



MAY 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.

May's Speaker – Wolfe Bonham Gardens of Kyoto

Wolfgang Bonham is an admitted garden addict. He received honours certificates from Mohawk College in both Landscape Design and in Horticulture Studies, and is one of less than a dozen people in Ontario to hold an Intermediate Level Certification through the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain.

Wolfe worked for renowned landscape designer Sean James of Fern Ridge Landscaping, and was a manager for Terra Greenhouses before deciding to launch Peace, Love, and Landscaping

When he's not gardening (which is very rare) he's usually out riding his motorcycle, playing musical instruments, seeing local bands, or traveling to exotic locations (and seeing the botanical gardens while he's there of course!)

Visit Wolfe online at www.peacelovelandscaping.com



OHS PLANT SALE Saturday, May 12

There's still time to donate to the OHS plant sale!

We have three depots in east, west and north Oakville where you can pick up pots and soil, then drop off your freshly dug plants **before Tuesday May 8th.**

Please label plants with name and colour, sun or shade.

East

Sonja Tessari and Stu Gough
1311 Avon Crescent
sonja.t@sympatico.ca

West

Lisa and Godwin Kruitwagen
567 Patricia Drive
roukrew@hotmail.com

North

Marie and Bob Decker
1285 Gloaming Crt.
mariedecker@cogeco.ca

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Website:

www.oakvillehort.org

Next Meeting:

Monday 14 May – 7:30 pm
MacMillian Hall, 89 Dunn Street

Hall Set Up (9 am):

Christine Lee, Sheelagh Rowland-Brown

Hospitality:

Ted Bateman, Donna Daly, Liz Lloyd,
Lille de Silva

Clerking:

Beryle Lowther, Joan Paris

Library:

Veronica Heiderich, Cathy Ryan

Doors Open (6 pm)

Where Gardeners come to flourish

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write, the sun is shining and the weather forecast is for snow. How on earth am I going to catch up on the potting of plants for the Plant Sale under these conditions? I thought, with our local zone 6b, that by now we'd be merrily out and about in the garden, not hiding inside with the treat of snow!

Another misconception I have suffered from is dirt. Every year or so, my wife would order a pile of dirt for spreading about in the garden and onto the lawn. We like our dirt. Then, at the last meeting for organizing the Plant Sale, we were informed that "dirt" is what one washes out of one's socks, where as soil is what our wonderful gardens thrive in.

Our Plant Sale is coming up in two weeks – Saturday, May 12th. The ground is warm and the plants are shooting up from the soil. I have been digging at a garden that is undergoing a complete overhaul and the owner has kindly offered us her plant material. Wow, is clay hard to dig in or what? With the roots in the clay soil, one clump of grass must have weighed 75 lb. As we will not be meeting as a Society until after the Plant Sale, I will take this opportunity

now to encourage you to dig, divide and pot for the Plant Sale. Need pots and soil? Just pop by one of the depots. Have questions? Email ohs.plantsale@oakvillehort.org or pop by one of the depots. All of our efforts will make this sale a success.

This past weekend was the District Six Spring Workshop. More than 10 members from Oakville attended. Celia Roberts, Marie Decker, Elizabeth Schleicher and Mary Cameron all had winning entries in the Flower Show. My wife picked up pond cypress from one of the guest speakers (South Coast Gardens) that should do well in our sandy soil.

On the subject of conventions, the annual OHA Convention each year looks for a host garden. They are casting about for the 2015 convention; I would like to plant a seed in the soil... Until our next meeting.

If you have any suggestions/comments, send me an email at ohs.president@oakvillehort.org

Stuart Gough
President

OHS MEMBERS SHINE AT SUCCESSFUL GARDENING SHOW

Congratulations to the following OHS members, who won ribbons at the Successful Gardening Show.

Design Division

Best in Show – Marie Decker, "Wind in the Branches" (pictured)

Class 1 – "Symphony", 3rd place, Anne Clark-Stewart

Class 3 – "Pecking Order", 2nd place,
Anne Clark-Stewart

Class 4 – "Bird's Eye View", 3rd place, Marie Decker

Class 6 – "Wind in the Branches", 1st place,
Marie Decker

Class 7 – "Just Beginning" Fresh Mini, 1st place,
Marie Decker

Class 8 – "Just beginning" Dried Mini, 2nd place,
Marie Decker

Class 10, Invitational Class – "Morning Sky",
3rd place, Anne Clark-Stewart



Horticulture Division

Class 49, Cactus Collection
2nd place, Marie Decker

Class 60, House Plant
3rd place, Marie Decker

Class 63, Pot-et-fleur
2nd place, Marie Decker

Class 64, Terrarium
HM, Marie Decker

Class 65, Dish garden
1st place, Marie Decker

Class 69A, Hyacinth
1st place, Marie Decker

Class 69D, Narcissus
3rd place, Marie Decker

Class 69E, Small Cup Narcissus
1st place, Marie Decker

OUT ON A LIMB

Kevin and I are packing for Amsterdam to see the tulips and *Floriade* – the once-every-ten-year floral show in Venlo. I've got my camera well charged, extra batteries, and loads and loads of memory!

Getting ready for my upcoming trip, I've had my head down hard at work, clearing out leaves and early weeds in the garden. I get so involved in capturing every little leaf that I miss the big picture of the beauty of the garden. I've developed a plan where I force myself, between full refuse bags, to stop and really look at what's around me.

Not only is this little period of reflection good for the soul, it also helps you really see your garden. As you pull out the leaves from the bottom of the hedge, take a good look at the plants. Is there wood that needs to be pruned out? Does it need a serious pruning to regenerate it? Does the hedge do what you'd hoped? Would your yard look better without it? Maybe it's time to switch out a deciduous hedge for an evergreen one.

Also, do you have any one-bloom wonders? For example, I have about 15 different types of hydrangeas in my garden. I'd say there are probably five I'd be willing to throw my body over in the event of another wild car driver in my corner yard, but there are 10 I'd gladly direct the car to take them out of their misery! How about your

garden? Are there blooming shrubs that are only there because they have become invisible by growing among others and never putting on a show? Think about what a punch of colour would do in that spot. Remember, these plants aren't family – they must earn their keep.



Lastly, consider growing more bulbs. Yes, I know everyone is done gardening late in the fall when they have to be planted, but imagine just how wonderful your garden would look if you'd tucked in a few bulbs. With the trip ahead, I'll no doubt come back with all sorts of ideas for what to plant in the fall, but if you could put a few little markers in the ground now, there will be no excuse for not planting a few of those wonderful spring treasures.

Happy Spring everyone! See you at the next meeting.

Barbara Phillips-Conroy

JUNIOR GARDENING PROGRAM

With shovels and wheel barrows in tow, an amazing group of gardeners stepped inside the Junior Garden on April 15th – and magic happened! Huge mountains of garden soil (donated by Petrie) and mulch (donated by the town of Oakville) were dispersed to garden beds and walkways.

A soft rain fell and balmy temperatures created an outdoor sauna – but despite the challenging weather, the task was completed.



A big thank you to the wonderful crew: Lillie deSilva and sons, Pauline Girling, Sally Dawson, Verity Dawson, Stu Gough, Sonia Tessari, David Marshall, Veronika Overton, Jeremy Overton, Will Overton, Max Overton, and Cecilia Overton.

The OHS teaching garden is now ready to engage active minds and create the pride and excitement, a garden brings !

Linda Tock

UPCOMING EVENTS

garden

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 to 12 – 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.

Veggie Village Gardening Series

May 10, May 31, July 12 & Sept 20

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

RBG Centre

Nancy Lee-Colibaba leads four hands-on workshops in the Veggie Village: Getting Started in the Garden, Planting the Garden, Caring for the Garden, and Harvesting from the Garden.

Members: \$20 each or \$70 for series;

Non-members: \$25/\$90.

www.rbg.ca

Ontario Iris Society Flower Show

Sunday 3 June – 1 pm - 3:30 pm

Toronto Botanical Garden

Members display iris bloom stalks for judging. Potted irises will also be on sale. Free admission.

<http://www.sites.google.com/site/ontarioirissociety/events>

Halton Region Rain Barrel Sales

Saturday 9 June – 8 am - noon

Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville (south-east parking lot)

\$40 (tax included) cash only. One per household. Proof of Halton residency required. Sales also take place in Georgetown May 12, Milton May 26, and Burlington June 2.

www.halton.ca

Peony Festival and Canadian Peony Society Ontario Region Peony Show

June 16 to 17, 2012 – 10 am - 4 pm

Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens

Open to all – join us and enter your cut peonies. Free admission and parking.

For more information please contact Judi Denny at mjdenny@sympatico.ca.

www.peony.ca

NOTICES

New Members:

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

- John & Janice Ghent
- Jim Eubank
- Diane Thompson
- Tony & Tammy Estriga

Upcoming Meetings:

- June 11
Paul Oliver: Birds in the Garden
- September 10
Wayne Brown: Poinsettias
- October 8
Dave Naylor: Cacti and Succulents

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.

Call for Volunteers:

- An assistant is required for the Junior Gardening program. Please contact Linda Tock at linda.tock@sympatico.ca.
- Helpers are needed for our monthly flower and photo shows. Contact Marie Decker at mariedecker@cogeco.ca.

On Sunday, June 17th, the OHS Garden Tour will showcase diverse gardens to inspire and provide all garden enthusiasts with great ideas.

Tickets are \$15 and go on sale June 1st.

For further information, email ohs.gardentour@oakvillehort.org.

THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE



Members interested in helping with event preparation or who are

available to volunteer for a morning or an afternoon shift on June 17th are asked to call Christine Lee at 905-338-5148.

This important fundraising event welcomes your participation, and for new members it is a wonderful way to get involved in a fun project!