



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 public and private properties since 1957.

MARCH 2011

March's Guest Speaker *Tool Sharpening by Tony Wallace*

Margaret Larson & Helen Thomson

Tony Wallace is the "resident sharpener" at Lee Valley Tools in Burlington and is interested in keeping things sharp, including kitchen utensils, lawnmowers and even the windshield scraper in his car. When he is not sharpening, Tony busies himself by making or modifying knives, which he then proceeds to sharpen.

He is the instructor at all the sharpening seminars held at the Burlington store. These include the sharpening and maintenance of various woodworking tools, knives, scissors, woodcarvers tools, reel lawnmowers, and of course, gardening tools.



Lee Valley Tools Display
Photo: www.leevalley.com

Tony will be giving a short talk and will then demonstrate sharpening techniques to a small group and answer any questions. Due to the number of members that usually show up for our meetings, we will be having Master Gardeners Sean James and Cathy Kavassalis answering any gardening questions you may have while small groups of members will attend the demonstration. If all goes according to plan, everyone will have a chance to view the sharpening demonstration. That's the plan anyway...



What you can make with sharp garden tools!
Photo: www.landscaping-gardening-supply.com

Please do not bring any tools to be sharpened that night. Tony will be glad to advise you on how to sharpen any tools you bring but he will not sharpen them that night.



Where Gardeners come to flourish

President's Report

Catherine Kavassalis



Canada Puccoon or Bloodroot
(*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Photo: Clement Kent

As February ended, Sean James showed me snow drops in his garden in Milton – such a joyful indicator of spring to come. During March, our day light hours will continue to rise gently waking our

photosensitive plants. This year, we will officially reach Vernal equinox on March 20th at 11: 21 p.m. Then spring begins!

Our Society brought an early spring on Family Day, Feb 21st, for many Oakville residents with our offering of *Fun with Flowers* at the Iroquois Ridge Community Centre. It was a festive event (read the article on page 3), and we look forward to repeating it next year. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event so enjoyable for so many.

March will be a busy month, as there are so many wonderful events. Canada Blooms starts on March 15, and I will be giving a talk on March 16th on Trees in a Changing Climate as part of Master Gardeners programming. I will also be continuing work on the Anderson Parkette. As I mentioned at our last meeting, it turns out that the Anderson Bridge Parkette is largely under the jurisdiction of Conservation Halton. Our current garden, and in fact the Town's own plantings on that property, have not been in compliance with regulations. We are awaiting Conservation Halton's decision regarding waiving its requirement for plants indigenous to Halton Region and on the relocation of the path six meters from the top of bank. I will give you an update at our next meeting.

Celia Roberts and I attended a meeting on the Queen Elizabeth Park Community Centre, now

known as QUE. This facility, located at 2302 Bridge Rd., is slated for completion January 2012 and will provide a fully accessible meeting space with rental rates in keeping with our current rates. There are still details to be determined such as membership fees for use of the facility, volunteer requirements and management. We will continue to track its progress as a possible new meeting location in 2012. No decisions will be made without a full discussion with OHS members.

Once again, I must ask you to volunteer. We still do not have a newsletter editor to replace Margot who is moving this spring. We need people to help with the Junior Garden Program over the summer. We need an auditor. These can be enjoyable and rewarding activities – please step up and offer to help if you are able! Yes YOU!

Business aside, it is time to think about spring and summer. If you have a child or grand child (ages six to nine), sign them up for our Junior Garden Program. It would be a great activity to share with someone you love or to begin a young child on a lifelong journey in the garden. What better gift could there be? Contact Linda Tock at 905-842-6074 or linda.tock@sympatico.ca.

It is time to start seedlings indoors for spring planting. Our last frost date is around May 9th (a bit before if you are in a sheltered spot). Read your seed packages to determine when you should start your seedlings. For example, green pepper seeds should be germinated 6-8 weeks before the last frost date, which means sowing them between March 7th and March 21st. It is so rewarding to grow your own plants from seed and you can select from so many varieties not available as nursery stock. Share the fruits of your success at our monthly horticulture shows. We can't wait to see what your garden is growing. Our first show for 2011 is our March meeting.

Note: The above photo of Canada Puccoon or Bloodroot is from a fun blog by Clement Kent on Pollinator Gardens (pollinatorgardens.blogspot.com). Clement is working on a Pollinator Garden display for Canada Blooms and describes his attempt to force bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) to bloom in time for the display. Not an easy task!

Fun with Flowers: A Family Day Success

Catherine Kavassalis

What could be more wonderful than flower arranging for a mid-winter horticulture celebration? When the Town of Oakville invited our Society to participate in Family Day Events, we organized a demonstration for adults as well as an activity for children. A group of dedicated volunteers led by Linda Tock went to local floral shops for floral material contributions - enough for 60 families to create small floral arrangements.



All the beautiful flowers!
Photo: Cathy Kavassalis

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of area businesses. Dedicated floral shops including Flower Deco, The Flower Place, Flowers by the Dozen, Ada's Flowers, Abbeywood Flowers, Lavender Flowers and area supermarket floral departments including Longo's, Fortino's, Metro, the Superstore and Sobeys all donated floral material. We collected 65 tuna sized cans and filled them with oasis. We harvested greenery from our gardens, and with small secateurs in hand, we thought we were prepared.

An hour before our activity was set to begin, we arrived at the community center with 20 buckets of flowers and greens. The number of families there was amazing. This was a clue that we might be busier than expected, which was indeed the case.

While it was a bit chaotic, our activity was enjoyed by well over 65 families. Children made bouquets under the guidance of the many OHS volunteers, while Celia Roberts and Marie Decker expertly demonstrated valuable design techniques. The excitement and smiles were priceless.



Very proud budding flower arrangers
Photo: Linda Tock

We are grateful to all of those who worked so hard to make this such a joyous event. We look forward to repeating this adventure next year as we have already been asked to return. It was wonderful to share our passion with our community. Hopefully, we have inspired many others to appreciate the simplicity and beauty of



Priceless excitement and smiles!
Photo: Cathy Kavassalis

October Show Schedule

Marie Decker &
Margaret Larson

Design Schedule - Spring Breaks Through

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Class of Distinction | Ethereal Elegance
A design. |
| 2. Chairman's Trophy | Melting Ice
A design. |
| 3. General | Frosted Petals
A design. |
| 4. General Novice | Dancing Daffodils
A design. |
| 5. Miniature | Twiggy
A design in a niche, 5"H x 4½"W x 3"D with ceiling hook. |



Horticulture Schedule

1. **Gesneriad** - including African Violet - single crown
2. **House plant** - grown for flowers or fruit
3. **House plant** - grown for foliage
4. **Cactus or Succulent**
5. **Forced branch** - cut to 36" or less
6. **Forced bulb(s)** - 1 pot
7. **A craft item**, inspired by the garden, made by the exhibitor, not previously shown
8. **Bonsai**
9. **Educational exhibit**⁶
10. **Any other cultivar (AOC)**¹ - 1 stem or bloom



Tango Floral Design Show
Photo: Canada Blooms

Photography Schedule

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Class 1 | First Up
The first flowers up in the spring. |
| Class 2 | A Place for my Tools
Garden Shed (don't forget the horticultural component). |
| Class 3 | Let the Sun Shine In
Depict the play of shadows and sunlight in the garden. |
| Class 4 | That is Odd
An unexpected combination of plants. |
| Class 5 | Yellow Fellow
Any yellow flower(s).. |
| Class 6 | Anyone Recognize This?
An unusual plant. |
| Class 7 | Up Close and Personal
Close-up of any leaf or flower. |

(1)AOC: Any Other Cultivar for plants that do not fall into any other show category.

(6) Educational Exhibit: Scored out of 5 points and will count toward trophies. Designed to instruct viewer in an aspect of horticulture (e.g., plant propagation, environment, endangered plant preservation, etc). Must contain plant material, include botanical and common plant names, plant origin, habitat, culture (how it is grown), usage and history. Also judged on clear, concise presentation, attractiveness, quality and condition of plant material, originality and creativity. (O.J.E.S. pg. 76).

District Six AGM in Bronte

The OHA Carolinian District Six 2011 Annual General Meeting and Flower Show is being hosted by the Bronte Horticultural Society and being held at the Sir John Colbourne Recreation Centre on Lakeshore Road at Third Line in Oakville. Admission is \$13.00 and registration starts at 8:00 a.m. and everything ends at 3:45 p.m. There will be refreshments but bring your own lunch. The Flower Show entries need to be placed between 7:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m.

Flower Show Schedule

Division 1: Horticulture

Division 2 : Design

CLASS 1	Crocus	3 stems, 1 cultivar
CLASS 2	Muscari	3 stems, any cultivar
CLASS 3	Narcissus	1 stem, double
CLASS 4	Narcissus	1 stem, miniature
CLASS 5	Narcissus Collection	3 named cultivars
CLASS 6	Tulip	1 stem
CLASS 7	One Branch in bloom	Less than 30" long
CLASS 8	Cactus	1 pot under 8"
CLASS 9	Succulent (not cactus)	1 pot under 8"
CLASS 10	House plant (flowers)	1 pot under 8"
CLASS 11	House plant (foliage)	1 pot under 8"
CLASS 12	Collection of Spring Flowers & Branches	Minimum of 5 in own container
CLASS 13	Bronte Harbour - a water viewing design Limit of 8	
CLASS 14	Hint of Spring - miniature design	
CLASS 15	Tea on the Bluffs - design using a tea cup Limit of 8	
CLASS 16	Sprint Time in Bronte - design of choice using spring flowers Limit of 8	

There will also be three interesting speakers.

- Catherine Kavassalis — Trees in a Changing Climate
- George Sanford — Flora in Music & Art
- Frank Ferragine — Tomato Talk

Come out and support our neighbouring Bronte Society and meet other horticultural enthusiasts from other societies.

For more information regarding the AGM and Flower Show, contact Marie Decker at mariedecker@cogeco.ca.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Pre-Registration is Required for the April 16 District Six AGM



Pre-registration for the District Six AGM is necessary due to limited space. Bring your \$13 to our March meeting and give it to Cathy Kavassalis who will forward all the money to the Bronte Horticultural Society.

In addition to pre-registering for the AGM, Design entrants for the Flower Show must also pre-register by contacting Elaine Sparrow at 905-827-2628 or at thesparrows@sympatico.ca.

Horticulture show entrants do not need to pre-register with Elaine but must bring their own containers.

This should be a great meeting and is a wonderful opportunity for the OHS to show support to our sister society in Bronte by attending.

Useful Information

Starting Seeds Indoors

by Margot Byers

Starting plants from seeds is not difficult: It just requires dedication and time. Start with annuals or vegetables and don't be deterred by initial failures. It is important to follow the seed packet information about when to sow the seeds. To calculate the sowing date, count back from our last frost date, which is May 9 for Oakville.

Materials checklist

1. Containers. Cell pack or small containers (8-10 cm deep) with drainage holes. If re-using old pots or trays, sterilize them first (in 1 part bleach to 10 parts water).
2. Plastic cover or Ziploc bags. To maintain humidity for germination.
3. Seed-starting soil. Lighter, weed seed free and has less soil-borne diseases.
4. Seeds. Use new seed packets and avoid any water damaged or dirty packets.
5. Tags. Label the seeds you planted and when you planted them because you will forget.
6. Light. Natural sunlight is best but growing lights are also good.

Once you have the supplies and have determined the sowing date, you are ready to plant.

Steps to starting seeds indoors

1. An hour before sowing, loosen and moisten seed-starting soil until it is as damp as a wrung-out sponge, not soggy.
2. Scoop damp soil into containers to 2/3 full. Gently knock containers for soil to settle.
3. Sow seeds to depth on seed packet directions. Cover with damp soil.
4. Mist or carefully water freshly sown containers, then cover with plastic dome lid. Place re-used containers inside Zip-lock bags.
5. Place the sown containers in a bright, warm, draft free location until germination. Remove plastic covers when sprouts appear.

4. Mist soil or water carefully when the top of soil looks dry. Do not overwater as soggy soil and poor air circulation can lead to damping-off.
6. When cotyledons (seed leaves that provide food to the seedling) appear, move the container into a sunny location or under growing lights. Keep the containers 8-10 cm from grow lights to prevent leggy plants. Seedlings should get 16 hours of light.
7. Fertilize weekly with 20-20-20 water soluble fertilizer at half strength when there are 2 sets of true leaves. Gradually work up to full strength over a few weeks.
8. When several sets of true leaves have formed, transplant seedling into 3-4" pots to allow more room for root development.
9. If a few seedlings are growing in the original container, thin the seedlings by separating them into larger pots or cut off all but the strongest seedling. Do not pull seedlings as this may hurt the stronger seedling's roots.
10. Before planting the seedlings outdoors, they must be "hardened off" (acclimatized to sunlight, winds and climate changes). Bring them outside for an increasing amount of time each day for a week or two.

Tidbits from Past Newsletters

by Sheelagh Rowland-Brown

Here is an excerpt from the June 1965 OHS Newsletter regarding their spring plant sale.

"TREMENDOUS SUCCESS - \$207.00

A hearty note of thanks to your convener Mrs. John O. Dean and her Committee – to all those who donated plants, help set up the tables, label, sort, package and clean up afterwards, and to all who purchased plants. This is a splendid example of what can be accomplished when we all pull together!"

Neither the hard work nor the sentiment has changed in 45 plus years – just the dollar amount! In 2010, after expenses, we raised nearly **\$5100.00!**

Humber Nurseries Coupon

Once again, Humber Nurseries has made coupons available for 2011, and they send this message:

Dear Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs:

Humber Nurseries would like to again extend our "Exclusive Perennial Coupon" to members of Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs in Ontario.

This coupon can be used on any day during the 2011 calendar year. Unfortunately, leftover coupons from 2010 are no longer valid.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all the best in 2011.

This is a great offer so take advantage of it. Please cut out the coupon below and bring it to one of our meetings to be signed by our president, Cathy Kavassalis.



HUMBER NURSERIES LTD.

2011 Exclusive Offer to Members of
Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs

**30% Off Herbaceous Perennials
Any Day of the Year, One Day Only**

(With proof of membership and this coupon. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other discounts.)

Cashiers use Coupon Code \$\$10311

8386 Hwy. 50, Brampton, Ontario, L6T 0A5

Phone: 905-794-0555 or 416-798-8733 Fax: 905-794-1311

www.humbernurseries.com

humber@gardencentre.com

Society/Club Name

President's Authorization

Members Phone Number:

(Required for our Loyalty Dollars Program only - will not be used for any other purpose)

Members Email Address:

(Your email address will not be sold, shared or in any way used without your consent)

Office Use Only

Date: _____

Cashier: _____

Purchase Amount: _____

Events and Notices

Notices

New Members:

Please welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Society. Please help them feel at home.

Beryl and Michelle Durrant
Kathy Kuz
Rachelle Marsan and Kevin May

Events Schedule

Wild Music at RBG

January 19 to April 10, 2011
Camilla and Peter Dalglish Atrium, RBG Centre
10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Long before iTunes, the music instinct ran deep in all creatures. Wild Music explores the biological origins of music through highly interactive exhibits and exceptional sound experiences. Visit rbg.ca for a schedule and check out a fun Youtube clip!



Master Gardeners Advice

Monday, March 11, 2011 (OHS Meeting)
7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Master Gardener Sean James will be available to help with your gardening questions. If you are identifying a specific plant, please bring a sample or photo, if possible.

Beautiful Edible Gardens by Sean James

Wednesday, April 20, 2011
Burlington Central Library
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Cost: Free

Seating is limited so register for this event by calling 905-369-3611 x134.

Canada Blooms

THE FLOWER AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

Canada Blooms

March 15-20, 2011
Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto
Tickets: \$18

The Flower and Garden Festival invites you to visit a 6 acre paradise of glorious gardens in full bloom, more than 100,000 square feet of green thumb shopping, and much, much more at Canada's largest and most prestigious flower and garden festival.

Carolinian District Six AGM & Flower Show

Saturday, April 16, 2011
Sir John Colborne Recreation Centre
1565 Lakeshore Rd. W., Oakville
8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Cost: \$13

The 2011 AGM will be hosted by the Bronte Horticultural Society in Oakville and includes AGM business, a Flower Show, and three interesting speakers, including our own Cathy Kavassalis. Come and meet horticulture enthusiasts from other Societies and enter the Flower Show.

Introduction to Gardening

May 2- June 6, 2011
Iroquois Ridge Community Centre, Northridge Rm 1051 Glenasheton Dr., Oakville
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Cost: \$66

OHS is offering a course for novice gardeners through the Town of Oakville Parks and Recreation Department. During this five week program, you will learn how to plan a garden that meets your needs, how to choose the right plants, how to manage pests and disease, and how to maintain and prune your plants. If you know anyone who is interested in starting a garden or learning more about gardening, this is the course for them.