



# Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 1 Feb/Mar/April 2017

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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. The November meeting is at St. Thomas Anglican Church.

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)



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

## PLANTING FROM SEED Wednesday February 22, 2017 - 7:30 PM

It's bound to happen soon – Spring! Although it may still be a few weeks away you can get a jump on spring by joining us for our first meeting of the new gardening year! Bring a friend and come early to renew your membership. Catch up with old friends and make new ones! Don't forget to 'lug-a-mug' for coffee or tea while you enjoy some treats.

Just the sight of new seedlings brings the promise of spring. With a bit of effort and some tried and true tips, growing plants from seeds is an inexpensive way to introduce a wide variety of plants to your garden or planters regardless of whether you enjoy vegetables, flowers or both. Our speaker this month, **Gini Sage**, will present tips and techniques to successfully produce healthy



plants from seeds. Gini is a Durham Master Gardener and BHS member. She graduated with a BSc in Forestry, and earned a Horticulture Certificate in Landscape Design from the University of Guelph. Now retired from a career in Automotive Engineering, her passion is operating her own business, providing garden design. We asked her for some of her gardening favourites: favourite perennial is the Siberian Iris; favourite shrub is *Itea* (sweetspire) 'Little Henry'; and favourite garden tool is the Lee Valley transplanting spade.

Our membership dues are still only \$20 per member, or \$30 per family of two (living at the same address). This membership fee entitles you to our yearbook, the quarterly newsletter, great speakers and topics at 10 meetings during the year, as well as eligibility to participate in our flower, vegetable and design competitions. Another great benefit: membership entitles you to a 10% or better discount at many local nurseries, garden shops and other retailers.

A membership form is being emailed to you, or it can be downloaded from our website. Bring the completed form with you to the February meeting. If you can't come to this meeting, you can bring it to a future meeting or mail your form with a cheque payable to *Brooklin Horticultural Society* to: **Denise Carter**, 16 Milne St, Whitby, ON L1N 9H7

**Happy 2017 to our returning & new members!  
Guests are always welcome!**

## Thank You Jone Webster

After many years of honing her editorial skills and producing an award winning newsletter, Jone Webster, past president of BHS, has stepped down as publisher of our BHS Newsletter. Jone's hard work and her attention to detail have created a standard of excellence which has been recognized in OHA newsletter competitions.

As always, Jone, you are welcome to send us your articles and photos any time.

Your new editors, Sherry Howard, Barb Panowyk and Leslie Tate

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings - I hope you are enjoying the beauty that winter brings, either with outside activities, enjoying the tranquility of a walk after a snowfall, or watching a myriad of birds at a feeder. It is a quiet time for gardeners. A time to reflect and plan for the coming spring. Take heart – it will be here before we know it!

I am contemplating a change in my garden this year. It is time to change up a border garden...in with the new and out with the old (for the Plant Sale of course). I have a wealth of gardening sites and reference books to look through. Now if I could only make

up my mind what I want to do.

Hopefully this year, I have figured out a way to keep my marauding bunnies (Haas and Pfeffer – who reside under my deck) out of my raised vegetable garden – I doubled the height! Hopefully this will foil their attempts at pilfering (unless they are adept at pole-vaulting). I will keep you posted.

I would like to take this time to especially thank Jone Webster for her many years in the role as Editor of this newsletter, and a big thank you to Sherry Howard and her team for taking on this task.

Cheers,

Leslie Tate, *President*

## Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday Mar 22	<p><b>SEED EXCHANGE AND GET GROWING EVENING</b>            Guest Speaker: <b>Helen Battersby</b>,            Topic: <b>Shade Gardening</b>            Speaker co-sponsored with <b>Whitby in Bloom</b>. Please donate a non-perishable food item.</p>
Tuesday April 25	<p><b>9th ANNUAL BHS PRUNING DEMONSTRATION</b>            Durham Master Gardeners, BHS Garden, 113 Carnwith Dr. West, 6:30 PM. Rain date: <b>May 2</b>            Bring your secateurs or garden clippers, and garden gloves. Contact Faye Collins 905-655-9695  <a href="mailto:madgardener23@hotmail.com">madgardener23@hotmail.com</a> for registration/further information.</p>
Wednesday April 26	<p><b>THE NARCISSUS SHOW</b>            Guest Speaker: <b>Dawn Golloher</b>, <i>owner of Gardens Plus</i>            Topic: <b>New Easy Care Perennials</b>            Speaker co-sponsored with <b>Whitby in Bloom</b>. Please donate a non-perishable food item.</p>
Saturday April 30	<p><b>DISTRICT 17 AGM AND FLOWER SHOW “Still Growing and Blooming”</b>            Hosted by <b>Pickering</b> Horticultural Society at 4 Seasons Country Club, RR #5 Concession 8 #1900, Claremont, ON L1Y 1A2. Registration Fee: \$30 in advance to BHS by March 22, or \$35 at the door. Includes hospitality, luncheon, show entry, silent auction and guest speakers, <b>Lizzie Matheson</b> and <b>Malcom Geast</b>. More details and show schedules, at <a href="http://www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com">www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com</a>.</p>
Saturday May 27	<p><b>BHS PLANT SALE</b>            Donate your plant divisions. Buy new garden plants. Grass Park, Cassels Road East, Brooklin, starting at 9 AM, Contact Margaret McGibney at 905-666-7777 <a href="mailto:margaret@almostperfect.com">margaret@almostperfect.com</a></p>

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are looking for members who would be interested in assisting with some of our Committees.

**Show Committee** – assist in setting up, clerking, and general assistance during the Shows.

**Corporate Partners** – October/November – visiting local businesses (with Committee Member) to renew memberships; sign up new members. February – help deliver yearbooks to Corporate Partners.

**General Membership** – assist from time to time on Membership Desk

If you could help out with any of these Committees, please advise either Leslie Tate ([Ltate@rogers.com](mailto:Ltate@rogers.com)) or Denise Carter ([dcarter@0822@rogers.com](mailto:dcarter@0822@rogers.com))

## WANTED - Gardens To Tour and Coordinator

We'd love to see your garden. Please let us know when we can come over. Perhaps you and another member(s) would also like to organize some BHS member garden tours. Please contact Leslie Tate ([Ltate@rogers.com](mailto:Ltate@rogers.com)) if you would like to help.

## BHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2017



L to R: Faye Collins, 2nd VP Denise Carter, Secretary Eileen Humphries, Past President Kathy Allam, First VP Jane Austin, Margaret McGibney, President Leslie Tate, D17 Director Rick Causton, Treasurer Hans Paats.

### MEET SOME OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS

#### Leslie Tate – President

My favourite plant is hydrangea. I just love the colours available and plan to plant more in my garden. This is my first year as President of the BHS and, before that, I looked after the membership and the D17 AGM planning. When I first moved to Whitby from Montreal and started gardening, I was amazed at the selection of plants available in local garden centres (what a difference a whole zone makes!) I was hooked and, after coming to one meeting of the BHS, I decided to join in order to learn more about gardening...and I am still learning.

#### Kathy Allam - Director (Past President)

Favourite garden plant - any & all heucheras

BHS & me - For a number of years, I have been responsible for sourcing out and booking the speakers for our meetings. This also included those speakers who are sponsored by Whitby in Bloom. I am always looking for suggestions for speakers, so please feel free to share your ideas with me. As well, I take care of the publicity for our meetings and events.

#### Denise Carter – General Membership

My current favourite plants are mini hostas and different varieties of cone flowers. I am looking forward to welcoming new members to the BHS, and welcoming back all of our current members. I am currently volunteering on both the membership committee and the yearbook committee.

### HOSPITALITY

A "**BIG SHOUT OUT**" to everyone who provided delightful refreshment items and helped with set-up & clean-up for our monthly meetings. What better way to share your gardening experiences than with tasty treats and a beverage. Our **Lug-a-Mug** campaign over the years has saved plenty of waste from being deposited in our landfill. We hope you will continue to support this initiative in the future.

At our **February 22, 2017** meeting there will be a **sign up sheet** available at the hospitality table for you to review. You are encouraged to place your name beside a food item that you would be willing to bring for our monthly meetings. Friendly reminder phone calls or emails will be provided a week in advance of the meeting. We will be celebrating Canada's 150 birthday so June hospitality food items will reflect in this celebration. And of course October is our Pumpkin, Pies & Picture show so think about trying that new pie recipe this winter so we could sample it in October when pies are the only option for treats that evening.

Preparations for special evenings such as the AGM would not be possible without member support. Thank you Eileen Humphries, Kathy Allam, Jane Austin, Margaret McGibney, Leslie Tate, Faye Collins, Denise Carter, Jan Illing, & Pam for another successful November 2016 AGM. If you would like to **take part in this committee** for the 2017 AGM please contact me at [aud.geo@rogers.com](mailto:aud.geo@rogers.com) or **905.666.2178**.

**Audrey Atkinson, Hospitality Chairperson**



BHS members enjoying the November AGM & Social

## Tips For Starting Plants from Seeds

Starting plants from seeds can bring a lot of joy and satisfaction. Below are tips on ensuring success in this rewarding endeavor.

More information can be found on the Durham Master Gardeners website:

<http://www.durhammastergardeners.ca/blog.php?categories=presentations>

1. **Read Seed Packet** - start date, sowing depth, optimal germination temperature and light requirements are provided.
2. **Reuse and Recycle Containers** – depending on the type of seeds you may choose a large container (try clear plastic vegetable and fruit 'clamshell' containers) or a tray with small cells that hold one seed. Most importantly, sterilize containers by washing with a mild soap then dipping in a 10% bleach solution to ward off fungal diseases.
3. **Soil** - fill containers with a sterile soil mix, then put seeds on top. Evenly sprinkle more soil on top of seeds – up to a depth of 4 times their diameter - then lightly tamp the soil so that the seeds make contact with the moist soil.
4. **LABEL Your Containers** – popsicle sticks and old venetian blind slats make good markers.
5. **Moisture and Heat** – warmth and moisture encourage germination. Cover containers with clear plastic to help retain moisture. Heat mats or the top of the fridge can provide the needed warmth but containers may dry out quickly so check moisture often. Some seeds are easily germinated between moist paper towels in a plastic bag before potting up.
6. **Light** – check whether your seeds require darkness to germinate. Plant grow lights or inexpensive fluorescent bulbs placed 3 – 5 cm from leaves will help minimize production of 'leggy' plants. Use an automatic timer to program 16 hr of light a day.
7. **Prevent Fungal Infection or 'Damping-Off'** – this killer of seedlings can be prevented if containers and tools used have been sterilized. Once the seedlings are above the soil remove the plastic coverings to minimize excessive moisture and to promote air circulation. Try natural fungicides as sprinkling soil surface with cinnamon or watering seedlings with weak chamomile tea.
8. **Thin and Transplant** – snip off unwanted plants at soil surface to avoid disturbing root systems. Transplant seedlings after first set of true leaves have appeared and into progressively larger containers as plants grow.
9. **Fertilize and Water** – when seedlings have two sets of true leaves begin fertilizing weekly with a balanced water soluble fertilizer like 10-10-10 or 20-20-20. Start with a weak solution using ¼ tsp in 4 litres of water and increase solution to ½ the strength recommended on the packaging as seedlings mature.
10. **Harden Off** - Once danger of frost has passed and 1-2 weeks before planting outdoors, begin acclimatizing the plants to the sun, winds and changing temperatures. Daily increase exposure of the seedlings. Bring plants in at night or if temperatures are not consistently above 10 deg C.

## Join Us on Garden Nights

The **Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden** was established in 2007 and over its nine years has evolved into a garden and green space that represents our Society and a gathering place for the community. Join our garden work crews, even if it's just for an evening or two throughout the season (spouses are always welcome!). Meet weekly starting Tuesday May 2 at 6:30pm to dusk. Please contact Faye Collins, 905-655-9695 madgardener23@hotmail.com.

In 2016 the Brooklin Horticultural Society started upkeep of the **Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection (Cullen Central Park)**. This park was created by Wounded Warriors Canada to honour and support Canada's ill and injured Canadian Armed Forces members, Veterans, First Responders and their families. It is a quiet, peaceful spot well-enjoyed by visitors. Meet weekly starting Wednesday May 3 at 9:00-10:00am. Please contact Kathy Allam at 905-430-7213

**RECYCLE BOOKS & MAGS - Feb & Mar Meetings** - Bring in your gently used gardening books and magazines to exchange for some new reading material!

**SEED SWAP - Mar 22** - bring your Labelled extra seeds, summer bulbs, tubers, rhizomes and cuttings.

## In Memoriam

**LORNA LOU RAVARY** passed away after a brief illness on Dec 25, 2016. Lorna was an active member of BHS and recipient of the BHS President's Award in 2006. Lorna's many contributions to BHS included organizing garden tours, helping in the gardens, participating on various committees and regularly exhibiting in and helping out with the BHS



shows. Lorna's enthusiasm and love for life extended to her many interests and to her 30+ year career with the Town of Whitby. If she wasn't working in her garden, she was enjoying time with her family, or travelling or curling, or golfing or playing bridge. Her kindness, generosity and wonderful sense of humour will be greatly missed by all. Our deepest condolences to Lorna's family.

## My Seedy Adventure



Last summer my shade tolerant, tuberous producing, Begonias, grew really well in the sunniest location. Not so great in the shade. Both the *B. boliviensis* and the large flowered tuberous hybrids had a long enough season to produce quite a quantity of, hopefully, viable seed. I collected several batches of these seeds in small brown envelopes. I have enough seed to supply the entire B.H.S. and that's mostly due to the size of the seed. Begonias produce some of the smallest seeds, about 88,000 seeds per gram. To compare, onions are about 230 seeds per gram. One seed pod when opened can approach 100,000 seeds and I saved seeds from several pods.

Seeds that small need a long time to grow into useful transplants for spring planting and that is why mine were sown today, 14 January. The seedling tray is carefully cleaned and sterilized, a little bleach in the wash water, and then filled with a sterile soilless mix.

After I level the top of that planting medium I then reach for my handy sieve and cover the surface with a much finer layer.

Sowing the seed evenly and not too thickly is the most difficult and critical step. I use a length of white venetian blind and carefully spread the seeds from the packet onto that plastic. They are now quite visible against that background and you quickly realize that you are about to sow several hundred seeds into a small pot. I move the strip of plastic slowly over the soil and tap gently to distribute the seeds as evenly as possible. They are then firmed into the surface of the soil with a slight pressure from a flat bit of wood. They get no further covering. The seedling trays stand in a tray of water until the water moves up and saturates the soil to the top surface. The next step is to place them on some sort of heat so that the soil will be around 26 – 28 C and then I put a clear plastic lid, the top of a lettuce container or some other exotic device, over the whole tray. This keeps the soil from drying out until the seeds have germinated.

Begonias do need light to germinate so my seedling trays are under fluorescent tubes that are 5 – 10 cm from the top of the soil. Sit back and wait and in a week or so the tiniest specks of green appear and you wonder how you are ever going to transplant them.

Ken Brown

## Other Events of Note

Sat Feb 18  
10 am - 4 pm

**GET THE JUMP ON SPRING**, Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave E. Toronto. Annual horticultural open house, presented with OHA. Floral design competition, live displays, gardening advice, talks and demonstrations. Visit specialty vendors, artisans, Jump Café, and the Garden Shop. Free admission, free parking. (\$2 donation appreciated)  
<https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/enjoy/special-events/jump-on-spring/>

Sunday Afternoons  
Feb 26 - Apr 30  
2 - 3 pm

**RICHTERS SEMINARS** - Various topics relating to herbs, health and gardening.  
Feb 26 - Marianne Beacon on **The Modern Herbal Home Healer**  
Mar 26 - Paul Zammit on **Surrender to Succulents**  
Apr 9 - Sara Katz on **Tasty Herbs and Edible Flowers for Small Spaces**  
Apr 30 - Sonia Day on **Cilantro Secrets Revealed**  
Richters Herbs, Goodwood. Admission Free. Lectures are podcast one week later. Go to <https://www.richters.com/show.cgi?page=Events/events.html> for more seminars.

March 10 - 19  
10 am - 8/9 pm  
Sun, Mar 12: 10 - 6  
Sun, Mar 19: 10 - 5

**CANADA BLOOMS "Oh! Canada"**, Enercare Centre Exhibition Place. Canada's largest flower and garden festival co-located with the National Home Show is celebrating Canada's 150th birthday. See 25+ feature gardens, learn from free seminars, workshops and presentations, hear speakers including **Mark Cullen, Frank Ferragine, Denis Flanagan, Marjorie Mason**, and our own **Ken Brown**, enjoy the Toronto Garden Club's floral competition; and shop for your gardening needs at Garden Marketplace. Admission to both shows: \$20 (Seniors \$17 & Students \$16). Save \$3 by ordering online in advance. Register online for tours and specialty workshops. [www.canadablooms.com](http://www.canadablooms.com)

Fri April 7: 5-9 pm  
Sat April 8: 10 am-5 pm  
Sun April 9: 10 am-4 pm

**PETERBOROUGH GARDEN SHOW**, Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road. Over 100 garden-related vendors and exhibitors, speakers including **Paul Zammit, Darren Heimbecker, Steven Biggs and Colin Cassin**, demonstrations, garden displays, gardening advice, floral design competition, and interactive Children's Garden. \$8 daily, \$12 weekend.  
[www.peterboroughgardenshow.com](http://www.peterboroughgardenshow.com)

## Whitby In Bloom Speakers

We thank Whitby in Bloom for again co-sponsoring well-known speakers for our spring meetings. Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the local food banks.



On **March 22 (Seed Exchange)**, our speaker, **Helen Battersby**, will be presenting **Shade Gardening: plants and plans for the darker side of gardening**. Helen is a Toronto gardener who has been "blessed" with a dry, sandy shade garden for over 25 years. She is an award-winning graduate of the Ryerson Landscape Design certificate program, a volunteer with the Toronto Master Gardeners, and a member of the Garden Writers Association. Helen and

her sister Sarah collaborate on the blog, Toronto Gardens, [www.torontogardens.com](http://www.torontogardens.com), and work as garden coaches with their business Gardenfix, [www.gardenfix.me](http://www.gardenfix.me).

On **April 26 (Narcissus Show)**, **Dawn Golloher** of Gardens Plus will be presenting **New Easy Care Perennials**. Gardens Plus, currently in its 20<sup>th</sup> season, specializes in Hostas, Daylilies, Cone flowers and Coral Bells. Dawn will explain what 'easy care' means and which plants qualify. Some of her new favorites include Cone flowers 'Cherry Fluff', 'Strawberry Mango' and 'Solar Flare'. Dawn's focus is on growing easy care perennials so you can enjoy your gardens not just work in them. Dawn will be bringing some plants for sale – including some hostas!

## 2016 SHOW AWARD WINNERS

BHS Award for Highest Number of Points  
Margaret Davis Award, 2nd Highest Points  
Mary Housego Award, 3rd Highest Points  
Windermere Award, Highest Points in Design  
Fred Daw Award, Highest Points in Vegetables  
Rose Bowl Award, New Exhibitor with Highest Points  
Iris Trophy, Best Iris at the Iris Show  
Denny Peony Award, Highest Total Points in Peony Classes  
Marg Beath Rose Award, Highest Total Points in Rose Classes

Joyce Marsh and Vivian Willerton

Best Decorative in Annuals Show (August)  
Jone Photography Award, Highest Total Points in Photography

Audrey Atkinson  
 Ken Brown  
 Sherry Howard  
 Audrey Atkinson  
 Ken Brown  
 Ruth Bridge  
 Pat Evans  
 Ken Brown



Judi (r) presents Audrey with Windermere Award

## LET'S SHOW!

Our first show will be the Narcissus Show on Apr 26. Here are some tips to help you prepare for the show:

- Do not show foliage with narcissus
- Types of narcissus include Trumpet, Large Cupped, Small Cupped - refer to Narcissus Show page in yearbook for definitions
- The classes are OPEN, so you can enter two different cultivars in a class.
- Groom, Groom, Groom!



Ruth Bridge with Rose Bowl Award

Above all,  
**HAVE FUN!**

## Apr 22 - D17 AGM Photo Classes

For those of you participating in the photography competition, all **photo entries to be received no later than April 1st, 2017; no late entries will be accepted. Mail entries to: Joanne Shaw, 4 – 1550 Kingston Rd, Suite 1068, Pickering ON L1V 6W9**. Rules and regulations of the competition are available on the BHS Website: <http://www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com/show-committee-schedule.html>.

PH301 Feathered Friends - bird(s)  
 PH302 What's Bugging You - insect(s)  
 PH303 A Rose Once Grew- rose(s)  
 PH304 Blooming Awesome - a single bloom, other than a rose  
 PH305 Summerfest - people and gardens  
 PH306 Autumn Splendour - fall foliage  
 PH307 From Sea To Sea- includes water  
 PH308 Red and White - your interpretation  
 PH309 O Canada – landscape

## Meet Our Newest Editor

Barb Panowyk joined BHS in 2016. When Barb isn't teaching or helping with the needs of her family, she loves to putter in her outdoor and indoor gardens. Outdoors, her attention will be on her new perennial bed and keeping the wisteria under control. Her indoor work is easy - the orchids bloom profusely!



## 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 **Editors:**

**Leslie Tate** at 905-665-0486, [ltate@rogers.com](mailto:ltate@rogers.com)  
**Barb Panowyk** at 905-430-2939, [bpnowyk@rogers.com](mailto:bpnowyk@rogers.com)  
**Sherry Howard** at 905-668-7640, [howard21@rogers.com](mailto:howard21@rogers.com)