



FEBRUARY 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.

February's Speaker – Darren Heimbecker Whistling Gardens

Darren Heimbecker worked at a nursery for 18 years as a propagator, shipper and field manager before branching out on his own. Whistling Gardens, Canada's newest botanical garden, got its official start in 2006. Since then, Darren has attracted garden-savvy plant collectors from across Canada and the United States. His conifer collection is the largest in Canada, with over 1,500 different species and cultivars. When the Gardens officially open, it will be one of the largest public collections in the world.

Congratulations Trophy Winners Nov 2010 – Oct 2011

Class of Distinction (Eaton Trophy) 1st Marie Decker

Chairman's Trophy (Wand Trophy)
1st Florrie Abbess, 2nd Marie Decker, 3rd Celia Roberts

General/Novice Trophy (Allison Trophy) 1st Mary Cameron

Miniature (Noad Trophy) 1st Jean Latham, 2nd Marie Decker

Overall Decorative (Cup of Excellence)
1st Marie Decker, 2nd Jean Latham, 3rd Florrie Abbess

Highest Horticulture (Stratton Trophy)
1st Mary Cameron, 2nd Rob Welsh, 3rd Marie Decker

Combined Hort / Decorative (Wye Trophy)
1st Mary Cameron, 2nd Marie Decker, 3rd Jean Latham

Men's Highest Horticulture (Bell Trophy)
1st Rob Welsh, 2nd David Lewis, 3rd Lorne Sparrow



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Next Meeting:

Monday 13 February – 7:30 pm
MacMillan Hall, 89 Dunn Street

Hall Set Up (9 am):

Marie Decker
Cathy Kavassalis

Refreshments:

Marie Decker
Shyami Gomez
Sonja Tessari

Doors Open (6 pm)

Where Gardeners come to flourish

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Though it may be cold and snowy, it is still a wonderful time to get out and about with gardening in mind. I like to have a little wander in the yard to see how the “winter interest” is faring. Alas, some of the more delicate stalks are suffering, not from a heavy wet snowfall, but from the play of our poodle and her two mini-poodle friends that are staying with us. At least everything is now frozen so there shouldn't be too much permanent damage.

Arrangements for the Family Day Fun with Flowers are moving along, lead by Linda Tock and company. They are actively out in the community, soliciting donations of floral materials. Sonja Tessari will be organizing the first meeting of the year for the Plant Sale in February. Christine Lee is working on an interesting model for our Garden Tour, which could help with the costs. There is upcoming a Carolinian District Breakfast Meeting on February 4th that I will be attending on behalf of our Society. Our Treasurer, Fred Teng, is looking at securing a higher interest rate for some of our reserve funds. Margaret Larson is filling out our speakers' calendar; I will have that information up on our website shortly. Elizabeth Thompson reminds that if you have not yet renewed your membership, now is the time as this will be the last newsletter for any non-renewed members. Plus, we are looking at what may be an attractive item to offer to our membership — compost. Lots going on.

Today we took a moment to drop into the Municipal Greenhouse on Cornwall Road. This is a marvelous little gem to visit. On a cold winter day it is wonderfully warm inside the conservatory. The jades are in bloom, bird of paradise in blossom; a turtle had crawled up on the stream bank for some

sun and my camera fogged up instantly. In the greenhouse proper, all flowers that will decorate the town this coming summer are growing from seedlings. Behind the greenhouse, our Society's Junior Teaching Garden is quietly waiting for spring and the return of the young gardeners. Please make some time to come visit, as there may not be too much time left for the greenhouse and conservatory. Our Town, through its budget process, has identified closing the greenhouse and its operations in the coming year. What this will mean for our Junior Garden and this year's program at this point is unclear. I shall keep you informed.

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

Stuart Gough
President



First Ever Photography Competition at Canada Blooms 2012

Any amateur photographer may enter. Photos must have been taken in Canada in the last year; should not have been entered in a previous contest, and should fit into one of the following categories: Seasons, Flora, At Work or Play, or Reflections of The City. As many entries as possible will be displayed in the Garden Hall. Deadline to submit entries is **February 15, 2012**. For detailed information, see the Canada Blooms website at www.canadablooms.com.

OUT ON A LIMB

Last week was Landscape Ontario's Congress 2012 – simply a perfect way to start the year. For me, it is an eight-acre playground of plants, trucks, tools and all things for the landscape. If that wasn't enough, I was able to hear one of my all-time favourite speakers, Dr. Rodger Tschanz from the University of Guelph, about the trial gardens at Guelph, Milton and the Royal Botanical Gardens. While I'd seen the gardens in Milton and at the RBG, it was great to hear Rodger's insight on these new plants and what we can expect from these beauties in our own gardens.

Here are some of the winning colours from the trials that you may want to try:



Red: Ontario Bill 193 designates the red geranium as the floral emblem of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. So for those of you who want to join along in

the commemoration, be sure to plant at least one red geranium. *Pelargonium*. 'Caliente Dark Red' (pictured) would be a good choice. It is a zonal and ivy cross and performs well in our climate. It does well in both pots and the garden is readily available.

Blue: Perennial *Eritrichium*. 'Baby Blues' is a gorgeous bright blue from the borage family that is the colour of Forget-me-nots, but blooms in July and August. It grows to about 25 cm in height and blooms the first year from seed. A blue annual (actually more blue-purple), *Verbena* 'Temari Blue' (pictured), has been developed for heat tolerance and was full of blossom late in the summer at the trials. It really is very pretty.



Yellow:

Mecardonia 'Gold Dust' (pictured) is a cool looking ground cover for full sun (12 cm x 36 cm). Rodger combined it with *Juncus*. Its delicate leaves and flowers contrasted well with the twisty *Juncus* stems.



Orange:

There's nothing like a big whack of marigolds to slap you in the face with colour. And for those of us who want the biggest punch, *Tagetes* 'Moonsong Deep Orange' (35cm x 20cm) is a knock-out. Easy to maintain - it grows up over its dead-heads. Should you want to be a little more subtle, there's a new heat tolerant *Diascia* 'Darla Orange' (pictured). Good in both pots and at the front of the garden, this is a lovely peachy orange that will combine well with almost any other colour.



Here's looking forward to seeing the white disappear and the colours emerge! See you at the next meeting.

Barbara Phillips-Conroy

www.barbarasgardenchronicles.blogspot.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

garden

OHA Carolinian District 6 Spring Breakfast Meeting

February 4, 2012

Glen Morris HS, Centennial Hall,
Dunbar Street, Glen Morris.

Stratford Garden Festival

March 1 - 4, 2012

Stratford Rotary Complex

Display gardens inspired by Canadian music. Marketplace with plants, seeds, sculptures, pots, tools, garden mats and more.

Speaker series featuring Ontario's top garden gurus such as Lorraine

Johnson, Beckie Fox, Carson Arthur, Marion Jarvie, Steven Biggs, Virginia Burt. Admission \$9 at the door. Details at

519-271-7500 or

www.stratfordgardenfestival.com.

Canada Blooms

March 16 - 25, 2012

Direct Energy Centre

North America's largest home and garden event. Photography competition. Information at

www.canadablooms.com.

Hosta Forum

April 1, 2012

9am - 4pm

680 Plains Rd. W., Burlington

Presented by the Ontario Hosta Society and the RBG. \$60 includes four speakers, live auction, light lunch, beverages, prizes.

www.ontariohostasociety.com

Successful Gardening Show

April 12 - 15, 2012

International Centre

Learn from the experts, experience perfect plants and flowers. Schedules and entry forms 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. Come early for the best selection.

www.rbg.ca.

OHA 106th Convention

Gardening Then & Now 1812 - 2012

August 17-19, 2012

Niagara Falls.

Fall Breakfast Meeting 2012

October 20, 2012

Brantford Garden Club, Lions Park Hall.

Notices

New members:

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

- Jason Carusi
- Donna Daly
- Muriel Lee

Please make them feel at home!

Upcoming meetings:

- March 12
Jodi Vanderheyden of the RBG:
Designing with Vegetables
- April 9
Joe Hollick: Waterfalls of Hamilton
- May 14
Wolfe Bonham: Gardens of Kyoto
- June 11
Speaker tba
- September 10,
Wayne Brown: Poinsettias
- October 8
Speaker tba

OHS Events:

- Family Day Fun with Flowers
February 12
Iroquois Ridge Community Centre
- Plant Sale
May 12
- Garden Tour
TBA

