



STREETSVILLE BLOOMS



Streetsville Horticultural Society

Proud to be a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association

Volume 21, Issue 10

www.streetsvillehort.ca

June 2015

“BRING A FRIEND NIGHT”

JUNE 9, 2015

CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH
2630 Inlake Court

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00

Meeting at 7:30

- **Special Presentations**
- **Spectacular Flower Show**
- **Free Admission for “Friends”**
- **Great Refreshments & Draw Prizes**
- **PLUS SPEAKER: EDEL SCHMIDT**

TOPIC: “ALL ABOUT HYDRANGEAS”

SPEAKER BIO: Edel is the owner and operator of Edelweiss Landscaping, providing professional plant maintenance and design consultation for homeowners and small commercial establishments; specializing in redesigning and rejuvenating neglected gardens.

She started her present business in 2000 and completed a horticultural program at **Sheridan College**. Her professional knowledge of plants and their environments, ‘hands-on’ experience and dedication to individual garden owners, has enabled Edel to build up a list of very satisfied clients.

Edel is a member of the Etobicoke 'Master Gardeners and has just completed her 5th year as president of Cloverleaf Garden Club in Mississauga.

She speaks and conducts workshops at horticultural events on subjects such as: pruning, maintenance, plant selection and container gardening; including Canada Bloom, local libraries and garden clubs.

Dean Scully, Program Chair

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This is one of the most exciting times of the year for us as gardeners. The trees are finally green and the spring flowers have “popped” into full colour. The birds are nesting in the trees and vines around our homes and we are all out working hard in the garden.

The month ahead is also busy for our Society. Coming up at our next general meeting is Friend Day. As you may remember, Friend Day last June was highly successful with 32 of our friends and neighbors joining us for our meeting. This year we are hoping for another great evening with good food, door prizes for visitors and those who invited them and an excellent speaker.

Friend Day is important because it gives us a chance to showcase what we do well in our Society. The impact of our Society isn’t just inside our membership but extends to all those around us who are influenced by what we do. Spreading the word about what we do is part of our mission and the more people who know about us the more we will impact our city for good. Please invite along those you think might enjoy a fun and educational evening – and it is free!

Here’s another quick reminder. Coming up on Sunday July 12 is our Annual Garden Tour. Circle that date on your calendar. If you have a garden or know someone who has a garden that would be suitable for the tour please let us know.

In the meantime enjoy your garden.

Rob & Sue Harshman, Co-Presidents

“Do not throw in the towel;
use it for wiping the sweat
off your face.”

~Unknown



ANT KILLER

What's so cool about this is, it took them 2 minutes to find it and 5 minutes to fill up. Wow!

1 empty water bottle

(Cut it down to about 2" tall)

5 Tbsp of baking soda

5 Tbsp of sugar

3 Tbsp of water. (dry works buy I used real sugar.)

The very best way of eliminating ants is truly simple:

- Take a small amount of powdered sugar (also called icing sugar) and mix it with an equal amount of baking soda (formally called sodium bicarbonate)
- Powdered sugar is essential. You cannot use the larger grains of sugar for this..
- Mix the two powders together and then place small amounts against the walls or other areas where you would not normally walk but where you would normally see the ants.
- The ants will be attracted to the sugar and will eat some of it and collect more to take home to feed others, so all of them will get their share.
- The sugar and baking soda powders are similar in size and, once mixed together, the ants cannot separate the two items, so, as they eat the sugar, they will also ingest the baking soda, which they would otherwise never touch. This is the reason for using powdered sugar.
- Once the ants eat the baking soda it will react with the formic acid in their stomachs and cause gas. The bodies of ants are unlike humans and they cannot eliminate gas so it will build up inside them and cause them to literally explode.

FLOWER SHOW

DESIGN

THEME: BEAUTY

Class 1 "Haute Couture" – hat or fascinator (Styrofoam head supplied)

Class 2 "Bag of Style" – a design of a bag/clutch made with fresh and/or dried material

MINIATURES

Class 3 "Ballet" – using pink

Novice

Class 4 "Stiletto" – a design incorporating a shoe

CULTURAL

Class 5 Allium – 1 stem

Class 6 Any other flowering bulb/corm/rhizome/

Tuber – 1 stem

Class 7 Any perennial not listed – 1 bloom

Class 8 Any perennial not listed – 1 spray

Class 9 Aquilegia (columbine) – any cultivar – 1 stem

Class 10 Baptisia australis (false indigo) – 2 stems

Class 11 Clematis – 1 bloom

Class 12 Corydalis lutea – 3 stems

Class 13 Delphinium – 1 spike

Class 14 Dianthus – 1 cultivar – 2 stems

Class 15 Dianthus barbatus (sweet William) – 1 cultivar – 2 stems

Class 16 Digitalis (foxglove) – 1 spike

Class 17 Heuchera – 3 flowering stems with leaves

Class 18 Hosta – 1 leaf each of 3 different cultivars

Class 19 Hosta – mini – 2 leaves

Class 20 Hosta – solid color – 2 leaves

Class 21 Hosta – variegated 2 leaves

Class 22 Iris – bearded – 1 stem

Class 23 Iris – Siberian – 1 stem

Class 24 Larkspur – 1 spike

Class 25 Lupin – 1 spike

Class 26 Oriental poppy – 1 bloom

Class 27 Paeonia (peony) double – 1 bloom

Class 28 Paeonia (peony) single – 1 bloom

Class 29 Paeonia (Peony) AOV – 1 bloom

Class 30 Poppy – AOV – 1 bloom

Class 31 Rose – AOV – 1 bloom or spray

Class 32 Rose – climbing – 1 bloom or spray

Class 33 Rose – miniature – 1 bloom

Class 34 Rose – miniature – 1 spray

Class 35 Valerien – 1 stem

WHAT EVERYBODY OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT CONTAINER GARDEN SOIL

The major problem with container growing is that the soil compacts because of two major events. The first is repeated watering and the second is the breakdown of organic matter.

There are two major problems: the first is repeated watering and the second is the breakdown of organic matter.

HOW WATERING IS A PROBLEM?

- You put the end of the hose into the container and you turn on the tap. Water gushes into the pot and within a minute, you've applied several gallons of water. All of this to a fairly small surface area.
- Within one minute you've applied a gallon of

water to one square foot of soil surface. Imagine how that would be if a gallon a minute landed on your front yard. Even a hurricane doesn't deliver a gallon a square foot a minute.

- And you do this every day to the soil in this pot. Repeated smashings of water compress the soil. And there are no natural remedies (such as earthworms in your garden) for this battering in a container.

ORGANIC MATTER BREAKDOWN: MICROORGANISMS CHANGE YOUR CONTAINER SOIL

- The second thing adding to soil compression is the action of micro-organisms. Organic matter naturally decomposes in soil because soil bacteria and fungi are breaking it down. Decomposition of organic matter is the action that naturally feeds your plants and keeps them healthy in the garden.
- This happens in your containers as well.
- Organic matter is one of the things that help hold the individual soil particles apart in the growing root zone. As it disappears, the soil particles become closer and closer – restricting water penetration and root growth.
- I note the other thing helping break down the organic matter is the fertilizers we use. Bacteria and fungi thrive on nitrogen so if we're feeding our plants nitrogen to keep them growing strongly, these microorganisms will be delighted with the feeding and will increase the breakdown of organic matter.
- Once soil compaction happens in the container, plants struggle and often turn yellow or pale green and do not grow very much.

THE WORST SOIL YOU CAN USE

The very worst soil you can use in container gardening is soil from your garden. It compacts very quickly under the pressure of water turning into concrete.

THE BEST SOIL YOU CAN USE

The best soil you can use for your container gardening is an soilless mix such as ProMix. These soilless mixes are designed for intensive greenhouse container growing. The brand you pick is not important, what is important is that you do not use garden soil.

DON'T DIFFERENT PLANTS NEED DIFFERENT KINDS OF SOIL?

No.

- If you're going to grow specialized alpine plants or orchids, it's true.
- But it is not true if you're going to grow the plants commonly available in garden centers. I use the same soil on all my plants and have for years in the nursery business.
- Think about it for a minute, there's no way a major production nursery is going to have a different soil mix for every plant in the place. This isn't going to happen.

CAN YOU REUSE THIS SOIL YEAR AFTER YEAR?

Yes

- The first is to take it out of the pot and break it all up. When you dump it out, you'll discover it will come out as a root bound chunk.
- You need to recreate the air spaces so beating it up with a shovel to break it up will both accomplish this and give you a workout.
- Break it up as much as possible.
- Do not simply replant in this root bound mess the second year.
- The second thing I do in my own garden is add a shovel of compost to every three shovels of the renovated soil I add back into the container. This adds a level of nutrition and more organic matter (remember some of the organic matter disappeared in the last summer's heat) to the mix that will have the plants growing strongly.

FILL TO BOTTOM

- Fill the entire pot with soil. Do NOT put pot shards or rocks or anything else to "improve" the drainage. This is an old wife's tale of epic proportion.
- Adding something to the bottom actually slows down the drainage – making it worse. That's the physics of water movement and we get down to the molecular level as to why this happens.
- Simply keep the same soil in your pot from top to bottom and you'll be fine.

CAN I MIX MY OWN?

Yes, you can but I've often found that buying the components is almost the same price or more expensive and *you won't get the same consistent results from year to year.* There are recipes online if you decide to go this route. Just don't add real soil.

WHAT ABOUT X OR Y?

Garden centers sell a lot of this. I know there are some really large brands with big marketing dollars

and they claim you can grow containers with their product.

- I suggest two things: First – check the label. If it contains soil, don't buy it.
- Second, check for online reviews of that soil. I think you may be surprised to discover that big marketing money doesn't necessarily translate to good container soil.

My bottom line is simple. Use a good soilless mix. Reuse it from year to year. But no real soil ever gets into one of my containers.

Excerpt Doug Green's Courses

109th OHA CONVENTION

"Summer in the Southern Tier"

Redeemer University College
Ancaster, ON
July 3, 4, & 5

For further information go to:

http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/up_conf.php

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK

Many thanks to my helpers **Shirley Boyes** and **Marie Kothari** for helping me on the desk in May. Remember, if you would like to help, come in early there is always something to do to get these meetings set up. We thank you for your help! You can reach me at gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com or text me at 416-433-1148 if you would like to volunteer.

June is Bring a Friend night and I could use a couple of extra hands at the front to sign in the visitors and hand out draw tickets. It's a very busy night and the more helpers the smoother things go!

Thank you everyone for filling out the membership surveys at the May meeting. I have 70 surveys to sort through which will give the executive a much better vision in planning our activities and speakers in the 2015-2016 year. This will also speed up our sign in desk in the fall as we plan to do this process with new members as they join and on premium night in May. You had to work a little harder to get your premiums, but we, as an executive, feel that the questions and answers are very important to the success of our society.

Remember to hand in your name tags at the end of the evening and take a few seconds to **tuck** in the string. There will be a box at the exit to toss in the tags.

Don't forget to check the new memo board for important dates and sign-ups for upcoming activities.

Grace McElhinney, Membership Chair

GARDENING & HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION

For many of us expanding our gardening and horticultural knowledge is a key reason for belonging to a horticultural society. We learn from each other and from experts who speak at our meetings. If you want to learn more and in more depth there are lots of opportunities.

A great reason to take gardening courses is that for 6 long months, November to April we can't do much gardening in our climate, so taking courses during the winter provides an opportunity to learn how to become better gardeners when we can't learn by doing outside.

Both the Toronto and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton offer courses in the evenings and on weekends.

If you want to learn but like most of us can't commit to a fixed classroom schedule, distance education is the easiest way. Distance education used to be called correspondence courses where both the students and the instructors corresponded by mail, that is snail mail not email. Today's distance education is completely on-line, you can log in to your course whenever is convenient for you 24 hours a day. No special skills are needed, just basic keyboarding.

ON LINE COURSES

Information about becoming a Master Gardener is available on the Master Gardeners of Ontario website <http://www.mgoi.ca> Courses are offered by two Canadian universities Dalhousie and Guelph.

The Dalhousie University MG program is 4 courses: up to 6 months is allowed to complete each course. The courses are The Art of Gardening, Maintaining the Garden, Plant Identification & Use and The Science of Gardening <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/agriculture/extended-learning/programs-courses/master-gardener-training.html>

The University of Guelph MG program is 3 courses each 13 weeks long. The courses are Cultural Practices for Plants, Introduction to Plant Identification and Growing Plants
<http://www.guelphhort.com/>

The University of Guelph offers many other horticulture related courses which can all be taken separately or as combinations of courses that complete a certificate.

The Horticulturist Certificate- This certificate is designed especially for gardeners wishing to enhance their knowledge and skills relating to residential gardens.

Sustainable Urban Horticulture Certificate- Focuses on the environmental, social and economic implications of horticulture in our cities.

Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate- Individuals and professionals interested in producing food in an urban environment will learn both theory and practical skills to support agricultural sustainability

Sustainable Landscapes Certificate- learn design tactics and resource management strategies to retain or enhance naturalized landscapes. Gain knowledge in tree health as it relates to both the individual plant and woodland communities.

<http://www.guelphhort.com/certificates>

Humber College also offers on line courses: these courses are especially designed for the home gardener, Annuals for Garden and Container, The Healthy Garden, Hardy Perennials for Gardens, Flowering Bulbs for the Garden, Flowering Shrubs for the Landscape, Lawn and Turf Management, Basic Botany

<http://www.humber.ca/onlinelearning/>

I took my Master Gardeners qualification courses through what was previously the Nova Scotia Agricultural College now part of Dalhousie University. The courses are not difficult and I really liked the option of taking 6 months to complete each course.

I have also taken many of the Guelph Certificate courses and enjoyed them all.

By Monica Ross

HELPING HANDS

Thank you for the interest in our helping hands program. We had **14 members** list their names to be available and I will have these ready for the June meeting to those who are interested.

Remember when you contact someone for assistance this is between the two people involved. Don't be afraid to reach out but let's be sure hospitality doesn't get abused.

Should you like to add your name to the list please contact me. gracemcelhinney@hotmail.com

Cheers! Grace McElhinney

ROTARY PARK CLEANUP

On Saturday morning, May 16/15, we cleaned, raked, planted and spread the mulch. Luckily it was a beautiful warm morning.

Twenty bags of top soil was spread during the week, and the City of Mississauga delivered 3 loads of mulch. **Ron Beehoo** rebricked Bill Duke's Memorial tree garden.

Many thanks to **Rob & Sue Harshman, Martha Witney, Linda Bush, Terry Boughner, Christina Anonychuk, Irene Murdock, Michele Sweeney, Debbie Webster, Anita & Alex King**. Also special thanks to **Bruce Murdock** for wheel barrelling all the mulch.

Ruthanne Beehoo, Rotary Park Chair

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Don't forget to submit your hours for all the potting up, digging up, working at the plant sale etc. etc. you did. It is important for us to record our volunteer hours in order to receive our OHA grant. They give us \$1,000 dollars each year for our community efforts.

Last year, District 15 alone logged in 44,000 hours. Incredible!!

So please send your hours to Eleonora Roberts at gattescohouse@rogers.com.

We thank you for all you do for Streetsville Horticultural Society!

Have a great summer!!!

PLANT SALE A HUGE SUCCESS!!

Thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers who dug up, potted up, watered and babied all the plants under the guidance of our Plant Chair extraordinaire, Debra Buckler, the sale was a huge success. The weather started out cool with a touch of frost on the ground, but we had it all set up and in good order by opening at 8:30 a.m.

A steady crowd of customers passed through the gates and we were able to raise approx. \$4,000 – Congratulations to all involved for their efforts.

The Historical Society joined in on the event with a pancake breakfast and hot dog lunch raising some needed money for their Club. Thanks to all of them for their contribution as well.

Pictured below are two new members, **Vicky Pavao** and **Kathleen Hayward** who took charge of the draw table at the sale. Good work ladies!!



We would also like to thank **LEE'S GARDEN CENTER, JADE NURSERIES, TERRA GREENHOUSES** and **VANDONGEN'S GARDEN CENTER** for their generous donations to our Plant Sale. We would encourage our members to support them with your business this summer.



GET WELL WISHES

Get Well wishes go out to the following SHS members:

Ursula Evanoff – recovering from surgery,

Rob Harshman – recovering from pneumonia.

We hope you both will be back to full good health soon!



LESLIE LOG HOUSE

Summer is here and we are back working in the gardens at the Leslie Log House. A sign-up sheet for volunteers was passed at the May meeting but if you missed it you are welcome to come out and help anytime.

We meet on **Wednesday mornings at 9:30** a.m. and are usually finished by 11:30 so if you have a couple of hours to spare over the summer please be sure to drop by and help out.

The address is 4415 Mississauga Road – south of Eglinton and north of the 403 on the east side. Bring your own tools – cultivator, spade, pruners, gloves etc. Coffee and cookies are provided. It's a great way to meet new friends and get expert gardening advice!

Thanks to member **Gary Childs** who, while the plant sale was in progress, put up pegboard in the shed and tidied up all the tools. Good work Gary!

Carol Ashford, Leslie Log House Chair

HOW TO PLANT & RAKE WITHOUT ACHE

Winter takes a toll on your garden, but spring takes a toll on the gardener. Gardening season and back pain often go hand in hand, but positioning your body correctly reduces the strain on muscles and joints. Use these tips to enjoy your garden to the fullest throughout the season:

- Alternate your tasks. Switch between heavy chores such as digging and lighter less physically demanding tasks such as planting.
- Do the “scissors” when you rake. Stand with one leg forward and one leg back when you rake. Switch legs and hands every few minutes.
- Kneel to plant and weed. Constant bending can put strain on your back, neck, leg muscles and joints, so kneeling is recommended. Use knee pads or a kneeling mat to minimize the amount of bending required, and to make kneeling more comfortable. Keep your back straight.
- Change positions frequently. Make a point of changing position every 10 to 15 minutes. Move from kneeling to standing, from planting to digging.
- Pace yourself. A minimum of three brief breaks each hour is recommended. Take a few moments to move around, stretch your muscles, have a drink or simply sit and relax. Spread the work over several days – you will still achieve the same great results.

Submitted by Grace Nelham

“Bees do have a smell, you know, and if they don't they should, for their feet are dusted with spices from a million flowers.” — Ray Bradbury

GARDEN TOUR – JULY 12

The garden tour will take place on Sunday, July 12th with a pot luck supper to follow.

We are still searching for some gardens so if you have a garden or know of a garden that could fill the bill, please contact Michelle Harshman-Bettig at 905 824–3239. Gardens of all shapes and sizes are welcome.



Watch for an e-blast closer to the date with all the pertinent details.

Summer World

Summer belongs to bumblebees, deep grass and leafy trees;
It belongs to the sun, children playing, having fun;
Summer belongs to long, bright hours, gardens full of dancing flowers;
It belongs to happy things, a world of birds, each day that sings!

MAY FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

Design: Best in Show - Nicky Hall for “Global Warming” a hanging design ↓.



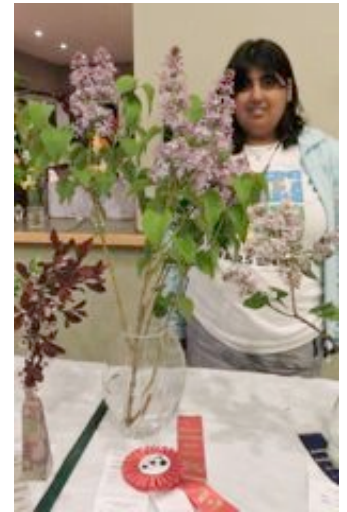
Design: Judge's Choice – Lynne Sereda for “An English Rose” – small design using roses in a teacup ↓



Cultural: Judges Choice - Anita King for collection of small spring flowers in a vase ↓



Cultural: Best in Show – Sunita Hall (Novice) for flowering branch →



LAST NEWSLETTER

This is the last newsletter until September and at that time Debra Lemire will take over as editor of Streetsville Blooms.

It has been a pleasure to edit and write newsy items for you since February 1999. Hope you enjoyed the trip as much as I did, but it is well beyond time to pass the torch for new and current ideas and a younger editor.

My retirement from the newsletter will give me more time to be spent on some other hobbies such as quilting, gardening and photography. I shall also be stepping down from the board come November at our Annual Meeting.

Hoping some of the articles in the newsletter over the years have inspired you to enter a flower show, volunteer, garden, cook, take pictures, etc.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Carol Ashford, Newsletter Editor

Questions, concerns, ideas, want to volunteer??

Call:

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SHS website: www.streetsvillehort.ca