

The Belle River & District Horticultural Society

Newsletter



Together We Grow...

Why didn't Noah swat those two mosquitoes?

January

2010

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



The Belle River & District Horticultural Society is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Society

Keeping Ontario Beautiful™

Belle River & District Horticultural Society

c/o 322 Evelyn Street
Belle River, ON N0R 1A0

Executive:

Bill Schmidt, Past President
Paul Schneider, President
pres-br@gardenontario.org
Linda Lloyd-Dupuis, Vice President
Marg. Quick, Secretary
sec-br@gardenontario.org
Suzette Cecile, Treasurer
treas-br@gardenontario.org

General Board

Betty Ann Ellwood
Sharron Johnson
Sandy Johnson
Linda Langlois
Jeanne Lauzon
Jack Quick
Buzz Rowen
Philomene Rowen
Gisele Seguin
Michele vandenBerg
Janet Veres

Pat Bastien
Webmaster,
Newsletter Editor & Publisher
webmas-br@gardenontario.org

Meetings are held at the
Knights of Columbus Hall
1303 County Road 22
Emeryville, ON

7:30 - 3rd Wednesday of the month
No Meetings December, July and August



For the board of directors of the Belle River and district Horticultural Society I want to wish all our members, families and friends a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010. For all our members that choose to stay at home we hope for a winter full of colourful plans for the next season and for all snowbirds, safe traveling and good weather.

With all the uncertainties in the world around us it is nice to know that some things are not only staying good but they are getting better, like our Society's winter program. As you can read on page 3 of this newsletter our plans for the speakers for the year are set and we are looking forward to greeting most of you on the 20th of January at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Again, this year we are preparing some events that will be for the whole community besides the ones for members and friends only. Tentative plans are in place for a plant sale, a pasta dinner and Chinese auction, a bus trip and our member's BBQ. There may yet be other events. Every month we will gather on the third Wednesday at 7:30 for our monthly meeting. Of course we will be planting and maintaining the town sign and working in the garden around the gazebo in Lakeshore Park. We are all looking forward to the great things that are in the planning for Lakeshore Park by the Town of Lakeshore and will participate with this big project with ideas and advice as required.

As we roll out the New Year I invite all of you to help us be a supportive and a lively group. This is your Horticultural Society and we want to grow with all of you. If you have an idea for us, tell us so we can find a way to bring it to the membership. If you need advice we will try to help you. We have a number of members that know so much about gardening and plants!

There are so many things to get done, so let's get going!

Paul Schneider

LAZINESS IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE HABIT OF RESTING BEFORE YOU GET TIRED!



To access the OHA Newsletter, the **TRILLIUM** - Fall & Winter Edition - go to: <http://www.gardenontario.org/index.php>. The Trillium and the OHA Website are two great places to get information regarding your horticultural uncertainties, just to get plain 'information' or read news about what others are up to in their Societies.

GARDENING: JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE PLANT.



HONOURS
WELL DESERVED!

A CHRISTMAS PARTY
"THANK YOU"
- see back page -

WINTER CARE OF YOUR TREES AND SHRUBS

Winter is not the time when most people focus on their yards; however, it is a time of year when a lot of damage can happen. The nation's lawn and landscape association, the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET), wants people to know how to care for plants, trees, and shrubs during the winter. Winter yard tips include the following:

Continue watering. Just because it isn't hot, doesn't mean that plants don't need water. Continue watering until a hard freeze. A well-hydrated plant has a better chance of survival.

Don't shake branches covered with snow and ice. It is best to gently brush off snow. Shaking limbs may break them. Wait for ice and frozen snow to melt naturally. If a limb does break, have it removed as soon as weather permits. It will help the tree or shrub heal better in the spring.

Watch out for winter warm spells. It is normally not a problem if you get a few warm days in the middle of winter; however, if you covered plants with cones or cold frames, you may want to ventilate them during the day and cover them again at night.

Prune. Late winter is a good time to prune and shape ornamental trees and roses.

Another thing to think about in the winter is the use of salt or melting agents for snow and ice. Many people put salt and melting agents on their sidewalks and driveways without realizing that the runoff can damage trees, shrubs, and lawns. Salt damages plants mainly by drawing water away from their roots. Evergreen trees are particularly sensitive to salt. Look for brown needles or leaves on trees and shrubs; they are signs of damage. Building barriers to protect the plants from runoff and adding more sand and gravel to the salt mix will help minimize damage. If you have a difficult area to de-ice safely, you can always consult a professional. Many landscape and lawn care companies do this type of work for their clients in the winter.

February 17 Meeting - A beautiful stone-roof birdhouse will be available by chance to a lucky winner. Tickets will be \$5.00 per arm-length. Gary Farfanick of Kingsville built and donated this birdhouse - all proceeds will be donated to our Society. Please come prepared!

FLOWER SHOW

Two little old ladies were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress.

The thin one leaned over and said, 'Life is so boring. We never have any fun any more. For \$10 I'd take my clothes off and streak through that stupid flower show!'

'You're on!' said the other old lady, holding up a \$10 bill. The first little old lady slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes and, completely naked, streaked (as fast as an old lady can) through the front door of the flower show.

Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause and shrill whistling. The smiling and naked old lady came through the exit door surrounded by a cheering crowd.

'What happened?' asked her waiting friend.

'I won 1st prize as Best Dried Arrangement.'

Another unwritten rule of gardening: any self-respecting rock will break at least one shovel before accepting its new home.

PERENNIALS: SOIL PREPARATION

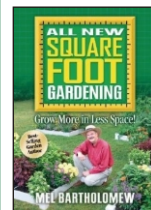
While perennials do not require yearly replanting, they still require proper soil when planting and afterwards.

Soil quality is probably the most important factor in determining the success of a perennial flower planting. Adequate soil moisture is needed during the growing season but it is very important that the soil not stay excessively moist during the winter dormant season. To improve waterlogged soils, add drainage tile, raise the bed or incorporate organic matter such as compost or peat moss. Most perennials grow best in slightly acidic soils (pH 6.5 to 7.0). A soil test can be made to determine soil pH. Soil amendments should be added and worked in to a minimum depth of 6-10 inches prior to planting.

[Http://house-plant.hut.ru/perennials.htm](http://house-plant.hut.ru/perennials.htm)

MORE FOR LESS IN LESS SPACE?

Getting ready for your Spring vegetable garden? Have you read the book in our BRDHS Library by Mel Bartholomew, **Square Foot Gardening**? If not, you can be in for a real treat this year - grow more in less space and get better results than you've ever seen. (I know; I used it for many years and plan on using the method this year, now that I once again will have a place for a veggie garden. Visit: <http://www.plantcare.com/gardening-guides/square-foot-gardening/> - for excellent articles on this gardening method.



You will save on seed, water, and soil enrichments and fertilizers and NEVER compact your soil.

If you wish to visit the Mel Bartholomew site directly, go to: <http://www.squarefootgardening.com/> - there you will see photos of the finished garden plans +++.

WHAT TO DO IN WINTERTIME

The catalogues have arrived and we all have grand visions of our new, improved gardens. But right now about all most of us can do is get things pruned and ready for new growth.

Whether you're staying warm indoors and gardening vicariously or you're outside getting things in order, here are a few more gardening tips to help you get through winter.

Order from catalogues; rework your garden design; review last year's journal and start a new one for this year by recording your seed/plant orders; check your stored bulbs and vegetables; check plants for heaving; recycle your Christmas tree as garden mulch or a bird feeder; feed the birds and provide them with some unfrozen water; take a gardening class; sharpen your tools; start cool season seeds like cauliflower, leeks and geranium seeds. February, you can start seeds of slow growing annuals like ageratum, nicotiana, petunias, portulaca, snapdragons and verbena and direct seed plants that need a period of cold (stratification). Check outdoor plants for animal damage and check indoor plants for pests

Headline: Dog attacks topiary cat.

SPEAKERS' ROSTER 2010

January 20, 2010

Lyle Griffin

PESTICIDE-FREE TIPS, TALK AND DISPLAY

Wondering what you can use with the pesticide ban in effect? Get some answers from Lyle Griffin, owner & analyst at Green Grass Clinic who will show us various 'Pesticide-Free Products that Work'.

Mailing address: 2 Brookside Crt, Kingsville, ON., N9Y 4B3 - 519-733-7665

February 17, 2010

Sherry Godfrey

Got the Winter Blues? Sherry Godfrey has the cure and inspiration... garden slides galore in her talk, '**DESIGN TIPS TO MAKE YOUR GARDEN FLOW.**'

March 17, 2010

Linda Azzopardi

With 31 years of experience as a horticulturalist in Windsor Parks, Linda Azzopardi will share her tips for '**EFFECTIVE USE OF ANNUALS & TROPICALS IN GARDEN BEDS & CONTAINERS.**' Come see her display.

April 21, 2010

Olga Crocker

We know eating nuts keep us healthy, but have you ever wanted them right off the tree? Local Grower, Olga Crocker of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers will share her experiences of '**GROWING NUT TREES IN ESSEX COUNTY.**'

May 20th, 2009

V.E.G. Panel

Come see '**TOOL TIME WITH THE MEN OF BRDHS!**' The V.E.G. panel returns to show & tell about their handiest items.

THINGS TO DO IN/WITH SNOW

Snow sculpting; make snow angels; make snow people; skiing; cross-country skiing; sledding; make a fort; have a snow ball fight; make a big snowball; snowboarding; write in the snow; shovel snow; snowmobile; take pictures of the snow; catch snow-flakes on your tongue; bobsledding; dog sledding; lugging; tobogganing; blow snow away with a snow-blower; make snow cream; eat icicles; balance an icicle on your nose; plow snow; take a walk in the snow; carefully take snow off the trees; eat snow (but again, not the yellow snow); make snow cones; examine different types of snowflake; mix snow and ice cream to make a tasty treat - again, not the yellow snow; make snow candy; write in snow with an icicle; write in snow with a stick; snow-tubing; dig a hole in the snow; roll in the snow; build a snow-fort; walk around kicking the snow in the air; make an igloo; pitch snowballs at a batter; count the number of times you've had to shovel your driveway and sidewalks this year!

CANADA BLOOMS

Saturday March 20, 2010

Direct Energy Center, Exhibition Place, Toronto
The theme for the 2010 presentation will be 'Passions.'

"For the last 13 years, at Canada Blooms people have discovered different passions; not only a passion for gardening and horticulture, but a passion for design, food, wine, art, the environment, floral design, nature, to name but a few,"
Says Artistic Director Colomba Fuller.

Greater Windsor/Belle River Horticultural Society
2010 Canada Blooms Bus Tour

6:30 AM: Depart from St Thérèse Church Hall
1991 Norman Rd, Windsor

Park across the street in the school parking lot
7:00 AM: Stop at Belle River High School to pick up members
Muffins and juice will be served on the bus
Show opens at 10 AM

5:00 PM: Gather at the bus tour waiting area for departure

Stop for dinner along 401

10:00 PM: Drop off in Belle River

10:30 PM: Drop off in Windsor

TICKETS- \$68.00 includes show ticket, tour bus and driver gratuity
Reserve your seat early!

Payment in advance by February 20, 2010
is required to hold your seat.

Minimum 47 persons required to book the bus
- can add 8 persons additional if we book 55 seats -
Greater Windsor host: Vicki Rees: vickirees@hotmail.com
Ph: 519-734-1415

Belle River host: Marg Dudley: mdudley@mnsi.net

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

HYPERTUFA WORKSHOPS WITH LYNN IMESON

Be ready for the May 24th weekend planting frenzy by having your Hyper Tufa Trough created and cured on time. Hyper Tufa should be cured for six to 8 weeks before planting in order for the plants to survive.

Dates set:

Monday, February 22nd at either 9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 25th at the same times.

Monday, March 1st at the same times.

Thursday, March 4th at the same times.

Based on demand I certainly can offer more Hyper Tufa workshops in March and April. Also based on demand there may be workshops for not only Hyper Tufa Troughs but also Curved Decorative Garden stones and (Flat) Stepping Stones in late April and on through the Spring and Summer. We must wait until the rhubarb and/or hosta leaves are full sized before we can make any of the stones.

E-mail or phone Lynn Imeson for details.

lynneal@gosfieldtel.com

4369 Graham Side Road

RR 1, COTTAM, ON N0R 1B0

Phone: 519 839 4751

lynneal@gosfieldtel.com





CHRISTMAS PARTY 2009

A time to remember and Thank:

- * Everyone who participated in the centerpiece workshop
- * Everyone who helped with the set-up of the hall
- * Everyone who did preparatory work for the event
- * Everyone who donated the many, many door prizes
- * Everyone who generously gave an item for the non-affle
- * Everyone who purchased tickets for the non-affle & door prizes
- * Everyone who graciously brought in non-perishable goods and/or cash for the Food Bank
- * Everyone who attended the party
- * Everyone who wore a hat for the occasion
- * Everyone who brought in a scrumptious dish to share with the rest of the folks
- * Everyone who prepared & served the delicious meal
- * Everyone who helped with the cleanup afterwards
- * Everyone who in any way took an active part to make this Christmas Party a total success
- * Every individual who was honoured that evening
- * Marg. & Jack Quick for so generously being such great hosts to our District 11 Director, Jennifer Plaus, the evening of the party. Jennifer, in her own words, was very grateful to have been able to spend this time in your residence and in your company - she truly did enjoy the time of fellowship with you.
- * Suzette Cecile, who time and time again, spends days and weeks and months preparing organizing, and executing every last detail of the Christmas Party - gruelling to minute - and doing it to perfection. Suzette, a huge "Thank You" from all of us who were able to benefit from the generous giving of your time and talents.

