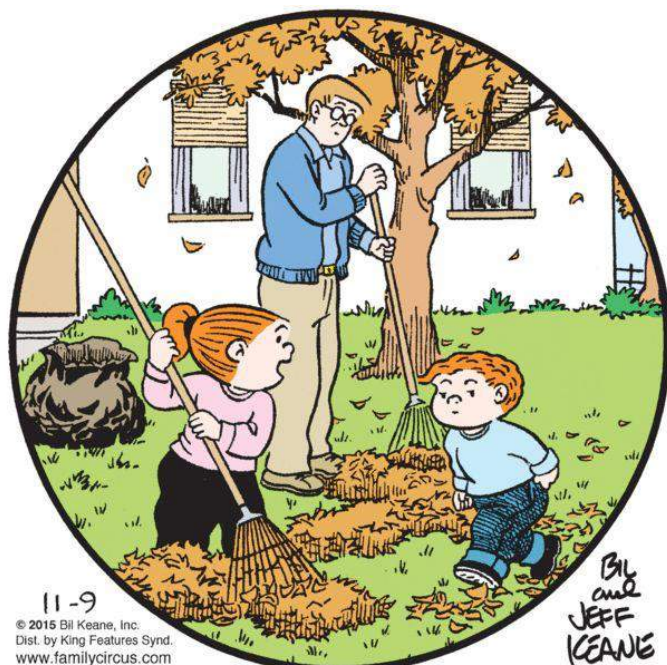
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cold butter cubed
- 1 cup shredded extra-old Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup grated cored peeled Cortland or Spartan apple (try for a local variety for freshness)
- 2 green onions minced
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cups milk



Method

In large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, sugar and salt. Using pastry blender or 2 knives, cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs with a few larger pieces. Stir in Cheddar, apple and green onions. Using fork, stir in milk to form ragged dough. Drop by $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches (4 cm) apart, onto parchment paper-lined rimless baking sheet. Bake in 400°F (220°C) oven until lightly browned, 13 to 15 minutes.

A few fall giggles...



“Help us, Jeffy. We need to move the leaves so the snow has room to fall.”

Design Workshops for the Holidays



Have you ever enjoyed one of the many greenery display and design workshops offered near the Holiday Seasons to create your own wreath, urn insert or fresh seasonal decoration? If not, try something new and consider registering for a course offered at one of the many greenhouses in our area - a great excuse for a mid- November day trip and to spend some time with a friend. Here are few suggestions:

The BRANCH RANCH - Madame Twig's Christmas Workshops

760 Concession Rd 2 West Warkworth - thebranchranch.ca/

Another exciting year of willow and workshops is coming to a close, but before we venture into 2018 we have some fun projects to get you in the mood for the holidays. In this fourth year of workshops we are pleased to present...the ever popular Winter Planters and Centerpieces, Tabletop Xmas Trees woven with colourful branches, willow Angels and Trees, Xmas Ornaments such as Reindeer, mini Trees and Snowmen and our special Peony Crown/Garden Feature. We have one special basketry class too, the Two Day Large Round Basket workshop, it was a huge hit this year so we are bringing it back again in early December. Our classes fill up quickly! For a complete list of workshops, dates, fees and to register, please visit our website at thebranchranch.ca/ or email us at info@madametwig.com

GRIFFINS GREENHOUSE - Fall and Winter Workshops

3026 Lakefield Road, Selwyn (north of Trent University) - (705) 652-8638

Classes start November 12 until Dec 15 2017; Choose from a wide variety of workshops including outdoor pot, wreaths, decorative sleighs, window boxes, table top centrepieces and even a Grinch tree workshop for kids. All materials provided. For the full list of classes and information on how to register at <http://www.griffinsgreenhouses.com/workshops-seminars/>

Cobourg Wins National Communities in Bloom Award

Source: John Draper – Published on cobourginternet.com - 17 September 2017

In 2016, Cobourg won 5 blooms in the Ontario Communities in Bloom competition. This year, Cobourg entered the National competition – other entries in the 15,001 - 50,000 population category were from Amherstburg ON, Dorval QC, Leamington ON, Mission BC and Orangeville ON. Although all entries won 5 blooms with scores of 84 to 86.9%, Cobourg came first with a special mention for Heritage Conservation. In addition, we also received an Outstanding Achievement Award for the Butchart Gardens Land Reclamation Award. Judging took place July 13, 2017 and evaluated Tidiness, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forestry, Landscape and Floral Displays. The announcement was in Ottawa on September 16.

A press release from the Communities in Bloom National Committee says:

Following their evaluation, volunteer judges Lorna McIlroy and Normand Fleury wrote: "The Town of Cobourg has plenty to celebrate with an outstanding harbor, sandy beach, waterfront promenade, brilliant floral displays that include a Floral Clock and majestic tree-lined streets. Local groups focus on the preservation of Cobourg's diverse natural heritage. One such group is the Cobourg Ecology Garden whose members increase awareness and share the need to protect and maintain green space and native species while beautifying the community. However, for Canada's sesquicentennial, Cobourg is particularly celebrating the heritage of its historic buildings and the owners who have authentically restored them with special signage to designate those that have existed for 150 years or more. Cobourg has four heritage districts, representing over 584 properties with 217 more having potential value. Their Heritage Master Plan guides conservation. A choice of self-guided walking tours provides a sampling of local history and heritage styles. Unquestionably, Cobourg, Ontario's 'Feel Good Town', feels good about itself!" The Communities in Bloom effort for 2017 was organized by an Ad Hoc committee chaired by Gina Brouwer with major support by Cobourg's Parks Manager, Teresa Behan. However, the win happened because of contributions from many groups – notably the Town's Parks Department, the Ecology garden volunteers and everyone involved in the preservation and showing of Cobourg's Heritage.

A few photos of award winning gardens of some of our CHS Members!



Yvonne Michalski and Clive Alexander



Martha Oldham

Warning: Orchid Poaching in Five National Marine Park

A note from John Alexander, Member of SOOS (Southern Ontario Orchid Society) Conservation Committee

Earlier this year I was made aware of a poaching incident at Fathom Five National Marine Park. In conjunction with Parks Canada. I am forwarding you the following post for you to share with your members:

To preserve our beautiful native orchids it is important for all of us to actively guard their conservation and to educate the public about their extreme vulnerability and sensitivity, as attempting to move them almost invariably results in their death. By helping to distribute the following post, we can hopefully deter this behaviour from happening in the future.

*Parks Canada is asking for the public's assistance in solving the following crime at Fathom Five National Marine Park: Between 2 June and 10 June, 2017 an unknown individual or individuals removed a culturally significant and locally rare species of Orchid from Flowerpot Island. It is believed the Large Round-Leaved Orchid, *Platanthera orbiculata*, had been specifically targeted for its rarity. This particular flower had been present in the Park for over a decade and was utilized by Parks Canada staff for educational purposes. Anyone with information on this or other violations are asked to contact Parks Canada Dispatch at [1-877-852-3100](tel:1-877-852-3100). The removal of any flora from a National Park is punishable up to \$25,000 for a first offence.*

Photos of the plant in bloom and the leaves:



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