



# Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



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

Issue 42, March 2018

One of the attractive things about flowers is their beautiful reserve.

--Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

## **SPEAKER TONIGHT**

Wolf Bonham, on Japanese Gardens.

## **FYI**

The milk bag project continues. After the 2010 Haitian earthquake, a volunteer initiative in Toronto has helped countless people in need, including those in disaster zones, by providing mats made of recycled milk bags. In addition to mats and mattresses, milk bags are also used to stuff pillows and are woven into handbags. Please collect the outer plastic milk bags and bring to monthly meetings. For more information on this worthy cause, please visit

<http://toronto.ctvnews.ca/mobile/from-milk-bags-to-mattresses-volunteers-weave-mats-for-a-good-cause>

Please mark your calendars for March 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup> of this week. We will be putting up Easter decorations on the bridge and Wallace House. Speak with Gail tonight, or call her at 905-851-1462.

## **FLEXING GARDENING MUSCLES**

It's time to prune apple trees. Thinning out old, thick branches and dead wood opens up the tree so it will yield more fruit.

Buy seeds or look in your area to find out about Seedy Saturdays and Seed Exchanges; a great way to find heritage varieties and meet local growers. Start Dahlia bulbs inside, using quality soil in a plastic pot.

The weather in March is most unpredictable. Every year, we worry about emerging snow drops, tulips and other spring bulbs. They've been surviving the constant change in temperature for years. In the event of an unexpected heavy, wet snowfall, gently knock snow off hedges, evergreens and shrubs to

prevent limbs breaking from the weight. Being quite hardy, cedars can take pruning anytime of the year, so make it one of your first spring chores.

## **GARDENING TRENDS**

The following floral design trends for 2018 as issued by the International Floral Distributors Organization, in collaboration with Michael Skaff, designer and trend forecaster:

*\*Magnificent*

*Mediterranean:*

deep rich colours including golds, cinnabars, blues and yellows.

-Finely crafted and unique ceramic containers and hand-blown glassware.

-Use of vines, citrus fruit, dahlias or sunflowers.

*\*Incarnation of Earth's Elements:*

-modern, simple style appreciating the role of nature.

-strong grouping of materials to show how flowers grow.

-floral elements include amaranths, liatris, celosia and lotus-poda in



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containers of mixed metals.

*\* Positively Posh timeless, romantic:*

-a voguish chic look and feel.

-overabundant designs of muted colours with gold and mother of pearl accents.

-hydrangeas, peonies, purple calla lilies and lilacs.

*\* Folk Art Reinvented:*

- casual whimsical style marked by free form design and mix of bright colours of green, teal, yellow, pink and orange.

-alliums, Gerbera daisies and sunflowers.



## THANKS ☺

To Gail Stephenson and Chris and Sally Andrews for decorating the bridge on Woodbridge Avenue for Valentine's Day.

Please mark your calendars for the first Armstrong Park clean-up date:

Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – noon.

We will also be taking down the Easter decorations from the bridge.

Please add your contact information to the sign-up sheet for the first Wallace House garden clean - up. You will be contacted as soon as the weather is favourable.

## NEAT THINGS (?) ABOUT ANTS

Ant hills seem to crop up everywhere in a wet year, same thing after a very cold winter.

While ants can keep some small insects under control, they also cause damage. An ant hill under a favourite perennial can compromise the plant, as well as transmit disease.

Try planting lavender and tansy in troublesome areas as a deterrent. As tansy can become invasive, sprinkle some of its leaves in troubled areas. An ant can lift items 20 to 50 times its own weight. They have very strong legs.

There are about 1.5 million ants for every human being on earth. Ants need a balance of protein and carbohydrates. A large part of their diet consists of small insects, dead or alive. Canadian ants favour scale and whitefly, a good reason to leave them alone unless they are damaging your plants. If you can manage to find borax, mix with equal amounts of water and sugar and spread on troublesome areas. The ants will feed on the poisoned sugar and take it back to their queen, which will wipe out the entire colony. Make a 'tea' with pipe tobacco; soak overnight, discard tobacco and pour over ant hills. Baby powder wherever you see a trail of ants may also work.

## SUBMISSIONS

If you have a newsletter submission, please call or email Mary (see below) no later than one week before the next meeting.