

Pruning Secrets

Be enthusiastic about pruning! That was the take home message from David Retallick of Dave's Garden Service in Millbrook. With great intensity, he presented us with his pruning secrets gained over 30 years of garden maintenance of over 50 properties. It is of the utmost importance to use the appropriate blade caliper and clean, sharp tools. This ensures that a clean cut can be made with minimal injury to the woody plant and promotes more rapid healing. It is no longer recommended to paint over cut surfaces with tar as this traps moisture and encourages rot. Select the optimal site for renovation or selective pruning by looking at the branch structure and cutting just above an outward facing bud or just beyond a branch collar.



David Retallick of
Dave's Garden Service

The best time to prune most deciduous plants is when they are leafless and dormant, usually late November to early April. Enjoy a bright winter day working in the garden! For spring blooming shrubs, wait until after the blooms are spent. However, remove dead, damaged or diseased limbs as soon as detected. Shearing the growth tips of conifers or "candle pinching", is best done during active growth periods, e.g. late spring for pines, early summer for spruce and firs. By shaping the plant in it's early years when it is a reasonable size, major renovation or complete removal might be avoided later.

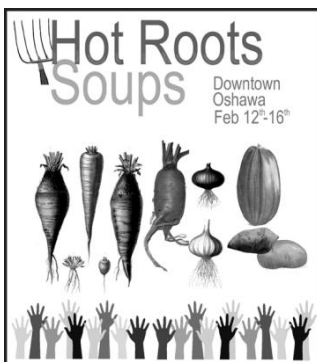
*Karen Sciuk
Board Member & Editorial Team*

Learning about Seeds on Tuesdays in Oshawa

Over 25 people attended the January 22nd "Seed starting – challenges and how to overcome them" event held at The Table on Simcoe South in Oshawa. There were lots of ideas on how to start seeds, including ensuring that your soil is moistened before you start planting, otherwise the seed could float to the top affecting its growth. Some other ideas included: using a soil-less mixture as a preferred medium; checking the seed packets for the date (fresher seeds mean better germination); reading the instructions carefully; labelling your plants with name and date; and as your plants grow, turning them so they don't grow toward the light. [continued on page 3]



Gathered at The Table to hear about seeds



Illustrated by Creative Carrot, Oshawa

Hearty Cup of Community Pride

Between February 12th and 16th, downtown Oshawa restaurants will celebrate locally grown winter vegetables with soups made from Afro-Caribbean, Cajun, Creole and First Nations' heritage cuisines. Most of the soups will be heart-healthy and veg-friendly. There will be a donation of funds to Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre. Be sure to get your "Hot Roots Soups" passport-roadmap at this OGC meeting!



About OGC	p.2
Next event	p.4
Meeting Report	p.1
President's Report	p.2

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Original articles, or excerpts, may be re-printed from **The Greenleaf** as long as appropriate credit is given.

Minutes of OGC Board Meetings are archived in the OGC Library and can be consulted by approaching the Library volunteers.

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All About Us . . .

We welcome the novice and experienced gardener. To find out more about OGC, please contact Linda at 723-5557 or check our website at → www.oshawagardenclub.ca.

See final pages for more information on our meetings. Members are encouraged to contribute to this newsletter. Please send your submissions to editor.greenleaf@gmail.com. Portrait photos and graphics in the *Greenleaf* are credited to the Editor, unless otherwise noted. OGC reserves the right to photograph OGC events.

*Keeping
Ontario
Beautiful*



I love mysteries and puzzles, and “floriography”, the language of flowers has always intrigued me. It is said that the Victorians employed it to convey secret feelings when they could not be expressed in words. Since even Shakespeare used the idea in some of his writings, it has been part of traditions for even longer.

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, I thought to explore what flowers were considered as expressions of love. Below are a few examples of what I found on Wikipedia and in *The Meaning of Flowers* by Frederick Warne.

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Acacia—Secret love | Jasmine—unconditional love |
| Amaranth (globe)—Immortal love | Lilac (purple)—first emotion of love |
| Ambrosia—Love is reciprocated | Lily (orange)—desire, passion |
| Arbutus—“You are the only one I love” | Morning Glory—love in vain |
| Arum—Arduor | Narcissus—unrequited love |
| Aster—Love, trusting | Scarlet Pimpernel—lover's secret meeting |
| Balsam—Ardent love | Shepherd's Purse—“I offer you my all” |
| Berrirrose—I will love you forever | Tulip—(red) undying love; |
| Carnation-- (red) deep romantic love, | (purple) forever love, |
| (pink) a mother's love | (white) one-sided love, |
| Daisy—loyal love | (yellow) hopeless love |
| Gardenia—secret love, sweet love | Willow—love forsaken |
| Heliotrope—devotion, faithfulness | |

Of course, the rose the is most common floral symbol of love, but care should be given to the colour you select to make sure that your message doesn't get lost in translation. The rose can mean anything from true love (red) to extreme betrayal (yellow). No matter what flowers or plants you may favour for Valentine's Day, please choose Canadian or Fair Trade products.

Debi Foster,
President



Editor's News:

You will notice some changes in the *Greenleaf*. We hope the new design will make reading the newsletter online a bit easier. We are also trying to make the best use of our “paper real estate”. All the best for 2013!

TBG: Get the Jump on Spring 2013: Saturday February 23rd, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Don't miss the Annual Horticultural Open House presented by a committee of volunteers from Ontario Horticultural Association, Toronto Master Gardeners and the Toronto Botanical Garden.

We encourage you to submit ideas and articles for the *Greenleaf* and OGC website. We cannot guarantee that all submissions will be used.

To submit an article, please send your submission to → greenleaf@oshawagardenclub.ca

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
February 2nd, 2012, 11:00 p.m.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome our new members:

Margie McGregor and Carol Muxworthy.

Linda Wylie,
Membership & Club Secretary



Learning about Seeds on Tuesdays in Oshawa *(continued from page 1)*

Another generally useful idea was cutting white, plastic food containers into strips to use as labels. This is a good example of re-purposing since this plastic won't breakdown as quickly as wooden labels. The next session is Tuesday, February 19th, on "Small Space Gardening" at The Table.

Joan Kerr

OGC member and Director, FBSC

Whitby In Bloom

Whitby In Bloom is a civic beautification program that promotes environmental responsibility and civic pride. Whitby In Bloom is based on the international Communities in Bloom program. There will be a 2013 "Authors in the Garden Seminar Series", presented by the Town of Whitby and the Whitby In Bloom Committee in partnership with the Brooklin Horticultural Society. All Seminars start at 7:30 p.m. at the Brooklin United Church, 19 Cassels Road East.

March 27- Frank Ferangine AKA "Frankie Flowers"

April 24 - Sonia Day

May 22 - Marjorie Harris

For more information, please see → <http://whitby.ca/en/residents/whitbyinbloom.asp>



Garden Poem: Garden Life

OGC member, Darlene Kirtley, sent us this lovely poem. For anyone mindful of how our lives seem to spin by and how quickly our world is changing, this poem celebrates our gardening spaces as a vestige of a life well-lived.

*If this were my last day I'm almost sure
I'd spend it working in my garden. I
Would dig about my little plants, and try
To make them happy, so they would endure
Long after me. Then I would hide secure
Where my green arbor shades me from the sky,
And watch how bird and bee and butterfly
Came hovering to every flowery lure.
Then, as I rested, perhaps a friend or two,
Lovers of flowers would come, and we would walk
About my little garden paths and talk,
Of peaceful times when all the world seemed true.
This may be my last day, for all I know;
What a temptation just to spend it so!*

- Anne Higginson Spicer [1871-1935]
American poet and gardener



New on OGC website

The garden news blog is now called the **News Blog**. This is where you can find club and gardening news, such as events, upcoming shows and tour information.

There's now a new page called the **Gardener's Journal**. This is the place you can find tips (such as the new **Ted's Tips**), articles and speaker summaries, and our vast collection of photo galleries. Hopefully this will make looking for information on the site much easier. Your feedback is always welcomed.

Volunteer Corner



We are looking for members to be OGC hosts at the upcoming D17 Conference on April 20, 2013. It will be a chance to meet other gardeners, hear a great speaker, view unique and interesting horticultural and art displays, and enjoy some delicious food. Please contact Bonnie White or Debi Foster for further details.



**2013
Successful Gardening Show
International Centre
Hall 3, 6900 Airport Road
Mississauga
February 21st-24th, 2013.**

Imagination Station

There has been a lot happening in the news lately. The January 14th meeting was an outlet for all those newspapers. The January design is "Extra Extra, read all about it". Design was to incorporate newspapers plus live plant material. In 1st place was Val Foster's "Year of the Snake". Vida Ycas-Abell placed 2nd with her "Mother's Tongue" and Debi Foster's design came in 3rd.

February is hearts and flowers and chocolates. But we are going to be "Pretty in Pink". The only colour allowed is pink. Design to incorporate florals and enhanced by anything pink.

The March design will be an invitation to "The Mad Hatter's Tea Party". Designs are to contain live floral material. There is no colour stipulation—anything goes.

For those that looked and voted, but were afraid to try, this is your time to shine. Party on.

*Val Foster
Committee Chair & Editorial Team*

OGC Sharing Gardens Tour

Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 14, 2013 for our 2013 Sharing Gardens tour of member gardens. We meet at the Peony Gardens on Arena St., north of Ontario Motor Sales. At 1PM we will leave as a group to view the gardens and socialize.

Contact Ted Brown (905-579-1424) or Garry Lucas (905-668-6368) to have your garden included.

Garden owners and visitors always learn something new and both get to enjoy the interaction.

OGC Annual Plant Sale!



Plans are taking shape for our annual plant sale, Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year the sale will take place in the parking lot at South Oshawa Community Centre at 1455 Cedar St.

We are excited to be coordinating displays and workshops with DIG (Durham Integrated Gardeners), OEAC (Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee) and the Durham Master Gardeners. Also, we hope to have some specialty plant tables and experts (i.e. mini hostas). Mark the date and keep your eyes on the *Greenleaf* and website for details.

Since the new joint effort will bring more buyers, we need more plant donations for the sale to guarantee success. Beginning in mid-April, we will gladly visit to pick-up plants or to assist in digging, dividing and potting. To donate plants or to volunteer, contact Gary Lucas at 905-668-6368, Barb North at 905-728-6943 or Gloria McRae at 905-436-8756. New this year, you can send a message via the OGC website to the Plant Sale committee.

*Garry Lucas
Committee Chair & Former President*

Upcoming 2013 OGC Events

All OGC meetings take place on a **MONDAY** at **LVIV Hall**, 38 Lviv Blvd, and start at 7:30p.m. unless stated otherwise.

March 11 Maximizing Food Production (in Small Spaces)

Learn from Kyla Dixon-Muir how to grow foods outdoors from fall-through-winter-into-spring. It's not only possible - it's easy! Learn about "Season Extension Techniques" and more...



Please see www.oshawagardenclub.ca for additional events or for details

February 23, 2013 10:00 am 4:00 pm Horticultural open house!

Check out presentations, demos and a floral design competition, browse a marketplace with creative garden gifts, get expert gardening advice, stop by the café, and chat with members from other hort groups.

