



*Galt Horticultural Society*  
*Ferguson Cottage* 

## **Join us Monday March 28, 2022 @ 7:00 PM for our next General Meeting!**

Nancy Lee-Colibaba will be joining us to speak about "Growing, Uses & Drying" as well as 'How To Decorate With Spring Bulbs'.



Nancy was raised on a farm in Norfolk county and developed a love of plants at an early age. She developed her skills at Niagara College, Guelph University and Humber College. She joined Royal Botanical Gardens early 1980s and furthered her education in the field of Horticultural Therapy. She joined the Master Gardeners in 1984. She enjoys teaching horticulture and horticultural therapy to interested groups and continues to learn and pass on that knowledge now that she is retired as well as maintain her perennial and vegetable gardens at home.

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84901140502?pwd=SDNVaUpKNGdXTediVVhzcXh4VVZxQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 0114 0502

Passcode: 386424

### **Zoom Tips**

*Please use the "Mute" option and keep yourself in Mute unless you are speaking.  
You can turn off your webcam by using the "Stop Video" option.*

*If you find the video or sound is breaking up, use the “Stop Video” option. Your computer will use less bandwidth since it’s not projecting your video and that can help the quality.*

*If you wish to see only the person speaking, select the “Speaker View”.*

*If you wish to see only the presenter when screen share is on, select the “Active Speaker Video” option (in the tool bar where the participant windows are).*

*If you don’t have a webcam, you can join and you’ll see everything on your screen. We won’t be able to see you, but we can hear you.*

*If you don’t have a speaker, or if you don’t wish to speak out loud, use the “Chat” option.*

*You can also connect by dialing in on telephone, so that you can listen to the meeting.*

## Constitution Changes

The proposed changes to the Constitution have been approved by a majority of the membership and the changes are now in effect. We wish to thank the large number of members who voted and participated.

## And The Winner Is...GHS Jan 2022 Photo Contest!

Congratulations to **Tiiu Van Winkle** as the winner of our February Photo Contest! Tiiu submitted photo #6 ...‘yellow warbler’.



Thanks to all of our members who participated in our January contest.

Don’t forget to send in your photos for our [GHS March Photo Contest...‘Beloved Pets’](#)



Share your photos by sending them in with “**March February Photo Contest – Beloved Pets**” in the subject line to [lynne@galthort.com](mailto:lynne@galthort.com) by **March 18th @ 6pm.**

The list of photos will be sent out and voting will take place between March 19<sup>th</sup> – 26th. **The winner will be announced at our March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

## **GHS February Online Auction**

We have a number of terrific items coming up for bidding. **Join our Facebook group to view what items we have up for grabs and place your bids!**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/galthort>

## **GHS Seedy Saturday**



It looks like we're finally getting back to some form of normal. Plan to join the Galt Horticultural Society at Ferguson Cottage on **Saturday, March 5, from 9 am - 12 pm (noon) for our first Seedy Saturday 2022.**

Bring in your leftover seeds to donate and help yourself to a wide variety of vegetable and flower seeds. If you do not have any seeds to donate...no worries! Feel free to drop by and pick up some seeds of your choice regardless. Bags will be provided.

Of course, wearing masks is mandatory and we will maintain social distancing. Hand Sanitizer will be available as well. In the case of changes for COVID protocols, we will be prepared to go on-line like we did last year.

Hope to see you there!

## GHS Quebec Bus Trip Information

Please see the attached information about the fantastic Quebec bus trip we have planned in August! It is recommended to register early to reserve your ticket. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Nancy Smith at [nancy@galthort.com](mailto:nancy@galthort.com).

## GHS Membership Talent Showcase

So many of our members have different talents. The GHS would like to showcase our membership talents! These include anything from **sewing, needlework, painting, woodworking, knitting, pottery, photographing, quilting, crocheting, flower pressing, crafting, baking, canning/preserves, art, sculpting, poetry**...and so many more talents. Send in your photos to Lynne at [lynne@galthort.com](mailto:lynne@galthort.com) with a bit of a blurb about what you love to do! We will include your submissions into our monthly newsletters.

Something a little different this month...Gerri Korec sent this pretty poem that is worth sharing.

### Daffodowndilly

*She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,  
She wore her greenest gown,  
She turned to the south wind  
And curtsied up and down.  
She turned to the sunlight  
And shook her yellow head,  
And whispered to her neighbor:  
"Winter is dead."*

AA Milne

## Membership Has Its Benefits!!



The Galt Horticultural Society's membership is continuing to grow!

Encourage fellow gardeners, family and friends to become a part of a historical society.

Membership gives everyone the opportunity to make new friends, learn about horticulture/gardening and remain engaged with other gardeners.

**The cost is only \$15 (single) & \$25 (couple).**

Please visit our website at [www.galthort.com](http://www.galthort.com) to join and like us on our FB page!

Click here to see the current list of retailers offering GHS members a discount on their purchases! <https://galthort.com/aboutmembership/>

## GHS Member Recipes



French Onion Chicken

Saucy one pan French onion chicken with juicy pan-seared chicken smothered in caramelized onion gravy and three kinds of melty Italian cheese. This 30- minute meal will be a staple in your house!

*Prep Time:* **5 MINUTES**

*Cook Time:* **25 MINUTES**

**0 MINUTES**

*Total Time:* **30 MINUTES**

*Servings:* **4 SERVINGS**

### Ingredients

- ☐ 2 medium yellow onions - thinly sliced into rings
- ☐ 3 tablespoons butter
- ☐ 1 cup + 3 tablespoons beef broth - divided
- ☐ 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts - pounded to even thickness
- ☐ 1 tablespoon oil
- ☐ salt and pepper to taste
- ☐ 1 teaspoon Italian blend herbs/Italian seasoning - (OR ¼ teaspoon dried basil + ¼ teaspoon dried thyme + ½ teaspoon dried oregano)
- ☐ 2 tablespoons flour
- ☐ 4 slices provolone cheese
- ☐ 4 slices swiss cheese
- ☐ ¾ cup parmesan cheese
- ☐ fresh thyme or parsley and cracked black pepper for topping - (optional)

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to bake at 400 degrees OR broil on low. In a large [oven-safe skillet](#) (see note) over medium-high heat, melt butter. Add onions and 3 tablespoons beef broth and saute onions for 3-4 minutes until translucent. Continue to cook, stirring occasionally so the onions don't burn, for about 15 minutes longer until browned and very tender. Use tongs or a fork to transfer to a bowl and cover to keep warm.
2. While onions are cooking, prepare the chicken by drizzling with oil, then seasoning with salt and pepper (to taste) and Italian herbs. Once onions have finished cooking and are removed from the pan, cook chicken for 4-5 minutes on each side (don't clean out the pan between the onions and chicken) until browned on both sides. (Chicken may not be fully cooked through yet, that is okay).

3. Transfer chicken to a plate and cover to keep warm and return the onions to the pan. Sprinkle flour over the onions and stir for 1 minute over medium-high heat. Add beef broth and continue to cook, stirring throughout, until mixture comes to a boil. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Return chicken to pan and spoon some of the sauce over each piece of chicken.
4. Top chicken with one slice of provolone each, then one slice of Swiss, then 1/4 of the parmesan cheese. Transfer skillet to your preheated oven and cook for about 10 minutes until chicken is cooked through completely and cheeses are melted.
5. Spoon some of the onions and gravy over the top of the chicken, garnish with thyme or parsley and cracked black pepper, and serve.

### Notes

If you don't have a cast iron skillet, any other oven-safe skillet will do OR you can transfer everything to a casserole dish or baking pan for the baking portion of the recipe.

## For Your Interest...



Here are some links to interesting articles, webinars and activities...

### Year of the Garden

Année du jardin



Canadians, whether you already enjoy gardening, recently discovered the pleasure of spending time in a garden because of the pandemic or want to learn more about how gardens impact so much of life, there is something for everyone to commemorate our country's rich garden heritage and create important legacies for a sustainable future.



Discover the many ways you can celebrate today's vibrant garden culture at home, at work, in school, in your community, and at public gardens across the country from the Planter's Moon in the spring of 2022, to the Frost Moon in the fall.

Click here for more information <https://livethegardenlife.gardenscanada.ca/> and

<https://mailchi.mp/ec2315300854/2022-march-newsletter-english?e=bc14a2c619>



## 10 Neat Things About Big Trees





## 1. What kind of big?



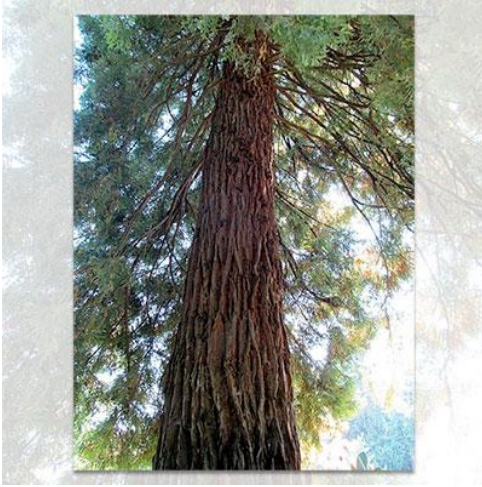
You can measure the biggest trees as the tallest, the thickest at breast-height, the largest amount of wood (a combination of height and width) or the broadest crown. What is surprising is that most are not found in the hottest parts of the world but in California.

## 2. Coast redwood.



*Sequoia sempervirens* is easily the tallest tree, with the specimen Hyperion measuring 380 feet high; that's the height of a 38-story building. It's located in Redwood National and State Park in California, but if you want to see it for yourself, well, good luck. The exact location is kept secret to protect this coast redwood. Makes sense, I guess, but it's a shame you cannot visit it.

### **3. Disappearing coast redwood.**



In 1850, there were about 2.1 million acres of the tree. Then commercial logging began. Today there are fewer than 120,000 acres, or 5% remaining.

### **4. Resistant coast redwood.**



The tree is naturally resistant to insects and rot owing to terpenoids and tannic acid. It has thick, fibrous bark that makes it resistant to fire and produces little flammable pitch or resin. Furthermore, there are about 400 albino coast redwoods in existence. These don't produce chlorophyll, so they need to suck sugar from other redwoods' roots, but they are exceptional at storing heavy metals, which may be why other redwoods keep them around.

## 5. Giant redwood.



*Sequoiadendron giganteum* is not so tall as the coast redwood, growing to only 160 to 280 feet high. What it lacks in height, it makes up for in girth: giant redwoods average 20 to 26 feet diameter, or 60 to over 80 feet in circumference at breast height and growing in a fairly columnar fashion.

## 6. Brittle giant redwood.



The giant redwood is resistant to fire for the same reasons as the coast redwood; in fact, its continuation as a species is aided by forest fires, which open the cones and clear the forest of competing species. However, it is not an important wood for logging because the trees tend to shatter when felled. Loggers tried like heck to make the tree useful and continued to cut them down from the 1880s to the 1920s. They tried digging trenches and filling them with branches for the tree to fall on, but they still broke up when they hit the ground. Loggers would take as little as 50% of the wood. The wood was used for shingles and matchsticks.

## 7. Montezuma cypress.



*Taxodium mucronatum* has a very broad trunk, with a particular specimen, Arbor de Tule in Oaxaca, Mexico, measuring 37.5 feet in diameter, or 118 feet around. Most are considerably smaller, though. These trees were of great importance to Indigenous Mexicans and were cultivated by Aztecs.

## 8. Raintree.



The broadest-crowned trees in the world are: first, a coolibah in Australia; second, an oriental plane in England. For pure aesthetics, though, you cannot beat the third broadest, which is a raintree in Venezuela, because it is so much wider than it is tall. With a native range from Mexico to Peru, it has been exported to tropical areas around the world. It's called raintree because of the sensation of rain one gets standing under the canopy, which is from the honeydew excreted by cicadas. Ewww.



### 9. Dragon tree.



The plant with the longest roots may be the tree-like *Dracaena draco* on Tenerife in the Canary Islands. The specimen El Drago Milenario has roots that are 600 feet long. The name means thousand-year-old dragon, but it turns out to be 360 years old at most. Still, those are crazy long roots!

### 10. Aspen grove.



The largest and oldest living thing in the world is an aspen grove called Pando. It is a clonal colony of *Populus tremuloides* in Utah. It occupies 106 acres, with an estimated total weight of 6,600 tons. What makes it one organism is that the trees are all genetically identical and share one root system, having all grown by suckers. The root system is estimated to be 8000 years old.



## Newsletter of the Halton Master Gardeners Cross Pollination - March 2022

March 'Garden To Do' List - By Halton Master Gardener Claudette Sims

- ✓ **General Pruning** – March is a good time to prune and repair winter damage & check for disease such as Black Knot Fungus. Always use clean, sharp tools. Remove dead, damaged, diseased wood. Cut back branches to just above another branch or a bud. Do NOT prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom. Click this link for more details about pruning <https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/pruning-trees-and-shrubs>
- ✓ **Pruning with Wildlife in Mind** – Use the 'chop & drop' method to leave prunings in your garden to replenish the soil & provide nesting material for native birds. Leave larger pieces of wood in the garden for wildlife & consider leaving 'snags' in place as long as it is safe to do so.
- ✓ **Evergreens** need very little pruning. Arborvitae (cedar hedge), junipers and Chamaecyparis will not form new buds on old wood. Learn how to prune and remove multiple leaders and encourage growth of Douglas firs & spruce here! <https://www.finegardening.com/project-guides/pruning/pruning-firs-douglas-firs-and-spruces>
- ✓ **Old Overgrown Shrubs** – Use rejuvenation or renewal pruning to restore scraggly or overgrown shrubs. Which shrubs can you renew or rejuvenate? Click this link to find out! <https://mortonarb.org/app/uploads/2021/08/Pruning-deciduous-shrubs-by-species-1.pdf>
- ✓ **Hydrangea arborescens** – (Smooth Hydrangea or 'Annabelle') Prune before new growth appears. Remove old weak stems, leaving about 1/3 of stems 30 cm long for structure and support. Detailed hydrangea info here! <https://haltonmastergardeners.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/hydrangeas.pdf>
- ✓ **Apple, cherry, plum, pear trees** – Prune before flower buds swell. Remove any dead, diseased twigs and prune for open shape. Pear trees generally don't require pruning, except for shaping.
- ✓ **Raspberries** – Summer-bearing red and yellow raspberries, cut canes back to 4-5 feet tall before growth begins. Fall-only primocane raspberries-cut all canes to the ground before growth begins. Detailed info here. <https://extension.umn.edu/fruit/growing-raspberries-home-garden>
- ✓ **Blueberries** – Early March, prune out dead, damaged, diseased wood to an open shape to increase air circulation. More info here about blueberries. <https://learn.orchardpeople.com/>
- ✓ **Start onions, garlic, yellow onions** when the soil can be worked. Separate cloves just before planting and plant about 2" below soil.
- ✓ **Start your dahlia bulbs** inside using 1-gallon pots and a quality potting mix, which will give you a jump on their blooming season.

- ✓ **Order Native plants**– Check our map on nurseries in Ontario for ideas. Nurseries specializing in native plants are marked with green stars.  
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?hl=en&ll=43.279092716863516%2C-79.93744268736737&z=9&mid=1dHiK77VTR2EKZXbXoKdTctGGZDVvPqeJ>



## **Brantford Master Gardeners** **Tips From The Watering Can**

Join our Brantford Master Gardeners. We are experienced gardeners who started out as Master Gardeners in Training and had the opportunity to study horticulture through Guelph University courses and once we received our MG status continued to upgrade our skills through technical training. Our ongoing mandate is to provide horticultural advice to the general public through garden tours, community events, on-line and talks. We would love to have you join our group. Contact Nancy Lee - [nleecolibaba@gmail.com](mailto:nleecolibaba@gmail.com).

### **Bewitched by Witch Hazel**



When we think of native plants we often visualize herbaceous perennials that die back each year but we should be choosing native shrubs and trees for our garden as well. One plant in particular to take a closer look at is Witch Hazel, deciduous shrub (*Hamamelis virginiana*) which is native to Ontario. There are other Witch Hazels on the market and they would be Chinese Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis mollis*) and Japanese Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis japonica*). Both are native to Asia. The other species is the Ozark Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) is native to central and southern states.

Our native Witch Hazel is a medium sized, multiple stemmed shrub approximately 3 to 4 meter in height and width. The somewhat wavy leaves of the witch hazel are a lighter green and then turn a brilliant gold colour which is a nice contrast to the smooth grey bark. These leaves look similar to the Hazelnut tree (*Corylus* species) but not related. The most delightful aspect of this plant is it's fragrant yellow blooms that look like crumpled strap-like petals. These appear in

the fall after the leaves have dropped off. These bright yellow flowers will unfold during the warm day and curl back up when temperatures hit freezing.

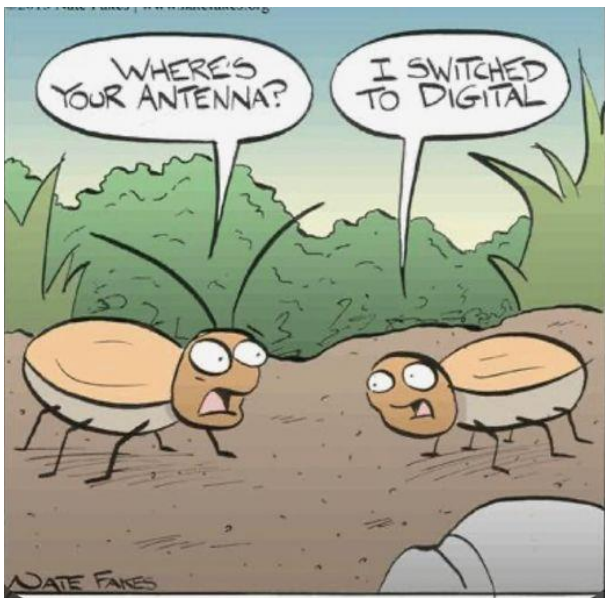
It is a great plant to attract pollinators and many species of bees, small wasps and moths even beetles are reported to be attracted to this plant. Because it flowers in the fall, it is attractive to many insects and moths because of the fragrance but also there isn't much in bloom at this time of year. Another lovely feature to this plant is the fruit capsules that were formed from last year's pollinated flowers. These capsules look as though they were carved from wood. Also in the fall, these fruit capsules will explode sending the seeds many feet away. These seeds will lie dormant for two years before they will germinate. Many seeds do not germinate since they are a popular food source for birds and small mammals.

Another fun fact is that Witch Hazel produces tannins in their leaves and inner bark that we benefit from since several medical and cosmetic products contain this antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties. For the plant, these tannins help protect it from several herbivores, fungi and bacteria that could cause a decline in the health of the plant.

This shrub or smaller tree will perform well with a range of light levels. Blooming will be optimum in higher light, but dapple light is ideal. Soil should be well-drained and slightly acidic. In nature it is an understory tree so will adapt to various garden designs.

So, when looking for a shrub/small tree for your garden, take a second look at our native Witch Hazel.

## Hort Humour!!!



## Wear Your Galt Horticultural Society Logo Wear With Pride!



### GHS Logo Wear

Get your own Galt Horticultural Society T-Shirt and/or Hoodie.  
This is a sample of the embroidered crest included on the item.

T-shirts: \$20.50 + tax.

Unisex Hoodies: \$36.00 + tax.

For more information or to place an order, follow this link:

### GHS Logo Wear



GHS Website: <https://galthort.com/>