Presentation for September 25, 2013

Sofie’s Picks - A listing of plants presented at the Brooklin Horticultural Society meeting September 25, 2013, a combination of new and/or newer introductions and/or other interesting plants and tips. I live on a 10 acre property located in zone 5b in Whitby, Ontario, Canada and I love to garden.

**SOME GARDEN PLACES I SHOP AT IN THE DURHAM REGION:**

***Please support our local nurseries so we don’t end up shopping at box stores! See the note about Hotner Garden Centre listed at the end of this list of nurseries.***

Here is a list of places I frequent. If you know of anyone in this area that you would like to add, please let me know. For anyone reading this blog out of area, these are located in Ontario, Canada, zone 5, 5b or thereabouts, most of them in the Durham region where I live.

***Below are websites of garden centres that list all the plants they sell at their nursery or by mail order.* Most allow you to pick up your order if you do not want to pay for shipping. I refer to these websites to see if they carry the plants in my presentations and include them in my “Where to Buy” column. I prefer to shop locally in the Durham region. You may find the plants I feature at many other nurseries as well.**

[**www.gardenimport.com**](http://www.gardenimport.com) Mail Order Company, Thornhill, Ont. 1-800-339-8314 Pick-up allowed – Bayview Highway 7 area.

[**www.goldenbrookhostas.com**](http://www.goldenbrookhostas.com) Blackstock, Ontario (located just east of Port Perry) Mail order (Canada only) + pick up. Great website listing a huge selection of hostas with photos, prices and latest varieties. Tour their garden to see many varieties for sale.

[**http://www.lamrockscountrygarden.com**](http://www.lamrockscountrygarden.com) – hostas, roses, some perennials. Varieties & prices listed on website – they have not updated their website since 2012 so don’t know what is happening there – located in Port Perry

[**www.masonhousegardens.com**](http://www.masonhousegardens.com) 3520 Durham Road #1(Brock Rd), RR 4 PO Box 886 Uxbridge, ON L9P 1R4, south of Goodwood Rd.  
905-649-3532 – New introductions, unusual plants, perennials, grasses, vines, shrubs, tropicals, succulents, vegetables + a huge selection of heritage tomatoes. *All varieties listed on their website – this is not a mail order company – a family owned specialty nursery. You can tour the gardens as well.*

[**http://pickeringnurseries.com**](http://pickeringnurseries.com) Mail order company specializing in roses – hundreds of varieties available. Located in Port Hope, you can pick up your order if you wish – call ahead. Bare root spring and fall delivery, plus potted roses once the delivery season is over.

[**www.richters.com**](http://www.richters.com) Goodwood, Ontario Located on Highway 47, west of Brock Road. Mail order & pick-up. For all things to do with herbs in a greenhouse setting – plants, seeds, books, & a huge selection of dried herbs & teas. Sample for free various tea mixes. Check under events on the website for free seminars presented by guest speakers in the greenhouse. All lectures are now taped & available on the website if you cannot attend. You can also order or pick up a printed catalogue.

***The following websites do not list their plants so I don’t know what varieties they have for sale.* Therefore, you won’t see them listed on my “where to buy” column even though they may stock the plant**s. I will include these nurseries if I have visited in person and know they have the plants for sale.

**Century Home & Garden Greenhouses** at 1431 Hwy 7a, Port Perry ON L9L 1B5, 905-985-2672.

**Country Market Garden Centre**, 2535 Taunton Rd. E., Bowmanville, L1C 3K2, 905-263-2090 – has a good selection of perennials, roses, trees, shrubs, conifers, annuals and tropical plants at very reasonable prices. Also local produce, baked items and giftware. He always has something unique every year. No website.

[**www.kingswaygreenhouse.com**](http://www.kingswaygreenhouse.com) Oshawa, Ontario 905-434-3851 A family run business – Plants are not listed on their website, but they have some great varieties – some of their staff are master gardeners!

**John’s Perennials,** [**http://johnsgarden.wordpress.com**](http://johnsgarden.wordpress.com) 905-862-8175, Uxbridge, ON Perennials, annuals, roses, shrubs, trees, rare conifers + more. Open weekends only but call ahead for fall hours – may more extensive

[h**ttp://www.ottergreenhouses.com**](http://www.ottergreenhouses.com) 315 Medd Road, Port Perry, Ontario, L9L 1B2 | (905) 852-4187 Annuals, hanging baskets, perennials, - a family owned business

**Peter Keeping**, Bowmanville, Ontario – sells unusual & hard to find **clematis** as well as perennials at very reasonable prices– Peter imports clematis from Europe/England. Phone 905-697-7842, e-mail peterkeeping@hotmail.com. Call or e-mail for his list of current clematis for sale. Peter and Sheila grow over 250 clematis on their property. They also have assorted perennials and other plants for sale. Does not have a website.

**Pineridge Garden Centre** 2215 Brock Rd, Pickering, ON L1V 2P8 905-683-5952 No website.

[**www.rekkers.com**](http://www.rekkers.com) Rekker's Garden Centre, 2258 Regional Highway 2, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3K7 905-623-2300

[**www.sheridannurseries.com**](http://www.sheridannurseries.com) Whitby location, 410 Taunton Road West, Whitby, ON L1P 2A9 905 686-0844

[**www.vandermeernursery.com**](http://www.vandermeernursery.com) 905-427-2525 588 Lakeridge Rd. S., Ajax, ON (corner of Lakeridge and Bayley). Plants not listed. They carry a huge selection of various plants – trees, shrubs, roses, perennials, annuals, seeds, giftware, etc.

**Some very sad news about one of our local garden centres in Brooklin. Here is the message taken from their website.**

On August 31, 2013, Hotner’s Greenhouse & Garden Centre will be closing its garden gate one last time.

For the past seven years it has been our pleasure providing gardening expertise and quality products to our many loyal customers. We can’t thank you enough for your continued support and patronage throughout the years. And to our avid gardening friends who nominated Hotner’s as the ”Readers’ Select Diamond Award” winner for the past three years: thank you!

It has been an amazing journey, and we are proud to have served our community through our involvement with schools, charities, and many business organizations along the way.

We extend a special thanks to our family and friends, for their never-ending love and support, and to our wonderful, dedicated staff during this adventure. Thank you for making each season memorable.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to our wonderful community,

Terry and Tammy Hotner

It is September 25, 2013

*“Now Autumn’s fire burns slowly along the woods  
And day by day the dead leaves fall and melt.” William Allingham (1824–1889 Autumnal Sonnet*

**Falling Leaves**: Ever wondered why the leaves fall off in the fall and why some hold on – like in some varieties of oak?

Here is a description taken directly from this website: <http://www.johnson.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=134>

The process of leaves falling is known as abscission. The abscission layer is caused by a hormonal change in the plant in response to changes in temperature, length of daylight, and a natural senescence or aging. During years when there are hard freezes in early October, the plants do not have sufficient time to develop the abscission layer. As a result, the leaves simply freeze and remain attached to the branches. Winter wind and moisture will cause the leaves to drop from the tree. This phenomenon should not be harmful to the plant. The only danger is a very heavy snow or freezing rain. This added weight of moisture due to the leaf surface will increase the chance for limb breakage.

Last month in the August 28th, 2013 presentation I gave you two very extensive lists – one for hibiscus (24 varieties) and one for Hydrangea (over 18 varieties)– taking the mystery out of buying hydrangeas and how to prune them. Also, please check out my archived presentation from last year dated September 26, 2012 for an extensive report on what was going on at that time of the year – pretty much the same as this year. I can’t believe it is a 12 page report! Just a few things to tell you about tonight:

**Garlic** – Home grown garlic tastes so good – it is crispy and extremely flavourful coming right out of your own garden. I plant my garlic around Thanksgiving or as late as the end of October. Plant each clove about 2 inches deep, about 3 inches apart. Don’t worry if some of it starts to sprout in the fall. Harvest it around the third week to the end of July the following year. After harvesting, I let it sit in a dry place (garage) for about two weeks, then bring it in.

If you don’t have the room, why not treat it as an ornamental plant and plant the cloves in uneven groups of 3 to 5 to 7 or more in your perennial garden. Each clove will throw out one “scape” which twirls and swirls into odd shapes as it grows – a real conversation piece for sure. Then harvest it in July as mentioned earlier. One thing to be mindful of – each scape will produce a cluster of baby cloves (seeds). Cut them off before they ripen, or you will be picking seedlings out forever – much like alliums that have seeded. When I harvest the garlic in July, I always save a few heads to re-plant in October. Richter’s Herbs carries many named varieties (call ahead) plus most nurseries sell garlic with their spring bulbs. I started mine the first year by buying Ontario grown garlic at my local farmer’s markets.

**Fairy gardens** – Christmas is coming. Why not consider a fairy garden for someone on your list. It can be a dish garden, complete with tiny plants, fairies and furniture and accessories. Or, just buy the fairies and some accessories. They are currently available at Mason House Gardens, I have also seen them at Sheridan in Unionville.

**Straw bales** – someone was looking for straw bales last year for fall and hallowe’en decorating. Best prices at $3.99 each for a full bale is at Whitefeather on Simcoe Road just before you get to Port Perry and at Century Greenhouses on Highway 7A between Highway 12 and Simcoe Road.

**Brugmansia** –The common name for this tropical plant is Angel’s Trumpets. I don’t understand why this plant is not more widely available and when it is, it is usually a small plant. I just got the lowdown on where to buy good sized specimens of this plant (3-4’), in various colours at only $15.00, regular $45.00 each - Country Market Garden Centre on Taunton Road in Bowmanville (905-263-2090 – see the nursery listing at the beginning of this presentation). It is a tropical annual, and must be brought in for the winter, or you can take cuttings for next year to increase your supply. The evening fragrance emitted from the flowers will knock your socks off. I had a visitor this summer that grows several plants in pots and fertilizes them every time he waters – I am sure at quarter strength. He gets dozens of flowers on each plant filling the entire neighbourhood with a wonderful fragrance in the evening. I plant mine in the ground in the spring and lift it in the fall and re-pot it. I chop all the stems off, leaving about 2 feet. My two plants have become quite woody at the base, producing new shoots in the spring which can grow about 6 feet or more in one season. Why not consider one for your tropical collection along with your banana and fig trees next year!!

**Allium thunbergii “Ozawa”** A gardening friend was asking me about Allium thunbergii “Ozawa” – a little known fall blooming plant. Here is what I told him about this plant:

I first got Allium Thunbergii “Ozawa” from Mason House gardens a few years ago.  I had never heard of it before - they had it listed in their mail order catalogue in 2002-2003.  They stopped selling it for some reason - perhaps not available, so I gave Jeff Mason a pot of plants to get started again as this plant is so difficult to find.  Prior to finding “Ozawa”, I got some sterile “profusion” chives from Richter's Herbs.  I was looking for a cheap way to create mini “hedges” around some of the beds in the garden, especially around the gazebo in the colour wheel - boxwood was too expensive, and it smells to me of "Cat Pee" in warm weather.  I would rather smell onions than cat pee. (I do love boxwood as well, despite the smell.)  I used the chives to create the mini "hedges" around the gazebo, the vegetable garden and to define the circular beds in the rose garden.  I started with one pot of chives containing about 1 dozen bulbils and split them and planted them about 6" apart.  As each chive multiplied, I split them again and continued to plant the borders.  “Profusion” chives is a trademarked plant from Richter's Herbs and does not set seed - a wonderful plant. I highly recommend you get rid of your regular chives and plant profusion instead.  
   
When I read about the dimensions and growth habit of “Ozawa” in the catalogue, I decided to create a double border and planted it in front of the chives in the rose garden as I loved the way it arched, its short stature and the fact that it bloomed late in the season.  So I repeated the same procedure as the chives, gently teasing apart each bulbil in the pot and planting one or two bulbils every 6 inches.  I now have chives blooming in June, and “Ozawa” blooming in October.  Ozawa absolutely will not bloom before October, despite setting buds much earlier.  It grows about 8-12 inches tall, has an arching/fountain like habit, looks like grass, blooms in October - right into snowfall.  You will see little rosy balls peeking through the snow.  I have not had an issue with seeding about, but I do remove the flowers when they are finished as I hate alliums seeding all over.  It is an ornamental onion, not a culinary onion as are the chives.  I like the upright growth of the chives, fronted by the arching “Ozawa” in front, both about the same height. It makes for a unique border.

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| Four shrubs I want to tell you about that are spectacular right now. Please phone ahead at the nurseries listed above as these plants sell out at this time of the year.  The nurseries are really pushing the hydrangeas this year, in particular limelight, little lime and strawberry vanilla. These are all the easy care paniculata types which bloom on new wood so can be cut back severely in the spring. Limelight is the tallest at 6-12 feet, little lime is shorter at 4-5 feet and strawberry vanilla can also be a large shrub but with flowers that quickly go from a white to deep raspberry/strawberry colour. | | |
| Hydrangea paniculata “Quickfire” | The one that I want to tell to you about is hydrangea “quickfire”. This one is a paniculata type but has lacy flowers as opposed to the cone types. It starts to bloom one month earlier than the other paniculatas- white flowers that turn to deep burgundy red as the season progresses. The colour is much more intense if you give it some afternoon sun (might bloom a little later as well), although it will grow beautifully in full sun as well. This is a real beauty and much admired in my garden over the summer. It is hard to find right now as most nurseries are sold out, but I have seen it for sale at Sheridan nurseries. Please check the August 28th, 2013 presentation for the extensive list of hydrangea’s - listing many varieties and how to prune them. <http://www.waysidegardens.com/quick-fire-hydrangea-shrub/p/40256/> | Sheridan still has them,  Available at most nurseries – phone ahead as many are sold out |
| Callicarpa bodinieri var. giraldii 'Profusion' | Profusion is one of the most outstanding of all fruiting shrubs! This shrub is a stunning sight when all the berries have formed, otherwise it is relatively ordinary the rest of the year, but worth growing for the sight of a plant in full berry mode. Small lavender/blue flowers bloom in late summer followed by masses of spectacular violet-purple berries which can last until Christmas. Profusion can grow 8 to 10 feet tall. The berries are formed on new wood, so to get the most berries which will form all along the stem, prune it severely in the spring – about 6” or even right to ground level. This will also keep the height of the shrub at a more manageable level.  I don’t know why more nurseries don’t sell this shrub, but I have seen it for sale this fall at Sheridan. I have grown a variety from seed this year (from Rock Garden Society) with white berries so looking forward to a great show next year (Callicarpa japonica “Leucocarpa”).  Zones 5-8.  <http://www.waysidegardens.com/beauty-berry-profusion-shrub/p/49196>  and this site for very extensive information about the purple and white versions. <http://www.louistheplantgeek.com/plants-by-name-search?searchword=callicarpa&searchphrase=all> | Sheridan right now  Call ahead at other nurseries |
| Caryopteris “White Surprise” | I just love this shrub. This is especially a great shrub for neatnik gardeners. This little shrub will grow to 3 x 3 feet. It reminds me of the variegated white and green dogwood but the foliage is so much nicer with an unusual texture. Caryopteris “White Surprise” has beautiful green and white foliage and blooms in late summer, into fall, with lavender/ blue flowers, a welcome change from all the yellow we get in the fall. The blue flowers and white/green foliage look especially lovely paired with a white rose like iceberg. The two are just beautiful together.  <http://www.plantdelights.com/Caryopteris-x-clandonensis-White-Surprise-PP-21146-White-Surprise-False-Blue-Spirea/productinfo/8762> | Vandermeer – not many left |
| Lezpedeza “Gibralter” | Common name “Bush Clover”.  This is a stunner in late summer/fall. The billowy, fountain like growth reminds me of Bridlewreath spirea, but with pea-like pink blooms, and of course, blooming in September/October. In our climate, it dies down to the ground, re-emerging from the ground like a perennial. Be patient, it may be late emerging. It blooms on new wood, so any branches can be cut right back in the spring. It will tolerate some drought, may self-seed and will grow in full sun/part shade. Give it lots of room, or plant it on a slope to show off its cascading habit. It grows more upright the rest of the year. Be careful where you site this as it will be difficult to move once established – much like the grasses miscanthus and panicums.  <http://www.plantdelights.com/Lespedeza-thunbergii-Gibraltar-Gibralter-Pink-Bush-Clover/productinfo/2003>  and this site for extensive info & photo of a white one <http://www.louistheplantgeek.com/a-gardening-journal/475-lespedeza-japonica-albiflora> | Try John’s Perennials  Garden Import – likely not ‘til next year |

**I thought you might be interested in a report of some of my favourite plants this year:**

**Pretty Petunias:** I love petunias – a lot of people say “we don’t do petunias” but I love them – regular petunias which have to be cut back half way through the summer or the supertunias, it doesn’t matter. Here are my petunia stories this year - 2013:

***Picasso in pink*** *and* ***Pretty Much Picasso***– Picasso in pink is a clear pink edged in green, spreading, no care whatsoever – beautiful – probably my new favourite. They are more mounding than Pretty Much Picasso, another great one which grows flatter and has more rosy purple flowers edged in green. <http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/petunia/supertunia-picasso-pink-petunia-hybridd> and <http://www.provenwinners.com/plants/petunia/supertunia-pretty-much-picasso-petunia-hybrid>

***Petunia supertunia vista “Bubblegum”, “Fuchsia”, “Silverberry*”** – all spreading, self-cleaning, groundcover types for pots or ground, they bloom ‘til frost, can provide colour over large expanses. I love the supertunias and would not be without them. I haven’t watered or fertilized them and still have had great performance from all three. One petunia will cover a 3-4 foot diameter. You only need one in a 14 inch pot. I much prefer the supertunias over the waves. I have “Fuchsia” planted in the rose garden to give me colour during the down time of roses – seems pretty well all summer in my garden!

***The Petunia Jelly Bean Garden***: I planted several colours of regular petunias including one called Debonair Black Cherry. Boy, does the blackish one (really a very dark cherry but looks black), stand out amongst all the colours – a real beauty. I planted 12 of each colour – purple, red, rose, pink, yellow, white, orange, cherry, in a zig zag fashion in the hopscotch garden. Mid-way through the summer (end of July), they became scruffy and I chopped them to within 2 inches from the ground. In about two weeks, they resumed blooming and are lovely as of this date.

**Daylilies** – the July garden was spectacular thanks to the 300+ daylilies from the end of June to mid-to late August. I loved every one of them and would not be without them for mid-summer colour when the spring flowers are finished and the fall plants have yet to bloom. There would have been very little colour without these beauties. The only requirement is to remove spent blossoms every couple of days to keep them tidy. I learned something new from Mary Ellen Simmerson this year – pick a daylily blossom and put it in any container you want – it does not require water as each blossom will last one day and then die! Who knew it would survive without water?? The majority of mine are from specialty growers – many from own Brooklin Hort. member Faye Collins – let me know if you are interested in some of my sources.

**Roses:** Of over the 450 roses in my garden, I lost 60-70 roses this year due to the fluctuating temperatures this spring. The spring show was amazing in spite of the major losses. I have trouble with rose midge which destroys the emerging flower buds so my fall show will be greatly diminished. The dead roses may or may not be replaced – it they are replaced, I will try to stick to more robust shrub roses, although I love all varieties. There is nothing more beautiful than a rose, especially a fragrant one, although I am not particular if the flower is extra special. A wonderful addition last fall (on sale for $5.00 ea.at Vandermeer’s) were the fairy roses and a floribunda called ***Summer Memories*** – a white with hints of apricot and beautiful shiny foliage. The flowers look like camellias and have bloomed continuously all summer – still many blooms as of this writing!

**Black Garden** – this year’s theme was Pink Panther and it has worked out very well. The very bubblegum coloured petunia Supertunia “Bubble Gum” has spread nicely under the Sambucus “Black Lace”, nicotiana “Whisper Shades of Pink” volunteers were transplanted from the tropical garden, but were very late to get established due to insects eating the seedlings. They are looking beautiful right now. Three annual black grasses called Pennisetum “vertigo” are part of this year’s black additions. One of the volunteer nicotiana seedlings was a lime green colour. It looks smashing with the black plants. Next year’s theme will likely be lime and black if I can find seeds for lime green nicotianas, or it might be “black and blue”, using Salvia “Black and Blue” against the “Black Lace” Sambucus.

**Dahlias** – Every year, I say no more dahlias. Well, this year I purchased several from Robert Young, a mad dahlia grower – he has hundreds of varieties and sells many of them in the spring. My favourite dahlias are cactus and lacinated, I also like ones that have wavy petals. One beauty in particular is called shinkyoku – I got it from Robert Young but a bit pricey. I won best in show in its category at the September 25, 2013 meeting with that dahlia. <http://dahliasuppliers.com/accent/2010-2011%20Gallery/pages/SHINKYOKU_jpg.htm> Robert has indicated that he got several new ones this year so will have to e-mail to find out which. I can put you in touch with him if you are interested in his sale next spring.

We all think we have to bring in tender plants to store for the winter so are discouraged from trying these beautiful plants. .You don’t have to bring the dahlias in for the winter unless you want to – just treat yourself and treat them as annuals. I let the frost hit them, remove from the ground, cut off the stems, let them dry out a bit (about 1 week or more) in the garage on the floor or table, then put them in grocery bags (leave them open so they don’t rot & include a label with name and colour) and store in cardboard boxes in my furnace room. If there are several varieties in the box, I have learned to tape a label on the outside of the box listing the varieties so I know what I am dealing with next spring. I slip a layer of newspaper on top of the pile in the box to try and keep out as much light as possible so they don’t sprout over the winter. You may want to check to make sure none are rotting – usually if they haven’t dried out enough before storage.