



Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 3 Aug/Sept/Oct 2013

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Brooklin Harvest Festival	1
BHS Meetings & Events	2
BHS Float in Spring Fair	2
WIB Garden Tour	3
Cullen Park Collection	3
Speaker's Corner	4
Members' Garden Tour	5
Show Tips	6
Civic Beautification	6

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.



The President's Message



After a very busy spring with all our various activities, I must confess I fell into a bit of a summertime slump. Now, as mid-August is here, time to get myself back in gear. Our Members' Garden Tour was a great success again this year. Thanks to **Sofie Bigham, Dena Macdonald** and **Judi Denny** for opening up their gardens to us. And thanks as well to **Lorna Ravary** and **Cosimo Galluzzo** for organizing this event.

Appreciation also goes out to **Hans Paats** for chairing the Fair Float Committee and creating an impressive representation of the BHS Garden Park.

Some good news to share. In the Publication Competition at the OHA AGM last month, BHS won three awards. Our Yearbook won first place. The Yearbook Show Schedule took second place, as did the Poster published in partnership with Whitby in Bloom advertising the 'Authors in the Garden' speaker series.

Sometime in the near future, don't be surprised if you find an email asking you to complete a survey for us. We are going to be asking for your input regarding our 2014 meetings.

Plans are underway for our AGM. We would like your suggestions on what you might enjoy for entertainment that evening. **Vida Ycas-Abell** gave us a most informative demo last year. Would you like something similar this year? Let me know!

Speaking of the AGM, that's when we install our 2014 Board of Directors. Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the team or knows of someone who might be a good candidate can contact me.

Before closing, on behalf of the Society, I would like to thank **Whitby in Bloom** for their sponsorship of the "Authors in the Garden" speakers. The series was truly a great success.

Kathy Allam, 905-430-7213, kathyallam@hotmail.ca

Harvest Festival Sep 14

Once again, we will be participating in this annual event. The Brooklin Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, September 14th between 10am & 4pm around Grass Park. We will have spring bulbs and some plants for sale. BHS aside, the Festival is a great community event with lots to see and do. If you would like to assist us at this event, please let Kathy know at 905-430-7213 or by email at kathyallam@hotmail.ca.

Annuals Show Aug 28

Come hear **Belinda Gallagher** speak on "**When Native Plants Aren't the Right Answer**". With three decades of experience growing rare and unusual plants, Belinda will share her wealth of knowledge about native plants. After her talk, view the entries and winners in our annuals show, including phlox, sunflowers, zinnias, roses, branches & vines, fruits & vegetables, and floral collections & design.

Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday 28 August

August Meeting & The Annuals Show

Guest Speaker: **Belinda Gallagher**, Horticulturist, Haliburton
Topic: **When Native Plants Aren't the Right Answer**

Saturday 14 September
10 AM - 4 PM

Brooklin Harvest Festival BHS Booth, Grass Park

Visit our booth for spring bulbs and plants.

Wednesday 25 September

September Meeting & The Autumn Show

Guest Speaker: **John Statham**, John's Garden Centre, Uxbridge
Topic: **Presenting John's Garden**

Wednesday 23 October

Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures Show

Guest Speakers: **Bella Seidan & Barbara Cooper**, Photographers, Toronto
Topic: **Flora & Fauna of South Africa**

Wednesday 27 November
7 PM

Annual Meeting & Social

Dessert, Entertainment, Awards & Elections
Location: **St. Thomas Anglican Church, 101 Winchester East**

BHS Float in 2013 Brooklin Spring Fair Parade



President Kathy & Committee Chair Hans beside the Float



Kathy & volunteer Mary with the BHS Fair Float

This year, BHS provided a float that represented our BHS Garden Park. Looking from the stone walls near the west end of the garden down to the pergola at Montgomery, the team converted **Eugene Gmitrowicz**' trailer into a scale reproduction of the major park structures complete with a park bench.

Jane Austin and **Margaret McGibney** painted panels for the stone work and cut giant foam blocks for the stone caps. A typical pergola design was constructed at the other end of the float with the park bench set in between. A colourful collection of flowers, shrubs and grasses provided

again by **Century Home and Garden Greenhouses** was added to complete the design.

Along with Jane and Margaret, the team capitalized on the design strengths of **Vida Ycas-Abell**, and the great work of **Jim and Mary Singer** who were also kind enough to accompany deliver of the float to the parade route start point. President **Kathy Allam** sat on the float while **Hans Paats** drove it.

Our float was awarded 2nd place in the Best Environmental category. Thanks to all for a great result!

Hans Paats

Second Garden Tour Whitby in Bloom

On Saturday July 27th, Whitby in Bloom held its second free garden tour. There were eight unique gardens, three of them belonging to BHS members, plus two additional public spaces. This highly successful day saw more than 2500 visits to the gardens, as well as approximately 1200 pounds of food donated to local food banks.

The visitors were effusive in their praise of the diversity and quality of the gardens, and the warmth and knowledge displayed by the homeowners and tour assistants. The Whitby in Bloom committee greatly appreciated all the time and hard work by the property owners and the volunteers who made this day truly memorable.

Margaret McGibney



Volunteers & Shoppers at the May Plant & Yard Sale

General Meetings

Thanks to our partnership with Whitby in Bloom, the “**Authors in the Garden**” program provided us with Toronto’s top garden writers for March, April & May.

May 22: Marjorie Harris - “Let’s Stop Making Ugly Gardens!” Living in central Toronto, Marjorie specializes in enhancing small urban gardens. She likes organized gardens with layers of textures including plants at eye level, particularly in shades of green and white. Her own garden is mostly foliage. She showed several of her favourite plants.

June 12: Sofie & Friends - “Picks & Tips - A Panel to Answer All Your Garden Questions” Our own members and panelists Kim Pileggi, Ken Brown and Sofie Bigham provided great advice and answered many questions, including what shrubs to grow in shade. Their best personal advice included being patient with late-starting plants in the spring, getting rid of floppy or spreading plants, and being ruthless with plants that you don’t like. Final words of wisdom: take time to enjoy your garden.

June 26: Peter Keeping - “Clematis - In, Out, Up & Around” We are fortunate to have a local clematis expert who gave us lots of practical information about growing and maintaining clematis, including where to get inexpensive fertilizer. Peter’s tip: burn the end of a clematis flower cutting to keep it looking fresh for up to a week.

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

Jone Webster

Cullen Park Collection

BHS has been given a most exciting opportunity - a chance to get onto the grounds of Cullen Park for a plant dig, or more likely several digs. We will have access to both the property owned by Nordik Spa, and Cullen Park maintained by the Town of Whitby. The digs on Nordik’s land will need to take place very soon as ground clearing will begin shortly. Perennials include: iris, lady’s mantle, sedums, astilbe, grasses, yarrow, yuccas, heliopsis, helenium, and lots of hostas. This is an excellent fundraising opportunity for plant sales at Harvest Festival, Heritage Day and our September meeting. We may partner with Whitby in Bloom for this project. We need members to come out and help at the digs (dates to be determined), or to donate pots. (More info on Nordik Spa at www.lenordik.com.)

Nordik has also offered ROCKS from the rock gardens, and INTERLOCKING BRICKS from the north patio and various paths. If you want rocks or bricks for your personal use, or can help at a dig for the club, please contact Kathy at 905-430-7213 or kathyallam@hotmail.ca

Welcome, New Members!

Sunni Caron

Michael Mason

Iris McNulty

Brenda Riviera

Frances Slat

Sandra Tilley

Marion Newans

We hope that you are enjoying our speakers, shows and special events. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Dena MacDonald at dena.macdonald@merck.com or 905-655-8126. We appreciate your support.

Winner!

On June 26th, **Kathy Allam** was the lucky winner of the Multi-Use Wheelbarrow/Handtruck donated by **Brooklin Home Hardware**.

Congratulations!

Speaker's Corner

And now for the final three speakers for 2013, and it's almost a perfect trifecta...our August and September speakers, Belinda Gallagher and John Statham both appear in the Fall 2013 issue of *Garden Making Magazine* in articles that echo the theme of their talks for BHS. John's Garden is featured as one of two "Centres of Attention", must-see garden centres in Uxbridge. The other of course, is Mason House Gardens. Brenda Gallagher has a five page spread "Coming to Terms with Native Plants". Check out both articles and then join us on the fourth Wednesday of August and September to learn more.

AUGUST 28 - BELINDA GALLAGHER

On August 28th at the ANNUALS SHOW & MEETING, the presentation is "**When Native Plants Aren't the Right Answer**" with **Belinda Gallagher**. Belinda is presently the owner and "sole employee" of

Hooked on Horticulture

Consulting, a small business that includes speaking, writing, teaching (currently at Guelph University online), and advising on the "serious business of plants". Her horticultural career has spanned three decades and includes a stint as Head of Horticulture at The Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. Without going into details, let's just say Belinda's horticultural credentials are extensive:



Emeritus Master Gardener is just one of many. Her talk will address this all too common question: Have you ever wondered why that expensive coneflower and other cultivars of native plants just won't thrive? Belinda has the answer and much more. Quoting from her article, "don't be naïve about native plants, read the fine print". Belinda is passionate about plants and knows what will work in your garden and why. Oh, and did I mention, she is really, really entertaining - a crowd pleaser, so do take the time to join us for her talk.

SEPTEMBER 25 - JOHN STATHAM

The speaker for our AUTUMN SHOW & MEETING is the very personable **John Statham**, sole owner and operator of the unique John's Garden located down a long shady lane in the middle of a dense pine forest on Concession 7 in Uxbridge. Getting there can be an adventure but well worth the drive.

Once there, you will find the complete spectrum of things that grow from the rarest of annuals for your hanging baskets and



potscaping to the tallest of trees for that shady area you've always wanted to create. There are perennials of all stripes,

and veggies, too. Currently, John's passion is conifers...he just returned from the Perennial Plant Association's conference in B.C. with eighteen new specimens tucked in his luggage. John is self-taught - no degrees or courses but he knows his plants. He worked for years at Sheridan's in Unionville before striking out on his own in 2007 with a selection of perennials only. If you have not yet discovered this Durham nursery, make your way there for all your Fall gardening needs and in September come hear how it all evolved in "**Presenting John's Garden**". <http://johnsgarden.wordpress.com>

OCT. 23 - BELLA SEIDAN & BARBARA COOPER

The final feature presentation of 2013 and the last in my tenure as speaker-booker is "**The Flora & Fauna of South Africa**" with guest speakers **Bella Seidan** and **Barbara Cooper**. It takes place at the PUMPKINS, PIES & PICTURES SHOW & MEETING, the last regular meeting of the year. With most of our gardens already put to bed, it's the perfect time to go traveling vicariously and South Africa is a country rich in plant material, much of it adaptable to our climate.

And who doesn't enjoy wildlife, seldom seen here except in a zoo? Barbara and Bella have done yeoman's - make that woman's service for The Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plants Society (ORG&HPS) over the past 15 or so years, booking the always excellent speakers, many of whom travel from all over Canada, the USA and Europe. They also organize their "Super Plant Sale". Again like John, Barbara and Bella are largely self-taught, their interest and expertise emerging from



a passion for gardening and long involvement in ORG&HPS, a plant society noted for its A-list and knowledgeable members - Paul Zammit, Marion Jarvie, Jack Kent, Darren Heimbecker, to name a few. Now retired, Bella and Barbara design and maintain a few gardens in Toronto and travel extensively. In late September and early October of 2012, they went on a month long trek to South Africa...great photographers both, they documented their adventures and discoveries and will be sharing with us. It's sure to be an enjoyable evening where we can simply sit back and enjoy.

Well, that's it, folks...the last three speakers in my 7 year tenure as your speaker co-ordinator. There have been some misses but for the most part, it has been a richness of entertainment, knowledge and discovery. I am handing it over, or I should say into the very capable hands of our President Kathy Allam but will stay involved in other aspects of the Brooklin Horticultural Society. I'll end with - as I always do, except it's Kathy this time. Let her know what aspect of gardening interest you and who you might want to have speak.

Faye Collins

The BHS Members' Garden Tour

The fourth annual members' garden tour on Sunday June 23rd drew a large crowd in spite of the sweltering heat. We explored three non-urban properties with different plantings and welcoming hosts.

We started at **Dena MacDonald's** unique historic home in the tiny community of Myrtle Station. Her decorated covered breezeway between the house and barn, and the spotless barn now used only for storage were admired by the city folk. Flowering ground-cover and large clumps of perennials edge the walkway down the side of the barn to the back. The porch at the back of the barn with its large stone pond-less waterfall is an inviting place from which to enjoy the large backyard. Hostas, astilbe, ligularia, peonies, daylilies, spirea, and barberry shrubs create an attractive border to the yard. This 'work-in-progress' property (as Dena calls it) saw a lot of work completed recently with a new deck and stairs at the front door, and perennials getting established in the flowerbed across from it.



Cosimo, Dena & Lorna



Our next stop was **John and Sofie Bigham's** incredible 10-acre country property in Brooklin with many different gardens and flowerbeds creatively designed and filled with not only plants, trees and shrubs, but also interesting ornaments and structural features.

There is a rose garden in a partly shaded area, a walk through pines cloaked with many varieties of clematis, vegetable gardens, dry stone walls, flowerbeds surrounding a large pond, a

dry stone riverbed, and of course, the awesome colour-wheel garden. No wonder that this garden was featured in *Canadian Living Magazine*.

The last stop was at **Judi Denny's** home in Enniskillen. This property features a lovely old stone house, a large barn, a large pond, and a paddock that has been converted into a garden overflowing with flowerbeds.



Naturally, peonies abound but there are also hostas, iris, baptisia, heucera, roses and flowering shrubs among the tall old trees. Fortunately for us, many of the peonies were still in bloom.

The afternoon of touring ended with snacks and fruit punch in the shade of a large maple at Judi's. Truly, an enjoyable, although hot day that we'll remember into the winter.

Thanks to **Cosimo Galluzzo and Lorna Ravary** for organizing another marvelous tour, and to our hosts for sharing their love of gardening. Cosimo and Lorna are looking for gardens for next year's tour. If you know of a member's garden, including your own that our members would enjoy, please contact Cosimo at 289-240-2982 or Lorna at lornaravary@rogers.com or 905-666-4443.

Jone Webster



Members and guests on the fourth annual BHS Members' Garden Tour on Sunday June 23rd at Dena MacDonald's home.

It's Show Time

With three shows yet to come, you still have many opportunities to showcase any and all from your garden - the **August Annuals Show**, September's **Autumn Show** and **Pumpkins, Pies & Pictures** in October. If you have any questions about showing, please feel free to contact any member of the show committee. Their names and numbers are listed in the show schedule on page 15 of the Yearbook. 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 & Plunk classes are also **OPEN**.

Following are some Show Tips that may help you especially for the next two shows:

1. **Showing Collections** - typically the class specifies displaying '3 specimens, different cultivars'. In this case, one **may show 3 different cultivars of the same plant** or they may enter **3 different plants**. They are displayed in one container. The collection is judged on the merits of each of the specimens and not on how they are displayed. Here are a couple of examples you might enter:
 - a. Perennial collection of 3 cultivars of heuchera: 'Chocolate Ruffle', 'Caramel', 'Dale's Strain'
 - b. Annual collection of 3 different plant specimens: New Guinea Impatiens, Four O'clock, Verbena
2. **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.
3. **Groom, Groom, Groom!**
Grooming is a must. Remove evidence of insects, disease, dust, stains, pollen and any other foreign material from blooms, foliage, fruit and vegetables.



Gini Sage won the 2012 Rose Bowl Award for highest points as a new exhibitor.

Questions? Call Sherry Howard at 905-668-7640 or email: howard21@rogers.com



Civic Beautification

The gardens are coming into their own. With a wet spring, the plants got off to a good start. There was a lovely showing of daylilies at the clock tower garden, and the perennial bed just around the corner is really putting on a show. The BHS Garden Park looks fantastic thanks to **Faye** and a small group of dedicated volunteers. The new sundial looks wonderful and is accurate for keeping time. Come out and take a stroll.
Jenny-Lynn Gasperek

Gardens are Thriving

The BHS Garden Park and the Butterfly Meadow are looking great this year, thanks to Mother Nature and the hard work of our volunteers. Garden grooming at the Butterfly Meadow has now finished for this season.

Work however, is continuing at the BHS Garden Park for another month. The usual time at the BHS Garden Park at Carnwith & Montgomery is 6PM on Tuesdays until September 24th. Bring your garden gloves and hand tools to join other gardeners for an evening of social gardening.

If Tuesday evenings are not suitable for you, contact Faye about working at other times. Faye will also be setting up work dates for bulb planting and mulch spreading in October. Contact Faye Collins at 905-655-9695 or madgardener23@hotmail.com, if you can help out.

It will be appreciated!

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.