



Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 1 Feb/Mar/April 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



BHS Membership Meeting & "Hat Night" Wednesday February 24, 2010 7:30 pm

Don your favourite gardening hat, or other unique chapeau and have some fun! Bring a friend and make sure that you come early to ensure that you have time to renew your membership, as well as to catch up with old friends, and make new ones! And don't forget to "lug-a-mug" for coffee and tea while you enjoy some treats. In honour of this event, BHS hats will be reduced in price -selling for \$13 each.

This evening's special guest speaker is **Marjorie Mason**, of Mason House Gardens in Uxbridge who will speak about **The Edible Garden**.

The membership dues remain at \$15 per member, or \$22 per family of two (living at the same address). This membership fee entitles you to the BHS Yearbook, the Newsletter, access to the expertise of our great guest speakers at the 10 meetings during the year, not to mention eligibility to participate in our flower and vegetable competitions. Last, but not least, membership also entitles you to receive a 10% discount at many local nurseries.

You will find a membership form enclosed with this newsletter: complete it and bring it with you, OR make your cheque payable to Brooklin Horticultural Society and mail with the form to: Dena MacDonald, 9575 Baldwin Street North, Ashburn, ON L0B 1A0

We look forward to seeing our returning members and welcoming new members and guests to our Society.

Showing in 2010

If you have never taken that first step to show before, the Show Committee would love for you to give it a try this up-coming growing season.

"But I don't know the first thing about showing" you say. Well then, do not miss our March meeting when the Committee presents an evening of "**How to Show**". We hope to make showing your specimens a fun, enjoyable and rewarding experience for you. Explained to you will be how to read the show schedule, how to prepare your entries, and just what the judges are looking for.

Our shows at Brooklin are by far one of the largest and most extensive adjudicated shows in all of District 17. Through the experience of entering you will find it to be a fun sharing experience of growing and showing tips, stories of successes and failures; you will be filled with incentive and ideas for future plantings and new gardens all from displaying your prize specimen.

So grow and show and don't miss out!!

Mary Ellen Simerson
Show chair 905 655 4927
me.sim@hotmail.com

Upcoming BHS Meetings & Events

Wednesday 24 March **Seed Swap and Get Growing Round Table**
Guest Speaker: BHS Show Committee
Topic: It's Show Time

Saturday 24 April **District 17 AGM and Flower Show**
 Hosted by the Uxbridge Horticultural Society at the Mill Run Golf & Country Club, 269 Durham Road 8, Uxbridge Registration Fee: Early Bird by April 1 is \$25, or \$30 at the door - includes hospitality, workshop with Vicki Taylor Scott, luncheon, speaker "Recession (NOT DEPRESSION) Gardening", and show entries. For more details, check our BHS Yearbook

Wednesday April 28 **The Narcissus Show**
Guest Speaker: Janine McLeod, Alderville First Nation, Roseneath
Topic: Tall Grass Prairie and Black Oak Savanna Restoration Project

Saturday 8 May Brooklin Horticultural Society **Plant Auction**
 Grass Park, Cassels Road East, Brooklin
 Auctioneer Extraordinaire: Ken Brown



Thanks to Audrey Young

For twenty years, Audrey has been sending greeting cards on our behalf to express our friendship and support to members who are ill or have lost a loved one. She is now retiring from performing this service! Audrey has been a BHS member since 1960 and was appointed a life member many years ago. Thanks and best wishes to Audrey!

Margret Mossman will now send cards to members who are ill or grieving. Please contact her at 905-668-0993 if you know of someone who needs cheering.

Help! Webmaster Needed

Are you talented with computers and know how to create web pages? We could use your assistance to re-write and periodically update our website. Sections include home page, events calendar, meeting information, membership application, civic beautification, club officers, and recent newsletters. See www.brooklin.org/hort for more information. If you can help us, please contact Jone Webster at brooklinhortsoc@rogers.com or 905-666-2489.

Wanted Newsletter Editor in training!

Current Newsletter Editor, Kim Pileggi, is looking for someone to take over this task by next year. There are three issues per year: February, May, & August. Any member interested in this task, please contact either Kim at 905-493-2592 (pileggiv@rogers.com) or any of the BHS Board members for more information.

Mary Housego In memoriam



A passionate gardener and dedicated member of our horticultural society passed away on January 20, 2010. Mary Housego joined BHS in 1976 and served for fifteen years each on the board and the civic beautification committee. Most recently, in addition to Civic Beautification, she was a member of the show committee, which she chaired in 1999. She volunteered on various committees including nominations, telephone and cards, judges, and catering. Mary earned a life membership many years ago.

After winning the best novice arrangement award in 1977, she went on to win numerous show awards including the highest total points eleven times, second highest points six times, and the third highest twice. She won the most participation in design award ten times and the best decorative in annuals show fourteen times, including 2008 (see photo above). She generously shared her knowledge of floral arranging at numerous workshops, and whenever anyone asked. Mary was given our Meritorious Service Award in November 2009. She will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

“WHITBY IN BLOOM” Kick Off

To be held Thursday April 15, 6 - 9 pm. Mark your calendars for a fun event for the whole family outside in the courtyard at the Whitby Public Library.

Other Events of Note

12 - 14 March

Oshawa Spring Home & Garden Show

Landscaping, Home renovation ideas, home décor, furniture, pool, spas, and more.
General Motors Centre, 99 Athol Street East, Oshawa Admission: \$5

17 - 21 March

Canada Blooms The Flower and Garden Festival "Passions"

Visit a paradise bursting with six acres of stunning gardens in full bloom, more than 100,000 square feet of green thumb shopping, and much more at Canada's largest and most prestigious flower and garden festival. Interested in learning more about gardening? With four different stages going non-stop, the show offers over 200 hours of seminars, workshops, and demonstrations in five days from some of the best garden experts in North America included in your admission to Canada Blooms. Admission: \$18 (Seniors \$16) or \$14 After 5.00 pm
www.canadablooms.com

18 - 21 March

18th Annual Successful Gardening Show

Learn from the experts at the Helping You Grow Theatre. Experience Perfect Plants & Flowers in the Ontario Horticultural Association's Floral Design & Plant Competition Showcase. Watch kids grow in the "Make-it & Take-it" in the Children's Garden. International Centre, 6900 Airport Road. \$14 (\$10 Seniors)
www.successfulgardeningshow.com

Friday 9 April 6 - 10 pm
Sat 10 April 10 am - 6 pm
Sun 11 April 10 am - 4 pm

Peterborough Garden Show "For the Love of Gardening"

Peterborough Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road. Vendors, speakers, displays, and workshops. Admission \$5.00. www.peterboroughgardens.ca/showhome.html

17 April 10 am - 5 pm
18 April 10 am - 4 pm

7th Annual Scugog Spring Garden Show

Scugog Community Recreation Centre, 1655 Reach St. Port Perry
10 am - 5:00 \$5.00/day or \$8.00 for week-end pass

Tree Peony - I have found what seems to be the perfect spot just outside my kitchen window. They produce spectacular flowers, reliable after a year of getting themselves settled in, nice green bush after blooming and for the rest of the summer, interesting in winter if you leave the seed heads on, and so far, I haven't killed any.

Brian Gower

The President's Message...

It's a new year and a new gardening season is coming soon. This is a good time to create some gardening resolutions for 2010. Here are mine.

1. Visit other gardens and gardeners.
2. Attend some different garden shows.
3. Visit some specialty nurseries.
4. Volunteer at the BH Garden.
5. Submit a floral design to a show.
6. Buy a really special plant for my garden.
7. Take time to smell the flowers in my own garden.

Now that I have not only written them down but also published them for all of you to see, I will definitely have to make an effort to achieve these goals.

I hope that my intentions will encourage you to take advantage of different programs that are offered by BHS and other gardening organizations. Visiting other gardens and nurseries is a great way to discover new plants and gardening methods. Entering our show competitions allows you to show off your plants and practice your design skills in a friendly environment, and possibly be recognized for your efforts. Finally, every gardener should relax and enjoy the results of their gardening work.

I'm wishing you a great gardening year and hope that you'll make some resolutions that take you beyond your usual habits. The experience may be truly rewarding!

Jone Webster

BHS Board for 2010



Back row: Michael Diotte, Brian Gower, Margret Mossman, Fred Haggerty, Jenny-Lynn Gasparek, Faye Collins

Front row: Werner Valentin, Mary Ellen Simerson, Kathy Allam, Dena MacDonald, Patti James, Jone Webster

Absent: Aldine Wick

Speaker's Corner

Booking Speakers for a club with such diverse gardening interests, styles and areas of expertise is always a challenge as is coming up with someone or something new. I believe we've done it. The overall theme for this year's presentations and demonstrations is "**Grow Naturally**" and with the exception of our very last speaker when we go travelling in Malaysia with Veronica Sliva, all our guest speakers will address that theme in one form or another. You will have a complete listing of speakers and topics when you pick up your BHS 2010 Yearbook at our first meeting, the Membership Meeting on February 24, but following are our first three.

In February we begin with **Marjorie Mason from Mason House Gardens** and CKDO's Let's Get Growing radio show - no stranger to our club. Marjorie will make those February doldrums disappear with a topic she is passionate about and it's one of the latest gardening trends..."**The Edible Garden**". From Artichokes to Zucchini's, no matter the size, there is a place in your garden for fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Marjorie will tell you where - in pots, in potagers, in your rose border, why - they're good for you and beautiful too, and how - naturally. And to get onto the spirit of things, Board members will be modeling their favourite gardening hats and we want to see yours too. Don't forget!

For our March 24th meeting we're trying something that's definitely different. Our very own **Show Committee**, led by Mary Ellen Simerson is putting on a presentation upstairs entitled "**It's Show Time**". It's sure to be visually stunning and when they're finished even we reluctant show participants - shrinking violets all, will be ready to 'show our stuff' and take home some red ribbons. It is also our annual '**Seed Swap**' and we've added a '**Get Growing**' Fair. In the downstairs room you'll find tables set up for you to visit. They include Kingsway Greenhouses And Nursery, 'Ask The Experts' - one-on-one gardening advice, John Renaud from MYKE demonstrating his product: the environmentally friendly mycorrhizae fungi that promotes healthy roots and of course Sofie Bigham and her seedling demonstration. By the time you leave you'll be ready for April gardening. And don't forget to bring seeds to swap.

And finally, on April 28th - The Narcissus Show, **Janine McLeod from Alderville First Nation in Roseneath**, will present "**The Tall Grass And Black Oak Savanna Restoration Project**", one of about six of its kind across Ontario. This exciting endeavour is part of a Rice Lake Plains joint initiative to restore its unique natural features including native tall grass prairies and black oak savannas. Janine will show us their progress thus far and the amazing diversity of plants, shrubs, trees and wildlife that have returned to their natural habitat. She'll even give tips and plant lists for creating your own Prairie garden or Savanna.

Your feed back and recommendations for future speakers would be much appreciated. Topics too. Please contact Faye Collins, 905-655-9695 madgardener23@hotmail.com

2009 BHS AWARD WINNERS

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – DON WICK

Don was a board member from 2002 to 2007 and received a President's Award in 2004. He has served on the membership committee where he has been instrumental in increasing our corporate membership over the past few years. While he has been on the Butterfly Meadow committee, his greatest involvement has been in Civic Beautification which he chaired from 2002 to 2008. He is THE MAN at the greenhouse. He has also been a member of the Communities in Bloom steering committee for Whitby since inception. His greatest asset is his generous heart and willingness to help anyone.



LIFE MEMBER AWARD – KEN BROWN

Ken joined BHS around 1977 and was a board member for the next 14 years during which time he was second vice, first vice, president in 84-85, past president and secretary. He rejoined the board from 2004 to 2007. Ken has been a member of almost every committee past and present, and is currently serving on the show committee. He has almost single-handedly produced the yearbook for the past five years. Ken received the President's Award in 1999. He has a passion for irises and vegetable gardening. He is a popular speaker at garden clubs and an Auctioneer Extraordinaire. With this award, Ken received a lapel pin and free membership for life.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD – JUDI DENNY

Judi has chaired the speakers, set-up and yearbook committees and was a board member for several years and President in 2001-02. She chaired the show committee from 2005-07 and is still a member with extra participation in recordkeeping, and set-up and take-down. She maintains the Society's archives which is a considerable task in itself. Until 2009, she published the Gardening Events sheets, helped with publicity, and produced name tags for the membership committee. Anyone who needs the Society's historical data can rely on her to provide it quickly and in thorough detail. She received a President's Award in 1999. She is an avid Peony grower, and with her husband, has donated a show award for this bloom.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD – FAYE COLLINS

Faye joined the board in 2004, was President in 2007-08, and chaired or sat on the Membership Committee until 2007. She received a President's Award in 2004. She has been involved with the Butterfly Meadow for seven years and regularly organizes volunteers to weed, groom and water. Her passion for the Butterfly Meadow transferred to the Brooklin Horticultural Garden in 2009 where she led weekly work crews in weeding, trimming, and planting numerous new perennials. Since 2007 she has been scheduling our speakers and continuously secures knowledgeable experts on a variety of topics.

HONOURABLE MENTION FOR VOLUNTEERISM – CONNIE McELLISTRUM

This young woman's name was submitted independently by two board members for recognition of her extensive participation in Civic Beautification and the Brooklin Horticultural Garden. As a new member in 2009, she truly embraced volunteering. She had an almost perfect record for attendance at Civic Beautification work days and the Brooklin Horticultural Garden, and also helped to decorate the Fair Float.



Astilbes are a hardy and attractive perennial for shady and moist spots in the garden. Their upright fluffy plumes come in a variety of hues from white to pink to red and purple. They are pest-free and have fern-like foliage that stays attractive throughout the season. They don't need staking and spread slowly. The garden varieties grow up to 24", and the dwarf up to 8", making them a great ground cover for bare spots in the garden.
Jone Webster

*My favourite plant - other than any daylily - is annual **Salvia** in particular the varieties known as Victoria Blue (royal blue) and Fairy Queen (royal blue and white). These plants fill in pockets nicely as the plants bush out into mini-shrubs. They flourish in a variety of conditions, providing vibrant long lasting colour from mid-summer until frost.
*Jenny-Lynn Gasparek**

Ask A Master Gardener ... by Kim Pileggi, Durham

Well, since no one seems to have any questions that they want answered, I thought I would tell you about one of my favourite plants. While I am sad that I had to leave this plant behind when we moved house in the fall (it does not like being transplanted - has a very long tap root), I am excited because my favourite plant has been selected as 2010 Perennial Plant of the Year. False blue indigo (*Baptisia australis*) grows wild in Eastern North America, and several American Indian tribes used it for a variety of purposes: it's flowers for a blue dye, it's roots for tea and medicine. It makes a tidy clump about two to three feet high of grey green leaves, and in late May/early June has beautiful spikes of deep blue flowers which resemble a sweet pea. Once it has finished flowering, it has these amazing grayish seed pods that stand upright over the clump - these can be used in dried flower arrangements. It is not a fussy plant:: it likes full sun, is drought-tolerant, virtually pest-free and has no other special requirements. I cut it back to the ground after frost in the fall. The only thing is, because of it's extensive root system, once established, you really shouldn't move it. Too bad for me! I'll just have to start over. And now there are various cultivars available with different colours: yellow, blue & white, lavender.

Do you have a gardening question?
Send to pileggiv@rogers.com
OR ask Kim at one of the monthly meetings

The Trillium OHA Newsletter Electronic Edition

Did you know that you can receive The Trillium by e-mail?
Just request it from editor@gardenontario.org

Past issues of The Trillium are available from the
Ontario Horticultural Association web site:
www.gardenontario.org



Aren't they gorgeous?
Brooklin Horticultural Society hanging baskets
Created by Civic Beautification Committee

*There are so many great flowers to choose from... but I do enjoy the Sedums and the **Autumn Joy Sedum** especially. I love the fall and the Autumn Joy really highlights the fall season for me. The ability to change its colours, and its hardiness make it a real delight and joy in the autumn season.*

Mike Diotte

Civic Beautification 2010

It's that time of year again. The overwinter planning committee has just finalized all the 2010 plant selections. This year BHS has agreed to provide 36 hanging baskets for downtown Whitby, in addition to 15 planters. We will also be doing our usual planting of hanging baskets and containers in Brooklin as well as garden beds in Grass Park, the Clock Tower, Post Office, Legion, and Library to name a few places.

Contrary to a recent Toronto Star article that spoke of a substantial amount in the municipal budget for hanging baskets and containers, I would like to remind the membership that BHS is a not-for-profit community organization. We rely on grants and our own fundraising efforts for our civic beautification endeavors. The CB committee will provide more information regarding our plans and an opportunity to sign up to work in the greenhouse at the February meeting

Jenny-Lynn Gasparek

OHA Convention 13 - 14 August 2010 Barrie, Ontario

Planning is underway! Watch for more details to come.

***Aubergine**, (sounds so much more interesting than eggplant,) is a delightful multi purpose plant. It does extremely well in containers and it's handsome foliage is supplemented by bright purple flowers, usually with bright yellow stamens. The developing fruit, either purple or white or striped are very handsome and eventually become part of some vary tasty dishes. The small fruited varieties have large clusters of fruit that add to the visual charm of this decorative vegetable.*

Ken Brown