



# Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 1 Feb/Mar/April 2014

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

## BHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING Wednesday February 26, 2014 7:30 PM

What a winter! Forget about the cold and snow for a little while 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 or tea while you enjoy some treats provided by the board members.

Thanks to the efforts of the Ontario Rock Garden Society, we are fortunate to have their guest from South Africa speaking at our February meeting. **Louis Jordaan** is the owner and operator of Minwater Farm, a private nature reserve. The reserve is found in the foothills of the Gamka Mountain, an isolated range in the Klein Karoo (Little Karoo). The farm is bursting with the Karoo's flora and fauna. Having devoted twenty-seven years to the study of this biome, Louis possesses wealth of knowledge of his veld in general and the plants that grow on Minwater in particular. Louis will speak about the plants of the Little Karoo, focusing on the huge diversity of the area with emphasis on plant varieties, covering plants of four different biomes.



Our membership dues are still only \$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 speakers and topics 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.

A membership form is being mailed to you, or it can be downloaded from our website. 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, Myrtle Station, ON L0B 1A0.*

**Welcome to our returning and new members and guests!**

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



My first year as your President has come and gone. It was a most enjoyable year for me. I look forward to whatever this year may bring.

I am pleased to have a most supportive Board of Directors working with me. I'd like to warmly welcome **Leslie Tate** as a Director. A thank you to both **Sherry Howard** and **Dena MacDonald** who step down from the Board. Fortunately, they both remain busy with BHS. Sherry is remaining as our Show Committee co-chairperson, and Dena continues to look after our Membership portfolio.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday Mar 26	<b>SEED SWAP AND GET GROWING EVENING</b> Guest Speaker: <b>Carson Arthur</b> , Outdoor Design & Lifestyle Expert Topic: <b>Show Me the Money</b> Part of the “ <b>Landscape</b> ” seminar series co-sponsored with <b>Whitby in Bloom</b> .
Tuesday April 22	<b>6th ANNUAL PRUNING DEMONSTRATION</b> Durham Master Gardeners, BHS Garden, 113 Carnwith Dr. West, 6:30 PM Bring your secateurs or garden clippers and garden gloves. Rain date: <b>April 29</b>
Wednesday April 23	<b>THE NARCISSUS SHOW</b> Guest Speaker: <b>Marjorie Mason</b> , Mason House Gardens, Uxbridge Topic: <b>Trends and Curb Appeal</b> Part of the “ <b>Landscape</b> ” seminar series co-sponsored with <b>Whitby in Bloom</b> .
Saturday May 3	<b>DISTRICT 17 AGM AND FLOWER SHOW</b> <b>“Centennial Celebrations 1914 - 2014”</b> Hosted by the Newcastle Horticultural Society at Newcastle Community Hall, 20 King Avenue West, Newcastle. Registration Fee: \$30 advance payment to BHS by March 26, or \$35 at the door. Includes hospitality, luncheon, show entry, speakers, door prizes, auction and guest speaker <b>Vicki Taylor-Scott</b> . For more details and show schedules, check our website or <a href="http://www.newcastlegarden.com">www.newcastlegarden.com</a> .
Saturday May 10	<b>BHS PLANT SALE &amp; GARDENERS' YARD SALE</b> Grass Park, Cassels Road East, Brooklin, starting at 10 AM
Sunday June 22	<b>BHS MEMBERS' GARDEN TOUR</b> 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 <b>Lorna</b> at 905-666-4443 or <a href="mailto:lornaravary@rogers.com">lornaravary@rogers.com</a> , or <b>Cosimo</b> at 289-240-2982.

### Our 2014 Speakers

As I read some of Faye Collin's "Speaker's Corner", I began to realize I had some pretty big boots to fill. My thanks to Faye for her direction in getting me started with my task of putting together a line-up of speakers. I trust you will find the selected speakers to be an informative, entertaining and interesting mixture. Some of the speakers will be making a return engagement, having spoken to us in years past. It's great to bring back some of the favourites. While others will be new to all of us. I'm particularly looking forward to "The Garlic Guy" in August.

This year **Whitby in Bloom** is once again partnering with us. They are sponsoring our speakers for March and April. Our thanks to this committee.

In June, our month of two meetings, we will not be having speakers per se. For the first meeting, our Show Committee is conducting a "Design Workshop" - a learning experience for us all. Then, the next meeting, we are once again having an "Ask the Experts" panel. This was a success last year and will no doubt be a success again this year.

As this is all new to me, I appreciate any and all input. So, please do feel free to offer any suggestions you may have regarding our speakers. [kathyallam@hotmail.ca](mailto:kathyallam@hotmail.ca)

Kathy Allam

*While sorting through your gardening tools, pots and supplies, remember to put aside any unwanted items for our **Gardener's Yard Sale in May.***

### Whitby in Bloom Speakers

WIB is looking forward to another cooperative speaker series with BHS. The theme this year is "**Landscape: Costs, planning, trends, tips and curb appeal**".

Our March speaker is **Carson Arthur** on '**Show Me the Money**' about how to maximize your outdoor investment which is the number one way to improve your home's value. Carson is a popular speaker and his show is again coming to HGTV this spring. He has keen insight and practical information into homeowners' views of their outdoor spaces and the return on money spent. [www.carsonarthur.com](http://www.carsonarthur.com)

April 23 brings us **Marjorie Mason** speaking on '**Trends, Tips and Curb Appeal**'. Marjorie is the well known moderator of 'Let's Get Growing' and owner of Mason House Gardens. Her speaking engagements include the Toronto Botanical Gardens 'Get the Jump on Spring' and the Peterborough Garden Show. [www.masonhousegardens.com](http://www.masonhousegardens.com)

Jane Austin

## Other Events of Note

Feb 22  
10 am - 4 pm

**GET THE JUMP ON SPRING**, Toronto Botanical Garden  
Annual horticultural open house, presented with OHA. Floral design competition, marketplace, gardening advise, presentations and demonstrations, winter garden tour (weather permitting), book sale and café. Toronto Botanic Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave East, Toronto. Free admission, free parking. <http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/>

Selected  
Sunday Afternoons  
Feb 23 - May 4  
2 - 3 pm

**RICHTERS SEMINARS** - Various speakers on topics relating to herbs and gardening.  
Feb 23 - Steven Biggs on **Home Crops that Wow**  
Mar 4 - Johanne Daoust on **Rooftop and Balcony Gardens**  
Mar 30 - Kyla Dixon Muir on **Cold Frame Gardening**  
Richters Herbs, Goodwood. Admission Free. [www.richters.com](http://www.richters.com)

March 6 - 9  
10 am - 8 pm  
(Sun: 10 am - 6 pm)

**SUCCESSFUL GARDENING SHOW**, Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
A celebration of vibrant colours and imagination with hundreds of floral stylings, exotic plants, displays, garden creations, OHA's 'Let's Dance' Floral & Plant Garden Show Feature, and shopping. Speakers include **Frank Ferragine, Marjorie Mason, and Denis Flanagan**. Adults: \$15, Youth & Seniors: \$12 (\$9 online). Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building. [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org), [internationalhomeandgardenshow.ca](http://internationalhomeandgardenshow.ca)

March 14 - 23

**CANADA BLOOMS - 2014 theme: "Wild!"**, Exhibition Place  
Canada's largest flower and garden festival is co-locating with the National Home Show. See acres of stunning creative gardens; learn from free seminars and demonstrations; experience the Toronto Garden Club's floral competition; and shop for your gardening needs at Blooms Marketplace. Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place. Admission to both shows: \$20 (Seniors \$17 & Students \$16). Save \$3 by ordering online in advance. Register online for tours and specialty workshops. [www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)

Fri April 11: 5-9 pm  
Sat April 12: 10 am-6 pm  
Sun April 13: 10 am-4 pm

**PETERBOROUGH GARDEN SHOW**, Evinrude Centre  
Garden-related vendors and exhibitors, speakers, demonstrations, garden displays, garden advise clinic, floral competition, Garden Art Show, and Children's Garden. Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road. Admission \$7. [www.peterboroughgardens.ca/showhome.html](http://www.peterboroughgardens.ca/showhome.html)



Norma Haney was the lucky winner of the winter urn created by Century Home Greenhouses at the November AGM.

## OHA Convention

July 18 - 20, 2014  
Cornwall

"A River Runs by It"

For more info, see [www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org)

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Cont'd from page 1)*

For many years, **Faye Collins** has booked our speakers. Without question, she has done a tremendous job. Faye decided she needed more time to spend on some of her many other endeavours. So, I offered to take on this task – with her guidance and direction, of course. Trust you will enjoy our selection of speakers for 2014.

Speaking of speakers, Whitby in Bloom is once again, sponsoring two of our lecturers - Carson Arthur in March and Marjorie Mason in April.

As you start to browse through our 2014 Yearbook, you will no doubt notice something new. This year, we provided our Corporate Sponsors the opportunity to place advertisements in the book. A great source of revenue for us. Recognition must be made of the efforts of **Don Wick, Jane Austin** and **Margaret McGibney** who registered fifty corporate members. Please remember to patronize these local businesses.

Kathy Allam

## BHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2014



L to R: Leslie Tate, Faye Collins, Margaret McGibney, President Kathy Allam, Jane Austin, Secretary Eileen Humphries, Aldine Wick, First Vice President & Treasurer Hans Paats, Past President Jone Webster, Don Wick

### NEW BOARD MEMBER - Leslie Tate

Now that she has been retired from work for almost a year, **Leslie Tate** has time to devote to volunteer work. Leslie joined BHS in 2006 but started gardening while living in Montreal. Since moving to Whitby almost 20 years ago, Leslie and her husband have built a patio, covered deck and gazebo.

They have two raised vegetable beds, a pond garden with a pondless waterfall, gardens with mixed plantings, and a new border garden. Her favourite plant is hydrangea of which she has several varieties. She is especially proud to have a blooming wisteria. Welcome to the board, Leslie!

## What's New with Sofie Bigham

Try **tuberous begonia 'Daffodil'** for morning sun or filtered-light locations, in pots or in the ground. This uncommon begonia has unusual orange flowers shaped like daffodils. Pair it with shade-tolerant purple annuals like browalia, ageratum, lobelia or coleus. Rarely available, buy it if you see it - available locally now at some garden centres, including Vandermeer's.

A new line of vegetable and flower seeds called **Livingstone Seeds** (in business since 1850) is available at Vandermeer's. These seeds are very reasonably priced compared to other brands, and you get

more seeds in a packet than you will ever use, plus there is a huge selection.

For tropical **Brugmansias** (Angel's Trumpets), Country Market Garden Centre, Taunton Road East Bowmanville has a really good selection in various sizes. Mason House also carry some. Over the summer, they grow quite large with spectacular fragrant blooms. I have two that I plant in the ground outside in the spring, and pot up for the winter indoors. I cut them back severely every fall before frost leaving about 2.5' of growth, removing all leaves. They don't have a big root system, but I trim the

roots to fit into a 16" pot. I keep them in an east facing window for the winter. They will sprout a few new leaves. I water sparingly, just to keep the few leaves from wilting. You can also take cuttings over the summer.

Richters in Uxbridge carries lots of herbs. Try their profusion chives and sorrel, both seedless so no pesky seedlings. They also have **profusion oregano**, a tasty variety originally from Greece, said to be hardy here, and just introduced for sale last year. Richters' catalogues are free. [www.richters.com](http://www.richters.com)

Photos from November AGM shown below.



## Let's Show in 2014!

As I am writing this article, it is snowing, the wind is blowing and the snow banks are 2-3 feet tall. And yet, 2 months from now (or even sooner depending on what Mother Nature offers) we'll all be bragging about how the crocus are almost finished and how high the narcissus or tulip leaves are as the snow is still melting away!

### April Narcissus Show

Although thoughts of showing our spring blooms seem far away, it will be upon us before we know it. Our first show will be the Narcissus Show on Apr 23. Here are some tips to help you prepare for the show.

1. Do not show foliage with narcissus
2. Determining type of narcissus (refer to the pictures illustrating the differences on the Narcissus Show page in the yearbook):
  - a. Trumpet – the trumpet is as long or longer than surrounding petals
  - b. Large Cupped – cup is more than 1/3 the length of, but less than or equal to the length of the surrounding petals
  - c. Small Cupped – cup is not more than 1/3 the length

of the surrounding petals

3. The classes are OPEN, so you can enter two different cultivars in a class.
4. Groom, Groom, Groom!
5. Above all, HAVE FUN!

### June Design Workshop

Now that you're feeling a little more comfortable showing in the horticultural classes, what about creating and entering a design? The show committee has been encouraging the pick and plunks over the last couple of years and it looks like it's working as the number of entries is going up. So now it's time to help you take that next step. Drum roll please (drrrrrrrr).....It is my pleasure to announce that the BHS Show Committee will be hosting a Design Workshop for the Iris and Peony Show on June 11. We will demystify, educate and inspire you to design greatness.....well, let's just say that we want you to learn, have fun and enter a design this season.

Contact Sherry at 905-668-7640, [howard21@rogers.com](mailto:howard21@rogers.com).

Sherry Howard & Judi Denny



Sherry presented Mary Ellen with the Mary Housego Award.



The Windermere Award was presented to Sofie at the AGM.

### BLOOMING IN BROOKLIN by Ken Brown

Read Ken's monthly column in the *Brooklin Town Crier* for gardening news and views. Can't wait for the newspaper or don't get it? Check Ken's website where he shares his extensive knowledge at [www.gardeningenjoyed.com](http://www.gardeningenjoyed.com). There, you can sign up for his newsletter 'Dallying in the Dirt', for "tips and smiles from Ken's gardening life".

### SEED SWAP - MARCH 26

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.

### Dealing with Winter

To remove snow load from my hedges, I slide my snow shovel carefully between the branches near the top and shake the large clumps of snow off. The ice and snow combination come off in tremendous chunks, and the lighter snow is easily shaken off. However, if it won't come off, I don't force it. Some may have to wait until spring thaw. *Hans Paats*

Since winter came on fast and has not given us a break, I have about 60 tulip bulbs that did not get planted in the ground. I am keeping them in a cool basement room and plan to pot them in deep pots. I'll keep them cool until spring and then take them outside. Once they start to die down, I'll plant them in the garden. Hopefully, they will recover enough to bloom in 2015. Now, I just have to find time to pot them up....Right after I finish publishing this newsletter...

*Jone Webster*

## In Memoriam

### Florence Ashton

A long-time member passed away in 2012.

### Michael Denny

Judi's husband and long-term member of BHS passed away in December 2013. His varied interests included trees and peonies. A Professor of Economics, Michael applied social science to a study of peony blooms which is posted on the internet. When a long time peony collection was being dismantled, the Dennys offered to take in the orphaned

plants, keep them on their property and to find a permanent home. The Wally Gilbert Collection was the basis of the Oshawa Valley Peony Garden, Canada's largest contemporary collection of peonies. Michael Denny was instrumental in the production and up-keep of the map listing over 300 peony varieties in the Garden. Michael and Judi have generously donated many varieties of peonies and other plants to other public gardens.

We extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Florence and Michael.

## 2013 PRESIDENT'S AWARD WINNERS



### **Margaret McGibney & Jane Austin**

Both Margaret and Jane received their own awards, but we chose to recognize them together because, when it comes to BHS, they do virtually everything together. Margaret and Jane have been very active in our Civic Beautification activities over the past several years. Together, they planned and participated in our most successful May Plant & Yard Sale. They organized and ran the "Here We Grow" youth gardening event. Both were prominently involved with the Cullen Park

Dig, the Harvest Festival booth, and building the Spring Fair Float. Plus, they jointly act as the Society's liaison with Whitby in Bloom for our very successful co-sponsored seminars.

### **Hans Paats**

Hans was recognized for a number of different BHS roles and responsibilities he has taken on over the past two years. He has been our Secretary during that period, a most arduous task. Hans very proactively assures that our General Meetings run smoothly, from overseeing the set-up to doing sound checks and organizing the lucky draws. He has kept us "a float" in the Brooklin Fair parade. Finally, he is our diligent and creative webmaster.



## 2013 SHOW AWARD WINNERS

<u>BHS Award</u> for Highest Number of Points	-	Sherry Howard
<u>Margaret Davis Award</u> , 2nd Highest Points	-	Ken Brown
<u>Mary Housego Award</u> , 3rd Highest Points	-	Mary Ellen Simerson
<u>Windermere Award</u> , Highest Points in Design	-	Sofie Bigham
<u>Fred Daw Award</u> , Highest Points in Vegetables	-	Ken Brown
<u>Rose Bowl Award</u> , New Exhibitor with highest points	-	Andi Kelly
<u>Iris Trophy</u> , Best Iris at the Iris Show	-	Ken Brown
<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	-	Sherry Howard
<u>Best Decorative</u> in Annuals Show (August)	-	Eileen Humphries
<u>Photography Prize</u> , highest total points in photography	-	Mary Ellen Simerson

**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).