



# Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 15, Issue 2 May/June/July 2013

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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](mailto:information@brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com)

Visit us on the web at: [www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com).



## Saturday May 11 - 9 am to 1pm BHS Plant & Gardener's Yard Sale Bring your friends and neighbours!

Now that our long hard winter is finally over, it's time to fill the vacant spaces in your garden with new plants, or to just add new favourites. BHS is holding a Plant and Gardener's Yard Sale in Grass Park at Baldwin & Cassels Road. There will be colourful pansy planters, a large variety of unique hostas in limited quantities, daylilies, cannas, ornamental grasses, perennials, seedlings, shrubs and much more at very reasonable prices. Check out our yard sale section for gently-used



gardening tools, pots, vases, gardening books and magazines. An added feature: our volunteers will happily answer your planting questions.

Your donations of labeled plants, pots, garden décor, and gardening tools in good condition can be delivered to Grass Park between 8 and 9 AM.

If you would like to help at the sale or need assistance with delivering donated items, contact **Margaret** at 905-666-7777 before Saturday.

## "Let's Stop Making Ugly Gardens!" Wed May 22 at 7:30PM

The last of the "Authors in the Garden" presentations co-sponsored with "Whitby in Bloom" takes place on May 22 and we then return to business as usual in June and for the remainder of our 2013 calendar. You will not want to miss Marjorie Harris on "Let's Stop Making Ugly Gardens!"... an intriguing title, for sure. I remember well her coming in March 2007 - my first year booking our speakers, and launching another of her many gardening books, *How to Make a Garden, the Seven Essential Steps for the Canadian Gardener*. She was a hit then - droll, knowledgeable, inspiring, somewhat controversial and I think I can safely say nothing has changed. Marjorie's gardening column appears in the *Globe &*

*Mail*. Her books will be available for purchase with proceeds supporting local charities. Her latest book is *Thrifty Gardening From the Ground Up*.

**Please bring non-perishable food items and/or monetary donations to support local food banks.**

This is also our "Spring Show". After Marjorie's presentation, you'll see tulips, irises, narcissus, lilacs, early vegetables, house plants, floral designs and more.

Come early for refreshments and draw tickets. Don't forget to lug-a-mug.

Faye Collins

## Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Saturday May 11  
9 AM - 1 PM

Brooklin Horticultural Society **Plant & Gardener's Yard Sale**  
Grass Park, Cassels Road East, Brooklin  
**Pansy Planters, Hostas, Daylilies, Perennials, Garden Tools, Pots & Books**

Wednesday May 22

### The Spring Show

Guest Speaker: **Marjorie Harris**, Gardening Columnist, Author & Past Editor, Toronto  
Topic: **Let's Stop Making Ugly Gardens!**

Wednesday June 12

### The Iris and Peony Show

Panelists: **Sofie Bigham & BHS Friends**

Q & A Session: **Picks & Tips - A Panel to Answer All Your Gardening Questions**

Reminder!

Sunday June 23

### BHS Members' Garden Tour

Spend an enjoyable afternoon visiting the gardens of Sofie Bigham, Dena MacDonald and Judi Denny in Brooklin and Enniskillen, and ending with refreshments and a brief social. Free admission to BHS members. Contact **Lorna Ravary** at 905-666-4443 or [lornaravary@rogers.com](mailto:lornaravary@rogers.com) or **Cosimo Galluzzo** at 289-240-2982.

Wednesday June 26

### The Rose Show

Guest Speaker: **Peter Keeping**, Clematis Hybridizer & Grower, Bowmanville  
Topic: **Clematis - In, Out, Up & Around**

## Meeting Reports - Conifers, Crazy Ideas & Provocation

Our year started with **Grace & Rodger Inglis** talking at our February meeting about their wonderful country property called "**Four Winds**". Starting in the '70s, Rodger built dry and slate tile walls, cedar steps, flagstone paths and a belvedere on their hilly property. They have specialized in lilacs and various trees and shrubs, including small conifers.

**Frankie Flowers** entertained a packed house on March 27, in our first of a series of "**Authors in The Garden**" seminars co-hosted with Whitby in Bloom. Frankie's seminar "**Garden Crazy**" reminded us that many gardening facts, sayings, traditions and

rhymes of old may not just be crazy, unfounded pieces of gardening folklore. So, is your soil ready for planting? Go on...try the bare bum test.

Another wonderful evening was had by all with a visit by Toronto Star columnist and award-winning author, **Sonia Day**. She began by reading excerpts from her latest book, **The Untamed Garden** that direct us to the steamier side of gardening. From the Romans and their garden orgies, with all participants covered with petals from the Maiden's Blush rose, to Victorian times where names were changed or plant parts trimmed to keep those who viewed

them from having 'naughty' thoughts. Thanks to **Amica at Whitby** for providing the treats for this meeting.

A component of the 'Authors' seminars is to raise food items and money for area food banks. To date, the seminars have raised \$1500 and approximately 450 pounds of food. Thanks for your contributions.

The last 'Authors' speaker is **Marjorie Harris** on May 22. We hope to see you there. Please remember to bring a donation for the food banks!

*Jane, Sherry & Jone*



Frankie with Don, Aldine, Joyce, Jane, Margaret & Sue



Kathy Allam, Sonia Day & Sue Green

## Other Plant Sales

May 9 - 12  
10 AM – 8 PM  
Until 5 PM on Sat & Sun

### Toronto Botanical Garden's Plant Sale

Perennials, annuals, natives, herbs & vegetables, shrubs, vines, succulents, small trees & more.  
777 Lawrence Ave East, Toronto. <http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/news>

Saturday May 18  
8:30 AM - 1 PM

### Pine Ridge Garden Club Plant, Bake & Yard Sale

Nestleton Community Centre, (Hwy 7A, east of Blackstock)

Sunday May 26  
2 PM

### Durham Region Orchid Society Plant Auction

Orchids, houseplants, and lots of perennials  
Fernhill Community Centre in Oshawa (northeast of Stevenson & Bond)  
Contact **Anne Antanaitis** at 905-728-5336 or [anneantanaitis@hotmail.com](mailto:anneantanaitis@hotmail.com).

Sunday June 2  
10:30AM - 4:30PM

### Cactus Show & Plant Sale

Rare and unusual plants for show and sale. Free admission.  
Allan Gardens Conservatory, Carlton Street, east of Jarvis, Downtown Toronto  
Contact 905-877-6013 or <http://torontocactus.tripod.com>

## Other Gardens to Visit

June 8 & 9  
10 AM - 4 PM

The **Peony Festival**, Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens, 155 Arena Street Oshawa. See over 300 peony varieties. Includes peony show, artisans, advice, demonstrations and café. Free admission and parking. Come anytime in June to see early, middle and late blooms. Contact **Judi Denny** at 905-263-4765 or [mjdenny@sympatico.ca](mailto:mjdenny@sympatico.ca). Visit [www.oshawa.ca/ovbg](http://www.oshawa.ca/ovbg).

Saturday June 15  
10 AM - 5 PM

**Artists in the Garden Tour** in support of **Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre**. Local artists and musicians featured in beautiful gardens in Ajax, Clarington, Oshawa & Whitby. Tickets: \$20 (\$15 advance) <http://hearthplace.org/event/view/97>

Sunday July 14  
10 AM - 4 PM

**Water Garden Tour** by Greater Toronto Water Garden & Horticultural Society. Self-guided tour in Scarborough. Tickets: \$12. Call 416-960-9128 or visit [www.onwatergarden.com](http://www.onwatergarden.com)

Saturday July 27  
10 AM - 4 PM

**Beyond the Garden Gate**, second annual garden tour by **Whitby in Bloom**, showcasing some of Whitby's most unique and colourful properties including whitby residential, business and Town sites. Your free tour ticket and brochure will guide your personal driving tour to the properties. Non-perishable food donations will be collected for Whitby-based Food Banks. To register, contact 905-430-4310 or [www.whitby.ca/whitbyinbloom](http://www.whitby.ca/whitbyinbloom).

### Welcome, New Members!

Roy Allam  
Janet Beaton  
Denise Carter  
Janet Connors  
Kim Edwards  
Nancy Hogan  
Rose Houston  
Annette Hudson  
Victoria Jaspers-Fayer  
Andi Kelly  
Judy Lambert  
Hilda Lau  
Michelle Ling

Diego Malandrino  
Janet McKnight  
Melissa Meisinger  
Jan Richmond  
Beatrice Schrompf  
Debra Smith  
Lisa Smith  
Lil Stillar  
Susan Stubbs  
Craig Stubbs  
Carol Swain  
Dale Williams

### Home Hardware Multi-Use Wheelbarrow/ Handtruck



You could win this multi-use wheelbarrow that converts to a handtruck, generously donated to BHS by Dave Smith of Brooklin Home Hardware. Dimensions are 60"L x 22"W x 22"H. Tickets will be available at the May Plant Sale, and the May and June meetings. Donations support the Brooklin Horticultural Society.

**GOOD LUCK!**



## It's Show Time

We look forward to receiving entries from your garden for the May and the **two** June shows:

- ◆ Spring Show on May 22
- ◆ Iris and Peony Show on June 12
- ◆ Rose Show on June 26

Remember that all specimen classes are **OPEN**, therefore allowing you to enter **TWO** items; however they must be of different cultivars. Special exhibits like the 'Pick and Plunk' classes are also **OPEN**.

Here are some additional tips to consider when showing:

1. **When Size Counts** - When size is specified for a specimen or a design, please measure before submitting the entry. In the case of special exhibits such as the 'Pick and Plunk', measure from the bottom of your container in all directions (eg., diagonally and vertically) upwards, as well as the horizontal width. Don't try to meet the maximum height of the class as the specimens may 'grow' while sitting in the water.

2. **Pick and Plunk** - Garden grown plant material picked and plunked creatively into a container of choice...'keep it simple'. This is something you might create for your dinner table just before your guests arrive. It is simple yet appealing to the eye.
3. **Displaying Fruits and Vegetables** -
  - a. Vegetables must be shown on a plate or other container appropriate to their size and type.
  - b. When more than one specimen is specified in a class, address uniformity in size and shape.
  - c. Always groom.

What goes on during the judging of a show? You have an opportunity to see and learn while the judge is at work. Sign up at the set-up table, as a show clerk to assist the committee and the judges, or see any member of the Show Committee.

For more information, contact **Sherry Howard** at 905-668-7640 or **Judi Denny** at 905-263-4765.



## Members' Garden Tour Sunday June 23rd

This year, members and guests are invited to tour three very unique gardens. Our first visit will be to **John and Sofie Bigham's** garden. This 10-acre property, with a natural pond, was featured in the Feb/Mar 2012 special issue of *Canadian Gardening* magazine. June is prime time for roses (450+ throughout) and the rose garden will be fully in bloom.

**Dena MacDonald** has invited us to her very unique property. The one-acre lot is a work-in-progress where every year a new garden is developed, whether it be a shade garden or a full sun garden. It is a garden still in the planning and development stage.

Our third garden belongs to **Judi Denny** who, as many of you know, is famous for her peonies. Many of the peonies may have lost their bloom but there is also beauty in the 'after bloom'. This large country property contains a pond, large barn, and several cultivars of trees and shrubs that are of special interest to gardeners.

Our tour ends with snacks, and a chance to discuss our garden adventures. Watch for more details. For more information, contact the coordinators: **Cosimo Galluzzo** at 289-240-2982 or **Lorna Ravary** at 905-666-4443 or [lornaravary@rogers.com](mailto:lornaravary@rogers.com).

## Life Membership for Nancy Skelding

Nancy received her Life Membership certificate at the March 28th meeting. As a BHS member since 1992, Nancy was recognized for helping out with every show since 1999.



## Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

On April 22nd, six members of BHS were presented with Ontario Volunteer Service Awards at a ceremony at Deer Creek Golf Club. The awards recognized their many years of on-going service to our organization. The recipients were:

Faye Collins - 10 years  
 Jenny-Lynn Gasperek - 10 years  
 Fred Haggerty - 10 years  
 Mary Ellen Simerson - 10 years  
 Judi Denny - 15 years  
 Ken Foreman - 15 years

**Congratulations!**

## President's Message

A warm welcome to all our new members. It's always a pleasure to see new faces at our meetings. Speaking of crowds, what a crowd we had for our March 28th meeting. The count for that meeting was 218!

Without question, Frank Ferrigine was most entertaining. Again, a special thanks to Whitby in Bloom for making the "Authors in the Garden" series possible, including Sonia Day in April and Marjorie Harris, coming in May.

There's lots happening this spring: a potting workshop

for residents of The Court at Brooklin, BHS Garden pruning and clean-up day on May 1st, "Here We Grow" youth program with the Optimists on May 8th, and of course, our Plant and Gardener's Yard Sale on May 11. The Sale is our major fundraising event for the year. The proceeds allow us to provide great speakers and programs, while keeping membership fees low.

Please try to find the time to come out and participate in one or more of our activities. Contact me at 905-430-7213, [kathyallam@hotmail.ca](mailto:kathyallam@hotmail.ca) or any member of the board for further details.

*Kathy Allam*

## Speakers' Corner - June Meetings

June is always a challenging month for our club as we have two meetings, the weather is usually glorious and luring people from their gardens can prove difficult. So



*Sofie Bigham*

we are trying something just a little bit different for **The Iris & Peony Show** on June 12. We're calling it **'Picks & Tips - A Panel to Answer All Your Gardening Questions'** with **Sofie and BHS Friends**. Sofie Bigham will be joined by Judi Denny, Kim Pileggi and an as yet to be announced surprise panelist. Sofie will do what she has been doing all along at our meetings

and on the website, and present with visuals her picks - plants, shrubs, veggies, trees; the ones you must have in your garden. The rest of the panel will then join in, answering all you gardening questions and concerns, and sharing their own picks and tips. So come prepared with your ideas and queries, and take part in an evening sharing our very own, home-grown Brooklin Horticultural Society expertise.

Finally on June 26 at our annual **Rose Show**, our guest speaker will be local hero and clematis enthusiast, **Peter Keeping**. His talk **'Clematis - In, Out, Up &**

**Around'** will take the mystique out of growing thriving clematis. He'll tell you everything you need to know...pruning, fertilizing, disease treatments, propagation, and also introduce you to some new varieties. You can check out some of his other recommendations on Sofie's blog on the BHS website. Peter with wife Sheila Cule runs Peter & Sheila's Country Garden in Bowmanville. He is an active member of The International Clematis Society, travelling regularly to the UK to find and bring back new and rare clematis cultivars. I can guarantee you will be a clematis enthusiast too after you have heard Peter share his passion and knowledge.



*Duchess of Edinburgh Clematis*

Stay tuned for more great speakers, and if you hear someone that you think would like to present in 2014, let our President Kathy Allam know - 905-430-7213, [kathyallam@hotmail.ca](mailto:kathyallam@hotmail.ca). She will be taking on the task next year.

*Faye Collins*

**District Winners:** At the District AGM hosted by Oshawa Garden Club in April, we won first prize for our newsletter and second prize for our bookmark. **Mary Ellen Simerson** and **Jone Webster** placed first in three photography classes. *Congratulations to all who participated!*

## Volunteers Needed! *Desperately*

Desperately? A bit dramatic perhaps but unfortunately true. If the Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden and the Butterfly Meadow are to remain ours, we need the help of more of our members than are presently involved. The Town of Whitby has already committed to edging, pruning, mowing and weekly compost removal but if we cannot continue the planting and maintenance, their gardeners would be only too happy to take over. By the time you read this, we will have participated in partnership with the Town staff in a day of hard-pruning, edging and general garden clean-up. We, the Brooklin Horticultural Society have to take it from there.

The **BHS Garden** work crew meets every Tuesday from May through to the end of September from 6PM til dark (or when you can get there). This year, we began with Pruning Workshops on April 23rd and all day on May 1 helping the Town gardeners under Lori Helms' leadership to prepare for the season with a hard prune and edging of the main bed. The schedule for the remainder of May through July is as follows: **Tuesdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28; June 4, 11, 18, 25; July 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.**

The **Butterfly Meadow** will not have a regular schedule this year but we do want it ship-shape for the Whitby in Bloom Garden Tour in late July. I joined two young men armed with weed-whackers from the Whitby Parks Department on April 25 and in two hours while I pruned, they had all the brush knocked down. I have scheduled the first two plant and groom sessions in the Meadow for **Saturday May 11** from 1 - 3PM, and **Thursday May 23** from 6PM til dark. The other dates will be scheduled as needed.

Please join us. Both gardens are a great opportunity to not only hone your gardening skills but to share your expertise with the community and enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded gardeners. You do not have to commit to every date scheduled - in fact we would be only too happy to tailor your volunteering to a time that suits you.

For more information and/or to volunteer, contact **Faye Collins**, 905-655-9695 or [madgardener23@hotmail.com](mailto:madgardener23@hotmail.com).



*BHS Garden Park Clean-up 2010*



*BHS Garden Park Clean-up 2013*

## Pansy Potting Party

On April 19, BHS had the pleasure of hosting a Pansy Potting Party for residents of The Court at Brooklin. We supplied the pots and pansies. They provided their most enjoyable company. They shared with us their gardening memories as they happily potted up their containers. Their cheerful smiles as they left with their pots made the event a most gratifying experience. I'm not sure who enjoyed our party more, our 'guests' or **Sofie, Sherry, Eileen, Don and me.** You might consider joining our next event with the residents; a trip to the Oshawa Peony Gardens in June.

*Kathy Allam*

## Brooklin Spring Fair Parade

June 1st is the date for the 2013 Brooklin Spring Fair Parade. BHS is a proud participant in the parade, with this year's theme '**Brooklin: A Place to Grow**'. Any successful float needs great inspiration and a team of energetic builders to execute that design. The time commitment is modest but concerted, and imagination is always a key factor. If you're interested in participating in the production of this year's submission, or suggesting a design application, contact me at 905-655-3846 or [secretarybhs@yahoo.com](mailto:secretarybhs@yahoo.com).

*Hans Paats*

**About the BHS Newsletter:** This newsletter is published quarterly - February, May, August and October.

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](mailto:brooklinhortsoc@rogers.com).