



The Peony Post



February 2019



Next Meeting

**March
12th, 2019
7:30 pm**

**'A Foodie
Celebration'**
Culinary Arts
Show

Feature Speaker

Diane Tait

Registered
Herbalist

I am sure all of us are glad to see the end of this unusually brutal February. Even with mountains of snow still on the ground, the promise of spring is evident all around us:

The official first day of spring is less than two weeks away.

Cardinals are enthusiastically vocal about attracting mates.

Daylight greets us at 'rise and shine' time and doesn't fade until dinner time.

February Meeting

Due to a frightening weather forecast for February 12th, it seemed prudent to cancel our meeting. We were not alone in this prediction. Our caution was confirmed when the City canceled all programs and then even called to say that the recreation complex would be closed and all staff sent home at 2:00 pm.

It's a pity because this was the meeting for our once-a-year food show. Any food you had already prepared you now had to eat yourself. I must admit that it worked in my favour. I had tried a new recipe and found it quite unacceptable to show off any baking skills I might have. It is now off my list of 'culinary arts'.

Next Meeting – March 12th

Our culinary arts 'Foodie Celebration' has been moved to the March meeting. We sincerely hope that you have not lost your enthusiasm or your recipes. The show schedule now has a great variety of classes and we look forward to tasting your creations. If this is your first year with our group – this is how it works: each member is given 10 pennies and then you have to decide which food offering deserves one of your pennies. It's a lot of fun.

Feature Speaker – Diane Tait, Registered Herbalist

Diane’s topic will be “What can we grow to keep us healthy?” Diane was trained in Toronto in a 3-year course in clinical herbal therapy offered by Dominion Herbal College. As a student she received instruction in anatomy and physiology, pathology, herbal therapeutics, botany, nutrition and other related subjects. She has her own business in Locust Hill and has a profound love and respect for nature. We look forward to her suggestions of beneficial plants to grow.



This and That

“Why Don’t More Society Members Enter Flower Shows?”

This question was posed by Crystal Trojek, a frequent contributor to the GardenOntario Facebook page. Crystal says:

“I often hear this question at local Horticultural Society meetings. Somebody has gone to the trouble of setting up the space, bringing the paperwork, assigning judges, coming up with interesting classes, and keeping records of who wins in a points system for a prize at the end of the year. So why don’t more people enter?”

Crystal could well be talking about our Society. Here are some of the reasons we have heard:

1. **“I don’t have time for that.”** We realize that everyone has different priorities as to how to spend their 24 hours per day. What if you considered spending one hour per flower show? That would amount to only four hours per year! It would make our shows so much more interesting for all of us.
2. **“I don’t know anything about it.”** Wouldn’t you like to find out more? We have experienced members who are always willing to help you. Our Yearbook and Show Guide is a good source of information. For more thorough information there is the Ontario Judging and Exhibiting (OJES) available at our meetings.
3. **“My flowers aren’t good enough.”** We suggest you let the judge decide that.

4. **“Why bother - I won’t win anything.”** One thing is for sure – you won’t win if you don’t enter. Yes, being awarded a red ribbon feels great but in our opinion, it’s not all about winning – it’s all about participation, about being part of what it takes to have an interesting time at our meetings, about learning from other members.

We only have flower shows in May, June, September, and October. Please help us to make those four shows colourful and interesting for all.

Editor’s note: I hope I’ll be forgiven for expressing these observations. It was the flower show that hooked me at my very first meeting twenty years ago and it has been close to my heart ever since.

Dates to mark in your calendars

April 27, 2019 – District 17 Annual General Meeting – hosted by Georgina-Brock Garden Club
Please see your Yearbook, page 27, for details. This is the annual get-together for all twelve societies in Durham region. It is usually an interesting day, with a flower show, silent auction, interesting speakers.

April 4, 2019 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm – 940 Dillingham Road (Don Beer Arena)
“Bees, Butterflies and Beyond” Garden Workshop – for more information and to register visit www.pickering.ca

April 17, 2019 – 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm – Pickering Recreation Complex
Vegetable Garden workshop – for more information and to register visit www.pickering.ca

April 26-27-28 – Peterborough Garden Show – Fleming Trades & Technology Centre, Peterborough. If you feel that Canada Blooms is too overwhelming, this is the show to see. For more information, visit www.peterboroughgardenshow.com

The Peony Post is published by the Pickering Horticultural Society eight times per year. Comments, suggestions or contributions are always welcome. Please send them to the Editor, Sigrid Squire, at asquire8347@rogers.com