



MARCH 2012

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.

March's Speaker – Jodi Vanderheyden of the RBG: Designing with Vegetables

A graduate of the University of Guelph's plant biology program, Jodi is the plant documentation coordinator at the Royal Botanical Gardens. On any given day, she can be found entering data into the plant records database, updating maps, engraving labels and, most often, chasing a gardener for information on a plant. With experience in interior landscaping, exterior landscaping and floral design, she contributes to many aspects of the horticulture department at the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Jodi is an avid organic gardener and is always trying to get people excited about eating local through the RBG's vegetable display garden or by signing up for a food share from a local community shared agriculture (CSA) program.



Canada Blooms 2012

We will have 20 tickets to Canada Blooms available at the March meeting for the reduced rate of \$15 each (regular cost \$20). Bring your cash...

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Next Meeting:

Monday 12 March – 7:30 pm
MacMillian Hall, 89 Dunn Street

Hall Set Up (9 am):

Ted Bateman, Jason Carusi, Rosanne Swalwell

Refreshments:

Jason Carusi, Peg Coleman, Christine Lee,
Norma Kirkpatrick

Clerking:

Mary Cameron, Michelle Durrant,
Linda Tock (photo)

Library: tba

Doors Open (6 pm)

Where Gardeners come to flourish

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two headlines in the newspaper recently caught my gardening eye. First, we had the announcement that scientists had managed to grow a Campion that had not been seen for at least 32,000 years. The second headline heralded the start of the maple syrup season.

With warm daytime temperatures and cool nights, the sap has started to flow, possibly the earliest start in 20 years. Could it be that we are going to get an early start in our garden adventures for the coming year? Those planning our Plant Sale would welcome an early spring, especially after the cool temperatures that lasted well into May last year. Getting an earlier start would give us much larger, healthier plants ready for potting up, and giving plenty of time for writing a good description of the plants before arriving at the plant depots.

Spring also brings the Carolinian District 6 Spring Workshop and Flower Show, this year hosted by the Delhi and District Horticultural Society. This event marks the last official appearance of our own Celia Roberts as the District 6 Director. It would be very special to have a large number of fellow Oakville members to celebrate Celia's hard work.

Back to that Campion — an Arctic ground squirrel buried the seeds it was grown from as part of winter food cache. It just took a bit longer for the seeds to find their way back into a suitable growing site.

A few years ago, my wife and I purchased a number of daylilies from a proving garden in P.E.I. to add to our collection. They are all coming along nicely and this year we should see a good performance from them as they mature in our garden. Well, all except one, which seems to have disappeared. And of course, that was the one I was most interested in. I hope we don't have to wait as long as that Campion to see blossoms from this particular daylily.

I'm starting to ramble so I will sign off. If you have any suggestions/comments/encouragements send me an email at ohs.president@oakvillehort.org.

Stuart Gough
President



OHS Name Tags

By popular demand, we are preparing to order OHS Name Tags. Featuring a strong magnetic clasp (rather than a pin) that won't damage your clothing, the tags are available for \$10.40 each.

JUNIOR GARDENING PROGRAM



The Junior Gardening Program starts at the beginning of May. Once again, I am looking for volunteers to help with the weekly weeding and watering of the gardens. I'll need help for June, July and August. Any day, any time of the day is suitable although with watering, morning or late afternoon/evening is best because the gardens have full sun exposure. A 30-minute visit to the garden works wonders! The classes are Tuesdays from 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. The families will do their own weeding and watering on this day. So every other day is open... Thanks, and see you in the garden!

Linda Tock

OUT ON A LIMB

I was surprised to see that my *Hamamelis* had started to colour seven weeks ahead of schedule.



Its first full blooms usually coincide with St. Paddy's day, so I'm hopeful that I'll be able to start the lettuce and peas in early March instead of April. My mouth is watering just thinking about my first harvest. This weekend, I'll be preparing my catalogue seed orders. And once again, I'm going to try my best to not exceed my usual 75-acre coverage.

For the last couple of years, I've been disappointed late in the summer that I hadn't planted more annuals. With that in mind, here are four that I hope to try in my garden this summer:

Zinnia 'Magellan'™ Coral (30-35cm), an All American Selection. It has a good strong colour that doesn't fight with others, so it will be easy to plant around the gar-den. And once they start to bloom, they just don't quit.



Zinnia 'Magellan'™ Coral

For the rotten soil next to my parking pad, I am going to try *Ursinia anethoides* (40cm) – a native to South Africa that is similar to *Gazania*. It thrives in hot, poor soil and sports the most marvellous orangey daisy-like flowers held up on fine wiry stems.

Who can resist planting flowers for hummingbirds? Not me. *Salvia coccinea 'Summer Jewel Red'* (51cm) flowers in just 50 days and also is an AAS winner for 2012. Apparently, if I leave the seed pods on I'll be rewarded with lots of hungry gold finch visitors.

After following the impressive display of *Gomphrena* in the roadside strip outside of Whole Foods Market last summer, I decided I had to try some. 'Audray Bicolour Rose' (51cm) comes in packages of 50 seeds. Even with the noted germination rate of 40-50%, I'm hopeful that I'll have some to share with friends.

May this warm weather continue, and may spring be just around the corner. See you at the next meeting.

Barbara Phillips-Conroy
www.barbarasgardenchronicles.blogspot.com



Salvia coccinea 'Summer Jewel Red'
Photo: All-American Selections

Show your Membership Card for Discounts

When you are approaching the cash register, remember to pull out your 2012 OHS Membership card. Receive up to a 10-per-cent discount at Agram's, Jade Gardens, and Holland Park. Sheridan Nurseries has their own discount card – please see Elizabeth Thompson to sign up for this card. Plus, we will have available the Humber Nurseries discount coupon at the March and April meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Stratford Garden Festival

March 1 - 4, 2012

Stratford Rotary Complex

Display gardens, marketplace, speaker series. Admission \$9 at the door. For more details, call 519-271-7500 or go to www.stratfordgardenfestival.com.

Canada Blooms

March 16 - 25, 2012

Direct Energy Centre

North America's largest home and garden event. Photo competition. More info at www.canadablooms.com.

Hosta Forum

April 1, 2012

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington

Presented by the Ontario Hosta Society and the RBG. \$60 includes four speakers, live auction, light lunch, beverages, prizes and more. Details at www.ontariohostasociety.com

Successful Gardening Show

April 12 - 15, 2012

International Centre

Learn from the experts, experience perfect plants and flowers. Schedules, entry forms and information at www.gardenontario.org.

OHA Carolinian District 6

AGM and Flower Show

April 21, 2012

Delhi District Secondary School.
Speaker: Kevin Kavanaugh, South Coast Gardens, Turkey Point.

RBG Home & Garden Show

April 27 - 29, 2012

RBG Centre

Newest merchandise of the season, expert advice, food and entertainment. www.rbg.ca.

RBG Auxiliary Plant Sale

May 3 and 5, 2012

RBG Arboretum

Rare and beautiful plants on sale at this popular fundraiser. Arrive early for the best selection. www.rbg.ca.

Halton Region Compost Give Away

May 7 - 12, 2012

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Halton Waste Management Site

Bring your own containers and shovel. Compost is free, however donations of food and/or cash will be collected in support of local food banks. www.halton.ca.

OHA 106th Convention

Gardening Then & Now 1812-2012

August 17-19, 2012

Niagara Region

Speakers, garden tours, vineyard and winery visits, competitions and more. Early bird deadline is June 30, 2012. www.gardenontario.org.

Fall Breakfast Meeting 2012

October 20, 2012

Brantford Garden Club, Lions Park Hall.

NOTICES

New Members:

Please welcome the following new member who has recently joined the Society.

- Celeste Dwarte

Upcoming Meetings:

- April 9
Joe Hollick: Waterfalls of Hamilton
- May 14
Wolfe Bonham: Gardens of Kyoto
- June 11
Speaker tba
- September 10,
Wayne Brown: Poinsettias

Flower and Photo Shows:

Please visit our website to view this month's show schedule. Or, download the complete OHS 2012 Show Book at http://www.oakvillehort.org/eMShowGuide_OHS_2012.pdf.

OHS Events:

- Plant Sale
May 12
- Garden Tour
TBA

