



Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Vol 15, Issue 4 Nov/Dec 2013

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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 27 - 7PM - St Thomas Anglican Church

Dear Members,

Thanks to all of you for being a part of our Society this year. It's been a busy one for us. We trust that you have enjoyed our line-up of great speakers, our many horticultural shows, and our plant sales. Many thanks to each of you who generously donated your time and efforts to our various activities - civic gardening, plant and bulb sales, 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 snack (cheeses, vegetable or fruit tray) for the buffet table, and of course, you'll want to bring your appetites. If you don't have the time to prepare something for the buffet, join us anyways. It's a time to enjoy the company of your many Society friends during the first half hour.

SEASONAL DEMONSTRATION: **Karen van der Zalm** of Century Home Gardens will be demonstrating tricks and techniques for preparing seasonal urns and planters. A finished product will be donated to the evening's Lucky Draw.

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: **Sandy Rakestrow**, the Director of District 17 of the OHA will conduct the election and installation of our officers and directors for 2014. For information about joining the board, please contact **Kathy Allam** at 905-430-7213 before November 27th.

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.

Join us for the closing social event of the 2013 gardening year at **St Thomas Anglican Church** on **Wednesday, November 27th** at **7:00 PM!** Please note the location and time. If you need a ride to the Social, please contact **Kathy** at 905-430-7213.



The President's Message

What a year it's been for me as your President. Talk about growing! There was much that I learned over the past twelve months, sometimes the hard way!

I want to personally thank each member of the Board for their ongoing support. They were always there to help me when I needed it.

To all the members of BHS, I enjoy each and every opportunity I have to spend time with you, whether at our meetings, our events and activities, and even when we meet about town. I am truly proud to be part of an organization that shares such a love of gardening with each other, a love that often blossoms into long lasting friendships.

Kathy Allam



Kathy with Bulbs & Cullen Plants at the Harvest Festival

Bulb Business

BHS had yet another successful Bulb Sale(s). A thanks to the team of **Ken Brown, Dena MacDonald and Eileen Humphries** for their excellent selection of bulbs. Plus, their time promoting the sale of the bulbs to our members.

A further thanks to those who helped in the additional sale of bulbs at the Harvest Festival (in the sunshine), at Heritage Day (in the rain) and lastly, at the Oshawa Garden Club (where it was both warm and dry).

Pickering Seedy Saturday Expo

This Garden Expo will be held on Saturday February 15, 2014 from 11AM - 4PM at the Pickering Recreation Complex on Valley Farm Road. Vendors, nurseries, and speakers include **Jeff Mason** on "Water Efficient Gardening" and **Ludmila Haynos-Owen** on "Lavender". Admission is \$3 at the door. For more information, visit www.pickering.ca/museum or call 905-683-8401.

New Board Members Wanted!

Would you like to participate in the management of our Society and the planning of our various events and activities? If you can attend most of our monthly Board meetings (first Wednesday evening of each month, except July) and can communicate via email, please consider joining our Board as a Director. For 2014, Directors can be added without an elimination vote at the AGM. Contact **Kathy** to find out more, at 905-430-7213 or kathyallam@hotmail.com.

BHS Website

The BHS Website enters its 4th season as a valuable support and information tool for our members, as well as the many daily site visitors. New features in 2013 include a scrolling photo display and a 'Next Event' column to the home page.

Sofie Bigham's "What's New in 2013" is one of the most popular web pages visited each month. The BHS Newsletter is uploaded 4 times a year and the OHA Trillium is made available shortly after its annual release. Pictures from various events during the year are included as they become available, and an archive database is maintained for some of the more significant past events.

In 2014 the website will be looking for more photo inputs from its members, ranging from garden progression through the season to the photo competition results from the October meetings. If you have any material that you would like to share, or suggestions about the website, please direct them to me at secretarybhs@yahoo.com.

www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com

Hans Paats

Draw Prizes & Special Draws

This year Brooklin Home Hardware donated "The Mule", a combination wheelbarrow and transport dolly valued at \$150 for the Spring Special Draw. Our thanks go to **Dave and Shaela Smith** for their generosity and continued support.

We were very fortunate as well this year with the wealth of plants and other garden materials donated as General Meeting Draw Prizes. The contributors included **Ken Foreman, Betty Van Buuren, Faye Collins, Don Wick, Jone Webster, Bob and Esther Clodd, Vida Ycas-Abell, Linda Chapman, Sofie Bigham** and many anonymous donors. These contributions are very well received and compliment the offerings occasionally provided by the evening's speaker. **John Statham** of John's Garden Centre Uxbridge was especially generous in September with an extensive collection of plants that he donated for the draw, some of which were very rare.

If you have some excess plants that may be of value to another member, and you want to share, why not bring them in next season, or see me at the Draw table.

Hans Paats

A Stroll through the Garden...

The Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden that is and it is just now winding up it's seventh season in fine form, looking better than it ever has, a true representation of our membership of passionate gardeners. And if you haven't yet taken that stroll or come out to join us on Tuesday evenings, perhaps two new 2013 undertakings, one already a focal point, the other an enhancement to be enjoyed for years to come, will do the trick.

First is the **SUNDIAL** bed which from the time it was planted on the first two Tuesdays in June, has been a focal point. It is easily seen from the street and enjoyed and/or



commented on by everyone using the park. The Town of Whitby (with head gardener **Lori Kelm** taking the lead) provided the plant material, removed the existing shrubs and installed the actual dial. Our small but mighty band of volunteers designed, planted and kept it going. Amazingly it worked but did need almost weekly grooming so that the letters...Time Flies & BHS and the numbers: 8, 10, 12, 2, 4, done in green *alternanthera* remained legible and the *miniature marigold* clock hands stayed in line...not to mention replanting the blue *lobelia* that the resident rabbit family polished off more than once. And it continued to thrive well into October after other areas planted with perennials had ceased.

In fact it was used for "Night and Day Durham" 24Hours, October 18, a photo-journal documenting what was happening in our community every hour. At 8AM on that day, BHS members **Ken Brown, Eileen Humphries, Sherry Howard, Bill Hoogeveen and I** arrived ready to plant bulbs in the sundial bed. Among the still thriving annuals, we tucked clumps of tulips 'Margarita' and 'Gwen' and edged with countless *crocus*. It was chilly, it was damp, it was dark, it was fun, and the bulbs were the end of a mass bulb planting started earlier in the month and the newest addition to an already existing collection that puts on such a great show from mid April through the spring months....just another reason to take a stroll. For anyone interested, there will be a list included in the annual report.



Eileen, Sherry, Ken & Faye at the BHS Garden Park

And now for the most exciting news...the tree planting on October 26 and the first stage in **THE BHS COMMEMORATIVE PROJECT**. For your strolling pleasure all year round we now have 4 trees planted in the park...all different and all strategically placed to give the park a more intimate atmosphere and encourage folks to sit, relax and smell the flowers. Planted by each of three benches along the inner sidewalk are an Ohio Buckeye, *Aesculus glabara* (yellow flowers in late Spring), a *Maackia amurensis* (creamy pealike flowers in Spring) and a *Heptacodium 'Seven Sons'* (white flowers in the Fall and then red seed pods). Highlighting the Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden sign is an already quite tall *Robinia, 'Purple Rain'* (a hybrid locust with



beautiful pale purple flowers). Within the next two weeks at opposite ends of the garden two larger shade trees, a heritage River Birch, *Betula nigra* and a Linden 'Greenspire' will be in place thanks to The Town of Whitby's tree man **John Rousseau, his planting crew** and to **Jennifer Smith**, Head of Operations who not only supports what we are doing but also paid for the six trees.

So stay tuned. We have big plans all leading to the Brooklin Horticultural Society's 100 Year Celebration. In the meantime, come visit the Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden Park and enjoy what is truly a community (of gardeners) endeavor.

Faye Collins

Cullen Gardens Dig



Bob gets ready to dig plants

BHS was offered a one-time only opportunity to do a “dig” on the grounds of what was once Cullen Gardens Miniature Village. This offer came to us from Nordik, the company that now owns the property and will soon be starting to build a spa on the property. They asked us to come in and save what we could of the plants before they began excavating the grounds.

A significant number of us gathered at the site on the given day. Armed with our tools, we went at it. In various teams, we searched out what plant material we could find. However, it's been a number of years since the gardens have been maintained. The grounds have become overgrown and weeds reign supreme. Plus others have been there before us and have already helped themselves to the “good stuff”. We came away with an assortment of perennials and small shrubs.



Nordik's Anthony, BHS's Kathy & Don check out plants

After the dig, we had a number of plant sales. In all honesty, we didn't bring in a lot of money to the Society for all of our hard work. But when I think back on the whole undertaking, to me, the experience gave us something so much more. A chance to save those plants from being destroyed plus an opportunity to come together with others who share a love for all growing things.

Kathy Allam

BHS Commemorative Project

As a result of generous donations from past BHS members, a committee consisting of **Sherry Howard, Faye Collins, Jone Webster** and **Jane Austin** was formed to explore ways to utilize the monies. It was concluded that the funds be used to benefit not only BHS members but also the communities where our members live. What better way to recognize the contributions of past and present BHS members and all gardeners alike, than to buy and plant a living gardener's legacy. The team's first initiative can already be seen at the BHS Garden Park located at the corner of Carnwith Ave and Montgomery St. Thanks to **Jennifer Smith, John Rousseau and their staff** at the Town of Whitby, several trees have been planted. Many considerations were taken in choosing the trees, including floral and bark interest, fall colour, size, location, soil conditions and usage. The planted trees include: an *Ohio Buckeye* and a *Maackia amurensis* to provide shade for those sitting on the existing benches; a *River Birch* and a *Heptacodium 'Seven Sons'* in the southwest area; a black locust *Robinia 'Purple Robe'* by the BHS Park sign. A *Linden* tree donated by BHS member **Ken Love** will also be planted at the park.

This project will be ongoing with further plantings and initiatives planned for each year. The generosity of our donors will not go unnoticed as our gratitude will be acknowledged each year in the BHS yearbook.

Sherry Howard

BHS in Night & Day Project

For a Night and Day Project, Metroland Durham Region Media Group invited themselves to a BHS bulb planting session at the BHS Garden Park at 8:00 am. Metroland is the publisher of the *Whitby This Week* and other local newspapers in Durham. Their project involved photographing and video-taping activities focused on the arts and culture throughout the 24 hours of Friday October 18. Despite the early start to fit Metroland's schedule, we enjoyed a beautiful sunny morning demonstrating our spring bulb planting skills. The sun also gave us the opportunity to showcase our functioning sundial. Keep your eyes open for the result of this day in *Whitby This Week*. In addition, a coffee table book will be published, documenting the event. Thanks to **Ken Brown, Faye Collins, Eileen Humphries, Bill Hoogeveen** and **Sherry Howard** for the early morning start.

Sherry Howard



Civic Beautification

We have come to the end of another growing season. It's sad for us as a committee who spent time planning, planting and maintaining downtown Brooklin gardens to see the plants all dying. I would like to thank the committee members - **Jane Austin, Kathy Allam, Margaret McGibney, Jenny-Lynn Gasperek, Don Wick and Jan Vallance** who all contributed time and ideas to make the Brooklin gardens look amazing. Thanks also to **Kathy Allam** and **Fred Haggerty** for help in maintaining the garden beds, especially when the weather was so hot.

Eileen Humphries



Vivian & Sofie packing August show flowers for delivery to the residents at The Court in Brooklin for their enjoyment

Sofie's Spring Bulb Picks

Mason House Gardens in Uxbridge will be open until Christmas this year. Thursday to Sunday 10AM - 4PM to Dec 22. www.masonhousegardens.com Their spring bulbs are 40% off. They are priced individually so you can buy one or more - whatever you want. They started with 200 varieties - not sure what is left now. I purchased some unusual hyacinths - *Isabel* has green/purple double flowers, and *Eros* has pink/white double flowers. Check out the tulip called *Ice Cream* - looks like vanilla ice cream on a pink cone. Expensive but unusual - now at 40% off. You should try the giant *alliums* and the *eremurus* (common name foxtail lily). Both spectacular in the spring. We spray paint the spent allium heads in an unusual colour to extend the season by another 3 weeks or so. *Eremurus* need really good drainage and because they are very early to emerge, I place an inverted pot over the shoots to prevent frost damage, or mulch with leaves, or find a spot in the garden that stays cold the longest. They multiply each year for more and more blooms.

Sofie Bigham



Eleanor, Joyce & Joyce at the August Meeting

Recent General Meetings

Belinda Gallagher, our August speaker supports sustainable urban gardening. She explained that many plants sold as native plants are not necessarily such. Cultivars of native plants (those with fancy names) are not native; neither are foreign plants that have naturalized in Canada. She believes in protecting native plant stands, but also encouraging ecological diversity.

In September, **John Statham** of John's Garden in Uxbridge introduced us to the evolution of his garden and his amazing and unusual collection of perennials, grasses, conifers, trees and orchids, as well as providing plant care tips. Well worth a visit. Now open Sundays only.

Since a change is better than a rest, at the October meeting, **Bella Seidan** and **Barbara Cooper** took us visually to the West coast of South Africa to view the spring flowers and native animals. The arid conditions of much of this area support small unique succulents. We were shown interesting hyacinths, iris, calla lilies, locusts, proteas, and a clivia collection. Of course, a trip to South Africa is not complete without an animal safari or two. Bella and Barbara snapped many large animals in natural settings, as well as lizards, insects, and African penguins on the coast.

What's Next?

As winter comes to Southern Ontario and our gardens go into hibernation, so too does BHS. Our next general meeting after the November AGM will be on **Wednesday, February 26, 2014**. In early February, current members will receive our next newsletter along with the 2014 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.

2013 Show Results

April Narcissus Show

Best Narcissus	- Barb Borchuk
Best Specimen (Other)	- Kathy Allam
Best Branch	- Lynda Chapman
Best Container Plant	- Jan Vallance
Best Design	- Vivian Willerton
Best Special Exhibit	- Barb Borchuk

May Spring Show

Best Tulip	- Barb Borchuk
Best Specimen (Other)	- Lynda Chapman
Best Branch	- Sherry Howard
Best Container Plant	- Jone Webster
Best Vegetable	- Valerie Skinner
Best Design	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Special Exhibit	- Valerie Skinner

June Iris & Peony Show

Best Iris	- Ken Brown
Best Peony	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Specimen (Other)	- Barb Borchuk
Best Design	- Jan Reid Fielden
Best Special Exhibit	- Jone Webster



Annette's BIS Rose
June 2013

June Rose Show

Best Rose	- Annette Hudson
Best Specimen (Other)	- Sofie Bigham
Best Branch	- Sofie Bigham
Best Fruit/Vegetable	- Ken Brown
Best Design	- Lorna Ravary
Best Special Exhibit	- Kathy Allam



Ken's BIS Vegetable
June 2013

August Annuals Show

Best Specimen	- Lynda Chapman
Best Branch	- Barb Borchuk
Best Fruit/Vegetable	- Valerie Skinner
Best Collection	- Ken Brown
Best Design	- Eileen Humphries
Best Special Exhibit	- Sherry Howard

September Autumn Show

Best Specimen	- Sofie Bigham
Best Branch	- Mary Ellen Simerson
Best Fruit/Vegetable	- Valerie Skinner
Best Collection	- Vivian Willerton
Best Design	- Julia Noakes
Best Special Exhibit	- Sofie Bigham

October Pumpkins, Pies Show

Best Pumpkin	- Mary Singer
Best Design	- Sofie Bigham
Best Special Exhibit	- Sofie Bigham
Best Branch	- Vivian Willerton
Best Apple Pie	- Esther Clodd
Best Pumpkin Pie	- Esther Clodd
Best Preserve	- Lynda Chapman
Best Photograph	- Ken Brown



Lorna's BIS Design
June 2013