



SEPTEMBER 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.

September's Guest Speaker

Robert Pavlis:

The Lesser Known Spring Bulbs

There is more to life than Crocus, Daffodils and Tulips. Robert Pavlis grows dozens of lesser known spring bulbs (he has a collection of about 70 different daffodil varieties) and he will share his knowledge with us through pictures, providing both cultural information and design information.

Robert, who has been gardening for more than 30 years, is a Master Gardener with the



Guelph, Wellington group and has published gardening articles in the Ontario Gardener, and the Puslinch Pioneer. He has a B.Sc. in Chemistry and an M.Sc. in Biochemistry. He grew Orchids for over 10 years, and gave presentations on the topic to several horticultural societies. He has also written extensively about orchids for society publications.

Robert's interest is in perennials, shrubs and trees. In 2005, he purchased a large property south of Guelph, and is developing Aspen Grove Gardens, a five acre private site. Aspen Grove, has large perennial beds in both sun and shade, a large 'wet' waterfall, and a 'dry' waterfall. Flower beds are supported by numerous shrubs. A Japanese Tea House and sand garden compliment a large pond on the hill. The garden has been featured on yearly garden tours.

Robert will be bringing some plants (mostly perennials) for sale at the presentation.

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

September Meeting:

Monday 12 September, 7:30 p.m.
(doors open 6:30 p.m.)

MacMillian Hall, 89 Dunn Street
Hall Set-up (9 a.m.): Ellie

Izadpanah, Paula Korczak, Anne
Ritchie, Nestor Woroniuk

Library: T.B.A.

Refreshments: Mary Cameron,
Greta Greenhow, Jean Latham,
Linda Tock

Clerks: Jane Hardman, Hilda
Levers, Sian Minich, Gillian Moffatt

Executive Meeting:

Monday 19 September, 7:00 p.m.

Where Gardeners come to flourish

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a summer this has been. Our cool wet spring seemed a distant memory when the record highs of July scorched the lawns. My grass crackled underfoot and my astibles refused to bloom. Ah, but the bright daylilies and radiant rudbeckias seemed not to mind and colourful blooms filled the hazy days of August with their carefree charm.



Radiant Sunflowers by Nick Kavassalis

While the sunflowers attracted some charming visitors like bumblebees and goldfinches, I battled with unwelcome Japanese beetles that stripped my grapes and Rose of Sharon. (If you are considering a nematode application to deal with Japanese beetle white grubs, apply it now in early September to catch the young instar larvae.)

As I was looking for information about a few new pests to my garden, I discovered that the Biological Survey of Canada is developing a terrific new website for pest identification. It is currently in demo form at www.dkbdigitaldesigns.com/clm and looks like it will be a very helpful tool.

Rabbits were a problem at the Anderson Bridge Parkette and seemed to have munched away the Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*), but it may still come along. We will not have an official opening of the garden until next spring as the pathway installation has been a problem. I will give you an update at our September meeting.

We will need to do some planting this fall, to replace those things that did not make it through the scorching heat and rabbit grazing. We will be looking for volunteers to help. Also, we still do not have a name for the garden. Let me know if you have a suggestion.

I hope you will join me at our fall meetings and events. The speaker line up looks wonderful with Robert Pavlis speaking on Lesser-Known Spring Bulbs this month and on October 17, Lotte Brunner will present us with the Basics of Flower Designing followed by a talk on Geraniums by Diana Pooke on November 14th.

Due to the exceedingly hot dry weather, our 2011 Garden Tour will not proceed this fall as several of the gardeners do not feel their gardens would be in show condition. We look forward to a Garden Tour in 2012 that continues our tradition of quality. The annual Garden Tour is one of our major fund raising events. Planning is underway for a Silent Auction in December to help with the projected deficit.

Note that I will be retiring from the Presidency and Val will be retiring as Secretary this year. Stuart Gough has said he is willing to step in as President if one of you would come forward to be our Treasurer. Please, if you have the skills or interest, consider donating your time to keep our society functioning. You will find that it is a great pleasure to work with the warm-hearted, outstanding volunteers who share their talents, friendship and passion for plants. Contact Norma Kirkpatrick at 905-844-5754 or norma_k@cogeco.ca, or Sian Minich at 905-847-9640 or sminich@cogeco.ca.



Stargazer Lily by Nick Kavassalis

Thank you all for supporting this society.

Catherine Kavassalis

SEPTEMBER SHOW SCHEDULE

Horticulture Schedule

Perennials

1. **Chrysanthemum** - 1 bloom or spray
2. **Sedum, Autumn Joy (or similar type)** - 1 stem
3. **Sedum, other** - 1 stem
4. **Other perennial, plant height under 15"** - 3 stems (see Hort. Guidelines)
5. **Other perennial, plant height over 15", spike form** - 1 stem
6. **Other perennial, plant height over 15", other form** - 1 stem
7. **Collection of perennials, 3 kinds** - 1 stem each
8. **Dahlia** - 1 stem or bloom, disbudded
9. **Clematis** - 1 stem or branch
10. **Other flowering vine** - 1 stem or branch cut to 36" or less
11. **Tuberous begonia** - 1 bloom or spray
12. **Perennial grown for foliage** - 3 stems
13. **Ornamental grass** - 3 stems
14. **Flowering branch, under cut to 36" or less**
15. **Fruited branch, cut to 36" or less**
16. **Rose, hybrid tea** - 1 bloom, disbudded
17. **Rose, floribunda or grandiflora** - 1 spray or bloom (bloom disbudded)
18. **Rose, shrub** - 1 spray or bloom
19. **Rose, climbing** - 1 spray or bloom
20. **Rose, miniature** - 1 spray or bloom
21. **Rose, other** - 1 spray or bloom

Annuals

22. **Collection of annuals** - 3 kinds, 1 stem of each²
23. **Coleus** - 3 stems
24. **Annual, plant height under 15"** - 3 stems
25. **Annual, plant height over 15", spike form** - 1 stem
26. **Annual, plant height over 15", other form** - 1 stem

Fruits & Vegetables

27. **Stone fruit** - 3 specimens
28. **Other fruit** - 1 specimen
29. **Berries or small fruit** - 1/2 pint
30. **Cherry tomatoes** - 1 truss or 5 specimens, calyx left on
31. **Tomato over 2"** - 3 specimens, calyx left on
32. **Leaf vegetable** - 3 specimens, may be displayed in a container of water
33. **Root vegetable** - 3 specimens, e.g., carrots, beets, radishes, potatoes, onions
34. **Large root vegetable** - 1 specimen, e.g., turnip, squash, pumpkin
35. **Small vegetable** - 3 specimens, e.g., peas, beans
36. **Other vegetable** - 1 specimen or bunch
37. **Vegetable collection, at least 3 types** - displayed on exhibitor's tray not exceeding 14" by 20"
38. **Collection of cut herbs** - minimum 5 varieties²
39. **Educational exhibit**⁶
40. **Any other cultivar (AOC)**¹ - 1 stem or bloom

Horticultural notes:

- 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)

Design Schedule – Word on the Street

1. **Class of Distinction** Global Impact
A design
2. **Chairman's Trophy** Poetry in Motion
A design based on a poem
Poem should be displayed beside your design.
3. **General** The "Times"
A predominantly black and white design
4. **General Novice** Footnote
A design on an existing shoe
5. **Miniature** Breaking News
A design in a niche 5" high x 4½" wide x 3" deep.

JUNIOR GARDENING PROGRAM

A gardening season with children.....is pure JOY!

The beautiful sanctuary that is the children's garden, is still an oasis for the birds, bees and butterflies – even though the children have gone – the last of their produce and flowers is being enjoyed by the “critters” before the fall clean-up.



What a wild and wonderful season it was! The wild, was trying to plant a garden during a very cold, rainy Spring. We thought summer would never come – it did of course, with a blast of heat that turned small faces red, and watering the garden into a welcome reprieve against the intense heat. Everyone persevered, during extreme conditions - even the four year old siblings, and the reward was bountiful – a wonderful array of fresh vegetables and beautiful flowers.



Our spirited naturalist, Gail Trenholm, captivated our imagination and our hearts with her educational fun filled lessons on soil, water, pollination, birds, butterflies and bugs. When a toad was discovered in one of the beds, Gail and the children made a toad home for him under the zucchini plants....another wonderful learning opportunity, in our outdoor classroom!

The most amazing and gratifying part about being involved in the Junior Gardening program this season, was the energetic dedicated group of people, who came together to make this program successful --- the Moms, Dads, Uncles, Aunts, Grandparents and all the volunteers who like our close friends, were there when we needed help with weeding and watering. Lillie deSilva brought her whole family one morning to help spread fresh earth on the children's beds --- that's special!

A big thank you to everyone! See you in the garden next Spring....

Linda Tock



The Junior Gardeners will be attending the September meeting and creating flower arrangements for our enjoyment.

If you are able to donate some flowers with strong stems that they can use, please contact Linda at linda.tock@sympatico.ca.

REGISTER FOR HALTON'S FRUIT TREE PROJECT

Each year, truckloads of food in Halton go to waste as they are simply not harvested. This food could benefit local food banks and schools, and reduce our dependency on imported food. That's where the Halton Fruit Tree Project comes in.



This program needs two things: fruit trees and volunteers!

Throughout the growing season, small groups of pickers will go to participating properties and harvest the fruit. The harvest will be shared three ways: 1/3 to the property owner, 1/3 to the local food bank, and 1/3 to the pickers.

Trees can be apples, pears, berries, etc., and fruit must be in edible condition. Picking equipment is provided. All are welcome – students can even earn their required volunteer service hours.

If you have fruit trees (or know someone who does) or would be interested in volunteering for the harvesting group, please contact program coordinator Jennifer McPherson at 905-691-6510 or foodinhalton@gmail.com.

A project of the Growing & Sharing Food in Halton initiative, organized by Oakville Sustainable Food Partnership (OSFP) and Go Local Oakville. Funding provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

HISTORICAL TIDBIT

In the fall of 1966, preparations for the upcoming Centennial year were well underway.

The Oakville Horticultural Society was able to procure, from the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, enough Centennial Darwin Hybrid Tulips to sell not only to members but also to the general public. They were being sold at the below-cost price of \$6.00 per 100, or \$50.00 per 1,000 bulbs! It was noted that the regular price for this tulip was nearly three times the price.

The result was that an impressive 5,000 crimson Centennial tulip bulbs were sold, with the town, no doubt, awash in patriotic red in the spring of 1967!

Sheelagh Rowland-Brown



Centennial Tulip, Google images

BARBARA'S GARDEN CHRONICLES

It was a weekend of visiting gardens. Yesterday, Kevin and I took Bart over to the Royal Botanical Gardens and were delighted by the show at the Helen M. Kippax Wild Flower Garden.

The garden opened in 2008 and I'm afraid, like a lot of wild flower gardens, it looked pretty mangy. However this year, the garden has matured and it is full of gorgeous specimens. In fact, I may have found a replacement for my sad *Eupatorium* 'Gateway' in the name of *Vernonia fasciculata* or Smooth Ironweed. I was completely taken by its size, colour and the fact its leaves don't look scrofulous like poor 'Gateway' does. And, if that wasn't enough, it didn't have any Japanese Beetles on it either. So when I finish this article, I'm going to start sourcing it right away.



Vernonia fasciculata by Barbara Phillips-Conroy

Pretty New Plants to Keep in Mind for 2012

Landscape Ontario opened their trial garden in Milton on Saturday. Each visitor was given three flags to vote for their favourites. I've included my three, and a few others you may want to keep your eyes open for next year at the nursery. I say, if they can perform after a spring with no sunshine and a summer with no rain, there's no telling how great they are.



Solenostemon 'Wasabi' by Barbara Phillips-Conroy

For shade and sun there are a number of gorgeous and dependable *Solenostemon* (Coleus) on the market. *S.* 'Wasabi' got my first flag. It really stood out in the trial bed. Even if it is only half as bright in the shade, it would make a glorious shock of chartreuse to brighten a dark corner.

Two other *Solenostemon* noteworthies are 'Red Head' and 'Trusty Rusty'. While 'Red Head' looks like a dye job gone bad, it does have splendid leaf colour. Two toned bright and cheerful 'Trusty Rusty' got many votes over the morning for its eye-catching leaves.



Solenostemon 'Trusty Rusty'
by Barbara Phillips-Conroy

Verbena Superbena® 'Royale Chambray' is the closest to a blue verbena that I've ever seen (actually much bluer than the photo). It is very short and doesn't appear to spread as much as some other varieties, but I'd include it for the colour alone.



Verbena Superbena® 'Royale Chambray'
by Barbara Phillips-Conroy

Some of the trial beds "clients" are municipalities who are looking for colourful displays. Petunias are probably one of the most planted annuals and were well represented at the trial gardens.



Sanguna 'Lipstick' by Barbara Phillips-Conroy

My favourite was *Sanguna* 'Lipstick', a gorgeous pink. It was planted next to a new black pentunia from Dummen called Sweetunia 'Black Satin'. The flowers are much bigger and more velvety than last year's black darlings. Favourites from other years Supertunia® Vista Bubblegum and Vista Silverberry looked fabulous once again.



Sweetunia 'Black Satin' by Barbara Phillips-Conroy

There were more perennials for us to see too. My flag went to Echinacea 'Kim's Knee High'. This front-of-border plant was full of blossom and looked good from head to foot. I trial a lot of Echinacea, and so far, I haven't found one that I'd plant over another. However, this may be the plant that changes my mind. It is produced vegetatively and grows about 50cm high and 40cm wide. It is one of the few cone flowers that would look just fine planted as a single specimen. However, if you've got the room, plant more!



Echinacea 'Kim's Knee High' by Barbara Phillips-Conroy

Hope you're enjoying this cooler weather and the last of the summer blossoms. See you in September.

Barbara Phillips-Conroy

barbarasgardenchronicles.blogspot.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

garden

All Things Are Connected

Saturday 17 September
Royal Botanical Gardens
Auditorium, Burlington

Halton Region Master Gardeners is hosting this technical update in celebration of the International Year of Forests. Presentations, afternoon tour and lunch catered by Emma's Back Porch. Cost is \$50 (\$45 for Master Gardeners). Info and registration online at www.haltonmastergardeners.mgoi.ca/Technical_Update.php.

Halton Compost Give Away

Saturday 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.

Carolinian District 6 Fall Breakfast Meeting

Saturday 1 October 2011
St. Xavier Parish Centre, Stoney
Creek

Details coming soon...

Carolinian District 6 Fall Dinner

Saturday 22 October 2011
Merrit Hall, Ancaster Fairgrounds
Tickets \$25 per person. Must be
purchased at the OHS September
meeting.



Notices

Upcoming meetings:

17 October

Lotte Brunner

Basics of Flower Designing

14 November

Diana Pooke

Geraniums – The Garden Chorus Line

12 December

AGM

TBA

September

The breezes taste
Of apple peel.
The air is full
Of smells to feel-
Ripe fruit, old footballs,
Burning brush,
New books, erasers,
Chalk, and such.
The bee, his hive,
Well-honeyed hum,
And Mother cuts
Chrysanthemums.
Like plates washed clean
With suds, the days
Are polished with
A morning haze.

John Updike