



Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 1 Feb/Mar/April 2015

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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



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

VERTICAL VEGETABLES with KEN BROWN Wednesday February 25, 2015 - 7:30 PM

Time to 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 generously provided by **Amica at Whitby**.



Our very own, inspiring and entertaining **Ken Brown** will talk about his passion for growing and enjoying vegetables. Ken maximizes the space in his typical urban backyard to grow many varieties of vegetables, in addition to his award-winning flowers and bulbs. Ken will prove that many vegetables can be successfully grown vertically, rather than horizontally, to save ground space. He'll share some of his innovative, inexpensive and easy-to-assemble ways to support plants.



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, great speakers and topics at 10 meetings during the year, as well as eligibility to participate in our flower, vegetable and design competitions. Another great benefit: membership entitles you to a 10% or better discount at many local nurseries and garden shops.

A membership form is being emailed to you, or it can be downloaded from our website. Bring the completed form with you to the February meeting. If you can't come to this meeting, you can bring it to a future meeting or mail your form with a cheque payable to *Brooklin Horticultural Society* to: **Leslie Tate**, 30 Erickson Drive, Whitby, ON L1N 8Z4

**Happy 2015 to our returning & new members!
Guests are always welcome!**

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Members and welcome to the 94th year of gardening, competition and speakers with the Brooklin Horticultural Society. We have a full schedule planned for you this year.

Our speaker series will focus on expertise and diversity in its topics. Among them will be **Ken Brown, Jeff Mason** and our very own **Panel of Experts**. As well, BHS continues its successful relationship with **Whitby in Bloom** and will present two national speakers in March and April, for our enjoyment.

Continued on page 2

Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday Mar 25	<p>SEED SWAP AND GET GROWING EVENING Guest Speaker: Frank Kershaw, Horticulturalist, Toronto Topic: Gardening on the Edge Speaker co-sponsored with Whitby in Bloom. Please donate a non-perishable food item.</p>
Wednesday April 22	<p>THE NARCISSUS SHOW Guest Speaker: Vicki Taylor-Scott, Horticulturalist & Humorist Topic: Humour in the Garden - Breaking the Mold Speaker co-sponsored with Whitby in Bloom. Please donate a non-perishable food item.</p>
Saturday April 25	<p>DISTRICT 17 AGM AND FLOWER SHOW “Nurture Nature” Hosted by the Beaverton Horticultural Society at Beacan Presbyterian Church, 413 Simcoe St, Beaverton. Registration Fee: \$30 advance payment to BHS by March 25, or \$35 at the door. Includes hospitality, luncheon, show entry, workshop, door prizes, auction and guest speaker Paul Laporte, N.A. Native Plant Society. For more details and show schedules, check our website or www.gardenontario.org/docs/d17_2015_agm.pdf</p>
Tuesday April 28	<p>7th ANNUAL PRUNING DEMONSTRATION Durham Master Gardeners, BHS Garden, 113 Carnwith Dr. West, 6:30 PM Bring your secateurs or garden clippers and garden gloves. Rain date: May 5</p>
Saturday May 23	<p>BHS PLANT SALE Donate your plant divisions. Buy new garden plants. Grass Park, Cassels Road East, Brooklin, starting at 9 AM</p>

THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE *from page 1*

The Civic Beautification initiatives and responsibilities that BHS launched along the streets of Whitby and Brooklin have gradually been taken over by the Town and by the private commercial businesses, allowing us to focus more energy and effort on the BHS Garden and the Butterfly Meadow. New plantings and trees have been provided by our Society and its members at the BHS Garden bringing charm and enjoyment to the people of the village of Brooklin. Also, as part of our new Legacy Program, we are funding the installation of a new park bench in the BHS Garden.

In 2015, BHS will increase its Durham College Horticultural Program bursary funding. This is the third year for us, and as might be expected, the financial support has been extremely well received. We will also begin to explore more forms of co-operation with Durham College and its Horticultural students as we go through the year.

One of the greatest challenges facing the Brooklin Horticultural Society is volunteerism. The great success that we see

reflected in the Garden and the Butterfly Meadow is largely due to the efforts of a limited number of members. The same is true of other activities we want to engage in and have in the past but are challenged to execute going forward. We want to make the Society inclusive and vibrant; that is, we look for more of our members to participate, to share in the tasks, bring their inspiration and talent, and to enjoy the interactions within our group and other local programs. It’s certainly not just about pulling weeds!

Financially, the Society is in excellent shape, and I encourage you to offer the opportunity of membership to all of your friends and neighbours.

Congratulations to all the winners in our 2014 Show competitions. Thanks to the organizers and owners of the gardens in the annual Garden Tour last June.

We’ll continue to enjoy the pleasure of the Brooklin Horticultural Society, the support of the Town of Whitby, our Corporate Partners and our members this year as 2015 unfolds for you!

Hans Paats

Save the Date!

April 30, 2016

BHS is hosting the District 17 AGM

At Westminster United Church

“All Gardens Great and Small”

OHA Convention

July 3 - 5, 2015

Ancaster

“Summer in the Southern Tier”

www.gardenontario.org/sho/up_conf.php

Other Events of Note

Feb 21
11 am - 4 pm

PICKERING SEEDY SATURDAY & GARDEN EXPO

Check out vendors, local organizations, and guest speakers: **Ken Brown, Lana Taylor-Mills, and Dan Shire**. Admission: \$3 cash only. Free parking. East & West Salons at Pickering Recreation Complex. <http://www.pickering.ca/en/discovering/events.asp>

Feb 21
10 am - 4 pm

GET THE JUMP ON SPRING, Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave E. Toronto. Annual horticultural open house, presented with OHA. Floral design competition, live displays, gardening advice, talks and demonstrations. Visit specialty vendors, artisans, Jump Café, and the Garden Shop. Free admission, free parking. (\$2 donation appreciated) <http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/>

Sunday Afternoons
Feb 22 - May 3
2 - 3 pm

RICHTERS SEMINARS - Various speakers on topics relating to herbs and gardening.
Feb 22 - Penelope Beaudrow on **Herbal Teas**
Mar 1 - Marthe Monique Hook on **Fairy Gardening**
Mar 8 - Karen Stephenson on **Wild Edibles in your Garden**
Richters Herbs, Goodwood. Admission Free. Lectures are podcast one week later. www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=../events/events.html

Feb 28 - Mar 1
Sat, Feb 28: 12 - 5
Sun, Mar 1: 10 - 5

ORCHID SOCIETY 34th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE, Royal Botanical Gardens. Showcases the beauty and diversity of orchids. Features prize-winning displays by societies and growers from across North America. Includes exhibits of paintings and photographs, free seminars and plant sales. Free with admission to RBG. Discount coupon on website. RBG, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington. www.osrbg.ca

March 13 - 22
10 am - 9 pm
Sun, Mar 15: 10 - 6
Sun, Mar 22: 10 - 5

CANADA BLOOMS "Let's Play!", Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place. Canada's largest flower and garden festival co-located with the National Home Show. See 20 feature gardens, learn from free seminars, workshops and presentations, hear speakers including **Mark Cullen, Frank Ferragine** and **Paul Zammit**, experience the Toronto Garden Club's floral competition; and shop for your gardening needs at Blooms Marketplace. 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

Thurs April 2: 5-9 pm
Fri April 3: 10 am-5 pm
Sat April 4: 10 am-4 pm

PETERBOROUGH GARDEN SHOW, Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road. 150 garden-related vendors and exhibitors, speakers including **Marjorie Mason, Kate Seaver, and Darren Heimbecker**, demonstrations, garden displays, gardening advise clinic, Thursday Fashion Show, and interactive Children's Garden. www.peterboroughgardenshow.com



BHS members enjoying the November AGM & Social



Whitby in Bloom Speakers

We thank **Whitby in Bloom** for again co-sponsoring well-known speakers for our spring meetings.

Our March speaker is award-winning horticulturalist **Frank Kershaw** on **'Gardening on the Edge'** about gardening with exotic, warmer-climate plants. He'll provide tips for buying and sustaining these unusual plants in our gardens. With 40 years working experience in horticulture, Frank has travelled the world to photograph plants and garden designs.

On April 22, **Vicki Taylor-Scott's** topic is **'Humour in the Garden - Breaking the Mold'**. Her hands-on demonstration of container gardening will include how to put together your favourite containers. Vicki always educates but also entertains with her light and humorous presentations.

BHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2015



L to R: Faye Collins, Denise Carter, Aldine Wick, Don Wick, President & Treasurer Hans Paats, Past President Kathy Allam, Secretary Eileen Humphries, First VP Jane Austin, Second VP Leslie Tate. Absent: Margaret McGibney

NEW BOARD MEMBER - Denise Carter

Denise Carter developed a passion for gardening from her mother who won a trillium award years ago. The garden at her current house was sorely neglected when Denise arrived with many perennials from her previous home. After some hardscaping, she created many new garden beds. She likes

daylilies, irises and cone flowers for the blooms; and hostas, heucheras and ground covers for the foliage. She enjoys trying new plant varieties. Having lived in Whitby for six years, this is Denise's second year of membership in our society.

Welcome to the board, Denise!

GOT BUGS? GIVE THEM THE BRUSH OFF!!

Like many gardeners, I have several plants overwintering indoors. My aim is to get them through the winter, but they invariably have bugs that hitch a ride. I have had aphids, woolly aphids, spidermites, white flies, scale and tiny flecks of unknown white insects on top of the leaves. I finally have the whole lot under control organically and without spraying. How? Brushes – I have an assortment of them – old make-up brushes, assorted sizes of dollar store paint brushes, a big flat artist's brush and a toothbrush. Here is what I do:



Whitefly - loves hibiscus and my salvia black & blue, tiny white flying insects usually hide under the leaves and lay eggs under the leaves. First, get your vacuum out and shake the plant and vacuum any that fly up. Do this several times. Take your paint brush (has stiffer bristles) and supporting the leaf with your fingers, rub the back of the leaves – sideways or in circular motion. This destroys the eggs. I check the backs of the leaves and stomp any adults with the brush.

Aphids, woolly aphids, the white specks - mostly on hibiscus this year. I just brush them off, again supporting each leaf with fingers. I have to check every couple of days as every aphid left will multiply again – they are born pregnant. Start at the top of the plant and work down as the aphids drop. For woolly aphids, I stomped them using a round make-up brush – all gone!

Scale - my oleander and tapeworm plants were covered in scale. Scale is one of the most difficult bugs to control. They are tiny brown circles stuck to the branches and leaves. Sprays cannot penetrate their shell. A stiff toothbrush works well. Rub sideways and up and down on the branch. Once again, keep your brushes handy near the infected plants and take 5 to brush, brush, brush. I just thought of a brilliant idea. I wonder how well an old electric toothbrush would work?!!

Spidermite - They love my tropical plants. You will see yellowing mottled leaves, webbing in the crotches of your plants, with black specks – these are the mites, especially visible in sunlight. I now have these under control. I brush off the webbing in the crotches and check my plants every couple of days.

Be patient, it takes a bit of time initially, especially if heavily infested. You might want to stick a big plant in a tub to brush off most of them. If you break a couple of leaves or buds, they will regrow. Stickiness on the leaves usually disappears once you have removed the bugs.

Sofie Bigham



Sofie's Hibiscus (after brushing)

Mid-Winter Plant Cuttings



If we are now successfully growing some cuttings that we took in the fall, then we should be able to take some more, from them, as February unfolds, giving us plenty of new container plants for spring. I'm not sure, that if we factor in the heat, time and a little supplementary light, that we actually save any money but it feels good.

Taking these cuttings is really quite easy and idiot proof. Geraniums are certainly the easiest but go ahead and try any of your other flowers. You've nothing to lose except a few minutes of time. Select a healthy stem with the leaves relatively close together and then, (using a sharp knife, pruners can crush the stems,) cutting just above a leaf, remove a piece of stem that is 5 – 7 cm. long. Remove the bottom leaves and all of the flowers or buds. If it's trying to produce flowers, it cannot produce roots. You should now

have a cutting that has 2 or 3 smaller leaves at the top and an inch or more of bare stem.

This cutting will only produce roots at the nodes. That's the 25¢ horticultural term for the bump in the stem where the leaf grows from. Make a final cut just below a node. You can increase your success by using some rooting hormone, found at any garden centre. Then stick several cuttings in a pot of artificial soil mix. Keep this pot quite moist and in good light avoiding direct sunlight. You can put the pot full of cuttings into a large inflated plastic bag. This keeps the humidity level much higher and stops the cuttings from wilting. In a few, (2 - 4) weeks the plants will have developed roots and you can separate them and give each a pot of its own. Enjoy the bright colours on your window sills all winter.

Ken Brown



More BHS members enjoying the November AGM & Social



Still more BHS members enjoying the November AGM & Social

BLOOMING IN BROOKLIN by Ken Brown

Read Ken's monthly column in the *Brooklin Town Crier* for gardening news and views. Also check out Ken's website at www.gardening_enjoyed.com where he shares his extensive knowledge. There, you can sign up for his newsletter *Dallying in the Dirt*, for "tips and smiles from his gardening life"

SEED SWAP - MARCH 25

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.

WHITBY WINS 'COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM'

The Town of Whitby won a CIB National Award in the Over 50,000 population category, received a 5 Bloom rating, and special mention for The Preservation and Relocation of the Circa 1812 Lynde House. The CIB judges wrote: "The Town of Whitby is a bustling, vibrant community that is very effectively meeting the needs and challenges of a modern day community while at the same time preserving and celebrating its past. ... a crowning achievement by the Town has been the preservation and recent relocation to downtown Whitby of the historic Lynde House, the oldest home in Whitby." In January 2015, the CIB awards were presented to Whitby Town Council. The Whitby in Bloom committee was recognized for its on-going efforts of the past ten years. BHS members **Mary Ellen Simerson, Don Wick, Margaret McGibney** and **Jane Austin** were members of the 2014 Whitby in Bloom committee.

PRUNING DEMONSTRATION - April 28 - 6:30 PM

Mark your calendars...this year we will again kick off the gardening season in The Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden with a pruning demonstration co-hosted by **Durham Master Gardeners** and the Brooklin Horticultural Society. Not only will it give you a chance to learn more of the whens, wheres and whys of pruning but also you'll perfect your skills by practicing that 'right cut' on our extensive collection of shrubs and trees. The bonus for us is you will also be helping to get the garden in shape for 2015. Bring your garden gloves (those shrub roses are nasty), your

secateurs and/or your other favourite pruning gear and join us from 6:30 until dark. (Rain Date: May 5)

And hopefully you'll be inspired to come out on a regular basis, whether it be every Tuesday from 6PM til dark beginning in May through to the end of September, or whenever you can. Any question, concerns or just to indicate you are coming should be sent to me:

Faye Collins, madgardener23@hotmail.com or better still give me a quick phone call at 905-655-9695 and leave a message if I'm in the garden!

2014 AWARD WINNERS

President's Awards:

Sherry Howard

Sherry has long been involved with the Show Committee and took on the role of Show co-chair in 2012. She also has served on our Board of Directors. This year, Sherry chaired two additional committees: the Legacy project for a lasting community contribution, and creation of the entry display for the Brooklin Spring Fair. She still found time to volunteer at the BHS Garden.



Sherry receiving the President's Award from Kathy

Vivian Willerton

As a member of the Society for 12 years, Vivian has been a dedicated volunteer in Civic Beautification for the downtown beds and the BHS Garden. She has been our pianist for the playing of the national anthem for many years.

Life Membership:

Carolyn Stevens

A member of the Society since 1974, Carolyn has held various positions on the board including Membership Chairperson, Secretary, and Second and First Vice-President. For many years, Carolyn participated in making the BHS float a great success in the Brooklin Spring Fair. Also worthy of note was her active role overseeing the first ever District 17 AGM which was hosted by BHS at Brooklin United Church. Since then, she has been a regular delegate at the District meetings.

2014 SHOW AWARD WINNERS

BHS Award for Highest Number of Points
Margaret Davis Award, 2nd Highest Points
Mary Housego Award, 3rd Highest Points
Windermere Award, Highest Points in Design
Fred Daw Award, Highest Points in Vegetables
Rose Bowl Award, New Exhibitor with highest points
Iris Trophy, Best Iris at the Iris Show
Denny Peony Award, highest total points in Peony classes
Marg Beath Rose Award, highest total points in Rose classes
Best Decorative in Annuals Show (August)
Jone Photography Award, highest total points in photography

Mary Ellen Simerson
 Ken Brown
 Kathy Allam
 Sofie Bigham
 Ken Brown
 Ingrid Janssen
 Ken Brown
 Judi Denny
 Sherry Howard
 Sherry Howard
 Sherry Howard



Sofie's Windermere Award

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.