



# Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 3 Aug/Sept/Oct 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.

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).



## Growing & Braiding Garlic

August 27 @ 7:30 PM

Bryan 'Garlic Man' Mailey

Bryan has been growing hardneck garlic in his backyard garden in Udora for over 20 years, and now grows 400-500 plants per year.

What began as wanting to grow great garlic for cooking turned into a passion of growing and braiding garlic that he now shares at garlic festivals and local fairs. Most notably, the 2012 Stratford Garlic Festival, and the Toronto Garlic Festival last year.

As well as sharing his knowledge of garlic through his presentations, Bryan provides hands-on garlic braiding workshops. Teaching people the art of braiding hardneck garlic provides them an opportunity to proudly display their very own handcrafted braid of homegrown garlic. Although we will not have a hands-on opportunity at our meeting, Brian will no doubt demo his skill.

**Join us for this interesting presentation and demonstration!**



## The President's Message

Without question, it's August. As I look out on my backyard garden beds, everything is looking its best, still perky, and blooms are peaking. If only it could stay like this longer.



At the BHS Garden

My commendations go out to **Sherry Howard** and her crew who put together an awesome display on behalf of BHS at the Brooklin Spring Fair. From all indicators, it looked like they had a good time with it all. Thanks to all who participated. Maybe we'll be invited back next year to do this again.

Once again, our society received a number of awards in the Publication Competition at the OHA Convention. Our awards were: Show Schedule - First, Partnership Poster - First, Newsletter - Second, Bookmark - Third, and Yearbook - Third. Many members contributed to one or more of these. Kudos to all!

After several years of organizing and leading our Members' Garden Tours, **Lorna** and **Cosimo** have both decided it's time to move on. We do thank them for their time and commitment to this endeavour. The tours are a highlight of our society's yearly events. We'll be looking for individuals to fill their spots. If interested, let me know!

Our AGM as always will be held in November. We're looking for suggestions from you, our membership, for the entertainment portion of the evening. If you know of some local talent that might like the chance to perform for us, please do let me know. We're an easy crowd to please!

Kathy Allam, 905-430-7213, [kathyallam@hotmail.ca](mailto:kathyallam@hotmail.ca)

# Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday 27 August

## August Meeting & The Annuals Show

Guest Speaker: **Bryan 'Garlic Man' Mailey**, Udora

Topic: **Growing & Braiding Garlic**

Wednesday 24 September

## September Meeting & The Autumn Show

Guest Speaker: **John Farley**, Arborist, Town of Whitby

Topic: **The Trees of Whitby & Brooklin**

Wednesday 22 October

## Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures Show

Guest Speaker: **Marilyn Cornwell**, Gardener & Photographer, Grimsby

Topic: **From Snapshot to Great Shot**

Wednesday 26 November  
7PM

## Annual Meeting & Social

Dessert, Entertainment, Awards & Elections

Location: **St. Thomas Anglican Church, 101 Winchester East**

## September 24 Meeting The Trees of Whitby & Brooklin

**John Farley**, Arborist, Town of Whitby



An Arborist with the Town of Whitby for 7 years, John has extensive knowledge of the woodlands, parks and trees in our community. A Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor with almost 30 years of ministry and municipal experience, he is knowledgeable of the deciduous and evergreen forestry of Southern Ontario.

John will be speaking to us about the health and well-being of the trees around us. He'll outline the Town's immediate and long-term plans for planting and maintenance of trees. He'll explain the Town's by-laws regarding trees on private property and boulevards. He'll update us on dealing with the invasive and destructive Emerald Ash Borer. He'll share with us the lessons learned about tree management from last December's Ice Storm. He'll provide his recommendations for trees that thrive in Whitby, and cautions about those that don't.

Join us for this informative and practical session.

## October 22 Meeting From Snapshot to Great Shot

**Marilyn Cornwell**, Photographer, Grimsby

Marilyn is a gardener and photographer living in Grimsby. After nearly 30 years in business and management, she discovered photography and embarked on a second career. In 2009, Marilyn began speaking to horticultural societies and garden clubs. Marilyn believes that the mission of garden photography is "to capture a garden's atmosphere, spirit and beauty, to create evocative images that preserve garden memories."



Find out the tips and techniques of floral and garden photography, and enjoy photos of beautiful flowers and wonderful gardens along the way. A variety of gardens are shown, including Marilyn's own. The emphasis is on the techniques for great floral and garden compositions, rather than the technical aspects of cameras. You'll learn the techniques by touring well-designed public and private gardens, including Longwood, Chanticleer, TBG, RBG, and famous personal gardens. [www.marilyncornwell.com](http://www.marilyncornwell.com)

## Whitby in Bloom

Whitby in Bloom's third annual free **Garden Tour** was blessed with no rain and 2,400 visitors to the 9 featured gardens. Donations to the food bank were requested and the response was substantial: 597 pounds of food and cash donations of \$144. The recipients were the food banks at Brooklin United Church, St Andrew's and Westminster United Church, as well as the Salvation Army. WIB would like to again thank all those who opened their gardens this year, and also the many additional volunteers who greeted and assisted at each garden.

The **Community In Bloom judges** came to Whitby and Brooklin on July 21-24 to evaluate our community's participation at the national level of competition. Among the stops was the BHS Garden Park. BHS members were on hand to answer questions and promote the Park's contributions to the community. The judges were very impressed. Special thanks to **Faye Collins** and her team. The results of our efforts will be announced Sept 20th in Charlotte-town.

*Jane Austin*



*Volunteers & Shoppers at the May Plant & Yard Sale*

## 2016 District AGM

It's that time again. Yes, it's time for us to take our turn at hosting the District 17 Annual General Meeting. We will be doing so in April 2016. A rather opportune time to do so, as that year will also be our 95th Anniversary.

At present, we are focusing on one aspect of this event and that is to find a venue in the area that will accommodate the District's requirement. The facility must have a capacity to seat 130 attendees, with a kitchen and an additional room for the show. Any suggestions?

Early in 2015, a committee will be formed to organize this undertaking. Don't be surprised if you're asked to participate.

In the meantime, if you have any ideas on how to make our event a truly memorable one, please do share them with us. Contact Kathy at [kathyallam@hotmail.ca](mailto:kathyallam@hotmail.ca) or 905-430-7213.

*Kathy Allam*

## General Meetings

### **May 28: Miriam Goldberger - "Taming Wildflowers"**

As a devoted fan of wildflowers, Miriam informed us that all plants started out as wildflowers and that wildflowers are most effective for attracting pollinators. She is concerned that 95% of North American wildflowers have been eradicated. She described the benefits of wild quinine, lavender hyssop, hoary vervain, coneflowers, silphium (cup plant) and purple prairie clover, among others. She showed three brides who created their own wildflower wedding bouquets and table arrangements. Copies of her new book were available after the talk.

### **June 25: Picks & Tips - A Panel to Answer all your Gardening Questions - Ken Brown**

moderated an expert panel consisting of **Roger Inglis, Gini Sage** and **Judi Denny**. There were many questions from the audience, covering peonies not blooming, best conditions for tree peonies, drainage for cedar hedges, deadheading flowering shrubs, mushy garlic, holey kale, looper worms on roses, tomato plant care, and the best type of mulch. It was very informative!

## Hospitality

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the refreshments for our regular meetings. We have been treated to many delicious treats. Thanks also to all who helped with set up and clean up. A special thanks to those who have donated some coins to help pay for our beverage expenses. This permits us to keep providing refreshments while maintaining low annual fees.

Looking forward to seeing you at the August meeting.

*Eileen Humphries*

## Durham College Bursary

The society sponsors a bursary that is awarded once a year to a student at Durham College enrolled in the Horticultural Technician program. Earlier this summer, I received a letter from the Associate VP, Office of Development. He advised me that they had heard from the recipient of our bursary. The message read: "As a person with a disability and a low income family supporter, this award is going to help me be able to afford this semester of college and further my knowledge in the horticultural field."

Thanks to you our members for your support of this expenditure.

*Kathy Allam*

## Winner!

On June 25th, **Jon Webster** was the lucky winner of the Home Hardware Multi-Use Wheelbarrow/Handtruck donated by **Kathy Allam** and filled with potted plants.

**Congratulations!**



## 2014 OHA Convention

The annual OHA Convention was held in Cornwall this July at the NAV centre which was beautiful but a confusing layout. Over 400 people attended but not too many from the north. The convention was very well planned and almost always on time with events.

The meals were outstanding with plenty for everyone, maybe too much. Always a snack and coffee in between seminars. Before and after every break, there was a short talk, sometimes amusing by somebody giving hints about gardening.

The first speaker was **Jim Brawnell** who spoke on **'The History of the Lost Villages'** that disappeared when the Saunders Dam was built for the Seaway. The rapids were gone and the water was allowed to flood the land.

There was a silent auction in the evening with hundreds of really good items. We didn't go on tours but those who did thought that they were great. The seminars we attended were about **'Increasing your Membership'** and **'Ontario Power Generation'**.

The resolutions were voted on and all carried quickly but one. The motion to no longer pay for past directors to attend the convention caused a lot of controversy. After two votes, it finally carried.

**Carol Dunk** spoke about a new kind of garden where you don't dig too deep since it takes 1000 years to make an inch of soil. The banquet speaker encouraged us to laugh at ourselves when we garden with the topic of **'The Crazy Things Gardeners Do'** with silly comparisons. The last speaker was **Bruce Henbest**, curator of Upper Canada Village - a long talk but good.

The new President is **Jeff Blackadar** from Ottawa. The outgoing President gave him a pair of rubber boots to fill. The next convention is titled **'Summer in the Southern Tier'** in **Ancaster**, July 3-5, 2015.

We want to thank BHS for sending us as your delegates to this convention. We learned a lot from talking to other delegates and hearing the speakers.

*Aldine & Don Wick*

## It's Show Time

Have you been practicing those design techniques this summer? A lot of fun and learning was had by all at our June **Iris & Peony Show** when the show committee presented a design workshop. The evening began with **Judi Denny** providing a judge's view on floral designs, followed by **Lorna Ravary** (mass/ foliage design), **Mary Ellen Simerson** (design incorporating water), **Vida Ycas-Abell** (line design) and **Ken Brown** (modern design), each explaining and demonstrating their respective design. The remainder of the committee, **Sofie Bigham**, **Barb Borchuk** and **Lynda Chapman** were also kept busy showing some of the designs to the audience and handing out raffle prizes. Stay tuned for information on our June 2015 workshop!



*Irma's B.I.S. Peony (Itoh)*

Looking forward, we have two of our biggest shows of the season coming up, the **Annuals Show** on Aug 27 and the **Autumn Show** on Sept 24 with lots of opportunities to show off your new design skills. If you're not quite ready to show us your design, simply bring in a bloom or a vegetable from your garden.

### Showing Tips

Here are some tips that you may consider for preparing your entries:

1. In showing **daylilies**, you **do not need** to include **foliage**.
2. You may have noticed that our **Annuals Show** lists a class of daylily as 'spider/UFO' (unusual form). One resource you might refer to is the American Hemerocallis Society website for a description of these forms of daylilies. If you're still not sure whether your daylily is of this form, ask the show committee or **Faye Collins**.
3. In showing **dahlia** blooms, don't forget to **include foliage**. The foliage does not have to be attached to the bloom stem.
4. Where only 1 bloom is required, consider removal of additional side buds, (eg., as in roses, dahlias) as any bud that shows colour is considered to be a bloom.
5. To condition dahlias, roses and rudbeckia, place the stem ends in 5 cm of boiling water for a minute or two before placing in cold water.

**As always, Have Fun!**

*Sherry Howard and Judi Denny*

## The BHS Members' Garden Tour

The fifth annual garden tour on Sunday June 22nd was another great success with wonderful weather and fabulous gardens. Thirty-three members and four guests participated. The afternoon ended with refreshments in **Lorna Ravary's** garden.



**Judy Lambert's** three-quarter acre property in Oshawa is "several small gardens surrounded by a mature cedar hedge".



**Ken Brown's** property in central Whitby is creatively packed with many flowering plants, vegetables and a water garden.



**Denise Carter** has a Whitby garden in transition. She's been adding plants, patios and walkways since moving in.



The **BHS Garden Park** in Brooklin is a neighbourhood garden with trees, shrubs, various perennials and a floral sun dial.



Enjoying refreshments at **Lorna's** after the Garden Tour.



**Helen Read's** tiny urban property is grass-free with gravel pathways amid roses, phlox, hostas, herbs and many clematis.

Thanks to **Cosimo Galluzzo** and **Lorna** for organizing another marvelous tour, and to our hosts for sharing their love of gardening. Since Cosimo and Lorna are retiring from this assignment, we are looking for organizers, as well as gardens for next year's tour. If you know of a member's garden, including your own or are willing to coordinate the tour, please contact Kathy at 905-430-7213 or [kathyallam@hotmail.com](mailto:kathyallam@hotmail.com).



# The Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden

If it's Tuesday, there's sure to be rain...

This summer's theme seems to be 'if it's Tuesday, there's sure to be rain'. Certainly there has been no need for supplemental watering and it's made for a great season in the BHS Garden where the growth has been extravagant and nothing short of spectacular. That said however, it has proved challenging for our gardening crew and the regular Tuesdays@6 schedule. 'Rained out yet again' or 'too soggy to proceed' has become an almost weekly occurrence. The upside is a wonderful garden choc-a-bloc with well-established perennials (drifts of bright yellow rudbeckia right now), native plants, shrubs, ornamental grasses, newly-planted trees that have settled in nicely, the sun dial bed, a focal point that literally stops visitors in their tracks, and a collection of annuals that add colour and set it all off. The lawn has stayed a lush green - no die back this summer, and is beautifully manicured and the beds edged by the Town of Whitby Parks' crew. It makes an impressive view from the street.

Our Garden Park is like no other in the Town of Whitby. The Communities in Bloom judges commented on its uniqueness, and were truly impressed by what our small but mighty crew of volunteer gardeners has accomplished. More important to us however has been the universally positive feedback and reinforcement from the community. They let us know how much they enjoy our beautiful garden as they walk their dogs, play with their kids, or take an early evening stroll after work. One Tuesday in July, a family of

four - Mom, Dad, 3-year-old and baby stopped at the sun dial bed where I was on my knees giving the letters and numbers a hair-cut. The preschooler demonstrated her emerging reading skills proudly walking around, reciting T-I-M-E, F-L-I-E-S, B-H-S-G, & 2-0-1-4. A budding BHS member, for sure. A few minutes later, a young teenager on a bicycle rode by (no bikes allowed on the park sidewalks but we're not telling) thumbs up and called out "great garden, thank you". Sums it up nicely. Community appreciation may not have translated into help yet, but it certainly makes us feel good about a garden we can proudly call our own.

So yes, Mother Nature has blessed us this year with an abundance of rain. It has been a challenge keeping it groomed and we have had to work around nature's schedule but the results have been well worth the effort. When you see them, thank our volunteer gardeners who have kept the Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden trim and thriving on your behalf. They are **Kathy Allam, Bill Hoogeveen, Eileen Humphries, Vivian Willerton, Sherry Howard, Anna Spencley, Hilda Lau, and Jane Austin. Jenny-Lynn Gasperek, Gini Sage and Colleen Ouimet** came when they could.

You are more than welcome to join yours truly - Faye Collins and the crew - every Tuesday, 6:00 pm, corner of Carnwith and Montgomery in Brooklin from now through to the end of September.

*Faye Collins, 905-655-9695*

## Brooklin Spring Fair Display

This year, the BHS was invited to create a display to welcome all attendees to the Brooklin Spring Fair, June 5-8. As the theme was **Tractors and Tailgates**, BHS members



worked our magic around a red vintage tractor and a black pickup truck. Our group of **Vida Ycas-Abell, Lorna Ravary, Faye Collins, Hilda Lau, Barb Borchuk, Denise Carter, Lil Stillar and Sherry Howard**, got our creative juices flowing as we planned, shopped and designed our way to a rural market plant stand overflowing with lush

greens and colourful blooms of geraniums, impatiens and calibrachoa. Did someone say "Shopping?" Of course, we shopped and what a treat of eye candy that not only elicited sighs of plant lust but also prompted wallets to be opened. Thanks to **Century Home and Garden Greenhouses** for that experience and for their generous donation of the gorgeous annuals baskets.

Thank you to **Hans Paats** for making that shopping trip easy. Many of our lucky BHS members took home one of those baskets when they were included in the raffle at the **Iris & Peony Show**.

*Sherry Howard*



**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).