



Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 2 May/June/July 2010

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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:
brooklinhortsoc@rogers.com

Visit us on the web at:
www.brooklin.org/hort



Saturday 15 May 2010 beginning at 10 am. BHS Plant Auction Bring your friends and neighbours!

Dress for the weather - rain or shine! Come to Grass Park on Cassels Road opposite Brooklin United Church, and enjoy some light refreshments and the bantering talent of our own Auctioneer Extraordinaire Ken Brown, as he auctions our member's plant donations in support of Brooklin Horticultural Society.

Members are requested to dig up, pot, and label healthy plant specimens from your garden, and have them at the Park between 9 - 10 am. If you are unable to bring your pots, contact any of the Board members and they will be happy to arrange collection.

The President's Message

THE EVER-CHANGING GARDENIt has taken nearly ten years to come to the realization that my garden will never be finished. It will always be a work-in-progress.

I had enjoyed casual gardening throughout my adult life but got serious when I moved to my current home ten years ago. It was then newly constructed with blank-slate front and back yards. What a joy it was to design and install the back borders and front garden! With my husband providing muscle, I planted flowering shrubs and trees, and hundreds of perennials and spring bulbs. In a couple of years, everything would be established and I could proudly show it off to visitors. What a naïve gardener I was!

Some plants died that first winter and others were moved during the addition of a large patio. Plants at the front of the beds grew too tall and some at the back didn't grow tall enough to my satisfaction. This was the start of what has become the annual spring move of innocent plants. To my frustration, some of the plants that were short in the back of the bed grew too tall at the front. Those were relocated the next year to somewhere in the middle.

After three or four years, many of the perennials, especially the iris, daylilies and hostas had grown quite large and were crowding their neighbours. More plants had to be divided or relocated! By year seven, my ornamental trees and those of my neighbours shot up to several meters in height, providing shade where I had planted "full sun" perennials, resulting in more plant digs.

Throughout all this, every spring, I visit greenhouses and support garden club plant sales. I have to admit that I am not strong enough to resist a new bi-colour hosta or a beautiful daylily with ruffled edges. I am currently addicted to chartreuse plants. I'm sure that I'll be able to fit a couple more into my garden, especially if I move some of the existing plants.

I no longer stress over the unfinished garden. I am excited about the new ideas that evolved over the winter months. I have listed my garden on our Garden Visits Sheet for the first time this year and will happily show you around while telling you my experiences with various plants, if you want to hear them.

Jone Webster, 905-666-2489

Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Saturday 15 May Brooklin Horticultural Society **Plant Auction**
Grass Park, Cassels Road East, Brooklin
Auctioneer Extraordinaire: Ken Brown



Wednesday 26 May **Spring Show**
Guest Speakers: **Brian, Dianne, Emily & Lauren Jones**
Topic: **Gardening: It's a Family Affair**

Wednesday 9 June **Iris and Peony Show**
Note: Show schedule starts on page 24, continues on page 16 of the BHS Yearbook
Guest Speaker: **Bea Heissler**
Topic: **Naturally Wild Gardens**

Wednesday 23 June **The Rose Show**
Guest Speaker: **Dave Hinton**
Topic: **Magnolias and Other Exotics: A natural Choice**

February BHS Presentation

Our Speaker was **Marjorie Mason** from Mason House Gardens and CKDO's *Let's Get Growing* radio show on Saturday mornings. Her topic was "**The Edible Garden**". Edible plants are simple to have in the garden, do not take much care, and can include vegetables, fruits, herbs and edible flowers in colourful combinations. From her world travels, Marjorie showed us photos of *potagers*: elaborate vegetable gardens with surrounding boxwood hedges and distinct entrances; and then provided a handout to make your own. Numerous suggestions of suitable plant specimens and many useful hints were given. For more information about Edible Gardening, Marjorie recommended two books: "Garden of Plenty: The Art of a Potager Garden" by Maryanne Abbott, and "From Seed to Table" by J Haase.

Submitted by Werner Valentin

March BHS Presentation

The evening's presentation was "**It's Show Time**" by **Mary Ellen Simerson**, chair of our Show Committee. Mary Ellen told us that to show successfully, the rules set out in the yearbook have to be followed to the letter. Flower, foliage, and stem must conform to the description in the yearbook. The container has to be transparent and make the flower stand up straight. Mary Ellen also reviewed the rules for design, floating flowers, and vegetables. She encouraged every member to bring specimens to the shows as a way of learning more. Points and a small amount of money are awarded for placing first through fourth, plus one point just for showing. Mary Ellen's detailed presentation should encourage more members to show.

Submitted by Werner Valentin

Hotner Greenhouses

Please note that Hotner is not offering a discount on plants to society members since the discounts are difficult for them to deal with. Their name can be removed from the back of your membership card and page 37 of the Yearbook. Hotner Greenhouse however is a corporate member and is providing draw prizes for our club. Please do patronize them.

Ontario Service Awards

Five of our long-term volunteers were honoured at a provincial ceremony last month. Lucille Huron and Judi Denny received 10 year service pins while Ken Brown received one for 30+ years. Both Audrey Young and Aldine Wick earned 40+ year pins for their considerable service to our Society. A pin and certificate for 30+ years of volunteering was issued separately to Mary Housego's family. Thanks to Mary Ellen Simerson for submitting our volunteers' names for these awards. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to our volunteers!

Thank You to Don & Freda

Freda Ryder and Don Barker have been selling our monthly draw tickets for the past several years. Thanks to both for making so many winners happy while fundraising for the Society!



BHS at the Whitby in Bloom Kick-off
Mayor Pat Perkins, Councillors Sue Pitchforth and Joe Drumm, Jone Webster, and Jenny-Lynn Gasparek.

Other Events of Note

Sunday 16 May
1:30 - 3:30 pm

Passionate about Peonies with Joe and Hazel Cook.

Be inspired by the presentation that features the work of gardeners and growers of various peony types, flower forms and growing requirements. Long-lived peonies have enchanted gardeners for generations. Renew this passion, from spring's first shoots to autumn foliage, species to modern hybrids, tree peonies and intersectionals.

Location: Carriage House, Parkwood Estate, Oshawa

Cost: \$15.00 Advance Ticket **Please call Parkwood at (905) 433-4311 to register**

Sunday 30 May
1:30 - 3:30 pm

Preserving Beauty: Peonies and Delphiniums with Hazel Cook.

This unique seminar on drying these regal flowers is sure to captivate your interest. Discover how easy it is to preserve peonies, delphiniums and other flowers from your garden to form everlasting arrangements. Help keep the colours and warmth of summer alive in your home throughout the year. See a demonstration of drying techniques using silica and air drying, as well as learn tips for storing and arranging your blooms.

Location: Carriage House, Parkwood Estate, Oshawa

Cost: \$15.00 Advance Ticket **Please call Parkwood at (905) 433-4311 to register**

29 May - 30 June

Lindsay Lilac Festival - 10th Anniversary

The Lilac Gardens of Lindsay has developed into a showcase for Lilacs with over 600 shrubs in one location consisting of some 130 varieties. The Gardens also contain a Butterfly Garden, a Welcome Garden, a Memory Walk, and in the spring the opening of the newest part of The Kawartha Trans Canada Trail through the Lilac Gardens. Garden tours available daily 11 am - 4 pm. More information at www.LilacGardensofLindsay.com

District 17 AGM

A great day was had by the dozen BHS members who attended the Annual General Meeting of our district in Uxbridge last month. The business part of the meeting was presented quickly and efficiently by District 17 Director, Sandy Rakestraw. Pam Love of Durham Master Gardeners talked about their mission. After the break, Vicky Taylor Scott provided an entertaining workshop on container planting, and later delighted us again with a presentation on gardening which included many humorous photos and diagrams. The Uxbridge Horticultural Society did not disappoint in their promise to award lots of prizes. Three-quarters of our delegates won at least one prize, and Faye Collins won three! The horticultural show entries were delightful harbingers of spring, and the design ones were quite creative. The Pine Ridge Club won the Team Challenge for their interpretation of "A Niche". The best part of the event was learning that BHS won several awards. Kim Pileggi's newsletters won first prize in both colour and black & white. Mary Ellen Simerson and Jone Webster won Best of Show in two classes of photography, while Patti James received Best of Show for her photo and story written creatively from the perspective of a garden cat. Orono is hosting next year's meeting. Plan to come out for a very enjoyable day.

Submitted by Jone Webster

Everything Old Is New Again August 13 and 14, 2010

The 104th annual OHA convention is being held at Georgian College in Barrie this year. A great agenda has been put together by the hosts, District 16. Thursday afternoon on August 12 is reserved for registration and competition set-up, followed by a meet & greet and block parties in the residence. On Friday morning, after the plenary session, the keynote speaker is Paul Zammit. In the afternoon, you have your choice of several interesting local tours, or seminars on campus. On Saturday, after the morning plenary session, there are more tours and seminars, followed by an Awards Banquet with speaker Diana Beresford-Kroeger, a botanist and author. The tours include a 90-minute cruise on Kempenfelt Bay, tour of Barrie's horticultural highlights, visit to three incredible residential gardens, or excursion to Wildflower Farm and Gratrix Lily Farm. The seminar topics include table floral designs, vegetable gardening, growing roses, native plants & wildlife, perennial favourites, gardening pests, digital photography in the garden, soil, garden implements, and more. This is a great opportunity to expand your horticultural knowledge and socialize with other gardeners. Full registration is \$100 (\$110 after June 30), or \$50 for one day. Accommodation is 2-bedroom suites at the College Residence for \$65 per night (call 705-722-5190 to reserve). For more information: www.gardenontario.org/sho/up_cong.php

BROOKLIN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDEN VISITS 2010

The following members of BHS are sharing their gardening experiences and inviting other members to visit their gardens. You are welcome to call and arrange a visit at any time during the growing season. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to see what some of our member gardeners have accomplished – a great chance to view different forms of garden designs and display gardens of specialty perennials. Bring your camera and take away new ideas!

Catherine Bell	905 425-0520	Whitby	New garden with perennials, bushes, herb and shade gardens, and a river rock swale
Sofie Bigham	905 655-5929	Brooklin	10 acres, dry stone walls, colour wheel perennial garden, roses, pond. Open to the public: July 4 & 25, Aug 29 - 10AM-4PM
Ken Brown	905 665-9411	Whitby	Bulbs, iris, vertical vegetables, water garden, front yard gardening
Faye Collins	905 655-9695	Whitby	Mixed borders – daylilies, perennials, grasses, native and woodland plants, butterfly gardening
Dorothy Degrechie	905 263-4774	Enniskillen	One acre country garden with ponds and vegetable gardens
Judi Denny	905 263-4765	Enniskillen	Mixed borders – perennials with a focus on peonies*
Larry Gullins & Cheryl Penner	905 665-6316	Whitby	Variety and ornamental grasses
Eleanor MacAlpine	905 655-4104	Brooklin	Perennials
Joyce Marsh	905 655-3854	Brooklin	Woodland setting - English country garden
Nancy Mungall	905 686-7568	Greenwood	Perennial borders, vegetables, rock gardens
Lorna Ravary	905 666-4443	Whitby	Variety in a small town garden, waterfall
Mary Ellen Simerson	905 655-4927	Brooklin	Country setting, May-June Peonies, scree, perennial, vegetable garden & a large selection of trees & shrubs
Dianne Stackhouse & Brian McLatchie	905 985-7823	Port Perry	Large country garden in a variety of settings
Jone Webster	905 666-2489	Whitby	Mixed borders of perennials, annuals, roses, grasses with a pond and waterfall
Aldine & Don Wick	905 655-4065	Brooklin	Mixed perennials and annuals with a water feature

* Visit the **Peony Display Garden** at the **Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens**, 155 Arena St. Oshawa anytime in June to see early, middle and late blooms. Festival held on June 12 & 13, 10AM-4PM includes peony show and café. For information, contact Judi at 905.263-4765 or mjdenny@sympatico.ca. Visit www.ovbgoshawa.ca or www.peony.ca.

New BHS Board Members

The board welcomes four new members in 2010:

KATHY ALLAM is a backyard gardener who works at maximizing a small space and also experiments with dog-resistant ground covers. She practices the art of cooperative gardening with her spouse. Kathy's volunteer experience includes various committees for Whitby Synchronized Skating Teams and a variety of functions at All Saint's Anglican Church in Whitby. Kathy has been volunteering with our Civic Beautification committee and is Board Secretary this year.

MICHAEL DIOTTE moved to Whitby in 2009 from Pickering where he gardened for ten years. He received a 4 bloom award in Pickering's front garden competition for Communities in Bloom on his first entry. He has started gardening at his new home with the planting of trees and shrubs. Michael finds gardening to be restful and invigorating, and enjoys experimenting each year with different garden ideas. Michael works in Toronto and along with his wife takes in foster children for Children's Aid.

PATTI JAMES gardens on a rural property with lots of shade where she enjoys drought-tolerant plants and daylilies, iris, liatris and coneflowers. She also has gardens at her cottage in Buckhorn. A favourite plant that she discovered through one of our speaker's is Culver's Root. Patti is a member of the Eastern Star fraternal organization and will be head matron of the chapter next year. She is also a board member on a low-cost housing committee in Peterborough.

MARGRET MOSSMAN is a long-term avid gardener who retired from work five years ago. She grows hostas, daylilies, and iris among other plants, and has a rock garden, pond and waterfall. She is a long-standing member of Kinsmen K-Ette in Ajax, and has also volunteered at a personal crisis centre. Margret effectively took over handling hospitality for our meetings last year, and is adding lucky draws and friendship cards to her duties this year.

Speaker's Corner

I hope that you've enjoyed our speaker's line-up for 2010 thus far. Continuing with this year's theme... 'grow naturally', I think our May and June shows should inspire, educate horticulturally, and allow you to live vicariously in someone else's garden.

Our **May 26th Spring Show** brings you The Jones family - Brian, Dianne, Emily and Lauren with "**Gardening: It's a Family Affair**" and in this case it truly is. Emily - 15, and Lauren - 11, are already accomplished gardeners, one collecting echinacea, the other clematis, and both involved in daylily hybridizing. The family garden- "Pearl Gardens" is located in Greenbank, just north of us up Highway 12 and thirteen years ago was a blank canvas....sound familiar? The Joneses will share with you their diverse and very beautiful garden and garden practices that work for them. Come and enjoy. I guarantee you will not leave disappointed.

Our annual **Iris and Peony Show**, the first of two June shows, takes place on **June 9th**. Bea Heissler, owner of Natural Themes Native Plant Nursery will present "**Naturally Wild Gardens**", a topic that can be applied to all gardens even those in the heart of a city. Bea's business is rooted in the principle of "nature knows best". Her talk will focus on creating wildlife spaces in the garden and using the knowledge of local ecology to achieve a more natural space...and you don't have to sacrifice beauty to do so. As she says "Naturalization is a way of letting go and making peace with nature".

June 23 is **The Rose Show** and the last before the summer break. Guest speaker Dave Hinton from Rhododendron Woods in Orono will take the mystique out of growing trees and shrubs we often think of as difficult with a slide-presentation titled "**Magnolias and Other Exotics: A natural Choice**". Although best known for azaleas and rhodos, Dave also grows a wide variety of magnolias and other trees and shrubs on his five acre property, and has done so for the past 32 years. He will point out that by "natural" he does not mean "wild" and that he doesn't weed, fertilize, water and uses natural controls. Intrigued? Well come out and discover how to grow some exotics in your own garden.

As always, your feedback and speaker recommendation are appreciated.

Please contact Faye Collins, 905-655-9695 madgardener23@hotmail.com

Visit And Volunteer

The Brooklin Horticultural Society plants and maintains two gardens: **The Butterfly Meadow** and **The Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden**. We are responsible for planning, planting, and maintenance and always need volunteers for our scheduled plant and groom sessions. And of course you are welcome to visit at any time.

The **Butterfly Meadow**, now in its 9th year, is located just south and to the west of The Luther Vipond Arena on Winchester Road in Brooklin. Take a walk in the wild side and come join us in this thriving and well established naturalized garden, May through August. We meet two Thursdays per month from 6:30PM till dusk and one Sunday from 1:00PM till 3PM except for a special open garden day in both gardens on July 11th when the time will be 2:00PM till 4:00 PM. Look for the open gate.

Our other garden...**The Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden**, is a small parkette on the south-west corner of Carnwith Drive West and Montgomery. You can't miss it. Look for the new sign on Carnwith, the striking stone and wood entrance, children playing, and the locals walking their dogs. The garden is intended as both a reflection of our society's gardening passion and expertise, and a place where we can come together and learn. By the time this goes to press we will have already had our first two sessions; one a well attended pruning demonstration and workshop put on by The Master Gardeners of Durham - thanks John, Anita, and Kim; the other our first Tuesday work session where we'll apply the pruning techniques we learned and begin the countless hours needed to maintain the natural garden we are trying to achieve. The scope of this more formal garden is much greater than The Meadow and it is a relatively new project so we need to meet more frequently-every Tuesday, 6:30PM till dusk May through September and in larger numbers. There is also a one Sunday a month 'show and tell' for those of you who want to see what we're up to from 1:00PM till 3:00PM except for our special open garden day on July 11 when the time will be from 12:30 till 2:00. Watch for more information and please come volunteer and help make our gardens the most beautiful in Brooklin.

Printed Schedules are available...ask Faye.

For information, dates, times and/or questions contact Faye Collins: 905-655-9695 or at madgardener23@hotmail.com

Snacking Garden

This is a great project for kids, for people with small gardens, for those who don't want to bother with a vegetable garden or for pots on a balcony. Whenever I visit my vegetable garden, I find myself snacking on certain plants, namely cherry tomatoes, sugar snap peas, strawberries & pickling type cucumbers. They do not require washing, slicing or cooking!

All you need are 3 heavy duty extra tall tomato cages (available at box stores) & your plants & sugar snap pea seeds & a sunny location. For the first tomato cage, I would suggest an indeterminate cherry tomato plant - i.e. one that grows all summer like a vine. Sungold if you can find it is golden/orange & non-acidic, sweet million is red and a heritage variety called yellow pear has golden pear shaped fruits. (These also grow well tied to the side of an arbour if you have one.)

For the second tomato cage, start your sugar snap seeds around the cage as soon as the ground can be worked (April). By late spring-early summer you can feast on sweet sugar snap peas right from the pod.

For the third tomato cage, you will plant pickling cucumber seeds or pre-started plants around the cage. Plant the first seedling or seed Victoria Day week-end & stagger one week apart 3 more plants or seeds around the cage for a continuous supply of delicious little cukes from mid-summer on. No salt required!

Strawberries are invasive & require a lot of work. Grow alpine strawberries instead. They are clump growers & do not produce runners. The 12" high clumps grow bigger every year & can easily be separated for more plants. Try growing them like little hedges. The tasty little strawberries are shaped like an almond but a little smaller and are produced from June to frost. These plants may be difficult to find but worth searching for (look for the almond shaped ones instead of the tiny round shaped ones).

Submitted by Sofie Bigham