



OCTOBER 2011

OAKVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The society aims to further the knowledge of Horticulture, stimulating an interest in gardening in our community's youth and encouraging the beautification of both private and public properties since 1957.

October's Guest Speaker

Gail Trenholm:
Bringing Flying Flowers To Your Garden

Gail Howe Trenholm has traveled throughout New England and Pennsylvania for over 20 years to teach at various horticultural organizations and museums about insects, specifically butterflies and dragonflies.

She recently gave the opening night talk for the biannual NABA (North American Butterfly Association) meeting in Massachusetts.

Prior to moving to Oakville, Gail worked as a master naturalist for the Massachusetts Audubon Society for 15 years. Gail developed many innovative programs such as the Butterfly Institute and later the Dragonfly Institute which offered 10-week courses on "bugs" to adults.

She designed the Neighborhood Nature Summer program, which has been running for nearly 20 years in 12 urban parks and connects city children to the natural world.

Gail is now the president and founder of **Nature Visits With Gail**, an organization that brings life and earth science programs to schools and other organizations. Her enthusiasm is infectious and her passion for butterflies unmatched.

Visit her online at www.naturevisits.com.



Courtesy Gail Trenholm

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October Meeting:

Monday 17 October, 7:30 p.m.
(doors open 6:30 p.m.)
MacMillian Hall, 89 Dunn Street
Hall Set-up (9 a.m.): Judy Bridges,
Rosi Croal, Christel Mahncke,
David Marshal

Library: Paula Korczak,
Christel Mahncke

Refreshments: Ted Bateman,
Marjorie Bobko, Margaret Jeffery,
Lisa Kruitwagen

Clerks: Jean Latham,
Florenda Tingle

Executive Meeting:

Wednesday 19 October, 7:00 p.m.

Where Gardeners come to flourish

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My thanks and gratitude to all of you

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit. -Nelson Henderson-

I am writing this note on a beautiful September day in Cathy Heaven – my garden. The English Ivy is blooming and I think I have never seen so many species of pollinators as I do today. From paper wasps to graceful comma butterflies, there must be a thousand little creatures helping themselves to the sweet smelling nectar and pollen being produced by each panicle of umbels. It is a wondrous sight. I am struck as I sit with my camera in the midst of bald faced hornets and eastern yellow jackets how busy and cooperative they all are. They choose to share the bounty of the garden – a Thanksgiving feast of

the vespid kind. May Thanksgivings around the world be so amicable.

When last I wrote the path was still to be built in the Anderson Parkette. We now have the date of September 30th for its construction and promises that it will include the benches. When I was down pinching a few weeds this week, three people stopped to say how much they were enjoying watching this garden develop and sent their thanks to all of you for giving them this wonderful gift. Thank you!

Thank you as well to all of you who take time to help make this organization run. We do have fun. But we need new helping hands. We are looking in particular for a couple people to manage our plant sale for next year. We also need someone who can help to manage our financial records. If you can help with fundraising, publicity or the website, we need you. Call me 905-849-7581 or email c.kavassalis@gmail.com.

Together we share the love of gardening, the enjoyment of learning, a commitment to protecting our environment, and a dedication to making our community beautiful, sustainable and liveable. Thank you for your gifts of gardening.

I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks. -William Shakespeare



Paper Wasp by Cathy Kavassalis

Catherine Kavassalis

Pollen Bee Nest Fundraiser

Bees are in decline across North America. You can help our society while helping solitary bees by purchasing a Pollen Bee Nest for \$17 (with \$6 going to our society).

Details to follow at our next meeting. Email or phone Cathy Kavassalis at c.kavassalis@gmail.com or (905-849-7581) if you are interested.

For more information, visit www.pollenbeenest.com/product.html



OCTOBER SHOW SCHEDULE

Horticulture Schedule

Perennials

1. **Chrysanthemum** - 1 bloom or spray
2. **Sedum** - 1 stem
3. **Hollyhock** - 1 stem
4. **Other perennial, plant height under 15"**
- 3 stems (see Hort Guidelines pg. 2)
5. **Other perennial, plant height over 15", spike form** - 1 stem
6. **Other perennial, plant height over 15", other form** - 1 stem
7. **Collection of perennials, 3 kinds**
- 1 stem of each
8. **Dahlia** - 1 stem or bloom, disbudded
9. **Other bulb, corm, tuber** - 1 stem
10. **Ornamental grass** - 3 stems
11. **Flowering branch under cut to 36" or less**
12. **Fruited branch undercut to 36" or less**
13. **Branch showing fall colour, under cut to 36" or less**
14. **Rose, hybrid tea** - 1 bloom, disbudded
15. **Rose, floribunda or grandiflora**
- 1 spray or bloom
16. **Rose, shrub** - 1 spray or bloom (includes Austin roses)
17. **Rose, climbing** - 1 spray or bloom
18. **Rose, miniature** - 1 spray or bloom
19. **Rose, other** - 1 spray or bloom
20. **Rose hips** - 1 spray

Annuals

21. **Coleus** - 3 stems
22. **Annual, plant height under 15"** - 3 stems
23. **Annual, plant height over 15", spike form**
- 1 stem
24. **Annual, plant height over 15", other form**
- 1 stem
25. **Collection of annuals** - 3 kinds, 1 stem of each²

26. **Plant grown specifically for butterfly habitat, grown without pesticides**
27. **Fall craft, inspired by the garden, made by the exhibitor, not previously shown**
28. **Decorative seed heads** - 3 stems
29. **Seed pods** - at least 3 specimens
30. **Large vegetable** - 1 specimen, e.g., squash, turnip, pumpkin, cabbage, cauliflower
31. **Small vegetable** - 3 specimens, e.g., peas, beans, carrots, beets, onions, potatoes
32. **Cherry tomatoes** - 1 truss or 5 specimens (calyx left on)
33. **Large Tomato** - 3 specimens, calyx left on
34. **Large fruit** - 1 specimen
35. **Berries or small fruit** - 1/2 pint
36. **House plant grown for flowers or fruit**
37. **House plant grown for foliage**
38. **Educational exhibit**⁶
39. **Any other cultivar (AOC)**¹ - 1 stem or bloom

Horticultural notes:

- 1.AOC: The "Any other Cultivar (AOC)" class has been added for plants that do not fall into any other show category. (O.J.E.S. pg 90.)
- 2.Collection: This will offer an opportunity for members with smaller gardens to contribute entries without decimating their gardens. A collection always gives a specified number of cultivars. (O.J.E.S. pg. 24, 68, 93)
- 6.Educational Exhibit: This exhibit will be scored out of 5 points and the points will count toward trophies. Educational exhibits are designed to instruct the viewer in some aspect of horticulture (e.g., plant propagation, environment, endangered plant preservation, etc). The exhibit must contain plant material and should include both botanical and common plant names. It should also mention plant origin, habitat, culture (how it is grown), usage and history. The exhibit will also be judged on clear, concise presentation, attractiveness, quality and condition of plant material, originality and creativity. (O.J.E.S. pg. 76)

Design Schedule – End of Summer

1. **Class of Distinction**
Summer's End – A design
2. **Chairman's Trophy**
Artful Leaves – A foliage design
3. **General**
Serenity – A design
4. **General Novice**
Witches and Brooms – A creative and fun design
5. **Miniature**
Little Devil – A fun design in a niche 5" high x 4 1/2" wide x 3" deep.

FALL GARDEN CHORES

- * Don't over-tilly the garden. Think of the forest – no one is nipping about with a broom cleaning up. Leave litter on the ground to break down into humus, with the exception of oak and maple leaves which mat when soggy and smother everything underneath.
- * What leaves will do for you: they have all the nutrients that plants need including trace minerals; they offer great protection against the freeze-thaw of winter; they break down into organic material over time.
- * Keep on dividing plants if you have several weeks before frost. Divide plants about every five years (every three if they get out of hand). Keep planting as long as the ground isn't too frozen or wet.
- * Cut back perennials. Leave enough stalk to protect the crowns of plants. They will provide sculptural forms in the winter.
- * Add slow-acting fertilizers such as phosphates for next spring's growth. Compost and any other organic matter mixed together will break down slowly and contribute to winter protection.
- * Prepare sites for roses you've ordered. Dig a large hole and mix in lots of compost and manure, add a bit of soil and water deeply. Leave in this condition until you are ready to plant.
- * Roses need a lot of water. Give new plants a really good soak, especially if the soil looks dry.
- * Hold off pruning roses until the leaves turn colour and start to fall. The longer you leave them alone, the more time the plant has to store up food and strength against the ravages of winter.
- * Mulch fruit trees and shrubs, but don't let mulch touch the stem or rot may set in.
- * Basil, chives, lemon balm, marjoram, parsley, sage, tarragon and thyme will survive in pots on window sill with enough light. When you lift the plants, take as much root as possible. Water in well and then sparingly thereafter. They will be happiest in a room that's 10-16C/50-60F by day, 5C/40F by night.

From *The Canadian Gardener's Year*
by Marjorie Harris



Across the land a faint blue veil of mist
Seems hung; the woods wear yet arrayment sober
Till frost shall make them flame; silent and whist
The drooping cherry orchards of October
Like mournful pennons hang their shriveling leaves
Russet and orange: all things now decay;
Long since ye garnered in your autumn sheaves,
And sad the robins pipe at set of day.

Siegfried Sassons
October

JUNIOR GARDENING PROGRAM



Every child should have mud pies, grasshoppers, water-bugs, tadpoles, frogs, mud-turtles, elderberries, wild strawberries, acorns, chestnuts, trees to climb, brooks to wade in, water-lilies, woodchucks, bats, bees, butterflies, various animals to pet, hayfields, pine-cones, rocks to roll, sand, snakes, huckleberries and hornets; and any child who is deprived of these has been deprived of the very best part of his education.



Luther Burbank



HISTORICAL TIDBIT FROM OUR SOCIETY

If you've been a member for any length of time there's a good chance that you have used this item – and if you haven't, you will certainly have noticed the contents held within!

'These are made of plastic, green in colour, with a good base and they are the same containers as used in the famous Chelsea Flower Show in England.'



From the OHS newsletter of June 1969, news of this new purchase was detailed to members. 'We have been putting aside for the past two years funds from our Treasury and we have paid slightly over \$200.00 (including tariff) for these containers. This does represent a cost of average container and base of a little over a dollar – we have bought 200.'

All the benefits of these new vessels were listed: the uniform showing of specimens, ease of storage, and the fact that they were also light-weight. It was further noted that 'the space and handling has always been a problem with our glass jars!'

A brief trial period was suggested before purchasing the quantity needed for the fall flower show. We can assume that this happened – several times over!

It might also be of interest to note that the initial \$200 investment translates into a \$1200 expense today.

Sheelagh Rowland-Brown

ON A LIMB

Kevin and I had a great trip at the end of August to Indianapolis, Indiana for a garden writers' trip. It was never on my must-see lists – but I can tell you, if I was ever in a position to go again, I'd do it in a minute!

One of the highlights was the Indianapolis Museum of Art, surrounded by 126 acres of garden and nature trails, just stunning. The city itself is exceptionally clean and great for walking. On the last day, we took a walk along the canal – 10 blocks that included gorgeous pathways, landscaping and water features. Who knew we'd find such an exceptional waterfront walk in the middle of landlocked Indianapolis?

It did my heart good to see so many people taking Alliums home at the last meeting. While other bulbs are pretty, I believe that they are un-matched in their ability to reward you for your simple act of shoving them into the ground on a cold day in autumn. Not only do they come back yearly, they reward you with children and make you look like you're a brilliant gardener as they grow in wonderful swaths through and around your perennials and shrubs.

ALLIUMS FOR EVERYONE

Here are five that I have growing in my garden and recommend heartily:

1. Blooming last – in fact, this photo is from November, is *Allium* ‘Ozawa’. It starts to bloom in late October, grows 15cm high and increases slowly over the years. It holds onto its little pink blossoms which gives me my first flower pictures every year (albeit frozen flower pictures) in February in the snow. It’s late to emerge so be sure to mark its spot.



2. Blooming in mid-summer is an oddball called *A.* ‘Hair’. The bulb produces green wire-like blossoms in mid-July. While that was fun, what I’m enjoying better are the



offspring of ‘Hair’ – less green, pinker, and still weird. It is about 35cm tall on a very fine stem with little foliage. Plant them close together.

3. Another mid-summer bloomer is *A. azureum*. True to its name, it is blue. It also has fine stems and leaves, so plant them close together near something like a *Nepeta* so they’ve got something to lean on. They grow to 35cm.



4. *Allium christophii* is my all-time favourite. I like it from the moment it is just thinking of blooming until its stems and dead blossoms keel over. It looks like something from outer space and its colour blends well with others. It is an excellent spreader, so if you don’t love it is much as I do, just be sure to remove the sputniks before you see these little black seeds. It is a little taller at 45cm.



5. And the last of an excellent lot, is *A. nectaroscordum*. The original bulb in my garden was delivered by either a bird or other little



creature. It is a little onionier smelling than some of the other varieties, but it’s a small price for such neat looking blossom. It grows around 65cm high and blooms in June.

I firmly believe that if you have a patch of soil, you’ve got room for at least one *Allium*. You won’t regret it for a moment.

See you next meeting. Happy bulb planting!

Barbara Phillips-Conroy

UPCOMING EVENTS

Carolinian District 6 Fall Dinner

Saturday 22 October 2011

5:30pm - 9:00pm

Merrit Hall, Ancaster Fairgrounds

Entertainment by pianist and composer Paul Benton. Guest speaker will be Sonia Day. Tickets \$25. Cash bar and door prizes.

Fall Garden & Mum Show

21 - 30 October 2011, 10am-8pm

Gage Park Greenhouse, Hamilton

Over 200 varieties of Mums. Workshops and gardening seminars. Marketplace and tea room. Children's displays and play area. Admission \$6, seniors \$5. www.hamiltonmumshow.com or 905-546-2489.

Orchid Society Annual Show

Saturday 29 October, noon - 5pm

Sunday 30 October 10am - 5pm

RBG Centre

680 Plains Road West, Burlington

Judged by the American Orchid Society, it features orchid displays by societies and growers from across Canada and the USA. There are also exhibits of flower arrangements, painting, photographs and plant sales. Visit www.rbg.ca for discount coupon.



Notices

New members:

Please welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Society.

- Tracy Nursall
- Fred Teng
- Spence & Linda Williams

Please make them feel at home.



Upcoming meetings:

14 November

Diana Pooke

Geraniums – The Garden Chorus Line

12 December

AGM

TBA



Help wanted:

Gertrude Bieri and Susan McLaney have announced that they will be stepping down from running the draw table at our monthly meetings.

They'll be a tough act to follow, but if you're willing to take up the challenge please let them know...

