



Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 14 Issue 1 Feb/Mar/April 2012

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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. The November meeting is at St. Thomas Anglican Church.

Email any board member at: information@brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com. Visit us on the web at: www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com



BHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING Wednesday February 22, 2012 7:30 PM

Tired of our vacillating winter weather? Start thinking about spring by joining us for our first meeting of the new gardening year! Bring a friend and come early to renew your membership, as well as catch up with old friends, and make new ones! Don't forget to "lug-a-mug" for coffee and tea while you enjoy some treats provided by the board members.

This evening's special guest speaker is **Kate Seaver** from Kate's Garden, a botanical retail studio located in Unionville. Her talk "**Seven Steps to Successful Perennial Gardening**", is a perfect way to start the gardening year. In a light, breezy style, Kate covers everything you need to know about creating a garden (perennial or otherwise) and keeping it going. She's a horticulturalist, floral designer, garden décor expert and a retired corporate executive who turn a passion for gardening into a thriving business. And, Kate is quite a dynamic presenter, so do not miss this talk! Whether you are a novice needing practical advice and tips, or an expert who could use a little boost, there is something in it for you. For more information, see www.katesgarden.ca.

The membership dues are \$20 per member, or \$30 per family of two (living at the same address). This membership fee entitles you to our yearbook, the quarterly newsletter, access to great guest speakers at 10 meetings during the year, as well as eligibility to participate in our flower, vegetable and design competitions. Last, but not least, membership also entitles you to a 10% or better discount at many local nurseries and garden shops.

You will find a membership form enclosed with this newsletter. Complete it and bring it with you to the February meeting. If you can't come to this meeting, you can mail your form with a cheque payable to Brooklin Horticultural Society to: Dena MacDonald, 9575 Baldwin Street North, Ashburn, ON L0B 1A0.

Welcome to our returning and new members and guests!

THE 1812 ROSE (KORcasima) for sale

This is the official rose of the 2012 Ontario Horticultural Association Convention and the War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration. It's an old-fashioned scented floribunda with very large and full crimson red blossoms. It's disease resistant, hardy and a repeat bloomer. The grower is Palatine Fruit & Roses in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Bare root plants are \$15 and potted are \$20. Place your order with payment at the February general meeting or email Jone Webster by **March 1** at brooklinhortsoc@rogers.com.



Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

- Wednesday Mar 28 SEED SWAP AND GET GROWING EVENING**
Guest Speaker: Mark Cullen, Garden Communicator, Horticultural Consultant & Writer
Topic: Gardening Tips, Tricks and Trends for Ontario Gardeners
- Tuesday April 24 4th ANNUAL PRUNING DEMONSTRATION**
 Durham Master Gardeners, BHS Garden Park, Montgomery & Carnwith, 6:30 PM
 Bring your secateurs or garden clippers and garden gloves. Rain date: April 26
- Wednesday April 25 THE NARCISSUS SHOW**
Guest Speaker: Brian Bergman, Lilycrest Gardens, St. Catharines & Toronto
Topic: More than Just a Pretty Face - Lilies, the Orchids of the Perennial World
- Saturday April 28 DISTRICT 17 AGM AND FLOWER SHOW - "Beyond the Garden Gate"**
 Hosted by the Cannington Horticultural Society at McCaskill's Mills Public School, 85 Albert St., Cannington. Registration Fee: Early Bird by April 4 to BHS is \$25, or \$30 at the door - includes hospitality, luncheon, show entries, and morning speaker **Trish Symons** "The Joys and Hazards of a Large Country Garden", and afternoon **Floral Design presentation** - a demonstration on conditioning and the creation of two designs. For more details and show schedules, check your BHS yearbook, or visit <http://canningtonhorticulturalsociety.50webs.com>.
- Saturday May 12 BROOKLIN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY PLANT AUCTION**
 Grass Park, Cassels Road East, Brooklin, 10 AM
 Auctioneer Extraordinaire: **Ken Brown**
- Sunday June 24 BHS MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR**
 Interested members will tour several local gardens, ending the excursion with refreshments and a brief social. If you know of an interesting garden to tour, contact Lorna at 905-666-4443 or lornaravary@rogers.com, or Cosimo at 289-240-2982 or cosimogalluzzo@hotmail.com.



2011 BHS AWARD WINNERS

LIFE MEMBER AWARD - LUCILLE HURON

LIFE MEMBER AWARD - DON WICK

With this recognition of their contributions to BHS over several decades, Lucille and Don received a lapel pin and free membership in BHS for life.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD - BILL HOOGVEEN

Bill was honoured for the time he willingly gave in working with civic beautification, especially at the BHS Garden.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD - KEN FOREMAN

Ken has been recognized for his long-term volunteer services in civic beautification, and for being our Auditor for the past several years.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD - JAN VALLANCE

Jan has been recognized for her many hours of volunteering with civic beautification, as well as contributing in other areas as needed.

SHOW AWARD WINNERS:

<u>BHS Award</u> for Highest # of Points	-	Mary Ellen Simerson
<u>Margaret Davis Award</u> , 2nd Highest Points	-	Ken Brown
<u>Mary Housego Award</u> , 3rd Highest Points	-	Sofie Bigham
<u>Windermere Award</u> , Highest Points in Design	-	Vida Ycas-Abell
<u>Fred Daw Award</u> , Highest Points in Vegetables	-	Mary Ellen Simerson
<u>Rose Bowl Award</u> , New Exhibitor with highest points	-	Mariane Hayward
<u>Iris Trophy</u> , Best Iris at the Iris Show	-	Lenore Wright
<u>Denny Peony Award</u> , highest total points in Peony classes	-	Mary Ellen Simerson
<u>Marg Beath Rose Award</u> , highest total points in Rose classes	-	Sofie Bigham
<u>Best Decorative</u> in Annuals Show (August)	-	No Presentation, No Show
<u>Photography Prize</u> , highest total points in photography	-	Jone Webster

Other Events of Note

Feb 25
10 am - 3pm

“How to plant a Vegetable Garden”, MARJORIE MASON, Speaker, Author, Nursery Owner. This is a daylong event covering all aspects of vegetable gardening, from planning and plotting, planting and watering, to maintenance and harvest. Refreshments will be served. Bring your own bagged lunch. Richters Herbs, Goodwood. Admission Free.

www.richters.com

March 16 - 25

CANADA BLOOMS - 2012 theme: “CityCulture”

Canada’s largest flower and garden festival is co-locating with the National Home Show. See six acres of stunning creative gardens; learn from over 200 hours of free lectures and demonstrations; experience Canada’s largest floral competition; and shop for your gardening needs at Blooms Marketplace. Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place. Admission to both shows: \$20 (Seniors \$17). Save \$3 by ordering online in advance, or buy your ticket at Sheridan Nurseries in Whitby. www.canadablooms.com

Thur April 5: 5-9 pm
Fri April 6: 10 am-6 pm
Sat April 7: 10 am-4 pm

PETERBOROUGH GARDEN SHOW “For the Love of Gardening”

Garden-related vendors and exhibitors, speakers, demonstrations, garden displays, garden advise clinic, floral competition, Little Green Thumbs Children’s Garden. Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road. Admission \$6. www.peterboroughgardens.ca/showhome.html

April 1
2 - 3 pm

“Heritage Roses”, BERYL HARRIS, Rose Expert and Master Gardener

Many old scented roses are still available, and with a little help from Beryl Harris you can select the right ones for your garden. Planting, maintenance and overwintering your roses will be covered also. Richters Herbs, Goodwood. Admission Free. www.richters.com

Why I Volunteer

Volunteering gives me an opportunity to meet and work with people, both of old and new. It allows me to form relationships with people I might not otherwise come in contact with and it allows an ongoing journey of learning.

Sherry Howard

Why I Volunteer

Sometimes when I get a call to do an hour or so of volunteer work in one of our gardens, my usual first reaction is “why do I sign up for these things, I have enough work keeping up with my own garden”. And then I throw a pair of gloves and one or two gardening implements into my car and away I go, out to do my little part in beautifying Brooklin. And then, on my drive home after an “hour or so” of volunteering, I always feel an enormous sense of enjoyment and I wonder...where would I be without the vast amount of knowledge and friendships I’ve gained while volunteering with our events and in our gardens?

Dena MacDonald

THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As we look forward to our 91st year of the society and a new gardening year, I would like to welcome to your board of directors, Sherry Howard, Jane Austin and Margaret McGibney. They all bring a wealth of gardening experience to our society.



This year, we will be partnering with Whitby in Bloom to bring in some well-known guest speakers to increase your knowledge of horticulture. We wish to thank Faye Collins for her continued efforts in arranging a host of informative speakers.

We are again appealing for volunteers to plant and maintain the gardens in downtown Brooklin and surrounding locations. It only takes a few hours of your time to participate in this worth-while endeavour.

We are trying a different type of approach to reach out to our corporate members. We have emailed and sent out letters to our list of previous members asking for their continuing participation. If you know of any business that would like to support the BHS, please contact me or any other board member. The cost is \$30 per year and provides them with full membership benefits. Their business name is posted with a link on our website and early registrants are listed in our yearbook.

Fred Haggerty

BHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2012

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Jane Austin loves to spend time in a garden. Her own garden is predominately shady. Recently, she has dug up, replanted and regrouped most of her perennials. Before joining BHS three years ago, Jane had not experienced a garden show and although she has not entered one as yet, she has learned a great deal. As a member of the Whitby in Bloom committee for the past eight years, Jane has co-chaired the Front Garden Program. As a civic beautification member, she has enjoyed the planning, execution and camaraderie at the greenhouse over the winter months. Jane says that joining the group of volunteers planting the downtown flower beds has been fun. Jane is also a member of the Oshawa Garden Club, and a volunteer for the Heath Place Garden Tour.

Sherry Howard does not recall what triggered her interest in gardening although her parents grew and still grow a vegetable garden every year. In high school and at university, Sherry tended her own African violets, fibrous begonias and grew cuttings of coleus on her desk. Today, her garden has expanded beyond her desk and she enjoys meeting, learning and trading with other gardeners. Sherry started volunteering in her sons' classrooms and helped plant new school gardens with the school's garden club. She taught curling to young people for 10 years and has held various senior positions with the Whitby ladies' curling league.

Margaret McGibney became interested in gardening when she moved in 1995 to a large old Whitby property with virtually no garden plants. To further her knowledge, Margaret joined the Oshawa Garden Club in 1999 where she volunteered for various projects and served on the board for 4 years. As an initial member of the Whitby in Bloom committee, she has co-chaired the Front Garden competition. Since joining BHS about seven years ago, Margaret has recently volunteered with civic beautification where she enjoyed working on the



Back row: Hans Paats-Secretary, Julia Noakes, Eileen Humphries, Margaret McGibney, Jane Austin, Jone Webster-Past President, and Fred Haggerty-President

Front row: Aldine Wick-Treasurer, Sherry Howard, and Kathy Allam-1st Vice President.

Absent: Dena MacDonald-2nd Vice President.

plants at the greenhouse. She also works as a volunteer with the Heath Place Garden Tour. Perennials, especially drought tolerant, low-maintenance ones interest Margaret who finds it relaxing to be outdoors working with plants. The greatest benefit for Margaret is meeting many wonderful people through gardening.

SEED SWAP - MARCH 28

Don't forget to bring your extra seeds, summer bulbs, tubers, rhizomes and cuttings to the seed swap at the March meeting. You'll help out other gardeners and maybe take home some goodies yourself! Remember to label your donations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Join us this year as a volunteer on one of our committees! You'll make friends, meet other gardeners, learn some things, and feel great for giving back to your community. The following committees would really appreciate your help!

1. **Fair Float** for the Brooklin Spring Fair Parade on June 2 - help design, decorate and possibly ride on the float.
2. **Draw Ticket Sales** at Meetings - before a general meeting, take donations and issue tickets to members.

Contact Hans at 905-655-4927, secretarybhs@yahoo.com.

3. **Hospitality** at Meetings - help serve refreshments and clean up the kitchen. Contact Eileen at 905-430-0416 or nanah@sympatico.ca or Julia at noakesj@hotmail.com.

If you enjoy searching websites on the internet, have word processing skills and/or a flair for writing, we need your assistance with publishing!

4. **Gardening Events Sheet** - make a list of upcoming gardening seminars and shows for our members.
5. **Publicity** - write about our upcoming meetings and issue your notices to local newspapers and media.

Contact Jone at brooklinhortsoc@rogers.com or 905-666-2489.

SPEAKER'S CORNER

Hard to believe that gardening year 2012 is almost upon us. Unlike years past, our guest speakers this year do not fit any particular theme. Instead we are bringing you an eclectic lineup that is sure to inspire, bring lots of ideas, share gardening methods and how-tos, and appeal no matter your skill set. Something new though...Whitby In Bloom is co-sponsoring our speakers from March through to the end of June, allowing BHS to book some high demand garden experts normally outside our price range and WIB to attract a wider audience for their garden seminars - a win-win for both organizations. For this issue, I will profile the first three speakers, for the remainder, listed in the yearbook, you can get a headstart and check out their web-sites. Our February meeting speaker, **Kate Seaver** is described on the front page of the newsletter. Don't miss her talk.

Mark Cullen, one of Canada's best known garden personalities will be the focus of our Seed Swap & Get Growing Evening on March 28. His topic is "Gardening Tips, Tricks and Trends for Ontario Gardeners", and who better to deliver such a broad topic. After all, his website, www.markcullen.com is called 10,000 gardening questions answered, and his focus is and always has been Canadian. Mark's lengthy list of achievements and accomplishments spans over 30 years and really is mind-boggling. His bio describes him as a garden communicator, distinctly Canadian with a "message that is compelling, informative, fun, inspirational" and all based on an organic approach to gardening. Check out

Mark's garden column in *The Toronto Star* every Saturday and do not miss this meeting, the first in the co-sponsored BHS-WIB series. And an added bonus - bring along a food bank donation and you will receive one of Mark's books ... autographed I'm sure. Join us for what promises to be a great gardening event and remember to bring seeds for the swap.

The second speaker - at The Narcissus Show on April 25 - in our BHS-WIB series is **Brian Bergman**, a semi-retired dentist from Toronto who just happens to be one of North America's foremost lily (that's liliun, not hemerocallis) experts and award winners. His topic is "More than Just a Pretty Face...Lilies, the Orchids of the Perennial World". Brian's mission is to encourage more people to grow lilies and not be afraid of the dreaded lily beetle. He will emphasize their diversity, versatility and especially their wow factor in the garden. Yes, it is a specialty plant, but one worth considering if you are not already a convert and if you are, you will get to see the latest and greatest in the lily world. And at the meeting you'll have a chance to buy or win one or more of the latest Canadian lily hybrids. See Ontario Regional Lily Society for more information: www.orls.ca

in our next newsletter, I will continue to profile our featured speakers through to the end of June. In the meantime, I welcome your feedback and your recommendations... please don't be shy. 905-655-9695, madgardener23@hotmail.com.

Faye Collins

INDOOR YARD SALE April 25

BHS is planning its First Annual Indoor Garden Yard Sale to be held at our general meeting on April 25th. We are looking for donations of such items as tools, pots, vases, garden décor, gardening books. We'll accept anything that you may have once enjoyed using in the garden but no longer need or want. Contact Kathy if you have any questions, 905-430-7213 or kathyallam@hotmail.ca. More details to follow.

Why I Volunteer

I absolutely love chairing the Hospitality committee. I get to meet the many wonderful bakers that volunteer to bring goodies, and to meet you and our guests when members come to the hospitality table. Being on the board is absolutely wonderful. We get firsthand knowledge of what is happening and where the society needs a helping hand. One gets a personal satisfaction from volunteering for the society.

Julia Noakes

Why I Volunteer

First & foremost, its sharing time with my BHS friends. There's a great sense of camaraderie, no matter what gardening activity we may be working on. Plus, the simple satisfaction of knowing our ongoing Civic Beautification efforts do make a difference to the attractiveness of both Brooklin & Whitby.

Kathy Allam



Why I Volunteer

Having been part of the Brooklin Horticultural Society for over three years, I have been volunteering since I joined. I have found it to be enjoyable and it is a real learning experience. The information has helped me with my own garden. It also can be very social and one can make new friends and get an exchange of ideas.

Eileen Humphries



President Fred Haggerty and Sue Cullen Green of the Whitby in Bloom committee participated in the installation ceremony for the commemorative plaque celebrating Brooklin Horticultural Society's 90th Anniversary at the Brooklin Community Centre.

STUDENT'S PROGRESS REPORT

What many members are not aware of is that I started at Niagara College this January as a full-time student in the Horticultural Technician Program. It is quite a challenge to return to school and to live so far away from my family and friends. Also to have to relearn so many skills that has been lost and forgotten, like formal Math and English. In Horticulture, so far we are learning to identify confers, how to manage green houses, plant science, and starting seedlings. An interesting project is experimenting with different types of pots to find the best to help battle **pot bound**. The industry is interested in this for our native trees which don't as seedlings like to be **pot bound** in any way. With many municipalities wanting to go drought and pest tolerant, the native trees offer this option. The industry is very interested in the results of the different pots that we are testing. I will keep you posted on how things progress and which type of pot will win out in our research. Picea, Spruce, Abies, Fir.....until next time.

Julia Noakes

GROW & SHOW 2012

Whether you have a large garden or simply one large container; whether you grow a variety of perennials and annuals or just hostas; whether you have a rose garden, a bird and butterfly garden or a vegetable garden, you have something to show off at any one of this year's floral and design shows. We encourage everyone to show something this year.

Are you new to showing? Many resources are available to you as a BHS member. The Yearbook and Show schedule packs a lot of invaluable information for novice and experienced show participants alike. Have a look at some of the Definition of Terms. Check out the page on "Preparation of Entries for Exhibiting" with instructions of how to prepare, condition and groom your entries. BUT.....don't let all these instructions put you off. Many a red ribbon has been won by picking a bloom at the last minute and plunking it on the table. AND... what if you don't know the name of the bloom? Bring it to the show, as that other important resource, be it another BHS member or a member of the show

committee (see list below), may know what it is. Let's continue this fun educational experience.

Speaking of plunking.....our "Pick & Plunk" classes, under Special Exhibits, have been a great success. If you haven't already, please give it a try..... Garden-grown plant material picked and plunked creatively into a container of choice"keep it simple".

Don't keep them all to yourself....share your garden gems with the rest of us.

Judi Denny & Sherry Howard, Show Chairs

Any questions? Please give us a call.

Judi - 905-263-4765 or mjdenny@sympatico.ca

Sherry - 905-668-7640 or howard21@rogers.com

Sofie Bigham 905-655-5929

Ken Brown 905-665-9411

Mary Ellen Simerson 905-655-4927

Barb Borchuk 905-668-8364

Lucille Huron

OHA Convention

August 17 - 19, 2012
Niagara College, NOTL

Gardening Then and Now 1812 - 2012

For more info, see www.gardenontario.org

The Bigham Garden in Brooklin

We always knew that Sofie and John had a great garden and now, so does Canada! The Bigham's garden was featured extensively in a special issue of the *Canadian Gardening* magazine released in January. Check it out, and when the weather gets warmer, contact Sofie to see the garden for yourself!
905-655-5929, bigham@sympatico.ca

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 or newsletter@brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com.