



# Woodbridge Horticultural Society Newsletter



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

Issue 52, June 2019

To lock horns with Nature, the only equipment you really need is the constitution of Paul Bunyan and the basic training of a commando.

--S. J. Perelman, *Acres and pains* (1951)

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Claudette Simms, on Attack of the Invasive Plants! Identify, Counter Attack and Eliminate.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE GARDEN TOUR qp'Ucwtf c{.'June 22, 2019!**

Tickets for the Garden Tour are ready for purchase and pickup qp'O qpf c{.'June 17th!

## WINNERS OF LAST MONTH'S FLOWER SHOW

- Gilda Ferrone - Orchid
- Mary Cicchirillo - Design 'Tiptoe Through the Tulips'

## VOLUNTEERS!

Friday, June 7 was a perfect day to garden. Thanks to Gail, Liz and Mace, Chris and Sally, Maria, Mary, John, Doreen, Madeleine and Martha. The bridge is alive with flowers and Armstrong Park had its first big cleanup of the season. It must be in top shape, as it is on the Garden Tour this year. The Pollinating Garden looks wonderful.

## FYI

Debunked? For years, we've been told to put broken pottery over the drainage holes in plants and hanging baskets. A recent report in *The Garden* magazine, official publication of the Royal Horticultural Society in the U.K., indicates that crockery is a crock. 'Whether crocked or not, there will be a saturated zone at the bottom of a pot or container.' By crocking, the water table will be higher and the volume of growing medium available to plant roots is reduced. Whatever you decide, do make sure that there are adequate drainage holes at the bottom of plant containers for water to move through. Plant heat loving tomatoes, peppers and squash. Mulch around plants and save 70% time in watering and 90% in weeding. Plant herbs and harvest regularly for an ongoing crop. Sowing lettuce seeds at two week intervals will provide a continuous supply of salad greens.



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Take in the Mississauga Garden Festival. The event this year will take place in Riverwood Park in Mississauga on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more info, check out [mississaugagardenfestival.ca](http://mississaugagardenfestival.ca).

Be careful while gardening; too many accidents waiting to happen with rakes, shovels, rocks, and hoses lying about. Don't forget to warm up before you start. Check out [kingwestchiropractic.com/blog/plant-and-rake-without-the-ache-2/](http://kingwestchiropractic.com/blog/plant-and-rake-without-the-ache-2/)

## NEAT THINGS ABOUT GRASSES AND LAWNS

A lawn is nature under totalitarian rule.

--Michael Pollan

Lawns date back to the 16th century. The first record of a lawn – 'laun', was in 1540. For the next 200 years, homeowners became slaves to their scythes, the only way to mow at the time. Scythes were replaced by the invention of the lawn mower in 1830. Lawns purify water as it passes through the root zone, reducing pollution. During a hot summer, a lawn will be 30 degrees cooler than paving stones or asphalt and 14 degrees cooler than bare soil.

To seed or to sod? Sodding is quicker, but seeding is less expensive and the roots grow deeper, establishing a more durable lawn. It is essential to first prepare the soil, ideally a balance of sand, silt and clay. This is called loam. Loam holds moisture but also drains well. It is able to retain nutrients and allow for air flow. Work with nature and plan to sow or seed when rainfall is expected for several days.

Seeding or sodding during the cool, early spring or fall is best.

An alternative to grass is clover. Clover has many benefits including the ability to 'fix' nitrogen in the soil. Clover takes nitrogen from the air to nitrogen-fixing bacteria in its roots, which convert airborne nitrogen to a form that plants can use in the soil. It's attractive to honeybees and doesn't need much mowing. It tolerates compacted soils and has long roots that can reach water deep in the soil. It is not partial to heavy foot traffic, so plant a mixture of clover and grass.



## 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.