

MOUNT HAMILTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



**Chedoke Presbyterian Church
865 Mohawk Road West
7:30 P.M.**

**President
Shelley Peterson**

**Secretary
Margaret Verbeek
margaret.verbeek@ca.ey.com**

January/February 2010

News

Friday, November 20 was our Annual Dinner and Awards Night. Our chef for the evening was Mo Forget, ably assisted by Bill MacPherson. Baked salmon was added to roast beef and chicken with marvelous fresh vegetables.

The 2009 awards went to:

President's Award: Helen MacPherson
Society Award: Marg Verbeek

Marjorie Cooke was awarded the Keith Anderson award for most overall points in the Flower Show.

We now have a total of 5 publications and 34 books for our members. These are Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards that our judges use for all flower shows. They are full of information to help you enter a show and will be available to borrow at the January 2010 meeting. Perhaps you are interested in entering some of your roses this year. You could just read up on them to learn the best way to do so. You can look up the flowers, vegetables, or fruits you are interested in.

We would also appreciate any ideas of how we can improve our show or encourage you to enter.

Your Flower Show Committee

We were busy over the Christmas season. Here are some things we did.



Ica Smith, Ruth Mills, and Mary Lyn Brown decorated a door at RBG. It was placed in the tunnel joining Hendrie to the Camilla and Peter Dalglish Atrium between where the reindeer could be visited and Santa Claus.

Question: What's the most popular gardening magazine in the world?

Question: What does Santa Claus use to weed his garden?

Find the answers at the bottom of the Newsletter.



The Bach Elgar Choir sang at RBG during the Christmas season. Mary Van Delft is a member of the Choir and participated that day.

Program News

January 15 - Celia Roberts, District 6 Director, will amaze us with ideas for our next flower show. She will prepare a couple of designs using fruits and vegetables - you will never travel through the grocery store in the same way again! Don't forget the seed exchange in February. If you didn't plan ahead, it's acceptable to purchase seed packets and share. Bags for your seeds will be available at the January meeting.

February 19 - Join us for a Hot Night in the Tropics! Tony Post of Coles Garden Centre, Grimsby will show us how to use unusual and hardy tropical plants in our gardens. I'm sure his ideas would also be perfect for balcony gardeners. Let's all try our hands at creating a design for our annual Paper Bag Design Contest. Take a plain paper bag and decorate it with a garden theme. Place a small gift item inside. The paper bags will be used for our draws tonight, and they are always amazing. Don't forget the seed exchange. If you didn't plan ahead, it's acceptable to purchase seed packets and share. March includes our Pansy Sale. In order to better organize this sale, please contact Ruth Mills at this meeting to let her know how many cell packs of pansies you would like to order and colour preference, if any. We will also be looking for prepayment on orders.

March 19 - Tonight our guest speaker is Simon Taylor, Head Gardener at Dundurn National Historic Site, showing us slides of the beautiful heritage edible and ornamental gardens at Dundurn castle. I had the privilege last fall to tour the gardens and they truly are amazing. We will also be selling flats of pansies tonight, and these are always popular! Be sure to join us because spring is just around the corner.

Jason's House

Don't forget to volunteer this year when asked. It's very satisfying and there is a BBQ in the summer...good eats!!!

Announcements

OPPORTUNITY

Can you think of ways to make your society even better? Have you some ideas which you would like to share with the executive? We are looking for enthusiastic members to join our executive. No experience necessary, just a sense of fun and a willingness to help improve your Society. Get involved and help your society grow! Interested and want to know more about what's involved? Talk to any member of your executive. *Training is provided.*

Dates to Remember ***

Circle your calendars and pass the word the **19th Annual Dream Garden Conference** is coming up on Sunday, January 17th, 2010 at the Grand Valley Golf Club 9:30 to 3:30.

Speakers are:

Replacing Yvonne Cunnington is **Sonia Day**, Gardening Columnist of the Toronto Star: Pleasures & Pitfalls of Country Gardening

Christopher Campbell, World Traveler, Inspiring gardening architect: Glories of Garden Design, Past, Present & Future

Rob Howard, Radio personality and gardener writer: 80 Open Gardens

Tickets are available for \$40.00. Anyone mailing in a cheque please enclose a pre-stamped, self-addressed envelope along with the cheque made out to:

Galt Horticultural Society,
and mail to:

Dream Garden Conference
c/o 713 Langlaw Drive, Cambridge,
Ontario N1P 1H3.

Successful Gardening Show & The International Home & Garden Show is March 18-21, 2010 at the International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd, Toronto and features numerous speakers such as Belinda Gallagher, Marjorie Mason, Ed Lawrence, Frank Kershaw. There is also a Floral Design and Plant Show with numerous classes. The theme for the show is 'Magic'. Cost varies between \$10-\$14. Details can be found at www.successfulgardeningshow.ca or www.gardenontario.org.

Celtic Spring at Gage Park: Spring bulb show Gage Park Tropical Greenhouse, March 19 to March 28, Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, free admission. This is a much smaller display than the mum show but a nice taste of spring before the spring actually arrives.

The 2010 Trillium Awards program begins in June with the White Trillium Award Judging; visit www.hamilton.ca/trilliumaward for all the details.

Hamilton Fall Garden & Chrysanthemum Show
Hamilton – Capital of Waterfalls Theme
October 29 to November 7, 2010

Royal Botanical Gardens

Glass under Glass
January 11 to February 28; Mediterranean Garden, RBG Centre
Experience glass art in a glass house — our Mediterranean Garden, in full bloom. This annual exhibit includes an expanded display of shining examples of glass art created by Ontario artists, all available for sale.

No End to the Banana
January 15 to June 15; Mezzanine, RBG

Centre
A traveling exhibit that looks at the diversity of bananas, and at who uses them and for what. It also shows how research can help us use this diversity to increase options for both small-scale farmers in the developing world and consumers in industrialized countries. The exhibit concludes by challenging people to reflect on the type of banana they are eating and the one they could eat.

Amazon Voyage, vicious fishes and other riches

February 6 to April 11, 2010, Camilla and Peter Dalglish Atrium; RBG Centre.
Developed by the Miami Science Centre and Aquarium, this 5000 sq. ft. exhibition explores the seven perils of the Amazon River. Learn about the river's ecosystems and residents with interactive displays, live animals and exciting programs.

Romance in Bloom

Saturday, February 13; 7 p.m.; RBG Centre
Valentine's dinner and dance. Begin your evening with champagne and strawberries. Enjoy a spectacular dinner catered by Pepperwood. After dinner, let the DJ entice you to dance the night away. **Tickets** — Members: \$110 per couple; Non-members \$130 per couple. Reserve tickets by calling 905-527-1158.

Seedy Saturday

Saturday, February 20; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; RBG Centre.
Swap or buy seeds, participate in a workshop, or take part in a demonstration. Seedy Saturday is filled with great gardening ideas. Seed vendors have a variety of hard-to-find heritage and specialty seeds as well as supplies for home propagating. Hands-on activities for kids, raffles and more. Registration is not necessary. Regular daily admission is payable at the door.

Orchid Society Show

Saturday, February 27; noon to 5 p.m. and
Sunday, February 28; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; RBG
Centre

Photographers only: Sunday 8 to 9 a.m.

You don't need a green thumb to be charmed
by the thousands of orchid blooms, with a
breathtaking diversity of colour and shape.

For more information, visit the Orchid
Society's Web site at:

www.osrbg.ca/orchid_show.

Check the following web site:

www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca

Their current 'Enews' is available.

Don't Hide Inside! Ah, winter. A time of
pristine snow, sparkling icicles and snow
covered trees. So put down that hot drink,
leave the cozy fire, and join us for a winter
landscape photography course. Photographer
Sylvia Galbraith will host a discussion and
visual presentation on the unique challenges
of winter photography. Topics include
determining exposures & lighting in bright
snow, protecting your equipment from the
cold, equipment best suited for landscape
photography & more. We'll explore
choosing winter subjects and study creative
compositions. Then we'll head outside to the
woods and meadows of The Arboretum to
practise. Dress warmly and bring a tripod if
possible. All skill levels, film or digital.
Highly recommended for those who love the
outdoors and for artists who take reference
photos.

Pre-registration and payment required by
Friday, January 15, 2010. Cash, Cheque,
Visa or MasterCard

Go to www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum
and click on "Programs & Workshops" for
more details.

Canada Blooms 2010, "**Passions**"
March 17 - 21, Direct Energy Centre

Answers:

Weeders Digest!
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