

OAKVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Birds, Bugs, Butterflies and Landscapes: The Photography of Art and Kathy Ward

Art Ward and his wife Kathy are amateur photographers who live in Stoney Creek. They belong to both the Stoney Creek and Winona Horticultural Societies.

Art has enjoyed photography since he was very young. About 10 years ago he purchased his first digital camera — a Canon 2.1 megapixel point and shoot. Art started entering his early photographs into contests and had early success, even winning a Nikon DSLR style camera with two lenses.

They are members of the Hamilton Camera Club and have progressed up the club's rankings and are now "Masters". Art and Kathy continue to enter photo competitions and continue to win.



Art and Cathy will be presenting a selection of their photographs showing flowers, birds, bugs and butterflies, animals and landscapes. This is sure to be a welcome break from the winter we are enjoying.



If the weather is threatening, check with OHS website for potential cancellation.

Mailing Address:

Box 69605
109 Thomas Street
Oakville, ON L6J 7R4

President:

Stuart Gough
president.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Membership:

Elizabeth Thompson
membrrship.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Newsletter Editor:

John Comber
editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Mailing: Joan Paris**Secretary:** Veronica Heiderich**Treasurer:** position open**Website:** www.oakvillehort.org**February Meeting:**

Monday, February 10, 2014
Doors open 6:45pm

Location

Knox Presbyterian, MacMillan Hall
89 Dunn Street

Hall SetUp (9:00am)

Helen Stevenson
Stuart Gough

Hospitality

Paula Korczak
Florenda Tingle

February Executive Meeting:

Tuesday, February 11, 2014
Oakville Central Library @ 7:00pm

March Meeting:

Monday, March 10, 2014



Where gardeners
come to flourish



President's Message

Yep, outside is still bitterly cold and dry. I don't think I have ever seen our rhodo leaves so tightly curled. Clean-up from the ice damage is on hold as most of the small branches are now nicely frozen in place. Even our brave little hellebore, that has managed to keep standing above the snow, is looking rather forlorn and frost bitten. Two more months of this winter is starting to seem like an eternity. But even in the depths of winter there are signs of the spring to come; the daylight hours grow longer, the first gardening shows are around the corner and Fun with Flowers is almost here.

Fun with Flowers is our name for the Family Day activity we organize with the Town of Oakville. This is the day when we get a chance to spend time surrounded by flowers and enjoy the "buzz" as the Family Day participants create mini floral arrangements. It is a wonderful feeling to be part of this fun activity; the colour of all the blossoms, the laughter and smiles of the arrangers and the super large arrangements backed up with big smiles. But without the dedication of a small group of volunteers, none of this could take place.

It all begins with a group who identify possible sources of donations of floral material, many meetings with owners and managers convincing them to participate. Once the promise of supply is secured, then comes the gathering of all donations on the days before Family Day. Next, all floral materials are prepped — stems cut fresh, transferred to pails with fresh water and kept somewhere cool. Then back into cars early on the Monday morning for the ride over to the Iroquois Ridge Community Recreation Centre. A quick bit of organizing the room and just like that, 4 hours have past, about one hundred arrangements have walked out the door and we are sweeping up the room.

So why do we do it? Not only it is part of our mandate as a horticultural society to encourage, to share knowledge and experience about gardening and to bring the beauty of nature into private homes and public institutions, it is, in simplest terms, just plain fun. And really, isn't that part of why we belong to the OHS — to share in the camaraderie and fellowship with fellow gardeners. As gardeners we are active people who appreciate that giving time and energy to a voluntary job results in fun and fellowship and the satisfaction of accomplishing shared goals.

There may be times when something in our society does not run as planned. Take our January Newsletter — for some it arrived the day after the Monday meeting. A string of unpredictable circumstances: late confirmation of the guest speaker, holiday overload at the print shop and then a house without heat resulted in later than normal newsletter mailing. It could not be helped but was still upsetting to some. And it is at times like this when we have to remind ourselves that we are all volunteers in this society. As volunteers we like our activities to be fun and enjoyable for all.

And from where I sit, I think this is fun and enjoyable group. Cheers

Stuart Gough

New Newsletter Editor

Hello and please allow me to introduce myself. My name is John Comber and I am the new Newsletter Editor.

I would like to tell you I have years of gardening experience and have won numerous awards for my landscape designs. Yes indeed, I would like to tell you that. Unfortunately I have neither of those skills. I tend towards Bear Pit gardening and prefer a back hoe and a bull dozer to and trowel and a hoe.

However I hope to learn a great deal by belonging to the OHS and with your help I shall learn to tell a plant from a weed. I am looking forward to the coming summer and hearing from you what you would like to see in these pages. My email is editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Drop me a line and say hi. Don't be shy.

John Comber



Out on a Limb February 2014

I awoke with a start at 2:30 a.m. when a branch of an Eastern White Pine came crashing through the bedroom window during the ice storm. Kevin missed the branch coming down, but was alerted to the potential problem with my scream. Ever calm, he checked on the damage (just the outer window) and offered to switch sides of the bed if that would make me feel safer. In the morning, I discovered my poor little courtyard garden fencing and trellis had been smashed to bits. There was more carnage in the front garden from another Eastern White, reducing the bed to a do-over, yet again — it was the bed that was driven through a couple of years ago. With that in mind, I'm putting together plant lists for my garden renovation and this month am sharing some potential trees choices.

Trees to Consider

I have an enormous Ash on my property that I've kept pruned, but haven't treated. I believe that once a pest has taken hold, nature should run its course. Obviously the Town needs to keep an eye on their bottom line and as John McNeil told us, it is cheaper to treat the trees rather than remove them once they're dead. However, should you decided to treat, remember a tree is not a locked vault: the poisoned leaves that cause fertility problems in the insects will fall to the ground in autumn; and the splendid woodpeckers will be dining on your treated insects. As a Class 4 pesticide, it is the safest group of pesticides you can use. This group includes not only soap, but 2-4D, warfarin, pyrethrins and malathion. As the manufacturer of TreeAzin says, it is "practically non-toxic". So if like me, and the Royal Botanical Gardens, you decide against treating, here are some native trees to consider:

Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) Our most common Canadian native oak. Grows rapidly and forms a large canopy. Leaves shiny on top and hairy underneath. Extremely drought tolerant. Moderately shade tolerant. (15M)

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) One of the largest deciduous trees in eastern North America. Very attractive ball-shaped fruit that are retained over winter. Bark is mottled green, white, and cream on older trees. Fast growing, moderately shade tolerant. (35M)

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) Medium sized tree. Shallow root system. Handles a wide variety of soils and

sites. Often occurs in swamps. (25M)

Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) Rare in Canada. Grows on a variety of sites from nutrient rich to poor. Shade tolerant. All parts of the plant have a pleasant spicy odor when bruised. (20M)

Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) On the edge of its hardiness here in Oakville, it has spectacular orange fall colour. (20M)

Linden/American Basswood (*Tilia americana*) Only linden native to Canada. Very shade tolerant. Fragrant flowers provide an excellent source of nectar by beekeepers. (35M)

Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*) Native to Canada, this small tree has hard (iron) wood that was used for tool handles. Slow growing. Very shade tolerant. (12M)

Eastern Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) An elegant small tree with beautiful flowers, great fall colour and excellent form. Likes moist fertile soils. (10M)

For more native trees check out (though disregard anything about ash trees!) this site:

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/ClimateChange/2ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_101493.html

See you at our next meeting!

Barbara Phillips-Conroy

Crocoshmia Bulbs

It seemed that the Crocoshmia purchased last year through the OHA were not performing. Comments ranged from "few broke through the ground" to "too late in the season to grow properly" to "total failure".

Similar problems were reported across the OHA. These concerns were sent back to the supplier Tradewinds. They have since decided to refund the purchase price for those that registered a complaint. Here at the OHS, four members let me know of their experiences (Mary Cameron, David Marshall, Debra McLeod, Lillie de Silva). A refund will be available at the February meeting.

Tradewinds and the OHA apologize for the inconvenience and wish you a happy gardening in 2014.

OHA District 6 New Logo

Last month we voted on a new logo to represent District 6, A Carolinian District. Our selection (the dogwood) was then forwarded onto the committee overseeing the selection process.

At the recent District 6 Spring Breakfast Meeting the official results were announced. The Dogwood graphic was the overwhelming favourite receiving all of the votes submitted. Congratulations to Sandra Williamson from Georgetown HS.



You will start seeing this graphic added to our Society's materials once we receive a final copy from the District.

Society Notes

This will be the last newsletter for those that have as yet to renew their memberships for the current 2014 year. Please take the time to renew your membership so you may continue receiving this newsletter and keep current on all Society activities.

Our Treasurer position looks like it might have a volunteer. Our candidate will make their intentions known at the February meeting, after a meeting with past treasurer Fred Teng. Fingers crossed...

Cash Awards Nov. 2012 – Oct. 2013

In the January newsletter was the listing of the Cash Award winners in our Monthly Shows. Unfortunately the awards were not ready in time for the January meeting. Our current stand by treasurer, Phil Inn, has assured that the awards will be ready for the February meeting. A total of \$572 will be awarded.

Fun with Flowers Family Day

We have been able to secure a supply of floral material from local merchants for this Family Day event. The event takes place Monday, February 2014 at the Iroquois Ridge Community Centre, in the "Older Adult" section (an interesting location considering how many kids attend). We will be running three floral arranging workshops in the morning. This event provides a much needed burst of colour as we endure this frosty season.

Coming Events

- Savage Gardens, Nature's Ninjas
January 18 to April 13, 2014, RBG Centre
The captivating, bizarre, larger-than-life world of carnivorous plants
www.rbg.com
- Stratford Garden Festival
February 27 to March 2, 2014
Beyond the Garden Gate...
www.stratfordgardenfestival.com
- Orchid Society Annual Show
March 1–2, 2014, RBG Centre
www.rbg.com
- Successful Gardening Show
March 2–9, 2014, Metro Toronto Convention Centre
OHA Plant and Floral Design Competition Theme:
Let's Dance!
www.internationalhomeandgardenshow.ca/the-successful-gardening-show/
- Canada Blooms
March 14–23, 2014, Direct Energy Centre
Wild...
www.canadablooms.com/
- RBG Outdoor Living & Garden Show
March 28–30, 2014, RBG Centre
www.rbg.com
- OHA Conference 2014
July 18–20, 2014, Cornwall
A River runs by it...
The 108th OHA Convention, great speakers, design, horticulture and creative competitions
www.gardenontario.org/sho/up_conf.php/
- OHA Convention 2015
July 18–20, 2014, Ancaster
Summer in the Southern Tier...
The 109th OHA Convention, hosted by our district

