



# Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 25 Issue 3 Aug/Sept/Oct 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)  
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<https://www.facebook.com/bhs1921/>



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

## Geoffrey Drew-Brook Growing Garlic & Related Uses Wed Aug 23, 2023 7:30pm

On **Aug 23**, Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club (BWGC) welcomes **Geoffrey Drew-Brook** as our guest speaker, presenting **“Growing Garlic and Related Uses”**. Geoffrey and his family own and operate Wild Blue Acres Farmstead in north Whitby, recently part of our BWGC members garden tours. The farm is open to the public, where you can wander a growing lavender hill, see pasture-raised hens, purchase from their new farm store seasonal vegetables, eggs and honey. Geoffrey is a retired teacher who studied Professional Cooking at Liaison College.

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.

## BWGC Fundraising Successes



On a rainy Saturday morning on the May long weekend the BWGC held its second post COVID plant sale. Once again we were thrilled with the response from our members. THANK YOU to all who contributed plants either on the Friday night or at the sale Saturday morning, to the helpers who sorted and

priced the plants on Friday night, to the brave crew who set up tables, shelters, etc., in heavy rain early Saturday morning, and to the volunteers who worked at the sale for 4 hours in on-and-off rain. Thank you to the Master Gardeners who were on hand to lend their expertise.

We also had plants for sale at the members' meeting the following Wednesday and managed to sell quite a few. I'm pleased to advise that our net profit from this year's plant sale was \$1268. Thanks to all who participated; it was a success because of you.

The 2024 plant sale will be held again on the May long weekend. We look forward to your continuing support to make it a another success.

**Paul Cloutier**

Again, as in past years, BWGC coordinated the **online sale of rain barrels**, raising \$589 for our club. This fundraiser helps keep our annual dues low, so be sure to let your friends and neighbours know about our sale next spring. The prices are better than the local hardware stores and the barrels are delivered right to the customer's driveway!

Mary Thompson is looking for someone to coordinate this activity in spring 2024. With Mary's help, this would involve posting a few flyers at local libraries and grocery stores, tracking sales once a week, and reading occasional emails from the vendor. If you are interested in helping out, please email Mary at [secretarybwgc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarybwgc@gmail.com).

**Mary Thompson**

## President's Message



Home gardens in the summer months of July and August are often reliant on supplemental watering to accommodate plant requirements, particularly for annuals and vegetables. Rain barrels, drip irrigation, hose-end sprayers or soakers, and personal attention in the garden, can be called into use on a near daily basis.

It has been different this July. Data provided by Environment Canada and offered to us through the Weather Dashboard shows a significant difference from 2022. Last July we suffered an accumulation of only 50 mm (49.8) of rainfall for the month. This July, the total is over 120 mm (121.6) of rainfall. That's 2.4 times as much!

In general, that's great! Lush lawns, more fruit on the vegetable plants, taller cucumber and other vines. It also means significantly more mosquitoes plus larger and more prolific weeds.

We need to remember, though, that container-grown plants, often in soil-less medium, dry out quickly and need to be supported even through this period of increased rainfall. Hand watering or irrigation on dry days may still be needed. It takes many hours of rain to thoroughly soak a large container, and of course the plant has a finite source of wetted soil for its roots to access. Hanging baskets should be lifted slightly, and planters tipped, or lifted, to determine overall weight. It's not hard to spot a dry container when checked on a daily basis. I'm not a proponent of the finger in the soil technique, but if it works for you, that's a form of attention for the planter.

Enjoy the warmth, the long days, and the frequent and useful natural watering!

**Hans Paats**

## Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection

The team of volunteers at the Park of Reflection had a late start this spring and we continue to adjust our hours depending on the weather forecast.

The gardens are doing very well with the cream coloured day lilies, white and red roses in constant bloom. The heat wave in early July didn't seem to cause any issues for these hardy perennials. Our team is working hard to manage the weeds and keep the gardens well pruned and tidy.

The memorial tree for Leslie Tate that was replaced this year is growing well and we have installed a water collar around it to ensure it gets enough water until it is established.

A representative from Wounded Warriors Canada informed us that the Town of Whitby has taken over the maintenance of the gardens at the back of the Park of Reflection and a new information board will be installed to replace the one that was damaged in a storm last year.

We are looking forward to participating in the members garden tour in September.

Thanks again to our team members: Mary Thompson, Paul Coultier, Emmie Beer, Helen Read and Barb Panowyk. Our hard work was recently acknowledged in a letter of appreciation from Wounded Warriors Canada. Our team welcomes anyone who is interested in joining us on Wednesday mornings from 9 am to 10 am. Please contact me if you are interested: [rahe.richards@yahoo.com](mailto:rahe.richards@yahoo.com).

**Rahe Richards**





## Brooklin Horticultural Society (BHS) Park

The Garden has never been more lush and beautiful. The mix of timely rain, heat and sunshine has done a wonderful job of rounding out all the hard work of our volunteer crew.

We have resumed our Thursday evenings schedule (6:00-8:00pm), although we have been rained out a couple of times. The good news is the rain has meant I have not had to haul the hoses up to the Garden. The better news is our plants have flourished. Of course the downside is that the weeds too have taken advantage of the rain, sun and heat and have come on with tremendous enthusiasm. There is no shortage of work at the Garden!

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. A couple of our crew members have had some physical setbacks, but some new volunteers have stepped up to fill the gap - **welcome Rita, Harriet, Chris and Mehar.**

Our project to get a cabinet/shed for storing hoses and other tools at the Garden seems to have ground to a halt. It seems our Town contacts have been busy dealing with their issues and we have fallen by the wayside. Time for me to resume my role as "squeaky wheel" to get us some attention and progress.

The trees in the park are doing well and a real treat is that **the magnolias are coming back into bloom** - a real surprise!! Please take the time to come up to the Garden and take in the ever changing view.

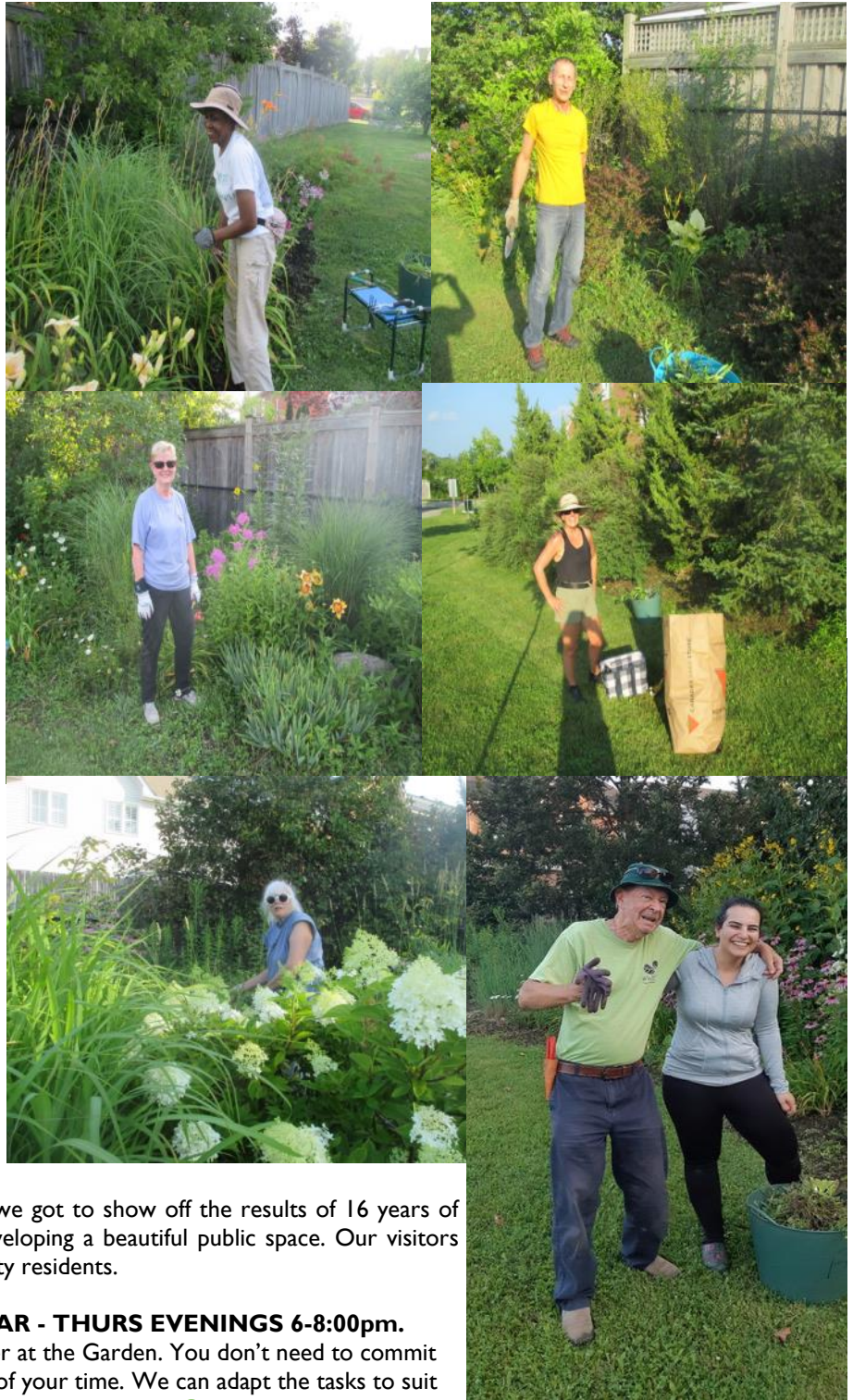
This week Faye and I guided a group from Bowmanville around the Garden and we got to show off the results of 16 years of BHS/BWGC volunteer contributions to developing a beautiful public space. Our visitors were hugely impressed, as are our community residents.

**NOW, MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR - THURS EVENINGS 6-8:00pm.**

**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!** Email [bgower@durham.net](mailto:bgower@durham.net) to get on the volunteer list.

**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?**

**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



The Station Gallery volunteer group has been busy maintaining the 15 planters that were planted in May. In keeping with the art theme, each planter features a mini-easel with a different piece of art. The artworks are pieces from the gallery's permanent collection.

The "Rocket" snapdragons and pompom petunias have been doing particularly well. Like their name says, the snapdragons rocketed to the sky and provided height for the planters. They look like foxgloves! We have been battling the earwigs lately, and as you have probably noticed, there are plenty of them this year! Despite this, the planters are thriving!



The four front door planters have a different flower selection of salvia, New Guinea impatiens, yellow calibriocha, and a centrepiece of bird of paradise foliage or juncus rush.

The gallery staff are very grateful for our efforts and posted 2 plaques acknowledging our work in beautifying their space.



Planting day is always fun! Many thanks to this spring's contributors: (Below, L-R)

Harriet Harris,  
Helen Ecker,  
Penny Wyger,  
Emmie Beer, and



Carla Keel. Thank you to Lidia Abbott for shopping and transporting hundreds of plants!

Our next activity will be in the fall. The gallery may want to change up the front planters to a fall theme. Mary will contact all of the volunteers in August to see who is able to join in with the activities. If you would like to be added to the Station Gallery volunteer list, please email Mary Thompson at [secretarybwgc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarybwgc@gmail.com).

**Mary Thompson**

## Upcoming Speakers

On **August 23** we welcome fellow **BWGC** member **Geoffrey Drew-Brook** of **Wildblue Acres** farmstead who will be presenting "**Growing Garlic and Related Uses**".

The Guest speaker for our **September 27** meeting is **Karen Abrahams**. Karen is the owner of Native Plants in Claremont, a nursery devoted to the increased awareness and restoration of Ontario's native plants and their habitats. We look forward to her presentation, "**Native Plants in Claremont-Oak Ridges Morriane**".

**Amy Hall** will be presenting "**Adventures in Seed Conservation**" at our **October 25** meeting. Amy is the Manager of Ecosystems Recovery at Carolinian Canada. Amy has worked as an ecologist in the environmental sector in government and non-government settings for many years.

## What a Party! - The 2023 OHA Convention and AGM

It is not very often that one can call a Convention and Annual General Meeting (AGM) a party, but District 2 showed their Ottawa Valley hospitality to it fullest and had us all clapping, singing and tapping our toes to the fiddlers and step dancers at the Friday evening Ceilidh. There was a theme of hope for the future throughout the event as we were entertained and informed by the amazingly accomplished young plenary speakers and performers.

We learned about Akosua Asare's lifestyle change from the corporate business world to running a small (less than 2200 sq. ft.) urban farm in Deep River with the help of volunteers. She has recognized the need for a mix of activities such as: selling dahlia tubers, seedlings, flowers, and vegetables; running a Community Supported Agriculture program and teaching workshops to be viable. ([www.replantedfarm.ca](http://www.replantedfarm.ca)) The farm is thriving and continues to grow with community support.



Best in Show - Floral Design

and long-time contributions.

Attending the Convention provides attendees with the opportunity to learn more about gardening in a different region of the province. We make new friends and catch-up with those we have met at previous conferences.

The 2024 OHA Conference and AGM "The Heartland of Gardens Growing and Rivers Flowing" will be hosted by Districts 7 and 8 at the Delta Hotel Guelph Conference Centre from July 12-14.

**But the BIGGEST news of all is the 2025 OHA Convention will be co-hosted by the 12 Clubs and Societies of District 17 and District 4's 17 clubs and societies (our neighbours to the east). I hope that you will take the opportunity to join me and help make the event a resounding success! Many hands will make light work!**

**Debi Foster**



Metis step dancers - The Lyons Sisters

Alida Burke co-founder with Corey Ellis of The Growcer ([www.thegrowcer.ca](http://www.thegrowcer.ca)) shared their journey from a visit to Canada's far north in 2015 to the development of Modular Food Solutions which now offer accessible, local, secure food for a wide range of communities from over 70 farms, across the width and breadth of Canada. 100% Canadian designed and built modular vertical, shallow water, hydroponic farm units presently provide over 5 million servings of fresh food (primarily leafy greens and lettuce) annually. The organization is now working towards growing strawberries too.

Beyond the business of the AGM, the Convention provided attendees with many other opportunities as well. There were bus trips to gardens and points of interest throughout the Ottawa Valley; 16 one hour long talks/workshops covering an interesting range of topics; competitions for Artwork, Creative Writing, Society Publications, and Youth; and Floral Design and Horticultural Shows. Recipients of the OHA Awards and Grants were announced and gardeners, nominated by their clubs/societies for their community service were publicly recognized for their achievements



D17's Brooklin-Whitby and Oshawa contingent in front of 1994 quilt.

## My First OHA Convention

Attending the OHA convention for the first time, I did not know what to expect, but was pleasantly surprised and impressed by the efforts of the District 2 volunteers in organising such a large affair. Everything was in place: name tags of delegates, tour organisers, speakers, gifts, Club and Society publications and banners, flower show entries and judges. The entertainment was superb (my husband Peter really enjoyed the Celtic music and dancers). It must have taken at least two years for the preparations, and with the timely contributions of the societies and clubs that participated, everything seemed to have fallen in place. As far as I'm concerned everything was done right - kudos to everyone involved.

The highlight of the convention for me was the tour of the Aga Khan Islamic Garden, the Rideau Hall grounds and The Rockeries in Rockcliffe Park. Our guide and Head Gardener of Rideau Hall provided interesting stories behind the features of the gardens.

Next year's convention will be in Guelph, hosted by Districts 7 and 8, and I plan on going.

**Rahe Richards**



## *BWGC Members Garden Visits*

THANK YOU to Joyce Marsh, Val Skinner and Gary Miles, Geoffrey Drew-Brook and WildBlue Acres farm, Nancy Mungall, Jacquelyn Nemish, Helen Read, Jone Webster, Eleanor MacAlpine, Sheryl Snowden, and Michele Wessling for sharing your gardens with us on June 25 and Jul 23. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for information regarding our next two tour dates: **Sun Aug 20 and Sun Sept 10 from 10am to 2pm.** Enjoy a sample of photos from our June and July gardens.





# *BWGC Members Garden Visits—cont'd*





## ***BWGC Members at the Oshawa Peony Festival***



*Judi at work, explaining how to grow and care for peony seedlings.*

Members of the Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club (BWGC) were front and center, as organizers, volunteers and exhibitors, at this year's 19th Annual Oshawa Peony Festival, held June 10 and 11. Of special note is the contribution of our lifetime BWGC member and past President, Judi Denny. Judi's tireless work with the help and support of the city of Oshawa for 19 years has earned the festival, "Festival and Events Ontario Top 100, Garden Experience Winner" for 10 years in a row now and cited as one of the "9 must see flower and garden shows in the world"! (Conde Nast Traveller) Additionally, Judi is a founding member of the Canadian Peony Society (CPS) established in 1998 and she has been its Ontario director since 2015. In 2014 the Oshawa Valley botanical garden was renamed The Michael and Judi Denny Peony Gardens to honour their contributions to the gardens and the festival itself.

The festival hosted the CPS National Peony Show marking the 25th anniversary of the CPS. The peony flower and design show had 477 entries judged by three judges, including BWGC member Ken Brown, and supported/clerked by BWGC members Ingrid Janssen, Debi Foster and Sherry Howard. BWGC members were successful entrants in many of the specimen classes as well as the design classes. Judi Denny won

Best In Show in the Japanese/Anemone group for her 'Black

Swan' peony. Ingrid Janssen was all smiles at the Canadian Peony Society table and no wonder, as her peony 'Souvenir de Maxime Cornu', was judged Best in Show in the Tree Peony group. Sherry Howard took first place for her Modern Design 'Vanilla Swirl', Line Design, 'Salmon Doves', and Design of Choice, 'Pink Charm'. Debi Foster took first place for her Centrepiece, 'Happy 25th Anniversary', and second place for both of her Hand Held Design, 'Subtlety', and her 'Salmon Doves' design. Check out the photos of their winning designs on page 12 of this newsletter.



*L to R: Ingrid's winning tree peony 'Souvenir de Maxime Cornu'; Judi's winning Japanese peony 'Black Swan' as viewed from her garden*

Sherry Howard, Barb Panowyk, Audrey Atkinson, Debi Foster, and Colleen Ouimet used their design savvy to create and sell fresh cut peonies in vases to visitors at the festival. Thanks to the generous donation of fresh peonies from the gardens of BWGC members Judi Denny and Ingrid Janssen this successful festival fundraising event was sold out early Sunday afternoon.

In addition to the gorgeous array of peonies in bloom in the gardens this year, art exhibits, crafts for sale, and delicious treats like butter tarts added to the overall success of the 19th Annual Peony Festival! If you have yet to attend this event, I highly recommend that you make a visit June 8-9, 2024 for its 20th anniversary.

**Mary Kadey**



*L to R: peony designers - Sherry, Debi, Barb, Audrey, Colleen; 'Here comes the judge' - Ken Brown in the centre, arriving for duty; Ingrid who is a Durham Master Gardener, taking questions at the CPS table*



## *Diary of a Garden Visit Host*

### **June 4 - 10, To Do:**

*Design, price, purchase materials for planter box w. trellis. Convince Gary to build.*

*Order new patio tables*

*Order wood chips, five yards*

*Begin edging – all beds*

**Daily Notes:** *Belle Can-a-da? Belly Candelabra? Go Commando? What is the name of that lily I planted by the pond last year? Someone might want to know!*

*My, it's dry out here.*

*And what about that new plant, the one that is promised to take over and give an exotic, lush feel to my garden but is sitting there doing nothing?*

*It's just so dry out there.*

*How am I going to fill those holes left by the poppies that were exquisite last week?*

*Will it ever rain?*

### **June 11-17, To Do:**

*Erect new patio tables*

*Spread wood chips*

*Buy extra annuals for bland containers*

*Find creative use for unwanted patio slabs stacked by shed*

*Make birdbath platform from leftover, concrete pavers also stacked by shed*

*Clean up shed area*

*Spread reduced order wood chips, four yards*

*Book chiro appointment for Gary*

### **Daily Notes:**

*Why does this garden visit business seem so hard? On last year's tour the gardens were perfect and the hosts were as cool as the luscious cucumbers in their immaculately manicured potagers. Self, snap to it!*

### **June 18-25, To Do Final Week:**

*Try to finish edging*

*Remove dandelions from pathways*

*Complete birdbath step*

*Hide giant tangle of rodent cloches behind nicely organized shed area*

*Attend garden visit preview, be amazed*

*Cancel Father's Day*

*Power wash everything*

### **Daily Notes:**

*Best time to edge beds, 5:30 am. So lovely and cool. Can't sleep anyway. The quiet really is divine.*

*Wait, things are looking... okay.*

*Self, this garden visit business is actually wonderful. The long-standing to-do list is (almost) done and we're (nearly) standing upright.*

*Bring on the tourists. I can't wait to show the place.*

*And guess what? It's raining.*

**Val Skinner**



## Chemical Free Ways to Manage Japanese Beetles



Over the past few years, we have all been learning about and finding ways to battle the dreaded Japanese Beetle (*Popillia japonica*). In early to mid-July, we start to watch for the arrival of these beetles, and then need to find ways to rid our gardens of this despised pest. We have all figured out that hanging pheromone traps for Japanese Beetles actually attracts more of these insects to our gardens, unless you own a very large property and can hang the traps a great distance away from the plants that they tend to enjoy! But the majority of us have had to find other ways to cope with these pests.

Using the tried-and-true method of knocking the bugs into a bucket of soapy water has become a daily ritual in our summer gardening routine. I have several buckets sitting in various locations in both the front and back yards. This task is best done in the morning and evening when the beetles are more sluggish. This eco-friendly method can certainly reduce their population and save some of our favourite blooms.

Japanese beetle larvae can feed on grass roots in our lawns, then take a deep dive into the soil to overwinter and develop into hungry adults. In the fall, gardeners may choose to add nematodes to their lawns in the hope of reducing the population of Japanese beetle larvae. Nematodes are an environmentally-friendly method of controlling the number of beetles on your property, but we must remember that these beetles can fly. Your neighbours may not be working towards reducing their numbers, so this method is not a perfect solution. Nematodes may also help with the health of your lawn, but it can be a costly treatment that may need to be repeated on a yearly basis.

One of the things I have been doing to try to save some of my favourite blooms from being eaten by the beetles is to cover the buds with some mesh. I do this predominantly with my roses. Uncovered, the roses bloom half-eaten and very lopsided, but using this method allows the buds to fully develop into beautiful roses that I can cut and add to floral arrangements. I use a variety of garden clips to secure the gathered mesh until the roses are in bloom, after which the mesh is easily removed.

Japanese beetles are here to stay, so we all need to find environmentally-friendly ways to cope with them so we can still enjoy our gardens. Good luck!

**Barb Panowyk**



## This Is A Mast Year?

I recently stumbled across a horticultural term that I had not heard before, and I decided to do a little research. The term is 'Mast Year - have you heard of it?'

Merriam Webster defines Mast Year as "a year in which a tree or shrub (such as oak, hickory or hazel) growing in a particular region produces an unusually large number of fruits, seeds or nuts: the periodic production of a greater than typical amount of mast." During this past spring, fellow gardeners commented that there seemed to be an abundance of blooms on certain shrubs, and a noticeably higher volume of pollen coating their decks, patios, outdoor furniture and walkways. My curiosity was piqued. Were these indications that we were in a Mast Year?

"Mast" is a botanical term for what is more colloquially called "fruit". My research revealed that there are two types of mast: hard mast and soft mast. Nuts and seeds (like acorns, beech nuts, and hickory nuts) are hard mast, and berries and fleshy fruits (like blueberries, raspberries, and wild grape) are soft mast.

The big question that comes to mind is, 'Why do trees, shrubs and other seed-producing species have varying patterns of seed production from year to year?' In an article for *Trees for Cities* entitled "The Mystery of the Mast Year," Gurnam Bubber explains that there are many factors that come into play. He says that a mast year is "an important event in nature's calendar as wildlife benefits from the abundance in food and the trees benefit from a larger number of offspring the next year." Focusing on the oak tree in particular, Bubber writes that "ultimately a mast year means regeneration for the oaks in our woods all over the country which is something worth celebrating. It's a lovely example of the intricate checks and balances and interconnectivity of our ecosystems developed through evolutionary adaptation over millions of years." (<https://www.treesforcities.org/stories/the-mystery-of-the-mast-year>)

How and when do trees, shrubs, and other plants know when to produce an over-abundance of seeds? Scientists and botanists have some theories. They know for sure that the weather plays a major role in determining mast years, but they also believe that trees use chemicals and 'pollen coupling' to communicate with each other. Regardless of the cause of the mysterious reproductive patterns of trees and shrubs, we humans must continue to respect and protect all the elements in our natural ecosystems! If this is in fact a 'Mast Year', I hope you all will enjoy bigger and better blooms and a bountiful harvest.

**Barb Panowyk**



## Creating a Woodland Garden



*Hostas bordered by mosses.*

lacking the elements that we usually define as “plant” (they lack a root system and do not produce flowers), they have survived in widely divergent conditions in all corners of the globe for 450 million years. As with the ferns, moss plants need watering when the summer days are hot and dry. Otherwise, they are also easy to grow and maintain. Incorporating ferns and mosses into my northern gardens is like adding a touch of the prehistoric, and given my status as a novice gardener I hope that these plants that have survived and thrived for millenia will bolster my success rate.

When I first started to establish my northern Ontario gardens I was discouraged by the perceived limitation imposed by the shade environment. I kept planting sun-loving flowers and was continually disappointed by the predictable results. But over the past few years I have decided to embrace and love my shade gardens as I attempt to maintain a woodland feel and work with plants that are native to my region. Ferns and moss are perfect for my conditions and these prehistoric plants are sure to add beauty and tranquility to my gardens for years to come.

**Mary Kadey**

On woodland rambles at the cottage, I have marvelled at the diversity of moss and fern plants that grow in our South Algonquin region park. Christmas Fern, Sensitive Fern, Northern Maidenhair, Cinnamon Fern and Claytosmunda (the Interrupted Fern) are among the types of fern that I have identified on my hikes. I also loved the look of the many mosses that grow on rocks, fallen tree trunks, and pathways. While I am still learning to identify my moss plants, my favourite is the Pincushion moss which grows in a compact ball in a lovely shade of pale green. I was inspired to make good use of my shady conditions by incorporating a variety of moss and ferns to create a dramatic flair along a walkway. I am also experimenting with moss borders in shade garden beds. Nestled amongst my hostas, the ferns offer texture that complements the variegated hosta leaves. They are a great companion for other shade loving plants like astilbe, caladiums, hellebore and heuchera. Another bonus is the taller ferns fill in a large space and look great with the natural stones used to delineate my cottage walkway. This project will continue over the next few years as I experiment with various mosses and ferns to determine which grow best in my gardens. I can amend as needed to create the layers that will show best and maintain that woodland feel.

Ferns can be dated back 350 million years. They are hardy and thrive well in woodlands so are best grown in shady areas of your garden. They are an easy-care plant and once well-established require little fuss or care. Another plus is that few natural pests bother ferns. In dry spells just make sure that you water your ferns so they don't dry out. Mosses are the oldest plants on earth. While



*Pincushion mosses in the moss border on the bottom right.*

## Members Bring Their A-Game To The Shows





## Design Notebook

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 August Annuals Show will feature a centrepiece and the September Autumn Show will feature a parallel design.

A **centrepiece** is a design that is viewed from all sides, is no higher than 30 cm/12 in and is judged from a sitting position. Use the principles of design - balance, contrast, dominance, rhythm, scale, proportion - to create an artistic unit.

A **parallel design** is a design in which three or more groupings are placed in a parallel manner with open spaces between the groupings. The parallel direction may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. The design is in one container or in containers combined so as to appear as one unit. Don't forget, the container(s) is an integral part of the design and not just the receptacle for the plant material.

**Sherry Howard**



L to R: Parallel Design 1 - parallel groups of Allium, ferns and Ranunculus, Bells of Ireland with hosta, hellebore, ginger, Ajuga, fiddleheads, and hydrangea at the base; Parallel Design 2 - includes parallel groups of bare branches (unknown), baptisia, iris and anemone, with heucheria, hosta, ferns and driftwood at the base

groupings. The parallel direction may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. The design is in one container or in containers combined so as to appear as one unit. Don't forget, the container(s) is an integral part of the design and not just the receptacle for the plant material.



## 2023 Oshawa Peony Festival Designs

Congratulations Debi and Sherry on your winning peony designs! Clockwise from top left: Sherry's Design of Choice (Centrepiece) 'Pink Charm'; Debi's Hand Held Design 'Subtlety'; Sherry's Line Design 'Salmon Doves'; Debi's Line Design 'Salmon Doves'; Debi's Centrepiece 'Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary'; Sherry's Modern Design 'Vanilla Swirl'.

## 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).