



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.

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



Daylilies in the Landscape - A Natural Fit

August 26 @ 7:30 PM

Faye Collins, The Mad Gardener



Faye Collins gardens in a natural setting on a small family farm bordered by Heber Down Conservation Area on the east and to the north. The property has two large spring-fed ponds, woodlots, open fields, an old orchard and a resident deer herd and wild turkey flock. Faye's garden is one of generational continuity. The mixed all-seasons borders are dense with plants of all persuasions- trees, shrubs, spring ephemeral and bulbs, perennials, annuals, native plants, ornamental grasses, hosta, heirloom tomatoes and herbs, and of course daylilies. She claims to have been born with not one, but two green thumbs on both sides going back several generations. Faye is the sitting Past President of The Ontario



Daylily Society, a Past President and active member of The Brooklin Horticultural Society, a plants-woman in every sense of the word and a truly 'mad gardener'.

Faye's real passion is an 800+ daylily collection. She will not only show you the latest and greatest in the daylily world but also focus on how she has integrated those daylilies into her borders. Why daylilies? Well, the daylily or *hemerocallis* meaning 'beauty for a day' is not just a showy diva but a tough, reliable, versatile and adaptable perennial with an infinite variety of colour, form, shape and pattern...the real star of the summer border and a must have in every garden.

Come, enjoy the talk. You will come away wanting some of these showy beauties in your garden ready for gardening season 2016.

After the meeting, view the entries and winners in our ANNUALS SHOW - phlox, zinnias, asters, dahlias, flowering branches, vegetables and floral designs. Come early for draw tickets and refreshments (please lug-a-mug). Bring a friend as guests are always welcome.

Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday 26 August

August Meeting & The Annuals Show

Guest Speaker: **Faye Collins**, The Mad Gardener, Brooklin
Topic: **Daylilies in the Landscape - A Natural Fit**

Wednesday 23 September

September Meeting & The Autumn Show

Guest Speaker: **Doug Kennedy**, Green Side Up, Omemee
Topic: **Naturalization**

Wednesday 28 October

Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures Show

Guest Speaker: **Cathy Kozma**, Bees Are Life Inc., Toronto
Topic: **The Importance of Bee-ing**

Wednesday 25 November
6:30PM

Annual General Meeting & Social

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

September 23 Meeting Naturalization

Doug Kennedy, Green Side Up, Omemee

For nearly 20 years, Doug has been working in the environmental and horticultural field as a pioneer in the green industry. In addition to founding Green Side Up, Doug is an instructor and course developer at Sir Sandford Fleming College for turf management, landscaping in the urban forest, soil sciences, and trees and shrubs. As a speaker, he talks about the importance of native planting, soil health, shoreline health, and other related issues. For more information about **Green Side Up** Environmental Services & Landscaping, see www.greenservices.ca.

Naturalization is the process of transforming a cultivated landscape, such as a lawn, into a more natural landscape, featuring native plants arranged to mimic naturally occurring habitat such as a forest, wetland or meadow.



The resulting benefits are: elimination of the need for chemical weed and insect control that might damage your health and the environment, attracting wildlife, reducing lawn maintenance, and nurturing native species. Over time, natural landscapes require less work than lawns, giving you more time to enjoy nature in your own backyard.

October 28 Meeting The Importance of Bee-ing

Cathy Kozma, Bees Are Life Inc.

Cathy, a lifelong downtown Torontonion, an avid gardener and a Toronto Master Gardener noticed a dwindling honey bee and native bee population in her own city garden and decided to do something about it. She started urban bee-keeping as a hobby in 2004. She soon joined the Toronto Beekeepers Cooperative and became their co-chair. This organization, in partnership with FoodShare, established



and still manage beehives in the city's core, including those on the rooftop of the Royal York Hotel, the Evergreen Brick Works, Downsview Park and the Toronto Botanical Gardens. Cathy founded the organization **Bees Are Life** with the mission to advance the understanding and preservation of the honeybee as a vital resource in our ecosystem and food web, through public education, advocacy, support for Ontario beekeepers, and the keeping of urban and suburban beehives. Their motto is 'supporting bees every way we can - education, advocacy, managing urban TO hives, selling LOCAL honey, bee-wise gardening'. Their products include beeswax candles and blocks, bee pollen, royal jelly, body care products, and of course, honeys. Cathy's presentation will be informative and revealing about the vital role of bees in food crop production. For more info, go to www.beesarelife.ca.

WIB Garden Tour

Saturday July 18 was a very hot day for Whitby in Bloom's fourth annual free Garden Tour. WIB would like to acknowledge the garden host volunteers who were so pleasant and helpful under some difficult weather conditions. Thank you again!

Our **BHS Garden Park** had 178 visitors and hosted the **Durham Master Gardeners**. This knowledgeable group answered a



multitude of questions and their garden design concepts were very well received. The plants and outdoor furniture display were courtesy of **Sheridan Nurseries**. Inquiries about BHS membership were received and forwarded to Membership Convenor **Leslie Tait** for follow up.

Our garden visits to the 8 residential and 3 public gardens for the day totaled 3,618. Our visitors were generous with their donations to the food bank - in excess of 1,000 pounds were collected. The Garden Tour was a very successful day and plans are in place to do it all again in 2016.

Jane Austin

Hospitality



I would like to thank all the ladies who contributed to the hospitality treats. We are certainly 'spoiled' with all the goodies that come in for our general meetings. Thanks also for helping with serving and especially cleaning up in the kitchen. It makes for such a nice social time.

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.

Eileen Humphries

2016 District AGM

Saturday April 30, 2016
 Westminster United Church Whitby
 Theme has been changed to
"Humour in the Garden"
David Hobson & Trish Symons
 will be funny & entertaining speakers

If you would like to be a volunteer at the AGM, please contact **Leslie Tate** at Ltate@rogers.com

General Meetings

May 27: Jeff Mason - "Helleborus"



These early flowering cold-hardy perennials are becoming more popular every year and include a wide range of plants that provide an early wake-up to the new horticultural season. One commonly available at your favourite greenhouse is labelled *Ranunculus*, of which there are many species.

Hans Paats



June 24: What You Always Wanted to Know about Gardening - **Faye Collins** moderated an expert panel consisting of Durham Master Gardeners **Kim Pileggi**, **Ingrid Janssen**, and **Gini Sage**. Faye started with comments about climate change. There were many questions from the audience covering tomato blight, fertilizing, types of compost, winter garden preparation, dealing with wildlife in the garden, and a disease affecting pines.

The evening started with **Dr. Kristin Varik**, chiropractor giving us stretches and suggestions for avoiding injuries when gardening. A very informative evening!

Here We Grow

Brooklin Horticultural Society participated once again at the Brooklin Optimist's "Here We Grow", an event geared to young children. Our members assisted approximately seventy-five children to pot up both cherry tomatoes and parsley which they happily took home with them. Let's hope they are enjoying their tomato crop as you read this.

Special thanks to **Don Wick** for starting the plants, and thanks to **Jane Austin**, **Margaret McGibney**, **Leslie Tate** and **Don** for coming out that evening and being a part of the fun.

Kathy Allam



President's Message

It's been a great summer this year, unless you're a plant! I would designate July as representative of drought conditions. We had some rain, some storm conditions, but judging from the number of leaves that have fallen from the locust trees, and the wilting of even the Echinacea in one of the gardens, I would judge that the soil was parched.

In the month of June, we received approximately 210 mm of rain (Oshawa). For July, there was 26 mm of precipitation recorded. That's a significant change. For the first 2 weeks, we were glad to see things dry up, but then it was a more challenging situation. August saw more of what we need: some prolonged and gentle rains. To put it in perspective, however, June, with an already saturated ground, experienced an average of 7mm of rain per day over the month while July had 0.83 mm! Thus far for August (to the 15th) we've enjoyed 4.7 mm average daily rainfall. Sounds pretty good, doesn't it? But coming after such a dry spell, the ground looks and feels dehydrated, and 4.7 mm isn't going far enough. It does mean a few less days of hand-watering, just don't roll up the hose yet.

Over the past few years, I have noticed an expanding lack of pollination with the vegetables. Last year it was zucchini. This year it's eggplant. Tomatoes were very slow to show fruit although there has been an abundance of flowers. I took to hand pollinating with a small paint brush and got zucchini at last. I don't see a lot of honey bees in my yard but bumblebees are working hard. The wasps are starting to dominate, and Karen and the dogs have all been stung. I try to work slowly in the gardens, and don't swat or fight the wasps, bees or flies off, but I'm waiting for my turn.

On the BHS side, we've had a very successful first half of the year. Our purchase of two new park benches for the **BHS Garden Park** and the dedication of those benches to our past and current membership was a highlight of June.

The **Legacy Committee** did an excellent job both in the selection and the follow up to the execution of the installation. The Board and I were pleased to share the event with Whitby **Mayor Don Mitchell** and North Ward **Councillor Derrick Gleed**. **Faye Collins** and the **BHS** and **Durham Master Gardener** volunteers have been working very hard to keep the park looking great this summer in spite of the dry conditions.

June had two General Meetings, both with panels, organized and presented by our own membership. The first, by the **Show Committee**, offered tips and techniques to improve your show competition entry. I can't wait to use a hammer and boiling water on the lilacs next year!

The second was the Ask The Experts evening, with members of the **Durham Master Gardeners** and **BHS** taking on current issues from our members. Today's changing climate is creating environmental situations we're not accustomed to and don't have the answers for. Thankfully, our panel did!

This month of August, we're back to our guest speaker series. We start with **Faye Collins** and her expertise with Daylilies in our garden landscape. That's followed by **Doug Kennedy** speaking about Naturalization, a wide ranging topic with a focus on bringing more of the "real" world to our yards and gardens.

Then we have a unique topic, one that I am dealing with already as I mentioned before: "The Importance of Bee-ing" with **Cathy Kozma**. I'll be taking notes at this one! More on all these are detailed here in the newsletter.

Come out and take in the lectures/presentations, and enjoy the monthly competitions at the shows. I seldom show but I always appreciate the quality of the entries and the talent we have in our Society!

Hans Paats

Bench Dedication at BHS Garden Park - June 19



Spring Plant Sale



Our annual plant sale was held on May 23 at Grass Park. We were joined by the **Master Gardeners** selling native plants and herbs. There was a wide array of heirloom tomatoes, daylilies, perennials,

shrubs and annuals. After additional sales at the May and June meetings, mostly of dahlias and annuals, we realized a profit of approximately \$2000. Sincere thanks to everyone who supported this sale with their labour, plant donations, or purchases.

While you are enjoying your summer gardens, take note of any plants that need dividing and, in the fall when you are splitting these plants, pot up an extra plant or two, label it with a waterproof tag (name, colour, size), heel it in a corner of the garden, and donate it to our sale next spring. If we all do a little bit, we will have another successful sale next year.

Margaret McGibney



Friends at a meeting and at the BHS Garden Park

Draw Table

If you're interested in giving a little time on any meeting night, why not start by helping out at the Draw Ticket table. We need two people at each General Meeting to help sell tickets for that evening's draw. We've been very fortunate that several members have stepped in when needed, but it would be nice to have a plan for the next three meetings. **Barb, Lil, Julia, Esther and Denise** have all volunteered, and I thank them for their support and effort. It's actually quite a fun spot as so many of the members come through to buy their tickets. If you feel you can help out, contact **Hans Paats** at 905-655-3846 or thehaque5@yahoo.com!



Seen us on Facebook?

Yes, BHS has a Facebook page. Check it regularly for news on upcoming events, announcements, and photos. 'Like Us' and become a friend. We hope that you will also provide comments on our page!

It's Show Time

A workshop on 'How to Show' was presented by the show committee at the **Iris and Peony Show** at the June 10 meeting. A photo presentation along with questions from the audience covered the following topics: containers, conditioning, grooming, showing three stems, showing collections, what is a spray?, foliage, one bloom vs one stem, showing colour, measurements, entry tags, and miscellaneous general advice. We encourage everyone to give it a try and if you have questions, please give us a call. Remember, don't search for perfection, just cut it and show it!



Vivian with winning Clematis

Autumn Show on Sep 23, providing lots of opportunities to show off your new skills.

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

1. In showing daylilies, you do not need to include foliage.
2. In showing dahlia blooms don't forget to include foliage. The foliage does not have to be attached to the bloom stem.
3. Where only one 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.
4. 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, Judi, Mary Ellen, Ken, Sofie, Barb & Lynda

Looking forward, we have two of our biggest shows of the season coming up - the **Annals Show** on Aug 26 and the

The Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden News

The dog days of summer hit the BHS Garden mid-July and have as yet not lifted. Extreme heat, inclement weather and vacation time have reduced our dedicated crew to two or three; definitely not near enough to keep such a large garden in top shape.

The good news is the sun dial bed and the annuals in the surrounding borders are doing just fine thanks to our ability to lug water from the fire hydrant on Montgomery Street. The bad news thanks to a run of ever-changing weather - a drought, a heat wave, intermittent rain that misses us except on Tuesday, there's some real damage and trees that are severely dehydrated. The London Plane Tree, the Greenspire Linden and the River Birch in particular have

suffered as have many of the large native plants and perennials that need water to look their best. The Queen-of-the-Prairie (*filipendula rubra*), the Cup plants (*silphium perfoliatum*) and the Echinacea are not happy but will survive. That said as they say 'hope springs eternal' especially in a gardener's heart.

Please consider coming out and joining us on Tuesdays from 6:00PM until dusk. With your help, we can get the Brooklin Horticultural Society's showpiece back in shape. Questions or concerns, contact Faye Collins, 905-655-9695 or madgardener23@hotmail.com.

Faye Collins



2015 OHA CONVENTION

We were pleased to attend the 109th annual Ontario Horticultural Association convention in Ancaster as delegates for BHS. We were happy that the overnight accommodation was a short walk from the main building where all the events took place.

All the speakers were excellent and everything moved along amazingly on time. One of the speakers was **Trish Symons** who showed us how in only three years she transformed a field into a garden paradise. She has 50 pots of plants spread around as well as other plantings. Another speaker was **Darren Heimbecker**, the owner of **Whistling Gardens** in Wilsonville. Some attendees took a bus trip to his place during the convention. The seminars were very informative. Don was impressed with "Gardening from a Hammock" by **Dan Cooper**.

The participation in the exhibits was very good with a lot of flower entries, and also photos and children's exhibits. A lot of concessions filled the halls to intrigue the visitors when nothing else was going on.

The keynote speaker was **Lizzie Matheson**, a

British lady who spoke after the banquet. She told us her whole life story in an amusing fashion all the while making the most wonderful, very large arrangement. Her talk went on for more than an hour to the delight of the audience. Afterwards, her large arrangements called 'conversation pieces' were given to lucky winners.

The new OHA president is **Suzanne Hanna** from the north. She is a lot of fun and will be a good asset to the districts. The vice president is **Rose Odell** from Peterborough. All societies were directed to review their constitution and bylaws and get them up to date. It was indicated that there was a drop in overall membership for 2014 by about 450 people. More than half a million volunteer hours were submitted to the government at the end of the year. Every district was represented, even the far north whose delegates drove many miles to get there.

The whole convention was a lot of fun and we wished more BHS members could have attended. The next Convention is in Waterloo in July of 2016.

Aldine & Don Wick

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.