

A WORMS EYE VIEW
FERGUS & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
FEBRUARY 2024



SPRING IS JUST AROUND
THE CORNER!

Meeting February 28, 2024, 7:30 doors open at 7pm. This evening Randy McLean will give us a presentation on maple syrup production on a small farm.

Come early to check in and pay your **annual dues**, now at \$15/member, cash or cheque. We may also e-transfer our payments to fergushorticulture@gmail.com, note name and details in the message box.

“Lug a mug” to partake of refreshments after the meeting.
March 21st is the next newsletter deadline.

On March 27th Dr. John Reaume is back to present Birds and Blooms.

Fergus & District Horticultural Society
February 28, 2024 - President's message

It's amazing this time of year how three degrees below zero can feel balmy after an eighteen below night. That's February, of course, but before you know it spring will be here. Seedy Saturdays are happening all around us. My sister-in-law in Hamilton has seen the beginnings of plants breaking ground in her background. I have received a seed catalogue and a bulb catalogue. It is time to begin planning for the spring.

We have many opportunities for volunteering and I hope to see many of you giving us a hand and enjoying the camaraderie that comes with it.

We have been invited by our friends at the Clifford and District Horticultural Society to attend their meeting on March 26, 7:30pm at the Clifford Community Hall. David Hobson is the speaker covering the topic of the Chelsea Flower Show. David will be covering the same topic in our April meeting, but if you cannot attend and want to catch him, you can head over to Clifford. It's always good to meet new people.

Our Seedy Saturday is scheduled in March. I am looking forward to helping as I did last year. Great fun. It is a very successful event.

I look forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

If you have any suggestions on anything I would love to hear from you. You can connect with me at presidentfdhs1857@gmail.com

have a great day.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time is today.



SEEDY SATURDAY 2024

Seedy Saturday is almost here! The 5th Centre Wellington Seedy Saturday is all set for **Saturday, March 16th, 2024**. The event will be held in the Aboyne Hall and adjacent hallway of the Wellington County Museum & Archives on Wellington Rd. 18 in Fergus. Doors will be open to the public from **10:30am till 2:30 pm**. As in previous years, admission will be free of charge.



There will be something of interest for everyone, regardless of age, gardening experience or expertise as a seed enthusiast. The organizing committee, consisting of Fred Mallett, Jude Dowling, and Sharon Leggett, have lined up a diverse group of vendors, community groups, and advisory services to attend.

Several new vendors have requested to join us as the word spreads about this successful event. From 9 vendors in 2023, we have grown to having 15 vendors for 2024. A full list of commercial vendors can be found listed in the green tri-fold Seedy Saturday brochure, available at our monthly meeting or from several locations in and around Fergus and Elora.

This year we are adding three live workshops, too! Even if you don't grow your plants from seed, or don't know how to harvest and start your own seeds, there will be opportunities to learn all you need to know to get you started, from the expert presenters in our workshops.

You can also learn what local community groups are doing with Community Gardens opportunities, the Food Forest project, and TreeTrust's activities to protect and preserve the mature heritage trees in our community. A Children's Activity Corner will also be available for the youngsters in attendance where they will have a variety of hands-on projects and crafts to keep them busy and allow them to express their imaginations.

A huge thank-you goes out to all Society members who have already volunteered to support this event by helping with vendor set-up and take-down, children's activities, and the Society's welcome desk. If any other members would like to act as "ambassadors" for the Society, just by being there and greeting visitors, promoting the Fergus & District Horticultural Society, and extolling the benefits of membership, please come along, but remember to wear your Society purple tee shirt in order to be recognized!

Any other questions should be directed to any of the Seedy Saturday organizers, or by e-mail at cw.seedy.saturday@gmail.com or call **226-820-2910**.

We hope to see you there!

The poster features a decorative border of various flowers including pink hibiscus, pink roses, yellow sunflowers, and pink plumeria. The text is centered on a light beige background.

Spring Event

BY ELORA SALEM
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**Wednesday, March 20th at
7pm**

AT THE GRANDWAY

7445 WELLINGTON RD 21, ELORA

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS

**BEN CAESAR -PLANTS FOR EDIBLE
LANDSCAPES**

ANNE BARTLET - HYDRANGEAS 101

**Tickets \$10 at the door
Doors open at 6PM !**

Vendors, Door Prizes and More...

All proceeds support Elora Salem Horticultural Society
and the Groves Memorial Hospital Healing Garden

CONTACT INFO: 226-820-6169

District 7 Spring Meeting & AGM 2024

April 13, 2024

9:30 am to 12:30

hosted by Clifford & District Horticultural Society
Clifford Community Hall
2 William Street N., Clifford

Speaker

Paul Judge

Town Landscape Coordinator for Minto

Plan to attend and plan to enter the Flower Show.
Advise Fergus Hort. President, Ken Johnston, if attending – he may advise of numbers for the hosting Society for set up purposes.

Morning coffee and mid-morning break provided.
***Each Society to bring a door prize value of approx. \$25**





Flower Show

Show schedule follows

Please place entries from 8:30 to 9:15 am

Spring 2024 District 7 Flower Show - April 13, 2024

Clifford Community Centre, 2 William St. N. Clifford

- **Entries must be placed from 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.** Judging starts at 9:30 a.m.

- Division 1 – Horticulture*** **Points- 1st-6, 2nd-4, 3rd -2** **Prizes- 1st-\$5, 2nd- \$3, 3rd- \$2**
- Class 1. **Hellebore** - 1 bloom
- Class 2. **Any other Spring Flower** - 1 stem/spray, named
- Class 3. **Flowering Branch**** – max. 75 cm. (30") including container, named
- Class 4. **Any Plant Grown for Foliage**** – named, 1 pot not to exceed 20 cm/ 8 in.
- Class 5. **Bedding Plants** – cell pack, one cultivar, grown from seed, named (min. 4 plants)

Most Points in Horticulture- Prize donated by Guelph Township Horticultural Society - \$10.00

- Division 2 - Design:** **Points- 1st-8, 2nd-6, 3rd -4** **Prizes- 1st-\$7, 2nd- \$5, 3rd- \$3**
- Class 6. **New Beginnings-** a miniature design
- Class 7. **Reaching Out** – a satellite design***
- Class 8. **Rivers Flowing** – your interpretation
- Class 9. **Spring Magic** - a small design
- Class 10. **Winter's Joy** – a pot-et- fleur ****

Judge's Choice - Prize donated by Guelph Township Horticultural Society- \$10.00

* Two entries per class are permitted in Horticultural division only but must be from different cultivars. House plants and garden plants must have been cared for by exhibitor for at least three (3) months or have been grown from seed or a cutting by exhibitor. Judging in accordance with Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards, 2019. Substandard entries may not necessarily receive a prize.

** Branch can be forced

*** **Satellite Design:** A design with a main unit and a smaller unit of the same colour, form and/or texture that do not touch but have a connective line between the units that become a vital part of the rhythmic pattern of the design. (Page 150, Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Floral Design and Horticulture, 2019)

**** **Pot-et-Fleur:** A combination of growing plants (foliage and/or flowering), in or out of pots, packed lightly with soil and/or other moisture retaining materials, plus cut flowers in tubes of water, floral foam or other material, assembled in one container. Moss, decorative wood and rock may be included. No cut foliage is permitted; cut flowering and/or fruiting branches may be use. (Page 149, OJES 2019)