

Peterborough Horticultural Society

Newsletter

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MARCH MEETING

Join us on Wednesday, March 26 when Vicki Taylor-Scott will share Ideas to Inspire. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments. Besides meeting your friends, borrowing a book from the library and buying your 50/50 tickets, you will be able to enjoy some lovely floral displays. The meeting will begin at 7:30. Wear your nametag and introduce yourself to someone new.

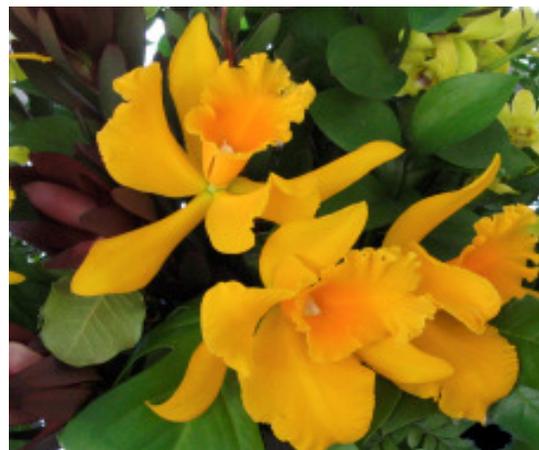
Ann Greer-Wooten

As many of you already know, Ann went to the hospital with a collapsed lung. Initial tests indicated that the cause was lung cancer and the doctors now know that it has spread. She is under going treatment. Ann enjoys receiving the cards



but is not up to having visitors other than the people who are already taking care of her. I wish the news could be better about our dear friend Ann who has worked so hard for the Society for so many years. If you wish to

send a card, it should be sent to her home.



Here is one of the beautiful orchids from the February Orchid Show at the Toronto Botanical Gardens.

February Meeting

At our February meeting, the hardy members who braved freezing temperatures and mountains of snow were treated to a visual delight. Craig and Linda McLeod of Cedar Lane Gardens, Fenelon Falls shared their knowledge and wonderful photographs of their garden. Too bad we had to go outside at the end of the evening.

50/50 Draw

The 50/50 cash prize was \$93.00 and was won by Sarah Gauntlett. The other prizes were purchased from The Avant Garden on Sherbrooke Street. We also had a lovely pot of tulips donated by Griffin's Greenhouses, a \$10.00 gift certificate from Cedar Lane Gardens and a birdhouse from an anonymous donor. Thanks to those who supply prizes and a special thanks to all who buy tickets!



Welcome new members
Margaret Dynes, Noriko Merrett and
Bonnie Scott.

Workshops

There are still a few spaces at our first workshop, **FLOWER ARRANGING 101** on Tuesday, March 25th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Rachel Burrows will help us create a lovely fresh flower arrangement using 1 of 3 different themes:

1. **Spring cleaning** – a design to include a household item
 2. **Spring fever** – a design of spring flowers
 3. **Hint of spring** – a miniature design not to exceed 6" in any dimension – fresh flowers
- Participants need to bring their own container, snips, fresh flowers and any articles they want to put into their arrangement. This is a great way to learn some of the basics of flower arranging and to come away with a touch of spring for your home.

Contact Chris Freeburn at 292-8485 to sign up.

Information about additional workshops will be coming soon.

Donations Committee

Last year Millbrook & District Garden Club and Millbrook Lion's Club applied for funds from Peterborough HS to use to revitalize a small park in the town. They purchased topsoil, fertilizer, a tree, shrubs and perennials to create a new raised bed and rejuvenate an older flowerbed around an existing gazebo. These funds were available because of the success of the garden show

Watch for **Mastering Your Garden**, every Friday in the Peterborough Examiner. Previous articles may be found on the website.

FOR THE LOVE OF GARDENING

April 11, 12 and 13

Volunteers

Volunteers are still needed for the For Love of Gardening Show.

Sign up at the March meeting or contact:
Anne Milne – 741-3991 - rmilne3@cogeco.ca
or Etela Vojnic – 749-0730 - etvojnec@peterboro.net

Please remember that in order to volunteer you must have paid your membership. The profits from our show enable us to keep membership costs at a minimum.

New this year! Flower Show
Share your creativity and green thumbs!
This year there will be an open Flower Show Competition organized by members of the Omeme Horticultural Society.

Everyone can enter but pre-registration is required by April 8.

There are 3 Design Classes with \$15, \$12, and \$9 purses for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. In addition, 5 Horticulture Classes include houseplants grown for flowers, houseplants grown for foliage and African Violets. Prizes are \$8, \$5 and \$3 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place standings.

A people's Choice Award of \$25 will also be awarded. Ballots will be handed out with entrance tickets.

Information about the Classes, Rules and Regulations as well as registration forms are available at www.peterboroughgardens.ca. See Dianne Westlake at the March meeting if you require a hard copy of this information or call Donna Hunter @ 799-6656 for further information.

Spread the word about the **Garden Show**. Brochures and posters will be available at the March meeting.



Bus Trips

Join us on Thursday, May 8 as we travel to the Guelph area. The day will include a visit to the Arboretum at Guelph University, Canning Perennials, Northland Nursery (this is the one that sells almost everything for \$5) as well as a private garden. We will bring a brown bag lunch. The cost is \$50 each. The coach will leave Coach Canada at 7:30 a.m. and return at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Mystery Tour

Mark Sunday, June 8 on your calendar. Join us for a great day, lunch in a moderately priced restaurant and lots of beautiful sights and time in some lovely gardens. Bring a friend.

Sign up sheets for both trips will be available at the March meeting.

Communities in Bloom

The Communities in Bloom Committee will have a display at the Garden Show. Drop by, enter a ballot for a free draw for a Peterborough Daylily, and get an entry form and information about the garden competition.

OHA Convention 2009

The annual OHA Convention will be held at Trent University from July 10th to the 12th, 2009. The theme is 'Remember Yesterday; Protect Tomorrow'.

These conferences usually attract approximately 400 OHA members from across the province. This will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase, not only our city, but also the entire Kawartha Lakes area. In addition to the business portion of the convention, the delegates participate in bus trips to visit gardens and local places of interest. They enjoy workshops and speakers, and compete in the areas of art, floral design, horticulture, photography, poetry and publications. Youth activities and competitions are also included. All this, and the delegates have the opportunity to meet new people and renew old friendships.

The organizing committee is already planning but it is the support every Society within Zone 4 that will make the convention a success.

A problem with your newsletter delivery?
Need to update your information?
Contact Dianne at 742-9167 or by email at editor@peterboroughgardens.ca

Tips and Techniques

Summer flowers and tender perennials (tuberous begonias, cannas, callas and caladiums in pots) may be started four to six weeks prior to the usual last frost date

Select firm bulbs, tubers, rhizomes or roots. Avoid any that are soft or mouldy.

Select clean containers that are twice as deep as the height of the bulbs. Ensure that there is a drainage hole.

Use a soilless mix.

Place bulbs in the potting mix, following planting directions that come with the particular bulbs.

Water thoroughly and move to a warm space.

When growth begins, move to a sunny window or under artificial lights.

Keep soil moist, but not wet.

Once the days warm up, set the pots outside to help harden off and promote sturdy growth. Once all threat of frost is past, transplant to the garden or leave in their pots and place directly into decorative outdoor containers.

If you miss this window of opportunity, wait until the soil has warmed and plant directly into the garden, following the instructions. The blooms will start later but will be just as lovely.



COMING EVENTS

Omemee

Monday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity United Church. John Jones, Omemee Historical Society will present "Anecdotes & Interesting Moments in Omemee's History"

Millbrook Garden Club

Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Church Hall, Centre St, Millbrook – Porcupine Creek Farm, Stirling present Organic culinary and medicinal herbs \$2 Admission at the door

Urban Forestry Project

Wednesday, April 2 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Peterborough Public Library, Peterborough Green-Up presents Andy Kenny from the University of Toronto Forestry Department. He will speak about 'Sustaining the Urban Forest: Starting a Neighbourhood Urban Forest Stewardship Programme' – a look at community initiatives and urban forestry policies. Followed by a panel discussion. All welcome. For more information contact (705) 745-3238 urbanforest@cogeco.net

Saturday, May 10 Peterborough H.S. Plant Sale at St. Alban's Church – mark your calendar and start some seeds.

Lakefield

Tuesday, April 8th at 7:30 p.m. at Lakefield Marshland Centre. Peter Green, The Greenhouse by the River, will speak about Container gardening – plant choices available to make your containers thrive this year.

Scugog Spring Garden Show at the Scugog Community Recreation Centre, 1655 Reach Street, Port Perry on Saturday April 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday April 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00/day. For further information contact Brenda Robinson at (905)-985-7346 ext 126 brobinson@township.scugog.on.ca

Electronic News

We can now send the monthly newsletter electronically. By receiving your newsletter in this way, there are several advantages. The newsletter will be available as soon as the file is sent to the printer. You will save trees and reduce the amount of paper placed in the recycling bin (or the garbage) if you do not print it. Pictures and some graphics are in colour! If you are travelling, this 'taste of home' can be picked up from afar. Money will be saved by the Society. It is easy to sign up. Simply send an email to editor@peterboroughgardens.ca with PHS Newsletter in the subject line and your address will be included in the electronic mailing.

This Month in the Garden – March

Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

- ✓ Visit your local greenhouse.
- ✓ Order summer-flowering bulbs.
- ✓ Prune summer-flowering shrubs (e.g. Hydrangea)
- ✓ Plant flower and vegetable seeds indoors.
- ✓ Prune grapevines.
- ✓ Start summer flowers and tender perennials (tuberous begonias, cannas, callas and caladiums in pots).
- ✓ Loosen packed mulch and press back frost heaved perennials.
- ✓ Cut some spring flowering shrub branches for forcing inside.

Have your gardening questions answered – The Master Gardener hotline is now open. Call 741-4905 or visit their website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca