



Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 2 May/June/July 2016

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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.



CONTAINERS - BREAKING THE MOULD

Vicki Taylor-Scott
Wed May 25 at 7:30PM



Vicki's love of gardening led her to acquiring a license in Landscape Architecture, along with many horticultural diplomas. The formality of her education has done nothing to bridle her ever-growing enthusiasm for gardening. Humour is the mandatory element of her presentations. Join Vicki and start thinking outside the usual constraints of gardening. Learn that the possibilities are endless. Vicki will take you on a journey that will make you laugh and leave you inspired to go home and just break the mould.

After the meeting, view the entries and winners in our **Spring Show**. You'll see tulips, narcissus, iris, other spring plants, lilacs and other flowering branches, potted plants, early vegetables, floral designs and photos.

Better still, submit some entries into the show! Check pages 36 - 38 of your year-book for entry criteria. Place your entries on the show tables by 7:15 pm.

Come early for draw tickets and refreshments. Please lug-a-mug. See you there!

Saturday May 28 - 9am to 1pm

BHS Plant Sale

Bring your friends and neighbours!

Our Annual Plant Sale will take place on Saturday May 28 at Grass Park. This year, we are offering nursery-grown vegetable plants, as well as heirloom tomatoes, delphiniums, and a huge variety of daylilies and perennials.

Joining us this year is **The Mad Mudder** who brings a large assortment of unique garden art, and the **Whitby Ajax Community Garden** on Lakeridge Road will be selling their own organic preserves and hand sewn items. A local organic **Honey Producer** will be selling unique pure honeys (lavender, cinnamon, ginger, etc.)



We need your plant donations to make this sale a success. Please LABEL your plants with NAME, COLOUR, SIZE and GROWING CONDITIONS. Ideally, contributions should be in quart size or larger pots of soil-less mix. Donations can be dropped off prior to the sale on the driveways of 4 Queen Street or 20 Princess Street, or brought to the park before 9am on the 28th.

This is our major fund raiser for the year so please be generous by donating large, quality plants. Come on out to support your club and pick up some unique items.

If you can help at the sale, or need help with delivering plants, contact **Kathy Allam** at kathyallam@hotmail.ca, 905-430-7213.

Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

- The Spring Show**
 Wednesday May 25
 Guest Speaker: **Vicki Taylor-Scott**
 Topic: **Containers - Breaking the Mould**
- Brooklin Horticultural Society's Plant Sale**
 Saturday May 28
 9 AM - 1 PM
 Grass Park, Baldwin at Cassels Road East, Brooklin
Vegetables, Heirloom Tomatoes, Daylilies, Perennials, Dahlias, Hostas & More
- The Iris and Peony Show**
 Wednesday June 8
 Guest Speaker: **Paul Oliver**, Urban Nature Store
 Topic: **Gardening to Attract Birds**
- The Rose Show**
 Wednesday June 22
 An Information Panel
Answers to Your Gardening Questions
- The Annuals Show**
 Wednesday Aug 24
 Speaker: **Dugald Cameron**, former owner of Gardenimport Mail Order Nursery
 Topic: **Planting a Spectacular Spring Garden Now**

June 8 Meeting 'Gardening to Attract Birds' Paul Oliver

Paul will talk about using different types of feeders, garden plants and landscape designs to attract more and different types of birds to your backyard. He'll explain the importance of making birds feel welcome and safe in our man-made environment.



Paul is an avid birder and a partner in the Urban Nature Store with six GTA locations. The Urban Nature store offers a wide range of wild bird feeders, seeds, books and other supplies to attract wild birds. The store also offers a range of natural and safer pest control products for homeowners.

Members' Garden Tours

BHS will be hosting Sunday afternoon tours of Members' gardens from 1-3pm starting in May. You will receive an email from BHS in advance of the tour. First on the tour will be 'Four Winds' in Uxbridge, the property of **Roger & Grace Inglis**, on **May 22** from 1PM to 3PM, just in time to view their lilacs. Emails will include the date and directions to the gardens. If you have any questions or would like to include your garden in the Sunday tours, please email **John Simerson** at john.simerson@sympatico.ca.



Pansy Potting Party

The fourth annual pansy potting party was held on April 28 at The Court in Brooklin. About 20 residents attended

and were quite happy to leave the party with their cheery plants. Thanks to **Don, Sofie, Jenny & Kathy** for leading and assisting the residents.



June 22 Information Panel

For the Rose Show on June 22, we are assembling a panel of knowledgeable individuals to answer your gardening questions. As you work in the garden, think of questions to ask our experts to get informed answers.

Other Gardening Events

Thursday May 26
7 PM – 9 PM

Introduction to Vegetable Gardening workshop delivered by Durham Master Gardeners, sponsored by Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee and the Whitby Public Library. Whitby Public Library, 405 Dundas St W.
For information and registration: whitbylibrary.on.ca, go to programs, scroll to May 26.

June 11 & 12
10 AM - 4 PM

The **Peony Festival**, Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens, 155 Arena Street Oshawa. Canada's largest free contemporary peony collection. Includes judged flower show, bonsai display, photo contest, art competition, artisans, advice, demonstrations, entertainment and local cuisine. Free parking and admission to gardens. Come anytime in June to see early, middle and late blooms. Visit www.oshawa.ca/peony.

Saturday June 18
10 AM - 5 PM

Artists in the Garden Tour in support of **Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre**. Local artists and musicians featured in beautiful gardens in Ajax, Whitby and Oshawa. Tickets: \$25 (\$20 advance) www.artistsinthegarden.com

Saturday July 9
10 AM - 5 PM

Gardens of Uxbridge, Community Care Durham of Uxbridge. 20th annual self-guided tour of eight private gardens. Local musicians and artists on site. Tickets: \$25 includes box lunch. Tickets: 905-852-7445 www.ccdgardensofuxbridge.org

Saturday July 16
10 AM - 4 PM

Whitby in Bloom Garden Tour - the fifth annual garden tour is showcasing ten of Whitby's most unique and beautiful residential properties, and a community garden. Your free tour ticket and brochure will guide your personal driving tour to the properties. In lieu of a fee, non-perishable food donations will be collected for local Food Banks. To register, contact 905-430-4310 or www.whitby.ca/whitbyinbloom.

Special Spring Draw

This season BHS, in conjunction with our 95th anniversary, is offering a Special Spring Draw. We have two significant prizes : a rain barrel, similar to those offered for sale by Whitby in Bloom (value \$55), and a beautiful handcrafted garden obelisk constructed by Ian Tate. There will be other items added to each of these to make them valuable prizes. Tickets are \$5.00, available at the Draw table at the May General Meeting, with the draws being held that night. Stop by and purchase your ticket Wednesday May 25th before the meeting, if you haven't already. (Be sure to put your name on the stub entered into the draw.)

Hans Paats



Mark Cullen autographing his latest book in March.

BROOKLIN SPRING FAIR FLOAT ENTRY

Be on the look out for a float entry in the Brooklin Spring Fair Parade entitled Wagon Wheels and Ferris Wheels. Volunteer committee members are **Lenore Wright, Helen McConnell** and **Mary Ellen Simerson**. Anyone interested in assisting this crew should contact **John Simerson** at 905-655-4927.



*Narcissus Show Judge and show committee members in April:
Judi, Volunteer Kim, Judge Kathryn, Ken, Mary Ellen*

Welcome, New Members!

Madeleine Balmbra
Pat Bunting
Franca Calabro
Judith Chevers
Patricia Gordon
Sue Green
Cindy Harding
Catherine Johnson
Jay Junaid
Najmi Junaid
Lea Kitchen
Janet McLaughlin

Christopher Monk
Barb Panowyk
Shirley Papenbrock
Barb Piwerka
Terry Sprigg
Rose Steen
Deanna Szarka
Marion Thomas
Eric Tuinman
Helen Vander Byl
Brenda Wielgos
Mary Zito

We hope that you are enjoying our speakers, shows and special events. If you have a neighbour, friend or relative interested in gardening, bring them to a meeting. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Membership Chair, Leslie Tate at ltate@rogers.com or 905-665-0486.

2016 GARDEN DATES

Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden

Join our garden work crews even if it's just for an evening or two throughout the season. Bring a family member or friend! Bring garden gloves and your favourite weeding tools. For more information, contact Faye Collins, 905-655-9695, madgardener23@hotmail.com.



Tuesdays from 6:30 PM to dusk:

May 17, 24, 31
June 7, 14, 21, 28
July 5, 12, 19, 26
August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
September 6, 13, 20, 27

Saturday Sessions:

June 11 - 1 to 3:30 PM
October 15 - 10:30 to 1PM
October 29 - 1 to 3:30 PM

See you in the Garden!

Whitby in Bloom Garden Tour - July 16



Visit one or all of the properties that will be open on July 16 from 10 am to 4pm for the 2016 WIB Garden Tour. The properties are in Whitby and Brooklin with each garden being unique and varying in size, structure and plant material. In lieu of a fee, non-perishable food items will be collected for local food banks. Drop off your donation at one of the garden tour locations. The Garden Tour Brochure and Map will be your guide for the tour! It will be posted on the Town website in June. Register online at: www.whitby.ca/whitbyinbloom. Phone: 905-430-4310.

WIB/BHS Speaker Series

In March, **Mark Cullen** introduced us to the chapters of his latest book **The New Canadian Garden**, including From Seed to Table, Gardening for Biodiversity, The Community Garden and the Learning Garden. Many of the audience members purchased Mark's book with the proceeds being donated to the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute of 'A Tree for Every Hero'.

In April, **Paul Zammit** entertained us with beautiful photos and lots of helpful suggestions on '**Small Space Gardening**', including knowing and addressing the conditions of your garden, adding all-season colour and interest, creating hidden corners for an element of surprise, and using your gardens to be stewards of the land.



Each seminar attracted over 160 listeners who contributed a total of 450 pounds of food for the local food banks.

OHA Convention

July 29 - 31, 2016

Crown Plaza Hotel Kitchener
"Experience the Grand"

Key Speaker Topics:

The Mennonite Story
Saving the Grand River
Green Industries Program at KCI
Benefits of Humour

3 Concurrent Seminars

6 Optional Bus Tours

www.gardenontario.org/show/up_conf.php



President's Message

It's been a topsy-turvy Spring, with promises and opportunities of fine warm days mixed with sleet and hail, and cold nights. A local farmer said to me one cold wet day last month, "I like this kind of weather. Its stops people from doing foolish things!" Its difficult not to be too anxious, though. The joys of gardening outdoors are just there, just warmth away from being all inclusive. And just as we finish the clean up and lay down the mulch, it's black fly season!

Last month we hosted the 2016 District 17 AGM, an event we volunteered to hold in conjunction with the 95th year of the Brooklin Horticultural Society. It was a great success with much praise from the other Societies and executed practically flawlessly. On behalf of the BHS, I extend my praise and my thanks to all those who devoted their time, imagination and energy to that success: the Show Committee, the volunteers, the family members, and especially **Leslie Tate**, whose devotion, attention to detail and energy were key to the day's execution. My thanks also to Westminster United Church for providing us with a great venue, and assistance in all ways.

The next three months are extremely busy ones. We have several events scheduled by the Society, and are engaging in the first in our new Member's Garden Tours series. **Rodger and Grace Inglis** are hosting an afternoon on May 22nd for our members to come and enjoy their beautiful lilac gardens. Other members will open their gardens on specific days through the year for members to tour and enjoy. Members

will receive emails with tour dates and directions in advance of each tour.

Our Plant Sale is coming on May 28th and we need the full support of our members to ensure its success. We are responding to the requests from last year's customers and visitors to the sale by providing a wider range of garden plants, including vegetables and tomatoes, and have invited a few vendors to showcase unique garden-related products, intended to increase the interest and traffic at the sale. We'll also have plant experts on hand to answer questions and provide solutions and suggestions for those in need. I think that all of these new features are a great idea, and enhance the value of BHS to the community of Brooklin, and the families and citizens of the Town of Whitby.

The BHS Garden Park is preparing for another great and beautiful season, but it needs your help. The Town takes care of the general park maintenance like lawns, but we maintain the flower beds. We plant, clean, and improve the gardens each year to make it an attractive and informative park for the neighbourhood. **Faye Collins** does a great job organizing the necessary work activities, but Faye can't do it alone. Let's get in there and see what we can do, with Faye, to get the clean-up, planting and weeding done this year. Many hands make light work, and that's what we need: just a few hours each season, or from those able, a few hours each week.

There's a great deal of information available in this edition of the BHS Newsletter as always, and I hope you appreciate the work that your members put into the club, Brooklin and Whitby. Enjoy!

Reach me at thehague5@yahoo.com.

Hans Paats

Let's Save the Bees

There are many different species of native bees in Canada and they're fantastic pollinators but have undergone a huge population crash in the last couple of years. Most pollen bees are gentle and non-aggressive. The main issues are loss of habitat and pesticide use in the environment. How can we help the solitary pollen bees? ANSWER: By attracting them to our gardens with a good plant selection and providing a nesting habitat. BHS has been selling Solitary Bee Nests over the past three months for \$20. We have EIGHT for sale at the next meeting, and if any are left, at the plant sale. Don't miss out. Get yours on May 25th! Contact **John Simerson** at 905-655-4927 to reserve one.



95th Anniversary Celebrations

We are celebrating our 95th year and having an anniversary celebration on Wednesday, September 28, 2016. **Please register** at our two June meetings to reserve your seat for a very enjoyable evening of socializing, refreshments, club history, recognition and entertainment. Local comedian and writer, **Neil Crone** will be our guest entertainer for this fun-filled evening. Volunteers are needed. Contact **Mary Ellen Simerson** at 905-655-4927 to see how you can assist.



DISTRICT 17 AGM

Our Club hosted this year's District 17 AGM on Saturday, April 30th at the Westminster United Church in Whitby. It was a well-attended event with over 140 participants from 12 clubs. We had a very enjoyable luncheon, entertaining speakers, an array of silent auction items, and a great flower show. Mayor **Don Mitchell** and Regional Chair **Roger Anderson** welcomed our attendees and **Scott Bryk** talked about the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute project.

Thanks to the AGM Planning Committee – **Leslie Tate, Kathy Allam, Denise Carter, Audrey Atkinson, Mary Ellen Simerson** and **Eileen Humphries**.

Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped to make this a great event. Our sincere appreciation to our sponsors – **Custom Printing** and **Century Home and Gardens**, and to the individuals and companies who generously donated items for our silent auction. Your support is very much appreciated.

Leslie Tate



AGM SHOW RESULTS

First, I would like to thank my dedicated Show Committee and volunteers. They printed in advance Division and Class cards, decorated the front stage of our successful event, set up the photography display and the Horticultural and Design Show area on Friday evening. Then, early Saturday, another dedicated crew assisted with directing cars, carrying in boxes of plant material, assisting with placement of entries, recording winning entries, affixing ribbons, and last but not least, cleaning and packing up on tired feet after 9 hours!

The photographic competition consisted of 108 photos which were judged prior to the meeting with 8 of the 12 clubs/societies participating. Our very own **Jone Webster** won 'Best in Show' for her 'Edible' photograph. Well done.

There was a total of 86 entries in the Horticulture and Design competition with 9 out of 12 clubs/societies participating. In Horticulture, **Jone Webster** received 'Best in Show' for her collection of 3 leaves. In Designs, **Sherry Howard** received a 'Best in Show' for her Pave design, and a Judge's Choice was awarded to **Julia Noakes** for her 'Create a Title' design. The most interest shown in a class was in the Team Challenge, the Fairy Dish Garden entitled 'Whimsical', with entries from 8 clubs/societies. Our own society received an 'Honourable Mention' for our very creative Fairy Dish Garden. Kudos go to **Sherry Howard, Barb Borchuk, Lorna Ravary, Lynda Chapman, Lil Stillar, Helen Read** and **Marion Newans**. Congrats!

Please join me in thanking our Show Committee and volunteers for providing a very creative show schedule, and an efficiently executed and professional looking show for the District 17 AGM.

Mary Ellen Simerson

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.