

OAKVILLE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

APRIL 2014 Newsletter

April's Guest Speaker:

Rodger Tschanz

What to plant for 2014

Experiences with new annuals and perennials from the University of Guelph trial garden

Rodger Tschanz (pronounced Shantz) has worked in the field of horticulture at the University of Guelph since graduating in 1989. For the last 10 years he has been supervising the Ornamental Trial Garden program at the university. Since its humble beginnings in Guelph, the trial program has expanded its trial grounds to include the Landscape Ontario Office in Milton, the Vineland Research Station and the Royal Botanical Gardens. Breeders from all over the world send new cultivars of annuals, perennials and vegetables to be evaluated in Guelph and elsewhere.

Rodger will introduce us to annuals and perennials that are new and will be successful in our gardens, based on his experiences growing new cultivars of annuals, perennials and vegetables at the University of Guelph trial gardens. You'll go away with an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of this year's new plants, and ideas on how to use them in your gardens.



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:

John Comber
editor.ohs@oakvillehort.org

Mailing: Joan Paris

Secretary: Veronica Heiderich

Treasurer: Florenda Tingle

Website: www.oakvillehort.org

April Meeting:

Monday, April 14, 2014
Doors open 6:30pm

Location

Knox Presbyterian, MacMillan Hall
89 Dunn Street

Hall SetUp (9:00am)

Christine Lee
Larry Urbanoski

Clerking

Beryle Lowther
Joan Paris

Hospitality

Beryle Lowther
Joan Paris
Alana Tiernay

May Meeting:

Monday, May 12, 2014

President's Message

I'm writing while driving down to visit Canada Blooms. We missed seeing any of the earlier flower shows and this one does have the benefit of viewing some home improvement possibilities. With the garden season about to begin — the snow is melting, hurray! — this is a good venue to see what's new and pick up some fresh ideas for the garden.

As gardeners we enjoy and celebrate plants in all the many varieties available to us. Whether we grow from seed, mail order from far off nurseries, go for rambles looking for the unusual or just visit the local garden centre we love our plants. And we love our gardens.

Our gardens are the expression of our love for the wonder of plants. We arrange our plantings in so many forms from the formal to the informal garden and every variation between the two. Whatever style of garden you have, it is your place to revel in the wonder plants. Our gardens allow us to bring order the natural world, taming nature to suit our sensibilities.



But as much as we love viewing nature through the lens of our gardens, it is just as wonderful to visit nature in its natural wild state. It is in the wild areas that we get to walk enjoying nature being nature as it grows without our involvement. From the understorey with the native wildflowers to the towering trees and the leafy canopy overhead, we get to explore these lands, getting a feel for the natural world. This is the home to all the creatures that we come to visit, hoping to catch a peek of a shy one, scampering off into the bush. And it is our lack of involvement in these areas that make

them so special to us, leaving them to their natural order.

But our lack of involvement can also lead to lose these precious natural areas.

The Town of Oakville initiated a study of the Merton lands, the undeveloped lands generally located on the north side of the QEW and south of Upper Middle Road between Bronte Road and Third Line. Originally set aside by the province as greenbelt, parts of these lands will be removed from the



greenbelt designation and be open for development. The Livable Oakville Plan identifies these lands as a Special Policy Area for potential future development and directs that the area be studied comprehensively to determine future land uses and policies.

The plan calls for the residential development of one golf course, the employment lands development of the second golf course, plus retail and office development. The plan provides for community facilities including an elementary school, neighbourhood park and parkettes, as well as a trail system. *Untouched* in these plans will be the immediate surrounding areas of the Fourteen Mile Creek, designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). The creek's watershed will effectively become the catchment for the run-off from the newly paved over lands.

The Town will host an open house on April 14 at the Town Hall to provide information on the preferred plan for the future long-term use of the Merton Lands. In the meantime, one can read all the study material on

the Town's website:

www.oakville.ca/business/merton-planning-studies.html

You can send your comments to the Town at Merton Planning Study idea forum. One can also sign up for the project mailing list and submit your comments by emailing: mertonstudy@oakville.ca

There is a window of opportunity for all to let the town council know your feelings about the continued development of our diminishing green space. These properties are not needed for residential growth and their development as proposed would result in loss of ecosystem function and loss of quality of life here in Oakville. The landscape should be preserved with lands designated as Parks and Open Space / Private Open Space and or Natural Areas where possible.

I encourage all our members to become engaged with this issue.

Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act and the OHS

As mentioned at the March general meeting, I noted that we had received news that the new Ontario Not-For-Profit Act (ONCA) had some articles that might affect our Society. One of the provisions in the act would require a majority of members to be present, in person or by proxy, at our Annual General Meeting. Any class of membership in our bylaws would be included as a member for this provision.

As it turns out, we will not be affected by the ONCA. Horticultural societies are incorporated by act through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, where as the ONCA is legislated through the Ontario Ministry of Consumer Affairs. As such, the horticultural societies do not come under this legislation at this time. If in future there is a need to review or alter procedures and constitutions the ministry will provide assistance at that time.

Stuart Gough

Community Project Request

At the May Monthly Meeting, OHS will bring forward the "Community Project Request" (CPR). The CPR opportunity is a form where the OHS members can bring forth their ideas on projects, in-conjunction with the OHS. Project proposals will be presented to the Executive Board in June, 2014 and then presented to the General Membership at the September, 2014 meeting for execution during our next fiscal period (November, 2014 to October, 2015).

In order to have your project considered for funding, your project must:

- Align with one of the 3 OHS Mandates as set by the Ontario Horticulture Associates:
 1. Stimulate an interest in gardening in our community
 2. Beautification of private or public lands in our community
 3. Protect plant diversity in our community's forest and wetland area

You will be requested to present your idea to the OHS Executive where it will be vetted and if accepted you will be required to present your project to the Membership at the September meeting. All project proposals will be considered, vetted and put to a vote by the OHS Executive and the General Membership.

In order for your project to be considered you must be sure to cover these 5 important points in your proposal:

1. Describe your idea with words and/or photos (300 to 500 words)
 2. Sustainability – Is this a one-of idea or an idea that will be supported yearly? If so how do you see it being supported?
 3. How many volunteers will the project need and what will be their required functions? Can you estimate the time commitment that will be required by the volunteers – weekday, weekend or evenings?
 4. If your project is accepted how will you market your idea into the community? Describe your plan on how you will let the community know about this project.
 5. How much financial support will your project require? Please provide a timeline and budget breakdown.
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OHS Plant Sale

Saturday, May 17th will be this year's OHS Plant Sale. *Your* perennial plants are needed!

When you are redesigning, dividing or digging your gardens this spring, please keep in mind our annual Plant Sale fundraiser. The proceeds from our Plant Sale enable us to enjoy our monthly speakers, the newsletters, free tea/coffee, the junior programs and public plantings.

Your plants for the Plant Sale should be in a light soil mix, which is available, along with pots, at our plant depots, (depots listed below). **Materials will be at the depots by Saturday April 19th (Easter Saturday). Please deliver your potted plants to the depot closest to you by Monday May 5 and no later than May 12.** Remember when potting your plants - ensure your plants are health and present well in their pots. No body wants to buy a plant for \$6 when it looks small and lousy. **Put lots of value and love into your pots and make your plants look AMAZING – good enough that you would want to pay \$6 for it!**

Depot Locations

- North Marie and Bob Decker
1285 Gloaming Court
905-844-1837
- South East Sonja Tessari and Stuart Gough
1311 Avon Crescent
905-845-9474
- South West David Marshall
20139 Rebecca Street
905-827-2564



Our best sellers are:

Ajuga, Aquatic plants, Artemesia, Asters, Astilbe, Bellflower, Black Eyed Susan, Border Pinks, Catmint, Coral Bells, Corydalis, Chrysanthemums, Day Lilies, Delphinium, Fall Anemone, Fall Asters, Ferns, Hens & Chicks, Herbs, Hosta, Ivy, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Japanese Spurge (Pachysandra), Ladys Mantle, Lambs Ear, Lavender, Meadow Rue, Monkshood, Ornamental Grass (clumping, no Ribbon Grass), Periwinkle, Phlox, Primula, Purple Coneflower, Rhubarb, Sedum (Autumn Joy), Shasta Daisy, Siberian Iris, Solomon Seal, Trilliums from



your own garden, Yarrow, Yucca, Shrubs and Trees

If you would like to volunteer on the Plant Sale Committee, or if you need help digging, dividing and potting, please call Sonja 905-845-9474.

Sonja Tessari

Installation at Canada Blooms



April Flower Schedules

Design Schedule - A RAINBOW OF COLOURS

1. Class of Distinction - *"The Black Widow"* - a design
2. Chairman's Trophy - *"The Yellow Brick Road"* - a parallel design¹
3. General - *"Green with Envy"* - a design
4. Novice - *"Blue Bayou"* - a design with the visible use of water^{7,8}
5. Miniature - *"Pretty in Pink"* - a design in niche 5"h x 4½"w x 3"d.

Horticultural Schedule

6. Bouquet of spring flowers in exhibitor's container, under 10" in any direction
7. Branch, forced, under 36"
8. Bulbs, forced - minimum 5 bulbs in bloom, 1 pot
9. Chionodoxa or scilla - 6 stems
10. Crocus - 3 stems
11. House plant grown for flowers or fruit
12. House plant grown for foliage
13. House plant, trailing or climbing – there may be more than one kind of plant in the container
14. Narcissus, trumpet/large cup - 1 scape
15. Narcissus, multibloom - 1 scape
16. Narcissus, other cultivar - 1 scape
17. Perennial, plant height under 6" - 3 stems (see Hort Guidelines pg. 3)
18. Saintpaulia (African Violet) - single crown
19. Seedlings, 1 cultivar, minimum 6 plants - 1 box or tray
20. Spring flower, any other - 1 stem
21. Tulipa (Tulip) - 1 stem
22. A piece of jewellery; mainly horticultural content, made by the exhibitor, not previously shown⁹
23. Educational exhibit²
24. Any Other Cultivar (AOC)³ - 1 stem or bloom

Special Exhibits

25. Plants and Flowers not to exceed 18" in any direction. (see O.J.E.S. pg. 75)¹⁰

For a complete listing of all schedules, definitions and entry tips, please refer to the 2014 Show Book, available on the OHS web site, or at the shows.



Models walking the runway at Canada Blooms



Miniature Arrangement at Canada Blooms

Out On a Limb

I'm mired in bookkeeping at the moment preparing material for our accountant Art -- a job that is only slightly better than putting my hand in a blender. Fortunately the garden remains completely frozen and will for some time. Rob Howard of the Hamilton Spectator told me that the ground there is frozen to the depth of five feet and I'd imagine Oakville is about the same. So while the ground melts and you do your garden inspection over the next few weeks, here are some photos and guidelines to use when assessing this year's winter damage.

Is it Alive? Or, is it Dead?

Evergreens:

1. Alive: Brown or white on the edges. It probably is o.k. When the snow is gone and the soil has warmed up, use heavy gloves to brush the dead needles and leaves off the plant. Over the next few weeks you should notice new needle or leaf growth.



2. Alive, but should be replaced: If you have a boxwood hedge and it is in the front yard and it is completely covered in white leaves, you're not going to want to wait to see if it will rebound — think hockey player with no front teeth. Also you may want to consider planting another sort of evergreen.



3. Alive, but needs surgery: If one branch is brown, look down the stem for damage and remove it behind the damage point.

4. Dead, completely dead: If the plant is brown it is dead. Nothing short of paint will bring it back to its original colour. Time to remove and go shopping.



5. Alive, but ugly: If you lost a lot of branches due to the ice storm - take a good look at the remaining shape. Do you like the way it looks? If not, remove it, otherwise in the years ahead you'll be staring at the same shape only much, much bigger.

Deciduous Bushes & Trees:

Remember, things will be slower this year. Plants from the Hibiscus family such as Rose of Sharon are always slow, don't start digging them up until you're certain they're dead. Remove a small piece of bark low on the plant to see if it is green — if it is, you're in luck. If not, time to put it on the compost heap. Note that some plants such as Buddleja (Butterfly Bushes) may die back completely this year and start again from the base.

The nurseries have been pushing hardiness boundaries for several years now — it will be interesting to see if the snow cover was sufficient to keep these tender beauties alive. And if not, time to start searching for those receipts now for those plants that are guaranteed.

See you at our next meeting!

Barbara Phillips-Conroy

www.barbarasgardenchronicles.blogspot.com

Rocks and Trees (part 2)

In the last issue we covered the basics of creating a bed. One quick thought on that. After digging up the grass you can as well lay several layers of newspaper down. This will help kill off any roots that you may not have gotten before placing the dirt in the bed. Newspaper ink is vegetable based now and over time the paper will decompose so this is a viable option. Thanks to Stu for this idea.

We now have a bed ready for decorating. This is where you start to think about its Spring Summer Fall and Winter looks. Yes Winter Even when all is buried beneath the snow the garden can still bring interest through shape and topography That is why we are putting both rocks and trees in this garden This will give differing heights and interest to the winter landscape

Rocks seldom grow naturally in evenly spaced distances or neat rows. I like to group them in a way that provides movement for the eye and gives the rocks a story to tell. That is why there are two together and one a distance away, the eye naturally tried to see them all at once but cannot. It must therefore travel from side to side. This creates a visual tension and makes the garden seem bigger and more interesting.

You see here our three rocks...



They were carefully chosen. The single rock on the left is at first glance a mirror image of the one on the left.

However it has its own unique features. Its right face looks like it was once joined to the one in the middle.

The middle rock in turn has a right face that could have been joined to its companion to its right. However it has a different shape than the other two and is also a bit taller. Therefore it will catch the viewer's eye and give you a centralized starting point to begin your visual journey. Finally the one on the right when seen closer has edges similar to the center rock that make it seem as if it too was split from the center rock. This can create either a sense of harmony or a feeling of tension. Are they close together and friends thus giving each other strength? Was there a difference of opinion and thus they "split up" but cannot bring themselves to leave each other completely? When you see them all in one place you ask your self were these all once one rock? How did the one get so far away from the other two? How long ago did this happen? These are the sorts of questions I try to get a simple rock to create in the viewer's mind.

No garden is static. Each one has a personality. So do the elements in it. Every garden can have a story to tell and a place to take you. Whether it be back in time, to a place of serenity or just a place for a quick moment of pleasure in a hectic day. Rocks are a solid way to capture interest. Rocks are old. They have been a part of the planet for eons. Their just being in your garden can create a sense of awe. Whether the viewer consciously realizes it or not, he knows is looking at something ancient. It is just that in our daily life we think they are common and forget about them. But properly placed they can bring all their power forward for you to enjoy. Next issue "Softening the edges"

John Comber

Coming Events

OHS Plant Sale

May 17, 2014, 9:00am till sold out
St. Paul's United Church, 454 Rebecca, Oakville
Great plants, grown locally, great prices, great advice
www.oakvillehort.org/plant_sale

OHS Garden Tour

June 15, 2014, 10:00am till 4:00pm
Tour select Oakville gardens
www.oakvillehort.org/garden_tour

RBG Outdoor Living & Garden Show

March 28–30, 2014, RBG Centre
www.rbg.com

Hosta Forum

April 6, 2014, Glencairn Golf Club, Halton Hills
Silent and Live Auctions, guest speakers
Tickets \$60
ontariohostasociety.com

Ontario Regional Lily Society

Annual Meeting
April 6, 2014, 2:00pm
"From Snapshot to Great Shot: Explorations in Garden and Flower Photography"
RBG Centre

Savage Gardens, Nature's Ninjas

Till April 13, 2014, RBG Centre
The captivating, bizarre, larger-than-life world of carnivorous plants
www.rbg.com

Annual Lily show, RBG, July 5-6

July 5–6, 2014
Come see what has been growing in our gardens...
RBG Centre

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 3–5, 2015, Ancaster
Summer in the Southern Tier...
The 109th OHA Convention, hosted by our district

Canadian African Violet Society Convention and Sale

April 25–26, 2014, Weston Prince Hotel, Toronto
Show & Sale open to the public
Info: Don MacDonald maconapc@gmail.com
www.tavs.ca

Rhododendron Society Plant Sale

April 27, 2014
Toronto Botanical Gardens
In our view no garden is complete without a rhododendron or two or three... Join us
www.onrhodos.com

Halton Region Compost Give Away

May 5–10, 2014
Halton Waste Management Site, 1151 Bronte Road
Halton Region offers compost to Halton residents free of charge, up to 7 garbage bags (or equivalent) of compost per household.
Residents are encouraged to make a donation of non-perishable food items or cash. Your donations make a difference!

Garden Walk Buffalo

July 26–27, 2014
www.GardenWalkBuffalo.com

Visit Cloud's Orchids

Are you interested in visiting Cloud's Orchids? The nursery is open to the public one weekend per month. If enough members are interested, we could arrange a caravan to head down.

New Members

Please welcome the following new members to our Society:

Peter Hinton, Alana Tiernay,
Patricia Scarfone, Diana Wright

We were all new members at some point, help our new members get acquainted with our activities.