



STREETSVILLE BLOOMS

Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 19, Issue 4

DEC. 2012

NEXT MEETING: TUES., DEC. 11

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH

2630 Inlake Court

**** Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. ****

**CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP
With the
CHRISTMAS FAERIES
(see back page for details)**

& BAKED GOODS AUCTION



BAKED GOODS AUCTION

DEC. 11TH

SHS members are asked to bring baked items to the

December 11th meeting. They will be auctioned off to the highest bidder through Silent Auction. This is perfect timing to complete your Christmas sweet table or freeze sweets to satisfy that craving in the New Year.

Kindly provide a recipe with your baked goods as some members may have allergies.

REMEMBER: All baked items MUST BE NUT FREE – the church is “nut free” because of daycare during the day. There will be something there to satisfy everyone’s sweet tooth so don’t forget to bring your wallet.

President’s Message

Depending on where you’re from, the holiday season will see a variety of celebration styles. You might get together with your family or you might celebrate with a chosen family of friends.

Regardless of who surrounds you, you’ll likely reflect upon your blessings, as we tend to do at this time of year. You might announce them elocution style as you all take turns at the table or simply acknowledge them mentally in a moment of silent gratitude.

There are lots of ways to do this whole appreciation thing and just as many wonderful things to be grateful for in life. There’s remembering; sharing; giving; joy, excitement and hope all wrapped up into one. Throw in lots of laughter and acceptance of life’s challenges. It’s just the best combination.

As you take time to recognize all the fortunate parts of your circumstances, I recommend taking some time to appreciate something that often goes unrecognized. Take some time to appreciate yourself. I’m talking about actually appreciating all the good things you’ve done for you and others. Take a minute to think about how valuable your actions are, both for you and other people. All of our relationships depend upon our relationship with ourselves.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Sue Hutton, President

REFRESHMENTS

Many thanks to **Anita King, Lynne Sereda** and **Lil Duke** for bringing goodies to the November meeting.

Heartfelt gratitude to Eleonora Roberts for taking over the management of the refreshment table.

Bhawani Nadarajah

MASTER GARDENERS CONFERENCE

Come grow in knowledge. Come grow in spirit. Come grow in friendship. Come grow with the Master Gardeners.

You are cordially invited to join the Master Gardeners in our first ever Canadian Conference at the lovely Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario, **April 5th to April 7th, 2013.**

We offer engaging speakers on an amazing array of topics that mere words cannot do justice. We have evening chats with Paul Zammit and Martin Galloway, lots of extracurricular fun, and a veritable smorgasbord of gardening loot - yours for the bidding.

Check out our website for every garden glorious detail -- www.mgointernationalconference.ca.

TEQUILA CHRISTMAS CAKE

I've had requests for my Tequila Christmas Cake recipe so here goes. Please keep in your files as I am beginning to get tired of typing this up every year!

1 cup sugar	1 tsp. baking powder
1 cup water	1 tsp. salt
1 cup brown sugar	Lemon juice
4 large eggs	Nuts
1 bottle tequila	2 cups dried fruit

Sample the tequila to check quality. Take a large bowl; check the tequila again to be sure it is of the highest quality. Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add 1 teaspoon of sugar. Beat again. At this point, it is best to make sure the tequila is still OK. Try another cup just in case. Turn off the mixer thingy. Break 2 eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Pick the fruit up off the floor. Mix on the turner. If the dried fruit gets stuck in the beaters, just pry it loose with a screwdriver. Sample the tequila to test for consistency. Next, sift 2 cups of salt, or something. Check the tequila. Now shift the lemon juice strain your nuts. Add one table. Add a spoon of sugar, or something. Whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn the cake tin 360 s and try not to fall over. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Finally, throw the bowl through the window. Finish the tequila and wipe the counter with the cat. Cherry Christmas!

FLOWER SHOW AWARDS:



NOVICE OF THE YEAR - **Eleonora Roberts** ↑

BEST OVERALL (MOST POINTS) - **Nicky Hall**

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR - **Greg Sereda**

MEN'S ONLY - **Greg Sereda**

Congratulations to all for your amazing designs and cultural entries!

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



The Jean Kennedy Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to **Rob & Sue Harshman** for many, many hours of volunteering as Program Chair, premium purchaser, speaker and advocate for saving Ash trees in our community and many other hours over the past year(s). Congratulations Sue & Rob!

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR



Photo Contest Chair Henry Schouten presented the Photographer of the Year Award to Grace Nelham. Grace's entry for "Winter Wonderland" received 'Best in Show'.

FUTURE FLOWER SHOWS

The flower show committee would like to know if anyone has any thoughts about themes or topics for the 2013-2014 flower show design and specimen / cultural entries for the show competitions. Please contact Nicky Hall (905 858-2553) or Lynne Sereda (905 819-1287) before the April 2013 O.H.A. deadline.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to **Diane Barnett, Lorna Brissett, Bonnie Irwin, Lise Jacques, Debbie Lemire** and **Una Simpson** who joined SHS as new members in November. We were delighted to have **Sue Flack** come back to us again.

Be sure to say a special 'hello' to these new members and share with them some of the exciting events happening in our society.

REMEMBER THOSE NAME TAGS

Now that each member is responsible for their own nametag, **remember to bring it along**

and wear it at each one of our meetings. Greet members by their name in order to become more familiar with the membership at large and not just the few people that you already know. Help create a warm, welcoming atmosphere at each meeting! Store your nametag in the glove compartment of your car, with your newsletters or in your purse, so you can find it easily before each meeting. Store your draw tickets and your loonie for the refreshment table behind your name in the plastic container!!

Members are encouraged to create their own nametags, but if you're stuck, speak to Adele Gibbins at the membership table.

SHS MEMBER WINS EMTC CONTEST

Congratulations to Nicky Hall who tapped into her inner elf and entered the Erin Mills Town Center Christmas Wreath contest. With only two rules – the wreath must hang on a door and be no bigger than 3 feet, there were endless options. Her first prize finish came with a \$500 Erin Mills gift certificate and bragging rights. All the wreaths were displayed in the contest until November 30th giving plenty of ideas for our upcoming Christmas Workshop.



RECYCLABLE, RENEWABLE BENEFITS OF REAL CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas trees are more than just the celebration of life during the holidays, they are a source of life after it. Each year more consumers are discovering the recyclable, renewable benefits of real Christmas trees.

Real Christmas trees, unlike artificial ones which aren't biodegradable and will remain in landfills for centuries after they're disposed of, can provide something back to the environment in a variety of ways:

- ❖ Christmas trees are biodegradable - the trunk and branches can be used as mulch for gardens, parks or in animal stalls. The mulch provides a protect barrier for the roots of other plants and vegetation while preventing weeds from growing. The mulch then decomposes, providing the nutrients plants need to thrive.
- ❖ Mulching programs are a fast-growing trend in communities throughout the nation. Check with your local department of public works for information.
- ❖ Some communities use Christmas trees to make effective sand and soil erosion barriers, especially at beaches and on riverbeds. Sunk into private fish ponds trees make excellent refuge and feeding area for fish.
- ❖ Before recycling, Christmas trees can be used to make bird feeders, adding color and excitement to the winter garden. Utilize orange slices, suet, and seed to attract the birds. They will come for the food and stay for the shelter in the branches.
- ❖ Important: Never burn your Christmas tree in a fireplace or wood stove. Burning the tree may contribute to creosote buildup.

CHRISTMAS TREE FARMING TODAY

Prior to the 1950s, most family Christmas trees came from the forest; today over 98% are plantation grown.

Most Christmas trees begin life in a nursery where superior seed is planted and grown to two-year-old seedlings. Most seedlings are then taken from the nursery beds and replanted in Christmas tree farms for their final years of development.

Christmas tree farms have environmental benefits. They replenish the environment's oxygen supply, serve as wildlife habitat, increase soil stability and provide a valuable and aesthetically pleasing improvement to the land. Christmas trees are frequently planted on barren slopes or under power lines where no other crops will grow.

A Christmas tree takes 4-16 years to mature. During the time a Christmas tree is growing into a well-shaped 6-8 foot tree, it faces many hazards. Trees can suffer from too little or too much sun or rain, destruction by rodents, insects, disease,

hail or fire, and overgrowth from bushes, vines and weeds, or theft from the field.

Christmas trees are pruned annually. By holding back rapid upward growth, the grower can encourage the tree to branch more quickly, and gradually achieve the full bushy appearance consumer's look for in a Christmas tree.

At harvest time, wholesale growers select and tag the finished trees. The tagged trees are cut, bundled and loaded on trucks and railroad cars for the journey to any one of thousands of retail lots across the country.

For each tree cut, 2 to 3 seedlings are planted, thus ensuring the continued environmental benefits of Christmas tree farming and our supply of natural Christmas trees.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Sunday, Dec. 9 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

BRADLEY MUSEUM 1620 ORR ROAD

Visit with Father Christmas
Seasonal Tea Room
Traditional live music
Historic tours, crafts & cooking
Exhibit in the Anchorage

BENARES HOUSE – 1507 CLARKSON RD. N.

Visit with Santa Claus
Horse & Wagon Rides
Traditional caroling around player piano
Historic tours, crafts & cooking
Gift shop open with unique Xmas items

LESLIE LOG HOUSE – 4415 MISSISSAUGA RD.

Tours & children's craft
Seasonal refreshments (apple cider & gingerbread cookies)
Traditions of the season exhibit by Streetsville Historical Society.

If you enjoy the warmth of Christmas past, then be sure to visit Streetsville on **Saturday December 15th and 22nd** to enjoy our strolling carollers. The spirit comes alive in the village as our carollers dressed in old-fashioned costumes entertain young and old with traditional carols.

FEEDING BIRDS IN WINTER

Feeding the birds is a rewarding and enjoyable hobby in the midst of chilly winter weather, and these easy winter bird feeding tips can help both novice and experienced backyard birders make the most of their feeders during the coldest months of the year.

To attract the greatest number of species in the winter, it is important to have a number of different birdfeeders available. While easy birdfeeders such as hopper and platform designs are always popular, the feeders you use during the winter should have several characteristics in common.

- **Cover:** Feeders will be most useful in the winter if they have a wide cover over feeding ports, perches and dispensing trays so seed is not buried during snowfalls or storms. Fly-through platform feeders are especially good designs for winter bird feeding. The cover should extend several inches over the edge of the feeder to ensure protection from all but the most serious storms.

- **Placement:** Ideally, winter birdfeeders should be placed in sheltered locations out of the most severe winds. Placing feeders closer to the house will be effective and will help keep the birds visible for indoor birdwatching. At the same time, feeders should be placed near protective cover such as hedges or a brush pile to offer birds safety from predators. To minimize window collisions, place feeders no more than five feet away from a wall or window, and use window clings or other techniques to prevent collisions.

- **Capacity:** For birders' convenience, large capacity feeders are preferred for winter feeding because they do not need to be refilled as frequently. This is only viable, however, if the seed is protected from moisture, otherwise it may grow mold before it is consumed. Covered feeders with large capacities are suitable, but platform feeders should be emptied and refilled daily to prevent mildew and spoilage.

- **Cleanliness:** Because natural food sources are scarcer in the winter, more birds may be attracted to backyard feeders and those feeders will need to be cleaned and sterilized regularly. Proper cleaning will minimize mold, mildew and other unhealthy conditions that could foster disease among

backyard bird populations. When cleaning, discard soggy seed or seed encased in ice, and let the feeder dry before refilling if possible.

Foods for Birds in Winter

Most birds that visit backyards in snowy weather thrive on seeds, since insects and fruit are harder to find naturally during the winter. The best foods to offer birds in colder weather have a high fat or oil content that will provide abundant energy for winter survival. Nutritious winter foods for birds include:

- Black oil sunflower seed
- Hulled peanuts
- Niger seed
- Suet mixes with seeds or fruit
- Peanut butter
- White millet seed



When choosing birdseed and other foods for winter feeding, take into consideration which bird species are present in the winter and what foods they prefer to avoid excess wasted seed. Many birders also prefer to use no-mess seed mixes such as hulled sunflower seeds in the winter to avoid several months' of hull accumulation beneath feeders in the spring.

Storing Birdseed

It is best to stock up on birdseed in the fall when many lawn and garden centers are discounting seed to make way for winter merchandise. Stored properly, seed can easily last for months, particularly seed mixes and sunflower seeds.

To properly store seed, it should be kept in a cool, dry place that is protected from bugs and rodents. Choose a storage bin that will be easy to access all winter, and one that can be easily manipulated while wearing gloves and bulky coats

Questions, concerns, ideas, want to **volunteer** call
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SHS website: gardenontario.org/site.php/streets

Christmas Faeries Workshop

Tuesday, December 11th, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.
COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH - 2630 Inlake Court

\$10.00 fee to cover greenery costs

Sign up in advance with Lynne Sereda so we will know how much greenery to purchase

Please bring: A non-perishable item for the food bank.

- \$10.00 to help cover our costs for the greenery and supplies (please bring exact amount), a **tabletop size container**, and cutting shears.
- Your own ornaments and embellishments (decorations, pine cones, berry branches, etc.). Soak your (Wet) Oasis (if using), at least 3 hours before.
- Floral wire or tape (Wal-Mart or Michaels, Dollar store).
- And if you have some, greenery (hedge clippings tree branches) etc., to share.

We are purchasing Greenery for the group but more is better. We must ensure we do not run out of supplies so everyone will have an opportunity to make a beautiful display.

We will be raffling off the two demo samples to the group.
Members who sign up will pay Lynne Sereda \$10 at the door.

Contact Lynne at: 905-819-1287 to reserve your greenery

