

April 2015

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Gilford & District Horticultural Society
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Meeting and April Flower Show

Our speaker for the evening, Laura Mills was a very thorough instructor in the art of photography, and we hope to see even more beautiful photos in our annual competition, for categories and rules see your yearbook. Get snapping – but with thought for the elements of design!



Holly Wells from Barrie's Garden Club judged 29 exhibits with 9 exhibitors. In the African Violet class first place went to Linda Becic, second to Jenni Murrell and third Diane Sykes who also got a first place in Any Other African Violet.

Marilyn Elliott won 'Best in Show' with her blooming Bromeliad houseplant and Diane Sykes won 'Judge's Choice' with houseplant Ivy – *Hedera araliaceae*.

Design A: Named 'Reflections', a waterviewing design, 1st place went to Marilyn Elliott and 2nd place to Eveline Teras. 3rd place went to Mona Rea, and Agnes More and Jenni Murrell both received an Honourable Mention.

Design A: Named 'Coffee for Two', a functional table, 1st place went to Jenni Murrell – Second place went to Mona Rea. Third place went to Agnes More and Honourable Mention went to Eveline Teras.

Design B: Ruth Matchett won 1st place with her entry 'Reflections', awaterviewing design, and Linda Becic took 2nd place.

Design B: Linda Becic won 1st place with her entry 'Coffee for Two', a functional table, design.

Due to unfortunate weather we were sadly lacking in bulb entries – better luck at the big show in May – we hope.

District 16 AGM at Tangle Creek

Members of our society attended en masse, as well as distinguishing ourselves in the flower show. Eveline Teras achieved a first place with her design in 'Spring Affair' and Jenni Murrell came third.

In the board elections our District 16 Director Russ Talbot was installed for another 2 years. Russ commented that he went to many society meetings, took bus trips, went on garden tours, and that he gained weight. He credits the many pot luck dinners for this!

Our district as a whole reported 34,638 hours of volunteer work, 1205 of which was attributed to district board meetings, this with a 7% drop in overall membership. Due to increasing expenses and the fact that our district portion of the OHA dues has not increased in many years, a motion for an increase to from 35 cents to 60 cents per member was voted on and passed.

Work has been done by the OHA board on a Youth Code of Conduct to bring us up to standard regarding police checks of Youth Leaders, Program Guidance, and to allow Co-operators Insurance to provide coverage.

Garden Ontario Week is to be held from June 13 to 21st. There will be events throughout our district including our society. See the events section of your newsletter.

OHA continued... A stand is being taken by the Ontario Horticultural Association against the use of neonicotinoids (a pesticide treatment). This pesticide has been linked in studies to the death of pollinator bees. Members are requested to ask garden centres whether any of their products are treated with this chemical before you buy. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food is reviewing this insecticide.

The Ontario Judging and Standards booklet is under revision. Judging Committee Chair of the OHA, Penny Stewart will co-chair a committee to correct and reflect current trends in floral design. A revision survey to be submitted no later than July 30, 2015 can be found at:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/OJESREVIEW9RKF673.

The rebranding of the OHA to Garden Ontario is in the preliminary stages of discussion. The Ontario Horticultural Association name will remain officially, the new name will be used as a more user friendly common identification. Pros and cons as well as cost will be part of the boards discussion.

Congratulations to Letty Barolet and our very own Judith Rogers for receiving the District 16 Service Award. A great honour and well deserved by both recipients for a great deal of work in many areas of endeavour in our district. The prestigious Silver Medal was awarded to one of our past District Directors, Carol Dunk for her outstanding work in ecology, beautification and leadership in our district. The Silver Tray for the largest percentage increase in membership for the previous year was awarded to the Coldwater Society. Speakers are an important part of district gatherings,

this year we were entertained and informed by both Steven Biggs and Jeff Mason of Mason House Gardens in Uxbridge. Steven showed us how to encourage children to enjoy the garden and to feel like they are making a contribution, all by being fun, and creative. Jeff was a speaker who showed us many common errors, and some common sense ways to garden.

Toxic Garden?

Plants are very beautiful, but some can be harmful, even deadly. Everyone tries to avoid poison ivy, however there are many common garden plants that have qualities equally as bad, even worse. For instance the innocent Lily of the Valley (*convallaria majalis*) contains a heart stopping 38 different cardiac glycosides, even the vase water if drunk could kill you. Monkshood and Foxglove - also deadly to the heart. The leaves and roots of the delicate Bleeding Heart can cause convulsions. All parts of the Calla Lily may be fatal if injected. Angel's Trumpet (*brugmansia, datura*), the name could hint that all parts can herald your entrance to the next world. A common cause of plant poisoning is Jack in the Pulpit, all parts of which can cause allergic reactions severe enough to be deadly. Christmas Rose (*helleborus niger*) causes gastroenteritis.

Yikes - are we going somewhere with these names with religious overtones? The point to be made here is that we should all know the qualities of what we grow in our gardens, plants that could harm us or our pets - all it takes is a computer search through wikipedia. The list is long, so beware.



New Members of Our Society!

Margret and Manfred Neuhofer
 Henrietta Carriere
 Nicole Carriere
 B.L. Parkinson
 Lorna Atkins
 Ian Markwick

Cheer and Sympathy

February

- Sympathy to Sharon and Frank Wice on the passing of her mother
- Sympathy to the family of Phyllis Caulton
- Sympathy to Betty Hampton on her husband's passing
- Get Well to Betty Lou Flear

March

- Get Well to Verna Sawyer
- Sympathy to Doug Barraclough on the passing of his wife Kathy

April

- Get Well to John Craw
- Get Well to Lynn Schnitter



Upcoming Events

May 2	Lakeview Gardens Spring Preview Greenhouse Tour – 1712 Killarney Beach Rd. Lefroy A Behind the Scenes Look at their Greenhouses and What's New for the 2015 Season - pre-order your Hanging Baskets & 2 Gallon Patio & Heirloom Tomatoes
May 11	G&DHS General Meeting – Churchill Community Centre, speaker Edith George on Heritage Trees
May 16	G&DHS Spring Flower Show & Tea – at Churchill Community Centre, entries to be in from 9:30am to 11am, open to the public 12 noon for tea and a light lunch. \$5. per person
May 30	Giant Tailgate, Plant Sale, Bake Sale and BBQ – at the South Innisfil Arboretum We need your donations to the plant sale and bake sale! This is our only big fundraiser of the year, please support us and tell your friends. Call Judith Matchett 705-456-3299 to rent space to sell your items in the tailgate sale, only \$20.00. Call Sharon Wice about baking donations, 705-456-3316.
June 8	G&DHS General Meeting – Churchill Community Centre, speaker Gerry Noordegraaf on Tower Gardening, vertical gardening for rooftop, deck or patio. Flower Show entries to be in by 7:10 pm. - iris, perennials, designs, the Floating Rose Show will be attached to either the June or July show depending on the weather.
June 21	Tea in the Garden – Gilford & District Horticultural Society , at the home of executive member Mona Rea, 1 pm. to 4pm rain or shine. Enjoy a garden viewing including tea and delicacies. Contact Mona for information 705-456-0132 or email: mona.rea@gmail.com
June 13-21	Garden Ontario Week – Public events all over Ontario, all week. Listings will be posted on the website: week.gardenontario.org
June 27	Garden Tour - Unfortunately due to a lack of tour gardens and volunteers this event has been cancelled. If anyone is interested in planning this event for next year please speak to the executive.
June 30	Huronian Rose Society 35th Anniversary & Rose Show - Dorian Park Centre, 227 Sunnidale Rd. Barrie. Open to the public at 7 pm. - Free Admission & Parking - Light Refreshments
July 3-5	Ontario Horticultural Association Annual Convention – Ancaster, Ontario at Redeemer College - Early Bird deadline to register is June 1st, hurry and call your president if interested in attending even for one day. Activities include speakers, seminars, bus tours.
July 9	Gardens of the Beach, Wasaga Beach Garden Club Tour – 10 am. to 4 pm rain or shine- tickets \$15. Contact Maureen Andersen at 705-429-8714 or email inthegardenmea@gmail.com
July 12	Oro Medonte Horticultural Society's Summer Garden Tour – 12:30 to 4:30 pm., advance tickets \$10.00, tour day tickets \$15.00 available at Barrie's Garden Centre (Botanix). Contact Jackie Powell 705-325-0078 or Edna Caldwell 705-721-0484
July 13	G&DHS General Meeting – speaker Doug Rolling of Abell Pests uses the Integrated Pest Management system, the triangle of life – food, water and shelter. Flower Show including lilies, perennials and floral designs, possible Floating Rose Show.
July 18	Alliston Garden Tour – For information call Irene Reihl 705-435-5487 or email riehlsincanada@hotmail.com
August 23	Amazing Bus Tour, Wasaga Beach Garden Club – Includes Bonnie Heath Estate Lavender and Winery, Whistling Gardens with Catered Lunch and Kerry's Hostas, tour cost \$60.00 includes lunch and all entrance fees. Pick-up stop at Bayfield Mal in Barrie. Mail cheques to Wasaga Beach Horticultural Society, 16 Sparrow Lane, Wasaga Beach, ON L9Z 2A4 Enquiries in the evening only to Maureen at 705-429-8714