



# Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 25 Issue 1 Feb/Mar/Apr 2023

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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.brooklinwhitbygardenclub.ca](http://www.brooklinwhitbygardenclub.ca)  
Follow us on facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/bhs1921/>



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

## Jeff Mason - House Plants Wed Feb 22, 2023 7:30pm

The BWGC is excited to kick off the new year with a wonderful guest speaker, Jeff Mason! Jeff will be presenting 'House Plants' at our first meeting on February 22, 2023. Jeff and his mother Marjorie co-own Mason House Gardens in Uxbridge, a well known independent nursery that is known for growing specialty plants and vegetables. They have been growing and sharing their interests and expertise in various horticultural activities for the past 30 years. Bring your notepad and pen for this much anticipated presentation on House Plants!

Come early to renew your membership - \$20 per member or \$30 per family of two (living at the same address). This membership fee entitles you to our yearbook, the quarterly newsletter, great speakers and topics at 10 meetings during the year, as well as eligibility to participate in our flower, vegetable, design and photo competitions. Another great benefit: membership entitles you to a 10% or better discount at many local nurseries.

So come on in from winter, bring a friend, catch up with old friends and make new ones too! Don't forget to 'lug-a-mug' for coffee or tea while you enjoy some treats too.

This presentation will also be available via a Zoom link sent out prior to the presentation. The link will be available starting at 7:00pm.



Welcome to our returning and new members and guests!

## Annual Plant Sale



Mark your calendars for the Garden Club's annual plant sale. It will be held on Saturday May 20. Once again we will be in the municipal parking lot on Vipond, opposite the Brooklin Community Centre and Library. We are looking to build on the success of our 2022 plant sale in this location. Last year the club members supported the sale in a big way with donations, purchases and volunteerism. We are looking for your support once again. It's not too early to start thinking about what plants you might be

able to divide and donate to the sale or what other help you might be able to provide. More details will be available closer to the actual date of the sale. In the meantime, save the date.

**Paul Cloutier**

## President's Message



All my life, I've enjoyed books, the hard-cover kind, and have taken every opportunity to explore a wide variety of topics. Since retirement, I've focused more on gardening and horticultural reference volumes. After moving from the country-side, I've become even more selective in my choices.

Many of our members have done the same as they have downsized, or adjusted their gardens to match their capabilities. Those books about a rock garden surrounding a fish pond and a comfortable seating area slightly remote from the house have become unnecessary. Those dreams were left behind when we sold the country home, or the oversized lot, or checked the age on our driver's license.

There remains a powerful need, however, for good reliable information. The material we reference must be accurate, proven, tested over time and easily accessed. It's easy enough to pull out a cell phone and use our favourite search engine to give a listing of sites that may, or may not, provide answers to the questions we have. I've much preferred going back in the house and leafing through my reference book, knowing that I'll get the same answer every time I look there. If I don't like the answer, as it may seem incomplete, I'll pull out book 2, filling in the details, or reinforcing what I've already read.

What I won't get is 25 different websites, most from unknowns, with a combination of science, theory and folklore in response to my issue. And, importantly to me, no advertising placed obnoxiously all through my reading.

We're fortunate at BWGC that we are able to invite many authors to our General Meetings, speaking in depth and detail, on gardening topics for us. We listened to them, questioned them, often met them after, and then perhaps purchased their latest publication. We know who we can rely on.

We are also extremely lucky to have one of the great on-line writers as a member of the Club: Ken Brown. His "Dallying in the Dirt" blog, with all its past detail and archive, is a reliable source for us, available on the Web, on your IPAD or cell phone as you garden. We've listened to Ken, seen him at all our meetings, and know what we get when we look for an answer.

I'm not so enamored with the other on-line blogs, Facebook pages and websites. University of Guelph, OK. Farm extensions in the U.S., alright. Me, I like my 400 page "Complete Guide to..." never truly complete, but close enough for me. Right now, I have the almost complete guide to Wasps that I've begun reading.

One final note: we continue to appreciate those who bring in good quality books for us to provide as prizes, sell on one of our tables, or take to the Plant Sale. I personally always look forward to them coming in, and yes, I make sure I pay for them. They're well worth it!

And if you can support your local bookseller, then do. If Amazon can get it, so can they, and "they" are a friendly face with a name and storefront full of other opportunities.

**Hans Paats**

### 2022 President's Award

Congratulations to **Sherry Howard**, who was awarded the President's Awards at the Nov 2022 Annual General Meeting. Thank you for your contributions to the Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club.



*Hans awarding the President's Award to Sherry.*

### 2023 BWGC Board of Directors

The 2023 BWGC Board of Directors were sworn in at the BWGC Annual General Meeting on Nov 23 2022: Hans Paats, President; Rahe Richards, 1st Vice President; Paul Cloutier, 2nd Vice President; Mary Thompson, Secretary; Bonny Langille, Treasurer; Jane Austen, Director and Margaret McGibney, Director.



*2023 BWGC Board of Directors: Jane Austen, Paul Cloutier, Mary Thompson, Hans Paats and Rahe Richards.*

## Brooklin Horticultural Society (BHS) Park

Well, it seems Winter has finally caught up to us. Let's hope it's not going to stick around for the usual 3-4 months, but that it leaves in March and we can get back out into our gardens.

So now we are starting to turn our minds to the seed catalogues, new garden layouts, and for the BHS Garden crew, planning what the Garden will hold for us this year. Hopefully we can get into the Garden in late April. The first 2-3 sessions will be for cleanup, and hopefully by mid-May we will have planting in our schedule. Again this year we are planning to split up some of the garden perennials and either relocate them in the Garden, or even pot some up and make them available for sale to our neighbours in the area (and of course our members). More info will become available as the plans evolve. Our "wish list" for the Garden continues to grow (much like the beautiful dandelions throughout the Park) and we shall be excited to see what the Town budget is able to provide us in support this year for projects. Late last year, we got extended access to water sources, making it possible to get hoses to all the gardens and the trees. It will be interesting to see especially how the trees come through the winter after having been well watered before freeze up. Maybe with another season of TLC, we can bring the trees to a "thriving" condition.

**MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR. WE WANT YOU** - come volunteer at the Garden. You don't have to commit to every week, but we sure would like a bit of your time. Tasks can be adapted to suit your abilities. **Many hands make light work!!!**

**BENEFITS?** Fresh air, exercise, get to know interesting people, exchange gardening tips and knowledge, help the environment, and bask in the glow of appreciation from the community. **What's not to like???????**

**Gardening sessions - through May, likely Saturdays, 10am-12 noon until evenings get a little warmer, THEN Thursdays, 6pm - 8:00pm until Fall, then back to Saturdays.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!** Come and reap the **BENEFITS** noted above.

**EVERYONE, PLEASE, MAKE A POINT OF VISITING THE BHS GARDEN AT LEAST ONCE THIS YEAR to appreciate this BWGC community beautification endeavour.**

*Brian Gower*



## 2023 BWGC Speakers

**February 22** - We welcome everyone back with a great presentation by guest speaker **Jeff Mason**. Jeff, co-owner of Mason House Gardens, will be speaking about **'House Plants'** and we can expect to learn many interesting things about trending house plants and their specific care needs. By the way you can tune in to Jeff's weekly video on Mason House Gardens/Let's Get Growing on Facebook Live which can be accessed via [MasonHouseGardens.com](http://MasonHouseGardens.com).

**March 22** - In conjunction with Whitby In Blooms, we welcome horticulturist and eco-friendly gardening expert **Sean James**. Sean's presentation is titled **"20+ Bullet Proof Plants"**. Have your notebook and pen ready again!

**April 26** - We are pleased to welcome guest speaker **Paul Zammit**. Paul is a horticulture professor, photographer, public speaker, radio personality, author and environmental steward who is dedicated to sharing his expertise! With support from the Whitby In Bloom program, Paul will be presenting **"Annuals and Perennials - New and Exciting Introductions"**.

## 2023 Pantone Colour of the Year

The new colour of the year is **Viva Magenta**. This colour is a vibrant energetic colour that might be described as red with a purple undertone. According to Pantone, it is colour that *"...revels in pure joy, encouraging experimentation and self-expression without restraint, an electrifying, and a boundaryless shade that is manifesting as a stand-out..."*

## Meet New General Membership Coordinator



*Colleen and Lynda Chapman (in back)*

and her furry sidekick, Tanner.

Meet new General Membership Coordinator Colleen Ouimet. Colleen has been a member of BWGC since 2016. While you'll usually find her volunteering at the hospitality table, this year she has taken on the role of General Membership Coordinator, working alongside Jane Austin. She looks forward to welcoming new and current BWGC members in 2023. Though her garden is not large, it has a mix of perennials, flowering planters, a few veggies and an assortment of herbs. In the summer, her favorite thing to do is sit out on her deck in the morning with her latté

## Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection



Our team put the gardens of the Park of Reflection to bed in October. During our last session we agreed to pay more attention to the health of the young tree that

the Town of Whitby replaced to honour Leslie Tate. This memorial tree is planted just below the Park of Reflection.

Some spring projects that we will focus on include dividing and moving some large sedums, tackling the weed ridden perennial garden in the valley and continued weekly maintenance of the formal garden beds in Park of Reflection.

We will continue to meet on Wednesday mornings, changing the start time slightly based on the weather. Team members also have the option to go whenever they can instead of the agreed upon day and time....their help is always appreciated! The group enjoys the social aspects of working together for a great cause! All Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club members are welcome to come and visit and chat with our team on Wednesday mornings and perhaps even lend a helping hand!

**Rahe Richards**



## BROOKLIN-WHITBY GARDEN CLUB

presents our annual

## Rain Barrel Sale

Conserve water !

Save money!



Orders will be online only

Stay tuned for web portal link and start date

- Delivery to your home in Brooklin, Whitby or Oshawa
- helpful instructions and how-to-install videos are on the website
- sales portal will open in early spring
- sales benefit BWGC
- questions? Email Mary Thompson, BWGC: [secretarybwgc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarybwgc@gmail.com)

## 2023 Colour of the Year

Imagine this Cordyline fruticosa in your planters displaying the vibrant colour **Viva Magenta**. We'd love to hear about and see your choices for **Viva Magenta**. Email the newsletter team this season. We'll share your pics in a future newsletter.



## Do You Recognize These Invasive Plants?

Learn about the Ontario Invasive Species Act - read Mary Kadey's article in this newsletter.



Clockwise, from top left: Himalayan knotweed (*Polygonum polystachyum*), Carolina Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), Giant knotweed (*Reynoutria sachalinensis*), Yellow Floating Heart



ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
DISTRICT 17 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



embracing  
**biodiversity**  
a world of variety for the future

April 29, 2023

District 17 Annual General Meeting

St. Paul's Leasdale Church, Leasdale

Hosted by  
Cannington Horticultural Society

Flower and Photography Show

Time: 9:30am to 3:30pm

Doors Open 8:00am for placement of exhibits

Featuring Keynote Speakers:

**Lorraine Johnson**

Author/editor of fourteen top selling books on native plants, environment, gardening

**Jillian Bishop**

Owner of Urbantomato, featuring heirloom seeds, seed saving and sharing

Youth Guest: **Morgan's Butterflies**

Tickets \$30

Pre-registration required

[learn.grow.enjoy](http://learn.grow.enjoy)

## The Twenty-First Century Gardener

My grandparents loved to garden, and I am sure that love of gardening was passed down the gene pool, first to my mother, and then to my sisters and me. According to Statista.com which lists stats for the most popular hobbies and activities in Canada we are far from alone. In 2022 gardening was ranked 7 out of the top 10 most popular hobbies and activities. Growing and nurturing plants, both indoors and out, both for food and aesthetic beauty, has long been a pleasurable pastime. But are there changes needed in our approach and execution as gardeners in the twenty-first century? I am wondering if today's gardener needs to further their education regarding best gardening practices and how our hobby can help to combat the spread of invasive species while at the same time create garden spaces to protect endangered species, such as the Monarch butterfly. As good citizen gardeners living on a fragile planet, we have a responsibility to be informed about our gardening practices.

This article will focus on the Ontario Invasive Species Act, which was drafted in 2015 and took effect on November 3, 2016. Many people misunderstand the term "invasive species" and attempt to minimise the risks with comments such as, "What's the big deal? All plants came from somewhere. How are they causing a problem in my little garden patch?" The Act answers these questions and focuses on both the verifiable harm and potential harm caused by invasive species. It clearly lays out regulating practices for restricting the growth of these species within Ontario. The Invasive Species Act provides the following definition for invasive species:

"A species that is not native in Ontario, or to a part of Ontario, and:

- Is harming the natural environment of Ontario or of the part of Ontario in which it is present, or
- Is likely to harm the natural environment of Ontario or of a part of Ontario, regardless of whether it is present in Ontario or in a part of Ontario"

Among the key principles the Act lists: prevention of new invaders; science-based assessments of risk of harm to the environment and subsequent economic impacts; shared accountability; and inter-government cooperation. The Act outlines two classes for regulating invasive species: prohibited and restricted. Under the classification of prohibited, "No person shall bring into Ontario, transport, propagate, buy, sell, lease or trade" species on the invasive list. The restricted classification makes it illegal to bring an invasive species into Provincial Parks, Conservation Reserves, or deposit or release these species in Ontario.

You may be familiar with the names of some of these invasive plant species such as Black dog-strangling vine (Black swallowwort - *Vincetoxicum louiseae*/syn. *Cynanchum louiseae*), Dog-strangling vine (Pale swallowwort - *Vincetoxicum rossicum*/syn. *Cynanchum rossicum*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica* var. *japonica*/syn. *Reynoutria japonica* var. *japonica*), Phragmites (European common reed - *Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*), Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), Daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*). As of January 1, 2022 Ontario has added 13 additional invasive species to its growing list, including fish, insects, aquatic invertebrates, water plants and other plants. New on the list is:

- Carolina fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*) which displaces native water plants and is a nuisance for boaters and swimmers;
- Yellow floating heart (*Nymphoides peltate*) another water plant that competes with native plants in ponds, lakes and slow-moving rivers;
- European frog-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) which is another aquatic plant and is similar to other water lilies found in Ontario. It can produce dense mats of plant growth which reduce light for other native aquatic species.
- Bohemian knotweed (*Reynoutria bohemica*) which can grow quickly and outcompete native plants for soil, light and space;
- Himalayan knotweed (*Koenigia polystachya*) which is another knotweed that can adapt to both sunny and shade conditions and also grows very quickly into large patches that outcompete native plants.

As gardeners in the first quarter century of the new millennium we can take responsibility to recognize these invaders and discourage the growth, transportation and sale of invasive species. A good source if you are looking for more information on how to shift your garden away from invasives and towards more native plants is the 2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) of *Grow Me Instead*, which you can access online through the Ontario Invasive Plant Council. You may be surprised to learn that some invasive species are readily available through nurseries and garden centers each spring despite being on the list of invasive plants. I myself have bought periwinkle in recent years before I realized it was on the list. In an age of globalization it is also easy to import plants and bulbs from on-line marketers who may not be aware of the harm they can cause in Ontario soil. Armed with knowledge of the harm caused by invasive species, combined with thoughtful and intentional practices as good citizen gardeners, we can enjoy creating beautiful gardens that nourish the soul and help heal our little corner of the planet.

Sources: ([https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/OIPC\\_IPMSW\\_ISASummary\\_Feb6-17.pdf](https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/OIPC_IPMSW_ISASummary_Feb6-17.pdf))  
(<https://www.ontario.ca/page/managing-invasive-species-ontario> )  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/managing-invasive-species-ontario>

Mary Kadey

## 2022 Best In Show Photography

**Congratulations to Lisa Ruck** on winning the Best In Show in photography for her photo submitted in the class titled 'After The Rain' (below), at the annual Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures Show on Oct 26, 2022. Lisa was also the 2022 recipient of the Jone Photography Award for accumulating the most points in the photography classes. Another first for Lisa was exhibiting in the flower show classes at the Oct show. We've got you hooked now Lisa!



## 2022 Photo Winners



## 2022 Photo Winners - cont'd

Each year, our Oct Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures Show attracts many avid photographers and 2022 was no different. Thank you to Marlene Newans, Lisa Ruck, Chris Ruck, Teresa Jewitt, Debi Foster and Sherry Howard for sharing your winning photos from the Oct 2022 show.



## Barbadian Gardens

As I write this, I am dreamily thinking of the gentle surf rolling onto my toes while I'm admiring the lush greenery surrounding the sandy beach. I was lucky enough to live that dream back in November when we were invited by friends to join them on a visit to see their friends in Barbados. Despite temperatures hovering near 30 deg C, daily showers help create brilliant tropical blooms and lush vegetation of every shade of green. While there, I checked out a couple of gardens, Andromeda Botanic Gardens and Hunte's Gardens.



*Andromeda Botanic Garden: left to right, flowering gingers under lobed leaves of a breadfruit tree; Pandan tree or screwpine with arching fragrant leaves that are used in flavouring South Asian dishes.*

what was once was a sugar plantation. This garden feels intimate as you step down onto the meandering paths surrounded by a profusion of colourful flowering plants and lush greenery of every shape and size. The canopy of mature palms dotting the gardens adds to the intimacy. Many benches invite you to take your time to embrace the tranquillity and beauty. Repetitive plantings throughout the gardens create a cohesive landscape and accentuates the colours and textures. There is even a plant ID board located in the garden. Mr Hunte, at age 78 yr, still maintains the gardens with helpers and is often there chatting with his guests or serving up his own Hunte's rum punch.

Next time you head to Barbados, I highly recommend you visit each of these national treasures.

**Sherry Howard**

*Hunte's Gardens: top right, meandering paths and sitting areas to enjoy the serenity and beauty of the mixed flowering beds; bottom right, towering palms punctuate the dense lush vegetation.*

Andromeda Botanic Gardens, an 8 acre property, was originally created as a private garden in the 1950s by Barbadian horticulturalist and scientist, Iris Bannochie who collected plants and trees world wide. Today the Gardens are owned by the Barbados National Trust. Upon entering the gardens, I was met with glistening flowering gingers and heliconias still wet from an early morning shower. What a delicious assault on the senses as I continued to stroll along the boardwalk and paths, my eyes darting everywhere as I tried to see it all. There are more than 500 species of plants including various cacti and succulents, flowering shrubs such as bougainvillea and frangipani, palms, fruiting trees like jackfruit and breadfruit, a milkweed patch to attract Monarch butterflies, and so much more. Although the property was originally planted with many non-native species, recent work has included the creation of an ethnobotanical garden, which features native and regional plants that are connected to the cultural heritage and usage of these plants, by the locals.

Hunte's Gardens was another feast for the senses! As I entered the garden, burbling fountains, chirping birds and classical music played in the background, immediately relaxing me and preparing me to enjoy, owner Anthony Hunte's, magnificent creation. The site of this 2.5 acre garden is in a 150 ft deep sinkhole on part of





## Wipe the Winter Blues with Greenery



Above: *Ficus Shivereana Moonshine*, a variegated rubber plant cultivar, Below: *Philodendron 'Birken'*

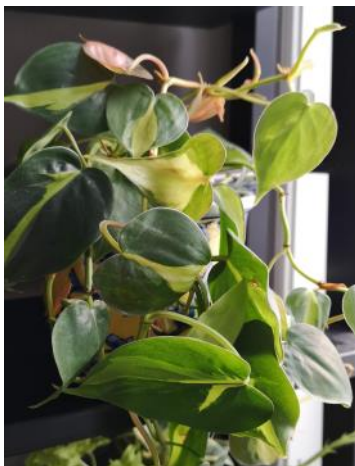
If you are anything like me, my 'indoor garden' brings great joy during the cold winter months. A few 'feel good' habits have been established over the years and you may be guilty of some of these too! For example, how many of you are working hard to keep some of your 'over wintered' plants alive as 'house plants' until they can go back outside in the spring? How many of you are occasionally making 'impulse plant purchases' at the grocery store or local nurseries because you are missing your garden so much! I bet many of you are also taking cuttings and root propagating some of your favourite plants to increase your plant collections! There just aren't enough true gardening activities for our liking during the winter months and I often find myself wandering around the house tending to the forty plus house plants that are helping to keep me sane while my gardens are covered in snow.

I'm sure you have noticed that our garden centres have been heavily advertising their house plant offerings at this time of year. Refreshing our indoor spaces with house plants seems to be a January ritual and a visit to the garden centre can certainly lift your spirits! A recent trip to Vandermeer Nursery did just that! I met with Cailleán who is the Annuals Department Manager and she generously spent some time highlighting some of the popular plants among their massive offerings, many of which are grown on site! From large tropicals to petite collectables, there are too many plants to list here but I did ask Cailleán to show me some of the 'trendy' plants that are getting a lot of attention these days. She directed me to a beautiful *Ficus* called 'Moonshine' which they are selling for \$10 a plant. It is grown in their greenhouse and they would be a welcome addition to anyone's plant collection. Beautiful tones and apparently easy to grow! Cailleán shared her favourite plant, a beautiful two tone philodendron called 'Birken'. If grown in an area with lots of light, it will have more white leaves! Cailleán showed me 6-7 varieties of Philodendrons, a variety of Hoyas and many other interesting plants that are now on my long wish list! She suggested that knowing a plant's light, water, nutrient and soil preference is key to being a successful plant owner and anyone in the greenhouse is happy to help you select a new plant to care for!

If you are looking for a new 'trendy' house plant, a quick internet search of 'Top Ten House Plants' produces a few lists from popular magazines and journals. Some of the top trending plants include Pothos, Snake Plant, ZZ Plant, String of Hearts, Peace Lily, *Monstera Deliciosa*, Philodendrons, Succulents, Calathea and Bromeliads to name a few. Categories such as 'Easy Care', 'Rare Designer' and 'Minimalist' plants can help you narrow down your search for a new plant to refresh your home and lift your spirits.

For some additional inspiration you could follow a popular House Plant blogger, Daryll Cheng who asserts that anyone can learn to care for plants! Daryll's house plant blog is called 'House Plant Journal' (on Instagram) and he recently published a book titled *The New Plant Parent: Develop your Green Thumb and Care for your House-Plant Family*. Following experts like Daryll Cheng and other well known horticultural masters is fun, informative and inspirational!! So, chase those winter blues away and exercise your green thumbs with some new house plants...before you know it, spring will be here and we will return to our treasured gardens!!

**Barb Panowyk**



Left to Right: *Philodendron 'Brasil'*, *Monstera Deliciosa*, *Ceropegia woodii variegata* or *String of Hearts*

## Pick and Plunk – An Intro to Floral Design by Debi Foster

Are you interested in entering a floral design class but not sure where to start? A “Pick and Plunk” class might just be the perfect introduction for you.

Pick and Plunk originated at the Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club and is defined in the Brooklin yearbook as **“Seasonal, garden grown, plant material picked and artfully plunked into a container of your choice: “Keep it simple.”** The pick and plunk classes as listed in the show schedule of the yearbook, are available in three sizes as described below. Measurements are taken vertically, horizontally and through the depth of the arrangement.

### Special Exhibits

Please refer to ‘Pick and Plunk’ in the section under Definition of Terms

1. Pick and plunk.....Under 15cm / 6”
2. Pick and plunk.....15 – 30cm / 6 – 12”
3. Pick and plunk.....Over 30cm / 12”



Large design with Goldenrod, Chicory, Queen Anne's Lace, Echinacea, Rudbeckia, Hackonechloa grass by Debi Foster



Large design with Grass and Allium by Marion Newans

### How do you make a Pick and Plunk?

1. Start by going out to your garden with a bucket of tepid water and sharp secateurs or snips to see what plant material is available. Look for different shapes, sizes, colours and textures that would be interesting together. Cut the stems on angle at a longer length than you require for the design and put immediately in the water. You can always trim the stems to the length you want later. Let the flowers and foliage sit in a cool, dark place (in the topped up bucket) for several hours or overnight if possible to let it hydrate as much as possible.
2. While the above method conditions most material, do be aware that some plant material requires special conditioning to prolong its life and ensure it doesn't wilt. There are videos available on you tube as well as the following websites <https://www.flowerarranging.me.uk/conditioning.html> and <https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/1993/8-11-1993/cut.html> which provide some details.
3. The next step is to choose a container or vase to put your plant material in. In Pick and Plunk designs a clear glass vase/container like a mason jar may be used and the stems may be visible in the water, whereas in other designs the container/vase is an integral part of the design. Mechanics such as floral foam, kenzans, chicken wire or frogs are NOT allowed in pick and plunks, nor is foliage manipulation (curling, braiding, pinning) or accessories—it is all about keeping it simple.
4. When deciding what size arrangement to make, consider the floral material you have and the size of the vase (i.e. small, delicate flowers—small design). Generally, the height of the vase is one-third and the flowers two-thirds of the arrangement (half and half at a minimum). The mouth of the container should be such that the floral material is shown off at its best (too wide and the design tends to droop).
5. Fill out your entry tag and include the plant material you have used. Smile and enjoy!

The beauty of the “Pick and Plunk” design is its simplicity. It really is Picking the flowers and Plunking them in a container in a pleasing fashion.

As you become comfortable with the Pick and Plunk format you might get a tap on the shoulder from the show committee who will encourage you to branch out a little further and think about submitting some formal designs. They will be happy to help guide you along.

Left to Right: Small Design with Lavender by Debi Foster; Medium design with Garlic Scapes and Variegated Sedum by Jone Webster



## What's NEW at the 2023 Shows

Do you want to participate in the monthly flower shows but not sure where to start? The BWGC show committee has created a Show Q&A pamphlet. Limited printed copies will be available at monthly meetings and it will also be available on the BWGC website.

The importance of protecting our ecosystems starts with ensuring the native plants that support the wildlife continue to do so. In recognizing this, many gardeners are including native plants in their home gardens. The 2023 BWGC show schedule has added two new classes for BWGC members to show or exhibit native plants growing in their gardens:

- Class 33 in May Spring show - Any Native Ephemeral (must be garden grown)..... 1 bloom/1 stem
- Class 23 in Aug Annuals show - Milkweed, native cultivars only, not tropical variety..... 1 stem

In addition, it was decided that lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*) would be removed from the show schedule. Although many of us love its fragrance and delicate bells, it is an invasive species that can out-compete native species.

This year we want to help everyone show their plants in a more creative way. For those of you who are getting your design feet wet, check out Debi Foster's article on how to create Pick and Plunks in this newsletter. The Show committee will also demonstrate and display each month, a design that is specified in the following month's design classes.

## It's Show Time

Our show season begins and our first show will be the Narcissus Show on Apr 26. Here are some tips to prepare you:

- 1) **Do not** show foliage with narcissus.
- 2) Determine type of narcissus (refer to the pictures illustrating the differences on the Narcissus Show page in the yearbook) :
  - a. Trumpet – the trumpet is as long or longer than surrounding petals
  - b. Large Cupped – cup is more than 1/3 the length of, but less than or equal to the length of the surrounding petals
  - c. Small Cupped – cup is not more than 1/3 the length of the surrounding petals
- 3) For **OPEN** classes, you can enter **two** different cultivars in a class.
- 4) **N.I.P.** – Name If Possible - If two specimens show equally, the judge will give preference to the one named on the entry tag. Remember, shows provide educational value too.
- 5) If size is specified, measure and trim stems well under maximum size as stems may 'grow' while in water.
- 6) Groom, Groom, Groom!



Above all, **Have FUN!**



## About the BHS 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: 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, [bpanowyk@rogers.com](mailto:bpanowyk@rogers.com).