

Get inspiration and ideas at Delphinium Festival

This year's Delphinium Festival by Plant Paradise Country Gardens will feature free botanical garden tours (regularly \$12), local artisans and two exciting guest speakers.

It promises to enhance everyone's planting know-how.

"We host this event every year because we want to celebrate gardens as places of inspiration, learning and well-being," commented Lorraine Roberts, Plant Paradise co-owner, horticulturist and author of *A Recipe for Continuous Bloom*.

Now in its eighth year, the festival is part of the Hills of Headwaters Tourism Association's Fresh and Local Series.

"What better place is there to learn about planting than the outdoors, surrounded by summer's stunning delphiniums in full bloom?" Roberts observed.

Delphiniums may have star power, but festival goers who take the guided tours will be wowed by dozens of other hardy, unique perennials that thrive in Ontario climates.

Roberts shares lots of tips and insights on tours of Plant Paradise's stunning shade, sun and wildflower garden beds, including new long-blooming plants and plant combinations; ways to garden without herbicides, pesticides and synthetic fertilizers; and the all-natural secret to eliminating weeds.

"In addition to being the only botanical gardens in the region, we are also an organic perennial nursery," Roberts said.

All plants featured on the tour are grown on-site, ensuring plant conservation and diversity of species within natural habitats and available in the nursery.

This year's Festival lunch and speaker events (\$35 plus HST) also promise to be entertaining and insightful.

There will be a buffet lunch July 4 from noon to 2 p.m. with guest speaker Ken Brown, creator of the tropical habitat at the Toronto Zoo, who will share the presentation, *Great Garden Design with Delphiniums*.

The speaker at the July 5 buffet lunch will be award-winning author and Toronto Star garden columnist Sonia Day, who will read from her new novel *Dear Eyes*, a suspenseful tale about a deer hunter and a botanical artist.

The Delphinium Festival will also include an Art in the Garden Show and Sale, with the chance to meet and greet talented local artists and find something unique to add beauty and style to the home and garden.

Plant Paradise Country Gardens is at 16258 Humber Station Rd. in Caledon.

For more information, call 905-880-9090 or go to www.plantparadisecountrygardens.ca