



Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 2; May/June/July 2009

Inside this issue:

BHS Plant Auction	1
Whitby in Bloom	1
BHS meetings	2
President's Message	3
Garden Visits 2009	5
Walk on the Wild Side	6
Tuesdays in the Garden	6
Other Events of Note	7
District 17 AGM	8
Seedy Secrets	8

BHS meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Brooklin United Church; except January, July and December. Contact us at 905-666-2489 or e-mail any board member at: brooklinhortsoc@rogers.com
Visit us on the web at: www.brooklin.org/hort



BHS Plant Auction

Saturday 9 May 2009 10:00 am

With "Auctioneer Extraordinaire" - Ken Brown

Both plant donors and buyers are wanted for this once-a-year event.:

Donors are requested to bring their extra plants (hopefully lots of unique and interesting varieties!) potted up and labeled between 9:00—10:00 am. If you are unable to bring your pots, contact any of the Board members and they will be happy to arrange collection.

Buyers come on time in order to find some great buys for your garden, and to also support Brooklin Horticultural Society. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbours to come along for some Saturday morning entertainment.

See you there at Grass Park—corner of Cassels Road and Baldwin Street.

Whitby In Bloom - Front Garden Challenge

Whitby In Bloom is one of the Town's civic beautification programs promoting civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation and the challenge of a friendly competition. Whitby In Bloom is putting down roots in the community for a fifth year. It is a home-grown program based on the international Communities In Bloom program.

Registration is required to participate in the Front Garden Challenge. Registration is free, and the deadline for registration is August 4, 2009. Volunteer judges will view the portion

of registered gardens that can be seen from the road as part of the Front Garden Challenge. The Whitby In Bloom committee recruits local volunteers and provides them with the training and know-how to do the judging. All registrants receive a garden sign denoting participation. The judging takes place between August 16 and September 7 awarding properties 5 Bloom or Civic Beautification designations.

Register at: www.whitby.ca/smartlink or contact the Community and Marketing Services Department at 905 430-4310.

What's growing in your garden?

Show and share part of your garden by entering one of our upcoming flower shows. Don't know the name or the class that your plant should go in after consulting your show schedule? Then just pick it and bring it in a clear glass container suitable for the size of specimen you have cut and let the Show Committee help you with the correct name

and placement on the show table. Of all our knowledgeable members someone is bound to help you out with the correct name or species. It's a fun way for all of us to learn and find out what is sometimes old and new again in gardening!

Submitted by The Show Committee

Upcoming BHS Meetings

Wednesday May 27

The Spring Show

Guest Speaker: Dianne Stackhouse & Brian McLatchie, Scugog Line, Port Perry

Topic: The Making of a Country Garden

Brian & Dianne claim no particular horticultural pedigree or expertise, yet their spectacular and diverse garden has been featured in Canadian Gardening magazine. Their presentation will take us back to its beginnings, and show us what a passion for gardening can do.

Wednesday June 10

The Iris & Peony Show

Guest Speaker: Cindy Deutekom, Goldenbrook Hostas, Blackstock

Topic: Hands on Hostas

Last year we had hand on peonies, this year it's hostas. Cindy will wow us with her extensive hosta collection, and on a more serious note, the ramifications of Hosta Virus X. Serious collector or novice, you'll appreciate her knowledge and expertise.

Wednesday June 24

The Rose Show

Guest Speakers: Carol Dunk, Director OHA District 16, Barrie

Topic: Pesticides, Who Needs 'Em?

With the pesticide ban well in place, OHA Director Carol Dunk's topic is timely. Hers is a lively, humorous approach to a serious issue with lots of practical advice, ideas, recipes, and tips. If you have been wondering what to do, this is a not-to-be-missed presentation.

February Presentation

Our speaker was Martin Galloway, a well known TV personality and owner of Chalk Lake Nursery; he also teaches at York University and Seneca College. The topic was **Fashion in Horticulture - A Biologist's Perspective**. He compared today's trends in marketing plants to the marketing of trendy, upscale women handbags, where every year new models and colors are produced. He stated that the same applies to today's plant market,

where producers come out with new plants and new, sometimes patented colors every year at higher and higher prices. He deplored that each plant is now available in multiple colors, i. e. Echinacea. He felt that colorful gardens can be assembled using traditional plants, and he showed this with numerous examples.

Submitted by Werner Valentin



March Presentation

Our speaker was Craig McLeod of Cedar Lane Gardens, Fenelon Falls. His topic was **Native and Woodland Plants**. Craig and his wife Linda bought a woodlot some years ago and planted it with native and non-native plants. They also created different environments for the plants, from dry upland to wetland. Craig showed impressive slides of columbines growing 6 feet tall, hepatica, ferns, trilliums, huge jack-in-the-pulpit, lady slippers and many more species growing in the different habitats of the woodlot. Craig also mentioned that to attain optimum growth and blooms, woodland plants have to be fertilized. Craig and Linda welcome visitors at Cedar Lane Gardens from May 1-Sept 30. Please call in advance - 705-887-3086, lgmcleod@sympatico.ca.



Erika Thimm thanks Speaker Craig McLeod



It's our first 8 page newsletter!

Do you have an idea or suggestion for our newsletter?
Contact Kim Pileggi by phone: (905) 655-9927 or by email:
pileggiv@rogers.com

President's Message . . . Sustainable Practices in the Garden

Earth Day and Earth Week have just been celebrated with great media fanfare! It seems that the sustainability movement is gaining more support every day. Earth Day put an end to the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides in Ontario. Since the Joneses next door have to live by the same rules as we do, it will be interesting to see if we learn to accept a less than perfect lawn. As we were shown by Miriam Goldberger of Wildflower Farm last May, others may opt to replace their sod with alternative ground covers, including the fescue grasses of Miriam's "eco-lawn" product.

Those of us who worked so hard to put in water-guzzling perennials may now consider replacing them with plants suited to our naturally-occurring garden conditions, such as drought-resistant plants in dry soil, and moisture-loving ones for poor-drainage areas. Others might switch to vegetable gardening as several of our members are doing this year. As Ken Brown started telling us years ago, growing your own food is now something to be proud of, especially since you can be confident of what has, or more importantly, has **not** been sprayed onto your edibles.

This year's compost give-aways throughout the Region provided more evidence of the positive benefits of the three R's (recycling, reducing & reusing). Hundreds of cars lined up for up to an hour at the Whitby site to get three baskets of compost made from our organic yard and kitchen waste. The compost is nutrient-rich and light weight, making it a perfect soil amendment. Gardeners adopted composting decades ago as a means of dealing with mounds of garden refuse. Who knew that it would become an aspect of sustainability? Hopefully, you too have a back-yard composter or compost pile to make your own soil additive.

Small things and simple steps are helping to save our planet. Are you planting and nurturing oxygen-generating trees and shrubs? Do you water sparingly and effectively to minimize evaporation loss? Do you mulch around plants to retain moisture? Do you encourage bees, bats and birds to visit your garden? Do you use environmentally-gentle solutions to control garden pests and weeds? Our speaker on June 24 will give you suggestions. Will you be one of the first to add a green roof to your garden shed? Our August speaker will tell you how to do it.

Tell us what you are doing on your property and in your garden to sustain our planet for future generations. If you have ideas to share with us, I'd love to hear them – 905-666-2489 or brooklinhortsoc@rogers.com.

Jone Webster

April Presentation

Our speakers Hazel & Joe Cook of Blossom Hill Nursery in Peterborough grow the British strain of *Delphinium elatum* and have about 1500 specimens in their nursery. Recently they have branched into peonies and have about 330 varieties. We were treated to many spectacular slides of the delphinium and peony gardens. Hazel and Joe believe that their delphiniums are hardier and have stronger stems and larger florets than the "Pacific Giant" variety. For successful hybridization, strong stems are required and hand pollination is used. Root cutting ensures that the identical variety is being propagated. Hazel and Joe's growing tips: Delphiniums need a sunny location, well-drained soil, should be staked, but not mulched; they should only be sparingly watered. If many stems form, the plant should be cut back to 5 or 6 stems. Blossom Hill Nursery is open mid-May until late fall and is located at: 681 Fife's Bay Road RR#2, Peterborough. Contact: (705) 742-9943 or info@blossomhillnursery.com



Submitted by Werner Valentin

"Best in Show" Results from April's Narcissus Show

There were 140 entries in the show.

Best Narcissus: Judi Denny for her Narcissus collection

Best Container Grown Plant:

Nancy Skelding for her African Violet

Best Specimen (other than Narcissus):

Sophie Bigham for her Hellebore

Best Design:

Lucille Huron in the YOU create a title class

Best Special Exhibit: Sophie Bigham for her Pick & Plunk

Submitted by The Show Committee

Your grandchildren will have something to aspire to.

All good fortune does not fall to youth. It will be many years before your grandchildren qualify for residency at Amica. Until then, they can visit you and learn the rewards of hard work and a life well lived. They can share in an endless array of activities, join you for tea and treats and family members can stay in our convenient guest suite. Then they can leave. Life isn't entirely child's play, after all.

Amica. Wonders never cease.

Luxury all-inclusive suites
starting at \$2,375.00.

Amica at Whitby

Presentation Centre Open Every Day
at 3100 Brock St. North, Unit 6,
Whitby, ON L1R 3J7

Hours: Mon. to Sat. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm,
Sun. 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



AMICA™
at Whitby

06/02/23

- Luxury Independent Rental Retirement Living
- All Inclusive • Full Service Fine Dining
- Wellness & Vitality™ Programs
- Amica VITALIS™ Assisted Living Suites & Services

www.amica.ca



AMICA has been a great corporate partner to the Brooklin Horticultural Society. BHS would like to thank AMICA of Whitby for generously sponsoring this issue of our newsletter, in addition to providing trays of sweets that were enjoyed by the members and guests in attendance at our March general meeting. Watch for the sweet trays to be provided again at the June 24 general meeting. Thanks to Katarina George and her wonderful staff at AMICA of Whitby for their support!

GARDEN VISITS 2009

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!

Sophie Bigham	905.655-5929	Brooklin	10 acres, dry stone walls, colour wheel perennial garden, roses, pond. Open to public: June 14 & 21, July 26 & Aug 16
Barb Borchuk	905.668-8364	Whitby	Town garden with pond, rose garden, hostas & perennials
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	905.253-4774	Enniskillen	3 ponds, variety of perennials, vegetable garden, summer lathe hours for orchids
Judi Denny	905.263-4765	Enniskillen	Mixed borders – perennials with a focus on peonies*
Larry Gullins	905.665-6316	Whitby	Variety & ornamental grasses
Barb & John Hulley	905.655-4640	Brooklin	Town perennial garden with xeriscaping plants and cacti
Grace Inglis	905.852-6422	Scugog	Country garden, lilacs, dwarf evergreens, rock garden, alpine plants, hilly setting
Marion Johnson	905.666-1141	Brooklin	Whitby/Ajax Community Garden (food raised for food banks), water-wise program, 35 varieties of dahlias in fall Open: Saturdays 9AM-2PM Lakeridge Rd, south of Hwy 7
Eleanor MacAlpine	905.655-4104	Brooklin	Perennials
Joyce Marsh	905.655-3854	Brooklin	Woodland setting - English country garden
Tracey McCannell	905-665-0967	Whitby	Environmental garden, no grass, rain barrel, lots of love & light
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	Scree garden, stone wall, pond, peonies, vegetables
Dianne Stackhouse & Brian McLatchie	905.985-7823	Port Perry	Large country garden in a variety of settings
Louise Tegtmeier	905.579-6035	Whitby	summer garden, perennials, grasses, containers

* 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 13 & 14, 10AM-4PM including peony show and café. For information, contact Judi at 905.263-4765 or mjdenny@sympatico.ca. Visit www.ovbgoshawa.ca or www.peony.ca.

A Walk on the Wild Side 2009

The Butterfly Meadow (located south-west of the Luther Vipond Arena on Winchester Road) at the entrance to the Lions Trail is well established and enjoyed by the many walkers, joggers, and cyclists who pass through. Unfortunately, like all gardens, it does not take care of itself. We will continue to hold “plant & groom” sessions either on Thursdays 6:30 pm until dusk; or Sundays 2:00 – 4:00 pm. on the following dates:

May: Thurs 7th, Thurs 14th, Sun 24th, Thurs 28th

June: Sun 7th, Thurs 11th, Thurs 18th, Sun 21st

July: Sun 5th, Thurs 16th, Sun 19th, Thurs 30th

August: Sun 9th, Thurs 13th, Sund 23rd, Thurs 27th

So get out your gardening gloves, mark these dates on your calendar, and come enjoy the beautiful flowers; the bees and butterflies that they attract; and most importantly, the company of fellow gardeners.

Any questions or concerns, contact Faye Collins (905) 655-9695.

Tuesday Evenings in the Garden

The Brooklin Horticultural Garden that is the push is on to make the small park at the corner of Montgomery & Carnwith truly ours, and we really hope that the weather will cooperate this year. Not only will the plantings and design represent and reflect the broad gardening spectrum of our membership, we also hope to develop a teaching garden – one that draws the entire community to enjoy and discover what can work in their own gardens.

The focus this gardening season is getting the existing beds in shape, introducing our first collection – hardy and dramatic ornamental grasses including The Huron series hybridized by Martin Quinn, and sedums – the perfect companion plant for grasses, and some unusual and colourful annuals at the park entrance that will make clear that this is a garden cared for and well thought out. We also intend to have signage in place before the summer ends.

Sound ambitious? It is! And we need your help and expertise. Plant and groom sessions will take place every Tuesday evening from 6:30 pm until dusk May through September EXCEPT June 30, August 4, and September 1. Bring your gardening tools and gloves, and join us when you can. We'll only cancel if there's a heavy down pour. Any questions or to find out if that down-pour that went through really warrants a cancellation, call Faye Collins (905) 655-9695.

Pruning Workshop by Durham Master Gardeners

The rain stopped just in time, and the cold couldn't keep away the small group who turned out on Tuesday 21st April to learn about pruning trees and shrubs from the Durham Master Gardeners. Anita Vicente-Pereira and John Van Ekeren brought their expertise to a practical hands-on demonstration at the Brooklin Horticultural Park at the corner of Carnwith and Montgomery. Those present had a chance to practice on roses, spirea and other shrubs, maple trees, and serviceberry trees. Many questions were asked and answered. It was a valuable learning session, and anyone interested in learning more about pruning should come out to the Brooklin Horticultural Park on Tuesday evenings with their secateurs in hand!



OTHER EVENTS OF NOTE

Sunday 3 May

2:00 pm

Parkwood “Garden Pleasures” Lecture Series

“Popular Roses Today” with Larry Sherk

See a stunning selection of roses and hear how to care for these plants.

Location: Parkwood Estate, 270 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa

Reserve a \$10 ticket by calling 905-433-4311. www.parkwoodestate.com

BHS members only pay \$5 with presentation of your BHS membership card!

6—9 May

10:00 am—5:00 pm

Toronto Botanical Gardens Plant Sale

Location: 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto

Plant offerings of new introductions and tested favourites. Carefully selected annuals, perennials, succulents, native plants, ornamental vegetables and heirloom favourites await you.

This year’s sale will also offer many of the perennials featured in the TBG gardens. Toronto

Master Gardeners will be on hand to offer knowledgeable assistance and advice.

Thursday 7 May

6:30 pm

Parkwood “Garden Pleasures” Lecture Series

“3D Plantings” with Sheridan Nurseries

Gain insights into garden supports and plantings to add new dimensions and textures within your garden.

See Sunday 3 May *above* for location and cost.

Thursday 21 May

6:30 pm

Parkwood “Garden Pleasures” Lecture Series

“Spring Bulbs & Blooming Trees” with Brad Rosnak

Tour Parkwood’s gardens to learn what makes the spring blossoms so special.

See Sunday 3 May *above* for location and cost.

Sunday 24 May

2:00 pm

Durham Region Orchid Society Annual Plant Auction

Lots of great buys including orchids, house, and garden plants.

Location: Fernhill Community Centre, 144 Fernhill Blvd (Stevenson & Bond), Oshawa

For more information, contact Anne at 905-728-5336 or anneantanaitis@hotmail.com

Thursday 28 May

7:00 pm

Whitby in Bloom Gardening Seminar

“Grasses and New Perennials for 2009” with Jeff Mason

Location: Centennial Building, 416 Centre Street South, Whitby

Call 905-430-4310 to register or www.whitby.ca

Thursday 4 June

6:30 pm

Parkwood “Garden Pleasures” Lecture Series

“Water Gardens” with Vandermeer Nursery

See Sunday 3 May *above* for location and cost.

13—14 June

5th Annual Oshawa Peony Festival - A Celebration of Horticulture, Arts & Heritage

Two days of two must-see gardens... Oshawa Valley Botanical Garden at 155 Arena Street,

Oshawa and Parkwood National Historic Site at 270 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa.

Walk or ride our shuttle bus between sites. View the 300 Peony varieties at the OVBG. There

will be a judged Peony Flower Show. Everyone is invited to exhibit! Free admission to the

Gardens & Show. To receive a show schedule contact Judi Denny at mjdenny@sympatico.ca.

Also enjoy presentations of music, dance, folklore, literary & theatre arts, as well as unique

vendors, demos, & children activities. Savour delectable fare at the Peony Cafe in the OVBG

Garden or have lunch or tea overlooking the fountains at the Parkwood garden restaurant.

For more information: www.ovbgoshawa.ca and www.parkwoodestate.com

18 June

Whitby in Bloom Gardening Seminar

“How to Rev Up Your Garden”

Call 905-430-4310 to register or www.whitby.ca

District 17 AGM

The Annual General Meeting for District 17 of the O.H.A. was held on Saturday April 25 in Port Perry, hosted by the Pine Ridge Garden Club. The meeting was well-attended by the twelve clubs in the District. Nine of our members were present. Since no nominations for Director or Assistant Director (A.D.) had been received before the meeting, we were asked to discuss possibilities among ourselves. Eventually, a nomination for Director was received, followed by one for A.D.



Since the executive is not complete unless there are two A.D.'s, another candidate for A.D. came forward. Our new executives are Director Sandy Rakestrow, with Assistant Directors Julia Noakes and Elaine Davidson. Sandy and Elaine are both former Presidents of the Oshawa Garden Club and Julia is the current President of Pine Ridge. We congratulate them and wish them success as they take over running the District from Acting Directors - our Jenny-Lynn Gasperek and Bonnie White, who unexpectedly became the leaders of District 17 when the former Director had to resign last summer.

Our member, Erika Thimm spoke on being "Stewards of the Earth – Are we taking care of the only Earth we have?" In spite of the cool spring, there were many entries in the horticultural classes. Creative submissions were made to the ten photographic and eight

design classes. The new group exhibit division with a class entitled "Art in Bloom" attracted three very different interpretations, including one delightful "horticultural lady". A tasty and generous lunch was provided, and many delegates went home with silent auction and/or chance prizes.

Next year's AGM will be on April 24 at Mill Run Golf Course in Uxbridge.

BHS submitted materials into the publications competition. Our Show Schedule (September 2009) received 2nd place. The comments started with "The Judges feel that the public would really learn a good deal from attending this show! ...not to mention coming away yearning to cut some flowers & cook with the seasonal vegetables, etc." **Congratulations to Mary Ellen Simerson and the Show Committee!**

Our newsletters received 3rd place for the colour issues, and honourable mention for the black and white. **Congratulations to Kim Pileggi, our Newsletter Editor!**

Seedy Secrets!

By Sophie Bigham

Listed below are four Ontario websites from which you can order seed and plants without any problems. All ship to your home or you can arrange to pick up if you want to drive a ways:

Gardensnorth.com – seed house near Ottawa. Hundreds of hardy native and exotic seeds. Seed is ½ price every April – order for the next year.

Goldenboughtrees.com – Marlbank, Ont. Hardy starter plants of native and rare trees, shrubs, conifers, etc. in the \$10.00-\$20.00 range. Not worth starting from seed at these prices.

Nettlecreeknursery.com – Fonthill, Ont. Quite a different selection from Golden Bough's plants. Starter plants of rare & native shrubs, trees, azaleas, rhodos + hostas at prices ranging from \$10.00 to \$95.00.

Gardenimport.com – Highway 7 & Bayview in Toronto. Clematis varieties unavailable elsewhere, also a male asparagus called Guelph Millennium.

Herbs for cheap! From Vandermeer's, I purchased one 3" pot (\$2.79 ea.) of parsley, basil, & Lemon Verbena. From one lemon verbena plant I took several 3-4" cuttings & rooted them in a soil less mix in individual cell packs. This is one lemony plant! I separated & replanted 15 parsley and 78 basil seedlings into individual cell packs for planting in late May. Once again, not worth starting from seed.

From Richter's: buy one plant of the following, make several from cuttings. Two new rosemary's – BBQ rosemary grows straight stems to 6' – wow! The stems can be uses for skewers. Foxtail rosemary has beautiful arching sprays that look like foxtails - try it in a hanging pot. Two very fragrant fruity sages for tea & potpourris are pineapple sage and fruit sage. Pineapple sage attracts hummingbirds in late summer/fall with its brilliant red flowers. Richter's has a huge selection of mints – grow in pots all summer & store the pots in the garage for the winter.