

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.*

SEPTEMBER 2014 Newsletter

September's Guest Speaker: *Birds Blooms and Gardens with Dave Taylor*

Birds, Blooms and Gardens: The Art and Science of Photographing Birds is the full title of this presentation by Dave Taylor.

Focusing on techniques and equipment that can be used to photograph birds both in your own garden and further afield, Dave presents a simple skill set to help identify birds in the field, offers suggestions on how to best capture birds (see the many galleries on his website for images) and then presents a gallery of images with comments. The talk is both an introduction to bird identification and a tour of some of the world's hot spots for birding.

Dave Taylor is an author and wildlife photographer. His images have appeared in a number of magazines in Canada and the United States. He has also illustrated most of the over 40 books published he has written on wildlife and ecology.

Dave is a retired teacher with the Peel Board of Education and currently is the Education Program Consultant/Director for The Riverwood Conservancy.

As a presenter he has spoken to nature groups, museum groups, photo clubs and horticultural clubs across Southern Ontario.

He also teaches Nature Photography at Humber College. Visit his photo gallery at www.pbase.com/jdtaylor for more information.



Mailing Address:

Box 69605
109 Thomas Street
Oakville, ON L6J 7R4

President:

Stuart Gough
president.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Membership:

Elizabeth Thompson
membership.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Newsletter Editor:

editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Mailing: Joan Paris

Secretary: Veronica Heiderich

Treasurer: Florenda Tingle

Website: www.oakvillehort.org

September Meeting:

Monday, September 8, 2014

Doors open 6:30pm

Location

Knox Presbyterian, MacMillan Hall
89 Dunn Street

Hall SetUp (9:00am)

Cathy Kavassalis, Paula Korczak,
John Raynor

Clerking

Merleen Hall, Jean Latham
Sonja Tessari, Linda Tock

Hospitality

Cathy Kavassalis, Cathy Ryan

October Meeting:

Monday, October 6, 2014



President's Message

It goes without saying that we gardeners enjoy summer. All our labours are now given full expression, from that one of a kind ever-so-showy took forever to find to the simplest, most common plant, we revel in our gardens. And for some, the ultimate expression of this joy is to invite others to come and see our garden. Get a few more garden owners offering their gardens – it is now a garden tour!

Here at the Oakville Horticultural Society we attempt to hold a tour each year with at least seven to eight gardens. Behind the scene there is a lot of visiting gardens, talking to the owners and convincing them that yes, not only will everyone enjoy seeing this garden, but there is the great sense of satisfaction knowing in your garden a visitor has found an idea that will inspire them in their own garden. This is the guiding principle behind our Society, to stimulate an interest in gardening, encouraging the beautification of both private and public property. But it sure is tough just getting these gardens together for a tour.



Just for a moment, imagine how grand it would be to have maybe twenty like-minded gardeners who say yes to invite one and all to visit. That would be like having almost every house on the street open for a tour. But let's take that daydream bigger. How about including most houses not just on one block but the whole neighbourhood. Heck, why not neighbourhoods from all across town. Aim for 100, 200, maybe 300 gardens. Organize some buses to ferry folks from neighbourhood to neighbourhood, making it truly a walking tour. Call it a Garden Walk and invite everyone!

Such a garden tour really does exist. Beginning twenty years ago Garden Walk Buffalo has grown over the years. Starting with 20 gardens, this year's two-day tour featured over 380 gardens, a rather magnificent combination of both gardening and civic pride. I will share a few more details and photos from our visit to Buffalo later in this issue

Getting back to our tour, as mentioned it is always difficult to gather enough gardens for our tour. Privacy and insurance issues are understandably very real concerns for some. But here is where I think our membership can be our best ambassadors when seeking out potential gardens. While out walking through the neighbourhoods, saying hello and complimenting the owner of a nice looking garden works wonders. Introducing yourself, as a fellow gardener and member of the Oakville Horticultural Society, will usually prevent the owner from

turning the hose on you. While talking about various plants, one can describe the activities of the society, when we meet, coming speakers and have you ever considered opening your garden for a garden tour? If they still have not turned the hose on you, get their name, phone number and invite them to visit our next flower show. You may be surprised how receptive this fellow gardener might be.

Hard to believe that summer is almost past and September is just around the corner. Time to be thinking of the society's coming year...

Stuart Gough

Membership

My thanks to the team who gathered in my garden to give the nametag board a decorating update. The nametags are once again in alphabetical order. It appears that many tags are missing, lost or possibly at home. Should you require a replacement please let me know.

I have had several requests for purchasing the gold and black with a magnetic fastener - cost \$10.40 with a minimum order of 5. Payment must accompany the order so if interested please see me at the September meeting.

September is also a reminder that our membership year is almost over. As you know, our membership year is November 1 to October 31. We will be sending out membership renewal forms with the October newsletter.

There will be an additional check-box on the membership renewal forms. This is to comply with the recently passed Anti Spam Legislation. More on this at the September meeting and in the October newsletter.

Elizabeth Thompson

Junior Garden

The Junior Garden at the municipal greenhouse has seen a growing summer, with lots of rain and fair temperatures. The Butterfly and Bird gardens are in full bloom, attracting lots of visitors. Each of the children's garden plots have been producing a wide variety of veg. Some potato, tomato, pepper and zucchini have already been harvested.

In August, a special visitor, butterfly lady Margaret Larson came by to lead the children in a demonstration and talk on the life of Monarch butterflies. In specially prepared terrariums, Margret presented the various life stages, from egg, to caterpillar to chrysalis to newly emerged butterfly. Upon release, the two butterflies flew straight for the flowers into the garden to have a good feed.

The Salsa Garden at Whole Foods has now been harvested, producing a very tasty salsa to go along with the tacos prepared by Chef Rose and her culinary assistants. A wonderful way for the children to celebrate their garden efforts.

Coming this September, the children of the Junior Program will be joining us to display flower arrangements they have created from the flowers grown at the Junior Garden. If possible, we would appreciate any greenery and blossoms from our membership to supplement the arrangements.

The children will have a full activity journal to remind them of their summer gardening.

Linda Tock



September Flower Show Schedules

Design Schedule - **So You Think You Can Dance**

1. Class of Distinction **Paso Doble** - a black and white design
2. Chairman's Trophy **Doing What Comes Naturally** - a design
3. General **Line Dancing** - a parallel design ¹
4. Novice **Salsa** - a design
5. Miniature **The Twist** - a design in niche 5"h x 4½"w x 3"d

Parallel: - A design in which three or more groupings are placed in a parallel manner with open spaces between the groupings. Parallel direction may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. Design is in one container or containers combined so as to appear as one unit.(O.J.E.S. pg. 102)

Horticultural Schedule

6. Annual Coleus - 3 stems
7. Annuals, collection of - 3 kinds, 1 stem of each
8. Annual, plant height under 15" - 3 stems
9. Annual, plant height over 15", spike form - 1 stem
10. Annual, plant height over 15", other form - 1 stem
11. Begonia, tuberous - 1 bloom or spray
12. Chrysanthemum - 1 bloom or spray
13. Clematis - 1 branch cut to 18" or less or 1 bloom
14. Dahlia - 1 stem or bloom, disbudded
15. Flowering branch, cut to 36" or less
16. Flowering vine, other than clematis, cut to 18" or less - 1 stem or branch
17. Fruited branch, cut to 36" or less
18. Ornamental grass - 3 stems
19. Perennials, collection of 3 kinds, 1 stem each
20. Perennial grown for foliage - 3 stems of one cultivar
21. Perennial, other, plant height over 15", spike form - 1 stem
22. Perennial, other, plant height over 15", other form - 1 stem
23. Perennial, other, plant height under 15" - 3 stems
(see Hort Guidelines pg. 2)
24. Rosa (rose), hybrid tea - 1 bloom, disbudded
25. Rosa (Cluster rose), floribunda, grandiflora or polyantha - 1 spray or specimen bloom (specimen bloom disbudded)
26. Rosa (rose), shrub - 1 spray or bloom
27. Rosa (rose), climbing - 1 spray or bloom
28. Rosa (rose), miniature - 1 spray or bloom
29. Rosa (rose), other - 1 spray or bloom
30. Sedum, Autumn Joy (or similar type) - 1 stem
31. Sedum, other - 1 stem

When a height limit is specified for an annual or perennial, this refers to the growing height of the plant not the cut length of the specimen.

Fruits & Vegetables

32. Stone fruit - 3 specimens
33. Other fruit - 1 specimen
34. Berries or small fruit - ½ pint
35. Cherry tomatoes - 1 truss or 5 specimens, calyx left on
36. Tomato over 2" - 3 specimens, calyx left on
37. Leaf vegetable - 3 specimens, may be displayed in a container of water
38. Small Root vegetable - 3 specimens, e.g., carrots, beets, radishes, potatoes, onions
39. Large Root Vegetable - 1 specimen, e.g., turnip, squash, pumpkin
40. Small vegetable - 3 specimens, e.g., peas, beans
41. Other vegetable - 1 specimen or bunch
42. Vegetable collection, at least 3 types, displayed on exhibitor's tray, not exceeding 14" by 20"
43. Collection of cut herbs - minimum 5 varieties
44. Educational exhibit ²
45. Any other cultivar (AOC) ³ - 1 stem or bloom

3. AOC: Any Other Cultivar, means any other cultivar/variety/species not listed in the schedule.

Wonderful International Win by Celia Roberts

The 11th World Flower Show 'A Floral Odyssey' was held in the historic city of Dublin, Ireland from June 18-22, 2014. Many floral designers from Canada attended this wonderful show that is organized every three years by one of the member countries of the World Association of Flower Arrangers.

Celia Roberts was one of the 20 designers who entered an "imposed" class titled "Conundrum" and won a Silver Award for her delightful design. In an imposed class, entrants do not know until the commencement of preparing the entry what material will be available for use. In addition, everyone is provided the same material and supplies that may be used in whole or part. The only tools that can be brought in by the designer are a secateur and wire cutter. With only four hours from first viewing the materials until the completion of the design, there is a bit of pressure undertaking this type of class.

Celia had a look at her materials and supplies that included:

- a bucket that contained 1 doz. pink roses;
- one doz. green carnations;
- six calla lilies;
- a bunch of Aspidistra leaves;
- a small bunch of evergreen tips;
- 15 pieces of flex grass;
- three pieces of bamboo;
- two pieces of corkscrew hazel;
- a package of three limes;
- a pieces of 8 1/2 x 11 green acrylic;
- some additional greenery;
- decorative wire;
- and 3 different sizes of oasis.

At that point, Celia decided to go to the café for a nice cup of tea and spend a short period of time reflecting on how she would use the plant material. After returning to the flower show area, she decided to use four calla lilies, two pieces of corkscrew hazel, the 15 pieces of flex grass plus two limes and some of the accessories.

Judging took place right after the closing of entry time on the Wednesday. Several of the Canadian designers met for dinner that evening across the street from the Royal Dublin Society, where the Wafa show was held. One of the Canadian judges who were coming to the same restaurant for dinner pointed to Celia through the restaurant window and signalled to her that she had won a 'Silver'. Her friends applauded her achievement, as did others in the restaurant. As Celia told me, "It was rather exciting."

This is the second time Celia has entered the World Show and her first win.

Celia is a Director of the Oakville Horticultural Society, a Past Director of OHA District 6, Co-Chair of the Cloverleaf Garden Club Flower Shows, an accredited GCO Floral Design Judge, an accredited RBG Horticultural Judge and a member of the Toronto Garden Club. She is also Chair of the Garden Clubs of Ontario Education Committee as well as being one of the co-Principals of the GCO 7th School for Floral Design Judges, Instructors and Exhibitors.

When the 12th Wafa Flower Show is held in Barbados in 2017, I am sure we will be wishing her well again for that event.

*Anne Clark-Stewart
Member, Oakville Horticultural Society
Member, Judges' Council, Garden Clubs of Ontario*



Silver Winning Entry by Celia Roberts
Photo by Con O'Donoghue

Garden Walk Buffalo

I had heard about Garden Walk Buffalo from a few of our members, telling tales of a tour with more gardens than one could possibly visit. This past March we brought in guest speaker and garden writer Rob Howard to tell us all about the Garden Walk Buffalo event. He told us of how, by becoming gardeners, homeowners rejuvenate streets, re-energize neighborhoods, increase property values, and take the chill out of Buffalo's image. Also attending this meeting was Manuela Neto, past president of Cloverleaf Garden Club. She has visited Buffalo each year since 2008 and had an idea to share her passion for this tour.

This July, as part of Cloverleaf's 70th Anniversary, Manuela organized a one-day bus tour to Garden Walk Buffalo and extended the invitation to other societies of the OHA, and to the general public. Filling the bus were members from Ameliasburg Garden Club, Burlington H.S., Cloverleaf, Credit Valley H.S., Etobicoke H.S., Georgetown H.S., Oakville H.S., Streetsville H.S., Swansea H.S., The Hort Societies of Parkdale and Toronto and Westway H.S. Being one of the 52 on the tour, I have to thank Manuela and Cloverleaf for guiding us on our first visit to Garden Walk Buffalo.

The free self-guided tour of private urban yards, Garden Walk Buffalo has blossomed into the largest event of its kind in the country. This year, the two-day tour featured over 380 gardens. Remember, this tour started 20 years ago with just 20 gardens.

This is obviously a tour bigger than one could possibly visit in the two days. So it can be a bit intimidating knowing where to go. The beauty of going with a tour placed us directly into the centre of two districts that feature a large number of gardens that can be easily visited on foot. If you want to see more, there is a bus shuttle travelling to the different neighbours.

With map in hand we began our wanderings through the Cottage District. This is an area that features quaint brick cottages, some dating back to the 1850s. Smaller and very vibrant gardens, from house to house to house. After lunch we then visited the Erie Basin University Test Gardens viewing all the different new introductions, voting on our favourites. Then on to the bohemian neighbourhood of Allentown, a collage of architecture and gardens.

A word about Buffalo gardens: these are small urban gardens that pack a big punch — including cheerfully brash colorful perennials and unique annuals, minimal or no lawns, and creative uses of found objects and artifacts as sculpture. A Buffalo-style garden will have the patina of a well-used, customized space, often with complete disregard for garden design conventions. Buffalo

gardeners take advantage of the sides of houses and fences by hanging artwork, sculptures, mirrors, plants and more incorporating the impressive and diverse architecture found throughout every neighborhood.

So come next summer, plan to shuffle off to Buffalo and be amazed.

Stuart Gough



OHS Fall Garden Tour

Christine Lee informs me that with the past winter's inflicted damage and many garden owners still nursing their gardens back to health, the number of confirmed gardens is currently bordering on too few to successfully hold a tour as we have held in past years. Complicating matters is a possible early frost.

Be that as it may, Christine assures she will try to have a tour, with more learning experiences. Christine will have a complete plan by the September meeting. And, there will be clipboards sent around for tour volunteers, acting as garden hosts.

Fields of Spring

It may be known as Fields of Spring, but the work will be going on this fall. As stated in June, aim of this project is to plant masses of narcissus to create a wonderful display early each spring. And if the bulbs perform as intended, these plantings should naturalize. To keep the project looking good year round and to cut down on maintenance, we will be seeding the "fields" with Eco-Grass, sourced from Wildflower Farms. This grass once established should require only minimal upkeep, little watering and little weeding.

As the largest plantings will take place by the Sir John Colborne Park, our Society has approached Bronte Horticultural Society to tell them about this venture and to invite their participation.

When Margaret Jeffery and I last talked, the bulb order was in the range of a mere 4,610 bulbs. Combined, I believe our Societies (and anyone we can gather to the cause) will be able to plant these up rather quickly. Margaret has been plotting out the arrangements for the planting on her graph paper.

The Town has indicated that they are going to start preparing the sites at the end of September. We would be able to start the planting say early October.

I believe this project will be a visual treat for many years to come and be good showing of the cooperation between the Town and its two horticultural societies.

MacMillan Hall Update

Our meetings for the foreseeable future will continue to be held in the Knox Church sanctuary and the Flower shows held in the upstairs hall.

At this time, there has been no commencement of anything regarding the reno to correct the damp.

Architects have been selected and they are coining the phrase, "Building Revitalization" for the coming year. This is going to take a while...

108th OHA Convention Report

The OHA's 108th Convention was attended by 308 delegates from across Ontario. Our district was very well represented with 33 delegates in attendance all wearing our cool convention "Turf Heather" t-shirts. We had a strong presence throughout the Convention with several District Directors commenting that our 2015 OHA Convention information booth with its friendly volunteers was refreshing. Thanks for a job well done gang!

Our magnets and bookmarks were popular and our Sunday morning DVD presentation was a hit... I heard several "Awes" and I'm certain our presentation will entice and draw crowds to our 109th OHA Convention! A DVD was sent home with each of the other 18 District Directors to show during one of their district meetings. Thanks Art Ward, Chris Temple, Stuart Gough & Lil Taggart for all of your hard work in getting our promotional materials done quickly ready for our presentation! Thank you to everyone who helped transport items to and from the Convention as well!

I am thrilled to report that Celia Roberts, Susan Suter and Marie Decker did exceptionally well in the Flower Show Design competitions. We can be proud of our designers who won many ribbons! Also, congratulations to Sandra Williamson who won two ribbons in the Publications Competition, Dawn Suter who entered in the Flower Show Horticultural Division and Liz Henderson who entered in the Photography Competition. Since we are hosting the Convention next year, we need to encourage our members to participate in all of the 2015 Convention competitions.

OHA & Society Fundraiser – Tulip, Narcissus & Muscari Bulbs – all societies orders should be submitted by May 31, 2015. Societies will receive 50 cents for each package of bulbs they sell. The OHA portion will be used to update the OHA Web Shell and towards Community Initiatives.

Don't forget, our District Six will be hosting the OHA 109th "Summer in the Southern Tier" Convention at Redeemer University College, July 3, 4 & 5, 2015. As I've stated before, our district is fortunate to have extremely talented and hardworking members who we can rely upon to make our Convention a truly spectacular one. It will take all of us to plan it and our District is counting on you to make this Convention a wonderful experience for the rest of OHA and for us to enjoy! There are many committees, posted on our district website, that you can volunteer on. So please check it out

Donna Hussey
OHA District 6 Director

New Members

Please welcome new member Pauline Huddleston. Be sure to introduce yourself at our coming meetings and help Pauline feel like a long term member.

OHS 2015 Budget

Your executive is beginning to review the current year with an eye to preparing the coming year's budget. Our membership is down this year so we will not qualify for the full OMAF grant of \$1,500. The plant sale though successful, did not raise as much money as we had hoped, and our garden tour at this point in time is unknown. The Plants, Bulbs and Seeds has been run without a loss, showing a positive return thanks to the efforts of David Marshall.

Our Sustainable Gardening Fund currently is showing \$7,400. The Fields of Spring will be drawing down on this along with any plant replacements necessary at the Anderson Parkette.

Monthly program speakers are starting to cost even more. We budget for \$150 each month, but many are currently charging upwards of \$200 and some are even asking \$300.

If you have any comment/concerns/suggestions for the coming budget, please send along to Treasurer Florenda Tingle (treasurer.ohs@oakvillehort.org). The budget will be presented in the October newsletter

OHS 2015 Executive

Further planning for the coming year involves electing our Executive. New members bring new ideas and make our society more vibrant and more enjoyable for everyone. Executive positions include the president, the immediate past president, the first vice-president, the second vice president, the secretary and the treasurer. The executive committee is made up of the officers and not more than ten directors who are elected for specific functions on the executive committee. All executive committee members are elected at the December AGM. The usual commitment to the executive is two years, except for the past president whose commitment is one year.

Nominations will be accepted for all positions on the executive and for all Directors positions. You can also volunteer to serve on any of our committees. To submit your nomination or obtain further information please contact Veronica Heiderich or Stuart Gough. A complete list of positions can be found on our website.

All positions are considered open, from President to WebMaster. Please consider volunteering for an executive position or as a director of our society.

Events

RBG Auxiliary Fall Plant Sale

September 4–5, 2014

RBG Arboretum

All items are half-price! Interesting perennials, shrubs, ornamental grasses, and more.

Master Gardener Niagara Plant Sale

September 6, 2014, 9–noon

Vineland Research Station, QEW and Victoria Road

Perennials Spring Flowering Bulbs Tool Sharpening Great Prices! Great Garden Advice...

Ontario Daylily Society Fall Classic

September 20, 2014

Delta Toronto Hotel

Continental breakfast followed by a full day's program of speakers. Lunch included, plant sale, live auction, lots of fun

<http://www.ontariodaylily.on.ca/>

OHS Fall Garden Tour

September 21, 2014

Visit and enjoy the Gardens of Oakville in early fall...

Harvest Moon Feast & Garden Party

Saturday, October 11, 2014

RBG Centre

Join us for a special harvest moon feast inspired by local ingredients, many of which were grown in our very own Veggie Village. Celebrate the connection between southern Ontario farmland and the locally grown food we love. Music and dancing under the light of the moon make to celebrate the bounty of the garden together.

Tickets are limited, to order online visit www.rbg.ca/moonlight

ORLS Annual Lily Bulb Sale and Auction

October 5, 2014

RBG Centre

Ontario Regional Lily Society offer hard to get lily bulbs, as well as common types at great savings to you.

<http://www.orls.ca/events.htm>

OHA District 6 Annual Fall Dinner

Saturday, October 25, 2014

Hosted by Georgetown Horticultural Society

Guest speaker: Lizzie Matheson "Inspired By..."

Tickets \$27, choice of Roast Beef or Vegetarian StirFry

If you will be attending, please bring your ticket money to the September meeting

OHA Convention 2015

July 3–5, 2015, Ancaster

Summer in the Southern Tier...

The 109th OHA Convention, hosted by our district