

Omeme & District Horticultural Society



Newsletter

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Our April Meeting

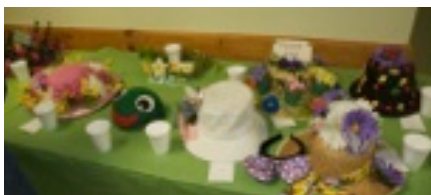
Thank you to everyone who participated in this month's decorated Spring Hat contest. Our meeting room was filled with colourful headgear ranging from beautiful to humorous. Enthusiasm was high and laughter was contagious. At the end of the social time, the hats were placed on the display table and judged for "People's Favourite". It was a difficult decision but in the end, Suzanne Seryck's hat, advertising the upcoming plant sale took first prize. Well done Suzanne! Other winners were: 2nd Joan Harding 3rd Linda Krishnan 4th Heather Grassie. In the Photography Contest, the May winners were: 1st Aron Muscutt 2nd Diane Webber 3rd Pat Burritt 4th Christa Marton. The Lug a Mug winner was Ann Luxton and the Plant of the month was won by Christa Marton. Six other members won lucky door prizes.

Following a period of announcements, Terry Hotner then entertained us with his presentation of "Hydrangea 101".

Everyone went away knowing a lot more about these wonderful plants and most had a "wish list" of new favourites!

A huge thank you to Terry who generously donated two of his hydrangea bushes to our group.

These plants will be part of our upcoming Silent Auction.



Our May 21st Meeting

Plan on joining us this month (on the holiday Monday) for another fun filled meeting! This meeting will host our Spring Flower Show, a Silent Auction of Garden Related Treasures, and a colourful presentation by Malcolm MacDonald: Growing Dahlias with Success. Malcolm and his wife live at Cobourg. He has 4 adult children and 6 grandchildren. He trained as a Food Microbiologist and retired in 2008 from Kraft Canada. He has a garden at Baltimore where he grows about 100 dahlias and 1000 gladiolus each year. Like us, Malcolm gardens for pleasure giving many to neighbours and friends. Other gardening interests include hybridizing, growing African Violets under lights and Japanese and other flower arranging. Malcolm is a member of the Cobourg Horticultural Society and has served in a number of positions on its executive as well as Director of District 4 of OHA. Come out and join us to hear Malcolm's presentation and to see the beautiful photos of his dahlias.

Spring Flower Show:

With our spring weather being so varied, finding spring bulbs to fit the categories may be challenging. If everyone can find even a few entries, our Show will be a success! See page 14 of our yearbook for the categories. Entries should be placed between 4:30 and 5:30. The show will be open for viewing at 7.

Photography Topics: #38. "In the Woods" & #39. "A Close Encounter"



Silent Auction: Please try to bring a donation of new or slightly used garden items, books, enlarged photos, garden signs, garden art or anything that you think someone might like to bid on. Garden related items are encouraged but we will accept any donation. These items can be dropped off when you bring your show entries (4:30-5:30) or when you arrive at 7, but we would like to have all items on the tables no later than 7:15. There will be a minimum bid of 50 cents. Bidding will take place from 7:00 until 7:30 and then again during the 20 minute intermission between business and the speaker. Winning bids will be announced immediately following the speaker.

Remember there are no "friends" in a bidding war so bid those objects up! The proceeds of this fund raiser, as well as the "special Plant Auction" later in Sept., will be used to subsidize the registration and travel costs incurred by members attending the convention in Aug and the District 4 Luncheon in June.

Bring your donation, your cheque book and your auction going spirit! Let's make it a great night!

Well folks: it is the season for all those wonderful garden tours and outings! So get a group together and join in the fun!

Bobcaygeon Celebrates 90 Years!

Congrats to Bobcaygeon Hort Society on their 90th Anniversary! This year, their garden tour will be even bigger and better. Don't miss it. Saturday July 7th from 10 - 4. Visit 8 beautiful gardens. Tickets \$15 (available at Anna's Perennials or other Bobcaygeon locations) Please refer to the poster sent out by Donna, this past week via email. Try to support this wonderful tour. *We often have a carload attend this event. If you are interested in joining us for car pooling, contact Carol Mitchell or Heather Grassie.*

Millbrooke Meeting and Outing

The Millbrook Garden Club invites you to join them on Wednesday, June 20th for an outing to Connon Nurseries in Trenton to shop for perennials, grasses, shrubs & annuals. Owner Stephen Poole will give a 30 minute presentation on Unique & Underused Plants. A cold drink will be provided. Connon Nurseries website is www.connon.ca. Lunch will be determined closer to June 20th.

We will leave St. Thomas Anglican Church in Millbrook at 9:00am.

To sign up and arrange for car pooling, please contact Joan Harding at 705-799-5378 or harding@i-zoom.net

In the past, Omemee has often had at least one car load join in these fun filled outings. If you would like to join us, contact Carol or Heather to arrange car pooling.

"Gardens Plus" Holiday Weekend Special

Just a reminder that this weekend Dawn Tack is having some wonderful specials. (Donna also forwarded you this announcement this past week)

This Friday 10-7, Saturday 10-4, Sunday 10-4 and Monday 10-4 they will have a draw prize for each customer. Shop to your heart's content and when you cash out, you choose a ticket which will determine the wonderful discount that you will receive on your purchase. Everyone is a winner! If you have never visited "[Gardens Plus](#)", you should do so. Dawn has a great selection and her display gardens are a delight to visit. Check out her website as well.

Omemee's Rhododendrons Day Trip:

Christa has arranged a trip to visit Dave Hinton's, Rhododendrons and Azalea gardens, on Wednesday May 23. We will meet at the firehall at 12:30 and carpool from there. There is no cost, except for a small donation at the garden. More information will be available at our Meeting on the 21st.



Garden Route Tour -Saturday June 23rd

This is another wonderful outing. Last year, Omemee had a group participate and they had a wonderful day.

Peterborough and Area Garden Route is a self guided driving tour of garden destinations in the Peterborough area. Details of each location can be found on the Garden Route website <http://gardenroute.ca/>. In addition, most participants also have a link to their own fully comprehensive website.

On **Saturday June 23**, from 10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m., the ten participating members of Garden Route are hosting a double event. Artists will be set up at each location for their third annual **Art in the Garden** event as well as a **Gardener's Appreciation Day**.

District 4's 2nd Annual June Celebration & Awards Luncheon

This year it will be held on June 13th at the Peterborough Navy Club, 11 - 3. Some special awards will be presented and a social time will be enjoyed by all. The speaker will be Jillian Bishop: "Seed Exchanges - How To" The ticket cost is \$25 but our club will subsidize this so that your cost is \$10. Please see Heather if you wish to order a ticket.

News Flash from our Junior Garden Club

Our junior gardeners participated in their Spring Activity Day on Sat May 12th. Many excited junior gardeners gathered to enjoy a day of gardening activities and crafts. They enjoyed demonstrations and had a chance to plant seeds, bulbs and small annuals before enjoying refreshments. They left with their seed packages, eager to start their 2012 garden! Thank you to Heather and Linda and all their helpers for encouraging our future gardeners!

Another Amazing Plant Sale!!!

From the Plant Sale Committee of Suzanne Seryck, Colleen Hughes, Cathy Sheehey, Diane Webber, Carol Mitchell and Heather Grassie, we would like to say 'Thank you' to all our volunteers for making this year's plant sale such a huge success. Thank you to everyone who dug the plants at home and elsewhere, potted plants by the hundreds, printed labels, trucked the plants to the Curling Rink, setup and organized the plants at the hall, and cleaned up once the last plant had finally disappeared.

The weather cooperated this year as we had over 2,300 healthy desirable plants. Customers swarmed in at 9:00am prepared with boxes, shopping bags, recycle containers and wagons. Within 10 minutes we had completely sold out of both types of geraniums, the impatiens sold out soon after. Horticulture members and Master Gardeners were on hand to give advice and answer questions, the cash tables were busy and moving and customers were helped out to their cars.

When the bills are all paid, we should see a profit of well over \$3000!! Well done everyone! Income from the plant sale allows us to continue with the Beautification Projects around the Village.

All our left over plants were donated between the Omemee Lioness and the Lindsay Horticultural Society for their future plant sales.

Once again, to everyone who contributed plants or helped in any way a most sincere "Thank you" and remember to recycle your pots so we can do this all again in 2013!!

Submitted by Suzanne Seryck, Chair on behalf of the committee

Editor's note: A huge thank you to Suzanne for all her hard work and organization for the past 2 years as chair of this event. Unfortunately (for us), with her growing business, she has to step down as chair but will continue to work on the committee. If you would be interested in chairing this committee, or working on it, please let Heather know. You just need to know how to organize and delegate!! :)



MASTER GARDENER CORNER

Planting Perennials

The best time to plant perennials isn't a hot, sunny day but a cool, cloudy one. Such conditions are less stressful for the plants and the gardener. Ideally pick a day when they are calling for rain for the next few days, easier on the gardener, no watering.

Give the planting area a good watering, preferably the day before so you don't work in muck, or plant after rain has moistened soil.

If perennials are dry in their pots, water them first to get them moist.

How to plant:

- Dig a hole that is wider but not deeper than the container. Never shoehorn a plant into a hole that is too small.
- Work with one plant at a time so that tender root hairs are not exposed to drying air longer than necessary. Tap sides of container or squeeze pot to loosen plant and turn upside down so plant slides out into your hand. Handle plants by their root mass, not stems; stems can easily be damaged.
- Inspect roots, if circling gently tease apart or they will continue to make circling growth. If roots are difficult to loosen by hand, make four shallow cuts into root mass near the bottom with a sharp knife. This will promote growth into surrounding soil.
- If you see lots of potting mixture but few roots, work off some potting soil with your fingers to ensure plant roots will make physical contact with garden soil. Potting mix dries quicker than surrounding soil making new plants susceptible to drying out.
- Set plant into hole, place exactly as deep as it was in container. Cover roots with loose soil and water lightly, add remaining soil and pack gently but firmly but never stomp on delicate roots. Water well.
- Do not apply water-soluble fertilizer when planting perennials, wait about a week or so to allow roots to grow a bit. Choose a fertilizer with a high middle number to promote root growth.
- Keep new perennials moist for a couple of months but don't kill with kindness, let top 2-3" (5-7 cm) of soil get a bit dry-looking between waterings.

If you follow all these directions to a tee, you will be guaranteed that your plant will survive and flourish, that is if you cross your fingers and your toes and say a prayer.

by Sue Lajeunesse

Up & Coming Events:

Local Horticultural Society Meetings:

Peterborough

Wed. May 23rd at 7:00 at the Peterborough Library:
Peterborough Community Gardens, Paula Anderson
Wed June 27th, The Untamed Garden, Sonia Day

Lakefield

Tues. May 8th - at 8 p.m. Lakefield Marshland
Centre: Rose Show
Aug 8 & 9th Antique & Flower Show

Lindsay

Tues June 12th: at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Parish Hall (45
Russell Street West) Through the Lens, A Members'
Photo Show

Milbrook Garden Club

Wed. June 20th: see outing invitation pg 2

Bobcaygeon

Thurs. May 17th - 7:00 Knox Presbyterian Church: How
to Grow Cacti and Succulents – Dalibor Tichak

Garden Shows, Tours and Other Events in Southern Ontario:

May 23rd - Omemee's trip to Rhododendron Gardens -
see pg 2 for more information

May 25th -27th - Lindsay Lilac Festival

June 13th - District 4 Celebration & Awards lunch 11-3

June 19th - Lakefield Rose Show - 8 p.m.

Wed Jun 20th - Millbrook tour see pg 2

June 23rd - Art in the Garden Tour (Garden Route)

June 24th - 10-4 p.m. Heart of Northumberland
Garden Tour

Sat. July 7th - Bobcaygeon Garden Tour 10 - 4

Aug. 17th - 19th -OHA Convention - Niagara on the
Lake -registration forms now available on line

Find archived newsletters on our website:
Omemeeblooms.ca