



**Ontario Horticultural Association District 9
Fall Forum
Saturday, October 28th, 2023**



The meeting was called to order by District Director, Leslie Daniels, who welcomed everyone present and members sang a lovely rendition of O Canada .

Leslie welcomed Terry Ugulini, Mayor of Thorold. He noted that there were many Halloween events planned in town. The town along with NPCA is planting 450 native trees and shrubs at the cemetery. Two pollinator gardens have been planted in Thorold and the Town is actively saving the osage orange trees along a highway.

Breakfast was provided by members of the Welland and Thorold Garden Clubs with lunch provided by the Fonthill Legion.

Minutes of the Fall Forum October 29th, 2022

MOTION: that the minutes from the Fall Forum of October 29th be approved.

Moved by Patsy Inglesby Gold and seconded by Brenda Martin. The motion passed.

Roll Call of District Societies

Recording Secretary, Maggie Corner took the roll call

Dunnville Horticultural Society	5
Fort Erie Horticultural Society	1
Grimsby Horticultural Society	4
Lincoln Garden & Horticultural Society	7
Niagara Falls Horticultural Society	14
Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society	1
Pelham Horticultural Society	28
Port Colborne Horticultural Society	5
Ridgeway & District Horticultural Society	4
Garden City Gardeners Horticultural Society	5
Smithville Horticultural Society	3
Thorold Horticultural Society	9
Welland Horticultural Society	21
TOTAL	107
Guests	13

Old/New Business

OHA Convention, Kanata, Ontario

Lisa De Young attended the OHA Convention. The event was hosted by District 2.

Discussion at the convention included sharing the number of volunteer hours for Ontario which was a total of 406,497 hours.

The OHA envelops 264 societies with a membership count of 4,532 members.

Most of the resolutions discussed and voted on at the convention were gender related.

The 2024 convention will be held in Guelph, Ontario, July 12th-14th and hosted by Districts 7 & 8. The theme will be “Heartland of Gardens Growing and Rivers Flowing”.

Presidents Report and OHA/Garden Ontario Report

Leslie Daniels noted that the OHA 50/50 is doing well and the funds will be used for scholarship burseries.

The Co-operators Insurance Company insure Garden Ontario and all clubs. Leslie noted that if you request a quote for home insurance and mention your garden club membership you will receive a \$20 gift certificate.

The plant colour for 2024 is orange, which includes dahlias, zinnias, marigolds, roses, tulips etc.

The website includes much information including:

information on the OHA;

a speakers list;

definitions are still being discussed regarding invasive plants and native plants and information is available on the website.

OMAFRA has annual reporting sessions. Sue Lusted is organizing a meeting for D9 and D6 in Beamsville. You would need to bring a laptop, with your password. Sue noted that OMAFRA is switching from TPN to OneKey.

Awards and Presentations

The judging took place for the Hocus Pocus Flower Arranging Competition

First Place Sandra Cruso

Second Place Russell Boles

Third Place Barbara Blythin

The Eloise Schumacher Award was presented to Pelham Garden Club for having the most members attend the Spring AGM and Fall Forum in 2023. A total of 47.

The District Service Award was presented to Sue Lusted for her many years of hard work for District 9. Sue thanked everyone and noted that she started with Eloise Schumacher.

The door prizes and table arrangements were raffled off. Congratulations to all.

Speaker: Sean James

2020/21 Gardener Communicator of the Year

Sean James created the Val Fleming Butterfly Garden in Beamsville with Ontario Green and the Fleming Foundation.

He noted the following:

- a butterfly garden needs sun,
- mulch was used , but do not use too much – maybe 2” thick – compost mulch is best,
- set up a calendar of care for the garden, remind people, set expectations noting that this is not an instant garden,
- use host plants (must be natives – they are more important than nectar plants), use milkweed for the monarch caterpillars and eggs,
- signage is very important, get your town to work with you,
- some butterflies are plant specific,
- include an art installation in the garden, if possible,

- a rain garden supports biodiversity,
- build a butterfly pyramid with small logs to shelter from storms.
- Sean highlighted various shrubs useful for attracting butterflies and moths including all oaks, including red oak, black cherries and willows are good for biodiversity. Try and use native shrubs, if there is too much growth, coppice the shrub. The New Jersey Tea plant is good for the Mottled Dusky Wing and the Silky Dogwood, the snowberry shrub, white and pink are good for moths. Joe Pye Weed feeds a lot of butterflies and moths. Purple leaved plants are not to good - they are perceived by pollinators as being too strong, variagated plants are good - they are perceived by pollinators as being weak.
- drought tolerant plants will require watering for first year.
- the USDA database is very useful for finding out where natives are.
- do not need to sacrifice beauty. Use bold, feathery, sword shaped plants and incorporate edibles in your landscaping.
- Warning - do not include Ailanthus Altissima– tree of heaven – it is a host for the spotted lantern fly and an invasive plant.
- A butterfly garden will be built at Vineland Research in 2024.

A question and answer session followed.

Tami Lyons and Leslie Daniels thanked Sean James and presented him with a piece of butterfly stained glass.

The door prizes, from each Society, were then raffled off.

The stained glass "Magnolia" draw was held. A big thank you to Tami Lyons for designing and making the piece and for raising over a \$1000 for District 9.

**The afternoon speaker Margaret Pickles – Story of the Monarch.
Margaret is known as “the bug lady”.**

The Monarch butterfly will eat, grow and shed its skin 5 times prior to the pupa/chrysalis stage.

The immigrants that arrive in Ontario are not the monarchs that left Mexico. There will be a couple of generations while in Ontario and the Monarch returning to Mexico is a juvenile.

The host plants for monarchs is Milkweed. This is a poisonous plant, which makes the caterpillars poisonous to birds.

There are lookalikes that take advantage of the monarchs colouring, one being the Viceroy.

Monarchs are distributed around the world. They are the only butterflies to migrate.

The western monarchs go to California. The eastern monarchs, once tagged, do show up in the forests in Mexico. They like the south/southwest facing cool damp mountain areas. The Oyamel Fir is the host tree for the Monarchs. They fly 3000 miles to reach their winter home.

The hazards they meet along the way can be bad weather, predation, traffic (road kill), and starvation.

The threats to the Monarch are deforestation, loss of habitats, climate change and GMO crops.

Margaret talked about Patty Moss in Niagara who has requested towns to not mow ditches and grass verges to help increase the growth of Milkweed. This has taken place, successfully, in Port Colborne.

Margaret suggested that:

- we try and educate others,
- preserve habitat,
- plant a pollinator garden in your garden and/or community, which includes native plants.
- eliminate the use of pesticides.

- your garden can be registered as a Monarch waystation and you can tag monarchs. Please check monarchwatch.org.
- you can join a citizen science project.
- be involved in a Bioblitz – the International Monarch Monitoring Blitz is an annual event devoted to research for the preservation of the Monarch, and maybe tag some butterflies.

A question and answer session followed.

Leslie thanked Margaret Pickles and Tami Lyons presented her with piece of stained glass called Garden Goddess.

The fundraiser draw of 88 gifts then took place.

The meeting was then adjourned .

Respectfully submitted by Maggie Corner