
Peterborough Horticultural Society

Newsletter

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MAY MEETING

Join us on Wednesday, May 27 at 7:30 when Vikki Whitney will give us a look at 'What's New and Exciting for 2009'. Vikki is always entertaining, enthusiastic and informative so this is one presentation you do not want to miss. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Meet with some friends, borrow a book from the library, get your 50/50 tickets and bring your entries for the Flower Show. Come out for a great evening of fun.

April Meeting

Ann and Bob Granatier's presentation brought us a long list of potential additions to our gardens and some amusing repartee. From the earliest bloomers to the larger late bloomers, they showed us the array of bearded iris varieties that can brighten up our garden beds. Their piece of heaven, Trail's End Iris Gardens, features perennial beds where many of the more than 400 varieties of iris are mixed in with plantings of peonies, ornamental grasses, shrubs, trees and various rockery plants. Additional plants are grown in the production beds. Our members enthusiastically took advantage of the opportunity to own some of the lovely specimens they brought for sale. Take a look at their website at www.trailsendiris.com

Lug-a-Mug

Once again this month there will be a special draw prize for the members who bring their own mugs. Be sure to get your ticket.

50/50

The 50/50 draw at our April meeting was the highest prize pool we have ever had. Mary Jane Parker won a whopping \$150.50 – congratulations to Mary Jane! I also say "Thank you" again to the members who so cheerfully purchase tickets, and who make it so much fun to do this little job. Donated prizes included hats from Beryl, birdseed from Ernie, a canna from Steve, and a watering can from Griffin's. Thank you so much – we appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. Purchased prizes included goods from Lee Valley Tools, and water bulbs from Griffin's. We also had some gorgeous potted irises, donated by our speakers, Bob and Anne. If I have forgotten to mention anyone, please accept my apologies, and knock me on the head to remind me! Ideas on what to do for 50/50 prizes are always welcome, so if you have an idea about how you would like the money spent, please let me know.
Dawna Rhodenhizer

Just a reminder that this activity is not a moneymaker for the society. One half of the pot goes to the lucky member who has the winning ticket while the other half is used to purchase prizes for the next month.

Coffee Donations

Please remember that there is a collection to cover the cost of coffee and treats. The amount of coffee being consumed has increased since we started bringing our own coffee cups and the donations are barely covering the costs. Fifty cents is not an unreasonable amount to enjoy these refreshments.



Keeping Ontario Beautiful



Welcome to our new members

Dennis Carter-Edwards, Stephanie Cook, Fran Farrell, Wendy & Gerry Fucile, Christine Grace, Helen Lackey, Susan Leask, Sylvia McNabb, Sunny Montgomery, Joanne Thorndyke, Gail Trotter, Helen Watt, Judy Wilson & Nick Ahern

Workshops

On March 5th, we had our Perky Pots workshop at Pat Lounsbury's home. Pat graciously opened her home to us for this craft workshop and treated us to yummy muffins and tea after our lesson. We learned how to make the 'dough' to cover the pots and then decorated them with lovely beads and treasures. Everyone created an individual masterpiece to take home and the evening was full of laughs. Thanks, Pat!

Our Learning About Your Soil which was held on Sunday, May 3rd, was an informative meeting held on a typical early May day...sun, wind and clouds, but Cathy Dueck gave us some great information. We came away with an understanding of how we can improve our soil and a soil testing kit to get us started.

Upcoming Workshops

There is a change of venue for the Flower Arranging Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th. It will now be held at St. Albans Church on Monaghan Rd. (where we have our plant sales) and will begin at 7 p.m. instead of 6:30 as previously noted. For this workshop, you will need to bring the flowers and container you wish to use for your arrangement. Check out the Design Themes on page 18 of your yearbook to give you some ideas. We will supply the oasis and some extra greens to. There are still spaces open, so if you want to get some expert advice from Rachel Burrows and have some fun too, call Chris Freeburn at 292-8485.

Daylilies – Dividing, Propagating and Growing with Dawn Tack at Gardens Plus will happen on Sunday, June 7th, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Dawn will take us through her gardens and give us some hands on experience with daylilies. Sign up at the May meeting.

Irises and other June Flowers in the Garden at Inge Bucharadt's home on Thursday, June 11th from 6 p.m. Come out to Millbrook and take a garden tour where you will see irises, peonies and many other beautiful June flowers. Inge is opening her gardens to us and will answer questions about any of her specimens. Sign up at the May meeting.

Peterborough Treasured Tree Hunt is on! You can nominate a tree that is unique in some way until July 1, 2009. Entry forms can be picked up at the Green-Up office at 378 Aylmer St. N. or at www.treasuredtreehunt.com

And there is more

During the summer, another workshop is in the works. This one will involve stained glass and an old wood window. More information will be available at the general meeting in May. For our fall programme, we hope to have a bulb-ordering workshop, a bulb planting session, a tool maintenance workshop and finish off the year with another popular winter arrangement workshop. Stay tuned!

Sign up sheets and workshop information will be available at the general meeting. I am usually set up at the back of the room. Chris Freeburn 292-8485

Garden Show

Another Peterborough Garden Show has been successfully executed and we have many people to thank for their efforts. The organizing committee, consisting of Betty Delong, Pat deVilliers, Anne Milne, Niki Dufresne, Neil Roberts and Gary Westlake, worked throughout the entire year. During the show, our volunteers from our society helped to make things run smoothly while the doors were open. The Omeme Horticultural Society organized the 2009 flower show with more categories and more entries than last year. The entries were wonderful and there were many new exhibitors including a number of local high school students. Lakefield Flowers and Gifts provided the beautiful flowers at cost and Rachel Burrows put together the fabulous arrangements, which were placed in the speakers' room and the foyer. Remember that, as a result of the success of the show, the PHS is able to support community projects and provide scholarships to deserving students.

New in the Library

"The Canadian Garden Primer, An Organic Approach" by Mark Cullen
 "Garden Design" Planning, Building and Planting your Perfect Outdoor Space;
 "Perennial Companions", 100 Dazzling Plant Combinations for Every Season;
 "Herb Gardening for Canada";
 "Japanese Gardens in a Weekend", projects for 1, 2 or 3 weekends;
 "Basic Gardening" a guide for the Horticulturally Helpless;
 Lawn Problem Solver and
 Water Gardens, Simple Steps to Building Garden Pools & Fountains.





2009 OHA Convention

Plans for the Ontario Horticultural Association Convention, which will be held July 10, 11 and 12 at Trent University are progressing well. We are still looking for volunteers and if you are able to assist (from Thursday, July 9 to Sunday, July 12) please contact Anne Milne at 741-3995 or rmilne3@cogeco.ca

OHA Awards

Some special OHA awards have been announced and will be presented at the Awards Banquet on Saturday, July 11 at the Convention

Congratulations to Beryl Harris who will receive the OHA Silver Medal Award, the highest award of the Ontario Horticultural Association. The award recognizes outstanding work in the advancement of horticulture in accordance with the aims of the Association as outlined in the Constitution of the Association.

And congratulations to Cathy Dueck who will receive two awards:

Community Improvement Award for her ongoing work to improve the beauty of the landscape and added to the quality of life within the community.

Environmental Award for her contribution to environmental preservation and /or improvement.

Garden Tour

The Art Gallery of Peterborough hosts the 18th Annual Garden Tour on Sunday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. This year, this popular local tour includes six gardens – the 2008 Communities in Bloom residential winner; a garden with many viewpoints, elevations and a pool; an unstructured nature garden; a new sloped subdivision lot creatively textured and landscaped; a woodland sanctuary on a mature site and a romantic century garden by the river. All the gardens are an easy drive in the city, and we invite you to visit the Art Gallery for complimentary lemonade, muffins and shopping. Tickets are \$10 in advance from the Art Gallery, Avant-Garden Shop, Burley's Gardens, Gardens Plus and Happenstance Books & Yarns. Contact Chair Linda Ashby 876-0965.

District 4 T-Shirts

District 4 T-shirts can be purchased from Gail Deck at the general meeting. Cost is \$15.00 and there is an assortment of sizes. We encourage all volunteers to wear one of these shirts when they are on duty at the convention.

Successful Spring Plant Sale!

It was a rainy, wet day for our annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9th. We were fortunate that the rain held off while we set up and for the first hour when most of our plants are quickly sold. Despite a light rain, buying continued, but when it started to pour and thunder, we scrambled to put everything away. Many thanks to our great volunteers, especially those who worked to the end despite being thoroughly soaked through! Thanks also to those who brought in plants – our tables were filled to brimming! Our volunteers did a huge job quickly and efficiently. We made \$968.05 in profit before our early rainout! Congratulations and thanks to all involved.

Fleming Park

Thanks to our volunteers, the Spring Cleanup is done at Fleming Park. The surfaces of the paths through the garden beds have been topped up with limestone screenings and the edging of the exterior beds will be done in the near future. Now the summer work is about to begin and we will need help with the maintenance. The work crew will be meeting at the Park (at the corner of Brock and Aylmer – just north of the library) on Wednesdays from 10 to about noon. If you can spare a couple of hours at any point during the season, please come out and give us a hand. Bring your gloves and your favourite tools.

On a more disturbing note: there has been some vandalism at Fleming Park. Three of the benches that were installed after the flood have been torn from their moorings. This was no small feat as there are three-foot stakes holding the benches in place and there has been some damage in the process. Also a shrub was dug up and removed from one of the beds. The benches will be repaired and reinstalled. The shrub will be replaced, perhaps with a barberry or other thorny shrub.



Dealing with Weeds without Chemicals

Avoid disturbing the soil – millions of weed seeds resided in the soil. Every time the soil is disturbed, more seeds are brought to the surface which now have the light and heat they need to germinate.

Apply mulch – Maintain a layer of organic material to keep the light from the seeds. This also moderates the temperature of the soil and reduces moisture loss.

More plants means that there are fewer opportunities for weeds to take hold.

Weed after watering when they are easier to remove.

Remove weeds when they are small. There will be less disturbance of the soil

Remove flowers and seed heads before the seeds disperse.

Weeds that have not gone to seed can be put straight into the home composter. If there are weed seeds present send them to the city compost.

Coming Events

Omemece

Monday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity United Church – Sher Letooze – Edible Wild Plants and a Mini Show

Monday, June 15 – On Site Visit to: *Blossom Hill Peonies & Delphiniums*: Joe & Hazel Cook, 681 Fife's Bay Road

Lindsay Lilac Festival

May 23 - 31 – Logie Park

Heart of Northumberland Garden Tour

Sunday, June 28 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for more information call 1-888-278-2484

First Annual Coneflower Festival

July 25 & 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Old Barn Perennials, 13794 County Road 2, Colborne –

Millbrook

Wednesday, June 3 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Church Hall, Centre St, Millbrook –\$2 Admission – Cindy Deutekom – Goldenbrook Hostas

June 6 – Annual Spring Plant Sale at Old Millbrook School at 8:30 a.m.

July 4 – Day Trip to Aurora – Open Gardens & Plant Sale at Merlin's Hollow Contact Wendy 944-8912 or Joan 799-5378 for more information

Plant Sales

Norwood

Thursday, May 14 at 1:00 p.m. on the United Church Lawn at the corner of Hwy #7 & 48

Lakefield

Saturday May 16, Annual Plant Sale 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Lakefield Cenotaph

Ecology Park

Sunday, May 17 at 1:00 p.m. at the Park – native and non-native trees, shrubs perennials and vegetables

This Month in the Garden – Peterborough & Area Master Gardeners

May

- Harden off seedlings.
- Treat for slugs, aphids, and blackspot if necessary.
- Deadhead tulips and daffodils, leaving the foliage to nourish the bulb and to die back naturally.
- Take notes and photos of bulb plantings for later changes.
- Plant tender summer-flowering bulbs (glads, cannas, callas and dahlias).
- Check trees for tent caterpillars and other insects.
- Stake and tie trees, shrubs and vines as required.
- Cage peonies.

Have your gardening questions answered on the Master Gardener Hotline. Call 741-4905 or visit their website at www.peterboroughgardens.ca

