



Judging Matters

A Newsletter of GCO Judges' Council

Issue #7 – April 7th 2025

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Chairs' Letter

Dear Judges and Student Judges,

Spring is in full swing with our early bulbs and tubers awakening our gardens and woods. Enjoy the warmer weather but don't clean up too quickly. Give the ground-dwelling pollinators and beneficial insects time to move from their Winter homes to their above-ground Summer homes.

We had an amazing **Virtual Session** on "*Comment Writing*" with Lizzie Matheson on March 24th with a full house. Lots of great tips and guidance were provided. The new Judges' Comment card was introduced to the attendees.

Our big event for Monday, April 28th is a sold-out performance by **internationally acclaimed floral artist Bruno Duarte** at the Landscape Ontario Headquarters in Milton. The morning demonstration will have approximately 80 attendees while the sold-out afternoon workshop will have 60 members trying their hand at an inspired design by Bruno. There are limited spaces available for the morning demonstration. You may pre-register by contacting Cathy Faber-Rowlands at crwf@sympatico.ca

"Save the date" for Tuesday, September 23rd for our Fall Judges' Council meeting. Full details will be in the August Judging matters. Keep a watch for Judges' Bulletins which will update you on changes or additions to events.

Our **last Virtual Session** for the year will be on November 24th at 7:00 pm when staff from the Invasive Species Centre will present "*An Overview of Invasive Plants in Ontario*." More details will be in the August newsletter.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our big event with Bruno Duarte!

Anne Harbord and Mary-Ann Vercammen

2. Editor's Comment:

If you would like to write an article on horticulture, design or a Canadian garden you have visited, please let us know. We are working towards future issues.

Claudette Smith, editor, jcnewsletter2025@gmail.com



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3. Down Memory Lane by Claudette Smith – GCO Published Designers (source NAFAS)

What is NAFAS? It is a floral design organization in the UK known as the The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies. The “Flower Arranger” is their floral design magazine, to which you may subscribe online: <https://pocketmags.com-magazine>

In 2007, Judith Blacklock, Editor of The Flower Arranger, visited the Toronto Botanical Garden on a photographic assignment for their Winter issue celebrating the 40th anniversary of The Milne House Garden Club (1967 – 2007), with Jackie Noble, photographer. Bette Hall wrote eloquently about Canada's Floral Heritage. Our Provinces were depicted in outstanding designs: Bette Hall for the Maritimes; Leoandra Carnao for the Prairies; Rowena Martin for Ontario, British Columbia, and her Prairie roots; Lucie Friedrich for Quebec; Lillie Haworth for Newfoundland; Joan Creighton for North West Territories.



Winter wreaths featured further in this magazine were created by the late Ann Diebel, the late Sue Stevenson, Elaine Mayo and Mary Audia. An “en plein air” outdoor design by Peg Spence featured weathered wood; Rowena Martin's composition used peeled, fallen birch sticks with birch bark forming cones then filled with grasses (*photo by Rowena Martin, left*). Bonnie Priest incorporated a slate base with red pine branch, and birch bark. Pat Ware combined west coast holly, ivy, roses and wayside teasels into a wonderful contrast in textures. Jennifer Darrell featured a white rock, representing an ice age remnant of our Canadian Shield, combined with birch, evergreens and amaryllis.

Other design inspirations from Canada were created by Sharon Koors, the late Olga Sandilands, Julie Forbes, Majida Hameed and the late Kay Thorfinnson, with Jan Middleton and Marguerite Husband. More designs were published from Shirley Basciano / Sandi Remedios, Helen Selemedis-Hill, Maureen Naylor, Audrey Hartwell and Hazel Denning.

The NAFAS front cover design by Peg Spence - gold and copper roses highlighted her holiday arrangement and lime green hydrangea repeated the colour in an art glass bowl. Glass balls added a festive look and created harmony with the bowl. Four compositions created by WAFSA members from Canada appeared on page 10 in the NAFAS leaflet insert: Janet Lee / Jennifer Eccles, Jennifer McIvor, Mary Ann Ankenman / Dorothy Cartmell, plus one done by Claudette Smith.

It was an honour to be published in this keepsake issue celebrating the 40th anniversary of MHGC.



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4. Canadian Designers – Entering and Judging Virtual Floral Competitions

by Barb Bedell

I have had the pleasure over the last four years of both entering and judging virtually. I have been asked how to go about this and “how do you get to judge?”

Thanks to our GCO Facebook moderator, Jacqui Miller, the International and National schedules are posted immediately for all to see. If you are not on Facebook, please know that this site is private and user-friendly. You have to ask to join. All pertinent information for entering, staging, photographing and e-mailing your design are there with the schedule. I have used my iPad with diffused light from a window to take photographs of your designs. No fancy equipment is needed, just a steady hand.

Over the years, I have become friends with many International designers, posting wonderfully inspiring designs from the U.K., IFFAD (International Friends of Floral Art and Design), Africa (Kenya Floral Arrangement Club), SAFU (South African Flower Union), Pakistan, the Floral Art Society of Pakistan Magnolia Chapter which has recently posted its first virtual competition for April, Australia, NSWFA (New South Wales Floral Art Association) just to name a few.

I really encourage you to enter! After a while, they get to know your name and that in turn is how they may ask you to join a judging team. It's a great learning experience and a thrill to see your name in print representing Canada!



Nature into Art (2nd place) IFFAD 2023
“Spring Awakening” Show
(Barb Bedell)



Woody, Woolly and Wonderfully Festive
IFFAD 2021
First and runner-up to BIS “Festive Flair” Show



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(Barb Bedell)

5. Mark Pampling – Master Floral Artist (Australia)

Mark Pampling is one of the foremost Floral Artists in Australia. Mark has won many national and International Floral Design Competitions which makes us certain he will feature prominently in WAFA Australia. He has an extensive program of training videos and information on his Facebook site and YouTube that you may wish to explore. He is renowned for his minimalistic designs which focus on the beauty of the plant material.



Photo courtesy Flower Thinking

MARK PAMPLING *Australia*

The following article is courtesy of floos.org/en/master-florist/mark-pampling.

BIOGRAPHY

Mark's interest in floral material and craftsmanship originated in his hometown of Toowoomba, long known as Australia's Garden City and famous for its annual Carnival of Flowers. He began introductory floral art and floristry education there, studies that led to a continuing thirst to expand his knowledge and skills in floral design – a passion that seems to know no end.

Mark has been awarded Australia's top floristry prize, the Interflora 'Australia Cup,' on multiple occasions and has been highly placed in a number of international competitions and exhibitions, including a 3rd placing at the Interflora World Cup in 2004 when he represented Australia.



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Education, business and advisory roles make up Mark's extensive resume. He is co-owner of Alstonville Florist in northern New South Wales, a TAFE teacher, demonstrator, accredited floristry Judge and industry consultant – roles that have required his presence all around Australia and most recently in Singapore, Germany, Belgium, Scotland, England, Taiwan and China.

Mark is also a regular contributor to international floral design publications, most notably to the pages of Fusion Flowers Magazine. Since 2016 Mark is one of the 'Master Florist' that is part of the FLOOS project and his designs have been published in *The Crafter's Secret Vol.02* (2017)

PHILOSOPHY

Examining a floral design by Mark Pampling is often a chance to experience crisp lines and exacting technique. He has become known for his structural approach to designing – a technical approach that leaves ample room to respect plant material and elevate its inherent beauty.

AWARDS

- 2014 Fusion Flowers International Designer of the Year – 1st Place
- 2014 9th China International Orchid Show (Sanya) – Best Creative Award 2014 International Flower Contest Japan – Best in Show, Gold Award and Design Innovation Award
- 2014 Asia Cup (Japan) – 1st Place – Surprise Table Display
- 2013 Fusion Flowers International Designer of the Year – 2 Silver Awards & 1 Bronze Award
- 2012 Fusion Flowers International Designer of the Year – 4th Place
- 2012 Interflora Australia Cup – Winner
- 2011 Interflora Australia Cup – Winner
- 2004 Australian Competitor 10th Interflora World Cup 2004 – 3rd Place

WEB PAGE

<https://markpampling.com>

N.B. TAFE: Technical and further education or simply TAFE is the common name in Australia for vocational education.

FLOOS Project: FLOOS is the first 100% online library of professional floral recipes, where the most influential master florists in the world explain how to create technically advanced floral compositions, step-by-step, with videos and photos. As well as all that, we add a new collection of recipes each month, so that you can update and practise your skills with the latest trends in floral design. <https://floos.org/en>



6. Peony Classifications and Judging by Anne Harbord

The peony (*Paeonia*) has a rich history, dating back to ancient China (1700 BCE) where they were cultivated as medicinal plants and later as beautiful ornamental plants. They were mentioned in the Iliad in 672 BCE. They spread to Japan by the 11th century and eventually found their way to Europe in the 17th century and North America in the early 1800s. They soon became popular garden plants and wedding flowers.

Peonies are amazing blooms for their form and scent whether in the garden, a floral design, wedding bouquet or fresh-cut from your garden in a vase in your home.

The following are the classifications of peonies with which you should be familiar as a Horticultural Judge.

Herbaceous: Most of the herbaceous peonies are hybrids of either *Paeonia lactiflora* or *Paeonia officinalis*. There are hundreds of cultivars. The flowers can be Single, Japanese, Anemone, Semi-double or Double (OJES 2019 pg 93-94).

- 1) **Singles** have stamens and carpels as well as pollen bearing anthers.
- 2) **Japanese** are very similar to the Single but do not have free pollen.
- 3) **Semi-Double** have five or more guard petals around at least three rows of petals and prominent stamens which are intermixed.
- 4) **Anemone** have lost any resemblance to the filaments and anthers from which the devolved staminoides have formed. They are now referred to as “petaloids”.
- 5) **Double** has five or more guard petals a full centre of petaloids, no filaments visible and the stamens completely buried.

Each type is a stage of evolution of the reproduction elements of the flower. The colours range from white to pink to red and even to yellow.



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Single peony “Flame “
(Anne Harbord)



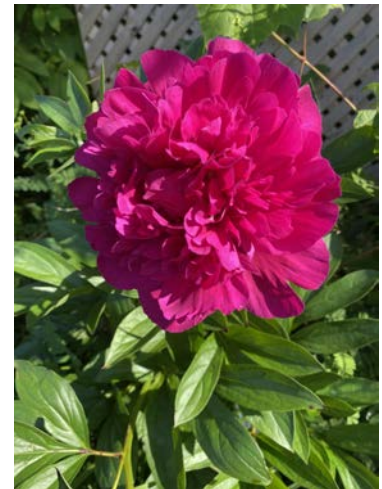
**Japanese-type herbaceous peony
“Jan Van Leeuwen”**
(Anne Harbord)



Semi Double Peony
(Anne Harbord)



Anemone Peony
(Anne Harbord)



**Double herbaceous peony
“Kansas”**
(Anne Harbord)



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The newest innovation in herbaceous peony breeding is a green peony such as “Green Envy” or “Green Lotus”.



Peony “Green Envy”
(Anne Harbord)



Fern Peony
(Anne Harbord)

An old-fashioned herbaceous peony common on many century-old farms in Ontario is the Fern Peony (*P. tenuifolia*), with fern-like leaves and deep red single or double blooms. These are the first Peonies to bloom in late April or early May and last almost a month. They are about 18” – 22” high so do not need staking. They are very expensive when you can find them (approx. \$100) and it is doubtful that they will be cut for a flower show. I have five of these plants, all double reds. I would love to find a rarer pink single or double or even a red single.

Tree Peonies are woody perennial shrubs and do not die back to the ground in Winter. They bloom in early spring, before herbaceous peonies. Native to China and cultivated for millennia, they symbolize honour and wealth. Many Chinese medicines are derived from Peony roots. Their woody structure supports gigantic 8"-12" flowers which can be any of the herbaceous flower types and judged the same way. Bees and other pollinators are highly attracted to the flowers. While they can take full sun, they thrive in dappled light and the blooms will last longer if they have some shade in the hot afternoon. These deer-resistant plants thrive in zones 4-9. Tree peonies grow slowly, producing 1 to 6 inches of new woody growth each year.



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Single Tree Peony Bloom
(Anne Harbord)



Whole Tree Peony
(Anne Harbord)

Itoh or Intersectional Peonies were developed in 1948, by Japanese peony hybridizer, Toichi Itoh. He was the first to successfully cross an Herbaceous Peony and a Tree Peony, and the result, christened in his honour, are Itoh (or Intersectional) Peonies. Itohs borrow highly desirable traits from both plant parents then add a few advantageous characteristics of their own. Itohs are available in a broad range of flower forms and colours, including some of the brightest yellows. Itohs are judged based on their flower form and substance of their stem and leaves. Plants offer the longest blooming season among all Peonies (about 3 - 4 weeks). The pointy, divided foliage resembles that of a Tree Peony, yet the blooming period tends to coincide with or slightly precede that of Herbaceous Peonies. The stiff stems tolerate weather and rarely flop, giving plants a full, shrubby look. At season's end, plants die back to the ground and bring forth their stems in the Spring. Like both parents, these long-lived plants require minimal care. Itohs are a remarkable treasure in any garden and an excellent source of cut flowers.



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**Cluster of Japanese-type herbaceous peony
“Jan Van Leeuwen”**
(Anne Harbord)



Yumi (Beauty) ITOH Peony
(pahls.com)

References:

OJES 2019;
University of Rhode Island Botanical Garden Blogs;
specialeffectsflower.com/peony-trees/ and whiteflowerfarm.com/itoh-peonies

In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.

[Margaret Atwood](#)



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7. Red Lily Leaf Beetle Update by Dr Cedric Gillot

The following article on the Red Lily Leaf Beetle was shared with us by the **Ontario Regional Lily Society**.

ORLS Newsletter Editor's Note:

The following article by Dr Cedric Gillot is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society.
Website: saskperennial.ca or Facebook: facebook.com/saskperennial



The Lily Leaf Beetle – an update

By Dr. Cedric Gillott

The lily leaf beetle (*Lilioceris lili*), a native of Europe and Asia, was first reported in North America in the 1940's, likely imported in shipments of potted Asiatic or Oriental Lilies. It spread rapidly in Ontario and Quebec and in many of the New England states, again probably via the commercial movements of its host plants and their potting soil. It is now found in all Canadian Provinces. It reached Saskatchewan in 2015, being reported in Saskatoon, Tisdale and Leask, and more recently, Kelvington, Prince Albert and Regina.

The adult is the overwintering stage, burrowing in soil and under leaf litter. Adults reappear in April,



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feed, and mate, females laying eggs in rows of 2-16 on the underside of leaves. A single female may produce over 450 eggs. Eggs hatch in about a week and there are four larval stages. As they grow, larvae coat themselves in their excrement for camouflage, to prevent desiccation and as protection against predators. Larvae mature after about three weeks and drop to the ground where they pupate. New adults emerge from the pupal case in late summer, feed briefly and then move to their winter quarters.

Both larvae and adults feed on the foliage of true lilies, including Tiger, Easter, Asiatic, Oriental and native lilies (including Saskatchewan's floral emblem, the Red Lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*). As well, Fritillaries are also eaten, though Canna Lilies, Calla Lilies and Day Lilies are not attacked.

For gardeners with only a few lilies, control can be achieved by careful inspection in early spring for adults, followed by watching for the larval stages as summer progresses. The offenders can be removed and either drown in soap solution or, for those of us with more sadistic tendencies, simply squished! Lily specialists and horticulturists with large numbers of plants may need to resort to more drastic measures, including chemical control. If so, remember that some synthetic pesticides are broad-spectrum (toxic to a range of insect pests) and persistent. Choose a short lasting product such as a synthetic pyrethroid that works on contact with the pest. Apply when the danger to other (beneficial) insects is minimal, for example, in late evening when pollinators should have left for the day.

Because the LLB is an introduced species, it has few natural enemies (predators and parasites) to regulate its numbers. The good news is that three biological control agents have been identified, tested and released in certain regions of North America. A small European wasp, *Tetrastichus setifer*, harmless to humans, was the first of these. Initially released in New England between 1999 and 2004, it rapidly reduced the lily beetle populations to harmless levels. It was first released in Canada (Ottawa) in 2010 and has successfully established itself (and been so successful that researchers sometimes have had difficulty finding LLB with which to work!). The wasp was also released in Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta, and it is definitely established in our neighbour to the west. Unfortunately, samples of the wasp due for shipment to Saskatchewan for release in 2020 and 2021 did not materialize because of the COVID pandemic.

Two more biocontrol agents from Europe, the ichneumon wasps, *Lemophagus errabundus* and



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Diaparsis jucunda, were also released in the early 2020s in New England and have established themselves there. Permission to import and establish cultures of the first of these in Canada has recently been granted, and releases are expected to begin in the next year or two. As well, it seems that the LLP is not entirely immune to attack by some native predatory arthropods: the larvae are eaten by lacewing larvae, while observers have also photographed robber flies and spiders munching on the adults. So, although we are not yet out of the woods, there is hope that, in the not too distant future, the LLB may be a distant memory.

Cedric Gillot is one of Canada's leading entomologists and a retired professor in the Biology Department at the University of Saskatchewan.

Spring is nature's way of saying "Let's party"

Robin Williams

8. Prohibited and Restricted Plants in Ontario by Anne Harbord

Effective January 1, 2024, the Ontario government regulated an additional 10 species and four groups of similar species under the *Ontario Invasive Species Act (ISA)* to help prevent, control and reduce their spread within Ontario.

There are two classes of invasive species regulated under the ISA: Prohibited and Restricted.

Prohibited Plants: It is illegal to import, possess, deposit, release, transport, breed / grow, buy, sell, lease or trade prohibited invasive species.

Restricted Plants: It is illegal to import, deposit, release, breed / grow, buy, sell, lease or trade restricted invasive species.



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Potential impacts: Prohibited and / or Restricted plants changes chemical and microbial activity in soils, reduces soil nutrients, displace native plant species, associated with several fungal pathogens and the preferred host to the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*).

What can we do as Gardeners?

- **Garden responsibly** - Choose native or non-invasive plants for your garden to avoid introducing or spreading invasive species. Avoid relocating plants from your home to your cottage garden and vice versa. Find recommended garden species for Northern and Southern Ontario in the [Grow Me Instead guides](#).
- **Know your enemy** - Learn how to identify and manage invasive plants. The best techniques and timing to remove them will vary depending on the species. [Learn ways you can manage invasive species](#).
- **Root out invaders carefully** - Put your uprooted invaders into a black garbage bag and leave it in the sun for at least five days. This will make sure that no invaders have a chance to sprout and grow in new areas.
- **Dispose of invasive plants carefully** - Dispose of yard waste through your local municipality. Do not dump yard waste in nearby natural areas as this can smother natural vegetation and spread invasive plants.
- **Keep invaders out of the compost** - Never put invasive plants in your backyard compost. Even when uprooted, invasive plants can spread seeds or grow roots in your compost pile. Some invasive plants can regenerate from fragments as small as 2 centimetres.
- **Don't forget about the pond** - Invasive plants can sneak into and out of your water gardens. Never dump unwanted plants and fish into local waterways.

For more information, go to the following link: [Invasive Species in Ontario](#)

On November 24, 2025, we / JC will host a Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm with a speaker from the Ontario Invasive Species Council. They will provide in-depth information on the prevalent invasive plants.

Reference: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/invasive-species-action-plans#gardeners>



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9. A Traditional Japanese Garden in Victoria by Trudy Grantham

A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE GARDEN, SMALL BUT DELIGHTFUL



Japanese Style Garden



Magnificent shrubs
and trees to enjoy.



Enticing entrance to invite you in.



Traditional wooden walkway.



The garden looks great in winter
too.



Triangular icicles frozen on the pond
on a cold morning.

A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.

Gertrude Jekyll



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A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE GARDEN, SMALL BUT DELIGHTFUL



The garden looks great in winter too.



Read the story to learn about the history of the garden.



Reversing falls under the Tillicum bridge. One of only two in Canada!

Gorge Pointe Pavilion, 1070 Tillicum Road, Victoria, BC

*And Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;
And each flower and herb on Earth's dark breast
rose from the dreams of its wintry rest.*

Percy Bysshe Shelley



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10. Can you believe it! Changing plant taxonomy by Patty Carlson

When is a *Salvia* not a *Salvia*? When the taxonomy has changed. And what is taxonomy? It is the science of naming, describing and classifying organisms, including all plants, animals and micro-organisms of the world. With advances in technology and plant DNA analysis, the plant world is being turned upside down. Remember when the beautiful sounding *Cimicifuga* suddenly became *Actaea*? This section of the newsletter will inform you of some recent changes so you can be aware of different classes in future flower show schedules.

Salvia rosmarinus

Previously known as *Rosmarinus officinalis* L. (syn. *Salvia rosmarinus* Spenn.), popularly known as “rosemary”, is an aromatic plant with needle-like leaves belonging to the Lamiaceae family. Name change as of 2017.

Salvia yangii

Previously known as *Perovskia atriplicifolia*, and commonly called Russian Sage, it is a flowering herbaceous perennial plant.

Dendranthema x grandiflorum

Formerly known as Chrysanthemum, Mum, Florists' Chrysanthemum.

Botanical name: *Chrysanthemum X morifolium*. Some types last longer than others.

Various colours: Orange, Pink, Red, White, Yellow

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.

Audrey Hepburn



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11. In Memoriam

From time to time, we will post a brief memorial for well-known GCO Judges. In this issue, we honour Tracy Bosley, Barbara Clarke, Ann Diebel and Olga Sandilands. May they rest in a heaven of flowers.

Tracy Bosley (nee Getz) passed away December 25, 2024



It is with a sad heart that we bid farewell to our fellow “crazy flower lady”.

The sun has set on Tracy Lee Bosley on December 25th, 2024. She is survived by her sweetheart, Vaughn, her treasured sons, Devon and Vince, and especially her amazing grandsons, Domenic and Zaiden. Tracy was a remarkable, energetic, positive, caring person who made everyone around her feel special.

Her love of gardening was renowned. A Master Gardener, O.H.A. Judge of Horticulture and Design, and Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies

qualified judge of flowers and vegetables, an Accredited Judge of Horticulture through the R.B.G. and a newly minted Canadian Rose Society judge.

Belonging to the Alliston Garden Club, the Parry Sound and District Horticultural Society, the Canadian Rose Society, together with the O.H.A. District 16 and District 18 Flower Show Committees kept her very busy – keeping things organized and running smoothly. She will be missed in every organization she was involved with.

Tracy loved Flower shows – organizing them, exhibiting her designs and horticultural entries in them, as well as mentoring new exhibitors – encouraging everyone along the way to be part of the fun.

Tracy – our “Queen of the Show” – the best of the best.



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Abridged from Tracy Funeral Home Obituary.

Barbara Clarke (nee Martin) passed away September 24, 2024



(Photo: Unknown)

Barbara was a long-time active member of both GCO Judges' Council, the Etobicoke Horticultural Society (EHS) and the Canadian Rose Society (CRS). She was a Past President of EHS and CRS. She was instrumental in initiating and Chairing the CRS Miniature Rose Show which was held each July for several years at Sherway Gardens. Miniature designs and roses were just a couple of her passions. She was an instructor with the CRS and GCO and mentored many young people and students over the years.

Barbara was a true friend who always saw the best in others and inspired many to achieve things they never thought they could. She leaves behind her only daughter, Suzanne and son-in-law Lindsay, extended family, and her many, many friends who had the good fortune to know her and will miss her very much.

Submitted by Elizabeth Schleicher

Spring, the music of open windows.

Teri Guillemets



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Ann Diebel passed away February 27th, 2023



Photo: Legacy.com

Missed greatly by the Garden Clubs of Ontario community, Ann Diebel (1941 - 2023), was a respected judge, inspiring teacher and award-winning designer. Gardening and floral design were life-long pleasures, so it was natural that Ann would thrive at The Garden Club of Kitchener-Waterloo and accept the role of president for two terms. She cherished her friends made at Garden Clubs of Ontario where she served in many roles, including President during 1991 - 1993. Canada was host to the fourth WAFA Flower Show in 1993, involving Ann as ex-officio to the WAFA Canada Committee. Ann became an accredited Design Judge in 1996 and was Judges Council Chair from 1998 - 2001. Following that, she was the Design Chair for the GCO Committee writing the 2003 OJES. She was also a member of the Education Committee and was a co-developer of the Basic Design course outline. Her personal standards for design were high, empowering her to exhibit and win awards at GCO shows, WAFA shows (Scotland, Barbados and South Africa), Canada Blooms and Canterbury Cathedral. Ann's most prized award was earning a bronze medal, the first medal earned for Canada at England's Chelsea Flower Show. Her designs are included in The Canadian Flower Arranger and in Judith Blacklock's books.

While demanding excellence of herself, Ann was a patient and encouraging teacher, celebrating when her students found their own joy in floral design. To end as we began, she is truly missed!

Submitted by Charmian Patrick and Darlene Irwin



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Olga Sandilands passed away November 15, 2024



Photo: Davison Funeral Home

Although a quiet lady, as a Floral Design and Horticulture Judge, Olga was on top of all things gardening and floral design within Milne House Garden Club and many other clubs she belonged to. Olga motivated and encouraged many newcomers to get involved and was a mentor to many, including myself. She adapted to new styles and remained a student herself. She was always happy to learn new ideas and trends even though she had been practising her art for many years. This is what made Olga such an interesting person. She was not afraid to learn new ideas, trends and technology and share them.

Her other interests included art, felting, attending auctions, writing and Native Studies and she remained a faithful friend to all, sharing her talents. Did I mention she has a wonderful sense of humour? Well, she did and we often "belly-laughed" together. I had a wonderful opportunity to visit Olga this past summer in her home in St. Augustine, PEI and we had a splendid time touring beautiful PEI's sights and galleries. She was very proud of her family roots "from the island" as she would say.

Olga and her hubby John loved their new slower-paced life yet she was still active with her local garden club, providing design workshops and attending flower shows. I missed Olga when she moved to PEI, but our continuous conversations and e-mail made it easier to accept. Now, I miss her even more.

Rest In Peace my dear kind and generous friend.

Contributed by Helene Selemidis-Hill



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12. Questions for the Judging Standards Clarification Committee

The JC's Judging Standards Clarification Committee is looking for questions! The Committee's mandate is to assist both Horticultural and Floral Design judges with interpretation of the OJES and to help to answer questions around the organization and running of flower shows, from planning and schedules, to judging. Please send your questions to Ellen Clark at her e-mail address: ellen.clark@sympatico.ca

13. ZOOM Registration Etiquette

We are very fortunate that Elizabeth Schleicher acts as our ZOOM master for our Judges' Council Virtual events. When the number of registrants goes over 100, Elizabeth needs to provide more space by increasing our license allotment with ZOOM. This also costs extra money.

Fortunately, Elizabeth is providing space up to 100 registrants free for us. Over 100 registrants costs nearly \$100 extra which JC pays.

On March 24th, there were well over 100 people registered, so Elizabeth purchased the extra space. That evening, a maximum of 87 people logged in, resulting in an unwarranted cost to Judges' Council, and extra time and effort for an already extremely busy Elizabeth.

A reminder went out to all Judges' Council members to sign up by March 22nd. That was also your opportunity to let Elizabeth know if you were unable to attend. We thank the two judges who could not attend for letting her know their situation.

In future, please notify Elizabeth if you have registered and cannot attend a virtual event at the very latest, the day before the meeting. This will ensure we do not incur unnecessary expenses.

You do not need to register to receive the link, if the meeting is recorded (and no guarantees that it will always be recorded, depends if the speaker gives permission to be recorded). So if you want to see a speaker you should be there on ZOOM.



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Please check your junk files and spam folders first to see if the link ended up there before you ask for a resend. You should add Elizabeth's email to your address book so your Internet provider knows it's a reliable source.

You must register by the deadline so we can be efficient with all the emails, no last minute rush just before the meeting. Please do not share your link either. It is for you only and no other person as this will affect the registration list.

For each ZOOM the link is sent out the day before the meeting so watch your inbox then for the link. If by the morning of the meeting you haven't received it in either your junk or spam or regular email, ask for a resend and Elizabeth will do that.

This will help all of us and ensure anyone wishing to join the meeting while it is broadcast live can attend.

Chairs, Judges' Council,
Anne Harbord and Mary-Ann Vercammen

***Your first job is to prepare the soil.
The best tool for this is your neighbour's
garden tiller.
If your neighbour does not own a garden tiller,
suggest that he buy one.***

Dave Barry



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14. Upcoming Events

Judges' Council Events for 2025

- * **April 28th** Bruno Duarte, Floral Architect - Demonstration and Workshop, in-person, Landscape Ontario, Milton.
- * **September 23rd** Fall Judges' Council Event, in-person, Landscape Ontario, Milton.
- * **November 24th** Collin Cassin, "An Overview of Invasive Plants in Ontario" (ZOOM).

GCO Events for 2025

- * **April 7th** GCO Spring Meeting: Milne House GC at the TBG
Speaker: Michael Erdman: "Gardens of Bangkok and Singapore: Tropical Paradise".
- * **May 3rd - 4th** Garden Club of London: "A Floral Fanfare". Further information below.
- * **May 22nd** "Spring Blooms" at the TBG. Further information below.
- * **June 2nd** GCO AGM hosted by Garden Club of London.
- * **June 14th - 15th** Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society:
68th Annual Juried Exhibition of Cut Garden Roses and Floral Design.
Further information below.
- * **June 19th - 20th** Ontario Regional Lily Society Lily Show at RBG
- * **Oct. 1st - 3rd** Garden Club of London 75th Anniversary:
Speaker / Demonstrator: Lea Romanowski. Further information below.
- * **November, 2025** GCO Fall Meeting.

International events

- * Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) www.rhs.org.uk
- * Chelsea Flower Show - May 20th - 24th, 2025 at The Royal Hospital, London.
- * Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival: July 1st - 6th, 2025.
- * RHS. Botanical Art and Photography Show: June 13th – July 27th, 2025.



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Posters for Upcoming GCO Events

Garden Club Of London

- On **May 3rd – 4th, 2025**, the Garden Club of London will present **"A Floral Fanfare"** at the Civic Garden Complex in London.
- Entries will be accepted between 8:00 am and 11:30 am on May 2nd, 2025.
- The Flower Show will be open to the Public on May 3rd - 4th, 2025 between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm.
- There will be a Gift shop and a Tea Room.
- Design Demonstrations will be offered at 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm.



Garden Club of Toronto

- Attend a special Spring program of the Garden Club of Toronto on **May 22nd, 2025** called **"Spring Blooms"**.
- The Flower Show will be held at the Toronto Botanical Garden and will be open between 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm.
- Admission is free.






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*Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society will hold
its 68th Annual Juried Exhibition of
Cut Garden Roses and Floral Design
at the Royal Botanical Gardens Centre, Burlington, Ontario
Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15
10:00am to 5:00pm both days
Show is free with paid admission to the RBG*

*Non-members are welcome to enter the show but
registration is required beginning April 9th
for info and a show schedule email hbrosesociety@sympatico.ca*



*'Make and Take' a small design under the guidance of our
talented designers on Saturday, June 14 beginning at 3:00pm*



- *Short talks on rose culture and care on
Sunday at 11:00am and 2:00pm*
- *Potted Miniature Roses for sale while quantities last*
- *Cut show blooms for sale at 4:00pm on Sunday*

For more Info email hbrosesociety@sympatico.ca



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Posters for Upcoming GCO Events

The Garden Club of London

- In early October, to celebrate their 75th Anniversary, the Garden Club of London is holding a three-day event at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn, in London.
- On **October 1st**, 2025, a Gala Dinner and Demonstration by Canadian Designer Lea Romanowski will be held in the evening.
- On **October 2nd - 3rd**, several Design Demonstrations will also be led by Lea Romanowski. For more information or to register, please send an email to gclcelebration@gmail.com
- Anyone interested can leave their name at the same email above. More detailed information will be forwarded when it becomes available.
- In addition, the London Club have organized reduced rates at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn for anyone who will require overnight accommodations (open now for reservations by referencing The Garden Club of London event to ensure reservations).



THE GARDEN CLUB OF LONDON

75TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

FEATURING CANADIAN
FLORAL DESIGNER
LEA ROMANOWSKI
AIFD CAFA CAFD CFD



October 1, 2025
Dinner and Demonstration
Lamplighter Inn
London, ON

October 2 & 3
Design sessions with Lea
Civic Garden Complex
London, ON

FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO REGISTER VISIT
[GCLCELEBRATION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:gclcelebration@gmail.com)



15. Contact e-mails

Judging Matters Newsletter jcnewsletter2025@gmail.com Claudette Smith

Judging Matters Bulletin jcbulletin2025@gmail.com Mary McLean

Judges' Council gcojudgescouncil@gmail.com Mary-Ann Vercammen, Anne Harbord

Flowers kiss with their tulips.

Anon