



JUNE 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.

June's Guest Speaker

John Vanderkruk:
Rose Propagation in Your Own Backyard

John Vanderkruk is a plant enthusiast and has a tremendous love for life. Besides spending much time with his wife and children, John is helping to guide Hortico with his brother Philip.

Hortico was established some 40 years ago by John's father, William Vanderkruk. John received his love for horticulture from his father and is intent on passing on any information that he has gleaned to anyone who is interested.

John loves to travel and has had the privilege to do so by way of speaking engagements and consultation around the globe.

*Photo courtesy
John Vanderkruk*



He will be bringing two products for sale: Horti-grow (an all-natural fertilizer) and Anti-desiccant, which are two of Hortico's best products for growing healthy plants naturally. He will be offering a \$5 discount.

Mailing Address:

Box 69605
109 Thomas Street
Oakville, ON L6J 7R4

President:

Catherine Kavassalis
ckavassalis@gmail.com

Membership:

Elizabeth Thompson
membership@oakvillehort.org

Mailing:

Joan Paris

Secretary:

Valerie Westwood
valerie.ohs@lycos.com

Treasurer:

Stuart Gough
treasurer@oakvillehort.org

Newsletter:

Natalie Ann Comeau
nacomeau@cogeco.ca

Website:

www.oakvillehort.org

June Meeting:

Monday 13 June 2011, 7:30 p.m.
Hall Set-up (9 a.m.): John Raynor,
Ellie Izadpanah, Julia Morrow

Library: Ted Bateman

Refreshments: Cathy Ryan,
Rosanne Swalwell, Paula Korczak,
Elaine Sparrow

Clerks: Norma Kirkpatrick, Anne
Ritchie, Jean Latham, Florrie Abbess

Executive Meeting:

Monday 20 June 2011, 7:00 p.m.

September Meeting:

Monday 12 September 2011

Where Gardeners come to flourish

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Our volunteers exuded smiles and warmth on the cool drizzly Plant Sale Saturday. Accolades go to Elizabeth Thompson and Celia Roberts as well as our plant sale depot managers, Marie Decker, Stuart Gough, Sonja Tessari and Anne Ritchie for going above and beyond to put this sale together.

While we will not meet our fundraising targets, we can be proud of our efforts and enthusiasm. Two competing plant sales, poor weather and a need for better advertising were identified as potential reasons for low turn out.

We must explore additional fundraising initiatives to meet our budget needs. While we could always increase our membership fees, we would like to avoid this. A silent auction was suggested for our December AGM – please let me know if any of you would like to assist with such an endeavour, or have alternative ideas for raising funds.

Now it is time to focus on our Garden Tour. Through the Garden Gates will be held in the fall on September 25th. We really do need your to help get the word out. We also need you to volunteer to host gardens and assist with this educational fundraiser. Contact Christine Lee, our hardworking Committee Chair, if you can offer assistance. Let us know if you see a tour worthy garden – we are always looking!

Garlic mustard removal and invasive species events will continue into June. I will take Town Hall staff on a luncheon “walk and talk” during the week of June 6th. Students from Rotherglen will work in Winston Park Woods the afternoon of June 9th, followed by the folks from Genworth Financial on the morning of June 17th. I have prepared an information sheet if you would like to alert neighbours to the problem.

We are so pleased to see so many new members getting involved and taking leadership roles. For our society to remain healthy and vital we need to see new faces and hear new ideas. Celia Roberts will be retiring as Chair of our Plant Sale Committee after nine years of service. Please consider stepping up and helping to shape this event in the future.

Norma Kirkpatrick and Sian Minich will be calling members over the summer to talk to you about opportunities to get more involved, learn new skills or share your talents. We need you! Yes, YOU!

Check out the Anderson Bridge Parkette Garden over the summer and watch it grow. Enter our “name that garden” contest and leave your mark on our garden. See details within.

I look forward to seeing you in September. Have a wonderful summer. Enjoy the flowers and fruits of summer.

Catherine Kavassalis



SHERIDAN DISCOUNT CARDS

Members who requested discount cards from Sheridan Nurseries can now pick them up at Sheridan's Mississauga location (606 Southdown Road).

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO...

At our May meeting, club president Cathy Kavassalis presented awards to some of our most deserving members.



*David Hawley
President's Award*



*Beryle Lowther
Lifetime Membership*

*Sean James
President's Award*



*Barbara Phillips-Conroy
OHA Service Award*

*Kim Peel
President's Award*



D6 FLOWER ARRANGING COURSE

Cost per person is \$135.00 for 4 weeks of lectures and hands-on workshop.

Dates are 10th, 17th, 24th of September and 8th of October at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Orkney Street in Caledonia from 10 am to 1pm.

Week 1: A Traditional Mass Design – will require considerable plant material, hopefully still available from the late summer or fall garden, which is why we will do this design first.

Week 2: A Basic Line Design – may be on a flower show schedule as “A Water Viewing Design”.

Week 3: A ‘Hogarth Curve’ Design – a rather traditional design but can be given a more modern twist.

Week 4: “Your Choice” – this class will be decided by the group as to what they would like to create. Perhaps we could have a guest designer show how to create a ‘miniature’ design.

A list of plant material, mechanics, and container information will be given out prior to the start of the classes.

A Power Point presentation on the featured design will start the class, followed by the demo of how to build the design, after which the students will create their design.

O.J.E.S. 2003 is available from the OHA supplies chair, Don Matthews. This publication would be of value to all members who enter flower shows.

The facility is not overly large so ‘first come, first served’ basis applies. We may limit the enrollment to 15 people, but this is still to be determined.

Sign up right away if you are interested by contacting Marie Decker at 905-844-1837 or at mariedecker@cogeco.ca

JUNE SHOW SCHEDULE

Horticulture Schedule

Perennials

1. **Allium, over 3" in diameter** - 1 stem
2. **Allium, under 3" in diameter** - 1 stem
3. **Biennial** - 1 stem under 15" (see Guidelines pg. 2)
4. **Biennial** - 1 stem over 15"
5. **Aquilegia (Columbine)** - 1 stem
6. **Clematis** - 1 stem
7. **Geranium (Cranesbill)** - 1 bouquet
8. **Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)** - 1 stem
9. **Heuchera (Coral Bells)** - 3 blooms
10. **Heuchera** - 3 leaves
11. **Hemerocallis (Day Lily)** - 1 stem
12. **Hosta, green and white** - 3 leaves
13. **Hosta, other variegated** - 3 leaves
14. **Hosta, blue** - 3 leaves
15. **Hosta** - 1 leaf of 3 varieties
16. **Iris, bearded** - 1 stem
17. **Iris, Siberian** - 3 stems
18. **Iris, any other variety** - 1 stem
19. **Pansies or violas** - 3 stems with own foliage
20. **Peony, herbaceous, white** - 1 bloom, disbudded
21. " " " , **pink** - 1 bloom, disbudded
22. " " " , **other colour** - 1 bloom, disbudded
23. " " " , **Japanese or tree** - 1 bloom, disbudded
24. **Poppy** - 1 stem
25. **Other perennial, plant height under 15"**
- 3 stems
26. **Other perennial, plant height over 15", spike form** - 1 stem
27. " " " , **other form** - 1 stem
28. **Rhododendron or azalea** - 1 branch cut to 36" or less
29. **Weigela** - 1 branch cut to 36" or less
30. **Other flowering shrub** - 1 branch cut to 36" or less
31. **Shrub grown for foliage** - 1 branch cut to 36" or less
32. **Rose, hybrid tea** - 1 bloom, disbudded
33. **Rose, floribunda or grandiflora** - 1 spray or bloom
34. **Rose, shrub** - 1 spray or bloom
35. **Rose, climbing** - 1 spray or bloom
36. **Rose, miniature** - 1 spray or bloom
37. **Rose, other** - 1 spray or bloom
38. **Small basket of mixed foliage**
- under 12" in any direction
39. **Collection of perennials**
- 3 kinds, 1 stem of each²

Annuals

40. **Annual, plant height under 15"** - 3 stems
41. **Annual, plant height over 15"** - 1 stem
42. **Collection of annuals, 3 kinds**
- 1 stem of each²
43. **Educational exhibit**⁶
44. **Any other cultivar (AOC)**¹ - 1 stem or bloom

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)



Photo: Natalie Ann Comeau

Design Schedule – Mid-Summer Magic

1. **Class of Distinction** Over and Over and Over
2. **Chairman's Trophy** Mid-summer Magic
3. **General** Crimson Glory
4. **General Novice** Daisy, Daisy
5. **Miniature** Limelight – A design in a niche
5" high x 4½" wide x 3" deep.

CONDITIONING FLOWERS & BRANCHES

Conditioning: is the process whereby everything possible is done to prolong the life of plant material by ensuring the maximum uptake of water and minimizing the loss of water by evaporation. Some plant material lasts well with simple conditioning, other require special attention. Conditioning will ensure your flowers are in the best condition possible for the duration of the flower show.

Conditioning Methods

(Refer to the April Newsletter for conditioning methods)

Woody Branches: Split or cross-cut woody stems to assist them to take up water.

Branches in bud may be submerged for 2-3 hours. Peel or scrape bark 2-4 cm (1 ½ - 2") up stem.

Basic conditioning. Keep cool and out of sunlight.

Basic Conditioning: Aquilegia, Geranium, Hemerocallis, Hosta.

Basic conditioning plus searing method: Dicentra, Heuchera, Poppy.

Iris: Must show some colour when cut or will not open in time for the show. Cut off white stem. Use basic conditioning method as described in January newsletter. Iris is ethylene sensitive.



Photo: Natalie Ann Comeau

Submerging: Submerge for 15 minutes to an hour. Place stems in cool water and mist frequently: Paeonia.

Rhubarb: Cut stems that are even in diameter, length and are the same colour. Clean gently clean the dirt off but do not cut off the root end. Trim the leaves evenly to 2". Keep cool until the show.

Vegetables: Choose mature well shaped specimens with as little damage as possible.

If more than one is requested choose specimens that are the same size, colour and at the same stage of maturity. Leafy vegetables may be displayed in water to keep them fresh.

Collection: Members are allowed only one entry in any collection.

*Marie Decker
From "Snippy Tips"
published by the
Garden Club of Toronto*

"I used to visit and revisit it a dozen times a day, and stand in deep contemplation over my vegetable progeny with a love that nobody could share or conceive of who had never taken part in the process of creation.

It was one of the most bewitching sights in the world to observe a hill of beans thrusting aside the soil, or a rose of early peas just peeping forth sufficiently to trace a line of delicate green."

*Nathaniel Hawthorne
Mosses from an Old Manse*

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

I don't know about you, but I've been taking this weather personally. I think that being a gardener cements in your mind just how tricky a spring it has been. This time last year I was enjoying my first vegetable harvest, but this year all I have are chives to scissor onto my store-bought leaves.

Fingers crossed, I'll be able to get out tomorrow to seed and plant up lettuce, tomatoes, herbs and almost anything else but zucchini – Kevin has spoken. (All these years of marriage, I thought he liked zucchini.) While I knew he wasn't as upset as I was each time a mildew-infested plant had to be thrown out, I had no idea he was secretly cheering for their swift demise.

It's been a great educational week, both at home and at Loblaw's Lawn and Garden program meeting.

I was lucky enough to meet the Canadian growers and global plant representatives who develop many of their plants – giving me the perfect opportunity to ask questions I'd always wondered about. For example – why do those gorgeous dahlias stop blooming when I bring them home?



Dahlinova Hypnotica®
Photo courtesy Loblaw's

Reinoud Hagen of Fides explained, “Dahlias generally have one flush of bloom. And, they really don't like the heat.” So, what Fides has done is bred a multi-branched variety called Dahlinova Hypnotica® in a variety of colours that won't flush, but will bloom continually, providing you pick off the dead flowers. I've picked up three in various colours to see if I can break my non-blooming dahlia curse.

From Diane Surette of Dummen, I learned that New Guinea Impatiens (a.k.a. Sunshine Impatiens) were never meant to go into the sun. They are a shade plant that will handle a bit of sunshine. So if you try Red Fox Magnum™ impatiens with their palm-sized blossoms, be kind and put them in a shaded location.

During lunch, we were told about the advancement that DNA testing has made in breeding programs. Rather than have to wait for the plant's full cycle to see if they have a winner, they can now test an individual seedling to see if it has the colour, shape and size potential they're looking for – positively mind-boggling!

In addition to plants and pot introductions, there are new bagged soil products. Rob Howard of the *Hamilton Spectator* was sitting at my table and asked whether the soil products containing moisture holding crystals could be used for vegetables. The answer was NO – these soils are for ornamental horticulture ONLY. If you're growing your veggies in pots, look for soils without moisture crystals.



Diane Surette Cournoyer from Dummen holding the Red Fox Magnum Impatiens.
Photo: Barbara Phillips-Conroy

And my last “I didn’t know that!” happened when I met Judy Thompson of Sheridan and spoke to her about Proven Winner’s Bloomerang® Lilac. I’d have two samples in my garden (now for two years) and have been completely underwhelmed. The blooms were far smaller than a regular lilac and the two tiny blooms that showed up in September did nothing to warm my heart.

Judy told me that I should prune them hard after they bloom. Bloomerang® blooms on new wood (unlike regular lilacs that bloom on second year wood), so I’ve got my pruners at the ready – just waiting for the scent of lilac in early fall.

Fingers crossed for warm weather and lots of time to work in the garden. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Barbara Phillips-Conroy

www.barbarasgardenchronicles.blogspot.com

Have garden wisdom or great photos to share? Contribute to the newsletter! Send your material to nacomeau@cogeco.ca by the 15th of the month.



*Proven Winner's Bloomerang® Lilac
Photo courtesy Loblaw's*

CLOVERLEAF GARDEN CLUB BUS TOUR

Saturday 9 July – \$60 (including lunch)

Itinerary:

- **Depart** 8 AM from Mississauga Seniors' Centre, Cawthra Rd. South, Mississauga
- **Morning:** Whistling Gardens, Wilsonville (south-west Ontario). Some of the rarest, most unusual and newest ornamental conifers; largest collection in Canada. In 2012, when the gardens are officially opened to the public, it will be one of the largest public collections in the world. Visitors will be able to purchase conifers and plants.
- **Lunch** at a local restaurant – homemade soup and sandwich buffet.

- **Afternoon:** tour two private gardens. Tour a master gardener's private garden – over 150 alpine plants and succulents, as well as a variety of perennial plants. Tour a hosta garden – hostas will also be offered for sale.
- **Return** approximately 5:30 PM to Mississauga, Seniors' Centre

Limited availability – register before June 15th.

Contact Margaret Ramsay at 905 274-7995 or email at margaret@perennialgardener.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

garden

Garlic Mustard Pull

Thursday 9 June

Iroquois Shoreline Woods

Join students from Rotherglen in the afternoon. Bring gloves.

RBG 50th Anniversary Garden Party

Wednesday 22 June, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Come celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the RBG Auxiliary.

Georgetown Garden Tour

Sunday 26 June

Secret Garden Tour

Sunday 26 June

Carnegie Gallery, Dundas
(905) 627-4265

Tickets \$20.

Hamilton and Burlington Rose Society Annual Show

Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 June

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Royal Botanical Gardens

Juried Rose Show. Sale of cut show blooms at 3:00 p.m. Sunday.

OHA AGM and Convention

15-17 July, Sudbury

Open to all members. This year's theme – Germinating, Propagating, Celebrating.

Carolinian District 6 Flower Show Workshops

Saturdays: September 10, 17, 24 and October 8 or 15

Hosted by Haldimand HS

Course outline available from Celia Roberts. \$135 per person plus the cost of providing your own plant material.

Halton Compost Give Away

17 September

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Halton Waste Management Site
5400 Regional Road 25, Milton

Bring your own containers (up to seven garbage bags worth) and a shovel, as well as a donation of cash or non-perishable food items.

Through the Garden Gate The Oakville Garden Tour

Sunday 25 September 2011

Save the date and stay tuned for more information...

Carolinian District 6 Fall Breakfast Meeting

Saturday 1 October 2011

Stoney Creek

Details coming soon...

Notices

New members:

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

- Leslie Clark
- Aili Kadai

Please make them feel at home.

Upcoming meetings:

12 September

Robert Pavlis

The Lesser-Known Spring Bulbs

17 October

Lotte Brunner

Basics of Flower Designing

14 November

Diana Pooke

Geraniums – The Garden Chorus Line

12 December

AGM

TBA

