



Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club Newsletter

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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
Follow us on facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/bhs1921/>



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Photography In The Garden - Harold Hutner Wed Feb 28, 2024 - 7:30pm

The Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club (BWGC) is excited to kick off the new year with photographer and guest speaker, Harold Hutner! Here's an opportunity to learn how to make the most of your camera to get that perfect picture, whether you're in your garden, with your family or on your travels. Harold also shares his love of photography teaching photography courses at the LIFE Institute at The Chang School, Toronto Metropolitan University.



Photo by Sherry Howard

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!

Orange Is The Colour Of 2024



Crocosmia - Photo by Sherry Howard

The Canadian Garden Council has invited Canadians to plant **ORANGE** in honour of our Indigenous communities. Here are some ideas to add a splash of happiness and warmth to your gardens and planters:

Orange Annuals: Begonias, Calendula, Calibrachoa, Coleus, Cosmos, Cuphea (Firecracker plant), Gazanias, Gerbera Daisies, Impatiens, Lantana, Marigolds, Nasturtium, Pansies, Portulaca, Snapdragons, Sunflowers, Thunbergia (Black-eyed Susan), Tithonia (Mexican sunflower), Zinnias

Orange Perennials: Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed), Asiatic Lilies, Chrysanthemum, Coreopsis, Crocosmia, Hemerocallis (Daylilies), Echinacea, Gaillardia (Blanket Flower), Helenium (Sneezeweed), Kniphofia (Red Hot Poker), Papaver orientale (Oriental Poppy), Tulips

Some other garden worthy choices include dahlias, rose shrubs, and tropical hibiscus.

President's Message



What is Rahe saying.....

After the hustle and bustle of the holiday celebrations, I am really looking forward to the upcoming year as the elected President of the Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club. I am already making plans as to how I will spend my time and selecting activities to ensure the continued success of our club....I assure you I am up to the task!

Our two new board members are already busy with their duties. You will soon find information about what our board members and chairpersons do behind the scenes for the club on our web-site.

Well, as we move forward into 2024, I would like to mention that our newsletter team continues to work hard to put together quarterly publications. Even though we are all busy people, I encourage you to take a few minutes with a 'cuppa' to read them. The club members, including myself, who write articles and share information appreciate any feedback you may wish to give. I invite you to share ideas, horticultural information and garden photos with the newsletter team.

I am looking forward to working with you all again this year at the various gardens and club activities that I have enjoyed since joining the BWGC. I used to refer to myself as an 'avid gardener', but in the last few years I have been calling myself a 'crazy gardener' - I'm always doing something related to gardening or buying a new plant that I don't really have space for in my yard... perhaps you can relate! I believe all of these gardening activities keep me physically and psychologically healthy. I hope you find all of your garden activities beneficial as well. Please look at our various civic beautification and community activities and consider the possibility of signing up to volunteer. Your time is needed to help the BWGC thrive and I have experienced firsthand the many benefits of participation!

Enjoy the coming year.

Rahe Richards

2024 BWGC Board of Directors and Awards



The 2024 BWGC Board of Directors including two **new directors, Colleen Ouimet and Emmie Beer**, were sworn in at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Nov 22 2023. Among the awards presented at the AGM was the **2023 President's Award to the Show Committee**.

Meet your board members: *From l to r: back row - Emmie Beer, Director; Colleen Ouimet, Director; Margaret McGibney, Director; Jane Austin, Director; Bonny Langille, Treasurer; Mary Thompson, Secretary; front row - left to right: Debi Foster, Director District 17; Rahe Richards, President; Hans Paats, Past President.*



Above, from l to r: **Faye Collins** presented with Lifetime Membership; **Bonny Langille** and **Mary Thompson** presented with pins recognizing their roles on the board as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively; **Judi Denny** accepting for the Show Committee, the 2023 President's Award. **CONGRATULATIONS to all!** (photos by Lisa Ruck)

Meet New Board Director



Emmie on left with Eileen Humphries clerking at the show.

Photo by Sherry Howard

Hi, my name is **Emmie (Em) Beer**. I moved to Whitby, Ontario with my husband in 1994. In 2004, my husband and I moved to the West Lynde area of Whitby and my gardening plans really took off. I have always loved gardens and gardening. My grandmother in Florida had beautiful gardens and started two garden clubs. My mother was also a big gardener. So, I come by the love of gardening honestly.

My gardens tend to be full of texture and a million different greens with a scattering of colour. I am currently trying to incorporate more natives, being more pollinator

friendly and growing more of the food we eat in raised beds.

Since retiring in 2020 I love volunteering and enjoy working on the Park of Reflection and Station Gallery garden teams!

Upcoming Speakers

March 27 - We are thrilled to welcome **Paul Zammit** as our first Whitby in Bloom co-sponsored speaker who will be presenting "**Rethinking Beauty: Inspiring Gardeners in a Changing World**". Paul was previously Director of Horticulture at the Toronto Botanical Garden and is currently a Niagara College professor in the School of Environment and Horticulture.

April 24 - Our second Whitby in Bloom co-sponsored speaker, **Evelyn Wolf**, is a garden consultant who owns 'Garden Possibilities Services', a 30 plus year consulting company in York Region. Evelyn will be presenting "**The Language of Gardening**", with a focus on perennial gardening

May 22 - We will be welcoming our very own **Ingrid Jansen**, Master Gardener, who will be presenting "**Little Forests - Big Results**". We look forward to learning about how even small forests can have a big impact on local ecology and tips on how to plant your own tiny forest.

Refreshments, Rallies And Rain-The Makings Of A Satisfying 2024 Gardening Season

Green Crumbs

Gardeners have healthy appetites and gather at the **Hospitality** table to swap gardening tips, complain about bad knees and indulge in guilty pleasures. Why not sign up to bring a plate to test their resolve? Cheese and crackers, chips and dip, a bag of Doritos, all will be gratefully devoured. No guilt. It's not like we meet every week. Find the volunteer sheet next to the tip jar donation box that keeps us in cream and sugar.

Road Trips

As you sip your tea and chat at Hospitality, make plans to hit the road this summer. The **BWGC Garden Visits** circuit is a not-to-be missed series that provides exclusive entry into the private spaces where members dig, prune, pluck and dream. Want to host fellow members in your own garden? Look for Garden Visits contact info in the year book. The tours will run once a month during June, July, August and September.

A Steady Drip

The **rain barrel fundraiser program** delivers quality products to your door at fabulous prices and it sells out fast. Watch this space in March or April for the program launch date and in the meantime, scan rainbarrel.ca to discover the water saving items that will support your water wise gardening goals and benefit the club.

Val Skinner



Garden Ontario
KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL

Oshawa Garden Club invites you to the
District 17 Annual General Meeting

THE TIME TO
GARDEN IS
NOW

CLIMATE CHANGE,
BIODIVERSITY AND FOOD
SECURITY



Sat, April 27, 2024

8.30am - 4.30pm

at LVIV Hall, 38 Lviv Blvd, Oshawa

Tickets: \$35 - Advanced Registration only



- Doors open & hospitality at 8 am for placement of exhibits
- Meeting starts at 9 am
- (includes morning hospitality, coffee break and lunch)
- Speakers: Paul Zammit and Cathy Kavassalis

For enquiries contact: Jill Snape - 905 837 5151 jillsnape55@gmail.com

Brooklin Horticultural Society (BHS) Park Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection Whitby Station Gallery

The BWGC members proudly tend the gardens at three locations in Brooklin and Whitby:

- * Brooklin Horticultural Society (BHS) Park in Brooklin (Carnwith Dr W and Montgomery Ave)
- * Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection at Cullen Park in Whitby (Taunton and Cochrane St)
- * Station Gallery at 1450 Henry St. Whitby

The garden season will be just around the corner and volunteers will be needed to help with the maintenance and planting of the gardens. Garden coordinators **Brian Gower (BHS Park)**, **Rahe Richards (Park of Reflection)** and **Mary Thompson (Station Gallery)** will be looking for your enthusiastic help whether you have experience or not. Information regarding garden meeting times will be available mid-April - check the BWGC website for meeting schedules. If you would like to contact the coordinators directly you may find their information in the current 2024 Yearbook which will be available starting Feb 28 at the first BWGC meeting. We look forward to meeting you in the gardens.

Photos by Sherry Howard



CALCIUM FOR TOMATOES

As gardeners prepare their garden beds for the winter, many are also planning ahead to the next growing season. Some people who enjoy growing tomatoes have noticed that their fruit develops black rotting bottoms. This is called 'Blossom End Rot' and it indicates that the tomato plant is lacking calcium. To avoid this, I supplement the soil naturally as follows:

- ◇ Collect, wash and store egg shells during the winter months.
- ◇ In spring, crush a handful of egg shells into the planting hole and add some slow release fertilizer. Use this for tomatoes, peppers and eggplant (all are part of the nightshade family).
- ◇ Plant all of these plants 'deep' in the hole, up to the first set of leaves.
- ◇ Sprinkle with more crushed egg shells and water thoroughly.

I haven't had 'Blossom End Rot' since I started doing this.

Rahe Richards



Left: Lisa Ruck, on left, winner of 2023 Best In Show Photo with Pat Evans enjoying 2023 AGM.

Photos by Lisa Ruck



Right: from left to right, Jane Austin, Carla Keel, Colleen Ouimet at the 2023 AGM. Jane and Colleen welcome Carla to the membership team.

2023 BWGC Photo Winners

Congratulations to all the photographers who participated in the 2023 October Pumpkins, Pies and Pictures Show. **Lisa Ruck**, you did it again winning **Best In Show for your photo of the purple dahlia against the hosta leaf**. Thank you to Lisa Ruck, Jone Webster, Teresa Jewitt and Marlene Newans for sharing your photos here.



The Good, the Bad, and the Just Plain Pesky by Mary Kadey

Many gardeners, both new and seasoned, are alarmed by the arrival of bugs in their gardens. Many of us are not sure which are the beneficial bugs as opposed to those which will inevitably wreak havoc in your veggie patch or rose gardens. When in doubt the offensive tactic is often to use a spray or chemical solution that sadly rids your space of both the beneficial and bad bugs, causing a bigger headache in the long run. Understanding the harmony that nature strives to achieve and working with, rather than against, nature can actually make your garden a more eco-friendly and inviting habitat for plants and good bugs. Understanding the work these good bugs do in the garden can end up saving you time, money and effort.

Essentially the good bugs can be divided into three categories: Pollinators, Predators and Parasitizers. The first group are familiar to anyone that has grown a pollinator garden. Bees, butterflies and moths work to pollinate the flowers in our gardens. The predators are insects that eat the bad bugs. An example would be ladybugs that can consume up to 40 aphids an hour. Don't get rid of those ladybugs! The parasitizers (also called parasitoids) also take care of the bad bugs but do so by laying eggs on them. After the eggs hatch the larvae eat the host insect. One example is the parasitic wasp.

Listed below are some of the beneficial bugs that you want to encourage to take up residence in your gardens:

Ladybugs
Green lacewing
Praying mantis
Spiders (technically arachnids)
Ground beetle
Hoverflies
Parasitic wasps
Bumblebee
Soldier beetle
Nematode
Earthworms
Dragonflies
Damselflies
Aphid Midge
Earthworms (but not jumping worms)



L to r: Hoverfly - Photo credit: Pexels.com: Sinan; Parasitic wasp larvae on a hornworm - Photo credit: Pexels.com: iStock.sbonk

In your battle against the bad bugs you are probably familiar with Aphids, Popillia Japonica, Tobacco/Tomato Hornwoms, and Stinkbugs. However you may not be familiar with a recent issue threatening our oak trees in Ontario. In June 2023, Oak Wilt, caused by a fungus transmitted by bark beetles, was first identified in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Red Oak trees are particularly susceptible to this disease. Oak Wilt can cause leaves to suddenly dry and drop, and the bark can be seen to bulge and crack. This can result in tree death within a single season. The good news is that the bark beetles and the fungus they transmit do not travel quickly so once the problem has been identified steps can be taken to stem the damage. One tip to remember is never to move wood from one region to another as you could be harboring many bad pests in the wood and spreading diseases such as Oak Wilt.

Gardeners and outdoor enthusiast alike know that the more temperate weather brings with it other bugs like mosquitoes and ticks that we all endure with the warmer seasons. The "just plain pesky bugs" belong to an annoying, yet small, number of insects that "bug" us and can actually spread disease to humans. According to Jessica Walliser, author of *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden*, only one percent of the insects we encounter are harmful to people, plants and pets. Considering the annoyance we encounter in our summer months, especially in our northern cottage gardens, this is a surprising fact. What strategies do you use to eliminate these pesky insects? If you have any tried-and-true methods, especially eco-friendly ones, let us know and we will report back in our summer issue.

If you are interested in learning more about the beneficial insects take a look at these resources:

1. <https://thehappygardeninglife.com/blogs/organic-gardening/10-good-bugs-to-have-in-your-garden>
2. <https://www.ecowatch.com/gardening-beneficial-bugs.html>
3. <https://www.gardentech.com/blog/pest-id-and-prevention/identifying-good-and-bad-bugs-in-your-garden-infographic#:~:text=Take%20a%20close%20look%20at,than%20one%20insect%20is%20present.>
4. *Good Garden Bugs: Everything You Need to Know about Beneficial Predatory Insects*, Mary Gardiner (Available from Amazon.ca)
5. *Attracting Beneficial Bugs to Your Garden: A Natural Approach to Pest Control*, Jessica Walliser (Available as an e-book through Toronto Public Library)
6. *Good Bugs for Your Garden*, Written and illustrated by Allison Mia Starcher (Available as an e-book through Toronto Public Library) This is a short and beautifully illustrated book.

2024 Garden Trends

I'm sure you were all very excited to hear that we might have an early spring! Even though groundhog predictions may not be 100% accurate, we can all agree that spring cannot come soon enough!

Each new year brings fresh garden inspirations and a quick 'Google' search can quickly lead you to what is 'trendy' for the 2024 gardening season. Several popular horticulture websites shared similar trends, all very interesting but these three sounded particularly interesting:

1. "Edimentals"

This trend is intended to be a blend of edibles and ornamentals to add both beauty and functionality to your garden. The term was coined by writer Stephen Barstow of Norway who promotes plants that are both aesthetically appealing and can be consumed in culinary creations. These plants have additional benefits of being lower maintenance and kid friendly. Some examples to consider growing this year are rosemary, basil, thyme and nasturtiums. Typically, edimentals are hardier plants, shrubs or trees that "please the eye and nourish the body". Try adding a few to your garden this year.

2. "Hortifuturism"

The goals of this modern gardening trend are to create beautiful gardens that are high-tech, eco-friendly and environmentally conscious. Millennials and GenZs who love science fiction are incorporating this futuristic energy into their yards, gardens and balconies. Using automated irrigation systems, intelligent sensors and sustainable materials, these gardens are designed to maximize space and efficiency. Vertical gardens, hydroponics and aeroponics are elements used to create these futuristic gardens. Consider these plant elements that might add that futuristic vibe into your garden: neon and specifically, lime coloured blooms ('Queeny Lime' zinnia) or foliage ('Wasabi' coleus); bright variegation or spotted blooms ('Starry Night' petunias) and foliage; silver hued foliage (Lunar Lights begonias).

3. "Gothic Gardening"

Deep colour tones, interesting textures and a touch of medieval charm are the hallmarks of Gothic Gardening. A sense of mystery in a shady nook of your garden can be designed to create a dramatic display of plants and garden ornaments. You might see black tulips and dark purple irises in the spring followed by deep burgundy roses and interesting Rex begonias in the summer. The garden space might contain interesting stone sculptures, gothic arches, wrought-iron fixtures, well-aged urns and moss-covered stones. Leaving this garden space a bit 'untidy' is on trend.

Whether you want to create some trendy new spaces in your garden or stick with your tried and true style, it's always fun to get into the garden and start growing again....happy gardening!

Barb Panowyk



Perhaps these might put you with the trendsetters. From left to right: an 'alien looking' variegated rhizomatous begonia; rex begonias with silvery colouring; edimentals nasturtium and lavender grown together. Photos by Sherry Howard

South Africa's Fynbos by Sherry Howard

While travelling in South Africa (SA) last October I was introduced to the beauty of the fynbos (Dutch for fine bush), and rewarded with the spring blooms of this diverse group of plants including the beautiful and regal proteas. SA's national flower is the King Protea.



Cape Floral Kingdom, highlighted in green.

Something I did not know before this trip was that the world is divided into six floral kingdoms or floristic regions. We in North America along with Eurasia belong to the Boreal or Holarctic Kingdom while SA alone has its own floral kingdom, the Cape Floral Kingdom or Cape Floristic Region. This area is approximately 90,000 sq. km, almost the size of Portugal, and yet it's home to almost 20% of Africa's vegetation. The diversity and abundance of plants amounts to more than 9000 species including ferns, trees, flowers, mosses and the majority comprising fynbos varieties. In fact fynbos make up about 80% of the plants and 2/3 of these fynbos plants are endemic to the area making them a high risk for extinction from spreading agriculture, housing and alien plants. As a result, the Cape Floristic Region is protected as a UNESCO World

Heritage site which includes Table Mountain National Park, and 7 other nature and wilderness reserves. Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens set against the eastern slopes of Cape Town's Table Mountain also has the distinction of such protection.

Fynbos are made up of mainly four plant families: Protea, Erica (heathers), Restio (Cape reeds) and Geophyte (bulbous plants). There are also many plants from the aster, legume and vygies or fig-marigold (commonly ice plants or carpet weeds) families. They are typically low growing scrubby plants and bushes which flourish in nutrient poor soils in diverse terrains ranging from mountains, to rolling hills, to sprawling plains and even to rocky beaches. They thrive under hot dry summers and wet winters. As a result they are prone to fire but fire is also essential to their survival for seed germination and in some cases sprouting and flowering.

Although fynbos like the rooibos (*Aspalathus linearis*) bush have been used by the indigenous peoples for hundreds of years as part of their traditional medicine, fynbos is now making its way into teas, honeys, cosmetics and gins. Researchers are now finding fynbos have compounds that are high in vitamins, minerals, and offer antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

The topic of fynbos is so vast that I cannot even begin to do it justice. However, I hope I've piqued your interest in this amazing and beautiful array of unique plant life that is found nowhere else in the world and that you might choose South Africa for your next travels. If you have an opportunity to spend a few days in Cape Town, I highly recommend a trip up to Table Mountain, a drive along the incredible Cape peninsula and of course a visit to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.



A sampling of South Africa's fynbos. The photos were all taken at Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden with the exception of the bottom left picture which was taken on top of Table Mountain.

Photos by Sherry Howard

I Want to Enter the Flower Shows by Sherry Howard

Have you been admiring the show exhibits and thinking: "I've got that in my garden, I should have entered it in the show". Maybe you've been wanting all along to exhibit your blooms or a floral design but not sure where to begin. The BWGC show committee wants you to join in and have fun with it. It will be a learning process but that's how it all starts. Here are the basics you need to get you exhibiting at the shows and perhaps even winning a Best In Show ribbon.

1. The Show Committee created a '**Flower Show Questions and Answers**' pamphlet which gives you a great overview of how to enter a flower show, including information about the prizes awarded at the shows. This is available on the Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club website under the Show tab and it can be downloaded to your computer to be printed.
2. The **2024 BWGC Yearbook and Show Schedule** is a booklet available electronically or as a paper copy for all members. BWGC has 8 shows each year and the show schedule lists the horticultural specimens (flowers, vegetables, house plants, branches, special exhibits, designs) to be exhibited in each show along with information regarding how many to exhibit and any size restrictions. The yearbook also provides show exhibiting rules, definitions, and how to condition flowers and branches. The monthly show schedules can also be found on the BWGC website under the Show tab.
3. The **Show Committee** members are listed, along with their contact information, in the yearbook and at the shows they can be identified by the aprons they are wearing. Each member is happy to answer your questions about exhibiting so don't be afraid to approach them or give them a call. All have show experience and many with show judging credentials too.
4. If you're ready to get the judges perspective in judging a show, the **Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (OJES)** which provides guidelines on what judges look for in judging horticultural exhibits and floral designs, is a must have and it can be purchased from the BWGC. Simply ask a member of the committee.
5. If you're wondering how to **find vases/containers** for exhibiting blooms or branches: go to thrift stores, garage sales; use sauce bottles and other suitable food jars; ask your friends and relatives. Remember that your specimen should show well in its container, eg., bloom is not falling over or overwhelmed by a large container.
6. If the specimen has a **size restriction**, be sure to trim to below the max size measuring from the bottom of your container.
7. Finally **groom** the specimen, look for insects, browned petals, leaves, and other damage. Remove and/or trim as required.
8. Make sure **entry tags are filled out ahead of time** with your name, class no and name of specimen. Having the name of variety of specimen can be the edge to winning that Best In Show if all the other entries are equal in every respect. Having the tags prepared ahead of time allows the entries to be quickly and easily placed on the show tables.
9. Now I'm ready to **get my entries to the show** or am I? There's too many to carry by hand and they may spill in the car on the way. Some handy containers to get: LCBO boxes cut down to height so you can easily place and remove your vases/containers, handled cardboard caddies used to hold your beer or other canned refreshments, a plastic grocery bin or pail, the wooden clementine boxes.
10. Once you arrive at the show, **place your exhibits on the table**. If you're unsure of where your specimen belongs speak to the members of the show committee and their volunteers – remember, they're wearing aprons.

ABOVE ALL, HAVE FUN!

It's ShowTime

Our show season begins and our first show will be the **Narcissus Show on Apr 24**. Here are some tips to prepare you:

- 1) **Do not** show foliage with narcissus.
- 2) Determine type of narcissus (see pictures 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.** – Named 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) Check for number of blooms/stems and size restrictions.
- 6) Groom, Groom, Groom!



Photo by Sherry Howard

About the BWGC Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly - February, May, August and October. **All photos courtesy of BWGC members.** You are invited to submit articles, questions and comments about the newsletter to the **Editors: Sherry Howard at sshgardener59@gmail.com, Mary Kadey at memkadey@gmail.com, Barb Panowyk at bpanowyk62@gmail.com.**