

THE WATER PONDER ~ APRIL 2017 : VOL. 19 ISSUE 4



Butchart Gardens
Vancouver, B. C.

NEXT MEETING ~ 23rd April 2017 (Greet & Eat & Meet at 12.30 pm)

PLACE ~ Banbury Community Centre, 120 Banbury Road, North York.

GENERAL MEETING ~ “Captivating Combos” presented by Jon Story of The Garden Path, Orono who grows 4 greenhouses full of perennials, annuals, water garden plants, grasses, bulbs, shrubs and trees. For the past few years he has supplied plants for our Plant Sale at cost for our society to raise funds. Come see the new stuff and learn how to grow them to perfection.

President’s Message

... Susan Rightmyer

April is finally here and I’m sure everyone has a happy heart and lighter footsteps. We have one more general meeting and then we gear up for our plant sale and pond tour. To reminisce; we have learned about floating islands for our ponds, hostas, bats, swans and photography. All gardeners are nature people and realize how everything works in conjunction to create the wonderful in which we live. Hopefully, we are also learning to save and assist our wildlife that increase our value of joy in the garden.

We participated in Jump on Spring, Seedy Saturdays and the Peterborough Garden Show. All of these venues have increased interest in our organization and hopefully bring in new members. Thanks to all who have given their time. Please keep an eye on our website for late breaking news and upcoming events. Nothing is successful without your participation. Volunteering at events and within the society really is rewarding and a lot of fun.

Now go outside and get enthusiastic about your pond and garden !



Website : onwatergarden.com ~ Email : info@onwatergarden.com



Even though our last meeting was a bit sparsely attended, we had a great meeting. Jack and Janet Orr thanked everyone for bringing so many goodies for the coffee table - no one goes hungry that's for sure. It is so gratifying to see how everyone wants to contribute. I reminded folks about the new ruling about personal devices. Christine once again pulled a rabbit out of the hat and quickly arranged another speaker when our original plan fell through.

Donna Lewis spoke on Trumpeter Swans. She has the responsibility of overseeing a flock of over 100 birds at the headquarters of Magna Corp. of all places. We were saddened to hear that swans were greatly decimated by market hunters. That is they were hunted for their feathers, meat and their feet for things such as change purses. In fact, this is the reason the Alaska Migratory Bird Act was enacted. It wasn't all doom and gloom though, she told a funny story about a particular swan that chased the golf carts on the course that is next to the ponds. However, it's not a great idea to introduce these large waterfowl to your pond as they will eat your water lilies and bulrushes. On the other hand, they do have great poop for gardening.

The places to see these gorgeous creatures Hamilton Harbor, LaSalle Park, and Cootes Paradise and Leslie Spit. Please be aware that lead shot and lead lures end up poisoning these creatures as well as tangled fishing line. Two websites for more information are www.wyemmarsh.com and www.trumpeterswansociety.org

After our break with even more coffee and good stuff, we came back almost orderly to conclude the business part of the meeting. Of course, the 50/50 draw was won by Joyce Cathcart another fix for the season LoL ☺ and reminders for up-coming events. Even though Jake was not there, members were reminded to get their plants ready for the plant sale on June 4th. Please let Jake know # 416-438-4862 about your contributions for the sale.

Water Garden Plant Sale : 4th June 2017



**At Banbury Community Centre,
120 Banbury Road, North York.
From 10 am to 1 pm**



As you know a Plant Sale takes a lots of coordination.

There are several jobs that need to be done the day of the sale and we look forward to you volunteering a little of your time to get this fund raising project to be successful.

We would appreciate very much if you brought your plant donations potted and labeled to the sale.

We need help to bring stuff in to the sale, labeling, pricing and help with assisting the customers.

Thank you.



Water Garden Tour of Gardens in Mississauga & Milton

Please complete a Registration Form and bring it along with cash or cheque to the next meeting.

If however you are not able to do so, please complete the form and post in to Peter Gill. All instructions are on the form.

The Registration Form for the tour is available on the website. Please complete and mail in to Peter Gill, 4691 Highway 7A, Nestleton, Ontario : L0B 1L0.

Tickets : \$ 12/- per person

There will be a BBQ after the tour and we look forward to gathering once again after the tour.

Water Garden Tour~ 16 July 2017

A self guided tour of water gardens in Mississauga & Milton

10 am to 4 pm ~ Rain or Shine



For information phone # 416-750-1890
Email: watgardentour@onwatergarden.com



Tickets \$12.00 available on website

Website ~ www.onwatergarden.com

Presented
by

Greater Toronto Water Garden & Horticultural Society

Nelumbo nucifera is a native lotus of Asia and Australia and has Pink blooms.

Nelumbo Lutea is a native of Eastern North America and is a pale yellow variety with rough edge leaves. They have many petals and are fragrant.

The '**Sacred lotus**' of Ancient Egypt is White and fragrant.

Frogs are indicators of clean water in a pond. Being aquatic and terrestrial they need bank vegetation especially during their metamorphic stage from tadpole to their life on land. Rushes and sedges help in and around the marginal section of the pond. European Bistort and Ajuga make excellent ground cover near the edge of a pond as the frogs are able to catch the vegetation that overhangs to get out of the pond. Frogs are most vulnerable at the tadpole stage of their lives. Carnivorous predators are Mosquito fish that decimate the tadpole population besides herons and cats if given a chance. Newts dine on insect larvae among other insects in the pond.

Plant Profile

Crinum or Spider Lilies

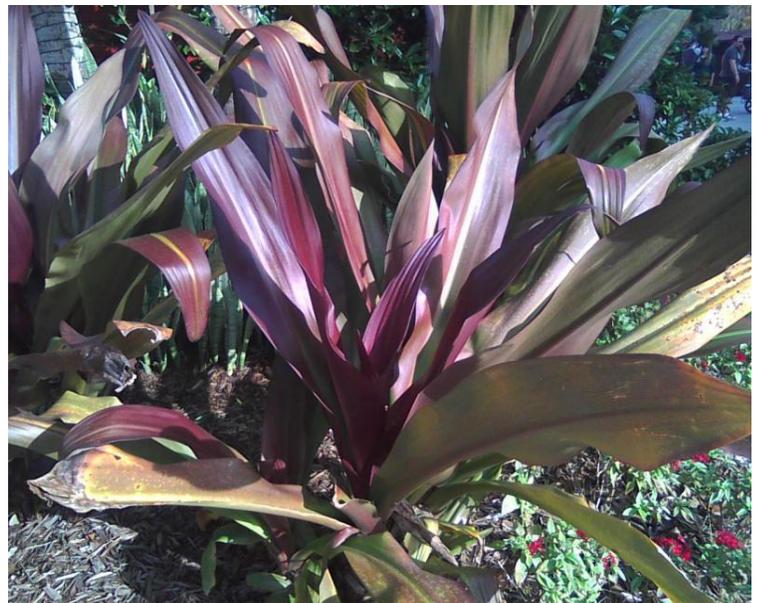
Crinums belong to *Amaryllidaceae* family or the Amaryllis family of bulbs. It is a large perennial herb and native to many tropical parts of the world, They bloom like crazy and bloom year after year if stored away for the winter in our Canadian climate. They can be found in the temperate belts of Asia, Africa, Middle East, Florida and the Caribbean Islands.

Each bulb tapers to an elongated, stem-like neck, from which radiate handsome, long, broad, strap-like leaves. Rising from the foliage mass are thick stems to 4 ft. or taller, each bearing a cluster of long-stalked, lily shaped flowers in white, pink, rose red, or reddish purple. Most are 46 in. long; many are highly fragrant. Depending on the type, crinums may flower from spring through late summer; in the Tropical South, some bloom year-round. Can be brought indoors in winter. Not browsed by deer.

In the Southern States they are often called 'Hot Country Lilies'. They grow to a height of 3- 5 feet and prefer a damp sandy medium soil to perform. At one time they were 'the most cherished pass-along plants combining bold, fragrant flowers, imposing foliage with a bulldog constitution' Now they are found in large country gardens, old home sites and cemeteries where they thrive with little care.

The flowers form a cluster of white flowers with a wine colored stripes, or they could be pink-red. They bloom all summer long and some are fragrant at night. Yet today, very few people know about these beauties.

Good for the edge of the pond on a container plant. It needs regular watering and well-drained soil. To keep it blooming, water with a balanced liquid fertilizer.



Crinums need to be stored indoors before the frost.

Fluttering Friends : Butterflies are a welcome sight in a garden. To attract them as residents you need to have plants that serve the needs of their life stages – a place to lay eggs, food plants for their caterpillars, a place to form a chrysalis and nectar sources for the adults. Most adult butterflies may live 20 to 40 days. Some, however, are believed to live no longer than 3 or 4 days, while others, such as the monarchs, may live to six months. Adults searching for nectar are attracted to red, yellow, orange, pink or purple blossoms that are flat topped or clustered and have short flower tubes which allow the butterflies to reach the nectar with their proboscis. Nectar producing plants should be grown in open sunny areas, as adult butterflies rarely feed on plants in the shade.

Landscaping around your pond is a question of personal taste. The choice of plant material today is far more readily available than what we had fifteen to twenty years ago. It is knowing what to plant around the pond, that is important. To landscape around a pond, take into consideration your surroundings, distance away from the fence line, height of trees existing around the pond, evergreens and deciduous trees in relation to color and texture. The following are a few suggestions with which you might like to experiment.

To make your pond look bigger, layer the tall trees towards the back of your garden with shrubs falling into the second layer in a 5 foot height and then stagger the shorter plants 2-3 ft in height in a zigzag pattern to create interest. Given below are a few suggestions for plant material.

Tree Layer – Trees and Shrubs to consider are Acer Palmatum (Japanese Maples) -Bloodgood; Syringa (Boomerang Lilac) Euonymus Alatus (Burning Bush); Picea pungens (Spruce) ‘Hoopsii’

Shrub Layer – Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Camellias, Philadelphus or Mock Orange, Cotoneaster Golden Ninebark, Fothergilla, Potentilla fruticosa (double pink blooms); Viburnum ‘Carlesii’

Pond Side – Big Leaves of Gunnera, Rheum Palmatum, Hosta Sagae, H. Guacamole, Hosta Plantaginea (36” tall fragrant flowers); Hosta ‘Krossa Regal’ (36” tall blue green foliage). Spirea Japonica ‘(Gold Mound); Weigela florida ‘Red Prince; Ligularia dentata ‘Othello’. Hydrangea quercifolia ‘Ruby’, Hydrangea Macrophylla ‘Endless Summer’; Hydrangea paniculata ‘Strawberry Sundae’.

Perennials – Cistus creticus (Rock Roses); Day lilies; Gaillardia; Veronica; Phlox; Sage; Asters; Astilbe; Coneflowers; Peonies, Coreopsis, Iris, Penstemon, Sedum, Heuchera –(Coral bells), Brunnera Macrophylla - Jack Frost; Melampodium (Butter Daisies) Geranium Psilostemon.

Annuals – Salpiglosis sinuata, Tithonia (Mexican sunflowers), Begonia Boliviensis; Gaura lindheimiri, Salvias, annual grasses, sedums and some ground covers.

Tropicals – Cannas, Palms, Gingers, Colocasia esculenta, Alocasia, Arum.

Marginals – Pondetera Cordata (Pickerel Weed) Thalia Dealbata (Water Canna) Cypress Conifer

Did you know?

-Toxic plants –This can seriously affect your fish in the pond and they can die. Black Walnut tree (all parts), Choke Cherry (all parts); Koi may have eaten the cherries that dropped in the pond; English Ivy (all parts); Honeysuckle (flowers, leaves) fish ate what dropped into the pond resulting in a lot of deaths. Once removed and the water changed, they were okay. All parts of Crotons are poisonous.

-The more fish in a pond, the worse your water quality. Water quality is the first sign your pond is over-stocked. The second will be sick fish. The third will be fish deaths.

- Catfish will grow quickly and eat anything that fits into its mouth (including your other fish).

- Don't forget 10% water change in early spring improves the quality of the pond water. It is important to do 4 or 5 water changes so that the fish get more oxygen after a long winter.

- A water garden attracts more varied assortment of wildlife. Dragon flies should be welcomed, since they devour huge amounts of mosquitoes.

COMING EVENTS – Spring 2017

Meetings are held at Banbury Community Centre, 120 Banbury Road, North York. (Located in the South West quadrant of Don Mills & Leslie Street) Meet & Greet from 12.30 pm to 4.00 pm. Think of a friend who would enjoy our gatherings. Do invite them to any of the following meetings.

29 April 2017 : Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington – From 10 am – 4 pm

Garden & Plant Faire around the RBG Rock Garden, 600 Plains Road West, Burlington, Ontario. Jake will be located on the grassy area in front of the Main Building under the tent. While he is drumming up business at the RBG, a few of us will be at the District 5 Annual General Meeting hosted by Leaside Garden & Hort. Society at the Toronto Botanical Garden.

29 April 2017 : DIST. 5 AGM 8.30am – 3pm at Toronto Botanical Garden

Registration is at 8.30 am. Coffee and muffins will greet you at the door to get you settled in before the meeting starts at 9 am. Draw prizes, silent auction, horticultural exhibits. Two speakers will be speaking on sex. Martin Galloway of Chalk Lake Farms : “ Sex in the Garden” and Clement Kent on “How to make a Pollinator Garden”.

13 May 2017 : NANPS Plant Sale at Markham Civic Centre From 12 noon – 3 pm

North American Native Plant Society will hold their Plant Sale at 101 Town Centre Boulevard, Markham. Free Admission & Parking. Wild flowers and woodlands, shrubs, trees, vines and grasses from approved growers. Visit : www.nanps.org for the plant list. Please take your own bags and trays if you plan on picking up plant material.

4 June 2017 : GTWGHS Annual Plant Sale at Banbury Community Centre

There will be all kinds of plant material for your garden. Bring your friends and come pick up your Water Lilies and Marginals for your pond. If you are donating plants, please bring them in suitable pots or containers with the names and growing conditions.

Gentle Reminder

It is time to start digging in the garden and dividing your plants. Please keep our ‘Plant Sale’ in mind when you are making your divisions. Every little donation of greenery helps to make it a successful venture.

Contact : Jake 416-438-4862



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