



Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 13, Issue 3 Aug/Sept/Oct 2011

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BHS meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Brooklin United Church; except January, July and December.

Email any board member at: information@brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com.

Visit us on the web at: www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com.



Speaker's Corner

August 24 - Darren Heimbecker, Whistling Gardens

Gardening season 2011 has certainly been an exciting ride; the extreme heat combined with almost 4 weeks without rain was a definite challenge. My own garden rose to the occasion... the daylilies bloomed their hearts out displaying ruffles, patterns, numbers and size that truly amazed but truth be told I am just about daylilyed out and ready to relax, sit back and be entertained. The remainder of our speakers line up promises to do so.

At our meeting on Wednesday, August 24, **Darren Heimbecker** from Whistling Gardens in Wilsonville will present "**The Building of Canada's Newest Horticultural Playground**". Anyone who has visited his nursery specializing in rare and unusual trees and ornamentals comes back raving about the landscape and the quality of his product. Originally I wanted Darren's talk to focus on trees and shrubs but he has been hard at work creating a "horticultural playground" and easily persuaded me that it would make a more interesting talk. It also fits nicely in this year's historical theme as in 90 years looking back I'm sure his will be considered one of the great gardens of Ontario.

Next at our **90th Anniversary Celebration** on September 28, we are trying something just a little different . . . we will not be featuring plants and how to grow them but rather people—specifically BHS members past and present and how they've grown and kept a gardening club going for 90 years. The medium, a little bit of theatre - "**The Way We Were, 1921-2011**" mounted by the **Pickering Museum's Backwood Players**. Julie Oakes has been combing BHS and OHS archives for material. Expect a few surprises, some laughs and great entertainment. And don't forget to pick up your ticket at the August meeting at no cost, because we do need to know how many are coming to this gala event.

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90th Anniversary Celebration! Sep 28 - Catered Reception With "Backwoods Players"

Just over one month remains prior to our 90th Anniversary Celebration. The Committee is busily working away getting ready for this big event. It promises to be a most delightful evening with both past and present BHS members attending. I'm sure you will enjoy our catered reception and the entertainment that will follow.

If you have not yet picked up an Invitation, there are only a few remaining. An Invitation is required, as space is limited. So don't wait any longer. Call **Kathy Allam** at 905-430-7213.



Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday 24 August	August Meeting - No Hort Show Guest Speaker: Darren Heimbecker , Whistling Gardens, Wilsonville Topic: The Building of Canada's Newest Horticultural Playground
Saturday 10 September 10 AM - 3 PM	Brooklin Harvest Festival Show & Plant Sale District-wide Show including Youth Exhibits BHS Plant Sale Fundraiser , Brooklin United Church
Wednesday 28 September	90th Anniversary Celebration Guest Performers: Julie Oakes & The Backwoods Players , Pickering Museum Topic: The Way We Were, 1921 - 2011
Wednesday 26 October	Pumpkins, Pies, and Pictures Show Guest Speaker: Bill Lishman , Artist, Pilot & Environmentalist, Port Perry Topic: Exploring Rural Roots
Wednesday 23 November 7 PM	Annual Meeting & Social Dessert, Entertainment, Awards & Elections Location: St. Thomas Anglican Church, 101 Winchester East



Photo on left is taken in Roger & Grace Inglis' garden.

2011 Whitby In Bloom 5 Bloom Winners!

Take a stroll or a drive by the following members' gardens who have received 5 Blooms (top honours) this year in the Front Garden Competition of the Whitby in Bloom program.

In Whitby:

204 Pitt Street West	Barb Borchuk
800 Athol Street	Marie Huxter
39 Longfellow Court	Lorna Ravary

In Brooklin:

166 Watford Street	Patricia Evans
25 Dodge Drive	Joyce McCreadie

Congratulations, ladies!

Hospitality

We need your generosity!

The increased costs for cups, coffee and other supplies, and the shortage of donations has the Board considering a set fee for Hospitality. Please give generously to the donation box at our next meeting.

Many thanks to all those who volunteer to help and bring in the goodies. A special thanks to Eileen Humphries for helping me in the kitchen.

Don't forget to sign up with your pie donation for the October meeting.

Julia Noakes, Hospitality

Harvest Festival Flower Show Saturday, September 10

- Check out the show schedule in your BHS Yearbook pages 35-37.
- Entries are to be brought in to Brooklin United Church on **FRIDAY**, September 9th between 3:00 and 8:00 pm.
- ANYONE can enter this show! It's open to the public.
- Standard flower show containers and plates for vegetables will be available for those who do not wish to come back on Saturday at 3:00 to pick up entries.
- Show will be judged at 8:00 pm on Friday.
- Show open to the public for viewing Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- NOTE: There is a YOUTH section. Please encourage your children, grandchildren, children of your friends and neighbours to enter!
- **We know the weather has played games with our gardens this year, but please plan to bring whatever you can find to the show!**

Questions? Call Judi at 905.263.4765
or email: mjdenny@sympatico.ca

Beware of Giant Hogweed!

Giant Hogweed is an invasive plant that looks like cow parsnip and has flowers that resemble Queen Anne's Lace. It reaches 15 to 20 feet in height and has thick, hollow stems.

When its watery clear sap comes in contact with human skin and then is exposed to sunlight, UV radiation can cause severe burning and weeping blisters. Swelling and reddening of the skin will be noticeable. Symptoms can last for months and can cause scarring.



If you come in contact with it, seek shelter from sun exposure and thoroughly wash the area with soap and water. If your skin reacts or the sap gets into your eyes, seek medical attention since it can cause temporary or permanent blindness.

If you find Giant Hogweed on your property, it is best to get a landscape professional to remove it. If you want to remove it yourself, suit up in protective clothing, heavy gloves and eye protection. Remove the flower heads to prevent seed dispersal and then cut the plant's root below the surface. Cut the stem diagonally into pieces. Do not compost the remains but double bag it for waste disposal.

*Excerpted from Canadian Gardening article
by Anja Sonnenberg.*

BHS Plant Sale at Brooklin Harvest Festival

Mark it on your calendar - Saturday September 10th. BHS will be holding a bonanza of a plant sale at the Brooklin United Church. This is our second big fundraiser of the year - so come out and support your Society.

We are appealing for plant contributions from you, our members. Nice big plants in large-sized pots can be dropped off before 10 AM. Don't forget to label them with the plant name and colour. Equally vital, we need YOU and your friends to come out and buy these plants. There are always some great bargains and a few rare finds.

And of course, we need volunteers to help deal with this throng of contributors and buyers. Make sure that you sign up on the clipboard at the next meeting. New member volunteers are especially welcome. This is a great way to learn about plants and meet fellow gardeners. Make it a memorable day by combining your time at the sale with

General Meetings

Our meetings through the spring months of this year included a most interesting series of speakers:

April 27th: Our own **Ken Brown** - "**Bulbs-A Constant in the Garden**". Ken gave us a seasonal tour of his own gardens. Then presented us with a slideshow of the flowers we could order bulbs for through BHS.

May 25th: **Paul Bollard** - "**Colour in the Garden - A History**". Paul highlighted some of the gardening colour trends of the last ninety years. He also talked about colour strategies and offered some quirky ideas for colour. Some tips on how to have continuous colour in the garden were also provided.

June 8th: **Elaine Davidson** - "**Hands on Herbs**". Elaine gave us a most informative summary of the history of herbal usage. She then presented a review of the most commonly used and grown herbs.

June 22nd: **Frank Kershaw** - "**The Great Historic Gardens of Ontario**". Frank took us on a visual tour of historic gardens across the province. He started in the east in the Ottawa and Brockville area, and ended in Walkerville with stops along the way at places such as Casa Loma, Parkwood & Windermere.

At each of these meetings, we had very successful Shows with a great number of entries and lots of favourable comments from the judges.

Kathy Allam

viewing our horticultural show and checking out the Harvest Festival vendors and entertainment across the street at Grass Park!

It will be a fun day - contribute some plants, buy some plants, volunteer to help, and support your Brooklin Horticultural Society. BHS succeeds when you all participate in the events.

Contact me directly to volunteer, or if you need assistance with potting or delivering plants - 905-666-4418 or bgower@durham.net.

Brian Gower



Eileen, Bob, Julia & Esther at the May Plant Auction

The President's Message



It is hard to believe that we are almost through the summer months. This summer has been very warm with very little rain. With the expected "Global Warming", we should be looking at planting more drought resistant plants.

We were all sad to learn of the death of Audrey Young. Audrey was a long time member of the Brooklin

Horticultural Society and served proudly on numerous committees. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family and her many friends at BHS.

We are all looking forward to the 90th. Anniversary of the Society. It should be a fun evening. Make sure you obtain your invitation from Kathy Allam or any Board members.

We are still looking for volunteers to help at the many Brooklin gardens that the society has agreed to maintain.
Enjoy the rest of the summer,
Fred Haggerty

Speaker's Corner *(Continued from Page 1)*

On October 26 at our **Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures Show**, our final guest speaker for 2011, **Bill Lishman** will give a talk titled "**Exploring my Rural Roots**". Bill (some of you may know him as Father Goose from both the book and motion picture filmed in the late nineties about a "reclusive sculptor", a gaggle of geese Bill adopted and a flight south that taught them to migrate) a well-known metal sculptor, inventor, pilot, raconteur, environmentalist and eco-tour guide lives on Purple Hill just south of Port Perry overlooking Lake Scugog. He was raised in Ajax on a large farm just east of Westney Road. His artist son now lives in the original brick farmhouse surrounded by suburbia. Bill's roots run deep right back to the 1800's and the Quaker that lived in the area at the time. His talk will be wide-ranging, eclectic and not necessarily plant-related but it will definitely strike a chord with many of our members including myself with similar roots and intrigue, and give insight to those of you who have migrated and taken up recent roots in Brooklin and the surrounding area. Bill will be the perfect ending to a year of great speakers and presentations.

As always, I look forward to your feedback and recommendations for future speakers, themes, and meeting activities. Contact me at 905-655-9695 or madgardener23@hotmail.com

Faye Collins

Audrey Young

In Memoriam



This past month, we lost a very special and active life long member of our society. Audrey passed away quietly in her 93rd year.

Audrey's history with our society began in 1927 when she was 9 years of age. Her mother, Mrs. Hall was our society's president and it was then she began accompanying her mother to meetings. She continued to attend for 84 more years. She held a board position for 15 years, and was our society auditor for 7 years, card convener for 18 years, and exhibited flowers, vegetables and many designs with miniatures being her specialty. Audrey's name appears on many of our trophies winning The Marg Beath Rose Award in 1987, 1990 & 1995, The Fred Daw Vegetable Award in 1986, 1991 to 1995 and then again in 1999. She continued to participate in meetings and shows right up until this past May.

For her great service, she was named a life member in 2001 and received the Ontario Horticultural District 17 Service Award in 2001. She was recognized in 2009 with a 40 year pin and certificate from the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

Audrey's quiet presence and exhibits in our shows will be truly missed.



Julia, Judi and Eileen at the hospitality table

The Garden Tour

The 2nd annual members' garden tour was a success. On a beautiful sunny day in June, twenty-seven gardeners visited five very diverse gardens ranging from small urban to large country estates.



Cosimo & Lorna at Roger & Grace's Garden

1. A fish pond, vegetable garden, rose garden, a variety of shrubs, perennials and annuals all formed part of the immaculate landscaped garden owned by **Barb and Ron Borchuk**.

2. **Jone Webster's** property backed unto a beautiful green space. The swimming pool, fish pond, the trellis with trailing plants and variety of perennials provided a peaceful and welcoming place to garden.



Guests viewing Eugene's hostas

3. **Eugene Gmitrowicz** spoke of his love of hostas, provided a walking tour and gave a mini talk on taking pictures in a garden setting.

4. Visitors to **Dianne Stackhouse and Brian McLatchie's** garden were overwhelmed at the large cottage garden – “where do we begin” were some of the expressions uttered as they viewed perennial beds, a new scree garden, a landscaped area beside the old barn, and on and on.

5. Four Winds, our last garden was a “wow” - perennials gardens, a rock garden, vegetable garden, sculptures, ornamental and shade trees, and a lilac collection. The property, with a mixed terrain with cedar and deciduous woods on steep slopes reaching down to a swamp and meadow with a creek and pond and a regenerating forest, is owned by **Roger and Grace Inglis**. After the “walk about”, refreshments were served and everyone enjoyed a social hour.

Thanks once again to our hosts for sharing their love of gardening. We hope to see you next year.

Cosimo Galluzzo and Lorna Ravary

OHA CONVENTION July 2011, Sudbury

Julia Noakes, Aldine and Don Wick attended the OHA convention in Sudbury last month. Our delegates thoroughly enjoyed the seminars, speakers, tours and social activities.

Kathy Allam had submitted several of our publications to the province-wide competitions, including the yearbook, show schedule, and membership brochure.

Our **Newsletter** won **Second Place** with judges comments about “plenty of photos, nice use of shade and boxes”.

Our **Bookmark** took **Third Place** with the following comments, “full page picture a plus, colourful, ties in nice with logo, centred perfectly at top, ... all the relevant information”.

OHA announced that in 2012 it will be selling its own floribunda rose, the 1812 rose. Next year's convention is in Niagara on August 17 - 19. Plan to join in for the fun and education!



Guests enjoying Barb Borchuk's garden



Brian & Dianne's garden

Our Gardens: The Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden & The Butterfly Meadow

The plant and groom sessions for both our gardens are drawing to a close for 2011 but there is still time left for you to get out and see them - perhaps before the August meeting or to volunteer as there is much to be done. The Butterfly Meadow came through the summer drought and heat in fine form - lots of colour, butterfly sightings, well-established and some truly spectacular specimen plants, easily surviving whatever weather was thrown at it. Thanks go to Connie McEllistrum. She and I were unfortunately the only volunteers keeping it going this summer. There is one more session left in August -Thursday the 25th and we'd love to see you there even if it's just to show you around.

The Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden at Carnwith & Montgomery has not fared so well. After a magnificent start to the season - bulbs, shrubs & trees, the long drought and extreme heat have taken their toll and wrecked havoc with

the maple trees, new plantings and even some well-established ones. Even so, it's well worth a visit and we are hard at work every Tuesday through to the end of September doing what gardeners do to counter-act our climate's vagaries. Again, people power has been in short supply and is still needed. Please do consider coming out.

And thanks go to our regulars who arrive like clockwork every Tuesday at 6:30 PM – Bill Hoogeveen, Eileen Humphries and Kathy Allam, and to John Van Ekeren from Able Tree Service for looking out for our drought-stressed maples.

For information and to help, contact me at 905-655-9695 or madgardener23@hotmail.com.

Faye Collins

BHS Float in Spring Fair Parade



This spring, the Brooklin Spring Fair celebrated its 100th year anniversary, as the Brooklin Horticultural Society marks its own 90th year. Helping to celebrate both milestones, the BHS rejoined the Spring Fair Parade with a float aimed at highlighting the gardens and civic work that the Society supports each year. The efforts of Hans Paats and Julia Noakes were augmented by Eugene Gmitrowicz, who provided the trailer and several plantings, (including 2 substantial live trees!) and Ken Foreman and Jan Vallance, who were willing to provide plants.



The float was designed to bring attention to the BHS Garden at Carnwith and Montgomery streets in Brooklin and the Butterfly Meadow, along with the Civic Beautification plantings provided for Whitby and Brooklin.

A special feature was the recognition of the Youth Program being developed by the Society with St. Leo Catholic School, and two of the Eco-team students were able to ride on the float along with our President Fred Haggerty. The rains started as soon as the parade got underway, but the riders, and Julia, who walked the entire route, toughed it out to the end.

About the BHS Newsletter: This newsletter is published three times yearly—February, May and August. You are invited to submit articles, questions and comments about the newsletter to the **Editor Jone Webster** at 905-666-2489 or brooklinhortsoc@rogers.com or newsletter@brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com.