



STREETSVILLE BLOOMS



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 20, Issue 8

MAY 2014

NEXT MEETING: MAY 13TH

**CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH
2630 Inlake Court**

Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

PREMIUM NIGHT

Speaker: Marilyn Cornwell

Topic: "The Romantic Garden"

Speaker Bio:

Join garden explorer and photographer Marilyn Cornwell to experience all there is to the Romantic Garden. You will become aware of what makes a garden truly Romantic. Visit some of the great Romantic Gardens of North America. Dig deep into what makes a garden Romantic - from exquisite flowers such as roses, lilacs and lilies to beautiful rendezvous settings.

We'll visit great public Romantic gardens - these include Longwood, Winterthur, Chanticleer, Hatley House (Royal Roads), and Filoli in California. We'll delve into which varieties of the Romantic flowers exude the most Romance. Find out how to make romance come alive in your garden, even if you live in a suburban setting.

Dean Scully, Program Chair

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 24 SHS Plant Sale Leslie Log House
- May 31 Friends of Wabukayne Day
- June 7 Bread & Honey Festival – SHS info table at Rotary Park. Volunteers needed.
- June 10 SHS Meeting – bring a friend for free. Guests \$5.00 at all other meetings
- July 13 Garden Tour

President's Message

As we look back on one of the coldest Mississauga winters in many years, we all long for the warm days of summer. With the average date of our last frost around May 15, the growing season is just around the corner. So we need to be actively planning ahead.

With the devastation of the ice storm mostly behind us, it is still important to make sure we have cleaned up as much as possible. If you have any trees or bushes that have been damaged by the winter, spend some time making sure you have cut back broken, dead or diseased limbs. Be sure to use a sharp saw to make clean cuts to promote healing. Remember also that some bushes such as the Rose of Sharon stay dormant into the early spring and should be trimmed back later.

The winter may also have killed some of your favorite perennials, so the spring is an excellent time to take an inventory of those plants that didn't survive. Once you have completed your garden survey, you have the opportunity to try new and improved plants. For example there is a new lilac called Boomerang, which blooms twice per season. In addition, nurseries also have a wide variety of new colors of perennials such as daylilies, phloxes, peonies and hydrangeas. If you make a budget and a list of specific plants you would like to have, then you can save yourself some money when you get to a nursery. Impulse buying of plants is dangerous not only to your budget but often there may not be adequate room in your garden for the new additions.

Early spring is also an excellent time to weed your garden. When the soil is moist weeds are easier to dig out and by removing them early in the season they don't have a chance to spread. Time invested in weeding now will save you hours of headaches later in the season. Once you have removed the weeds from your garden, strategic mulching will help keep unwanted plants under control.

As you work through your garden this spring, think of perennials you could subdivide to share with others in our Horticultural Society or

donate to our plant sale coming up on May 24.
Happy gardening!

Rob & Sue Harshman, Co-Presidents

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK...

We had one new member join our society in April, **Lucia Brown**, and returning after missing most of the year are **Laurie & Jean Watt**. Please reach out to your friends and neighbors and tell them about our society and invite them to attend a meeting and see what its all about!

Thanks to **Marg Rowan** for helping me on the membership desk. Helpers for the May meeting are **Heather Tragaskes** and **Marie Kothari**. (**Pat & Mike Salisbury**, if you would still like to help out please feel free to come a bit early as we do need someone to direct members to the sign up sheets for the plant sale.) Be sure to check in at the membership desk and get your coupon for your premium!

We are still looking for volunteers to help at the June meeting. We will also need extra hands in the fall when payments for the next year are due. Please think about it and remember this counts towards volunteer hours.

I am also looking for someone to help at the plant sale on the membership desk. I will do the early morning shift but could use a society member to continue until the plant sale is done.

As mentioned at the last meeting there will be a supplemental fee of \$10.00 to cover mailing costs if you wish to get your newsletter by snail mail **and** you have an email address. This will come into reality in September, so if you have an email address and are currently receiving your newsletters by mail please inform me so you will not have to pay any more than your membership fee.

A big thank-you to everyone for wearing your name tags and for handing them back in. I am seeing a little more socializing happening even if it's just from the time it takes to find your names hanging on the board. I am finding myself more familiar with everyone and I like it! So keep it up and let's enjoy our new friendships.

Grace McElhinney, Membership Chair

I got so excited about the nice weather, I wet my plants!

TIME TO GET BUSY

Spring marks the beginning of the busy season in the garden and the earlier we start, the better. Don't be too eager though. With Toronto's atypical weather patterns, you'll have to monitor the soil regularly until the time is right. The soil should not be worked until the frost is out of it, and not at all if it's waterlogged.

As for removing winter mulch, a good rule of thumb is to wait until tulips show 10 cm. of growth. Be especially careful cleaning up those sunny banks and borders where the snow melts first. Good insects such as ladybugs winter over in such places, among pine needles and similar debris. Destroy their homes now and they won't survive icy nights still to come.

Early spring is a good time to prune fruit trees and other deciduous specimens. If you can, dress wounds bigger than 2.5 cm in diameter with tree paint so as to prevent rot and infestation. It's not the best time for major pruning of conifers though, as their sap will be running. Leave them until early fall, if you must prune them at all.

Most deciduous shrubs should be pruned and trimmed in early spring, and don't hold back on them. They mostly respond well to tough love and will grow healthier and bushier as a result, though your efforts may result in the sacrifice of some of this season's flowers.

Generally, prune out an old branch or two and shape the rest so that growth is outward from the centre, to open up the shrub to light and air.

Evergreen shrubs such as creeping junipers and cedars are another matter. Leave them until their new growth has stopped – Canada Day is about right – then cut back half the new growth. Some, such as rhododendrons, rarely need pruning at all, except to pinch out terminal, non-flower buds and later to snap off the seed heads.

Of all the favors you can do for your beds, digging and turning over the top 15 cm to 20 cm is the biggest. It beats fertilizing or composting, though a combination of all three is dynamite. If compost is scarce, dig in an inch or two of peat moss. Unlike compost, it has no nutritional value but will add fiber and acidify your soil, which most plants like.

By the way, anything that you sprinkle on the beds will make a wonderful cultivation marker, showing you where you have, or haven't, dug.

The lawn needs attention now and I heartily recommend aerating it with a gas-powered aerator that punches plugs out of the soil. Do it when the ground is soft but not muddy.

And yes, spring fertilizing of the lawn is the most important one of all. Do it early with a good quality fertilizer, preferably a slow-release one with a high nitrogen content (the three numbers on the bag are nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, in that order).

First though, give the lawn a good raking, just to spruce it up and to get rid of winter's accumulation of junk.

Richard Rix, Home Digest - Spring 2013



SUGGESTION BOX

Many of you saw a suggestion box on the membership table in April and we want you to use it!

We are always looking for ideas for the upcoming year and would like some input from our members. Is there a speaker you would like to hear? Would you like a presentation on certain plants? Would you like instructions on planting or landscaping? Please let us know so that going forward our topics will be geared to your wants and wishes.

PHOTO TIPS

Hope you all had a wonderful Easter, and I am sure you all took many indoor pictures around the dinner table to capture your day with children and grandchildren. I for one have made many grainy pictures with blurring and clutter. There are many ways you can avoid these pictures, and the following tips might help. Like a computer, a camera has to be experimented with. With digital today, you can go wild. There are many settings that will enhance your pictures. Suggestion: Grab a piece of paper and pen and record the settings pertaining to each picture and discover which settings work best in each particular situation. Keeping your camera

set on auto, does not always give you the best picture. Have fun.

TIP #1 DON'T USE FLASH INDOORS

Flash can look harsh and unnatural especially for indoor portraits. Therefore, there are various ways you can take an image indoors without resorting to flash. First, push the ISO up – usually ISO 800 to 1600 will make a big difference for the shutter speed you can choose. Use the widest aperture possible – this way more light will reach the sensor and you will have a nice clear shot. Using a tripod or an I.S. (Image Stabilization) lens is also a great way to avoid blur.

You can also use your low light option on your camera and turn off your flash. See what works for you.



TIP #2 USE SIMPLE BACKGROUNDS

The simple approach is usually the best in digital photography, and you have to decide what needs to be in the shot, while not including anything that is a distraction. If possible, choose a plain background – in other words, neutral colors and simple patterns. You want the eye to be drawn to the focal point of the image rather than a patch of color or an odd building in the background. This is vital in a shot where the model is the focal point.

Keep your camera close. Take a deep breath, and shoot. Happy hunting!!

Henry Schouten, Photo Contest Chair

PUBLICITY

Check out the "SNAPD" Newspaper; printed copy at several bank branches, coffee shops, drug stores, and grocery stores in Streetsville or on line www.snapnorthmississauga.com for our AD and monthly meeting entry in the "events calendar". In the month of May, there will also be an entry for our Plant Sale.

iCan Garden on line event calendar is also updated monthly with the information on our monthly meeting, and for this month our Plant Sale info. <http://www.icangarder.com/>

The May copy of "Mississauga Life Magazine" will have our monthly meeting and our Plant Sale info in their event calendar, both on-line and in the printed copy.

Amgad Boles, Publicity Chair

FLOWER SHOW

DESIGN

- Class 1 "Fresh" using a glass bowl with fruit inside to hold and/or cover the stems
- Class 2 "Chocolate" - PAVE design (look up on internet or library for ideas)

MINIATURES

- Class 3 "It's a Small World"

FOR MEN ONLY

- Class 4 "Man's Best Friend"

NOVICE

- Class 5 "Mums the Word" – Mother's Day gift.
HOGARTHS CURVE, (Page 15)

CULTURAL

- Class 1 Euphorbia – 1 cultivar – 2 spikes
- Class 2 Fritillaria – any cultivar – 1 stem
- Class 3 Helleborus (Lenten rose) – 2 blooms
- Class 4 Hyacinthus (Hyacinth) – 1 stem
- Class 5 Iris – dwarf – 1 bloom
- Class 6 Muscari (grape hyacinth) 3 stems cultivar
- Class 7 Mysotis (forget-me-not) – 3 or more Stems
- Class 8 Narcissus/Daffodil – AOV – 1 stem – no foliage allowed
- Class 9 Narcissus/Daffodil – double – 1 stem – no foliage allowed
- Class 10 Narcissus/Daffodil – trumpet – 1 stem –

no foliage allowed

- Class 11 Perennial – not listed – 1 stem, bloom or spray
- Class 12 Primula – 1 stem – any cultivar
- Class 13 Spring bulb – not listed – 1 bloom or spray
- Class 14 Syringa Vulgaris (lilac) - 1 branch
- Class 15 Tulip – AOV – 1 bloom cut with no more than 2 leaves on the stem to encourage next year's bloom
- Class 16 Tulip – double – 1 bloom cut with no more than 2 leaves on the stem to encourage next year's bloom
- Class 17 Tulip – lily – 1 bloom cut with no more than 2 leaves on the stem to encourage next year's bloom
- Class 18 Tulip – parrot/fringed – 1 bloom cut with no more than 2 leaves on the stem to encourage next year's bloom
- Class 19 Tulip – single – 1 bloom cut with no more than 2 leaves on the stem to encourage next year's bloom
- Class 20 Violets or violas in a small vase – same cultivar – 3 or more.

For further information see the Flower Show Handbook on our website, or the Judging Standards Book or contact Nicky Hall (Cultural) 905 858-2553 or Lynn Sereda (Design) 905 819-128



← Ursula Evanoff's "First" place interpretation of 'Ikebana' – April flower show.

Congratulations Ursula!

PLANT SALE

The plant sale is less than a month away and as I look at the volunteer lists I see many empty spaces.

Volunteers are still needed for the following:

- to post flyers in libraries, grocery stores and stores throughout Streetsville
- to post the day before (and pick up after the sale) signs and arrows leading the public to the sale
- transporting plants from the holding centres to the Leslie Log House between 6:30 & 7:45 am
- customer service
- morning coffee and snacks for the workers
- and cleaning up

The sign up sheets will be out at the May meeting. Please see where you can help.

To sell more cook books we will be offering tasty samples of some of the recipes. If you would like to prepare samples please call Mary Bernier (905-821-8431) or see her at the May meeting.

The new lawn signs have been delivered and will be handed out at the meeting. Ask your neighbours and friends if you can put one on their lawn.

Remember to bring any clean pots (6 to 8"), plastic mini blinds for labelling and any plants that are peeking out. They can be dropped off at 6065 Montevideo Rd (around the corner from the church) before or after the meeting.

If you have any questions feel free to call or email me debra.buckler@rogers.com or 905 567-4803

DRAW TABLE

WOW! April was a great month for the draw table!! We received some wonderful donations of prizes from **Lil Duke, Grace McElhinney, Carol Ashford, Joe Boles, Jean Barna** and **June Samaras**. Bouquets of daisies to you all.



Congratulations to the winners of April's basket draw and a big thank you to all the ticket purchasers.

Mary Bernier, Draw Table Chair

BIG NEWS FROM STREETSCAPE!

First the bad news – there will **not** be a Streetscape contest this year, for 2014. The good news is that the contest will return in 2015.

With the City's support, we are currently in the process of changing Streetscape from a City program to a community group. Rather than compromise the contest by undertaking two tasks at once, we felt the best strategy was simply to sit out a year.

As we establish ourselves, there will be exciting opportunities for enthusiastic volunteers to join our team and help shape the new organization. Gardening expertise is not a prerequisite. We need new blood and fresh ideas – we need you! If you have experience or interest in Finance / bookkeeping, Secretarial duties, Publicity / marketing, Fundraising / sponsorship, Social media – web design / maintenance, Volunteer recruitment, Event co-ordination, we would love to talk to you.

Please email us at streetscape.mississauga@mississauga.ca **if you are interested.**

We will be hosting an Open House on Monday May 5th from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Mississauga Valleys Community Centre, (Program Room #1) to share our thoughts and plans for the future, to answer your questions and to help you to identify your potential "fit" within the group. Light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there!

The Streetscape Mississauga Action Team

IMPATIENS ALTERNATIVES

As we get closer to the planting season you may be wondering what to plant instead of *impatiens walleriana*. Impatiens Downy Mildew is a fungal disease, it causes yellowing leaves, almost complete leaf loss, and death of impatiens plants. The disease is spread by spores produced on the underside of infected leaves. It completely decimated impatiens grown across southern Ontario last year and most of North America. If you

planted *impatiens walleriana* last year or if a neighbor did, the spores will be present in your garden and any impatiens you plant will **die**. Many local nurseries are not carrying impatiens this year and will not be for the foreseeable future. More information on this problem was published in the December 2013 newsletter.

There are numerous alternatives:

1. New Guinea impatiens (*Impatiens hawkeri*) often called sun impatiens and their relatives are not susceptible to the impatiens downy mildew.



This type of impatiens will thrive in partial sun locations. In full shade, they will flower sparingly. In full sun, they will flower more heavily, but they will also require frequent watering in hot, dry weather. They often have dark leaves and vibrant colors.

2. There are several varieties of **begonia** that are suitable. The smallest are wax-leaf begonias that are available everywhere and offer an inexpensive alternative for either sun or shade. They grow 8 to 12 inches tall, require no deadheading and thrive with minimal watering. They are excellent for mass planting and less expensive than some other alternatives. A new type of wax leaf begonia has recently become available. The 'Big' series has large red flowers up to 3 inches across and are much taller up to 2 feet high. The 'Whopper' series are even larger up to 3 feet tall and almost 2 feet wide.



Dragon Wing begonias have been around since the late 1990s. They are only available in red, orangey-red and pink. They have an arching, semi-drooping habit and are ideal for hanging baskets, large containers, or beds. Grow them in

shade to part shade where plants will flower with minimal care. They can grow 12 to 15 inches tall and 15 to 18 inches wide. Don't let them dry out and fertilize throughout the growing season for best results.

Tuberous begonias used to be grown from tubers but are now mostly grown from seed. The most popular series is the 'Nonstop' begonia. It is an upright grower with large, double flowers and green leaves. The color range includes yellow, orange, pink, rose, salmon, red, and white. They are suitable for pots and garden beds. A bronze leafed variety called 'Mocca' is also available, plus a trailing variety 'Illumination'. Both of these other varieties also offer a good color range. Keep the soil slightly damp and fertilize regularly.



3. *Browallia* is a true shade lover; it grows in the darkest corners of the garden with its deep green foliage and dainty white, blue or purple flowers. It is probably the best alternative to impatiens for use as a ground cover. It has white, blue or purple flowers. It prefers warm weather, but must have protection from hot sun. It can grow quite large, so check the labels for the ultimate size of the particular variety.



4. *Iresine* or bloodleaf prefers partial shade and is used for its colorful foliage rather than its flowers. This plant makes a marvelous display if used for mass planting. There are several varieties available.



5. *Salvia farinacea* or mealycup sage, likes partial, not full shade and tolerates poor soils and some drought. Flower colors are blue, purple, lavender, and white. I grow this plant in an area that gets only early morning sun and it is always successful.



6. *Torenia* or wishbone flowers remind me of pansies. They grow best in partial, not deep shade and come in a range of single and multi-colored flowers with shades of blue, purple, pink and yellow. For some reason they are often labeled as suitable for full sun-they aren't. They grow



well in hanging baskets and grow 8 to 10 inches tall and wide.

7. *Caladiums* make excellent accent plants in the shade. A few cultivars will also thrive in sun as well. They have beautiful, multicolored, veined leaves with colors like red, pink, white, yellow, and burgundy. They are also quite expensive so to get the best value from them dig them up and store over winter to be replanted the next year.



8. *Nicotiana* (tobacco flower) prefers full to part sun but will also tolerate some shade. They are long blooming plants with clusters of small, petunia-like flowers in colors including white, pink, purple, green, rose, and red. They are especially fragrant at night and are often considered one of the most desirable hummingbird plants. They are available in various heights, from 12 inches to 48 inches.



9. *Nierembergia* or cup flower is one of my favorite underused annuals, and is wonderful in pots or beds. It will grow in part sun to shade and creates a spreading mound of white or blue, upward-facing, "cup"-shaped flowers with tiny yellow centers. It requires no deadheading and with afternoon shade has good heat tolerance. It may require cutting back in mid-summer and should not dry out.



Other more commonly used shade plants include: *Lobelia* is available in a range of white, blues and some purples, some are upright and others trailing and are very good in hanging baskets.

Coleus produce ornamental foliage whose diversity, colors, and steady performance have turned this once ignored plant into one of the most popular bedding and container ornamentals. There are very many varieties available but remember they are

grown for their foliage not the insignificant flowers. Some older types will do better if deadheaded.

Fuchsias are a great shade plant. We often think of hanging baskets when we think of fuchsias; however there are some upright varieties that are ideal for use in beds or pots. When I was a child I often used fuchsias hung over my ears as earrings!

Monica Ross, The Garden Lady
www.thegardenlady.net

Volunteers Needed



POTTING UP SCHEDULE

For Plant Sale

LOCATION: 6065 MONTEVIDEO RD

HOST: DEBRA BUCKLER
905-567-4803

SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY, MAY 3 8:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 10 – 8:30am

SUNDAY, MAY 11 – 1:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 17 – 8:30am

**BRING WORK GLOVES,
SMALL SHOVELS AND TROWELS,
WATER BOTTLES AND LOTS OF
ENERGY!**

"Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle."

~Abraham Lincoln

EDUCATION

Members **Eleonora Roberts** and **Lynn Merritt** attended the Plowman's Park Public School Community Showcase (aimed at providing information about various services and programs in the community) on April 16th armed with SHS pamphlets and promotional material about our May 24th plant sale and to sell our cookbooks. What a great way to gain exposure in our community.

Also, **Eleonora Roberts** and **Mary Hachey** have booked seven classes in local schools (Grades K & 1) to speak about "Fostering the Love of Gardening in Children". What a great undertaking!

PREMIUMS AT MAY MEETING

What is a premium you ask?? It states in the Streetsville Horticultural Society's Constitution (Article III – Purposes) that the objective of the society is to encourage interest and improvement in horticulture in the following ways: "(e) by distributing seeds, plant, bulbs, flowers, trees and shrubs."

Therefore, if you are a paid up member of SHS you will receive a premium at our May meeting. If you have a family membership you will receive 2 premiums and single memberships will receive one. Members **MUST** be in attendance to receive their premium.

Be sure to stop and check off your name at the membership table and get your chit so that you can receive your premium.

In the past we have distributed hostas, grasses, iris, etc. so be sure to be on hand so you don't miss out. Left over premiums will be sold at the plant sale or used for planting at our community projects (Rotary Park and Leslie Log House).

If the sight of the blue skies fills you with joy,

If a blade of grass springing up in the field has the power to move you,

If the simple things of nature have a message that you understand,

Rejoice, for your soul is alive.

Elenora Duse

GARDEN TOUR & POT LUCK

Do you have a beautiful garden you want to share with other SHS members? Or, do you know of a neighbor or friend who has a great garden??

Please tell us about possible gardens for our garden tour which will be held on **July 13th**. Contact Eleonora Roberts at gattescohouse@rogers.com or 905 302-4491.

FOR SALE

Have something garden related you want to sell? Or do you want to advertise your home business?

Do you know you can advertise in our newsletter?

For further information on sizes and cost of ads, please contact Amgad Boles at 647-933-3808 or amgadg@rogers.com



Don't forget to submit your volunteer hours! All that time spent digging up plants or potting up for the plant sale count as volunteer hours. Submit hours to Eleonora Roberts at gattescohouse@rogers.com or hand them in at the meetings.

Questions, concerns, ideas, want to **volunteer** call Presidents: Sue & Rob Harshman (905) 607-2802
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