

Oakville Horticultural Society

MAY 2014

Newsletter

May's Guest Speakers:

Anne & Bob Granatier

***Revisiting Mosaïcultures Internationales
Montréal 2013***

Mosaiculture is a horticultural art that involves creating and mounting living artworks made primarily from plants with colourful foliage. It is distinguished from topiary, which features mostly shrubs pruned to creative shapes.

Mosaïcultures Internationales is a mosaiculture competition held every three years, showcasing an exhibition of international horticultural art. All works must represent something of the participant's local culture while following a defined theme.



In 2013 the competition was held at the Montreal Botanical Gardens. Michel Gauthier alerted our society that something wonderful was about to take place in Montreal during his presentation on Flora Niagara. With our attention focused on the Falls we missed the significance of this Montreal event.

Ann and Bob Granatier of Trails End Iris Gardens will take us back to Montreal and share with us their visits to this horticultural extravaganza. Ann and Bob are both board members and Bob serves as treasurer of the Canadian Iris Society. They are also members of the American Iris Society (AIS) and past-Presidents of the Brantford Garden Club. As well, they are both accredited judges of the American Iris Society. Trails End Iris Gardens offers only high quality plants, approximately 4000 Iris plants comprised of over 400 varieties.



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May Meeting:

Monday, May 12, 2014
Doors open 6:30pm

Location

Knox Presbyterian, MacMillan Hall
89 Dunn Street

Hall SetUp (9:00am)

Anne Ritchie
Rosanne Swalwell

Clerking

Shyami Gomez
Florenda Tingle

Hospitality

Paula Clayton
Christine Lee

June Meeting:

Monday, June 9, 2014



President's Message

One of the surest signs of spring is when a large pile of mulch appears on the driveway. The arrival of the mulch is the gardener's way of saying enough of winter; it is time to start gardening. The garden enthusiast is not going to wait for the Region's mulch giveaway (May 5–10, Halton Waste Management Site, 1151 Bronte Rd.), fully intending to have all the delivered mulch spread and then go to pick up a full load from the Region. The gardener knows one cannot have enough mulch.

So it must be spring because there is a large pile of mulch on our driveway.

It is still early in the season to really see how the gardens have fared through this past winter. Though the gardens did have a cover of snow throughout the winter, I think the December ice storm may have done the damage before we had that snow cover. The persistent cool temperatures are not helping. The weather forecasters are calling for a steadily warming trend so our gardens should soon be growing. And just in time as our Plant Sale is almost upon us. We will have quite the challenge to prepare for this year's sale. As I write, Sonja Tessari is delivering soil mix, pots and trays to the depots. As you read, I hope that you have had a chance to stop by the depots to pick up potting supplies for your donations to the sale. With some luck and warmth, we will be well on the way to having lots of healthy plants all potted up for the sale.

Our Junior Garden is undergoing some refurbishment, replacing some of the garden bed dividers that had begun to rot. Our friends at Petrie's have delivered a supply of fresh soil/compost mix and Linda Tock organized a soil-spreading afternoon. The programme is full for the coming year.

Our winter has also presented problems for our Garden Tour. Christine Lee reports that some of the prospects for the tour have pulled out due to garden damage from the ice storm. If you know of any interesting gardens that might be candidates for joining the tour, please get in touch with Christine.

David Marshall has been busy with the Plants, Bulbs and Seeds. He is preparing quite the selection for our

membership and hopes to have many plants for our May meeting.

Margaret Jeffery has organized the clean-up and maintenance for the Anderson Parkette. We should soon be seeing the results of the test planting of narcissus at Shell Park. If you are in the vicinity, you might want to stop and see which varieties look best to your eye.

I can report that the planning is well underway for the OHA's 109th convention, coming to our district next year. There will be an interesting range of speakers and workshops for you to attend. If you would like to attend the convention, you can get a discounted convention pass by volunteering in the organization and running of the convention.

And let us not forget about this year's OHA convention, to be held in Cornwall, July 18–20. Not only great speakers and workshops, there will also be horticulture, design, art, creative writing and photo competitions.

It must be spring. Let us enjoy it.

OHS Constitution and By-Law Update

There are a few updates that our Society by-laws require.

The main item that needs work is to define what would constitute a quorum at our Annual General Meeting. At present only those in attendance vote on all Society business. We do define who is eligible to vote, but we do not have a stated percentage of eligible voters that are required to constitute a quorum. Nor do we make provisions for those who cannot attend the AGM. Should we introduce proxy voting?

Also requiring change is the stated date of our AGM. The By-Law Article 2, Section 2 lists November for the AGM — this should read December. The AGM was moved to December to allow ample time for the audit to be completed for presentation at the AGM.

Stuart Gough



OHS Plant Sale

Coming Saturday, May 17th. Don't miss this!

This year's more-than-ever exciting Plant Sale will be held on the Saturday of the long weekend with the hope that spring will arrive. Our Plant Sale tables will be lined with desirable plants showing magnificent foliage and colour, no gardener will want to be without. Sometimes you have to wish big to make your dreams come true! One of our inspirational OHS members has been busy digging and dividing and has over 40 pots ready to contribute to our sale - dreams do come true! As an OHS member you can be involved in 3 important ways:

1. Dig & divide your plants and contribute your plant material to the Plant Sale
2. Volunteer your time the morning of the sale – email me sonja.t@sympatico.ca
3. Tell your gardening friends about our Plant Sale and ask them to come out and support the Plant Sale.

Visit your nearest depot (listed below) for pots, trays, labeling sticks, and soil. I can't promise but if you need assistance with digging contact me and I will see what I can do, Sonja - sonja.t@sympatico.ca

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
2039 Rebecca Street
905-827-2564

Your plants should be in a light soil mix, available at your nearest depot. Remember to use a permanent marker on the identity sticks when potting your plants – Note sun/shade, colour, bloom time, along with the name. **Please return your potted plants to the depot closest to you by Monday May 5, no later than May 12. Put lots of value into your pots, make your plants look AMAZING – good enough that you would want to pay \$6 for it!**

Our Plant Sale is our society's most important fundraiser. In order to make this year's Plant Sale a success please tell your friends, family, neighbours, business associates about the Plant Sale on Saturday May 17 from 9AM to 11AM (rain or shine) Sale location: St. Paul's United Church, 454 Rebecca St. Oakville, Ontario

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



Bulbs Plants and Seeds

The following perennials will be available for sale to our membership at our May meeting:

Aconitum Napellus (Monkshood)	blue	100 cm	sun, pt. sun
Aconitum Bicolor	blue/white	90 cm	sun, pt sun
Japanese Anemone, "Pretty Lady Diane"	red	40 cm	sun, pt sun Non invasive
Fall Aster "Monch"	purple	75 cm	sun
Astilbe "fanale"	red	60 cm	pt. sun, shade
Crocsmia "Emberglow"	dark red	75 cm	sun
Crocsmia "George Davidson"	yellow	45 cm	sun
Crocsmia "Lucifer"	scarlet	100 cm	sun
Geranium "Striatum"	white/pink	30 cm	sun, pt. sun
Hemerocallis "El Desperado"	red/yellow	70cm	sun , pt. sun
Siberian Iris "Butter and Sugar"	yellow/white	70 cm	sun, pt . sun
Liatris "Floristan"	white	90 cm	sun
Liatris "Spicata"	purple	90 cm	sun
Phlox "David"	white	80 cm	sun, pt sun
Delphinium "Blue Bird"	blue	160 cm	sun
Monarda "Marshall's Delight"	pink	100 cm	sun, pt sun
Veronica "Sunny Border Blue"	blue	50 cm	sun, pt sun
Salvia "May Night"	blue	40 cm	sun
Baptisia	blue	90 cm	sun, pt sun

There will be pictures and plants at the meeting.

Bring lots of cash or a cheque. Most will be \$2.00 each, tax included. A few will be \$3.00 or \$ 4.00. Way cheaper than anywhere else!

If possible return pots to the June meeting so that they can be re-used next year



Plox "David"



Monarda "Marshall's Delight"



Hemerocallis "El Desperado"

David Marshall

May Flower Show Schedules

Design Schedule – MAKING MUSIC

1. Class of Distinction - “Tri” - a synergistic design in three containers ¹¹
2. Chairman’s Trophy - “Duet” - a satellite design ¹²
3. General - “Choir” - a mass design ¹³
4. Novice - “Quartet” - a parallel design ¹
5. Miniature - “Solo” - design in niche 5"h x 4½"w x 3"d.

Horticultural Schedule

6. Apple/crab-apple - 1 branch cut to 36" or less
7. Bouquet of small spring flowers
8. Bouquet of Myosotis (forget-me-not)
9. Branch, other flowering shrub - cut to 36" or less
10. Bulb, corm, tuber, other than already listed - 1 stem
11. Dicentra (Bleeding Heart), old fashioned - 1 stem
12. Dicentra (Bleeding Heart), other - 1 stem
13. House plant grown for flowers or fruit
14. House plant grown for foliage
15. Iris - 1 scape
16. Muscari (Grape hyacinths) - 3 stems
17. Narcissus, trumpet/large cup, yellow - 1 scape
18. Narcissus, trumpet/large cup, other colour - 1 scape
19. Narcissus, multibloom - 1 scape
20. Narcissus, other cultivar - 1 scape
21. Perennial, other plant height under 15" - 3 stems (see Hort Guidelines pg. 2)
22. Perennial, other plant height over 15" - 1 stem
23. Primula (primrose) - 3 stems
24. Rhododendron or azalea - 1 branch cut to 36" or less
25. Rhubarb - 3 stalks pulled, leaves trimmed to 2"
26. Seedlings - 1 cultivar, minimum 6 plants - 1 box or tray
27. Syringa (Lilac) - 1 truss
28. Tulip, single red - 1 stem
29. Tulip, single pink - 1 stem
30. Tulip, single other colour - 1 stem
31. Tulip, ruffled or parrot - 1 stem
32. Tulip, lily flowered - 1 stem
33. Tulip, species - 1 stem
34. Tulip, other cultivar - 1 stem
35. Viola (Pansy) - 3 stems with own foliage
36. Vegetable - 1 specimen or bunch
37. Educational exhibit 2
38. Any other cultivar (AOC) 3- 1 stem or bloom

Design Definitions

1. Parallel: - A design in which three or more groupings are placed in a parallel manner with open spaces between the groupings. Parallel direction may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. Design is in one container or containers combined so as to appear as one unit.(O.J.E.S. pg. 102)
11. Synergistic: a contemporary (any style that is considered current) design in which several containers are used in a composition. Each container may hold a complete or partial arrangement and the combined units create a unified whole.
12. Satellite: a creative design, with a smaller design of the same colour, form and / or texture, placed near its base, having a curving connective line that becomes a vital part of its rhythmic pattern.
13. Mass: a design with a large quantity of plant material arranged in a closed silhouette with few or no voids.

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.

Please help us fill up the Design division of the flower show.

Over the next two years, there is a Design Judging School underway at the RBG. Several members of the OHS are involved as students and our own Celia Roberts is one of the primary teachers of the school. As a result, we will be seeing several student judges coming to our shows to gain judging experience. We have also made our design class schedule an open schedule for the next two years so we may be getting outside persons entering the design portion of the show.

To make the experience of either student judging or entering the flower shows a better learning experience we are requesting that everyone who can should enter the design division of our flower shows.

This will be a great experience for you and will give our student judges more to judge and any guests who come, more competition.

Thanks for entering the design division of the flower show.

Marie Decker

Pruning

Given the past winter's damage, some pruning tips might be appropriate. Going back into the archive of OHS newsletters revealed an interesting article from March 2009 on the history of pruning and some pruning tips. The original issue is no longer listed on our web



site, so here is an edited version.

If you find you have trees with damage like this, call in the professionals who will safely take care of the damage.

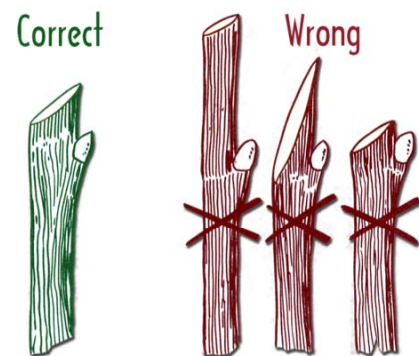
People have been trimming and shaping plants for

millennia. From the ancient Chinese practice of penjing (a predecessor of Japanese bonsai) to the amazing garden sculptures created for the Beijing Olympics, pruning techniques and traditions have evolved over time. As fashion changes, so to does taste in pruning.

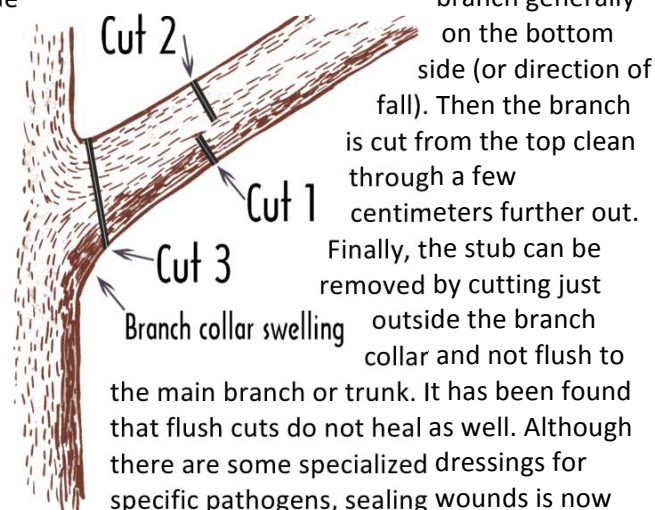
Though plants have long been pruned as a fashion statement, there are more pragmatic and important reasons to prune including: improving plant health, improving flowering or fruiting, making harvest easier, ensuring safety, etc. Coppicing, the practice of shearing trees and shrubs to the ground, and pollarding, the practice of shearing trees to a meter or two above the ground, were once standard forestry practices in medieval times. This was done not for visual appeal but to produce a continual supply of wood, wicker or winter fodder. Today, some find this quirky pruning style pleasing, but only a handful of species, (e.g. those with vigorous epicormic sprouts, like willows and catalpas), can be sheared in this manner. Over time, people have learned which plants can be pruned, how this pruning should be done and when it will be most successful.

Just as the aesthetics of pruning has changed over time, the tools and techniques have also evolved. Sickles, scythes and pruning hooks have been replaced by shears, loppers and pruning saws (some powered). Shears (anvil, bypass or parrot-beaked) are excellent

for trimming small stems and branches; pruning saws are better for larger branches as they prevent compression of the wood. Cutting techniques vary depending on the size of the branch. A simple angle cut above an outward facing bud is fine for branches under 4 cm (1.5 inches).



For larger branches, a three-step drop crotch cut is recommended. First it is important to remove the weight of the branch and prevent bark tearing. Therefore, a cut is made about 5 cm (six inches) from the branch crotch. This cut should only go 1/3 through the



branch generally on the bottom side (or direction of fall). Then the branch is cut from the top clean through a few centimeters further out. Finally, the stub can be removed by cutting just outside the branch collar and not flush to the main branch or trunk. It has been found that flush cuts do not heal as well. Although there are some specialized dressings for specific pathogens, sealing wounds is now not recommended and can prevent the natural healing process.

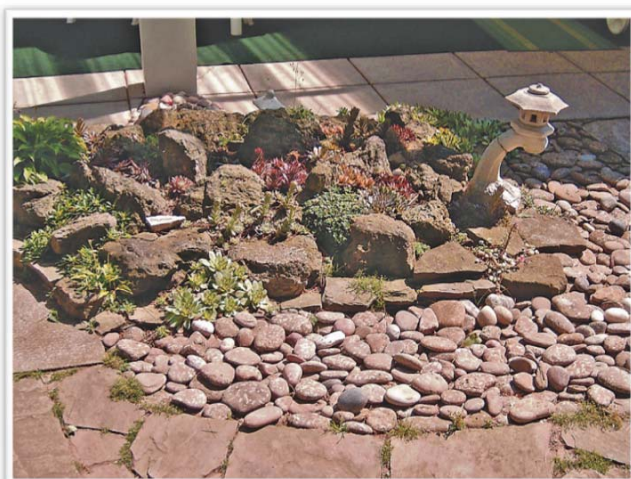
Pruning can be done year round. However, winter is the ideal time to prune most deciduous trees and shrubs. When they are dormant, you can easily see the framework, and insects and disease are less likely to be spread. Spring flowering varieties, like forsythia, are best pruned just after they have bloomed. Evergreens should be pruned just after they have set their new candles. Trees that bleed like maples, walnuts and birches are best shaped in summer. The best results are achieved if pruning is started when the plant is quite young and some thought is given to the desired final shape.

Garden Tour

This very popular event for our society and the community, our annual Garden Tour, is coming up in June. What a delightful and enjoyable way to spend a Sunday! Enchanting gardens are in the final stages of selection by the tour committee, led by Christine Lee. You will be inspired by the excellence of the landscape designs and the creativity and love of gardening. This is a wonderful opportunity to get ideas for your own gardening pursuits.



Have you come across a garden that you think would be an interesting candidate for the tour? Gardens this spring are taking their time revealing how much of a toll this winter has been. We are looking for not only this year's tour but also for future tours. Please tell Christine about your finds via email to: gardentour.ohs@oakvillehort.org



Once the final selection of gardens is completed, tickets will be prepared and offered on sale come June.

Our garden tours have been very successful for many years thanks to the generosity of the garden owners, the support of our members, the community and the efforts of the ticket outlets. Most of the proceeds will



be used for projects in the community. At the May meeting, we will start recruiting volunteer garden hosts. The presence of hosts to welcome the garden guests and to be available to answer questions really adds a special touch to our garden tour. A clipboard will be passed around at the meeting. Please sign up for either the 10am–1pm or the 1pm–4pm shift.



Restricted viewing of the gardens will be available for the garden owners and the hosts on Saturday, June 14. In this way, when you volunteer as a host, you will be able to see the gardens in advance, to learn about each garden's features. This will aid you in answering any questions the following day. Plus, as a host, you receive a free ticket.

Coming Events

Halton Region Compost Give Away

May 5–10, 2014

Halton Waste Management Site, 1151 Bronte Road
Halton offers compost to residents free of charge,
up to 7 garbage bags (or equivalent) of compost
A donation of non-perishable food items or cash.

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 Moonlight Series

Magnolias by Moonlight

May 10, 2014, RBG Arboretum

\$40, pre-registration required

Lilacs by the Light of the Moon

June 7, 2014, RBG Arboretum

\$40, pre-registration required

Moonlit Roses

June 13, 2014, RBG Centre

\$40, pre-registration required

Moonlight Paddle of Cootes Paradise

July 12, 2014, RBG Arboretum

\$60, pre-registration required

www.rbg.ca/moonlight

Hamilton & Burlington Rose Society

June 21–22, 2014, RBG Centre

Two day juried Rose Show, competition open to all
rose enthusiasts

<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/hbrs>

ORLS Annual Lily Show

July 5–6, 2014

RBG Centre

Ontario Regional Lily Society invites you to come
and see what we have been growing in our gardens
this year!

<http://www.orls.ca/events.htm>

OHA Conference 2014

July 18–20, 2014, Cornwall

A River runs by it...

The 108th OHA Convention, great speakers, design,
horticulture and creative competitions. Convention
agenda plus full details of speakers, workshops
competitions can be found at GardenOntario
www.gardenontario.org/sho/up_conf.php/

Garden Walk Buffalo

July 26–27, 2014

www.GardenWalkBuffalo.com

Shuffle off to Buffalo with Cloverleaf Garden Club
Saturday, July 26, 2014

Motor coach transportation, luncheon, tour guide
all inclusive for \$105 p/p

www.CloverleafGardenClub.org

OHA District 6 Annual Fall Dinner

Saturday, October 25, 2014

Hosted by Georgetown Horticultural Society

Guest speaker: Lizzie Matheson "Inspired By..."

Tickets \$27, choice of Roast Beef or Vegetarian
StirFry

OHA Convention 2015

July 3–5, 2015, Ancaster

Summer in the Southern Tier...

The 109th OHA Convention, hosted by our district

New Members

Please welcome the following new members to our
Society:

Rick and Pat Snelling

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

