



Blooming News

Haldimand Horticultural Society

Celebrating 26 Years

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Check out our web site at www.haldimandhorticulturalsociety.org

OCTOBER 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October is one of my favorite months. So many good things happen, not only Thanksgiving but also the Haldimand Horticultural Society's Fall Dinner. October is also a good time to take inventory in the garden. Take note of what did well and what didn't and plan how to do things differently next year. And it's time to plant the bulbs which will herald in the spring of 2011.

Don't worry if you haven't done this planting yet. Tulip bulbs can be planted late into the fall. The only limiting factor is when the ground is frozen too hard to dig. Narcissus should be planted much earlier as they need to establish a good root system before freeze up, so that they will be ready for the April bloom period. I always think that the daffodil/narcissus family of bulbs is a good buy because they are so long lived. Many of us have daffodil plantings that are decades old.

Tulips on the other hand are not quite so reliable. Part of the problem of course is that those little furry friends out there do love to snack on tulip bulbs. Advice from Garden Import for outsmarting these little critters is to be certain to plant tulip bulbs at least 6" deep and 8" is even better. And just this week I read that 10" to 12" is suggested as a depth that will outsmart the squirrels. In Haldimand clay, I ask? The second bit of advice is to cover the area with chicken wire. You can buy this in small quantities at local hardware stores. And finally if this does not work, the suggestion is to get a Jack Russell terrier!

On Saturday, September 25th, the HHS hosted the District #6 breakfast meeting. About 90 members from the 21 Societies in the District attended. Guest Speaker was James Graham from the Kitchener/Waterloo area who talked about ways that societies can bring in new members. One of the ways he suggested is to present an inviting atmosphere and provide good programming that is pertinent and of local interest. Guests were treated to a great hot breakfast prepared by Catherine McGill and her crew of helpers who were at the church before 7:00 am to prepare the food. These people are to be applauded for their dedication to the society, not only for cooking the food but for lugging tables and cleanup afterwards. HHS is fortunate to have this group of people who are always there and willing to offer help.

Your society is throwing out the welcome mat and inviting you to attend the **Fall Dinner and Awards night** which will take place on **Thursday, October 28th** at our regular meeting place at **6:00 p.m.** This will be a catered roast beef dinner (vegetarian available if requested in advance), which will cost the members \$17.00 tax included. This is a \$27.00 dinner that is being subsidized by your society with money from fund raising activities and by a few cost cutting steps such as doing our own coffee and clean up. **If you wish to attend this event and have not already registered, please call me at 905-768-0467 by October 14th to reserve your spot(s).**

Once committed you are responsible for the \$17.00 as we will have to pay the caterer for the number of dinners ordered. This should be an entertaining evening with presentation of awards from the Green Thumb Competition and the Flower and Vegetable Show.

I hope to see you there!

Cheers,
Dawn Suter, President

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

This month's The Blooming News will be coming to you early in the month of October. Don and I have headed back East on a Road Trip Holiday through Quebec City and the Maritime Provinces with our destination being the Celtic Colors Festival on Cape Breton Island. The changing leaves should be in full swing and will add to our adventure! We plan to stop in at Upper Canada Village in Morrisburg to re-acquaint ourselves with the pioneer ways of living and doing things. We plan to stop in Halifax to visit some friends we met in England in April of this year and to see the sites of that area. Cape Breton Island concerts will hold us enthralled from October 8-16. A highlight we are looking forward to is a Candlelight Dinner at the Fortress of Louisburg followed by a musical concert in the Chapel and lodging for the evening at a Bed and Breakfast right in Louisburg. This was one of those 'hot tickets' to get. Once they were put online, the event was sold out in 30 minutes. Fortunately for us -- we got our tickets!! I have heard that the Fortress is haunted -- so you never know what the evening might bring. We should come back with stories to tell and pictures to share and will do so in the November - The Blooming News.

See you when we return!
Susan Reeder, Editor

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THIS MONTH'S HALDIMAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FALL DINNER AND AWARDS NIGHT - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH - 6:00 p.m.* at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Orkney Street in Caledonia
***** NOTE THE EARLIER START TIME**
BE SURE TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT(S) AT THIS CATERED DINNER WITH DAWN SUTER AS NOTED IN HER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ABOVE.

YOU ARE INVITED!!!

The Ontario Horticultural Association Carolinian District 6 ANNUAL FALL DINNER

Guest Speaker: Sean James N.P.D. "Practical Solutions for Sustainable Landscaping"

Time: 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Date: **Saturday, November 13th, 2010**

Location: Acton Legion, Branch 197, 16 Wright Street, Acton, Ontario

Tickets are \$24.00/person

Menu: Roast beef dinner; includes: Salad, Roast Beef and gravy; mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, cherry cheese cake served with coffee/tea. A vegetarian dish is available upon request.

Raffle draws and Door prizes

Editor's Note: This is an event for all of us!! It's a great evening and dare I say "Well worth the drive to Acton" Coby Osinga, our Treasurer, will be ordering tickets on behalf of the Haldimand Horticultural Society for us in a block. This is how the District prefers our ticket orders. Coby needs to hear from you if you wish to attend and she also needs your cheque for the number of tickets you wish. She will need this no later than Friday, October 15th. If you haven't been to a Fall Dinner before, give some serious thought to attending!! Coby can be reached at email at jcosinga@rogers.com or by phone at 905-765-2649

GENERAL MEETING DATES FOR 2010

Mark your calendars

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

Thursday, November 18th – 7:30 p.m.
Annual General Meeting and new Executive Installation (*note that this is the 3rd Thursday of the month in order not to conflict with Caledonia Light Up Night on the 4th Thursday)

Jim Ray will be our Guest Speaker on "Floral Decorating for Christmas"

No meeting in December

How many bulbs should I plant? The answer is always "More". Check out our Van Noort selection!

G

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(b) Tall Turkey Tales – Mass design – either traditional or modern

(c) Amen – Design in Cornucopia

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

(a) Perennial, 1 stem, stalk or spray

(b) Annual, 1 stem stalk or spray

(c) Collection of mixed annual/perennial in a suitable container

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

(e) Sedum – 3 stems/stocks/spray-same variety

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 coordinated. 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) Schlumbergora 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!

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

UPCOMING MONTHLY COMPETITION CATEGORIES

October 2010

Design Section

(a) Boo – Centerpiece suitable for Halloween

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2011 TO LOOK AFTER THE SIMS LOCK GARDEN

If you live in the Sims Lock area and have some time to work on planting and tending the Sims Lock Garden – please let one of your Executive know.

ARE YOU PLANNING AN OUTING TO THE ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS?

The Haldimand Horticultural Society is a Society member of the RBG. As a member you can use the HHS free pass and free parking voucher.

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!!

COTTONWOOD MANSION IS ASKING FOR OUR HELP.

Cottonwood Mansion has approached our Society to ask if there is "...anyone who could work with us on redesigning our Cottonwood Mansion Gardens to reflect an 1865-1870 heritage garden." If you have some expertise and some time to donate to working with the Cottonwood Mansion, please contact Sheila Moffat-Koczka, Beautification Project Chair or Catherine Berry Stidsen, Volunteer Marketing Co-Ordinator at catherinestidsen@295.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!!

October 29-November 7, 2010

Hamilton Fall Garden & Chrysanthemum Show will be held at the Gage Park Greenhouses in Hamilton. This year's theme is "Hamilton – Capital of Waterfalls".

Saturday, November 13th

OHA District 6 Annual Fall Dinner – 5:00-9:00 pm, Acton Legion Hall, 16 Wright Street. Tickets are \$24.00 each. (see article for details)

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 over the next few months for more details

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 16-20, 2011

15th Anniversary of "Canada Blooms". Here's an excerpt from Charlie Dobbin "Tips from the Pros"

Bringing Plants In from the Cold:

"Most tropical houseplants thrive on spending the summer outside but they must be brought indoors before the first frost. To avoid bringing any unwanted visitors indoors with my plants I submerge each into a tub of lukewarm water deep enough so that the water goes over the top rim of the pot (bugs can't swim). Then, after a 10 minute soak, each plant drains on the patio while I spray thoroughly with a soapy solution (That's soap, not detergent). After I hose off the soap, and I've done a visual inspection for any unusual

looking critters, the plants come inside. It's normal for tropical houseplants to experience their own 'fall', and drop a few yellow leaves, particularly older, more mature ones. As long as the young, newest leaves continue to look healthy I don't worry at all".

NOTES FROM OUR AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER MAE LEONARD

If you missed our August meeting – you missed out on the 'always informative Mae Leonard'. Mae did not disappoint and gave us lots of tips about organic gardening. Mae describes it as "using nature as a guide to care for our plants" and emphasized that composting is the key to organic gardening. Here are some of the recipes Mae gave us for some common pest problems:

Japanese Beetle Trap:

Use an empty large plastic jug from Epsom Salts or something similar. Cut out holes on both sides and keep open at the top. This lets the bugs find their way into the really 'yucky' mix on the bottom. The mix is:

- 1 pint water
- 1 mashed banana
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup wine
- ¼ tsp. yeast

Allow the mix to ferment and then place in the bottom of the 'trap'. Remove bugs daily.

Slug Trap:

Use an empty large margarine container with the lid on. Cut small holes in the side to let the slugs in. Mix up a concoction of:

- Yeast
- Sugar
- Chunks of bread
- Spoiled yogurt

Make this in quantities to your choice - enough to make the bread moist. Place in the bottom of the trap.

Mae recommends that you get to know what the bugs in your garden do – good and bad. There are many good books around to get this information from. For instance, yellow jackets are good for pest control.

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.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A LITTLE MORE INVOLVED WITH YOUR SOCIETY?

All of the members on this year's Executive have volunteered to stay on as Directors.

But -- our By-laws allow us to have more Directors. We have room for 7 (seven) more Directors.

Your level of involvement is up to you. Some Directors are not able to attend Executive meetings, but carry out much needed tasks as their contribution.

The Executive meets once a month – the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Church hall.

We all select the tasks we are most interested in doing and we all work together as a team to get things done.

And the best part is that we have fun in doing what we do. How about joining us!!

Please let our President Dawn Suter know if you are interested. Dawn can be contacted either by email at dawn.suter@accglobal.net or by phone at 905-768-0467

September Monthly Competition Winners

Design Section:

(a) A,B,C's - Design in a mug for the teacher

1st Lena Atkinson

2nd Don Reeder

(b) Grandparent's Day - Design with an old fashioned feeling

1st Lena Atkinson

2nd Don Reeder

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

(a) Dahlia - 3 stem - over 5"

1st Don Reeder

2nd Don Reeder

3rd Don Reeder

(b) Dahlia - 3 stem - under 5"

1st Don Reeder

2nd Doris Thomson

(c) Dahlia - collection suitably displayed in container

1st Doris Thomson

2nd Don Reeder

(d) Collection of vegetables suitably displayed

1st Don Reeder

(e) Collection of perennials

1st Carol Jones

2nd Don Reeder

3rd Doris Thomson

4th Betty Ballanger

5th Betty Ballanger

(f) Collection of annuals

1st Carol Jones

2nd Don Reeder

Our September Speaker: Nancy Lee-Colibaba, Horticultural Therapist, RBG

The philosophy behind Horticultural Therapy is: "working with plants to better ones life". Nancy gave us some real food for thought on just how useful gardening can be for many people. Some of the examples she described were:

- Working with seniors to enable them to continue gardening. Ie. Using containers, having raised beds
- WW Veterans found gardening to be very therapeutic and assisted in their healing - both mentally and physically
- Long term care facilities have horticultural programs which can assist in enabling dementia residents to stay focused on a task longer than normal. The greenhouse area enables residents to decide how to garden ie what needs done - it's their decision.
- Inner City kids' horticultural programs at RBG teach gardening skills, build a sense of pride in growing and a feeling of contributing to their household by taking vegetables home that they grew themselves.
- Exercise for those suffering from arthritis by working in the warmed soil will maintain the status quo of dexterity as long as possible
- Plants can help people focus on the time of year ie: pumpkins for fall and Halloween; Poinsettias for Christmas; Lilies for Easter.

Fall Gardening Advise from James Graham, OHA District 6 Breakfast Meeting Guest Speaker:

James Graham encouraged us all to not be overly zealous in cleaning up our gardens this Fall. He told us that plants such as impatiens will literally melt into the ground after a few frosts and add instant compost to the area. There is no need to pull them out and discard. He encouraged us to relax from efforts to have pristine gardens and rather let plants die back naturally and add to the composting in our gardens.

He also said not to turn over our gardens because this disrupts the insect and worm activity that enriches our soil. He told us to layer compost on our gardens and then work in this rich soil in the spring.

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

Gardening Quotes:

“What a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back, with a hinge in it”

- Charles Dudley Warner

“There is no greater faith in the future than the stooped old man who plants an acorn.”

- Goethe