



Blooming News

Haldimand Horticultural Society

Celebrating 26 Years

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Check out our web site at www.haldimandhorticulturalsociety.org

NOVEMBER 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you haven't managed to get all those bulbs planted yet, there is still time. Tulips and lilies can be planted as long as you are able to dig the ground. They really don't seem to mind the late start. The narcissus/daffodil family is much better planted earlier as they seem to need more time to get established. There seems to be much divided opinions on whether we should completely clean the gardens up or let the perennials stand through the winter. James Graham, the speaker at our September breakfast meeting, believes that we should just leave everything standing. He rationalizes that the annuals will freeze off and become part of the soil next season and the standing perennials will catch the snow and help to insulate the area. He also believes that this technique keeps water from seeping into open stalks and causing root rot. While all this sounds logical I really don't like facing all that clean up in the spring. The one thing I do like to get done in the fall is to be very thorough in rooting out any perennial weeds such as dandelion, wild carrot, and goldenrod and round leaf mallow. These all dig very easily right now. They all have long tap roots and will be back with a vengeance in the spring if not removed. Cold never kills them! It is also the best time to get out any grass that has crept in around the iris rhizomes. The iris should be cut down to a few inches. Never compost iris leaves. Burn them or get them out in the garbage. They harbor disease and the iris borer.

Just when I thought the gardening season was winding down the 2011 catalogues started arriving! The Van Noort perennial catalogue features "Praying Hands" as the selected "Hosta of the Year". This is one of the hostas that we had on our sale table last season so those of you who bought it then will be ahead of the game. The "Perennial of the Year" is Amsonia hubrichtii. This is a rather unusual plant, with feathery foliage, grows up to 3 feet tall and has flower stalks said to be not showy but of an interesting steel blue colour. In fall the plants turn a golden yellow and this is said to be one of its most interesting features. However, as with most plants that earn this distinguished recognition, these come to market at what I consider to be somewhat inflated prices. If you can wait a year or two the prices usually become more reasonable. This plant is totally new to me and I look forward to trying it in my garden. However, since it looks best planted in groups, I will wait for it to come down in price. I wonder if I can grow it from seed! I will check the Chiltern seed catalogue for this; they have so many unusual seeds.

There is a new gardening magazine called Garden Making that is getting rave reviews and coming our way in 2011. This is a new publication out of the Niagara area. The editor, Beckie Fox, was formerly with Canadian Gardening. I was really impressed with the content and there is very little advertising and what is there is of Canadian origin and so is that much more useful to us. The website is www.gardenmaking.com. This will be on my Christmas wish list.

Please join us for the Thursday, November 18th meeting when Jim Ray will be demonstrating Christmas decorating techniques. It should be a good introduction to our holiday preparations.

Cheers,
Dawn Suter, President

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Don and I returned from our Cape Breton Island trek with our toes tapping and our heads filled with the sounds of fiddle and bagpipe playing and all kinds of good Celtic music. We feasted on delicious community suppers of lobster and roast beef and ham and fishcakes. We toured the Highland Village Museum where we traveled back in time and visited a Highland Scottish croft called An Taigh Dubh/The Black House which would have been inhabited by families in Scotland before the landlords drove them from the land and they immigrated to Nova Scotia during the early to mid-nineteenth century. We followed them through the building of their first log homes and then into their larger frame homes; and we learned of their skills with the wool from the Soay sheep and the flax they grew and spun on wheels and wove their cloth on large looms. And we learned the tradition of the Scottish tartans and we heard the Scottish Gaelic of "Ciamar a tha sibh?" pronounced 'ki-mar uh haa shiv' meaning 'How are you?' And through it all --on these long ago journeys for the Highlanders -- there was always the music and the storytelling and the dancing!

Cape Breton Island, with its people and its heritage and its culture and its breathtaking landscape, is truly a magical place. Once you have been to the Island, it captures your heart and as Rita McNeil wrote in one of her songs "Can this be my Island too?" will be in your thoughts too.

We would encourage you to plan at least one visit to the Island to see for yourselves how really wonderful this place in our Country is!

Susan Reeder, Editor

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THIS MONTH'S HALDIMAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND NEW EXECUTIVE INSTALLATION ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH*- 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Orkney Street in Caledonia

***** NOTE THAT THIS IS THE 3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH IN ORDER NOT TO CONFLICT WITH CALEDONIA LIGHT UP NIGHT WHICH OCCURS ON THE 4TH THURSDAY. JIM RAY WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKER ON 'FLORAL DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS'**

NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN DECEMBER. HOWEVER, YOU WILL BE RECEIVING A DECEMBER NEWSLETTER!

Here's some interesting information printed in the Oakville Horticultural Society Newsletter:

"According to NASA, mums are one of the most effective plants in removing formaldehyde, benzene and carbon monoxide from the air"

BE SURE TO MARK YOUR 2011 CALENDARS WITH THESE GENERAL MEETING DATES FOR 2011

7:30 pm

St. Paul's Anglican Church on Orkney Street in Caledonia

Thursday, January 27th, 2011

Thursday, February 24th, 2011

Thursday, March 24th, 2011

Thursday, April 28th, 2011

Thursday, May 26th, 2011

Thursday, June 23rd, 2011

Thursday, July 28th, 2011 – BUS TRIP

Thursday, August 5th, 2011

Thursday, September 22nd, 2011

Thursday, October 27th, 2011 @6:00 pm – Annual Dinner or Pot Luck

Thursday, November 17th, 2011 – 3rd

Thursday and Annual Meeting and Installation of New Executive

No meeting in December

H. Fred Ale is quoted as saying

“My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plants point of view”.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MONTHLY COMPETITION JUDGE:

Thank you everyone for your support this year in my trials of judging the monthly competitions! I try hard to educate each month with what a judge is looking for and how best to present your entries. Some times I come across as a clown and other times a little more seriously. I was, and am, challenged when learning, and have had to learn in different ways than a lot of you so I try to teach in different styles to reach as many as possible. Sorry to those who were disappointed with my attitude, but unrepentant about every laugh I brought. Truly I am serious about my role as judge at the meetings and am almost finished my 3 year course to be a ‘real’ horticultural judge. The classes are finished and the grades are being tallied as we speak.

I do hope you all continue to come out and show your designs and specimens. Come brag about what YOU have done and CAN DO with your green thumbs and artistic nature.

We had 28 different competitors this last year of showing with many newbies spreading their wings and flying! It was great to see many of you blossom

with pride at what you brought in. The numbers are counted and I hope you all come out to the November meeting to congratulate the winners! Maybe it was YOU?

Catherine McGill

UPCOMING MONTHLY COMPETITION CATEGORIES

November 2010

Design Section

- (a) Let there be Peace – Design of Choice
- (b) One for me & One for you! – Create 2 place markers for the holiday table. Need not be the same but should be co-ordinated. May use any type of materials. Display with accessory of choice.
- (c) Dried flower arrangement made from your garden!

Specimen Section (must be grown by exhibitor for minimum 3 months)

- (a) Amaryllis
- (b) Schlumbergera bridesii (Christmas Cactus) in bloom
- (c) Chlorophytum Comosum (Spider Plant) – 1 pot
- (d) Branch out – a collection of branches with or without leaves in a suitable container.

Photo Section

- (a) Proof I grew it! Photo of interesting plant you grew this summer – named, need not be framed.
- (b) Christmas Card – Card you have made with photo you have taken suitable for the holidays.

December 2010

No Meeting for the Holidays

Have a Great Christmas and New Year!

January 2011

Design Section

- (a) Too Much Partying! – Design of choice using a Wine glass!
- (b) Winter wonderland – Mass design of choice

Specimen Section (must be grown by exhibitor for a minimum 3 months)

- (a) Poinsettia
- (b) Forced bulb of choice
- (c) Potted plant of choice
- (d) Cactus Garden – 4 variety minimum

Photo Section – one entry per exhibitor

- (a) Wow what a year – Collection of photos showing progression of garden growth or plant growth. Displayed on bristle board, labeled.

February 2011

Design Section

- (a) Love is In the air – Line design
- (b) Small dreams – Miniature design – Refer to OJES, PG 101 for requirements.

Specimen Section (must be grown by exhibitor for minimum 3 months)

- (a) Forced branch – not to exceed 24” in length, showing developed leaf and or flower buds
- (b) Antherium – 1 pot any colour
- (c) Succulent – 1 variety, potted
- (d) Cactus – 1 variety potted

Craft Section – item must be made by exhibitor

- (a) Fruit – canned 1 jar any size – will not be opened
- (b) Jam or Jelly – canned, 1 jar any size – will be opened

For those who are interested in putting an Arrangement/Design in the Monthly Competition and are not sure of the “rules”, we do have copies of the “OHA Ontario Judging and Exhibition

Standards", Publication #34 available. The cost is between \$6.00 and \$8.00 and is well worth the purchase. See Catherine McGill. For a full 2010 listing of Monthly Competition Categories – see Catherine McGill

ARE YOU PLANNING AN OUTING TO THE ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS?

The Haldimand Horticultural Society is a Society member of the RBG. As a HHS member you can use the HHS free pass and free parking voucher to make your visit just that much more enjoyable.

If you would like to borrow these passes for your outing, see Karen Foster at one of our meetings and make arrangements.

COME AND SEE OUR SOCIETY PICTURE ALBUM!!

Karen Foster continues her good work of taking pictures of Horticultural Society activities and posts them in our Picture Album.

Please take some time to select pictures of your garden that you would like to share and have them included in our album. Karen will put the album out at each meeting so that we can all enjoy the gardens and pictures of our activities.

Check it out – you might just be in some of the pictures!!

UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!!

Thursday, November 25th to Saturday, November 27th, 2010 from 10am-5pm

The RBG Auxiliary Christmas Show and Sale will be held in the RBG Centre.

Check out the website at www.rbg.ca for more details

Thursday, November 7th – December 19th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

'Doorway to the Holidays' at the RBG

Tuesday, Dec.7 (1pm or 7pm) Table Design AND Wednesday, Dec.8 (1pm or 7pm) Door Design

The RBG Auxiliary will be conducting Evergreen Design Workshops – Table Design and Door Design as above. Cost is \$30 which includes the container, mechanics and fresh greens. They ask that you bring a garbage bag, wire cutters, scissors and secateurs.

Tickets go on sale September 1st and available online at 222.rbg.ca or 905-57-5577

March 15-20, 2011

15th Anniversary of "Canada Blooms".

March 31-April 3, 2011

Successful Gardening Show (OHA Flower Show) – details to follow

April 8,9,10, 2011

Peterborough Garden Show at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough – sponsored by the Peterborough Horticultural Society and the Master Gardeners – Admission \$6. per day – for more details – www.peterboroughgardens.ca

April 16, 2011

District 6 AGM hosted by Bronte at Colborne Seniors Centre, Oakville – details coming

July 22-24, 2011

The Ontario Horticultural Association Annual Convention hosted in Sudbury. Watch for more details as they unfold.

October 22, 2011

OHA District Fall Dinner being hosted by Ancaster at the new Ancaster Fairgrounds at Merritt Hall. This is the 50th anniversary for the Ancaster Society and the event will be marked by the development of a new day lily for Ancaster. The Society is hosting a 'Name the Lily' contest. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Keynote Speaker will be Sonja Day, writer for the Toronto Star.

GREEN THUMB COMPETITION 2011

This winter, why not plan a "Theme Garden" so that you can enter the Green Thumb Competition in 2011. This is a challenging and 'skies the limit' opportunity.

So – as you scan the seed and plant catalogues and gardening magazines, give some thought to what theme you want to create.

Our Judge is looking forward to what our Society Gardeners will come up with!! See Christine Mickeloff for more details.

Your Proposed Slate of Officers for 2011 Haldimand Horticultural Society are:

President: Dawn Suter
1st Vice President: Catherine McGill
2nd Vice President
/Secretary: Susan Reeder
Treasurer: Coby Osinga
Directors: Gord Roberts
Christine Mickeloff
Karen Foster
Don Reeder
David Jarvis
Nancy Spellen
Lena Atkinson

Associate Directors: Karen Culp
Doris Thompson
Audrey Derii
Donna Murray

This slate of officers will be presented to the November 18th Annual Meeting for your approval and installation.

October Monthly Competition Winners Design Section:

(a) Boo – Centrepiece suitable for Halloween

1st Lena Atkinson
2nd Roz Rumball
3rd Don Reeder

(b) Tall Turkey Tales – Mass design

1st Roz Rumball

(c) Amen – Design in Cornucopia

1st Don Reeder
2nd Roz Rumball

Specimen Section (grown by exhibitor for minimum 3 months):

(a) Perennial, 1 stem, stalk or spray
no entries

(b) Annual, 1 stem, stalk or spray

no entries

(c) Collection of mixed annual/perennial

1st Doreen Gordon

(d) Hosta – 3 leaves, different varieties, suitable container

no entries

(e) Sedum – 3 stems, stocks, spray – same variety

1st Don Reeder

Canadian Frost Free Dates according to Environment Canada

For Hamilton, Ontario:

Growing Season (length of days): 168

Last Frost Spring: April 29th

First Frost Fall: October 15th

SPEAKERS FOR 2011

Gord Roberts is putting together an outstanding list of guest speakers for our 2011 General Meetings. Here is a just a sample listing of some of these speakers:

January 27th Paul XXX on the subject of Ponds and Water Gardens

February 24th Rob Howard, Garden writer for The Hamilton Spectator and broadcaster and organizer of Open Garden on the subject of "Nine Things I learned in other people's Gardens"

September 22nd Paul Knowles

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2011

It's that time of year again! We hope that you enjoyed your membership benefits for 2010 and that you renew your membership for 2011. Perhaps you know someone who would enjoy becoming a member as well – maybe as a Christmas gift?

Benefits of membership:

- ❖ As a member of the Haldimand Horticultural Society, your membership card* entitles you to a 10% discount off regular priced garden supplies at:
Caledonia Area: Caledonia Garden Centre, Home Hardware, Canadian Tire (not all items), Home & Hearth, Coach House
Cayuga Area: Kinnear Greenhouses
Dunnville Area: The Potting Shed
Hagersville Area: Home Hardware, Mohawk Garden Market
Hamilton/Mount Hope Area: Hamilton Sod, Rainbow Acres, Daylily Farm, Ed Ciardullo Garden Centre, Sharples Nurseries, Mountain Garden Centre
Renton: Eisings Greenhouse and Nursery
York: Mallord Farms
*You must show your card prior to purchase for discount
- ❖ Annual Meetings – Gardening and Planting tips; Guest Speakers; Monthly Competitions; raffles and prizes
- ❖ Monthly Newsletter containing gardening advice; upcoming events from your Society and community events; quotes and humour; and great articles contributed by our members

What does your Society do in a year:

- ❖ We look after some of the public garden beds in Haldimand County such as the Hagersville Hospital, Caledonia Bank of Nova Scotia, the Cenotaph, the Dam, the Caledonia Reading Library
- ❖ We plant memorial trees to honour past members of our Society
- ❖ We hold an Annual Green Thumb Competition
- ❖ We participate in the Caledonia Fair
- ❖ We hold a Plant and Bake Sale at McKinnon Secondary in May
- ❖ We hold a Flower and Vegetable Show at the Riviera Retirement Lodge in September
- ❖ We offer an outstanding Bus Trip in July
- ❖ We offer wholesale bulbs and plants at our meetings
- ❖ We participate in the Caledonia Garden Show
- ❖ We teach you design techniques by practice; and recognize your accomplishments through our monthly competitions
- ❖ We share refreshments at the end of each meeting where you have a chance to chat with other gardeners in your area

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HALDIMAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY 2011 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

First Name(s) _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone No. _____

Annual Membership Fee is: Single \$8.00 Family \$12.00 Amount Enclosed: _____

Please mail to: Haldimand Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 2078, Caledonia, Ontario N3W 2G6