

The GardenShed

JUNE & JULY 2016

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



OUR ECOLOGY GARDEN IN JULY

Photo by Barrie Wood



The GardenShed

~From the Editor

This is the time of year when we gardeners get the big pay-off. Perennial beds are in their full-flowered glory and kitchen gardens are beginning to yield their bounty. Mother Nature has taken over and we can rest a spell. It's a brief window when we can actually spend more time enjoying the fruits of our labours than .. well ... labouring.

Maybe Mother Nature, in her infinite wisdom, has planned it this way, because who could work in this heat anyway? Here we are in the doldrums, that midsummer point when it begins to feel like the suffocating heat and humidity of our Ontario summer will go on forever. Even the plants on my sunny slope, carefully chosen for their ability to thrive without watering, are wilting by the end of every scorching, rainless day. I'm wilting too, staggering from the breeze of one fan to the next and flinging open the windows at night in hopes of catching some cooler air.

But when I wake up in the morning and head for the garden, and my senses are filled with the beauty and the bounty ... I have no words for the intense pleasure of that moment. A bit of deadheading, coffee in hand, or harvesting of veggies for today's dinner ... that's what it's all about. To begin our days like this, aren't we the lucky ones?

~ Lorelyn

50TH ANNIVERSARY

1966 – 2016



Lupin – Cramahe Horticultural Society's
2016 Flower of the Year... in June. Photo by Barrie Wood

~ President's Message

WOW, can you believe the summer we are having! I don't know about you, but I hate the humidity. I don't mind a little heat, but I must say, I get kind of ugly when it gets humid. Not to mention the fact that we haven't had very much rain so far and we really need it. My poor gardens are in desperate need of some water and since we are on a well, it gets pretty dicey at times. We do have rain barrels, but of course you need the *rain* to fill them. Hopefully the weather forecast for this weekend is correct and we get some much needed rain. Mind you,



I have noticed that some flowers are flourishing even much better than usual. Things are definitely strange this year as far as the growing season is concerned. Mother Nature at her best...it doesn't matter what you throw at her, she manages to survive!!

We will have our Annual Picnic on August 16th and it will be a Pot Luck this year. We will meet at the Ecology Garden at 5pm. The Society will be providing the meat for dinner and we will also provide the beverages. We would ask that you bring either a salad, main course dish or a dessert. Also, we are asking that you bring your own dishes and cutlery this year in order to help keep our costs down. I hope that many of you will come out and enjoy some good food and a visit with friends.

I am hoping that this weather won't have an impact on your vegetables and flowers for the show in September. That will be our first meeting back after the summer and it is always nice to see what everyone has in their gardens. You can find all the information in your yearbooks. Our guest speaker that night will be Rick Conrad and he will be talking about how to grow garlic. Our photography category that month will be "Garden Harvest".

I hope that everyone is enjoying your summer and that you all manage to stay cool. If you are lucky enough to have a cottage or trailer, enjoy

your time away. For those of you travelling, have a safe journey. We will see you all in September.

From the cluttered desk of your president,

~ Sharron



JoAnne Titus, convenor of our very successful 2016 plant sale.
Photo by Barrie Wood



Marg and Peg, working the plant sale.



Valerie, Lorelyn, Jim and Pam, at the end of the day.



~~ June Presentation ~~

CONTAINER GARDENING FOR A LONG, HOT SUMMER

with **VIKKI WHITNEY**

of

Griffin's Greenhouses,

3026 Lakefield Road, Selwyn, ON K9J 6X5 (Peterborough area)

Phone: (705) 652 8638 E-mail: info@griffinsgreenhouses.com

Whether your garden is an acreage with sweeping views, the roof of a downtown flat or condo, or a tiny apartment balcony, you can never have too many containers. Containers can, well, contain garden bullies, soften the curb appeal of a new house, provide privacy, grow food & herbs and improve decor, year round.

Tall stately estate urns, cascading window boxes, kitchen garden containers and the massive hanging baskets of Victoria and Niagara-on-the-Lake, no matter how modest or monumental the container, the rules for success are the same the world over.

Vikki Whitney of Griffin's Greenhouses, near Peterborough, joined the members of the Cramahe Horticultural Society on June 21, 2016, to share her considerable expertise in the realm of container gardening.

The almanac predicted an unusually long, hot and dry summer for 2016 – and after the first significant rainstorm of the summer on July 8th, those predictions have proven accurate.

In Northumberland, there are four distinct container gardening seasons: delicate pansies in the spring, heat loving plants in the summer, in the fall, mums, kale and cool weather annuals and finally coniferous boughs, berries and birch 'sticks' which add interest and personality to the winter landscape.



Vikki brought along dozens of plants, many of them unusual and new items, to demonstrate which among the many, many options available at the nurseries love the sun and are able to thrive in relatively arid conditions.

The other key principle of successful container gardening is the “form” one should follow. Use tall linear species to add height (not more than one or two times the height of the container) plus mounded plants for the body of the container which add mass, and low, cascading plants to add depth and spill to soften the edges of the container.

Here are the heat lovers, beginning with the height element:

First, there are the tropicals such as the exotic mandevilla or dipladenia plant with its colourful flowers – burgundy is new – and glossy green leaves. It is a climber, so attach it to a trellis, fertilize weekly and enjoy!

The hibiscus is a sun lover and is alright with fluctuating temperature. Starry Wind is a new breed, the blooms last longer than one day and they are smaller than the more common variety hibiscus. Carolina Breeze is the newest colour – burnt orange.

The striped leaf canna lily is the bulbous form of the canna, it has an orange bloom and can grow to 3 feet tall, excellent for the height element of a container.

The crotons, basically a house plant, add a riot of colour via their sturdy, glossy leaves though they may take a while to get established.

Elephant ears (alocasia), from Malaysia, have the height and drama for containers, with some reaching 10/15 feet tall. Let the foliage die down in the fall, dig them up, let them dry in the sun and store for the winter. The best approach is to plant them in the ground but leave them in their own pot.

The grasses — fountain, oatgrass and millet — are lovely waving in the wind. They love heat and can be used in the garden or containers. King Tut grass (Egyptian papyrus), long a favourite, now has a little brother. The Baby Tut grows well in sun and shade and can survive standing water. It grows in 24-36 inch tall clumps and is an excellent ornamental addition to any container with its umbrella like structure.

The Kimberly Queen sword fern is upright, not droopy like the Boston fern and therefore lends itself to the tall element of a container as they can grow to 3 or 4 feet tall.

For the mass or body of the container:

Geraniums love the heat and as much sun as is available. The Calliope is a rich dark red, a real punch of colour in any garden, and the newest hybrid is aptly named Hot Pink. The Vancouver Centennial seed geranium is defined by its burgundy leaves, tinged in lime green – usually grown for its foliage rather than the flowers.

There is a new African marigold which is a delicate off-white colour, a real statement in the “body” section of a container. Whatever else is in the container, the soft white stands out prominently.

The solenia begonia has improved recently, with better blooms that do well in sun or shade and it comes in a variety of delicious colours –



dusty rose, velvet red and salmon coral. Don't water too much, they don't like wet feet.

One of the stars of this category is the dragon wing begonia, which can withstand shade or sun, blooms all summer, is very easy to care for, and adds a punch of colour to any container – usually pink, red or white. However, the Whopper begonia is distinctive in that the leaves are dark brown.

Since the impatiens necrotic spot virus wiped out the common impatiens used to underpin many flower gardens, a new variety called SunPatience has emerged. It has some of the mounding characteristics of the old breed, but it is like the canary in the coal mine, in that it needs constant watering. It will be the first to wilt before any other plant in any garden condition.

For the spill:

We all know that petunias love the heat. A new supertunia called "Honey" describes its colour perfectly.....and it trails. Keep it fertilized weekly and it will thrive all summer long. And, the lantana, vinca plant (not vine), portulaca, alyssum, talinum and nemesia can all serve as

the cascading feature of the container.

And, we must not forget herbs – the foundation of good cooking. It is great fun picking them out, putting them in matching containers and stationing them just outside the kitchen on a plant stand, lining them up inside on your kitchen window or setting aside a section of the veggie garden as they used to do for the kitchen gardens of the grand houses of the 19th century. Always handy and very decorative, the individual containers mean they will thrive and keep their place in the order of things.

And finally, the succulents like sedum love the heat and they are excellent for rock gardens, bird baths, hanging baskets and any arid area.

Vikki ended her lecture by asking the audience to help prepare a container, by voting for their choice of height, body and spill plants. The beautiful finished product was given to a very lucky member via a ticket draw.

A plant sale followed and Sharron MacDonald thanked Vikki for a wonderful evening.

~ Robin Young



~~ Executive Doings ~~

BOARD NOTES FROM JUNE 14, 2016

I trust you are *in* your gardens, weeding, tilling, harvesting, dead-heading, weeding, watering (!!) bug-squashing, weeding, getting mosquito bites, thinning, pruning, digging, weeding, lying on your back looking at the sky and clouds, and, uh, did I mention weeding?

I hope you are indeed doing those things, because your intrepid Board is still having meetings *talking* about those things, and other related matters. It doesn't get our gardening done, but it *is* useful, so . . .

As you heard at the General Meeting - you were there, weren't you? - the Plant Sale at ABTF did very well indeed, making about as much money in one day as we usually do in two. Many members worked very hard all day, but none harder than Jo Anne Titus, who had planned long and well to bring the day off smoothly. The whole Club owes a big thank you to Jo Anne. The change of venue of the ABTF itself seemed not to hurt us at all, in fact, it allowed us to spread out and be more easily accessible, and the perfect weather was a boon. And beyond that, Bea Fredenburgh's phoning every member to remind them about the sale and to donate plants if possible, and come out and be a part of it no matter what, surely helped. Thanks, Bea. Don't ever get a computer, we love all you do without one.

After The Treasury Years (the working title of her new memoir), Carol McArthur reported that she is getting up to speed on the publicity tools that will get word of our activities out to the community in the

coming season. Many thanks to Carol for continuing to work with our Executive even after retiring from her post as Treasurer.

The Ecology Garden is looking good despite the dryness, and benefitted greatly from the Day of Sharing, which saw a load of the nicest cedar chips I have ever seen delivered to us. It was followed by two cheery Cameco employees who, besides schlepping the chips around, did some digging in the creek side bed development. I keep going on about how great this Day of Sharing programme is, not being all about the \$\$, but instead about the sweat of the brow and human interaction. Thanks to the volunteers, and bravo to the whole idea.

Lorelyn reported that the next newsletter will be a combined June/July issue, so watch ... uh, that is, be sure to, uh, oh. Wait. If you're reading this, then ... ah... Oh I get it, never mind.

Sharron reported that she had 139 'page likes' on our Facebook page. It's great that these numbers just keep climbing as more and more people notice our page. Thanks to Sharron for making it so interesting that people keep coming back to it, and new people join the virtual crowd.

Our Cramahe Horticultural Society Scholarship was awarded for the first time on June 29! Sharron and Yours Truly attended, and sat on stage to watch a parade of more than 200 young ENSS graduates take their diplomas. Many received scholarships, with a total value of



over \$300,000! Truly a stunning amount of support for the next generation, and we should be proud of our contribution. It is heartening to sit and observe young people preparing to enter the adult world. They have their problems of course - so did we - but I was left feeling that we're going to be OK, and the kids are OK. A young man named Hunter Mulhall was our bursary winner. It all went so smoothly and quickly, we couldn't find him again after to enquire where he is going next and what his plans are. We'll track him down and get you the info. We'll be hearing more from Hunter!

You will have noticed that the hanging baskets that were to go on King Street this year are back in Victoria Park as in the past.

Apparently, the pipes on the lighting standards are too thick to accommodate the hooks on our baskets. With no one available in Keeley Biron's vacated position to find a solution, we went back to the Park. Next Year!

See how busy we've been? Told you so. See you at Trash & Treasures. Let's all trade the contents of our garages and sheds, and make lots of money for Hort.

Enjoy the ongoing summer.

~ Barrie Wood

Filling the hanging planters for Victoria Park

Gord, Valerie, Marg and Carol, hard at work.



~~~ From One Gardener to Another ~~~

This summer, the lack of regular rain has been challenging for gardeners and farmers alike. I am very fortunate here to have a source of water that I can use if I want. However, my pump will not drive a sprinkler, so watering is done by me by dragging around 300 feet of hose and standing and watering. This takes a huge amount of time to apply enough water to do any good, so I don't do it very often. My gardens can easily go three weeks without rain because of lots of organic matter put in when I make them in the first place, and by the use of mulch to slow moisture loss.

The exceptions are the planters and hanging baskets and this year's new plantings. And of course, the vegetable garden – otherwise I wouldn't have any food crops.

The new varieties of peas (Green Arrow and Alaska) have been excellent. I don't like the new yellow radish I tried so I will stick to the red type. Several varieties of lettuce have been good. Spinach is excellent, Swiss chard is good. The Cylindra beets I'm trying are very good. I had the first (Raider) cucumber at lunch yesterday. Tomatoes and peppers are growing very well in the heat, so it won't be long now.

Carrots are also looking good. I have five varieties this year. They are all marked, and I will try to do a taste test to determine which I like best. I even managed to get them thinned out for proper spacing this year.

My dill is terrific now – quite tall, with thick stems. I gave some to a friend two days ago and she said they are not dill plants but dill trees! I left a couple of plants for the black swallowtail butterflies, as two caterpillars were feeding on them.

The two new varieties of green beans I tried are deeeee-licious! Jade and Slenderette. I will grow them again.

At this writing (July 24th) pansies are still blooming well in a north-facing window planter, but I must keep them well-watered and pinch off the spent flowers daily. As you probably know, pansies are *not* fond of heat.

My echinaceas are glorious this year, especially Hot Papaya and Razzmatazz. All my types of 'spider' daylilies are maturing now, and big clumps are making a grand show this year: Royal Celebration, Ruby Spider, Marked by Lydia, Magic of Oz, etc. Wow!!



This year I grew a new variety of annual nicotine. I wanted to try it because they say they have bred the scent back in, the way the older ones used to be. Well, to me it is just barely fragrant, but I do have some really nice colours: purple, green, deep pink, light pink and white.

Last year I bought three new lilies. (Lilies are my original floral passion.) Luckily, I had the good sense to plant the very fragrant trumpet lily, Garden Affair, in the bed at the front of my house, along with Golden Stargazer. When I'm in and finally sitting down for the evening, I sit in my lazy-girl (boy?) chair near the living room window. I open up the window and in comes the most wonderful fragrance! John enjoys it

too, as he sits in his spot on the sofa at the far end of the room.



This particular garden is also spectacular to look at during the daylight, from the window or from the verandah. It is primarily red (Hot Papaya coneflower, Lucifer crocosmia and Chicago Apache daylily) with a little white and pale yellow (lily, coneflower and nicotiana) thrown in. To me, it's beautiful!

But of course, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and I bet your gardens are gorgeous, too.

All for now,

~ Peg Howden

~~~ *Over the Garden Fence* ~~~ (Neighbouring Horticultural Societies)

Brighton Horticulture meets at King Edward Community Centre, 81 Elizabeth St. 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Next Meeting: August 13, **Annual Flower and Vegetable Show**. Saturday, Sept. 10 at 8:30 a.m., **Annual Plant and Yard Sale**.

Campbellford Horticulture meets at Christ Church Anglican, Kent & Church Streets, Campbellford, 1st Monday of the month at 7:30pm. Next Meeting: August 8, **Garden Party**. September 5, **It Came from Our Seed Sharing** (members).

Cobourg Horticulture meets at Cobourg Columbus Community Centre, 232 Spencer Street East (D'Arcy), 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Next Meeting: Saturday, August 6, **Summer Flower, Fruit and Photography Show** at the Cobourg Library; September 7, **Colourful Year-round Structural Plants** with Marion Jarvie.

Grafton Horticulture meets at St. Andrews United Church, 137 Old Danforth Rd., 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Next meeting: August 27, **Summer Flower Show & Tea** at the Centreton Community Centre (2363 Cty. Rd. 23 in Centreton), Admission \$5.00 Adults. September 13, **Black Oak Savannah and Flora of Rice Lake Plains**, with Amanda Newell of Alderville First Nation.

Omeme Blooms Garden Club meets at Trinity United Church, 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Next meeting: August 15, **Gardening and Living Safely** and **Flower Show** at the Omeme Legion. September 19, **An Apple a Day: Everything You Want to Know About Apples**, with Heidi Behan of Moore Orchards.

Peterborough Horticulture meets at the Lions' Centre, 347 Burnham St., Peterborough, 4th Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Next meeting: September 28, **Gifts from the Garden Demonstrations**.

Port Hope & District Horticulture meets at the Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St. S., 2nd Monday of the Month at 7:00 pm. Next Meeting: August 15, **Potluck Picnic/flower & Vegetable Show** (Ruth Clarke Centre, 81 Mill St. S. and in the parkette across the street). September 12, **Pruning, Dividing and Winter Preparedness** with Lynette Kirton of Vandermeer Nursery.



~~~ Garden to Table ~~~



**BACON & BLUE CHEESE PEA SALAD**

- 2 ½ cups fresh peas
- ¼ cup crumbled blue cheese
- ½ cup cooked crumbled bacon
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 tsp dry dill
- salt & pepper to taste

Cook peas 1 minute in salted water. Mix all other ingredients and stir into cooled peas. Serve cold.

**FRESH PEA DIP**

- 2 cups cilantro ( stems & leaves )
- 2 inches fresh ginger ( peeled & chopped)
- 2 cups fresh peas
- pinch salt
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- ½ cup raw almonds
- 1 tbsp lime juice

Process all except oil in blender until fine. Slowly add oil with blender running until smooth. Serve with seed crackers & raw vegetables.

**BASIL WALNUT PESTO**

- 2 cups basil leaves
- 2 cloves garlic
- ½ tsp salt
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- ½ cup walnuts
- 2 tbsp softened butter
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese grated

Blend all except cheese & butter in food processor until fine. Add cheese & butter and process 10 seconds more.

Cook pasta. Drain, saving approximately 2 tbsp pasta water. Just before serving add hot saved water to pesto and mix into cooked pasta.

Serve with garlic bread & salad. Offer more grated cheese & fresh ground pepper when serving.

This makes 4 servings. I freeze half of the pesto (without water) for another day.

*~ Karen Prins*

~~ OHA News ~~

**Fall Seminar (District 4)**

**Oct. 29, 2016**

**Bobcaygeon**

**Photo competition:**

- An open and shut case
- An icy landscape
- My favorite 'pest' garden visitors

**OHA Convention 2017**

**Dates TBA**

**Toronto**



## ~~ Please Join Us ...

... on *facebook* or online at [cramahehort.ca](http://cramahehort.ca)

... or at a meeting - on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the Keeler Centre in Colborne.

**Next events: Saturday, August 13**  
***Trash & Treasures***  
in Colborne  
Deliver your donations to  
3 King St. W. on  
Friday, Aug. 12, 10 am – 2 pm  
Books, small appliances, dishes,  
collectibles, garden tools,  
planters, DVDs, small furniture,  
labelled plants are all welcomed.  
For more info, call Lorelyn &  
Barrie at 905 355 3137.

**Tuesday, August 16**  
***Pot Luck Picnic***  
at the Ecology Garden  
in Colborne  
(Bring your own tableware. Meat  
& drinks provided.)

**Next meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 7:00 p.m.**  
***'Growing Garlic'***  
with Rick Conrad

***Fall Vegetable and  
Decorative Flower Show***  
Photography Category of the  
Month: Garden Harvest

***Nominations for Officers  
for 2017***



Who knew grasshoppers liked papaya? In Peg's garden they do.  
Photo by Barrie Wood

## CRAMAHE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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***Growing our  
community . . . .  
one garden at a time.***

