

News In Bloom . . .

SSM HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

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*"...a creative and
challenging role..."*

Andrea Aubertin

MARCH 2023 MEMBERSHIP NEWS

This newsletter is created to open up the doors for member input on gardening, as well as to inform members of the club's activities. It will be produced quarterly- March, June, September and December. Look for club monthly meeting speakers/topics, upcoming events, and ongoing activities as well as other highlights.



SSMS Horticultural Society Monthly Meetings/Speakers:

March 6: *Cut Flowers in the Landscape* ~ Club President Andrea Aubertin & Tower Gardens ~ Lisa Porco

April 3: *The New Sault/Algoma Grow Me Instead Guide: What a Long Strange Trip It's Been!* ~ Abby Obenchain

May 1: to be announced

*“Gardeners know all the dirt,
and that you’re never
too old~
... To dig in the dirt.”*



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK @

Sault Ste. Marie Horticultural Society

AND

SSM Horticultural Society Greenhouse

SSMS Horticultural Society UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 4: Seedy Saturday 9am to 2pm @ United Baptist Church 41 Malabar Drive. CASH ONLY

May 20: Plant Sale 8am to 12 noon @ The Canal Greenhouse 1 Canal Drive



SAVE THE DATE!

Seedy Saturday will inspire



With a Seed Exchange, Vendors, Exhibitions, Children’s Activities and Speaker Presentations throughout the day.

Exhibitors for the day are Seeds of Diversity, Worm Composting, Clean North, People’s Garden- Algoma U., Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site, Suzanne Hanna Memorial Community Garden, Algoma Master Gardeners.

Vendors include Urban Tomato, New North Greenhouses, Northern Wildflowers, Three Forks Farms, J Beeswax Foodwraps, The Superior Gardener, Friends of the Library Bookstore, Algoma Farmers Market.

Speakers will continue to make this day one you'll not want to miss! Susan Richards on “Trends in Gardening”, Andrea Aubertin on “Cut Flowers”, The Superior Gardener on “Plants from Seed & Seed Saving” and "The Living Vivarium" by Eden's Reptiles.

March 4th CASH ONLY. Refreshments by Soup Witch!

Plant Sale ~ Rain or Shine



The sale is on Rain or Shine! Cash, cheques or e-transfers only and small change is appreciated! Bring a wagon, bags or boxes to transport your goodies to the car. Proceeds support garden & beautification initiatives throughout the city! Mark this Saturday, May 20th on your calendar.

NEXT NEWSLETTER - June 2023

Contribution deadline - May 15th

Contact - noreenkruzich@gmail.com



Andrea Rubertin



SSMHS CLUB PRESIDENT

The love of gardening for Andrea began at a very young age, “I remember my parents giving me a small space for a flower garden that was surrounded with a little white picket fence.” She picked out her flowers, planted and cared for them. *“I think from then on, I was hooked!”*

Andrea has stepped into the President’s role for the club, after serving on the board for four years, the last three as membership chair. *“I enjoy and see the value in learning from my fellow gardeners...as well as encouraging others.”* She plans to continue with membership chair duties for now.

Her recent interest has led her to growing flowers to cut. Andrea will be our speaker at our monthly meeting on Monday, March 6th with the topic ~ *Cut Flower Gardening in the Landscape*. She’ll also be giving an abbreviated presentation on this at Seedy Saturday.

Andrea wishes to thank everyone who encouraged and had faith in her to take on what she calls *“a creative and challenging role”* as President. She looks forward to working with the board, the membership and thanks Denise Berg for giving her time and commitment as President for the past few years and staying on as Vice President. *“Her guidance and advice will be valued, as I try to navigate my way through this first year.”*



THE GREENHOUSE AT THE CANAL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The snow may still be hanging around, but the seeds and bulbs are sprouting and the plants are growing at the Canal Greenhouse. Margaret Carruthers and Johanna Curry co-chair the Greenhouse Committee.

Our Society has a lease agreement and a partnership with Parks Canada to grow plants using the greenhouse. *“Part of the agreement,”* notes Carruthers, *“is providing plants for the Sault Ste. Marie Canal and Fort St. Joseph National Historic sites. We mostly grow annual flowers that are tried and true, such as Zinnias, Four o’clocks, Alyssum, Cannas, and Dahlias”.*



Beyond this, Society volunteers grow annuals and vegetables for our Club plant sale. *“This year we will plant cabbage, leafy greens, tomatoes, basil, eggplant, purple coneflower, marigolds, zinnias, sunflowers and more. We rely on club members to contribute most of the perennials for the sale,”* adds Carruthers. The current greenhouse was built in 1953 and has gone through periods of use and non-use, repair and additions.

The canal greenhouse is not the first on the site, the original greenhouse dated back to the early 1900’s with another built in the 1940’s. Elia Marini, Canal greenhouse liaison states that one Canal Superintendent took things to another level. J.W. LeBreton Ross had a strong interest in horticulture. Ross had a suitable greenhouse built next to his residence at the Canal. *“He employed three English gardeners to tend the grounds,”* says Marini. *“Cottage gardens enveloped his house.”* Ross remained as Superintendent of the canal from 1907 to 1936 and adds Marini, *“He was also the President of the first Horticultural Society in Sault Ste. Marie.”*

Our club is fortunate to have the Greenhouse partnership with Parks Canada, a union which began in 2011. Our Annual Plant sale was held on the beautiful grounds of this site last year and is set for this location again on Saturday, May 20th this year.

Fun Historical Greenhouse Facts

- ❖ In the summer months the walls of the greenhouse would be painted with greenhouse paint. This paint would help to direct the heat elsewhere and keep the inside cool, and would then be washed off in the fall.
- ❖ Flower boxes made of wooden frames or cement were placed on the east side of the greenhouse. These boxes had lids that were raised with pulleys and this kept the lids opened during the day and closed at night for the plants. Lights were also placed inside the boxes for nights with frost in order to generate heat.

