



Oakville Horticultural Society

Since 1957

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.

SEPTEMBER 2012

Our Guest Speaker: *Poinsettias* with Wayne Brown

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September Meeting:
Monday, Sept. 10th, 2012
Doors open at 6:30 P.M.
Meeting begins at 7:30 P.M.

Hall Set-up (9 a.m.):
John Raynor, The Editor
Clerking: 2 Volunteers needed
Library: Veronica Heiderich
Refreshments: Cathy Kavassalis,
David Marshall

September Executive Meeting:
Monday, Sept. 17th, 7:00 P.M.

October Meeting:
Monday, October 8th, 2012

Poinsettias, originally from Mexico, were cultivated only in California and other southern states. Canadian conditions were considered too challenging for this tender, subtropical plant. Yet now, you will find some of the best selections in the world growing in Niagara area greenhouses. Brilliant carpets of red, pink and white flood the greenhouses with dazzling colour.

Over 100 varieties are tested each year at the VINELAND RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTRE. Growers come out to view the poinsettia trials in order to determine which ones they will offer for sale in the coming year. Overseeing these trials is Wayne Brown, greenhouse floriculture specialist for OMAFRA. Wayne will take us on a tour of the greenhouse from the growers perspective and let us in on what to expect in the world of poinsettias.



Wayne Brown in the greenhouse

Anderson Parkette: Official Opening, A Garden for Life

In 2010 we began this project to transform the Anderson Parkette into a water efficient, biologically diverse, pollinator garden. It has been an interesting task creating a place of beauty for all visitors to enjoy. And now the time has come to open the garden. Join us on **Saturday, September 15** at 10 a.m. for the official introduction of the new Anderson Parkette, a Garden for Life.

Where Gardeners come to flourish



OHS Garden Tour *Through the Garden Gate 2012*

The weather was perfect for a day in the gardens. This year's tour featured six gardens — two were lost in the thunderstorms the preceding week. So even with the reduced number of gardens to visit, the most common complaint was there is just not enough time to see everything. This speaks to the quality and interesting features of the gardens on our tour.

Our volunteers who guide the public through the gardens once again proved to be welcoming and great

ambassadors for the OHS. The Master Gardeners in the gardens added value to the visiting public — no gardening questions were left unanswered. Congratulations on a job well done.

The range of gardens on this year's tour presented lots of variety and interest. The goal of this tour is to encourage all gardeners, providing ideas to try in one's own garden. Maybe to one day present their garden on the tour...

2012 OHA Convention *Gardening Then and Now*

Attracting over 450 gardeners from across the province down to Niagara on the Lake, the OHA's 2012 Annual convention was an interesting and educational event. Each day attendees were treated to a special keynote speaker and then the afternoons were spent in seminars. In keeping with the convention's theme, we learned about garden practices and plant varieties over the past 200 years, and had a look at what we will see in the near future.

Our Society was active at the convention, both behind the scene and participating in the competitions. Congratulations to Marie Decker, Mary Cameron and Elizabeth Schleicher for their entries in the photography, design and horticulture.

The OHS was awarded the Community Improvement award for the renewal of the Anderson Parkette. Accepting the award on behalf of the Society was Catherine Kavassalis.



*Anderson Bridge
Parkette*

OHA District 6 Annual Fall Dinner *Port Dover & Woodhouse*

Saturday, November 3, 2012
Port Dover Community Centre

The Port Dover and the Woodhouse Horticultural Society cordially invites all society members to attend the Annual Fall Dinner. On the menu will feature the famous Lake Erie perch dinner (alas no

foot-long hotdogs from the Golden Glow). There will be a draw for a painting commissioned just for this event. Stephanie Wilson will be the guest speaker. Tickets (\$25 each) need to be ordered by October 15. And as it is a bit of a drive, we will arrange car pooling for those interested.

Call for Volunteers *Exciting chances to be Active in your Society*

We are always interested in having our members join one of many committees that help make up our Society. Positions that currently need filling: Newsletter Editor, Monthly Show co-ordinator and an Audit committee. We will also be looking for

members to volunteer at the Executive level for the coming year. This is a great way to become more involved the activities of your society

Don't forget to sign up on the various clipboards circulating at the meetings. Thanks

Bulb Fundraiser

Camassia & Crocosmia Bulbs

Taking advantage of special pricing, we through the OHA will be offering these premium bulbs for sale. Packages of bulbs will be priced at \$7 each. One dollar from each package goes to our Society.

There will be two types of bulbs available. Crocosmia (3 varieties) and Camassia (3 varieties) Order forms will be at the September and October meetings, with more pictures and order details found on the OHS web site. All orders will need to be received by October 15, 2012.

Orders for the Crocosmia will be delivered in March/April 2013; orders for the Camassia will be delivered in August/September 2013.

Order some for the new neighbours next door as well!



Camassia

- # 1: ***Camassia Cusickii***
Flowering: Late May
Colour: Pale Blue
Height: 65 cm
Sun: Full/Part shade
4 per package



- # 2: ***Camassia Quamash***
Flowering: Late May
Colour: Blue
Height: 35 cm
Sun: Full/Part shade
20 per package



- # 3: ***Camassia Leichtlinii Alba***
Flowering: Late May
Colour: White
Height: 85 cm
Sun: Full/Part shade
4 per package



Crocosmia

- # 1: ***Crocosmia Lucifer***
Flowering: July/August
Colour: Red
Height: 70 cm
Sun: Full
10 per package



- # 2: ***Crocosmia Emily McKenzie***
Flowering: July/August
Colour: Orange/Red
Height: 35 cm
Sun: Full
15 per package



- # 3: ***Crocosmia Mixed***
Flowering: July/August
Colour: mixed
Height: 35 cm
Sun: Full
15 per package



Out on a Limb

Barbara Phillips-Conroy

www.barbarasgardenchronicles.blogspot.ca

I hope you've had a great summer in the garden. For those of you who like it hot and dry, it was an absolute gift. I'm delighted that in spite of the fierce weather, hungry grasshoppers the size of harriers, I've managed to assist Mother Nature with a bit of water and overall the garden looks quite lovely, as

do most of the gardens around Oakville. With the cooler weather this weekend, I was out doing long-overdue weeding and during a moment of resting my back, I reflected on what I'd learned this year, and how I'd incorporate that into the garden next year. Here's my plan of action:

- Plant more bulbs. And, look for those that bloom earlier and later. Using photographs that I took on vacation in the Netherlands as examples, I'm going to look for bulbs to pair with early woodlanders. I'm also going to plant them in slimmer S-shapes rather than blobs. All of this is going to happen under a huge patch of hosta — wish me luck.



- Re-evaluate soil, light and moisture conditions around the garden: Replant and relocate based on my findings. I have a mature garden, and I'm afraid I've become a bit lazy here and there. There's nothing like visiting new gardens in old neighbourhoods like the ones in Garden Walk Buffalo to realize that there is a world of possibility in those forgotten sections of my gardens.

A lovely full dry shady section of a garden in Buffalo.



Out on a Limb

continues...



Sunflower larva problem

- Plant varieties that bloom later. I'm looking for late blooming clematis, anemone and small grasses. On my morning walks I envy folks who have varieties of perennials that are blooming while mine have stopped. Who knows if this weather is an anomaly or it's here to stay, in any event, I'm going to expand the colour in my garden by finding plants that mature later.



Blue Chiffon Rose of Sharon



Zinnia and melampodium

- Don't rule out an entire group of plants because of one nasty pest. I was ready to yank most of my Echinacea because of the Sunflower Larva. However, I've discovered that depending on the life-cycle of the pest and the timing of the blossoms, the problem, while still there, may not be as cosmetically dreadful depending on the variety of Echinacea. Over time I may eliminate those that are made hideous by this pest, keeping others that aren't deformed by this larva.

- Seeds must be planted when the seed packages tell you. Oh my. Lost my title of seed-Queen this year. Ended up planting seeds in the garden 2 weeks late (because of #1 trip to the Netherlands) - and with the exception of Zinnias, I've been disappointed. The searing heat stunted most of the plants at just the wrong time of their growth, and patches that should be full of colour are rather sad looking. Lesson learned. Timing with seeds really does matter!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting of the fall season. Happy gardening.

Photos by the Author

September Show Schedules

Horticultural Schedule

PERENNIALS

1. Begonia, tuberous - 1 bloom or spray
2. Branch, flowering, under 36"
3. Branch, fruited, under 36"
4. Chrysanthemum - 1 bloom or spray
5. Clematis - 1 stem or branch
6. Dahlia - 1 stem or bloom, disbudded
7. Grass, ornamental - 3 stems
8. Perennial, other, plant height under 15" - 3 stems
9. Perennial, other, plant height over 15", spike form - 1 stem
10. Perennial, other, plant height over 18", other form - 1 stem
11. Perennial grown for foliage - 3 stems
12. Perennial, collection of, 3 kinds, 1 stem each
13. Rosa (rose), hybrid tea - 1 bloom
14. Rosa (rose), floribunda or grandiflora - 1 spray or bloom
15. Rosa (rose), shrub - 1 spray or bloom
16. Rosa (rose), miniature - 1 spray or bloom
17. Rosa (rose), climbing - 1 spray or bloom
18. Rosa (rose), other - 1 spray or bloom
19. Sedum, Autumn Joy (or similar type) - 1 stem
20. Sedum, other - 1 stem
21. Vine, other flowering - 1 stem or branch

ANNUALS

22. Annuals, collection of - 3 kinds, 1 stem of each
23. Annual, plant height under 15" - 3 stems
24. Annual, plant height over 15", spike form - 1 stem
25. Annual, plant height over 15", other form - 1 stem
26. Coleus - 3 stems

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

27. Berries or small fruit - ½ pint
28. Fruit, stone - 1 specimens
29. Fruit, other - 1 specimen
30. Tomatoes, cherry - 1 truss or 5 specimens
31. Tomato over 2" - 3 specimens
32. Leaf vegetable - 3 specimens
33. Vegetable large - 1 specimen, e.g., turnip, squash, pumpkin
34. Vegetable small - 1 specimen e.g., carrot, bean, beet, radish
35. Vegetable collection, at least 3 types, displayed on exhibitor's tray, not exceeding 14" by 20"
36. Collection of cut herbs - minimum 5 varieties
37. Educational exhibit
38. Any other cultivar (AOC)

Decoratives Schedule

SEPTEMBER THE COLOUR WHEEL

1. Class of Distinction

Monochromatic Flair

A design

2. Chairman's Trophy

Contrast

A design

3. General

Mosaic

A design

4. General Novice

Yellow Wave

A design

5. Miniature

A Touch Of Copper

A design in a niche

5" high x 4½" wide x 3" deep

For complete schedules and guidelines, please refer to the Society's 2012 Show Book: Schedules and Guidelines for Entering Flower & Photographic Shows, available on our web site or at the shows.



*A winning Entry by Mary Cameron
Photo by the Editor*