



# Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 25 Issue 2 May/June/July 2023

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BWGC 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

## Charlie Dobbin - Gardening As We Age Wed May 24, 2023 7:30pm

On **May 24**, BWGC and Whitby In Bloom welcomes **Charlie Dobbin** as our guest speaker, presenting **"Gardening As We Age"**. Charlie has a long and distinguished career as a horticulturist, landscape designer, radio and TV personality, and a promoter of biodiversity, sustainability and eco-friendly gardening. You can tune in to Charlie regularly on Saturdays at 9 am as she hosts the Garden Show on AM740. Additionally Charlie is hosting a television series "Healing Gardens" on Vision TV.

Our hospitality team of Val Skinner and Gary Miles invite you to enjoy a refreshment and treats before and after the presentation. Don't forget to 'lug-a-mug' for coffee or tea.

This presentation will also be available via a Zoom link to BWGC members. The link will be 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



This year's plant sale will take place on Saturday May 20 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the municipal parking lot in Brooklin opposite the Brooklin Library and the Post Office. We were in this location last year and it worked out quite well. This is the club's major annual fundraiser and we count on the generosity of our members to make it a success. We were very grateful to our members for the amount of plant donations last year and we are hoping for a great response again

this year. Please look in your gardens to see what might be divided or completely dug up for donating. Members who no longer have gardens but would like to participate might consider the option to purchase a plant to donate. Everything helps.

There are a number of plants that we will not be accepting as they are considered invasive species (reference: 'A Guide for Southern Ontario' (<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Southern-Grow-Me-Instead-1.pdf>)). Please do not donate: English Ivy, Lily of the Valley, Goutweed, Yellow Iris, Periwinkle, Yellow Archangel, Wintercreeper, Bugleweed, Creeping Jenny, Daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva* aka the ditch lily), Miscanthus grasses (*Miscanthus sinensis*, *M. sacchariflorus*).

Drop off of donations will be at the Brooklin United Church on Friday May 19 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Please label/identify the type of plant you have donated.

Once again, the success of the sale depends on the generosity of our members. You have always come through in the past and we are counting on your support again this year.

**Paul Cloutier**

## President's Message



Life is a spectrum, and within this spectrum is a wealth of diversity. The natural world is a master of variation. But we have a serious problem facing us.

We are faced with an ever-increasing variety of choice in our garden markets, a bewildering abundance of options! In contrast, we face rapidly shrinking ecosystems across the globe: the Amazon Jungle, clean water bodies, natural grasslands, the Southern Ontario Carolinian forest to name just a few. Close to home, we are witness to the sudden conversion of the Oak Ridges Moraine from greenbelt to housing development bonanza. Recently the Provincial government has amended the Greenbelt Act "To accommodate the expected growth and to support the building of more homes". The plan states that the "government has decided to amend: the **Greenbelt Plan, Greenbelt Area boundary regulation (O. Reg. 59/05), and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (O. Reg. 140/02)** to remove or redesignate 15 areas of land from the Greenbelt Area suitable for residential development in the near-term."

Alternatives to this loss of greenspace (with additional land in the Waterloo Region being targeted) are being met with concern and trepidation by the citizens there. The lands being presented are already under conservation control. Other conservation lands are proposed to become Urban Provincial Park. In my view, this is a governmental slight-of-hand. They are not new lands. These are designated conservation areas, transferred in control, or title. Decades of efforts to properly designate the Oak Ridge as Provincially Protected, initiated in the last quarter of last century, were opposed by the then Conservative Government and they appear to be refreshing their insistence on greenbelt reduction.

Without getting into a political editorial here, I think it's important that we challenge the latest plan. Proposing to build 1.1 million homes in the next 10 years, using greenbelt acreage, seriously affects the availability of diverse ecosystems we need and can still enjoy. Offering to give us what we already have, in exchange, doesn't add or improve. And finally, Provincial Parks are fantastic, but there are daily fees for their use. The Greenbelt areas have been free to all.

There it is. More diverse choices at the garden markets, less diversity in our natural environment. Guess natural diversity isn't worth enough, yet.

*Hans Paats*

### Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection



The Park of Reflection Team is looking forward to our weekly gardening sessions and we are really hoping for some good weather conditions as we get started. Wednesdays will be our day to meet with the usual start time of 9 am, changing to 8 am when the weather gets hotter. Volunteers have the option of going whenever they can but it is certainly more fun to tend to the gardens with other volunteers.

The improvement plans that were made last October will be implemented as we continue with our regular garden maintenance. The Team will welcome anyone who is interested in joining us. We will be meeting Wednesday mornings from 9 am to 10 am, starting May 17, 2023. Please contact me if you are interested in joining us: [rahe.richards@yahoo.com](mailto:rahe.richards@yahoo.com).

*Rahe Richards*

### Upcoming BWGC Speakers

On **May 24**, BWGC and Whitby In Blooms welcomes **Charlie Dobbin** as our guest speaker, presenting "**Gardening As We Age**".

The BWGC is looking forward to welcoming **Debbie Coleman** as the guest speaker on **June 14**. Debbie will be presenting "**Garden Maintenance**". Debbie is a graduate of the Master Gardener's Program at the University of Guelph and she is an active volunteer with the Richmond Hill Garden and Horticultural Society where she helps to maintain the gardens at the Richmond Hill Hospice and Alexander MacKenzie High School.

On **June 28**, we will be enjoying a presentation on "**Designing with Edible Plants**" by **Helen Battersby**. Helen is an award winning writer who co-publishes the Toronto and Golden Horseshoe Gardener's Journal. A graduate of Ryerson's Landscape Design program, Helen enjoys writing, speaking and photographing gardens when she isn't enjoying her own gardens with her family and pets!



## Brooklin Horticultural Society (BHS) Park



Wow, that splash of summer in early April got us all excited. But reality returned and it has been cool/cold and wet ever since, and not inviting weather for gardening. Still, a few stalwart souls managed a Saturday morning Garden cleanup a couple of weeks ago. Thanks Pat, Faye, Katye & Gwyn (yes, I was there too). Now it looks like we will manage to get back into the Garden this Saturday (May 6) and hopefully the next two or three Saturdays (10:00am). Come and join us, all are welcome!!!! The evenings should be warm enough and light enough to resume our Thursday evenings schedule (6:00-8:00pm) around the middle of May - keep watching for info.

I will be contacting any new volunteers who indicated an interest in helping in the Garden when they filled out their membership form. We're always looking for additional enthusiastic gardeners to join our cheery group.

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 of projects this year. We are currently working to get a cabinet/shed for storing hoses and other tools at the Garden.

The trees in the park are looking like they have done well. The magnolias are coming into bloom and there are bulbs popping up everywhere. Please take the time to come up to the Garden and take in the ever changing view.

The next challenge, after cleanup is done, will be to plan what annuals we want to plant this year and which perennials and native plants will be added or moved.

**NOW, MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR. WE WANT YOU** to come out and volunteer at the Garden. You don't need to commit to every week, but we sure would like a bit of your time. We can adapt the tasks 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 - till evenings get a little warmer, THEN Thursdays, 6pm - 8:00pm till 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*



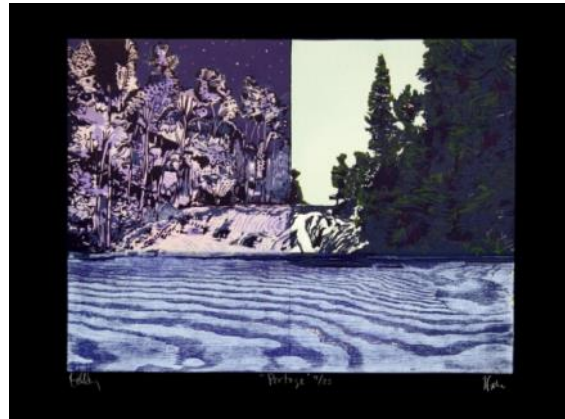


## Whitby Station Gallery

Join us at the Whitby Station Art Gallery!

This is the second year the Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club will be volunteering at the Whitby Station Gallery. We will be making up planters this spring and fall. On Monday May 29 we will do the spring/summer planters with the theme "Art in the Garden". The gallery staff will be making miniatures of some of the art in their permanent collection for us to display in the planters. Miniature easels will help position the art pieces in their outdoor homes. Shown below are some of the pieces that have been selected. If you would like to join the planting group on the morning of May 29, please contact the group coordinator, Mary Thompson at secretarybwgc@gmail.com. The more the merrier! You can enjoy these planters throughout the summer when you visit the art gallery or attend Thursday Night Live free concerts on their deck, every other Thursday night beginning June 1.

**Mary Thompson**



## BWGC Members Garden Tour

**Mark your calendars!!** The dates are set for this year's Members Garden Tour: **Sun Jun 25, Sun Jul 23, Sun Aug 20 and Sun Sept 10 from 10am to 2pm.** Last year it was so much fun visiting some of our members' gardens and it was inspiring to see the love each of our members puts into their gardens. This year we get on the road again with a new group of gardens. If you would want to show off your labour of love, we want to see your garden! Contact Sherry Howard (sshgardener59@gmail.com) or Val Skinner (skinner.v.s@gmail.com).

## Hospitality

### Can you stand the heat?

Then come into our kitchen. The hospitality committee is hungry for help.

Whether you are willing to wash dishes (rids gardening grime from your fingernails ) or create a cheese platter, your assistance will be savoured.

Pop by the food table during this month's meeting and sign up to contribute a snack and learn more about joining the tastiest team at BWGC.

**Val Skinner and Gary Miles**



## Oshawa Peony Festival



The **19th Annual Oshawa Peony Festival** will be held **June 10&11, 2023** at the **Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens, 155 Arena St, Oshawa, open 10am to 4pm both days.** There will be a judged flower show, photo and art competitions, artisans, and

food vendors. **Parking and admission are free.** Come to the gardens anytime in June to see early, middle and late blooms. For more information and details of the peony show schedule, visit:

<https://www.oshawa.ca/en/parks-recreation-and-culture/peony-festival.aspx>

## The Twenty-First Century Gardener by Mary Kadey

In the last issue of the Newsletter I wrote about the responsibilities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century gardener to be educated about the ecological issues facing our planet and how our gardening choices can support pollinators and avoid adding to the problem of invasive species. In this issue I would like to address the flip side of the coin and look at the rights of gardeners vis-a-vis what you have the right to do with the property fronting your home. Every city in the province has by-laws which property owners would be well advised to know, especially when it comes to what is permissible in the areas that are most visible, ie. in front of your house. In recent years newspapers have reported on homeowners who have run afoul of city ordinances and the fight they have launched to protect their rights.

In July 2022 Susan McKee made the news when she returned from vacation to discover that a wildflower garden that she had nurtured for two decades had been mowed down by the city in her absence. London, Ontario does have an exemption to the Weed Control Act for perennial gardens but complaints to the city from neighbours must have spurred the process to have her garden assessed and unfortunately it was destroyed before McKee could make her case. Her garden was filled with wildflowers and had very little grass. Instead of a lawn, which is a monoculture, her space created a diversity that supported insects such as butterflies and bees. To add insult to injury, McKee was issued a bill to pay for the removal of her garden and a \$125 ticket.

In Smith Falls Ontario, Beth and Craig Sinclair created a naturalized garden in their front yard, but their efforts to create a naturalized yard had spurred by-law enforcement officers to visit their property 8-10 times in the space of 18 months demanding its removal. They took their case to court and feel they have been subject to unfair harassment. The Sinclairs have spent thousands of dollars and thousands of hours to create a pollinator friendly oasis using a Japanese style method called the Miyawaki Forest Technique. This method “mimics the way a forest would recolonise itself if humans stepped away. Only native species that would occur naturally in that area without humans, given the specific climate condition, are planted.” (<https://www.sugiproject.com/blog/the-miyawaki-method-for-creating-forests>) A CBC article posted May 30, 2022 reported that the town had rescinded the order to uproot their naturalized lawn. However, the Sinclairs feel this is only a partial victory, as Craig stated, “Until the bylaws change in all 400 municipalities in Ontario, I don’t feel very satisfied. I want everybody in Ontario to not just have the right to do it, but for it to be encouraged. We can restore so much of nature in our lawns.” (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/smith-falls-naturalized-lawn-yard-victory-bylaw-environment-ecology-wildlife-diversity-1.6467370#>)

A group of gardeners in the city of Windsor faced their own challenges in the summer of 2022 when faced with a non-compliance order to remove the plants from their naturalized boulevards. Four adjacent properties on Victoria Avenue were ordered to remove native plants and landscaping. A city official stated that homeowners need to realize that the boulevards are not their property to do with as they wish and property owners must adhere to by-laws. Inspections must be issued when complaints are lodged and inspectors, armed only with the definition of weeds from the by-laws, have the authority to remove ‘offensive or overgrown lawns’. Many proponents of naturalized lawns see archaic by-laws as the real problem.

But what if you decide that a lawn, naturalized or traditionally grown, is just too much bother? What are your rights when it comes to removing your lawn and having artificial turf instead? Toronto homeowner, Frank Leone, who is in his 80s has landed in a court battle to keep his North York synthetic lawn. Unable to care for his lawn as he aged, Leone decided to remove it and had a bylaw officer inspect his lawn last October to get approval before putting in the fake grass. After a neighbour complained the approval was revoked because water can’t drain through synthetic grass which can cause drainage problems from rainwater run-off. Leone faces a court challenge this month to try to resolve the matter. News footage of the story showed Leone in a wheelchair being wheeled to his car after a court hearing. He considers himself bullied by the city. In July of 2019, Sangeeta Gounder faced a \$1400 fine if she did not comply with the removal of her synthetic grass that was professionally installed in her front and backyards. Ironically, she had received a “Beautiful Front Garden Award” the previous year in 2018. Gounder initially wanted to fight the infraction, but unlike Leone, has since decided to remove the synthetic grass and restore the yards with real grass. Homeowners need to know that there are by-laws in place regulating the use of synthetic grass on their property.

So what this boils down to is that gardeners need to be aware of city by-laws when deciding to plant or install something in front of their homes that is other than a traditional lawn. Know your rights and if you are of the opinion that by-laws are outdated and in need of revision, work with others through the political processes in place for all of us. In addition, gardeners should be aware that inspections are initiated by complaints from your own neighbours. So it is good practice to engage your neighbours in a discussion about the benefits of naturalized lawns and help educate them on how they help the environment. Many people are just having a hard time making the shift from the ‘green grass culture’ of the last century.

For more information you can read what renowned native plant expert, Lorraine Johnston, has written about naturalized Gardens in these sources:

*The New Ontario Naturalized Garden* paperback by Lorraine Johnston, 2001

*Municipal Bylaws and Naturalized Gardens* (Lorraine Johnston shared her Webinar on Oct. 1, 2022 through the David Suzuki Foundation) <https://www.protectnatureto.org/municipal-bylaws-and-naturalized-gardens/> This website also includes a list of additional resources on the topic.

Additional Resources for Lorraine Johnson’s webinar listed above can be found here:

<https://organiclandcare.ca/resources/2022%20year%20of%20the%20garden/RESOURCES%20for%20Lorraine%20Johnson%20talk%20on%20reforming%20grass%20and%20weeds%20bylaws.pdf>



WHAT TO LOOK FOR - LIFECYCLE



## Spotted Lanternfly

**Mary Thompson** asked us to pass along information about a new garden pest that was recently published in Blog TO, with information from The Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS). The Spotted Lanternfly, native to China, may look like a cool or rare insect but federal guidelines

suggest you should splat it on sight. It has been determined that over 70 species of plants and trees are been targeted by this invasive red-eyed insect. It has been detected in many parts of the USA and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has issued warnings to stop its spread into Canada. The infographic shown here from the CFIA shows us what to look for. Eggs should be scrapped off and destroyed in rubbing alcohol or soapy water. Nymphs and adults should be crushed. Samples can be placed in sealed containers and given to the CFIA for inspection.

**Barb Panowyk**

## Dahlia Gall???

My curiosity was piqued when **Shirley Papenbrock** sent me some information about something called leafy gall that can occur in dahlias and a large number of other plants. I had been looking forward to reading Shirley's newsletter submission on propagating dahlias from cuttings!

Two forms of galls can result in dahlias: crown gall and leafy gall. Each are caused by a different bacterial infection. Crown gall resulting from infection by *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* is visible as tumorous swellings or galls with a rough, irregular surface or as Shirley says, "similar to a round cauliflower" on the plant stems or roots. Leafy gall resulting from infection by *Rhodococcus fascians* is visible as dense clusters of shoots growing at the base of the plant. These galls will affect dahlia growth and can eventually kill the tuber. These galls may not be evident until they are dug up in the fall. It is recommended that the tubers be disposed of but not composted so as to prevent spread of the bacteria to other susceptible plants. Where the dahlias had been growing, the Royal Horticultural Society in the UK suggests growing something not susceptible to the bacteria over the next one or two years to help eliminate it from the soil.



L to R: leafy gall in Shirley's tuber, crown gall

Shirley indicated that leafy gall is a big problem for most growers across Canada and specialists have been hired to prevent its spread because of the potential to impact growing and supplying dahlias from cuttings. Sadly for Shirley: "Last year I had a root that I used to take a cutting from in spring. In the fall both the original root and the cutting had leafy gall and had to be destroyed. For this reason I am not taking any cuttings this year."

**Sherry Howard**

## Front Lawn Garden Inspiration



L to R, front gardens of Debi Foster, Marion Thomas, Rahe Richards



## *Sofie's Choices by Sofie Bigham*

There are so many new and newish plants but try and find them at a garden centre! The listed plants below, have all been purchased in the Durham region at: Mason House Gardens (offering new, unusual plants), Vandermeer nursery (huge collection of roses & perennials), Sheridan Nurseries, Peter Keeping (unusual, hard to find clematis), Kingsway Greenhouse (Oshawa), Richters Herbs, Otter nursery, Century Home and Garden Greenhouses and Valleyview (Markham). I have yet to visit Anna's Perennials (Lindsay), Crooked Creek (Clarington), Gardens Plus (Peterborough) and a new garden centre La Belle's in Pickering. Please google for more information on the plants listed.

**HYDRANGEAS** – there are so many recent introductions, but I'll be focussing on paniculata and arborescens varieties. Both bloom on new and old wood, can be pruned to shape and/or to control size. There is much confusion regarding pruning requirements for different species so keep your label.

**Hydrangea paniculata 'Berry White'**: strong upright stems, starts out white in July then progresses to a jaw-dropping dark pink, from bottom to the top of the panicle. I was advised that 'the evolving red colour of this variety is stunning'. So I just had to have it!!

**Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight Prime'**: The difference between 'Limelight' & 'Limelight Prime'? 'Prime' is more compact, has strong stems, earlier blooms and better flower colour as it transforms from the green phase to autumn's red and pink tones. 4 to 6 feet tall.

**Hydrangea paniculata 'Pink Avalanche'**: Large cone shaped white, blushed pink blooms start mid July, color deepens as the summer progresses. Reminds me of Strawberry Vanilla. 4 to 5 ft

**Hydrangea paniculata 'Quickfire Fab'**: How does it differ from Quickfire? It is the earliest blooming paniculata, cone shaped blooms verses lacy blooms of Quickfire. Creamy green to watermelon pink, colorful blooms for 3+ months! 6 to 8 ft

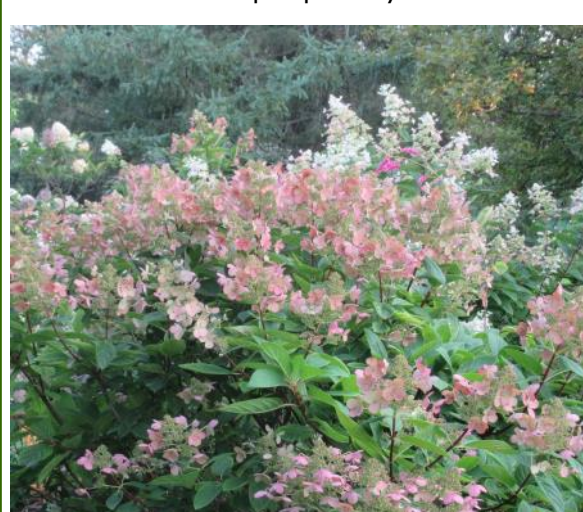
**Hydrangea paniculata 'Early Evolution'**: five months of colour, In late spring, the flowers start lime-white before turning pure white, then blush as they age, ending up dark pink in September. A small one at 2 ft. tall

**Hydrangea paniculata 'Puffer Fish'**: like a larger, more puffed up Bobo with fluffy white blooms. Surprise, a fresh sprig of white flowers emerges from the tip of the panicle 3-5 ft.

**Hydrangea paniculata 'Little Fresco'**: Little Fresco is the perfect stair-step size between Little Spooky, and Skyfall. Flowers are a blend of white and pale green, maturing to a peony pink. 2019 Planetarium Silver Award winner

**Hydrangea paniculata 'Little Spooky'**: smallest panicle hydrangea introduced to date, big white cone shaped flowers, 18 to 24" tall

**Hydrangea paniculata 'Skyfall'**: star-shaped individual blooms reminiscent of spring hyacinths. Large cone shaped blooms mature from white to pale pink. Skyfall took silver at the 2019 Groot Groen Plus 36-48" tall



*Hydrangea 'Quickfire' in Sofie's garden*



*Sofie's new Hydrangea 'Pink Avalanche'*

**Hydrangea paniculata 'Little Hottie'**: Worth growing for the name!! Green flowers open to creamy white, turning to antique shades of pink/white with cooler temperatures in the fall. Small size, large flowers, great for smaller gardens

**Hydrangea arborescens 'Haas Halo'**: Lacecap type. Up to 5 feet tall with "flat" blossoms up to 14" wide, loved by pollinators. The white flowers turn green in cooler weather and stay fresh until frost.

**Hydrangea arborescens 'Invincibelle Lace'**: From the Invincibelle series. New Lacecap type. Ruby red stems, plum purple, lacy florets with a smattering of 4-petaled white flowers. Lacecap flowers attract butterflies and other pollinators.

**Hydrangea arborescens candybelle series 'Bubblegum'**: new hydrangea closely related to Annabelle. It has enormous, bubblegum pink flowers on stems that don't flop. 120 cm. Can't wait to see this one and Marshmallow.

**Hydrangea arborescens candybelle series 'Marshmallow'**: Smaller and bushier relative to Hydrangea Annabelle with large, rounded flower heads of pale salmon pink held on strong stems.

## More of Sofie's Choices

### NEVER HEARD OF THESE TWO!! NEW FINDS LAST YEAR.

**Calylophus Ladybird® Lemonade Texas Primrose:** very drought tolerant in sunny location. Grew mine in a raised pot as it cascades. Gorgeous soft yellow “poppy” like flowers age to peach and pink. Lovely, ferny foliage, blooms to frost. Pair with purple or blue.

**Herb Santolina Viridis** – you will never guess the fragrance when you rub the gorgeous leaves of this plant. No way, Kalamata olives!! Hence the name olive plant!! Never hear of it before! Use it in salads, pizza, sauces, marinades, vinegars, meats/fish.

Here are some very cool, uncommon **SHASTA** daisies. Look for one other interesting series called **Real Neat**.

#### **Leucanthemum x superbum Ooh La™ Series**

**Ooh La™ ‘LaCrosse’**, compact, white, shaggy, spooned flowers! 10 to 12” tall

**Ooh La™ ‘LaSpider’**, compact, white, frilly, shaggy flowers! 12 to 16”

#### **Leucanthemum x superbum Sweet Daisy Series**

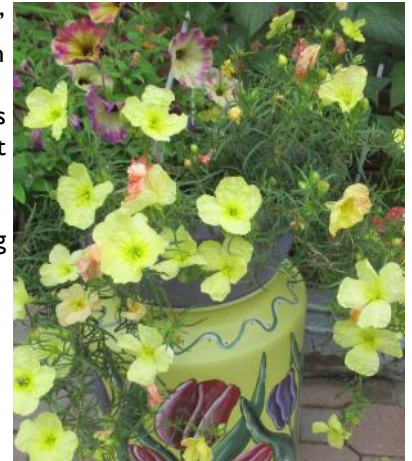
Sweet Daisy ‘Birdy’ umbrella-shaped, white flowers up to 5” across! 8 to 10”

Sweet Daisy ‘Cher’: large 4”-5” flowers with long recurved petals. 6 to 10 inches high

Sweet Daisy ‘Sophie’: unusual fluted or spoon shaped flower petals. 8 to 10”

**Leucanthemum ‘Carpet Angel’** – wait for it – the **first ground cover** Shasta, a 2021

intro. Unique, 3” umbrella shaped blooms on a 6 to 8 inch tall plant, spreads to 20”. Prostrate habit, basal branching creates carpet appearance. All American Selections winner.



Sofie's Calylophus Ladybird

**SALVIAS** – Must have, loved by hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, bloom mid summer to frost, take cuttings & overwinter. I have all of these.



L to R: Salvia ‘Brazilian Purple’, ‘Kisses and Wishes’ in Sofie’s garden

**Wish series:** Wendy’s Wish, Ember’s Wish, Kisses & Wishes’, ‘Love & Wishes’

**Rockin’ series:** Rockin’ ‘Blue Suede Shoes’, Rockin’ ‘Fuchsia’, Rockin’ ‘Deep Purple’.

**Salvia Skyscraper series:** pink, orange or deep purple purple. I have only seen pink so far.

**Salvia Bodacious:** Bodacious ‘Smokey Jazz’, Bodacious ‘Rhythm & Blues (I noticed this one formed a tuber)

**NEW Salvia BODACIOUS® Hummingbird Falls:** the **first** Salvia x guaranitica bred for hanging baskets, tall planter or the front of the flower border. Mushroom growth habit, stunning dark blue/purple, black calyces! **Fabulous as well** with big purple flowers emerging from black calyces are ‘Amistad’ and ‘Brazilian Purple’.

**PETUNIAS & PETCHOAS** (a petchoa is a cross between petunia and calibrachoa with more colour choices than petunias and smaller flowers) - \*Petunia ‘Picasso in Purple’ (purple edged in lime green, try it with lime potato vine), ‘Bees Knees (pure yellow), Crazytunia ‘Moonstruck’ (changes colour), Crazytunia ‘Black Mamba’ (black flowers), Petchoa supercal ‘French Vanilla’ & ‘Bordeaux’. \*Supertunia Vista series – for the price of about \$5.00, grow one Vista in a 10+ inch pot for a spectacular display all summer. No cleaning required. New are Vista Mini series with smaller flowers in many colours. Mini Vista ‘Midnight’ spreads up to 24”, has the deepest purple mini flower with blackish throat)

**Hibiscus acetocella ‘Mahogany Splendour’** gorgeous Japanese maple look alike, serrated burgundy leaves. Will grow in water or in ground. Find it in the water section. 150cm Take cuttings in the fall.

**Pennisetum ‘Vertigo’** a must have annual ‘black’ grass, grows 48 to 96 inches tall. You will pass it by at the garden centre but try it, it is stunning, will grow quickly into a gorgeous specimen, turning darker & darker as the season progresses.

**Thalictrum ‘Splendide’** comes in white or pink. A tall, stunning plant with a cloud of flowers high up in the air, tiny, tear drop dangling flowers, some open, some not. Long bloomer. Rarely offered for sale, get them while you can.



## Design Incorporating Water

Are you ready to add a couple more floral design techniques to your repertoire? The show committee will continue to demonstrate and display at each meeting, a design that is specified in the following month's design classes. The June Iris and Peony Show will feature a design incorporating water.

Designs incorporating water can be a water viewing design, an underwater design or any other design where water is a main element. A water viewing design is a traditional line design created in a shallow container where one half to two thirds of the water surface is visible.



Typically the line is created with one type of branch or stem and the flowers are of one type and colour such that the most open bloom is at the base and the tightest bud is toward the top of the arrangement thus forming a triangular profile. A pin holder/frog or Kenzan which is covered by placing a leaf or leaves at the base of the design, is used to fix the plant material in place. An

underwater arrangement is created in a clear container such that part of the arrangement is visibly submerged while a portion of the design is above the water line. There is no set amount that must be submerged however both must form a unified design. Pin holders or weights and fishing line may be used to anchor the plant material but should not be visible. Creative use of branches and stems can also help hold plant material in place. To eliminate water bubbles, either use distilled water or allow the water to sit for about an hour.

*Debi Foster's creative underwater design titled 'Nature's Best Hope' won 1st prize at the recent D17 AGM. She used dogwood, fotherrilla, ninebark, serviceberry and chokecherry.*



*L to R: an underwater design using grapevine and cala lilies and a water viewing design using curly willow to define the line*

**Sherry Howard**

## It's Show Time

We look forward to entries from your garden for the upcoming shows: Spring Show on May 24, Iris and Peony Show on June 14, and Rose Show on June 28. Here are some tips to prepare you and remember, **all entries must be in place by 7:15pm.**

### 1) Conditioning Lilacs:

- Pick stems with blooms about half open, early AM for evening use or late afternoon/evening for next morning
- If large stem, hit bottom of stem hard with hammer on hard surface OR remove bark with sharp knife about 2-3 inches from bottom and split bark up center
- Plunge stem into container of HOT water up to its neck under water - caution, hot water will brown petals
- Leave in a cool dark place until ready to use
- Re-cut stem on a sharp diagonal to approx. size and groom before using

### 2) Displaying Fruits and Vegetables

- Vegetables must be shown on a plate or other container appropriate to their size and type.
- When more than one specimen is specified in a class, select specimens that are uniform in size and shape.

3) **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.

4) Groom, Groom, Groom!

Above all, **Have FUN!**



### About the BWGC 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 [sshgardener59@gmail.com](mailto:sshgardener59@gmail.com), Mary Kadey at [memkadey@gmail.com](mailto:memkadey@gmail.com), Barb Panowyk at [bpanowyk62@gmail.com](mailto:bpanowyk62@gmail.com).**