

Speaker Series 2025



“Learn and Grow with Us”

January 28: On-line presentation by Lana Doss, owner, The Fine Gardener

Design and Biodiversity Considerations in Your Outdoor Space

In this presentation, you will learn about the essential elements of garden design and how to maximize your current or future outdoor space. An important feature in your garden design will be the inclusion of biodiversity considerations to attract various elements of nature, including pollinators of various types. It’s never too early to start thinking about new ways to incorporate added features to your outdoor space. Join us on January 28th for this on-line presentation by **Lana** owner of The Fine Gardener to start the New **Doss** Year off on a great gardening foot!

Bio



Lana has relished playing in the dirt since she was a child and continues to share that thrill with others. She has spent over 30 years of her career in a leadership role in horticulture. She grew up surrounded by nature and the ocean which inspired her love of all things outdoors. This fueled her passion to support gardeners in their desire to improve the native biodiversity in their outdoor spaces.

Also, as a member of Ritchie Feed & Seed’s Green Team, Lana helps people plan their gardens as well as hosting seminars and workshops. With her own company, The Fine Gardener, Lana offers garden consultation services.

February 25: On-line presentation by Jonathan Bruderlein (Farmer Joe), owner, Ottawa Farm Fresh Inc.

Growing organic vegetables: a passion to heal the land and the body

In his presentation, **Jonathan** will talk about growing organic vegetables from March to December. If you are curious about how this can be accomplished in our Ottawa climate without heated greenhouses, this presentation will inspire you. Jonathan is passionate about providing people with delicious organic vegetables but also loves to encourage others to grow great food on their own. He will share some of the best tips and tricks of the trade, and maybe even some of his best kept secrets.

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Jonathan Bruderlein came to Ottawa after years of experience operating an organic farm in the Montreal area followed by a sabbatical where he, his wife Julianne and young son visited and connected with many other organic farmers across North America. Jonathan came to farming after deciding that medical school wasn't for him, and that agronomy is where he could have a bigger impact on the lives of other people. He and his family are now in their 5th year operating Ottawa Farm Fresh that they started with the idea of building a community-supported farm, where members benefit from fresh organically grown vegetables, get a chance to be involved in community celebrations and harvesting activities. For Jonathan, farming is more than a career, it's a lifestyle.

March 25: In-Person presentation by Mary Crawford, Master Gardener of Ottawa-Carleton

The New York High Line Park

This presentation will provide a very interesting overview of what **Mary Crawford** discovered during her visit to New York's High Line Park. You will learn about the background of the park, its design and the creative use of plants and other vegetation in its unique design and beautiful gardens. Mary will share some inspirational photos of the High Line Park and behind the scenes information about the construction and development of the park's very unusual and beautiful gardens.

Bio



As a member of the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton since 2020, Mary Crawford enjoys speaking to groups and writing articles for the Master Gardeners' Trowel Talk newsletter. She has loved gardening and traveling for as long as she can remember, like her father's doing. When Mary's like-minded sister started chatting about the High Line Park in New York City, they hatched an idea for a trip together with some major garden inspiration. They obtained permission to do a photo shoot at the High Line in the fall of 2023 and Mary is very happy to share her findings.

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April 22: In-Person presentation by Janice Street, photographer, designer, teacher and owner of Janice Street Photography and Design

The Art of Photography

In this presentation, by the award-winning photographer, designer and teacher, **Janice Street**, you will learn about the art of photography and get some valuable tips on photographing flowers. Come and learn what goes on behind the scenes when a photographer is selecting certain elements of nature and light to turn the image into an outstanding art form.

Bio



Janice’s passion is nature, but she loves to photograph just about anything from flowers, people, to architectural elements and often focuses on graphic shapes. She is inspired by design and detail, and she considers that light is what creates emotion. She is always looking for that magic light during her photographic and design moments. She started photographing in her early twenties and has been a photo club member for 36 years. She has achieved Masterclass standing at the Camera Club of Ottawa and has won numerous awards and now judges competitions at local clubs. Janice's profession of 30+ years is graphic design, and she often uses photography to produce her original designs. In the past 15 years, her focus has been primarily photography, and she has earned her living doing what she loves. She has produced books (Frost on Windows and Blue Sea Lake), calendars, greeting cards and AV shows. Her work is also shown at Ottawa Valley artist’s tours and galleries. In the past 12 years, Janice has been teaching photography workshops.

June 17: In-person presentation by Nancy McDonald, Master Gardener

What’s in my garden? Friend or foe?

Nancy McDonald, Master Gardener, will shed a new light on important small creatures that visit and sometimes nibble on our plants. Nancy calls her garden "a happy place" and enjoys checking out the many garden "bugs" who visit while asking herself first if these visitors are welcome guests (which the majority are) or unwelcome pests? It's important to realize that enticing and keeping beneficial bugs may involve also having a few pests in the garden for them to prey on. In her garden, Nancy now incorporates plants which will attract, feed and provide a habitat for beneficial bugs creating an insectary garden to help with those unwelcome guests.

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Nancy grew up on a farm on PEI and she learned the practical aspects of gardening from her parents. Her love of flowers came from spending time in her grandmother’s beautiful mixed garden. After 42 years of a very fulfilling nursing career, Nancy’s thoughts turned to retirement and volunteer opportunities. She has been a member of the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton for 15 years and is a member of the Ottawa Horticultural Society.

In 2024, Nancy completed the Pollinator Steward Certification and continues to enjoy her small suburban garden where birds, bees and butterflies visit regularly. She also enjoys making flavorful recipes in her kitchen using herbs and edible flowers from her garden.

September 23: In-person presentation by Mary Reid, Master Gardener, owner of The Green Thumb Garden Centre

How is your garden doing as the gardening season comes to an end? Best tips and lessons learned from the perspective of garden centre owner, Mary Reid, owner of the Green Thumb Garden Centre

Mary Reid, Master Gardener and owner of the Green Thumb Garden Centre (and regular guest on the CBC weekly noon Garden Show), will share her wisdom and lessons learned that she has acquired during her busy and long career in the horticulture industry. Her unique sense of humor will be sure to entertain you.

Bio



From teacher to banker to garden centre owner, Mary Reid matches the description of a multi-talented person. She grew up in a family of gardeners, worked as a gardener during her summers at university, and still finds time to garden at home. Mary uses her many skills and extensive experience to run a popular and successful garden centre, the Green Thumb Garden Centre. She is a member of

Landscape Ontario, a CLP (Certified Landscape Professional) and volunteers as a Master Gardener. Mary enjoys speaking to various local groups and can occasionally be heard skillfully answering questions on the CBC Ontario Today noon show on Mondays.

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October 28: On-line presentation by Sean James, Horticulturist, Master Gardener and owner of Sean James Consulting and Design

Fusion® Gardening

Encouraged by many municipalities and regions, Fusion Gardening® blends LID (rainwater handling) with xeriscaping (drought-tolerant gardening) and enfolds plantings to enhance biodiversity. One of the main focuses of this style is to engage the public with beauty. Since it so important that property owners take up this gauntlet, Sean James will address the backbone of each of these disciplines and, discuss how to do each artfully. With climate change, storms are becoming stronger and less predictable. Droughts are getting longer. Many of us seek to use our gardens to do ‘Good’ for biodiversity. Fusion Gardening does all these things by minimizing water use, keeping the water that falls on our property ON our property, and, through the favoring of native and wildlife-supporting plant choices, this method of gardening supports the life that visits our yards.

Bio



Sean owns ‘Sean James Consulting & Design’. Named Landscape Ontario as 2020 and 2021’s Garden Communicator of the Year, gardening has been Sean James’ passion and profession for over 40 years. A graduate of Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, a Master Gardener, writer, and teacher, Sean focuses on eco-gardening techniques. He has spoken at events from the Maritimes to Seattle and landscaped from Switzerland to California. He had the honor of being part of creating many important reference tools for landscapers, gardeners and educational institutions. He has chaired the Environmental Stewardship Committee for Landscape Ontario and the Environmental Committee for the Perennial Plant Association and has been featured on radio and television, including filling in for Paul Zammit occasionally on CBC’s ‘The Gardening Show’.

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“Learn and Grow with Us”

November 25: In-person presentation by Dr. Jessica Forrest, Associate Professor, Faculty of Science (Biology Department), University of Ottawa

The Native Bees in our Backyards

The Native Bees in our Backyards Eastern Canada is home to approximately 400 species of native bees. Many of these species manage to coexist with us in our cities and farmlands, visiting flowers and pollinating both crops and wild plants. Yet these native bees often labour in obscurity, while non-native honeybees receive most of the attention and credit. In this talk, Dr. Forrest will discuss the history and floral requirements of wild bees, highlighting the diversity of bees that occur—often unnoticed—in urban settings. She will end her talk with some tips on how gardeners and homeowners can become better acquainted with—and support—the native bees and other pollinators in our backyards.

Bio



Dr. Jessica Forrest is an Associate Professor in the Biology Department at the University of Ottawa, where her lab (<https://forrestlab.wordpress.com/>) conducts research on the ecology and evolution of wild pollinators, especially native bees and their interactions with plants. Jessica teaches upper-level ecology courses, in French and English, and serves as Co-Director of the Biology Department’s graduate program. She is also a subject-matter editor at the journal *Ecology*. She and her students (and her dog, Oscar) do field work in the Colorado Rocky Mountains and in the many green spaces—agricultural, urban, and natural—around Ottawa.

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Note for Members and Non-Members:

- **Online presentations** start at 7:00 pm and ends at 8:30 pm. Be sure to view live at [OHS’s YouTube channel](#).
- **In-person presentations** start at 7:00 pm, and the guest speaker presentation will start at 7:30 pm and run to 9:00 pm. No worries, if you cannot make it in-person on a given night, presentations are recorded live and again, can be viewed at the [OHS’s YouTube channel](#).