



Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club Newsletter

Volume 24 Issue 1 Feb/Mar/Apr 2022

Inside this issue:

Birds in the Winter Garden	1
Year of the Garden 2022	1
President's Message	2
President's Awards	3
Upcoming Speakers	3
Growing From Seed	4
Members Grow Red	5
Reblooming Amaryllis Bulbs	6
Great Soil 101	7
Jumping Worms	8
It's Show Time	9

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

Visit us on the web at:
www.brooklinwhitbygardenclub.ca
 Follow us on facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/bhs1921/>



Keeping Ontario Beautiful

Birds In The Winter Garden Wed Feb 23, 2022 7:30pm

Join us on Zoom for our first presentation of the year. **Mark Peck** an ornithologist with the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) will be sharing his expertise for a bird friendly winter garden. Manager of the Schad Gallery of Biodiversity at the ROM, he is also the program director for the Toronto Ornithological Club as well as the ROM liaison for the Ontario Bird Records Committee. Naturally, Mark's passion for birds includes photographing birds in their natural environments.

All BWGC members will be sent a Zoom link prior to the presentation. The link will be available starting at 7:00pm, so grab a coffee/tea or a glass of wine and join in for a social with our gardening friends.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! 2022 is "The Year of the Garden"!!

Fellow Gardeners, 2022 is going to be an awesome year! The Canadian Garden Council has declared it "The Year of the Garden". The Year of the Garden 2022 is inviting everyone across Canada to commemorate our garden heritage, celebrate today's vibrant garden culture and create legacies for a sustainable future! The Canadian Garden Council and the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association believe that gardening will be a very important factor in the post-COVID recovery of our nation. It will publicly launch on the first day of Spring, March 20, 2022 and it will run until the 'frost moon' at the end of autumn.

You will likely notice lots of signage about "The Year of the Garden" when you go to your favourite garden centres in the spring and you might also notice more **red** plants being promoted! **Red** is the chosen colour for the Year of the Garden and we are all supposed to pitch in and show our national pride by filling our personal gardens and public gardens with bright **red** flowers! In this newsletter some of our BWGC members have shared some of their favourite **red** flowers to inspire you... we hope you will consider adding some beautiful **red** flowers to your gardens this year! You can be a part of the legacy of the Year of the Garden 2022, an inclusive national celebration of what we are and where we are going...a nation of gardeners!



Tree peony 'Taiyo', a pop of red in Barb's spring garden

If you are looking for more information about this celebration go to: www.yearofthegarden.ca. You can sign up for their newsletter so you won't miss any of the news and views of "The Year of the Garden 2022"!

Barb Panowyk

President's Message



As we return to normal this year, Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club expects to resume its annual series of activities, enjoying the benefits of the garden.

Of highest priority, though, is the resumption of our membership drives and member enrollment. We have a new Membership Coordinator, Jan Herington, to manage our campaign this year. Jan will look after the essential program details for each member, ensuring accurate contact information, membership cards for use at our many supporting Corporate Sponsors, and compiling volunteer offers to allow us to conduct our many programs successfully. Please take a moment to visit the BWGC website, fill out the membership application form, and update your volunteer preferences. My thanks to Eric Tuinman for his contributions to the membership program over the past years, and his support getting Jan established with her new responsibility.

I mention Jan Herington and am pleased to announce that she has agreed to join the BWGC Board of Directors this year. Her professional background makes her a natural for her new role as Membership Coordinator, and her love of gardening brought her to join our Club. Please take a moment to stop by and say hello to her at the next in-person meeting, but let's start by renewing for 2022!

We have a full line-up of speakers and interesting topics for you this year. Also, we're keeping up our Social Media sites, so make use of them for our schedule, membership application, Show Competition details, and photographs of our activities. Whitby in Bloom continues to be our partner for our Spring Speaker Series. A plant sale is once again scheduled for May, as well as a rain barrel sale. BWGC will participate with the Town of Whitby in the festivals offered in Brooklin and Whitby. Once again we will support the Brooklin Spring Fair, and we look forward to showing off the Brooklin Horticultural Society Garden Park to all.

The yearbook is ready for publication, but this year we will rely on our electronic (email) version for widespread membership distribution. For those of you who still cherish a hard copy to keep close by, limited printed copies will be available upon request!

With any organization, its success lies within its membership. There are so many great things we can do, support, initiate and enjoy, but it starts with two small contributions: membership, and time. The first is relatively simple, and reasonably inexpensive. The second is much more enjoyable. As I've said many times, a small donation of your time multiplied by the size of our membership, allows us to accomplish many things easily. Take a moment this late winter and consider what time or effort you have to offer to the Club. You'll be rewarded in more ways than you could imagine!

Hans Paats

Brooklin Horticultural Society Park And Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection

The BWGC members proudly tend the gardens at the Brooklin Horticultural Society (BHS) Park in Brooklin (Carnwith Dr W and Montgomery Ave) and the Wounded Warriors Park of Reflection at Cullen Park (Taunton and Cochrane St) in 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)** and **Rahe Richards (Park of Reflection)** 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. We look forward to meeting you in the gardens.



Far right, BHS Park with stone commemorating the garden clubs 100 years; right, Rahe (on left in picture) with her group of volunteers in the Park of Reflection.



2021 President's Awards



The President's Awards were announced at the Nov 2021 Annual General Meeting. **Paul Cloutier** (left) was awarded for his work on several projects that marked and celebrated our 100th Anniversary year. **Eric Tuinman** (below) was the 2nd recipient of the award for his work in the membership duties of the

club for the past several years and for setting up and administrating the Zoom hosting role of our general meetings. Thank you Paul and Eric for your valued contributions to the Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club. Congratulations, you are well deserving of the award!!



2022 BWGC Speakers

We are hoping to enjoy the following speakers in person but after two years of Covid restrictions, we know that we can also enjoy these presentations via Zoom. Either way, the BWGC has a great line-up of guest speakers!

February 23 - Mark Peck, the Manager of the Schad Gallery of Biodiversity and head ornithologist at the ROM, will deliver his talk on "Birds in the Winter Garden".

March 23 - Molly Shannon, co-proprietor of Canadian Succulents, will present "Succulents" where we will learn all about easy-to-care-for cacti and succulents and how to use these in arrangements and centrepieces.

April 27 - Lorraine Johnson, will be presenting "Mix and Match: beautiful combinations of native plants and shrubs to attract birds, bees and butterflies to your garden." Lorraine is a native plant expert and author who intends to inspire us to enhance our gardens while improving their ecological benefits.



In Memoriam

George Clark Cowan, passed away on Tuesday December 28, 2021 at the age of 87. George joined the Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club in 2001 and was an active participant in the flower shows where he proudly displayed his love of gardening.

Our deepest condolences to George's family.

2022 BWGC Board of Directors

The 2022 BWGC Board of Directors are:

Hans Paats, President; Rahe Richards, 1st Vice President; Paul Cloutier, 2nd Vice President; Mary Thompson, Secretary; Bonny Langille, Treasurer; Jane Austen, Margaret McGibney, Jan Herington.

Meet New Board Director **Jan Herington**

"The best thing about gardening to me is getting dirty. I love digging, moving things around in the garden, and crossing my fingers that they will live! As I had been working in Toronto for over 10 years, my gardening need was to keep it very low maintenance. I planted shrubs and hostas which worked well for that time period. Now, truthfully, it's looking a bit boring. Along with my goals to meet everyone, this gardening neophyte is willing and eager to learn from you all. Gardening design is of interest to me as well as the timing of various blooms. I look forward to this gardening season and can't wait to get started!"

Jan

Whitby Doors Open

In 2021, the 100th year of the Brooklin-Whitby Garden Club (BWGC), we participated in the Doors Open Whitby program. This digital program is part of the Doors Open Ontario program which explores the history of the participating communities.

A video was created to celebrate the BWGC's contribution to beautifying Brooklin and Whitby's outdoor spaces. On behalf of the BWGC members, Hans Paats, our club president proudly describes our history, our objectives and he invites everyone to join in on our continuing efforts to educate our community and beautify our green spaces.

Here is a link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCEffWqgv-I>

You may also find the video via the Town Of Whitby website by searching for Doors Open Whitby.



Tips For Starting Plants from Seeds

Starting plants from seeds can bring a lot of joy and satisfaction. Below are tips on ensuring success in this rewarding endeavor. More information can be found on the Durham Master Gardeners website:

<https://www.durhammastergardeners.ca/resources/Tip-Sheet-for-Starting-Your-Plants-from-Seeds-April-2018.pdf>

1. **Read seed packet** - start date, sowing depth, optimal germination temperature and light requirements are provided.
2. **Reuse and Recycle Containers** – depending on the type of seeds, you may choose a large container (try clear plastic vegetable and fruit ‘clamshell’ containers) or a tray with small cells that hold one seed. Ensure containers have drainage holes. Most importantly, sterilize containers by washing with a mild soap then dipping in a 10% bleach solution to ward off fungal diseases.
3. **Soil** - fill containers with a sterile soil mix, then put seeds on top. Evenly sprinkle more soil on top of seeds – up to a depth of 4 times their diameter - then lightly tamp the soil so that the seeds make contact with the moist soil.
4. **LABEL your containers** – popsicle sticks and old venetian blind slats make good markers.
5. **Moisture and heat** – warmth and moisture encourage germination. Cover containers with clear plastic to help retain moisture. Heat mats or the top of the fridge can provide the needed warmth but containers may dry out quickly so check moisture often. Some seeds are easily germinated between moist paper towels in a plastic bag before potting up.
6. **Light** – check whether your seeds require darkness to germinate. Plant grow lights or inexpensive fluorescent bulbs placed 1-2in/2.5-5cm from leaves will help minimize production of ‘leggy’ plants. Use an automatic timer to program 16 hr of light a day.
7. **Prevent fungal infection or ‘Damping-Off’** – this killer of seedlings can be prevented if containers and tools used have been sterilized. Once the seedlings are above the soil remove the plastic coverings to minimize excessive moisture and to promote air circulation. Try natural fungicides such as sprinkling soil surface with cinnamon or watering seedlings with weak chamomile tea.
8. **Thin and Transplant** – snip off unwanted plants at soil surface to avoid disturbing root systems. Transplant seedlings after first set of true leaves have appeared and into progressively larger containers as plants grow.
9. **Fertilize and Water** – when seedlings have two sets of true leaves begin fertilizing weekly with a balanced water soluble fertilizer like 10-10-10 or 20-20-20. Start with a weak solution using ¼ tsp in 4 litres of water and increase solution to ½ the strength recommended on the packaging as seedlings mature.
10. **Harden Off** - Once danger of frost has passed and 1-2 weeks before planting outdoors, begin acclimatizing the plants to the sun, wind and changing temperatures. Daily increase exposure of the seedlings. Bring plants in at night or if temperatures are not consistently above 10 deg C.

Sherry Howard

BWGC Member Seed Tips

Sofie Bigham and Julia Noakes - both like starting seeds using the baggy method. Julia describes: “... wet a paper towel, place half the seeds on half of the wet paper towel, fold a paper towel over the seeds, place in a ziplock baggie, and place on a low heat source such as the top of your refrigerator or heat mat. You will still have seeds if something goes wrong.” Julia gets seeds from seed exchanges and also buys from Canadian sources like **William Dam Seeds**, **Stokes**, and **The Cottage Gardener**.

Debi Foster - “My favourite seed company is **Ontario Seed Company** also known as OSC. The reason? My grandmother and great aunt lived in Waterloo and were my first gardening influencers. The seeds they bought were from OSC, a Waterloo based company. I still remember going to the hardware store to help pick out seeds when I was only 4 or 5.”

Ken Brown - uses a variety of seed companies. **William Dam** has a great range of vegetables and flowers, with each package often offering quite modest amounts for reasonable prices. **Stokes** has a wider range of flowers, particularly of more difficult types such as some of the new Begonias. **Renees**, from California, specializes in home gardeners and often puts more than one variety in a packet so that you can get a wider range of vegetables while purchasing a minimum of packets. **Most important tip:** read the catalogues and seed packets as they contain a wealth of information on germination and growing. Most seeds like to be quite warm to germinate, about 75F/ 24C and that usually means supplying some supplemental heat under the seedling trays. Most seed companies will sell a mat for that purpose in the \$35-\$40 range. Check the seed packets to see if their contents need light to germinate. Most are happy lightly covered but a few do need light which can be supplied easily and inexpensively with cool white or daylight fluorescent tubes. The trick is to get those tubes as close as possible to the tops of the plants, 1-2in / 2.5-5cm, as the intensity of light diminishes quickly over distance travelled. Keep the soil moist until the seeds germinate by keeping them under a clear plastic dome (old food containers etc. work well) to keep humidity high so that the soil doesn’t dry out. Check them regularly as an almost germinated seed that dries out becomes a dead seed quite quickly. Once germinated and transplanted, again check the packet or catalogue for watering frequency and preferred temperature for growing on. We often have little choice about temperature but we should at least try to accommodate their preferences. Some seedlings like to be quite moist while others prefer to be a bit drier. None of them like to wilt so checking on them regularly is important.

A Seedy Sickness

Do I order seeds!? My husband has threatened intervention!!

And who doesn't look forward to receiving parcels, especially parcels full of optimism and the promise of spring? During the first year of lockdown when seeds were in short supply, it was heartening to deliver excess seeds to neighbours and even mail them to friends further afield, many attempting seed starting for the first time.

In addition to the vegetable seeds I've habitually ordered, when lockdown was imposed, I began to hunt for native plants suitable for my hot, dry landscape and found it enjoyable to scour the country for seeds. I've had fun learning about starting perennials and biennials. Note to self: generally speaking, perennials are more difficult than annuals. They may remain small during the first season and thereby require a nursery bed to ensure they can be located in the spring.

Overall, I've experienced great results. Heat mats and grow lights, combined with outdoor, winter sowing, produce many new varieties at a fraction of nursery prices. Finding gardeners willing to take extra tomato plants is usually the biggest problem. Last season, I tried growing peanuts for the first time and was thrilled to see robust seedlings grow so rapidly indoors. However, under the rabbit protection I erected outside, they floundered. We did harvest enough to taste and save for future forays. It was a worthwhile experiment.

Seed catalogues, both in print and online, make for dangerous reading - everything looks and seems irresistible. Hard goods that appear in the last few pages - indoor seed starting aids, outdoor watering systems and even greenhouses - are so tempting. I've had extra fun with the live plant materials I've ordered. For example, I'll be anxious to see how new haskaps (honey berries) and beaked hazelnuts, planted as short whips in 2021, progress this summer.

Here are the companies I can recommend:

Brother Nature Seeds, brothernature.ca (Victoria, British Columbia). Open-pollinated annual, perennial, herb, vegetable seeds.

Corn Hill Nursery, cornhillnursery.com (Kings County, New Brunswick). Hardy fruits, shrubs, vines, perennials.

Nutcracker Nursery, nutcrackernursery.com (Maskinonge, Quebec). Nut, rare, fruit, indigenous and ornamental trees and shrubs.

Ontario Seed Company Ltd., oscseeds.com (Kitchener). Seeds, turf seeds, restorative and native seeds, green/cover crop seeds.

Stokes Seeds, stokeseeds.com (Thorold, Ontario). Seeds, tools, accessories, fertilizers.

Terre Promise, terrepromise.ca (Bizard Island, Quebec). Rare seeds, roots and tubers; specializing in permaculture.

Tree Time, treetime.ca (Edmonton, Alberta). Prairie tree and shrub seedlings - 1 to 4 year old, bare-root seedlings.

Urban Harvest, uharvest.ca (Toronto). Certified organic flower, herb and vegetable seeds; soil amendments.

Vesey's Seeds, veseys.com (York, Prince Edward Island). Bulbs, seeds, live fruits, berries; tools, accessories, fertilizers.

Wildflower Farm, wildflowerfarm.com (Coldwater, Ontario). Seeds, eco-lawn, moss.

William Dam Seeds, damseeds.com (Dundas, Ontario). Seeds, green/cover crop seeds; tools, accessories.

Valerie Skinner

BWGC Members Grow Red

As all Canadians are being encouraged to 'grow red' as part of The Year of the Garden 2022, we've asked some of our BWGC members for their suggestions of plants to include in their planters and gardens. Look for their suggestions throughout the newsletter.

Debi Foster - I have a red 1812 rose which I bought from the OHA as one of their fundraisers. It grows 4' x 5' (even with significant pruning) and blooms profusely well into the late fall. Other red things I will be planting: Ruby red lettuce, Rhubarb Swiss chard, tomatoes, Amaranthus (Love Lies Bleeding), Oriental Scarlet poppies, "Flanders Field" Corn Poppy, Scarlet Runner beans and Tithonia "Torch".

Istvan Juhasz - my favourite red flowers include crocosmia and hardy hibiscus. Crocosmia blooms in July and Aug. It grows 3-4 ft tall with gladiolus-like leaves. As an added bonus, they attract hummingbirds. Hardy hibiscus bloom in Aug and Sept, growing 3 - 4 ft tall. Their blooming season is shortened unless regularly watered.

Julia Noakes - red tulips, poppies, bee balm, *Lychnis chalcedonica* (Maltese Cross), geraniums



Left to right: Debi's 1812 Rose,
Istvan's crocosmia

Care of Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) Bulbs



Mary Kadey's gorgeous rebloomers.

One of my favourite Christmas memories growing up was the amaryllis grow kit that my Mom would receive and grow in the first few weeks of the new year. We marvelled at the majestic blooms on the tall stems that seemed to grow almost a foot overnight. Since my Mom passed in 2018 I have continued the tradition of starting one or more amaryllis bulbs soon after the Christmas tree comes down and the house needs another splash of colour. Many people who plant their amaryllis bulbs throw

them on the compost after the blooms fade, but did you know that with just a little effort you can enjoy these blooms year after year? Here's what to do.

After the blooms have faded cut the stem with a sharp knife an inch or two above the bulb. Be very careful not to cut or damage the leaves. Your plant needs these to continue to take in nutrients. Keep your plant in a sunny spot through the rest of the winter months and water when the soil is nearly dry (but don't overwater as the roots may rot). In May after the risk of frost has passed you can begin to bring the plant outdoors. Harden it off for a week to ten days by initially putting it in shade and increasing the amount of sun gradually. Amaryllis plants love the sun, so I pop mine right into the garden for the summer months. You can also dig the pot into your garden bed. Before the first frost (late September or early October) dig up the plant. Bring the plant inside but stop watering. When the leaves turn yellow you can cut them off. I like to remove the bulb from the soil and place in a paper bag to store during the dormancy period. In order to re-bloom the bulb must be stored in a cool, dark location for 8-10 weeks. I have found my basement has worked well with my bulbs in the storage area where they won't be exposed to light.

I start to repot my bulbs after Christmas so I have that great burst of colour when the winter is cold and the days short. When you repot with fresh soil be sure not to cover the whole bulb; approximately one third of the bulb should remain exposed above the soil line. If you follow these easy instructions you can enjoy your amaryllis bulbs year after year. Why not give it a try?

Mary Kadey



Other forms of amaryllis blooms as shown from Sherry Howard's double blooming and trumpet shaped rebloomers

BWGC Members Grow Red - continued

Lynda Chapman - (left to right) tuberous begonia, Tulipa orphanidea 'Lizzy', red daylily, begonia Boliviensis (tuberous)



It all Starts with your Soil – Tips for Great Gardening

Whether you are growing shrubs, trees, flowers, a lawn or fruit and vegetables, healthy soil is the foundation for a successful garden. But what exactly is 'healthy soil' and how do I get it? Let's start with a quick discussion on what soil is. Soil is a complex mixture of minerals, water, air and organic matter as well as millions of organisms that make their homes in the soil. Healthy soil has the balance of all of these components in the right proportion. It has great texture, retains moisture but is not water-logged and allows for the movement of air to support healthy plant growth. There are some simple tests you can do at home to get to know your soil better. Start with a squeeze test. Take a handful of moist, not wet, soil and squeeze it in your hand. If it holds together firmly, this indicates a higher proportion of clay, if it crumbles quickly it means a higher proportion of sand. Another test you can perform is the ribbon test where you roll a handful of moist soil into a cigar shape. Then squeeze the 'cigar' between your thumb and forefinger to form a ribbon. The longer and thinner the ribbon you can form, the higher the clay content of your soil. Soil with high silt content will flake off and sand won't form a ribbon at all, it will just crumble.

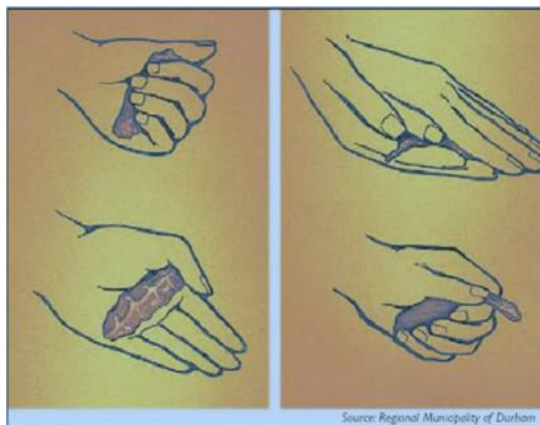
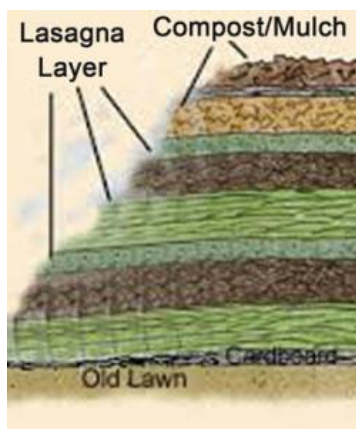


Figure 2 — Testing soil texture: the moist cast test (left) and the ribbon test (right)

Diagram above showing on left a squeeze test, and on right the ribbon test



Lasagna Gardening

Now that you have a better understanding of your soil, what can you do to make it healthier? The answer in most cases is to add organic matter. If you are fortunate to live in an area where the native soil has been left undisturbed, an annual addition of good compost and raking the leaves over the garden in fall is probably all you need to do. If you are building a new garden in a recently built subdivision you will have more work to do. Why? Most developers remove all of the top soil before beginning a building project, leaving behind compacted subsoil with a thin layer of the original top soil spread over it once the houses are

completed. This is then covered with turf. The compaction reduces the ability of air to flow through the soil and the removal of the top soil destroys most of the soil inhabiting organisms, as well as the organic matter that is important for healthy gardens. If this is your situation, creating a raised garden bed using the lasagna or sheet composting method is probably your best bet. You should be able to create great garden soil in a relatively short time. Choose the area for your new garden, define the edge with a sharp spade, then turn the sod over, laying it grass side down. Cover this with a few layers of newspaper or cardboard, then add a layer of small branches, twigs, grass clippings, garden clippings, leaves or straw and cover this with a layer of compost. Repeat with another layer of leaves, twigs, and grass clippings or straw and another layer of compost. Finally cover the whole bed with a layer of mulch. Water the bed thoroughly to help start the decomposition process. The best time to do this is late summer or fall and your new garden will be ready for planting in the spring. As the organic matter starts to decompose and break down, the soil level will naturally drop. You can build it up by top dressing with more compost in spring and by raking leaves over the bed in the fall. And remember, a great garden starts with good healthy soil.

Ingrid Janssen

BWGC Members Grow Red - continued



Helen Read - doesn't like red in her garden, but her husband Derick does so she'll add a small single blooming dahlia 'Happy'. She also suggests zinnias, snapdragons, red poppies.
Audrey Atkinson - dahlia 'Audrey Grace'
Mary Thompson - geraniums, nicotiana, gladiolas, dahlias, hollyhocks
Marion Thomas - impatiens, geraniums, roses, scarlet runner beans
Ken Brown - begonia Boliviensis
Judi Denny - peony 'Eliza Lundy'



Above: single bloomer dahlia 'Happy'; left: dahlia 'Audrey Grace'

Jumping Worm Worries

Have you heard about one of the latest invasive dangers to our gardens and forest ecosystems? Keep your eyes out this season to make sure your garden is not under the threat of jumping worms. You may be thinking, "But aren't worms good for the soil? They break down compost and add nutrients to the soil." However, jumping worms, that have been confirmed to have arrived in Ontario soils, can wreak havoc in your garden. They prefer to live in the top layers of the soil and voraciously eat all organic matter, which includes seeds, in addition to the top layer of fallen leaves in forests which house helpful insects. In forests this leaf cover usually decomposes over time, slowly releasing nutrients back into the forest floor. But jumping worms devour this base so quickly that the nutrients cannot be readily absorbed and the insects lose their habitat. After consuming all available organic matter, they leave behind a material that appears to be coffee grounds on the soil surface.



Above, jumping worm with milky white band or clitellum

Pheretimid jumping worms are named for the way they move, snapping their bodies in a violent manner rather than inching along like the wrigglers with which you may be familiar. The Pheretimid earthworms originated in East Central Asia and were probably transported to North America through plants being imported through horticultural trade. You can identify them in two ways: by the thrashing or jumping movements that are believed to be a defensive movement to deter predators, or by the visual cue which is a lighter coloured band near the worm's head. This is the clitellum. If you find a jumping worm in the soil of a plant you have purchased it is important that it be killed and disposed of. The most humane method is to use isopropyl alcohol which will quickly kill the worm. Another method is to isolate the jumping worm in a plastic bag and leave it in the sun. You should also dispose of surrounding garden soil, especially if you see those "coffee grounds", to make sure that eggs are not left behind to produce more worms.

The jumping worm may be introduced into your garden by buying plants that have the worms in the soil. They may move into northern forest when fishers purchase worms for fishing that contain both nightcrawlers and jumping worms. These worms could pose a real threat to our native plants and forests. So what can we do? If you purchase plants from a local plant sale or nursery make sure you examine the soil before planting instead of just plopping them into the garden. If you find a jumping worm, dispose of it properly and if you are on FaceBook report it to the Master Gardeners of Ontario Facebook page, where Master Gardener and group administrator, Cathy Kavassalis, is tracking this.

For more information on jumping worms and best practices for plant sales check out:

<https://www.durhammastergardeners.ca/resources/Plant-Sale-Best-Practices-Stop-the-Spread-of-Jumping-Worms.pdf>

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/invasive-jumping-worms-damage-soil-threaten-forests>

Mary Kadey

BWGC Members Grow Red - continued

Sofie Bigham - her favourite red flowers are the big, bold perennial hibiscus, which flower from early to mid August until early fall, with 'Midnight Marvel' last to bloom.



Left: Hibiscus 'Cranberry Crush', shorter, prolific bloomer, pure red 8-9 inch flowers.



Above: Hibiscus "Heartthrob", deep blackish red flowers, black buds. May not be as readily available as the other two.



Right: Hibiscus 'Midnight Marvel'. Dark, blackish leaves, pure red flowers. Extended bloom, does not mind moist conditions.

2021 Virtual Best In Show Awards



L to R: **Best In Show Design** - Barb Panowyk,
Best In Show Pick and Plunk - Debi Foster,
Best In Show Photography - Sherry Howard

It's Show Time

Our show season begins and we have created **two special design classes to celebrate!!** For the June Rose show, join a small group to create a Pot-Au-Fleur and in the Sept Autumn Show, show us your best decorated table place setting. Check out the new 2022 yearbook for more information on these classes as well as definitions (Definition of Terms section) of the designs.

Our first show will be the Narcissus Show on Apr 27. Here are some tips to prepare you:

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

BWGC Members Grow Red - continued

Mirka Lenarcik - *Aquilegia canadensis* (eastern red columbine, wild red columbine), shrub rose 'Top Gun', disease-resistant, growing up to 4'x4' with clusters of 3-5 semi-double red blooms.

Sherry Howard - *Papaver Orientale* (Oriental poppy), Monarda 'Jacob Cline' (bee balm), Japanese maples, weigela 'Red Prince' or 'Sonic Bloom Red', azaleas



L to R: shrub rose 'Top Gun', *Aquilegia Canadensis*, Oriental poppy, bee balm 'Jacob Cline', Japanese maple

About the BHS Newsletter

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