

# Belle River & District Horticultural Society

information bulletin



April 2011

*It pleases me to take amateur photographs of my garden, and it pleases my garden to make my photographs look professional.*  
- Robert Brault

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

## **Executive:**

Paul Schneider, President  
[pres-br@gardenontario.org](mailto:pres-br@gardenontario.org)

Sandy Johnson, Secretary  
[sec-br@gardenontario.org](mailto:sec-br@gardenontario.org)

Suzette Cecile, Treasurer  
[treas-br@gardenontario.org](mailto:treas-br@gardenontario.org)

## **General Board**

John Balga  
Betty Ann Ellwood  
Sharon Johnson  
Jack Quick  
Bill Schmidt  
Janet Veres  
Bev White

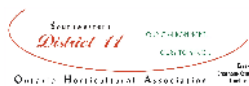
Pat Bastien  
Webmaster,  
Newsletter Editor & Publisher  
[webmas-br@gardenontario.org](mailto:webmas-br@gardenontario.org)

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



Keeping Ontario Beautiful™



The Belle River & District Horticultural Society  
is a member of the  
Ontario Horticultural Society  
and  
Southwestern District 11

*What's green and sings in the garden?*  
Elvis Parsley

## A Message from our President, Paul Schneider

The season of anticipation is here: After a cold winter we all long for the warm sunshine. We look for the first green shoots from the ground and the bursting buds on the tree branches. We are anticipating Easter and its glory. We are curious if that delicate little plant made it through the deep freeze. We are waiting to see the tans on our friends that went south. The examples are almost as abundant as the signs of new life we are experiencing. And through it all we know it will happen again: The miracle of **New**.

It is hard to believe that for our society the year is progressing so fast that we are already in the middle of the planning of our June BBQ, bus trip, and the Plant Market. The vendors are set and the volunteers will soon be assigned to their duties. All we need now is the weather to work with us and our plants (a bit warmer than last year would do nicely) and I am sure it will be a great success story again for the organization. But not so fast: before the Plant Market we will come together for the Pasta Dinner and Chinese Auction. A lot of preparation goes into events like these and I want to thank everyone who helps our organization maintain the high quality and diversity of our program.

During our last two meetings we sent sign-up sheets around the audience and the response was great! We will ask you to help out occasionally for the activity you chose. Thank you to all!

April 16 some members will attend the Annual General Meeting of District 11. This year the Amherstburg Fort Malden Horticultural Society will host the event. The discussion centers on the business of the societies, the Ontario Horticultural Association and District 11 of which we are a part. Ideas are exchanged and improvements are sought. Many times we come out of meetings of this kind with information that we apply in our society. We also report what happened in our group during the last year. Some of the societies report successes that are incredible, like the one group that takes care of planters around town that number almost more than they have members. Our reports never come out too shabby either.

This is the last newsletter before September! (DON'T SAY THAT!!!) We update our website during the year and will do so between newsletters. It is easy to keep in contact with us.

Enjoy the remainder of our meetings and bring a friend to the Plant Market. To close off the year we will enjoy an appreciation BBQ and the flower show in June. I hope many of you will find a flower that you can share at the flower show. Maybe you'll win "Best of Class"! Also in June we will go on our annual buying trip. It just never ends... enjoy!

Paul Schneider

## Membership - Jack Quick

Well, Spring is here even though it seems that winter does not want to relinquish its hold and soon we will be out in our gardens and planning our planting for the summer. Just a quick reminder that your **\$10.00 membership** not only gives you the opportunity to attend our meetings, hear interesting speakers, and have your gardening questions answered, but it also gives you **discounts** at nurseries and garden centres in District 11. **Very often one buying trip will save you more than the cost of the membership.** So if you have not purchased your membership yet, please see me and take advantage of this great deal. **Please remember that you must present your current membership card prior to paying for your purchases at the nurseries/garden centres** and if you do not have a current list of participating vendors, please see me for one. It can also be accessed on our website.

*"Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to welcome you to Honolulu," said the flight attendant, after the airplane touched ground. "Unfortunately, we're in Fresno, California."*

## June Barbeque & Flower Show - Marg. Quick

Circle June 15<sup>th</sup> on your calendar as this is the date of our very popular closing (for the summer) meeting and celebration of all our efforts during the past year - a barbeque... and it is free to all current members. Come and enjoy good food, participate in the flower show and have a relaxing evening with your fellow members. As in the past, the society will provide the hotdogs, sausages and hamburgers (and all the condiments) and those attending will be requested to bring an appetizer, a salad or a dessert. But with all this talk about food, let us not forget to participate in the annual spring flower show and showcase the beautiful flowers from our gardens; the categories will be available at the April and May meetings and also on the Society website. Looking forward to seeing you on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June and remember that the doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the barbeque is served starting at 6:00 p.m.

## More Messages From Our President - Paul Schneider

### Note:

Colasanti's Tropical Gardens has informed us that they were approached by a member with a Belle River Horticultural Society membership card for a discount. Please note that they **do not** participate in the OHA discount program. Any information saying otherwise is false.

### Congratulations:

Every year the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration honors people with the Volunteer Service Award. This year our society had the privilege of nominating three members for this honour: Marg. Quick, Marg Dudley and Pat Bastien. All three have continually put forth a great amount of generosity in time and effort for our Horticultural Society and we are happy to congratulate them. There is no reason why you could not be a recipient of this award in the future. It is in all of us to volunteer!

### Plant Market News:

As you know the annual Plant Market is on May 14. We are always looking for the plant that you divided and are willing to share with us. During the April meeting we will provide pots for you to use to prepare those plants and make them look good for sale to the public. During the week before the Plant Market we ask you to bring the potted up plants to Michele vandenBerg's garden. They will be collected and brought to the Knights of Columbus parking lot the morning of the event, May 14. When you do the dividing and planting we ask you to use your best judgment in identifying and marking the plants. If you know the name, colour, the approximate full size, the habits and requirements of the plants customers will be very happy to buy them. We supply tags with the pots so please do not write on the pots with magic marker! And please do not bring invasive plant material. We do not want to spread them any more than they already are! Members who have put their names on the volunteer list will be contacted and we will set up a time schedule to prepare plants in the days leading up to the Plant Market, for set up of the tables and the various duties during the sale. We will also need a crew to take down the store and clean up. All plants that were not sold will be kept and used as stock plants for the next sale. We will also need some assistance in the transport of the material from Michele's garden to the parking lot and later for the cleanup. Every year we have plenty of help with all these tasks and we really appreciate all of your assistance. It is always fun to do and it certainly makes our Horticultural Society viable!

### Please vote:

As we all heard Canadians are asked to choose who will be our next government. Many of us may feel a certain amount of discouragement with all the talk, action, and non-action we have seen in the past. When we look out into the world we see humans being hounded, hurt, violated and worse off, for the very right we may take for granted. Many times we may not know exactly what to think and for whom to vote. But this is the time to jump off the fence! We must make a choice. It is up to you to make that choice. If for no other reason than to show respect for our fellow humans who are less fortunate than us, please **vote May, 2**.

To determine when soil is ready for seeds, grab a good handful of it. If you can form it into a ball, the soil is too wet. If it crumbles through your fingers and reminds you of chocolate cake, it's ready for planting!

*Teacher: "Tiffany, why did you write in your essay that the moon is more important than the sun? To which Tiffany replied, "Well, if we didn't have the moon it would be too dark to see at night, but the sun only shines in the daytime when we don't need it."*

## Flower Judging Course - Juliette St. Pierre

Possibly some of our members have missed their opportunity in the past to take such a course. So in that regard, we are extending an invitation to all of you to consider taking the Judging Course. You will note that the deadline is stated as March 31, 2011. The deadline has been extended towards the end of April to give ample time for the information to be sent out before the next Society meeting.

We already have a number of registrants at the present time but wish to make this a very successful course for as many people as we can accommodate.

Looking forward to hearing from you with an application for the course. During these courses, we gain knowledge and acquire friendships but also, it eliminates questions we always have as to why a particular entry was favored with a first place ribbon instead of another (mine)!

If you have any questions or concerns, kindly contact Harry Wyma at 519-674-3493 or me at 519-727-6343, any time.

Sincerely,  
Juliette St. Pierre, Registrar

## Annual Bus Trip - Margaret Dudley

### **Belle River & District Horticultural Society Lavender Bus Trip - Saturday, June 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**

Our first stop will be **Capogna Flowers**, who grow their own annuals, perennials, and tropicals. Next is **Williams Nurseries** just outside Leamington [www.williamsnurseries.ca](http://www.williamsnurseries.ca). Then on to Ridgetown where I have arranged a church luncheon specially prepared for our group. **Perennial Haven**, a nursery at the home of Elly deNijs, has many display gardens in a pleasant rural setting. In keeping with our healing theme this year, we will have a tour at **Great Lakes Lavender Farm** in Chatham with tea and cookies to finish our day. [www.greatlakeslavender.com](http://www.greatlakeslavender.com). Check out the websites!

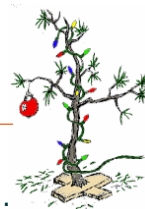


As usual, we leave from the **parking lot behind Belle River High School** at **8 am** sharp, returning at approximately 6:30pm. The cost will be **\$45.00**. Contact: **Margaret Dudley (519-979-9169)** or mail your name and daytime phone number (in case it is needed) **with your cheque** made out to **Belle River Horticultural Society**, to: Margaret Dudley, 299 Majestic Drive, Tecumseh, ON, N8N 4K8

*My grandfather had a farm.  
My dad had a garden.  
I have a can opener.*

*I love being married. I was single for a long time and I just got so sick of finishing my own sentences! Brian Riley*

*I want you to loan me \$20, but only give me half of it. That way I owe you 10, you owe me 10, and we're even.*



## Less Than 8 Months Away!!! - Suzette Cecile

Mark your calendars for the exciting, fun-filled and delicious Christmas Dinner and Party - December 7, 2011.