

Omeme & District Horticultural Society



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Newsletter

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Our April Meeting

Things were certainly happening at our April Meeting! What a busy evening! 46 members and guests gathered to take advantage of Walter Cracknell's tips for making our garden photographs spectacular. Thank you Walter. P.S. Christa is now expecting our future photo shows to be spectacular!

Gord Read won the Lug' a Mug prize, Susan Morrison won the Plant of the Month, and other draw prize winners were Renee Cowels, Ann Norton, Mary Spence, and Annamarie O'Neill. Congratulation to those winners.

As usual, Heather kept us entertained and laughing, during her summary of the upcoming events and announcements but the highlight of the evening was Chair Person Barb Morrison's humourous and entertaining song, about our upcoming plant sale, to the tune of the Unicorn Song. Barb sang the lyrics and her GoGo Girls Mary Read and Diane Webber helped her with the chorus. The words to this song are found at the end of this newsletter. Thank you Barb, Mary and Diane. It was a fitting end to our series of unique Monthly Plant Sale Announcements, and certainly an act that couldn't possibly be topped!



Our May 20th Meeting -On Site at "Greenhouse on the River"

Please note: This meeting is NOT at our usual meeting place.

This month, in fact this coming Monday, May 20th, Victoria Day, we are going on-site to the Greenhouse on the River in Lakefield. We are leaving Trinity United Church at 6:15 pm sharp and carpooling to the nursery of Elyn & Peter Green. Bring a garden chair and some money as you will have the opportunity to purchase plants. As always snacks will be provided. If you have never been to this nursery, you are in for a treat; they have many amazing and different annuals as well as a good assortment of perennials. We will be doing a tour of the greenhouses and Peter will be doing a demo of Planting a Succulent Garden from their large selection of succulents.

A little background on the couple, when Peter and Elyn started the nursery business, Elyn knew what a rose was, but had never gardened and she was pregnant. Peter was a forester and knew about trees. They have now just celebrated 25 years in business and many learning curves later they are now the largest grower of annuals and perennials in the area. They specialize in plants that work and personalized customer service. See www.greenhouseontheriver.com.

Further directions to Greenhouse on the River will be forwarded on Thursday by Donna Hunter with the reminder about the site visit. Come on out and join us and feel free to bring a friend.

Greenhouse on the River 4115 County Road 32 R.R.4
Lakefield. ON. K0L 2H0

705 652 8154
www.greenhouseontheriver.com
thegreenhouse@bellnet.ca

Sue Lajeunesse, Program Committee

Plant Sale Wrap-up

Our plant sale for 2013 is now over, and what a sale it was!!! At 9 am (when the doors opened) there were approximately 45 shoppers waiting in line!!! Due to the slow cool spring, our quantity of plants was down a bit, but quality was at an all time high. All of the plants were absolutely beautiful - the perennials were strong and large, and the geraniums and plants of the year were absolutely stunning. We also had a wonderful variety of herbs, houseplants, pond plants, lilacs, bulbs etc. - lots of different items for our shoppers. The selection of "named" hostas was very impressive, as was our daylily section. All in all, a great sale.

Members of our Omemee Horticultural Club are magnificent in volunteering their time and plants, thus making this sale work. As chairperson of the sale committee, I would like to thank each and every one for their contribution in helping to make this sale a success. And a special thanks to all of the spouses and significant others who were there both for support and to help - it takes everyone to make such a great event.

This year we decided to raffle off a large planter. It contained 3 of the annuals that we had for sale: "White Splash" geraniums, "Emerald Lace" sweet potato vine and "Kingswood Torch" coleus, as well as a lovely white and pink verbena. It was a great fundraiser for the club, bring in \$196! The elated winner was Nicole Cocker Toll, from Omemee.

Let's all give ourselves a good pat on the back for another successful plant sale. Oh, by the way, the date for next year's sale is May 12 – mark it on your calendar!

Barb Morrison
Plant Sale Chairperson

April Competition Results

The winners of the April Competition were Floral Design: 1st Diane Webber 2nd Mary Spence, 3rd Mary Read & Honorable Mention: Gaynor McMullen

The Photo Competition was a People's Choice with all members voting. The results were: 1st Aron Muscutt, 2nd Carol Mitchell, 3rd Diane Webber

Our Junior Gardeners Buzz Into Action!

The Junior Garden Club met at the Coronation Hall with 27 Junior Gardeners registered under the leadership of Linda Jenkins and Heather Grassie.

They ranged in age from 4 years to 13 years, and in school from JK to Grade 8. The Juniors attend 8 different schools in the area.

The children were divided into 4 age appropriate groups called the Sprouts, Seedlings, Buds and Bloomers. Each age group was given individual flower and vegetable seeds to grow for their enjoyment and to bring some flowers and vegetables into the August Show.

There were craft centres to make pine cone hummingbirds, foam butterflies to paint, gift bags to paint, bee houses, tiny flower pots to decorate, and bookmarks out of venetian blinds.

At the planting centre, each child made a planter pot with a Hosta and Impatiens and some just had Impatiens. They also planted a cell pack tomato plant in a bigger pot to give it a head start before transplanting it into their gardens.

To say that Coronation Hall was a "Beehive of Activity" for two hours wouldn't be exaggerating. The enthusiastic Juniors were delighted to take home their seeds, plants and crafty projects.

After the hall was cleaned up, and both cars were loaded, Linda and Heather enjoyed a hot cup of tea and coffee while sitting down at "Heaven on Seven" before heading home after a wonderful day.

Linda Jenkins & Heather Grassie
Youth Leaders



Our young gardeners (and Christa) having fun in the dirt!



Exciting News! June 17th ...

is our Silent Auction

This meeting is packed full of fun! Read on to see what is happening!

We promise you a new opportunity to shop and get some great plants and garden items at bargain prices!

Unusual or Special Plants! We need some large special plants for the auction as well as some plant divisions for the sale table. **We only need a maximum of one or two special plants per person- quality, not quantity.** Do you have a plant that you KNOW others would like? Do you have a special phlox, daylily or hosta that you would be willing to share. Do you have an unusual plant that others have admired? Dig it now, pot it up and bring it with you on June 17th, (our June meeting).

The auction committee will pick a certain number of plants to go on the silent auction table and the balance will be for direct sale at great prices. The Committee will price them but please label all plants with as much information as possible.

A Hosta Table

Due to the late spring, the hostas were smart enough to not stick up their heads too early!! However, this made dividing them for the sale an impossibility! Several members have named hostas that they intended to divide this year. Divide them now and pot up a piece for the auction. You can even buy some new ones for your garden. All donations are appreciated! Please try to include the plant name if possible.

Garden Related Items (new or gently used)

We will also have a silent auction of Garden Related or other suitable items. We need gently used or new items. Garden tools, troughs, concrete toadstools, stepping stones, books, crafts, signs, jewellery are just a few

suggestions. Donations could be re-gifts or something that you have purchased or made. We have many talented members who create beautiful things.

Remember the meeting is at the Coronation Hall.

Bring your money and plan for an exciting evening. Instead of a speaker that evening, our topic will be "Our Past Year in Review". Shop until you drop; enjoy the beauty of the flower show; or sit back and relax while watching photos taken over the past year. (with your favourite snack of course!)

4:30 - 5:30 - Drop off flowers and auction items

6:45 - 7:00 - Drop off items

7:00 - 7:45 - Social time, view the flowers snacks, bids and sales

7:45 - 8:30 - Slides & Announcements

8:30 - 9:00 - Bids close and winners pay up! :)

Also on June 17th...

Our June Flower Show

June marks our first Flower Show of the year, held at the Coronation Hall on June 17th. Please read the details on Page 17 of your yearbook. By then warmer weather will surely be here so show off what's in your garden so that we can have a great show!

Please help with set up if you are available. Please let me (Christa) know if you can help. 705-277-9548 or tell me at the May meeting.

Thanks, *Christa Marton,*
- Show Chair Person



Up & Coming Events:

Local Horticultural Society Meetings:

Bobcaygeon:

June 20th at 7:00 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church - Tips, Tricks, & Techniques to Garden Without Pesticides, Ed Lawrence - \$6 Admission - tickets available (- see Carol)

July 13th: 17th Annual Garden Tour (10 .am.-4 p.m.)-\$15

Lakefield:

Tues. June 18th at 8 p.m. Lakefield Marshland Centre: - Rose Show

Lindsay

Tues, May 21st at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul Parish Hall (45 Russell Street West) Attracting Birds to Your Gardens, Brenda Ibey

June 10th: Ornamental Grasses in Your Garden, John Statham

Remember the Lindsay Lilac Open House May 25th

Millbrook:

June 5th: at 7:30 p.m. St Thomas Anglican Church, Manor Dr. \$2 Admission at door. A Year in Nature in a Changing Climate, Drew Monkman

www.DrewMonkman.com

Peterborough

Wed. May 22nd at 7:00 at the Peterborough Library:

There are No Houseplants, Ken Brown

June 26th:Caring for Orchids, Terry Kennedy

Upcoming Plant Sales

Sat May 18th- Lakefield Hort Plant Sale - Cenotaph Park 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Sat May 25th -Lindsay Hort Plant Sale -at the Lindsay Lilac Open House- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sat May 25th -Bobcaygeon Hort Plant Sale- Bobcaygeon Fair Grounds- 9 a.m. - 1 p.

Please visit my on line gallery to see the photos that I took at the Plant Sale and the Junior Gardener Spring Day. Carol

<http://aflowergeek.com/photos/>



MASTER GARDENER CORNER

SPRING BULBS

What do you need to do to look after the tulips, daffodils, crocus and hyacinth when they have finished flowering?

If you want them to come up the following spring, looking just as full and healthy as they did the first year, and you want them to multiply, just keep in mind the following points:

1. Cut off the seed head and compost it but never cut down the leaves. After the flower is finished blooming, all the food that was stored in the bulb is exhausted. It is through the leaves that food is sent down to the bulb to replenish it, so that it can grow more flowers for next spring. If you cut back leaves too soon after the bulbs have bloomed, you'll reduce the number of flowers in coming years.
2. Fertilize plants immediately after their flowering ends. Apply a complete fertilizer like 20-20-20, containing nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium to the soil where the bulbs have been planted (around the base of the leaves).
3. Allow the bulbs to dry out (just quit watering) after the foliage begins to turn yellow. Most spring bulbs prefer dry soil during summer.
4. Dig, divide and replant the bulbs when crowded (usually every three or four years). Do this if the blooms are getting small. Small blossoms indicate that the bulb doesn't have room to grow and get large.
5. Apply a light application of a high-nitrogen fertilizer like 24-8-16 (high 1st number) just as the bulbs begin to grow in spring.
6. Tip: If post-bloom foliage is unsightly, gently pull the leaves together in a bunch; tie the leaves in a knot or braid them so they can be hidden under other plants.

Sue Lajeunesse



Barbara's Plant Sale Song
(to tune of The Unicorn Song)

About a month from now when the grass is green
There'll be more types of plants than you've ever seen
Our plant sales at the curling club, 2nd Saturday in May
Buy for someone special, the next day's Mothers Day!

**There'll be all kinds of plants, to buy and see
Rows and rows of tables, what a sight it will be!
There'll be so many shoppers it will be a hub-bub
And hopefully we'll make some money for the club**

We need different types of hostas, yellow green blue and jade
They can take a bit of sun, but mostly like the shade
Many other perennials, and houseplants too
Annuals, vegetables and fruit plants – some old, some new

There'll be lots of bulbs and tubers, mostly already in pots
Some Iris's, some dahlias, and cannas already up
We're looking for lilies, they can make us rich
But we don't really need the kind that grow in the ditch

The plants will be big and healthy, in nice big pots
Check out the plants of the year, their colors are hot
We'd like some really special plants, we can charge a lot more
So divide up your favorites, keep one, donate four

So let's all make this happen, add your name to the pack
We need diggers and potters, no time to take a nap
Come and help at the Curling Club, we might feed you a snack
And Omemee Hort will have the funds to stay in the black



The plant sale line up at 9 a.m. and then the excited shoppers inside at 9:05



It's not often that Heather gets the last word but for today we'll grant her the privilege!

Greetings from
Our Pres"



The rain showers, bouncing hail stones, and snow flurries that were all falling on the flowers in bloom should never happen on the same day in the month of May, but they all did!

Yet, in spite of the bad weather, we do applaud and thank the wonderful team who executed another very successful Plant Sale. Despite the late spring and the slowly emerging perennials, so many keen gardeners still came to shop, the plants were sold and the mission was accomplished.

The Junior Garden Club had their first meeting of 2013 with 27 boys and girls registered. A busy two hour session was enjoyed by the children, leaders and parents.

Most of us have been sheltering and protecting our tender annuals as the frost warnings have been issued. My husband's trailer, presently full of Canna Lilies has become a portable greenhouse on wheels being pushed into the garage at night and out into the sunlight during the day. Transplanting will have to wait until the soil is a whole lot warmer.

Our next four Omemee Hort. meetings May, June, July and August will be all take place at different venues. Please check you're your newsletters, yearbooks and our website for all the details. www.omemeeblooms.ca Our motto is "We leave no gardener behind!"



The winner of our lovely planter - Nicole Cocker Toll with Sale Chair, Barbara Morrison

