



# Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



[www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com](http://www.woodbridgehorticultural.weebly.com)

Issue 55, October, 2019

Butterflies are self-propelled flowers.

**\*\*Robert A. Heinlein**

## **SPEAKER**

Anna Leggatt on

*Mountains, Monarchs and Mexico*

## **BEST IN SHOW FOR SEPTEMBER**

Gilda Ferrone for her David Austin Rose rose and

Design Class-*Seasonal Disorder*

## **NEW TREE**

To acknowledge more than 117,000 Canadians lost during times of war since 1812, WHS has proudly purchased a tree for the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute, to be planted along the 401, between Trenton and Toronto. For more information, visit [hohtribute.ca](http://hohtribute.ca)

## **WHS NOVEMBER BASH**

This year our AGM dinner will be held at the Paradise Banquet Hall. Tickets for the November 19th dinner will be ready for purchase at the October 28 meeting. Tickets are \$45.00 each and include an impressive dinner. Please note that if you require more tickets, the deadline is one week before the event.

## **YEARBOOK PHOTO CONTEST**

Last chance to bring in your two (2) favourite Clematis photos is the October 28 meeting. Please write your name and member number on the back of 4 x 6 photos and hand in to Debbie Estey.

## **FLEXING GARDENING MUSCLES**

Plant spring flowering bulbs and garlic. Plant daffodils among tulips and sprinkle with blood meal to deter pesky squirrels.

Add fall colour to your garden by planting asters, mums and butterfly bush.



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Thicken your lawn to help outnumber weeds.

Plant new trees and shrubs to give them at least six weeks to set roots before frost. Continue watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes.

Add compost or manure to the surface of soil and let earthworms pull down much needed nutrients.

Rake and mulch leaves with the lawn mower and rake them into the garden. Earthworms will feast on these and turn them into beneficial organic matter.

The days of sun-ripened tomatoes are over, so take them indoors. They do not like it cold, windy, and wet. Place in a warm, dry spot. They won't taste the same as ripening in the sun, but you'll salvage what's left of your crop.

## NEAT THINGS ABOUT MILKWEED

*Asclepias syriaca*, otherwise known as common milkweed and butterfly flower, is a species of flowering plant. It is named for its latex, a milky substance containing cardenolides. Most species are toxic. It is native to southern Canada and to much of eastern USA. It grows in sandy and other kinds of soils, in sunny areas, and is drought tolerant. Not only do milkweed plants act as a host for the monarch butterfly, but they provide nectar for other pollinators. It is a favorite destination for other butterflies, hummingbirds and bees.

The flowers are excellent for cutting, but more importantly, milkweed is responsible for the survival of the very pretty orange and black monarch butterfly. It has a very long taproot, so give careful consideration to where you plant it. It is late to emerge in the spring,;careful you do not disturb its tender shoots when you are clearing the garden at that time. Come July and August, the plant will send up as many as ten stalks that will boast brilliant blossoms.

Milkweed contains chemicals that are poisonous to many insects that prey upon butterflies, but not to the butterflies themselves. The caterpillar, and then the butterfly itself, become deadly poison to predators that eat them. In the fall, milkweed forms canoe-shaped pods, about two to three inches long, that can be used in dried flower arrangements. If left unattended long enough, the pods will open and scatter seeds borne on long silk-like threads.

## SUBMISSIONS

If you have anything you'd like added to the newsletter, please call or email Mary no later than one week before the next meeting.