

# GROWING TOGETHER



Cobourg Horticultural Society Newsletter

Winter Edition 2016



## INSPIRE AN INTEREST IN WINTER'S CURIOSITY!

- Martha Baldwin, CHS Member

*Well, January has almost come and gone. With more than a few days of snowfall so far, Winter is now in full swing. The Christmas decorations have been tucked away, the New Year resolutions have been made (or unmade) and hopefully you're looking forward to what awaits us during the rest of Winter. Our newsletter is often different this time of year, a bit shorter and less about what's happening in the garden, and more focused on ideas for reflecting, planning, exploring and what's upcoming in the year ahead. The garden is always a place of curiosity. Lately I've been studying the immense array of Winter berries that are most noticeable*

*after a light dusting of snow. The colour of a deciduous shrub really does dazzle - the red, orange, dark purple and white - stand out and are often attractive to the birds. Aw yes, the birds, also more noticeable; their foot prints in the backyard, or across my deck. The varieties of birds that don't fly south are certainly an interesting breed and must adapt to weather just like the rest of us. I recently spent one snowy afternoon making a suet feeder (for an easy recipe, refer to page 6 of this newsletter) to give the birds something a little extra to enjoy. After hanging it in the lilac trees outside my dining room window, it only took moments before being discovered*

## WINTER MEETINGS & SPEAKER SERIES

Feb 3, 2016

- **Glen McLeod**

"Tree Planting, Tree Growth and Seed Collection"

\* **Renew your 2016 Membership!**

.....

March 2, 2016

- **Ken Brown**

"3+1 Tenors (Irises, Peonies, Daylilies + Lilies)"



*by several woodpeckers, a blue jay and an entire family of chickadees! On mild days when the snow melts quickly, I also start to notice some of the winter perennials such as hellebore, primrose, lungwort's and purple heath already poking through the ground, with a keen sense of what is to come. If you stop and look around your garden I'm sure, you'll see much more than my little list and begin to realize that Winter while a quiet season, is full of curiosity for a gardener too! Happy Winter!*

## Our December 2, 2015 Meeting

### Christmas Decoration Demonstration by Eileen and Blake Holton Holton Flowers, Port Hope

*If the rush of the Christmas season meant that you missed our last meeting for 2015, you also missed the highly entertaining and very talented design creations of the husband and wife duo, Eileen and Blake from Holton Flowers, Port Hope.*

*Our CHS Members were dazzled with three very different, yet simple designs: 1) a vibrant fresh floral bouquet, 2) a traditional candle centerpiece and 3) an outdoor greenery insert with dogwood, pinecone and hand tied ribbon. Participants were able to ask many questions of our guests to learn techniques and tricks and to ensure the perfect presentation and long lasting blooms. The best part of course was the raffle, where three lucky members each won a design to take home to adorn their table! What a great way to celebrate the season!*







**Our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Show!**

**April 8, 9, 10, 2016**

**Hours of Operation:**

Friday 5pm to 9pm,  
Saturday 10am to 6pm,  
Sunday 10am to 4pm

**Location:**

The Evinrude Centre,  
911 Monaghan Rd.  
Peterborough, Ontario

**Great speakers,  
Demonstrations,  
150 vendors, Children's  
Garden, Garden displays  
and Floral Arrangements.**

Admission \$8.00 per day  
or \$12.00 weekend pass  
Advance tickets available.

**For more information, visit  
[peterboroughgardens.ca](http://peterboroughgardens.ca)  
or like us on facebook!**



## Shutter Bug Shots

### Hellebores: A Christmas Day Delight!

A few snapshots of hellebores (helleborus) in full bloom: these great photos were taken separately in two different gardens on Christmas Day – what a neat surprise!

Photos Courtesy of: Heather MacKinnon and Martha Baldwin







NORTHUMBERLAND MASTER GARDENERS PRESENTS

## Spring INTO THE Garden Lecture Series

This spring, join green thumb enthusiasts on four Monday evenings for Garden Lectures from four very accomplished Garden Speakers, whose expertise will definitely inspire you.

Is there really a better way to spend Monday evenings in March/April?

**March 14, 2016 - Bonita Ford**

Flowers, Food, Pollinators, Perennials & Soil: Permaculture in the Garden

**March 21, 2016 - Marian & Louis Damm**

Growing and Enjoying Thornless Succulents

**March 28, 2016 - Maureen Hulbert**

Renovating Your Garden

**April 4, 2016 - Trish Symons**

Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

### **Lecture location:**

Calvary Pentecostal Church, 401 Croft Street East, Port Hope

**Dates: Four Mondays - March 14, 21, 28 and April 4, 2016**

**Time: 7:30 pm (doors open at 7pm)**

**Tickets available February 1, 2016: \$40 for all four lectures**

(cash, cheque or email transfer)

**Single lectures \$15 depending on availability**

**By email: [allthingsgardening@hotmail.com](mailto:allthingsgardening@hotmail.com)**

**In Cobourg: Quinn's Blooms & Greenery, 277 Division Street**

**In Port Hope: Holton Flowers, 62 Walton Street**

### **For more information:**

Contact Northumberland Master Gardeners

at [allthingsgardening@hotmail.com](mailto:allthingsgardening@hotmail.com) or Helen at 905-377-9803



## Other Notes for your “2016” Calendar

**February 13 & 14, 2016:** The Southern Ontario Orchid Society presents its 36th Annual Orchid Show at Toronto Botanical Gardens, Toronto, Ontario, 11 am until 5pm. OVER 30,000 ORCHID BLOOMS! 9,000 sq. ft. of Orchids, Artistic Displays, Orchid Plants For Sale, Gift Items, Art & Photography Displays, Guided Tours & Free Seminars, and a Tea Room. For more details contact [ourtropics@sympatico.ca](mailto:ourtropics@sympatico.ca) or [www.soos.ca/Show](http://www.soos.ca/Show) Admission is \$12 for adults; children under 12 – free!

**March 11-20, 2016:** Canada Blooms, Direct Energy Centre, Toronto.  
For more information: <http://canadablooms.com/>

**March 12, 2016:** Ontario Horticultural Society District 4 “Spring Get-Together,”  
Auburn Bible Chapel, 911 Armour Rd, Peterborough

**May 10-14, 2016: Northumberland Master Gardeners Bus Trip - Brandywine, Longwood, Private Gardens** There are still a few seats available for a 5-day bus trip to Pennsylvania and Delaware – Brandywine Valley - these spring gardens are absolutely phenomenal, and we also have the pleasure of being invited to some beautiful private gardens. Cost of the trip is \$750 which includes transportation, accommodations, admission to all gardens and some meals. This trip is open to anyone interested! Reservations continue to roll in, so if you are interested, I would suggest that you get your names to me - you really do not want to miss this tour. If you are a solo traveller, please do not hesitate to join us - we are more than happy to find you a compatible roommate. Please contact Helen Lackey 905 377-9803 or [allthingsgardening@hotmail.com](mailto:allthingsgardening@hotmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Enter to WIN!



Do you have a passion for writing fact or fiction?

**Enter a self-authored, short story or creative piece for our Spring Newsletter!**

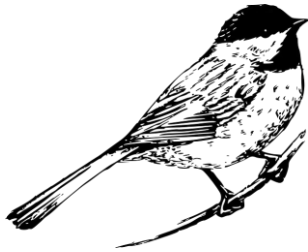
Topics can include anything garden related, 250 words or less

**Deadline:** February 29, 2016

**Email:** [martha.j.baldwin@gmail.com](mailto:martha.j.baldwin@gmail.com)

\*All those who submit an article will be entered into a random draw to:

**WIN two (2) advance Tickets to the Peterborough Garden Show!**



## Homemade Suet for the Winter Birds

Source: **David Suzuki Foundation** <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/resources/2010/fat-block-bird-feeder/>

Whether your feathered guests are fall migrants or year-long residents, supplementing their diets with high-quality calories will help them survive to reproduce in spring.

### Ingredients

- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter (*less-processed is best, without added fillers*)\*
  - 1 cup flour (whole wheat or white flour)
  - 1 cup fat (suet or vegetable shortening)\*\*
  - 4 cups grains, seeds, legumes and/or dried fruit\*\*\*
- Choose local, organic ingredients where you can.

### Directions

Melt fat in a saucepan on low heat. While that's melting, mix other ingredients together in a large bowl. Pour melted fat over dry mixture, stir well and pour into pancake, loaf or muffin tins — all work well. If you're using a larger pan, cut the mixture into smaller blocks or cakes (about the size of a large brownie) once it's cooled. *To avoid attracting rats, squirrels and raccoons, feed blocks should be small enough for bird guests to consume in a day. Discard rancid or moldy feeders. Blocks can be frozen until needed.* Place one fat block into a mesh onion bag (great recycling idea!) or a wire suet cage (get this at the bird store) — these give birds something to hang out on. If you hang your feeder from a tree branch, secure the holder to a tree trunk with wire or string. Sit back and enjoy the birds!

\* Suet, the best fat choice for birds, can also be purchased from a butcher, or at a wild bird store. If you choose vegetable fat, be sure it's non-hydrogenated — it's better for birds for the same reasons it's better for humans!

\*\*Options: rolled oats, cracked corn, cornmeal, black oiled sunflower seeds, striped sunflower seeds, shelled sunflower seeds, millet, peanuts (raw, unsalted), currants, cranberries, raisins, apples, wild berries or pre-mixed birdseed.

(Note: many birds won't be able to eat seeds in the shell once they are coated in fat.

Page 6



### Cobourg Horticultural Society

Box 312, Cobourg, Ontario

K9A 4K8

Email: [cobourg@gardenontario.org](mailto:cobourg@gardenontario.org)

Website: [www.cobourggardenclub.org](http://www.cobourggardenclub.org)