

# The Greenleaf Newsletter

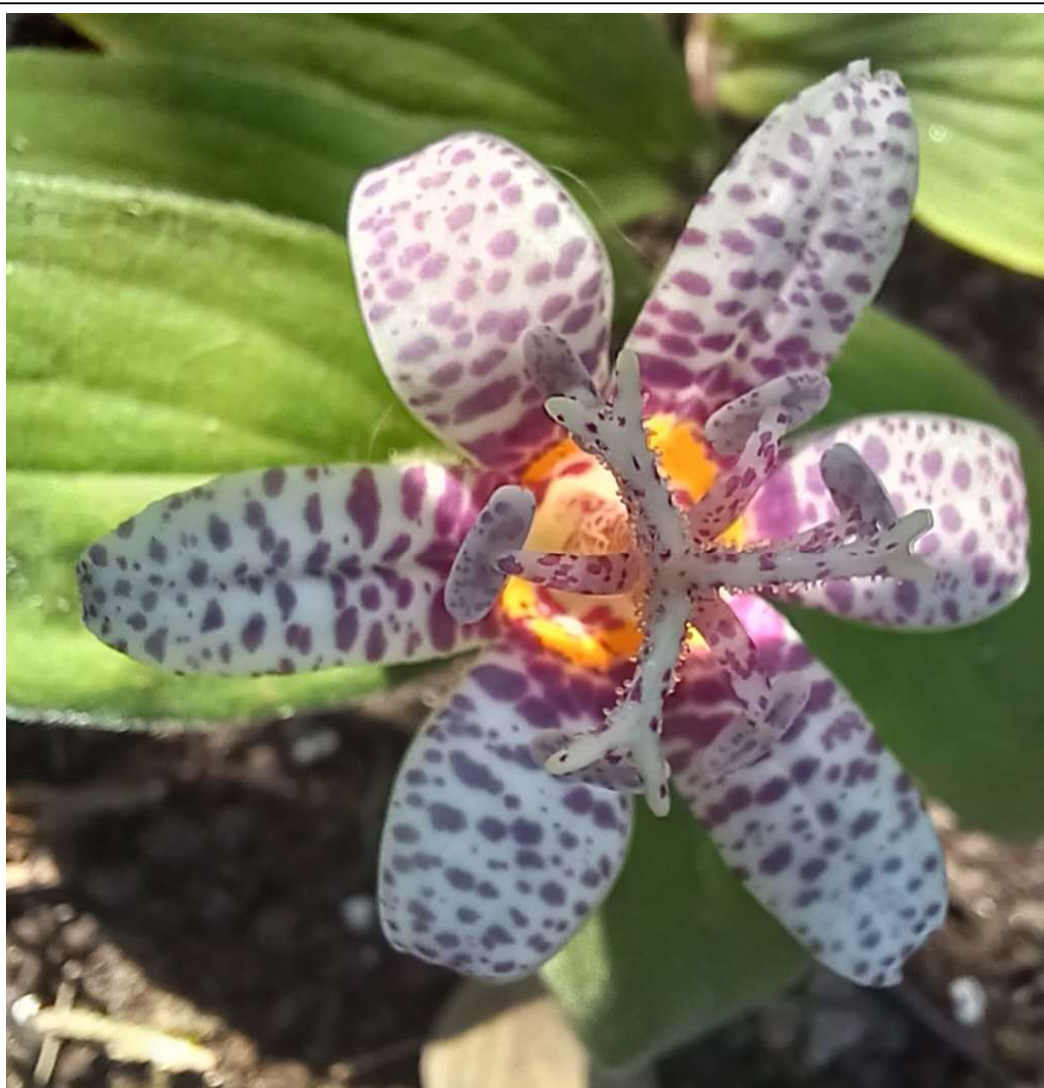
Oshawa Garden Club



## November 2023

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Toad Lily - Photo by Rose Mary Mason



The Oshawa Garden Club (OGC) is an active member of District 17 of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA)



Submission deadline  
for next newsletter:  
Dec. 15

## President's Message:

Greetings OGC Members,

We are entering the fall season slowly for some and not quickly enough for others. The cool weather is here and by now I'm sure most of you have put most of your gardens to bed for a well-deserved winter nap. As we all reflect on what worked and what we would do differently in the garden, we can look forward to next year when all of our gardens come back to life in spring.

Our last meeting of the year is happening on November 13th. It is our Annual General Meeting where we will go over all the great things that happened this year, elect our new board of directors and get all the details about the planned bus trip to Garden Walk Buffalo.

This is the very first time the Oshawa Garden Club has planned such an ambitious trip. It will be a great way to see all the private gardens we have seen pictures of and not have to worry about directions, or where to stay. There will be a limited number of spaces and best of all it will be exclusively OGC Members first in line to book this great 3-day, 2-night trip to Buffalo, NY. It will all be covered in the presentation we are having this evening. Please plan on being at the meeting to get all the details!

We have had an offer from Robin Burns to make Coffee and Tea for this evening. Thank you, Robin! Please lug-a-mug for this evening.

Lastly, Oshawa Garden Club is part of the Ontario Horticultural Association and a proud member of District 17. There are 12 clubs in our district and every year one club takes their turn as host to the district AGM. In 2024 it will be our turn to host this event. It will be held April 27th, 2024 with Paul Zammit and Cathy Kavassalis as our speakers for the day. It will be a great day filled with information and all things gardening! It looks to be an exciting event.

*Cheers, Greg Merlin, Oshawa Garden Club President*

## The Greenleaf Newsletter

Oshawa Garden Club

The Greenleaf is a newsletter of the Oshawa Garden Club.

President:  
Greg Merlin

Newsletter Editor:  
Cecile Willert

Location of Meetings:  
38 Lviv Blvd, Oshawa  
Doors open at 7:00 pm  
Meetings start 7:30 pm

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Facebook:  
"Friends of the  
Oshawa Garden Club"



## Annual General Meeting November 13, 2023

Doors open at 7 p.m.

Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Be sure to come out to elect our new Board. Tea, coffee, snacks provided. Please bring your own mug!

There will also be a special presentation by Margaret of HNA Travel on next summer's bus trip to **Garden Walk Buffalo!**

PLUS a special volunteer appreciation celebration! Please lug a mug.

## Correction

Our September newsletter incorrectly identified the photographer for the photos of National Garden Day. Thank you and apologies go to Ann Couch for providing the photos.

## January Speaker: Going Green with Carson Arthur

January 8 on Zoom

Over the last 25 years, Carson has taught homeowners how to raise the value of their homes through outdoor renovations while maintaining a focus on environmentally friendly choices. He is a TV mainstay as part of the North American Cityline team as a landscape designer. He has also been the host or expert on several tv shows that can be seen all around the world. He writes for several publications about outdoor design and appears regularly in a variety of magazines with guest articles and hosts his own radio show right here in Canada.

Carson is the author of the sold-out book Garden Designs for Outdoor Living and has a new book called Vegetables, Chickens and Bees where he teaches new gardeners how to grow food and become more sustainable in their own outdoor spaces. In 2019, Carson opened his namesake market in Prince Edward County. With a focus on growing food, organic principals, and products that make gardening accessible to everyone, Carson's Garden + Market has quickly become a destination for discerning gardeners.



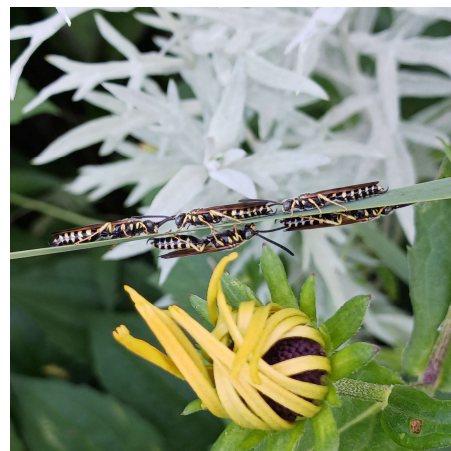
His credits include; the host of HGTV's Green Force and Critical Listing; the Gemini nominated Room to Grow on Global, ION and the Discovery network; Better Homes and Garden's Home, First Home on the Hallmark Channel in the U.S.; and as the gardening expert on HGTV's blockbusters; Home to Win Season 1 through 4.



## Bugs, Bugs, Bugs - by Rose Mary Mason

Newly retired, this gardening season I had time to smell the roses and observe some interesting insects for the first time.

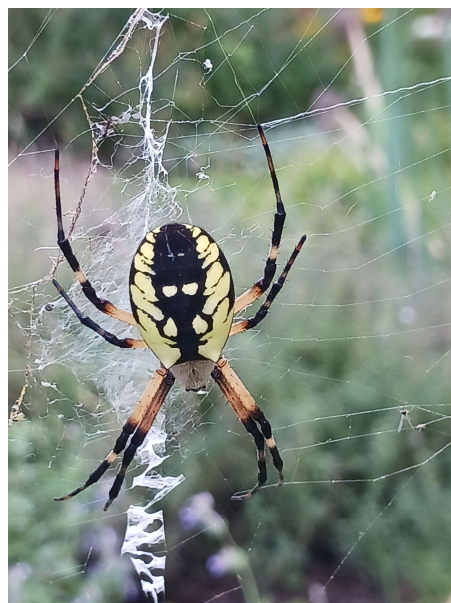
First, I noticed a gathering of wasps on my Iris leaves. Rows of them like the 401 during rush hour. A little research revealed that they were Five Banded Thynnid Wasps. There are several suggestions as to why they group together. Maybe they were gathered on the leaves waiting for temperatures to rise in order to forage, perhaps there is safety in numbers from predators or, my favourite, they were waiting patiently for the females to emerge. The females will lay their eggs on beetle grubs, so the wasps are welcome. Adults gather nectar from flowers such as these found in my garden - milkweed, boneset, asters, bergamot, cat mint, parsley, yarrow and goldenrod.



Next, I stumbled on a Green Darner Dragonfly on my milkweed. So named as it resembles a darning needle (remember those?). One of the largest dragonflies, it is migratory (multi-generational) preferring the warmer climes in winter. They have a bull's eye mark on their face. Although the nymphs are born in water, the adults can be found far and wide, eating flies, wasps, mosquitoes and other winged insects. Mine appears to be female with a brownish thorax as opposed to the blue body of the male. They have been around longer than the dinosaurs.



Finally (and a warning to those who don't like arachnids) I was honoured to have a Golden Garden Spider spin a web on my hosta. The largest spider I have seen in the garden, its bright yellow colour indicated that it was female. They eat flies and bees or other flying insects that get caught in their web. Also known as a Zipper Spider because of the design in its web - a structure which can be up to 2 feet in diameter. The zigzag pattern could be to camouflage the spider or warn birds away from getting entangled in the web or to attract prey - all have been theorized. Another beneficial insect, while I give it a wide berth, I'm happy to see it take up residence.



What interesting bugs have you discovered in your garden?

Article and photos by Rose Mary Mason

## Tree Planted in Memory of Bonnie White

A sugar maple tree was planted recently at Deer Creek Park in Oshawa, in memory of our past president Bonnie White.

An avid gardener, Bonnie spent much of her time at local gardening festivals and community gardens. She was proud to have been the past president (twice) of the Oshawa Garden Club where she made many cherished friends doing what she loved. She was also a past president of District 17.

Photos by Tori Dodds





## Buffalo Garden Bus Tour - Special Announcement

\*\*\* *Don't miss out!* \*\*\*

*July 22-24, 2024*

*Don't miss the special Buffalo Garden Tour trip presentation at our November 13 AGM! Spots are sure to fill quickly.*

*This 3-day tour will visit a fabulous selection of sites and private gardens with lots of opportunities for fun!*



## Discounts now available from Earth Culture

Earth Culture is a Gardening & Hydroponics Store based in Ajax. Their shop, Earth Culture, has been open since 2019, but their family has been in this industry for over 30 years and has several stores across Ontario.



At Earth Culture they strive to provide customers with the best nutrients, fertilizers, tools & equipment so they can get the most out of their soil, coco & hydrogardens. Whether they are growing Houseplants, Vegetables, Flowers, Microgreens or Cannabis, Earth Culture has something to help enhance their garden!

They currently work with several Grade & Secondary schools across the Province, and are an authorized vendor with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB).

Earth Culture would like to offer Oshawa Garden Club members a 10% Discount when they present their membership cards at the Ajax retail location, as well as an opportunity to be a part of the loyalty program which allows them to earn points towards future discounts & rewards. The 10% discount will apply to everything in the store except Promix HP & BX (both 79L bags & 107L bales), LED Light Fixtures & Live Indoor Plants.

## Save the Date - 2024 Special Events

Saturday April 27 - District 17 Annual General meeting

July 12-14 - Ontario Horticultural Association Annual General Meeting in Guelph

July 22-24 - Buffalo Garden bus tour

## Tip on disposing of invasive plants:

Place in a garbage bag and leave in the sun for 5 days to bake them, then place in the garbage, not the green bin or compost.

## 2024 District 17 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Oshawa Garden Club is hosting the District 17 AGM on April 27, 2024. We anticipate an attendance of between 140 and 150 people. This is a large undertaking, and one which will require lots of volunteers.

There will be sign-up sheets at the meeting in November. In advance of the meeting, here are a list of committees you may be interested in joining.

1. Decorations
2. Flower Show
3. Upstairs Tables
4. Decorating
5. OGC Silent Auction
6. Morning Refreshments
7. Lunch
8. District 17 Silent Auction
9. Sound, Technology
10. Photography of the event
11. Photo Show
12. Vendors
13. Parking Attendants and assistance with large items.

By Catherine Hilge



Kale - Photo by Rose Mary Mason

**Submission Deadline for January Newsletter: December 15<sup>th</sup>.**