

Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Vol 17, Issue 4 Nov/Dec 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.

Email any board member at: information@brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com.

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



Annual General Meeting & Social Nov 25 - 6:30PM - St Thomas Anglican Church

Dear Members,

Thank you for being a part of our Society this year. As always, it's been an active and engaging one for us. We trust that you have appreciated our selection of great speakers, our many horticultural shows, and our plant and bulb sales. Many thanks to those of you who generously gave your time and efforts to our various activities – helping at the Brooklin Horticultural Society gardens, our plant and bulb sales, various workshops and of course, meeting refreshments. We now invite you to join us for our year-end business meeting and social.

DESSERT SOCIAL: This is our annual dessert pot-luck social; something we all look forward to. You are invited to bring a dessert or other snacks, such as cheeses, vegetable or fruit tray, for the buffet table. If you don't have the time to prepare something for the buffet, not to worry, join us anyways. It's a time to enjoy the company of your many society friends during the first half hour. Please arrive by 6:30 in order to have time to enjoy the buffet before the meeting starts. Help yourselves to the treats once you arrive.

ENTERTAINMENT: Match Point, a quartet of singers, all members of the Oshawa Horseless Carriagemen Barbershop Chorus, will provide our entertainment.



AWARDS: Our Show Committee will be presenting numerous Show Awards for those with highest points or best submission in certain categories. One or more President's Awards will be presented to deserving volunteers. Everyone who submitted at least one entry to our shows will receive a cash prize based on their total awards and entries.

ELECTION: **Elaine Davidson**, the Director of OHA District 17 will conduct the election and installation of our officers and directors for 2016. For information about joining the board, please contact **Kathy Allam** at 905-430-7213 before November 25th.

LUCKY DRAWS: Each person will receive a free draw ticket for a chance to win one of many prizes, including seasonal plants. Donations of additional prizes are always welcome.

BUFFET LEFTOVERS: As we have done in the past few years, we will be putting together plates of leftover treats for you to take home. Minimum donation of \$3 per plate is requested. The monies collected will go to the Salvation Army Kettle Drive again.

Join us for the closing social event of the 2015 gardening year at **St Thomas Anglican Church** on **Wednesday, November 25th** at **6:30 PM!** Please note the location and time. If you need a ride to the Social, please contact **Kathy** at 905-430-7213.

MY EXPERIENCE ON THE BOARD

After being on the board of the horticulture society for 24+ years and a member before that, I can speak from experience that it is very rewarding. The board meetings are a lot of fun and one really gets to the root of the decisions that have to be made on a monthly basis. The planning for things like the 2016 District AGM is important and only comes about every 12 years. New ideas are welcome and necessary to keep the club going and interesting. Originally I joined the club to meet new people in town as a newly married person and a lot of my friends are still members. Years later, I have learned a lot about plants and their different peculiarities. Without the knowledge that I got, my life would have been quite different. Being a board member is not a scary thing, as everyone shares the work and you learn as you go along. You should volunteer to join the board and you will really be glad you did. A few hours a month lets you contribute to a great hobby and make good friends along the way. I don't regret any of the hours spent and I urge you to volunteer as an active member of the board. If you would like any more information, contact me at aldine@wick.net.

Aldine Wick

New Board Members Wanted!

Once again, BHS is inviting its members to join the Board as a Director for the upcoming year. Qualifications are simple: interest, energy, and Society membership. Participation on the Board provides the opportunity to understand the role of the club, and to provide input into the direction and activity choices facing the Board each year. Board meetings are held once a month (first Wednesday evening of each month, except July). For 2016, directors can be added without an elimination election at the AGM. Talk to any current Board member before Nov 25 to find out more about the opportunities and benefits, as well as the responsibilities.

Hans Paats, President, 905-655-3846

Kathy Allam, Past Pres, 905-430-7213

The President's Message

Someone once described a perennial as having a 4 year growing period: the first year included acquisition, planting and making every effort to have it survive the winter. The second year, the perennial begins to establish itself and show its potential promise. The third year is when the growth is the finest and its contribution to the garden can be at its best. The fourth year, the gardener begins to cut it back, divide it, perhaps even move it. Then we start the cycle all over again.

Our Canadian gardens are much the same over the course of a single year. We plan over the winter, clean, prepare and plant in the second season, enjoy the growth over the third portion of the year, and then start to remove, store, and clean up for the conclusion of the year. We're at that stage now. It's incredibly quick, and we surely all struggle to get as much done as possible in each session of the yearly cycle.

So too another year in the history of the Brooklin Horticultural Society is fast approaching its conclusion. We've had great speakers and unique opportunities to learn from the best. Our last General Meeting will feature Cathy Kozma addressing the value of bees in our horticultural effort. We will also be able to enjoy very talented entertainment at our November Annual Business meeting, with our traditional social to wrap up the year.

I hope that you have enjoyed the BHS this year. I appreciate all of the contributions made by you to keep the Society entertaining, enjoyable, and satisfying to our members and to the public. We've got great plans for next year already, and we will celebrate our 95th year by hosting the District 17 Annual General meeting in April. My thanks to the members of the Board for helping me execute this year as President, and to all the Society members who contribute to each event and every meeting.

Thank **you!**

Hans Paats



Mary Ellen (left) at 'The Court' with a pick & plunk arrangement.

Flower Arranging at 'The Court'

Mary Ellen Simerson and **Judi Denny** of the Show Committee held a workshop on how to 'Pick & Plunk' flowers to brighten up a room at 'The Court at Brooklin' retirement home. Fourteen residents attended. They used the flowers donated by our exhibitors at the August show, supplemented by whatever they could find in their gardens. There were several smiling folks taking their vases full of blooms up to their rooms.

In Memoriam

ANDI KELLY passed away on Sep 13 after a brief illness. Although a relative newcomer to BHS in 2013, she attended meetings regularly and actively exhibited in the shows. Her efforts won her the Rose Bowl Award for a 'New Exhibitor with the Highest Points' in 2013.

MARGARET POWELL passed away on Sep 29 at the age of 92. As a BHS member for about 30 years, she volunteered in Civic Beautification and on the Show Committee. Margaret regularly exhibited her specimens and beautiful designs.

Sofie's Fall Tips

OUTDOORS:

Colchicums and Grape Hyacinths – Plant both in the fall. Be aware that grape hyacinths bloom in the spring, go dormant for the summer and re-appear with leaves only in the fall, while colchicums bloom in the fall, sprout leaves only in the spring and go dormant in the summer. The leaf growth is quite dense and can interfere with other plants.

Garlic – Plant 5 to 6 inches apart each way by the end of October and harvest in the following July.

Hedge Trimmer – Watch for battery powered trimmers on sale over the winter. It will shorten your spring clean-up from hours to minutes for grasses and perennials.

Parsnips – Seeds need to be fresh. Sow parsnip seeds in the fall before freeze up. You will have much better germination and one less chore in the spring!

Roses – Reminder to plant the grafted area (where stem meets roots) 4-5 inches deep, so you don't have to protect them in the winter. You can move roses in the fall.

INDOORS:

Fungus Gnats & White Flies – Use yellow sticky strips (\$1.00 at the dollar store) to attract them. Every couple of days, shake the affected plant and vacuum the white flies in the air. Also brush and crush any eggs under the leaves with a paint brush. This will greatly reduce the white fly adults.

Spider Mites - Brushing is very effective on spider mites, generally located in the crotches of plants. Run the brush gently up the stem as well to remove any on the stems.

Scale – Brush them off with a stiff brush like a toothbrush.

Mesclun Salad Mix Containers - These make great little greenhouses for cuttings and starting seeds.

Seeds – Try something new for 2016. This year, I grew mouse melons, rattail radish, okra, fortex French filet pole beans, mini butternut squash –great for one meal.

Winter Greenhouse Breaks – Don't forget to check out Richters.com for their free seminars during the winter months.

Sofie Bigham

Events at our Discounters

Thursday, November 5: 5-8 PM

Lotus Home Interiors - Open House,
Treats, gifts, special draws, local entrepreneurs' showcase.
15 Baldwin Street North Unit 2, Brooklin, 905-425-4440

Weekend, November 6, 7 & 8

Vandermeer Nursery - Open House
20% discount on Christmas items.
588 Lakeridge Road South, Ajax, 905-427-2525

Weekend, November 14 & 15

Sheridan Nurseries - Open House
20% discount on Christmas items.
410 Taunton Road East, Whitby, 905-668-3396

Wednesday, November 18: 1-3 PM

Marjorie Mason
Holding a chat for Denure Tours. No charge to attend.
Toronto Botanical Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. East

Saturday, November 21: 9 AM - 4:30 PM

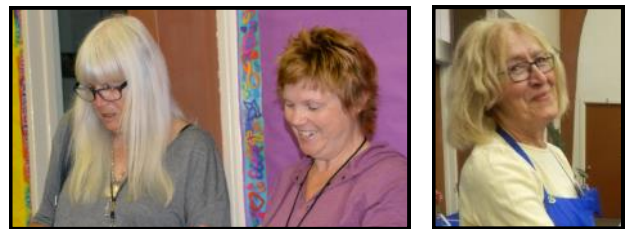
Rekker's Garden Centre - Open House,
Greenhouse tours at 11 & 2, 120,000 poinsettias to view and purchase, special draws, 20% discount on Christmas items. 2258 Hwy 2, Bowmanville, 905-623-2300

Sunday, November 29: 9 AM - 4 PM

Kingsway Greenhouse - Open House
Refreshments, indoor & outdoor arrangements, poinsettias
111 Clarence Biesenthal Drive, Oshawa, 905-434-3851

Valles Fruit Market & Garden Centre

Claxton Fruit Cakes from Georgia, seasonal plants.
8880 Baldwin St North, Ashburn, 905-655-3867



Next Meeting - Feb 24, 2016

Our next general meeting after the November AGM will be on **Wednesday, February 24, 2016**. In early February, current members will receive our next newsletter along with the 2016 membership form.

Have a safe and enjoyable winter and a memorable holiday season!

About the BHS Newsletter: This newsletter is published 4 times yearly - February, May, August and November. 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.

2015 Show Results

April Narcissus Show

Best Narcissus	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Specimen (Other)	- Judi Denny
Best Branch	- N/A
Best Container Plant	- Jone Webster
Best Design	- Julia Noakes
Best Special Exhibit	- N/A
Best Photo	- Audrey Atkinson



May Spring Show

Best Tulip	- Barb Borchuk
Best Specimen (Other)	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Branch	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Container Plant	- Vivian Willerton
Best Vegetable	- Kathy Allam & Pat Evans
Best Design	- Pat Evans
Best Special Exhibit	- Sofie Bigham



June Iris & Peony Show

Best Iris	- Ken Brown
Best Peony	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Specimen (Other)	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Design	- Sherry Howard
Best Special Exhibit	- Sofie Bigham
Best Photo	- Audrey Atkinson



June Rose Show

Best Rose	- Barb Borchuk
Best Specimen (Other)	- Vivian Willerton
Best Branch	- Vivian Willerton
Best Fruit/Vegetable	- Ingrid Janssen
Best Design	- Julia Noakes
Best Special Exhibit	- Ingrid Janssen

August Annuals Show

Best Specimen	- Judi Denny
Best Branch	- Audrey Atkinson
Best Fruit/Vegetable	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Collection	- Vivian Willerton
Best Design	- Audrey Atkinson
Best Special Exhibit	- Sofie Bigham

September Autumn Show

Best Specimen	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Branch	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Fruit/Vegetable	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Collection	- Kathy Allam
Best Design	- Audrey Atkinson
Best Special Exhibit	- Ingrid Janssen

