



2024

March 27

Book Club Evening

Our Book Club Event last year was such a success that we thought we would try it again. Nominated for best fiction in 2021, [The Reading List](#) by Sara Nisha Adams is "An unforgettable and heartwarming debut about how a chance encounter with a list of library books helps forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb."

April 17

Successful Vegetable Gardening

[Julia Dimakos](#), the Gardening Girl, will walk you through the steps she took in creating an abundant vegetable garden on her country property. These steps include grading the land, building raised beds, proper fencing to keep deer at bay, soil preparation, planting and watering techniques, crop rotation and more! Julia will also detail her gardening techniques and show you how to apply them to create your own successful vegetable garden.

May 15

Dahlias and Chrysanthemums

Dahlias have been a significant and wonderful part of Murray Thompson's life over many years. Coming from a farming background, and having spent over 60 years of summers in the garden, Murray has much experience in soil management and the selection and care of growing stock. Murray grows over 150 different named cultivars and 400+ seedlings for a total well over 1000 plants in his Whitby garden. His presentation will provide an overview of all aspects of dahlias, including purchasing, starting them in pots or direct-planting, supporting, trimming, viruses, insects, feeding, digging, and storing.

June 19

Member's Garden Tour and Gathering

Tour a 32 acre property in Balsam that has deep roots in the community and continues to be farmed today. The original home was built around the 1880's and was owned by the Ward family, who are one of the early settler families in the North Pickering area. When the current owners purchased the property there were only three trees as it was mostly farmland. The owners started planting what is now considered invasive and non-native trees and plants in the 1980s. Over the last few years, they have been adding more native trees and plants. You will be able to view the extraordinary gardens, which should have peonies, irises, lilacs and red buds in bloom during our visit. In addition to the perennial beds and annuals that dot the property, there is a spring fed pond which is home to a variety of turtles and ducks that nest each spring. Further details will be provided to members closer to the



event which will also include a social event to take advantage of the longer evenings.

July 17

Designing Great Plant Combinations

Evelyn Wolf has been a hands-on gardener for over 30 years, where a passion for collecting and experimenting with new plants and their design possibilities has been something close to an obsession. We will learn about a working formula for creating a perennial garden that wows. Evelyn will explain and illustrate some rules of thumb to follow to design a perennial garden that looks great from spring to fall. Her presentation will provide many images showing some great combinations and the design principles at work. Her talk will also provide some maintenance tips to keep plants looking good through the whole season.

October 2

Mushroom and Lichen Walk

Join us for a walk in one of our local trails as we search the ground and rotten logs in the mature deciduous forest for a variety of mushrooms. It should be the optimal time of the year for mushrooms and lichens to appear. The walk will be led by two members of North Durham Nature: James Kamstra, a biologist and environmental consultant, as well as by Lynda Kamstra, a retired teacher who has been learning all about lichens. Further details will be provided to members.

Postponed to 2025

After the Blooms Workshop

In this hands-on workshop, Margaret Abernathy from [Claremont Meadows](#) will demonstrate how to press and dry flowers and provide ideas on what you can do with them afterwards. Then make your own mini dried floral grapevine wreath. This workshop will be capped at 20 participants. Further details and images of the project will be provided to members.

October 27

Tour of Valley View Gardens

If you have not visited [Valley View Gardens](#), especially in the winter when you are dreaming of a warm place filled with plants, this is the place to go. With 45,000 square feet of covered greenhouses and five acres of working land, it has among the largest inventory and variety of plants, flowers, trees and shrubs in the GTA. We will have a one hour guided tour of the tropical plant warehouse as well as a behind the scenes tour of where they plant and grow bulbs, seeds and cuttings.

November 20

Annual Potluck Dinner and Fundraiser

The evening will include a raffle and silent auction. All funds raised go towards the Claremont Garden Club's events and the charities that we support.



2023

March 22

Book Club Evening

The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. The novel follows the fraught life of Victoria Jones who by the age of 18 had lived in 32 foster homes, and becomes a flower arranger. The novel was inspired by a flower dictionary, a type of Victorian-era book which defines what different types of flowers mean.

April 19

Climate Change and the Garden

How can we make our gardens resilient in an era of climate change, more frequent droughts, habitat loss and species decline? What are some of the connections between climate justice action and land-based practices such as gardening? In this action-oriented talk, Lorraine Johnson focuses on the many ways that our gardens can be places of ecological healing and beauty. The author of numerous books on growing native plants, gardening for pollinators, restoring habitat, and producing food in cities, Lorraine's work focuses on people and communities growing plants, ecological health, and connection to nature and to each other. You will be able to purchase a signed copy of her latest book *A Garden for the Rusty-Patched Bumblebee – Creating Habitat for Native Pollinators*.

May 17

May 17: The Garden of Regrets

Meet the plants you'll wish you'd never planted. Learn how to avoid them (before you do), to live with them (if, sadly, you have them), or how to love them (if you must). In this highly visual presentation, Helen Battersby hopes to save us from some of the regretful plant choices she has made (and who hasn't). As a result of her involvement with the Toronto Master Gardeners and as National Director (Canada & International) for GardenComm, the industry association for garden communicators, Helen has been a guest on CBC Metro Morning, on podcasts and Twitter chats and has been quoted on garden subjects in the Toronto Star, Globe & Mail, GardenMaking, Canadian House & Home, and GardenDesign.com.

May 27

Plant Sale

Claremont Public School

9:00 am – 11:00 am

We will have perennials, herbs, vegetables, native plants and bulbs (some potted) available.

June 21

River Ridge Farm Flowers Garden Tour

12500 Concession Road 6, Uxbridge



What better way to celebrate the summer solstice than being at a flower farm amid late spring and early summer flowers. Enjoy a private tour of the gardens, learn which flowers are best grown for a longer vase life and take-in a flower arrangement "quick" lesson. As we won't have time to view all the flower beds, arrive early and tour the grounds and enjoy the breathtaking views. A reduced price will be offered to club members who wish to pick their own flowers. It is advisable that you consider putting on some bug spray for the evening as we won't be the only ones buzzing around the flowers.

July 19
August 16

Member's Garden Tour (Members Only Event)
Member's Garden Tour and Potluck Dinner (Members-Only Event)

The evening will start off by a self-guided tour of one of our member's country gardens and will end with an alfresco potluck dinner as you follow the setting sun. Before dinner, Sherry Dodson, a Durham Master Gardener, will teach us how to use edible flowers and leaves to make teas, flavoured sugars, sorbets or garnish a dish. We will be sampling and using some of the flowers as part of our dinner. The evening will include a raffle and silent auction. All funds raised go towards the Claremont Garden Club's events and the charities that we support.

September 18

Pick Your Own Flowers and Fundraiser

The summer is coming to an end but there are many flowers still in bloom and what better way than to enjoy a lovely bouquet (or two) to brighten our homes.

Margaret and Richard, who are members of the club, will be opening up their cut flower garden to members who might want to make their own bouquet or purchase one that is already made.

The bouquets are on a donation-basis and all proceeds will be going to Cystic Fibrosis, which is a charity that is close to their hearts. Come for the flowers, tour their gardens and mingle with fellow members while enjoying the last day of summer.

November 15

Seasonal Centerpiece Workshop

A hands-on workshop where participants make their own seasonal fresh and fragrant centerpiece. Local foliage, cones, floral wire and foam will be provided. Just bring your vessel.

2022



April 20

Gardening from a Hammock

Dan Cooper has been a Master Gardener for over 20 years and is the co-author of *Gardening from a Hammock*, a book on low-maintenance gardening that features the gardens and advice of 17 well-known garden experts, landscapers and designers. Dan is also a landscape designer who specializes in shade gardens and organic gardening.

May 18

Grasses: Essential Plants for the New Perennial Garden

The new perennial movement is about designing naturalistic garden spaces. It is based on using patterns that are found in nature and grasses are key plant species of these natural habitats. This is an introduction to ornamental grasses, an exploration on how they can be used in the landscape, and an overview of a few favourite ornamental grass species that work well in our climate. Ingrid Janssen is a horticulturist, speaker, blogger and master gardener. She has been gardening for most of her life and is a passionate, some would say "crazy gardener". How else to describe someone who plants bulbs despite 15cm of snow!

May 28

Plant Sale

June 15

Member's Garden Tour & Gardening to Attract Birds Talk

As you drive up the tree lined driveway, the first barn you see was built in the 1830s. Hidden behind are horse paddocks and a vegetable garden. The stately stone home, completed in 1863, is surrounded by mostly shade loving gardens. There are a variety of hostas and at this time of year you will enjoy the peonies, irises, and lilacs. It is very much a country garden with ever expanding beds and hedgerows. Paul Oliver is an avid birder and co-founder of the Urban Nature Store. His talk will focus on ways to attract wild birds to your backyard, including using feeders, water, landscaping and gardening.

July 6

Succulent Arrangement Workshop

Learn how to design a beautiful succulent arrangement with Molly from Canadian Succulents. All supplies and tools will be provided. The workshop is limited to 10-15 participants and will be held at Mason House Gardens. Please note that there is an extra fee of \$45 for this activity and is open to members only.

July 20

Member's Garden Tour and Tree Walk & Talk

Enjoy a self-guided tour of one of our members' gardens situated on 15 acres in a country setting. There are 3 large vegetable gardens, one grown amid a decorative garden around the house. Self-described as a "Lazy Person's Style" of gardener, you might find some weeds here and there but you will also discover some exotic types of vegetables, plants and trees. Afterwards, as part of our speakers' series, James Kamstra, President of North Durham



Nature will walk us through a section of this partly woodland property and highlight the various fruit, nut and native trees and bushes.

August 17

Slabtown Cider Co - Dinner and Orchard Tour

Tour Slabtown Cider Co. with one of their cider makers. Learn about their history, the provenance of the trees and the apple varieties used in the production of their cider. A dinner on the patio follows the *walk and talk*.

September 14

Mushroom Walk & Talk

Cancelled due to family emergency. To be rescheduled in 2023.

October 19

Fusion Gardening

Margaret Abernathy and Richard Portelance, owners of Cypress Hill Landscape Design and Build, are both landscape professionals who specialize in Fusion landscaping. We will learn about this mindful style of landscape design which fuses traditional landscaping with more eco-friendly methods.

November 16

Wreath Making Workshop

A hands-on workshop where participants make their own seasonal fresh and fragrant wreath. Local foliage, seasonal embellishments, ribbon and natural grapevine for the base will be provided. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority is to lead the workshop.

2021

In response to the various measures put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19, only pop-up events were organized in 2021.

May 17-21

Online Plant Sale

We raised \$1,200 with all the proceeds donated to Feed the Need Durham and North House.

May 22

Tomatoes (Cancelled due to COVID restrictions)

Jeff Mason will be giving a talk about tomatoes. He will discuss the various types, cultivars, how to properly plant and maintain them and provide us with the best pest management strategies. This presentation will be held outdoors at Mason House Gardens, so please bring your chairs as we will be adhering to the provincial COVID guidelines in place on that day. Space will be limited to members on a first come basis (confirmation via email).



June 15

Tour of Peony Gardens in Oshawa

Ingrid Janssen, a Durham Master Gardener, will be providing us with a private tour of the Peony Gardens in Oshawa when the peonies should be at their best. This will be a day time event.

July 3

Tour of a Member's Garden

Visit one of our members' lovely hillside gardens. Located in Claremont, this garden demonstrates how you can garden on a steep hillside in a residential setting. The garden includes a rock garden with water feature, sitting areas, and you can enjoy the view of the large spring fed pond.

July 6

Garden Tour of Anna's Perennials in Lindsay, Ontario

If you have never visited Anna's Perennials, you are in for a treat. Anna or her husband will provide a tour of their gardens and a short talk on cacti, which is one of their specialties. The cacti should be flowering and at their best starting at the end of June for 2-3 weeks. You will be able to walk around their display gardens and purchase plants.

August 14

Tour of a Member's Garden

Members will be able to meander through this large country property featuring rolling hills, a large pond, mostly shade and part-shade gardens, meadow garden and view a variety of unusual trees. For those with mobility issues, a golf cart and driver will be available for a private tour of the gardens.

2020

February 17

New Plant Introductions & Seed Exchange

Matthew Dressing horticultural technician, landscape designer and owner of Affinity Design. Bring your flower, vegetable and herb seeds, bulbs and corms for the seed exchange.

Mar – Nov

Spreaker Presentations Cancelled

Due to the social distancing measures put in place for COVID, all previously scheduled events were cancelled for the year.

2019

February 11

AGM and Seed Exchange



Renew your membership or become a new member. Participate in the seed exchange by bringing your vegetable, flower and herb seeds and bulbs.

- March 18 **Tales from a Victorian Kitchen Garden**
Germination to vegetation with Garry Edwards of Meadow View Gardens.
- April 15 **Scary Bugs?**
The wonders of insects in your garden with Malcolm Geast, an avid photographer and local director of the OHA.
- May 13 **Garden Medicine**
Learn what plants may be beneficial to you with registered herbalist Diane Tait.
- June 24 **Growing the Romantics**
Roses Peonies and Irises with Toronto Master Gardener Joan Bostock.
- July 15 **Native Plants**
On location at the nursery with Karen Abrahams the owner of Native Plants in Claremont
- July 23 **Bus Trip to Meadow View Gardens and Giboshihill Hostas**
- September 16 **Planting a Spectacular Spring Garden**
Dugal Cameron founder of Gardenimports.
- October 21 **Inspirations from Gardens Around the World**
Marjorie Mason founder of Mason House Gardens.
- November 18 **Annual Pot Luck Dinner**

2018

- February 19 **Seed Exchange and Sign-Up**
Renew your membership or become a new member. Participate in the seed exchange by bringing your vegetable, flower and herb seeds and bulbs.
- March 19 **Keeping it Green, Keeping it Beautiful**
Sean James is an eco-consultant, garden designer and teacher
- April 23 **An Introduction to Vegetable Gardening**



Ingrid Janssen, Master Gardener (note that this meeting was rescheduled from April 16th date due to inclement weather conditions)

- May 21 **The Flora Project**
Anne Barbour of the Kawartha Lakes Naturalists
- June 18 **Fairy Garden Demonstration**
Vandermeer Nursery
- July 16 **The Gardens of Brian Mclatchie and Dianne Stackhouse**
Garden Tour
- September 24 **For the Love of Garlic**
Bryan Mailey, a local garlic grower (note that this meeting was rescheduled from September 17th)
- October 15 **Garden Design**
Wolfegang Bonham is a landscape designer and owner of Peace Love and Landscaping
- November 19 **Christmas Pot Luck Dinner, Silent Auction and Raffle**

2017

- February 20 **Starting from Seeds**
Hands-on Workshop and Seed Exchange led by Ingrid Janssen, a Durham Master Gardener
- March 20 **All about Bees**
Karen McKenna, teacher, bee keeper and environmentalist
- April 17 **How to plan a spectacular Fall Garden**
Marjorie Mason, plant expert, author, and radio show host
- May 15 **Wild Edibles**
Karen Stephenson, well known writer and expert on edible wild plants
- June 19 **Pruning**
Richard Gilmour, arborist and local business owner
(Weather permitting this will be an on-site workshop)
- July 17 **Visit to Christel Lake Lavender Farm, Greenbank**
Garden Tour



September 18

Fall Arrangements

A hands-on workshop with Kim Jones

October 16

Preparing your Garden for Winter

Talk by a Durham Master Gardener

November 20

Christmas Pot Luck Dinner, Silent Auction and Raffle

2016

March 21

Herbs and Beauty

Koidu Suleve

April 18

Spring Containers

Linda Tweedie

May 16

All About Bats

Toby Thorne

May 28

Plant Sale

June 20

All About Lavender

Mila Haynes-Owen

July 18

Flower Show (members only)

Visit Kim Jones' garden and participate in the flower show with Peter and Christine Gill. Ken Mulveney will show how to take pictures around the garden.

September 19

Garden Design After Dark

Wolfe Bonham

October 17

Botanical Gardens Around the World

Martin Gallaway

November 21

Christmas Pot Luck, Silent Auction and Raffle

2015

January 19

Container Water Gardens

Peter Gill, President, Greater Toronto Water Garden and Horticultural Society



- February 16 **Photography Workshop**
Bring your camera. Ken Mulveney, Professional Photographer and club member.
- March 16 **Living the High Line – The New Perennialist**
Tony Spencer, Writer and Planting Designer
- April 20 **Tropicals In and Outside the House**
Jeff Mason, Mason House Gardens.
- May 18 **Native Plants**
Paul LaPorter, Past President, North American Native Plant Society
- May 30
June 15 **Plant Sale**
Delphiniums
Christine Gill, Ontario Delphinium Club.
- July 20 **Visit to Ocala Winery Tour, Port Perry**
- September 21 **Shade Plants**
John Stratham, John's Garden
- October 19 **Making a Hallowe'en Arrangement**
Kim Jones, Claremont Garden Club President.
- November 16 **Christmas Pot Luck, Silent Auction and Raffle**

2014

- January 20 **Just About Anything You Need to Know About Orchids**
Terry Kennedy has been an Orchid Specialist for the past 30 years in business retail and wholesale.
- February 17 **Flower Arranging with Kim Jones, President, Claremont Garden Club**
The flower arrangements will be given as a door prize.
- March 17 **Beginning the Spring Garden**
Koidy Suelu, is an expert in herbal lore at Richters Herbs.
- April 21 **Developing Mystery in the Garden**
Frank Kershaw is Director of Planning and Research with Toronto Culture and Tourism Department, which manages 8,000 hectares of parkland.



May 20

Fig-a-Plenty

Steven Biggs is an award winning food and garden writer. He has a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a Major in Horticultural Science.

May 24

Plant Sale

June 16

Attracting Wild Birds to your Garden

Paul Oliver is an avid birder and partner in the Urban Nature Store.

July 21

Visit to Copperwood Gardens

Refreshments at Kim's afterwards.

September 15

Ocala Orchards

Since 1980, Irwin Smith developed an interest in winemaking.

October 20

Bringing Nature into the Garden

Joan Difruscia is a horticultural technician and will discuss bringing nature in the garden and how to provide shelter for them.

November 17

Christmas Pot Luck