



Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

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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.

Visit us on the web at: www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com.



“Grow it Right in Your Own Backyard” August 22 - Colette Murphy, Urban Harvest Toronto

Like 2011, this year's summer season has again provided extreme heat combined with a long dry spell to challenge our gardens. Most perennials are shorter than usual and are blooming a few weeks earlier than expected. As we end our summer break and move into cooler weather, we return to our great speaker line-up assembled by Faye Collins.

At our meeting on Wednesday, August 22, **Colette Murphy** from Urban Harvest in Toronto will inform us on how to “**Grow it Right in Your Own Backyard**”. Urban Harvest started nearly 15 years ago in Toronto out of an interest in providing urban gardeners with delicious and diverse old varieties of vegetables and herbs.

Committed to protecting seeds from alteration, Urban Harvest pledges that they do not knowingly buy or sell genetically engineered seeds or plants. Urban Harvest sells their organic goods at Toronto farmers' markets and various retail stores. Their seeds are sold online. (The heritage tomato seedlings sold by Faye at our May meeting were grown from Urban Harvest seeds.) Colette will provide us with tips on growing organic heritage vegetables and herbs in our own gardens. Visit the website for more information - www.uharvest.com.



Harvest Festival Plant Sale - Sep 8

BHS has once again been asked to participate in the Brooklin Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 8th which will take place between 10am & 4pm around Grass Park. As before, we will be having a Plant Sale at this event.

We are asking our members to contribute plants. Your donations can be brought to the area outside the kitchen

entrance of the Brooklin United Church on Friday, Sept. 7th any time after 2pm. We would encourage that plants be brought in a minimum one gallon container. Don't forget to label them with the name and colour.

Please do come out to the Festival and support us by buying some plants. Any questions, please contact Kathy Allam at 905-430-7213 or email KathyAllam@hotmail.ca.



Last year's volunteers at the Harvest Festival Plant Sale

Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday 22 August	August Meeting & The Annuals Show Guest Speaker: Colette Murphy , Urban Harvest, Toronto Topic: Grow It Right in Your Own Backyard
Saturday 8 September 10 AM - 4 PM	Brooklin Harvest Festival Plant Sale BHS Fundraiser Bring your donated plants to the kitchen entrance at the Brooklin United Church on Friday
Wednesday 26 September	September Meeting & The Autumn Show Guest Speaker: David Retallick , Perfect Pruning Gardens & Garden Service, Millbrook Topic: The Right Cut & Other Season's End Challenges
Wednesday 24 October	Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures Show Guest Speaker: Kristin McCrea , Photographer, Newcastle Topic: Getting That Perfect Shot
Wednesday 28 November 7 PM	Annual Meeting & Social Dessert, Entertainment, Awards & Elections Location: St. Thomas Anglican Church, 101 Winchester East

BHS Float in 2012 Brooklin Spring Fair Parade



Mary, Margaret & Jane working on the BHS Fair Float



The Brooklin Horticultural Society Fair Float

Once again, BHS joined in the annual Spring Fair celebration parade, and once again weather was obnoxious and unkind.

A great crew made the work of putting a "Barnyard Mardi Gras" design in place a delight. Construction was happily underway on the driveway when a full day of rain forced everything to be taken apart and completed in the garage.

I think we were all happy with the finished product and I was pleased with some of the comments from the crowd as we rode through Brooklin. My favorite was "That's the first real float we've seen!"

My thanks to Vida Ycas-Abell for her design suggestions, Jane Austin and Margaret McGibney who provided the scarecrow and a lot of paint, and to Jim and Mary Singer who came and helped construct the float and paint the scenery. A special thank you goes out to Eugene Gmitrowicz who loaned us his trailer and hostas. Thanks also to Century Home and Garden Greenhouses for letting us use their window boxes and ornamental grass plants.

For a picture of the float and our president, who suffered the cold weather riding the float, visit the BHS website at www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com.

Hans Paats

Saving Honey Bees

On May 26th, around 5pm, a swarm of honey bees landed in the middle of a 15' high smoke bush located about 60 feet from the front door of my home. After some frantic calls, a local beekeeper named John Tomsic from Cochrane Ave. agreed to rescue the bees. His own hive was damaged by the hot/cold temperatures this spring. A wooden plank on top of two ladders holding a box baited with honey was gingerly rigged under the swarm. The bees started to slowly slip into the box, aided by the beekeeper. By 7:30pm, the bees were safely in the box, which was then taped and placed in the trunk of Mr. Tomsic's car and taken to their new home. All done without one bee sting! A promise of honey this fall will be our reward!

Sofie Bigham



June 13 Speaker David Jewell with Faye Collins

General Meetings

Thanks to our partnership with Whitby in Bloom, our meetings through the spring months included a great line-up of speakers and topics:

April 25: Brian Bergman - "Lilies, the Orchids of the Perennial World" Brian described the different types of lilies and showed us his growing farm. After the meeting, he offered several different varieties for sale.

May 23: Marion Jarvie - "The Jarvie Garden - Creating a Work of Art on a Suburban Lot" Marion showed photos of her amazingly diverse backyard garden packed with exotic plants from around the world. Her tip: plant little species tulips which survive longer than tall hybrids.

June 13: David Jewell - "What's Lurking in Your Garden... Viruses, Diseases & Other Nasty Critters" After showing photos of his gardens, David gave tips for dealing with iris borer, iris rot, tent caterpillars, mealy bug, red lily beetle, ants and slugs/snails. He showed us the 3 symptoms of Hosta Virus X, urging us to dig up and carefully discard any diseased plants.

June 27: Jack Kent - "Following Your Heart (and Your Gut) in the Garden" Jack showed us views of his property, home and ponds. His tip: do not divide/move grasses when they are dormant since it shocks them. Wait for 6" of growth.

At each of these meetings, we had very successful Hort Shows with a large number of entries (in spite of the weather) and lots of favourable comments from the judges.

Jone Webster

Speaker's Corner

At our September 26th meeting, **David Retallick** of Perfect Pruning Gardens and David's Garden Service in Millbrook will speak on "**The Right Cut and Other Season's End Challenges**". David has returned to Millbrook after 30 years in the Sunderland area where he maintained 50 mostly residential properties from spring to fall. He specializes in pruning, maintenance and garden design. He also developed his own garden to become a tour garden with daylilies, lilies, hostas, iris and grasses, as well as other plants. Just in time, David will be advising us on maintenance of our gardens at year end. Visit his website at www.davidsgardenservice.ca.



*David Retallick, above.
Kristin McCrea's photo, below.*



At our **Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures** meeting on October 24, **Kristin McCrea**, an internationally recognized photographer based in Newcastle will be educating us on "**Getting That Perfect Shot**". Kristin has worked in design-related fields all her life. Since computers and cameras converged 10 years ago, she has worked constantly to improve her skills as a Photographer. Her wildlife and nature photographs have won awards in Canada and England. Kristin will be showing us her amazing photography and encouraging us to find image inspiration in our gardens. Visit her website at www.digitalfarm.ca.

Your feedback and recommendations for future speakers are always welcome. Contact Faye at 905-655-9695 or mad-gardener23@hotmail.com

The President's Message



I hope everyone has had a very good summer. It sure was hot and humid.

I would like to thank "Whitby in Bloom" for their financial assistance which enabled us to invite excellent speakers for our Spring monthly meetings. Hopefully we will continue with this partnership.

We have a lot to look forward to for the remainder of the year. We have the Harvest Festival. As usual, we require lots of volunteers to make this event run smoothly. Kathy Allam will co-ordinate this event with Group 74 and the BHS.

We have the AGM on Wednesday, November 28th at 7pm. Again the event will be held at St. Thomas Anglican Church at 101 Winchester Rd. East.

If you would like to be part of the executive committee of BHS for the coming year, please contact us with your intention.

Happy Gardening
Fred Haggerty

Lois Daw, Past President

In Memoriam



On July 20th, BHS lost a Past President and great volunteer. Lois Daw, known as the 'Mayor' of Ashburn passed away at the age of 88. She had moved to Ashburn with her husband nearly 60 years ago and was active as a church and community volunteer.

Her late husband Fred was our auditor from 1977-1982 and a board member in 1984 before he passed away the following year. At that time, Lois donated the Fred Daw award tray for Vegetable Excellence (most points in vegetables) in his memory, and became active in the club.

She served as a board member at large from 1988 - 1995, becoming 1st Vice President in 1996, President in 1997-1998, and Past President in 1999. She participated in show set-up in the late 1980's and catering in 1999.

During the 1990's Lois volunteered for civic beautification where she was involved in CB planning, caring for seedlings, and then planting and maintaining gardens. Until 2008, Lois tended to our flower beds at the Brooklin Library. She was awarded the President's Award in 2002.

We extend our sincere condolences to her family.

First Garden Tour Whitby in Bloom

Saturday July 28th was a beautiful day for the first WIB garden tour. The gardens of several residences, businesses and a municipal park in Whitby and Brooklin were available for viewing during this free event.

The WIB committee thanks all participants; both those who generously opened their gardens to the public (including several BHS members) and the volunteer garden hosts staffing each of the gardens.

The public response was amazing with an average of 250 visitors through each garden. Some gardens saw as many as 380 visitors. The tour collected 555 pounds of food for Feed the Need Durham. Feedback from the visitors was very positive and WIB hopes to do this again next year.

Thank you for the support.

Jane Austin

Civic Beautification

It's the beginning of August and all the hard work of the Civic Beautification committee and all the volunteers has paid off. The gardens that are maintained by BHS bloomed.



CB plantings at the Brooklin Clock Tower

The blue salvia with the yellow marigolds and the dusty millers look amazing at the CIBC. Home Hardware with its red geraniums and dusty miller, Old Winchester with the cannas and multi-coloured snapdragons make a great show. The containers at the Brooklin Pharmacy filled out nicely with red dragon wings, trailing licorice and tradescantia zebrina (wandering jew). Thanks to all who helped out.

Eileen Humphries

The BHS Members' Garden Tour

On Sunday June 24th, the 3rd annual members' garden tour was another success. The rain held off and a record number of members and guests visited five diverse gardens in Brooklin and Whitby.



Cosimo & Lorna at Joyce's

1. **Vivian Willerton's** large corner lot in Brooklin delighted us with many varieties of perennials and annuals including an enormous flowering clematis, gooseneck loosestrife, roses, delphiniums, hydrangeas, burgundy knautia, and hot papaya echinacea.

2. **Joyce Marsh's** secluded woodland property in Macedonian Village displays numerous varieties of hostas, ferns, sedum and various ground coverings, accentuated by garden art and ornamental displays.

3. Daylilies, lilies, hostas, and roses abound in **Sherry Howard's** large property in Whitby. Flower beds surround the in-ground pool, raised deck and covered gazebo. Red geraniums and roses decorate the front porch, while golden stella d'oros and evening primrose encircle a weeping mulberry on the front lawn.

4. Vignettes of different colours draw the eye into **Lynda Chapman's** surprisingly large backyard hidden behind a heritage home in central Whitby. A grouping of purple annuals and a pot of chartreuse leaves and vines contrast with clusters of vivid blue,



Lynda in her garden

yellow and green chairs on the patio and around the in-ground pool. More flower beds and a vegetable patch are tucked in behind a section of the house. Beds of perennials are interspersed with shrubs, vines, ornamental trees, and grasses leading down to the garden shed proudly displaying a Canadian flag.

5. Who needs a garage when you can have a lady's den? **Lorna Ravary** has created a "Girlie Garage" for potting plants, arranging flowers, and viewing her collection of decorative pots, photos and mementos displayed on the walls. Her front garden features a colourful array of heuceras. Potted plants artfully displayed decorate the side walkway to the back where flower beds border the yard on all sides. Flowering clematis, dianthus, sedum, and hostas grow among the sculptures, ornaments and large corner waterfall. Here, we enjoyed refreshments under the large locust tree before heading home ahead of the rain.

Thanks to **Cosimo Galluso and Lorna Ravary** for organizing the tour, and to our hosts for sharing their love of gardening.

Jane Webster

BHS Garden Park & Butterfly Meadow

The plants at the BHS Garden Park and the Butterfly Meadow are thriving thanks to the hard work of the relentless volunteers who came out during the heat and drought. Now that the weather has turned cooler, there is still time to help out or just visit and enjoy the gardens.

BHS Garden Park - Tuesdays from 6PM to Sep 27th.

Butterfly Meadow - Thursday August 23rd from 6PM.

Faye tells the story of a man who recently passed by the volunteers at the BHS Garden Park who were removing grass from the cracks between the paving bricks in the seating area. He commented that like the mythical Sisyphus who was condemned to continuously push a boulder up a mountain, only to see it roll down again, our workers had an endless job. He thanked them for making an effort to keep the park beautiful and said that the community really appreciated it.

Thanks to everyone who has helped this year.



Sherry with Lorna in Lorna's front garden



Vivian with guests in her garden

Showcase Your Garden Gems



Lucille, Judi and Sherry

You still have several opportunities to show off your garden delights. The next show on Aug 22 is usually our biggest show including many classes from our edible garden as well as the floral garden. With another season of 'interesting' weather

patterns, many of our daylilies have already finished blooming and the phlox have been in their glory for a couple of weeks.

Please bring in whatever you have as it will surely fit into one of the many classes in this show. Remember that our doors open at 6:30pm and the entries must be in place by 7:15pm. Feel free to ask a show committee member to help you.

SHOW TIPS FOR VEGETABLES:

1. Vegetables must be shown on a plate or other container appropriate to their size and type.
2. When more than one specimen is specified in a class, address uniformity in size and shape.
3. Always groom.



Questions? Contact Judi Denny at 905.263.4765 or mjdenney@sympatico.ca or Sherry Howard at 905.668.7640 or howard21@rogers.com



BHS Garden Tour

At left, photo of members and guests on the third annual BHS Members' Garden Tour on June 24th in front of Vivian Willerton's house.

What I did in my Garden this Summer

My new bed (approx. 8'x9') by the pool is thriving. The perennials including some dahlias from the BHS spring auction and Asiatic lilies from Canada Blooms are the eye candy I look forward to seeing every day. Unfortunately the two climbing roses, 'Coral Dawn' and 'America', which I had moved into this spot are spindly and sickly, but I know they'll recover next year. My new 'fountain/pond in a pot' is a success after my husband and I cemented halfway up the inside of the clay pot to stop it leaking. I love the Imperial Taro and the Dwarf Papyrus topping the gurgling rocks.

Sherry Howard

For my new pergola, digging the holes for the posts was a breeze, except for the heat. I set in the posts, lined them up and plumbed them, then poured in the stone and cement. The "wouldn't it be nice?" ideas get beat down with "this is going to be way too much work!" The biggest effort was the removal of the sod, but the heat and the grubs helped out tremendously. Stone and screenings and landscape fabric and edging came in and went down. The heat was unbelievable. Its almost done now. We'll wait for some fall sales and cooler weather to add a low deck under the pergola. I have my lawn chair and my binoculars, and its me, the birds and Air Canada under those clear hot skies of August.

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 or newsletter@brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com.