

# Brooklin Horticultural Society Newsletter

Volume 21 Issue 3 Aug/Sept/Oct 2019

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BHS meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Brooklin United Church; except January, July and December. The November meeting is at St. Thomas Anglican Church.

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com](http://www.brooklinhorticulturalsociety.com)  
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Keeping Ontario Beautiful

## "Square Foot Gardening and Companion Gardening"

Wednesday Aug 28, 2019 - 7:30 PM



On August 28, BHS welcomes Gini Sage as the guest speaker. Gini will be presenting "Square Foot Gardening and Companion Gardening". Square foot gardening is the practice of dividing the growing area into small square sections to intensively plant a vegetable garden. Gini will also share her knowledge and practice of companion planting where a variety of plants can benefit each other. This helps in pest control, pollination, providing habitat for beneficial creatures and maximizing the use of your growing spaces. Gini is a Durham Master Gardener and BHS member. She graduated with a BSc in Forestry, and earned a Horticulture Certificate in Landscape Design from the University of

Guelph. Now retired from a career in Automotive Engineering, her passion is operating her own business, providing garden design.

Join us this evening to learn the tips and tricks to easily manage your garden. Don't forget to lug-a-mug for coffee or tea while you enjoy some treats too.

## Summer Days at the Gardens

Come stroll the gardens at the Brooklin Horticultural Society Gardens and the Park of Reflection in Whitby. See what our member volunteers have been working so hard at and enjoy the fruits of their labour. In this newsletter you will find Kathy Allam's and Faye Collins' updates on the gardens.





## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's our BHS meeting summer break right now and the weather has been turned from wet and cold to hot and humid and now just plain hot! The wet months have created a challenge this summer with an enormous mosquito population. Sales of citronella, lemon grass, and lavender have been strong, providing a promise of some relief from these insects in our gardens and patio areas. There's always something!

Speaking of sales, our BHS membership card lists the many retailers who offer a discount on garden purchases. Be sure to use them as they can easily pay for your annual membership cost. This is a feature that I would like to emphasize for new members, but especially for those who are "considering" membership. We don't want to buy additional memberships, just because of the discount, but the value offered can be an incentive for those who may be considering joining. Membership will encourage attendance at any one of our General Meetings, and from there, perhaps, participation in any or all of our great activities. As ambassadors for our group, we can all help grow the Brooklin Horticultural Society by highlighting an attractive consumer advantage for our friends and acquaintances.

Leslie and I thank Julia Noakes for her work with Chris Hadfield Public School and their perennial planting at school year end. Also, a special thanks to Eugene Gmitrowicz for opening his gardens last month to our members. This was a nice treat for July.

We start the second half of the season with a presentation topic near and dear to my heart. Although I have enjoyed the luxury of a country property, I have not always had the time to "farm" a large vegetable garden. I learned of the Square Foot Garden from a PBS show of the same name back in the 1980's and have utilized many of the concepts since, in my more modest vegetable plots. Durham Master Gardener and BHS Member Gini Sage brings the concept to life at the August General Meeting and I'm looking forward to it.

We have 3 more Shows for you to compete in this season, showing off your skills, but also the struggles with this year's weather. Lots of plants and gardens are late in showcasing their beauty and appeal, and the extreme heat of the past several weeks has burned off flowers, or shortened displays. In any case, we all look forward to the exhibits submitted for judging and the imaginative talents of those who enter the design competitions.

I'm looking forward to the rest of this season. I hope you are too.

*Hans Paats*

## Aaaah.....Summer is Finally Here!

Although a slow start to summer it has arrived in all its glory with plenty of sunshine, blue skies and lots of heat. The BHS newsletter team had no shortage of ideas for garden touring and crafting. In this issue we will share some of our outings including visits at members' and Whitby in Bloom gardens, and fun craft ideas for home and garden. Enjoy!



*Above, counterclockwise from left: Jone Webster's shady bed under the Japanese maple, Jone's sunny border, Eugene Gmitrowicz's garden seen peering through the beebalm, statuary beckoning visitors through pergola in Eugene's garden*

## Upcoming BHS Meetings and Events

Wed Aug 28	<b>The Annuals Show</b> Guest Speaker: <b>Gini Sage</b> - "Square Foot Gardening"
Wed Sept 25	<b>The Autumn Show</b> Guest Speaker: <b>Marjorie Mason</b> - "An English Country Garden"
Wed Oct 23	<b>Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures</b> Guest Speaker: <b>Jeff Mason</b> - "Light up your Garden with Bulbs"
Wed Nov 27	<b>The Annual General Meeting</b> Dessert, entertainment, Awards, Elections 6:30pm, St. Thomas Anglican Church, 101 Winchester East



Sofie Bigham's garden during the Whitby in Bloom tour - rose campion, daylily Leah Abbott, clematis Durandii,

### Hospitality

Thanks to your generous donations of healthy and sweet food items, we have been successful in offering our BHS members and visitors a refreshing social time before our meetings. Thank you for dropping a Loonie or Toonie in the donation box provided. The donations help cover expenses for the coffee, tea, paper products, milk, cream, etc. Please consider signing up at the hospitality table to bring a food item for one of our meetings. At the September meeting a sheet will be available to sign up to bring a pie (any kind) for our October meeting. If you will not be attending this meeting and would like to donate a pie (homemade or store bought) please speak with Audrey or Anne at the hospitality table.

We commend you on your "Lug a Mug" efforts. When our Styrofoam cup inventory has been depleted we will be introducing a more environmentally friendly hot beverage cup which costs more, so please, please, "Lug a Mug".

Thank you for your cooperation in not removing food items from the hospitality area and only taking liquids in sealed containers into the sanctuary.

Audrey Atkinson & Anne Keefer, Hospitality Convenors

### More Buzz about Bees

**Did you know Whitby is 10<sup>th</sup> in Canada and 1st in Durham to be designated a Bee City?** Thanks and gratitude was given to high school student Aidan Brushett, whose love for pollinators became a driving force behind his hometown's bid to become a Bee City! The Town organized a pollinator planting in May 2018 and received funding for it from TD Friends of the Environment. The bee hive was installed on the rooftop of the Town Hall on June 20, 2019. At the end of the season the hive will produce 10 kg of honey! Among other things, the Town of Whitby created new and improved existing pollinator gardens in its 55 parks while also protecting or enhancing naturalized areas. On your next visit to Town Hall visit the Pollinator Garden. Interpretive signage educates the staff and the public on pollination, pollinators and pollinator plants.

## Upcoming Speakers



**Marjorie Mason** will be the guest speaker for our BHS meeting on **September 25**. She will be presenting "**An English Country Garden**".

Marjorie is the author of "Amazing Annuals", published in 1999, and she has also written articles for Canadian Living,

Canadian Gardening, Harrowsmith, Canadian Wildlife Federation and Landscape Ontario magazines. You can listen to Marjorie's great gardening advice every Saturday morning as she hosts "Let's Get Growing" from 9-10 am on 1580 CKDO and 107.7 FM.

On **October 23**, we welcome **Jeff Mason** as our BHS guest speaker and the title of his presentation is "**Light up your**



**Garden with Bulbs**". Jeff has spent a lifetime in the horticultural industry and he has over 30 years of experience in virtually every aspect of the industry. He is the owner of Mason House Gardens on Brock Road in Coppins Corners where he grows hardy perennials, specialty annuals, heirloom and uncommon vegetables, tropical plants and

shrubs. Jeff teaches 'Fundamentals of Gardening' at George Brown College and he enjoys speaking at garden clubs, horticultural societies and at Canada Blooms. You'll occasionally hear him filling in as host for his mother on her radio program on CKDO. Jeff has a profound wealth of knowledge of all things horticultural and is more than happy to share it with you.



## Whitby In Bloom

Despite a very hot and humid day, the Whitby In Bloom Tour was a great success with some of the gardens having 500 visitors. There was a wonderful selection of properties showcasing beautiful gardens, artful designs and personal touches that the homeowners added to their gardens to make each one unique. A big thank you to all of our BHS members who volunteered their time to be at these properties. We were fortunate to have three of our very own members showcasing their gorgeous gardens – Jone Webster, Sofie Bigham and Barb Borchuk. Thank you everyone. If you have a garden you would like to have considered for future tours, please contact Jane Austin.



Above top row, left to right: clematis arch in Sofie's garden, pond in Barb's garden, Sofie's daylily border. Bottom row - images from other gardens on the tour.

## FUN FACTS



Answer: Victorian Pruning Cane/stick

Can you identify this gardening item?

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came out to help with the unloading, organization and **sale of the rainbarrels**. Rainbarrel pick up day was concurrent with our plant sale. Many people buying barrels also purchased plants so it was mutually beneficial. The weather was wet and chilly. The Town generously supplied a large awning, set up in the doorway to the church, keeping volunteers and product dry. Although not finalized yet, the expected profit for BHS is \$750.

## Welcome New BHS Member Raina Chiusolo

If you have a neighbour, friend or relative interested in gardening, bring them to a meeting. Contact Membership Convenor, Eric Tuinman at 905-431-0594.

## Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection

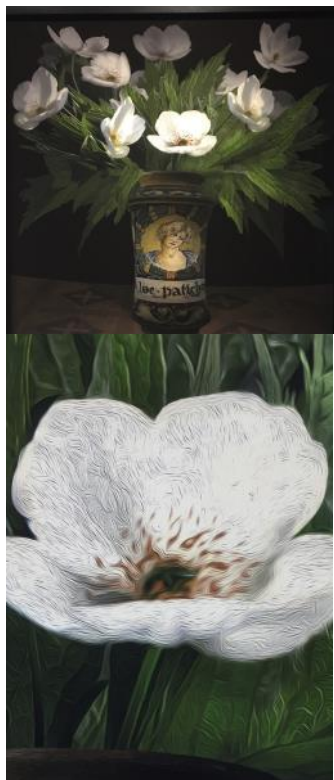


Our dedicated group of volunteers have been troopers about coming out to the Park on our Monday mornings - on holidays as well as those HOT! HOT! days! Despite the heat, the gardens have been doing remarkably well. Must be our TLC. We have made some additions to the beds, including some beautiful white roses and to add a splash of colour, red geraniums. Most of our time at the beginning of August was tending to the daylilies which are at their peak. Occasionally, we take some time to sneak down to the Valley Garden. The butterflies are spending more time there than us, but I guess that's a good thing! If you care to join us, please drop by some Monday morning. We're there by 8:30am.

Kathy Allam

## *T.M. Glass - Gardener, Digital Painter, Floral Designer*

A stroll through the traditional Arts and Crafts garden of T.M. Glass on a sunny day in early June, allowed a few fortunate visitors a first hand glimpse of gardens that inspired many of the artist's 2017 images in the exhibit, ***The Audible Language of Flowers***. The tour was co-presented by the Toronto Botanical Garden, and led in part by Paul Zammit. From May 8 to August 18, 2019, OCAD University Onsite Gallery featured photographs of floral arrangements designed by Glass, many featuring images from Glass' own Wychwood neighbourhood garden. During the tour Glass spoke of meticulously restoring a house in this Toronto west end neighbourhood and creating a garden to complement it in the Arts and Crafts tradition. Glass described the garden as an extension of the house, conceived as a series of rooms. Each room has a different focus, such as the summer herb and vegetable garden, and "rooms" devoted to flowers from various seasons. The Arts and Crafts Movement arose in late 19<sup>th</sup> Century England as a reaction against industrialism and cheap, massed produced products. The gardens in this style feature local plants, often native species, less formal garden beds, and attempt to incorporate elements and craftsmanship native to the region.



Top: Anemone in Italian pharmaceutical vessel; Bottom: Details of the petals and leaves

What is perhaps most striking about the work of T. M. Glass, is the marriage of floral still-life paintings from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and the cutting edge techniques of digital photography, digital painting, and 3-D printing. A gardener with a keen eye might be able to look at some of the images in the exhibit and realize that the flowers in the vases could not have been arranged and photographed on a single day, as the blooms are from different times in the growing season. Glass has digitally plucked these and arranged them in vessels that harmonize with the flowers. In The Museum Series, historical vessels were photographed separately at the Royal Ontario Museum and the Gardiner Museum in Toronto. The flowers were then digitally arranged in the vessels to create a seamless whole. Finally the images were digitally painted with what appear to be meticulous brush strokes to enhance the texture of the flowers, leaves and vases. The result far exceeds even the most beautifully photographed vase of flowers, because the artistry of the digital technology allows for an arrangement that could not exist in reality. Pushing the envelope even further, Glass used a 3-D printer to produce what appear to be sculptures of flowers in vases. Visitors to the gallery were additionally treated to a video, *Plantasia*, that incorporated time-lapse images of flowers as they bloomed with an audio tract by music producer Bob Ezrin that used the electromagnetic waves of pansies and translated them into music; hence the exhibit's name referencing the audibility of flowers.

As gardeners in the digital age, many of us love to capture our garden's abundant colour and beauty in photographs. The talents of our own members in the shows, especially in October, attest to the interest in both gardening and photography. Many of our members also excel at floral design and we are fortunate to view their talents at our shows. T.M. Glass has taken both floral design and floral photography to a new level as a digital artist and digital painter. The artist's work pays tribute to the long history of floral art, boldly using new technologies to bring old traditions into the future. Check out the images for yourself at the artist's website [tmglass.com](http://tmglass.com).

Mary Kadey

## *Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden*



It's already the beginning of August in our garden and no surprise, it's been feast or famine, joy or dismay. The late spring, early summer garden was glorious after the cold wet spring got us off to a late start. It helped get the annuals off to a good start but then drought hit. With no significant rain for almost a month and the promised water source not delivered, it was a hard hit.

Having said that, our small but dedicated volunteer crew managed to keep the entrance and the centre sundial bed and surrounding looking good. However, parts of the surrounding perennial borders suffered. The arrival of the rains this

week.....and lots of it, promises a recovery if (big if) the weather gods stay on track. The scourge of Japanese beetles has also wreaked havoc in the garden. They have made lace of the leaves on some newly planted trees and the canna lilies.

On a positive note, the garden continues to delight the immediate community. They stop to complement our efforts, commiserate and ask if they can help. They make us feel that what we do on Thurs evenings is important and worthwhile.

We hope you, the membership will come by too. Does not have to be on Thurs; explore anytime. If you do decide you can volunteer even occasionally, we would welcome not just your help, but your input as well. After all it is your garden.

Faye Collins, BHS Garden Coordinator



## KOKEDAMAS AND METAL BLOOMS

Kokedama (translated as moss ball in Japanese) is the Japanese art of growing plants in a moss covered ball of soil that is typically bound with string to allow the creation of a string garden. They may also be placed in a bowl, grouped on a plate or perhaps affixed to a beautiful piece of driftwood. Kokedamas can be displayed indoors or outdoors. They can be created with minimal skill and would make a wonderful living gift.

### Materials:

- Akadama soil also known as bonsai soil (found at some nurseries), a clay based soil
- Peat moss
- Moss from your garden or purchased sphagnum sheet moss
- Twine, fishing line or thin craft wire
- Plant of choice - approx. 2-4 in pot size
- Pail or large bowl to mix soil and peat moss

### Plant Choices:

Choose a plant that has a small root system or is slow growing. Examples may include small tropicals, ferns and ivies. Take into consideration ease of care, light and water needs. Avoid cacti and succulents as the moss will require more watering while the succulents will not thrive under wet conditions. Certainly go ahead and experiment. At worse, you may have to repot your plant into a traditional pot with potting soil.

### Method:

1. Prepare soil by mixing in a ratio of 7:3 or 2:1 of peat moss to akadama. One 4" ball requires approx. 2 cups of soil mixture.  
*Note: if making one ball, akadama is expensive at approx. \$23 for ~ 6-8 liter bag - share the cost amongst a group of people. Our BHS craft group of 8 was able to make 3-4 balls each. Alternately use half garden soil and half potting soil.*
2. Wet the soil, slowly adding water until it just holds together when pressed firmly.
3. Form the ball, packing firmly so that if tossed in the air, it'll stay together.
4. Prepare your plant by removing as much of the soil around it as possible.
5. Split the ball in half by giving the ball a twist - like you would an oreo cookie to get at the creamy middle.
6. Place the plant between the two halves and gently pack the halves around the plant roots.
7. Wet the purchased sphagnum moss or if using garden moss, choose the largest pieces for ease of application.
8. Wrap the moss around the soil ball and wind twine, fishing line or wire around the moss ball to hold the moss in place.  
This is the trickiest part as the moss may be falling off before it is held in place by the twine. Be patient,...add more twine.

### Care:

The kokedama can be watered by soaking in a small bowl of water for 5-10 min until it feels heavy. Repeat watering when the ball feels light or the moss feels dry. If the kokedama is displayed outdoors during the hot summer months, regular spritzing with the hose may be needed. Add a water soluble fertilizer in the water bowl every few weeks and enjoy.

Needless to say the BHS craft group had a great time making kokedamas as you can see from the photos. We also made pop/beer can blooms that day. Instructions for making the metal blooms can be found in the Aug/Sept/Oct 2018 BHS newsletter. Get creative and enjoy!

Sherry Howard



## *Pressing, Preserving and Crafting with Flowers and Greenery*

We all spend a great deal of time designing and growing beautiful gardens to enjoy over our three 'gardening seasons'. When winter arrives, we need to find ways to still enjoy our horticultural favorites! One way to further enjoy your garden treasures is to simply press and preserve a variety of flowers and foliage for future use! It's super easy and it can lead to hours of crafty fun, creating everything from small simple items such as bookmarks to large framed projects to proudly display in your home. There are many tried and true methods for pressing flowers and greenery. The following are a few successful projects that were recently completed by two BHS members.

### **Floating Glass Frame with Pressed Garden Foliage (Audrey Atkinson)**



Find some of your favourite greens or grasses from your garden or a friend's garden. Find a really large hard covered atlas, dictionary or coffee table book. Place a large piece of waxed paper in the middle of the book. Arrange your leaves on the waxed paper so they are not touching each other. Place another piece of waxed paper on top of your leaves. Close the book and place a heavy object on top of the book. Unveil your pressed leaves in about 3 weeks. Use your imagination or research some ideas to create your masterpiece. Some key words for your Google search might include 'pressing garden foliage' or 'floating frame ideas'. For dried grasses such as Miscanthus, you do not have to press them. Just place in your floating frame and 'voila', you're done!

### **Pressed Flowers for Wedding Decor (Barb Panowyk)**



Using a 30 year old homemade flower press, my daughter and I pressed a variety of flowers and greenery to embellish some of the decor items for her recent outdoor wedding. We selected a wide variety of items to press and waited approximately 4 to 6 weeks before starting our projects. Pressed flowers and greenery were used to embellish the table number identifiers and two signs for the wedding. For these projects we used tweezers to lift and place the pressed flowers and small 'toothpick dabs' of white craft glue to fix them to the glass.

#### ***More fun with pressed flowers and greenery***

Since the old flower press had been dusted off and put to good use, I have continued to press more flowers and interesting foliage for other projects. Pressed flowers can be used to create beautiful handcrafted greeting cards, book marks, candles and framed wall decor. Google and Pinterest searches on the subject revealed many projects that I plan to try over the cold winter months when I am missing the garden. If you are interested in trying your hand at pressing and preserving your favourite flowers and greenery, the following 'tips' may come in handy.

Flowers, leaves and grasses can be pressed between waxed paper or white photocopy paper in heavy books or a traditional flower press. The length of time needed for the pressed items to be ready to use depends on how thick the items are. The less bulky the flower, the quicker the drying time. Harvest your favorite flowers and leaves in the late afternoon when they are dry. Small scissors (the kind used for nail care) and needle nose tweezers work best when handling the fragile pressed flowers and leaves. Pressed flowers and greenery can be glued onto most surfaces with small dots of regular white craft glue that will dry clear. Flowers can be 'deconstructed' and dried and then glued back together in your project. Dried and 'ready to use' pressed flowers and greenery can be stored in folded sheets of photocopy paper in large ziplock baggies for future use. You can simply label the items by writing on the paper. The iron and microwave methods of pressing flowers did not produce the same quality of pressed items that the old fashioned flower press method did. Invite some of your crafty friends over for a 'Pressed flower party' and inspire each other to create some beautiful projects!

*Audrey Atkinson and Barb Panowyk*



## Chris Hadfield School Project

In May, BHS was approached by a teacher at the Chris Hadfield Elementary School in Brooklin for help with their school garden. They were looking for plants to help bring some colour to their garden. Julia Noakes worked with them to come up with a list of plants as well as a generous donor of the plants. With the help of Julia and Leslie Tate, the teacher and a few students did the planting on the last day of school. The students had a great time digging in the garden and asked all kinds of questions about plant positioning, how to care for them and they all promised to keep check on the plants throughout the summer months. Luckily the school has a rain barrel on site with ample watering cans for the students. It was realized that a lot of the plants chosen flowered during the summer months and would not be seen by the school population. It was decided that BHS will supply them with spring flowering bulbs which they can plant in the fall. That way everyone can enjoy the colourful spring flowers.

## We Love Our Volunteers



## LET'S SHOW!



Over the next couple of months we will be having 3 shows: Annuals show, Autumn show, and the Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures show. Here are a few **tips** to help you prepare your entries.

- 1) **All entries must be in place by 7:15pm.**
- 2) Always include **foliage** unless otherwise specified:
  - Do Not show foliage with daylilies
  - Foliage does not need to be attached to bloom stem but must be from the same plant
- 3) To **condition** dahlias, roses and rudbeckia, place the stem ends in 5 cm of boiling water for a minute or two before placing in cold water.
- 4) **Measure** those pick and plunks in all directions
- 5) Groom, groom, groom!
- 6) **HAVE FUN!!**

We have **two new show opportunities in Oct & Nov**

- \* a new culinary class in our October Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures. Not all of us can make that perfect pie crust so we've given you a class where you can **make a dessert of choice using seasonal fruit.**
- \* at our **November AGM** you can **create a design and a pick and plunk that is holiday inspired.** And guess what – BHS MEMBERS WILL JUDGE!

## About the BHS Newsletter

**Thank You Leslie Tate** - As many of you know, Leslie wears many gardening hats with her involvement with Whitby in Bloom, District 17 and BHS. It is not a surprise that Leslie has decided to take a rest from her work on the BHS newsletter. Her enthusiastic support and article contributions have been much appreciated. We're glad to know that she will still happily step up if we need an update on a BHS event or a participant for a garden related craft that will be featured in the newsletter.

This newsletter is published quarterly - February, May, August and October. **All photos courtesy of BHS members.** You are invited to submit articles, questions and comments about the newsletter to the **Editors: Audrey Atkinson** at 905-666-2178, [audreyatkinson487@gmail.com](mailto:audreyatkinson487@gmail.com), **Sherry Howard** at 905-668-7640, [howard21@rogers.com](mailto:howard21@rogers.com), **Mary Kadey** at 416-388-0065, [memkadey@gmail.com](mailto:memkadey@gmail.com), **Barb Panowyk** at 905-430-2939, [bpnowyk@rogers.com](mailto:bpnowyk@rogers.com).