



The Peony Post

May/June 2016

www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com



June 20 – the first day of summer and it's making its arrival known with an exceptionally hot day. It's a day to take it easy and leave your chores undone until cooler weather returns. There is one exception though – the hot air sucks all moisture out of your planters and could leave you with a sorry looking community of plants. It's a good time to make use of your watering can.

May Meeting Recap

For those of you anxiously awaiting (☺) the Peony Post, I apologize for the delay; Father Time played tricks on me and time just flew by.

We were very happy to welcome a crowd of 55 people to this meeting. After a few announcements by Susan, our President, she introduced

Feature Speaker – Dugald Cameron

took the stage. Dugald is a well-known gardening personality and his presentation featured his favourite plants – clematis and other climbers. He warned us about being impatient and planting so-called climbing thugs, such as Silverlace Vine, Golden Hops, Trumpet Vine. Some others, such as Honeysuckle and Bittersweet also have a bad reputation but well behaved cultivars are available – buy from a reputable source and beware of 'freebies' from your neighbours. For most of us, Clematis is the hands down winner in the climber category. The flowers are beautiful, they come in all shapes, sizes and colours. Other good climbers include Climbing Hydrangea, Wisteria, Porcelain Vine. We thank Dugald for his excellent presentation.

Refreshments

We thoroughly enjoyed the snacks provided by *Rosemary Aiken, Marisa Cicuto* and *Glenda Alfred*. Thank you very much, Ladies. We are also grateful to Mary Dawson for making sure we have coffee and other drinks on hand to keep us refreshed.

Next Meeting
June 28, 2016

**MEETING START
TIME
7:30 pm**

Our schedule speaker for this meeting had to cancel and instead of hearing all about lavender, we will learn all about trees and how to keep them healthy and thriving from

Jason Eenling
an arborist with
Davey Tree Experts

Flower Show

As usual, our spring flower show was wonderful. After a long winter, it warms the heart to see all those cheerful blooms on the tables. We had a total of 82 horticultural specimens and 9 design entries. Congratulations to the 'Best in Show' winners:

<i>Barbara Twiner</i>	- Best Tulip
<i>Barbara Twiner</i>	- Best Narcissus
<i>Hermie Schmalz</i>	- Best Collection of Spring Blooms
<i>Ada Mueller</i>	- Best Houseplant
<i>Karen Bardeau</i>	- Judge's Choice
<i>Barbara Twiner</i>	- Best Advanced Design
<i>Erica Hubbard</i>	- Best Beginner Design



Public Flower Show – June 18, 2016

In honour of Canada Garden Days and GardenOntario week, we held a flower show in the main lobby of the Pickering Recreation Complex. We thank everybody who participated in this show. It was a wonderful show which definitely brightened up the lobby and a lot of visitors to the complex were cheered up by the sight. We had a total of 145 horticultural and 7 design entries. We offer congratulations to all participants and especially these 'Best in Show' winners:

<i>Barbara Twiner</i>	-	Clematis bloom floating in a bowl
<i>Ada Mueller</i>	-	Best other horticultural specimen (Beauty Bush branch)
<i>Karen Bardeau</i>	-	Best Collection (heuchera foliage)
<i>Karen Bardeau</i>	-	Best Special Exhibit
<i>Pat Best</i>	-	Judge's Choice (dark pink peony)
<i>Barbara Twiner</i>	-	Best Advanced Design

We noticed a number of entry tags that were not filled out as completely as they should or could be. Please read the instructions on page 16 of your yearbook again to refresh your memory. For example: each item on the show schedule is assigned a class number. This number should be filled in as it assists you and us to place the entry in the correct spot on the table. On the line for 'Article' we want to see the name of the plant. This is often a problem when the show schedule calls for 'any other'. Please tell us what it is. If you also know the botanical name and the cultivar – so much the better. The judge will often take that into consideration when having to make a tough decision.

Behind the Scenes – Hermie Schmalz



Hermie has been a very active member of our Society since 1997 and joined the Board of Directors in 2004. She is a regular contributor to our flower shows. Most of you know Hermie as the 'Lucky Draw Lady'. She loves to shop for the prizes and we really appreciate that she keeps a sharp eye on the cost of those prizes. In addition, Hermie is the co-ordinator for the team looking after houseplants at the Bay Ridges Long Term Care Centre every Wednesday morning. In her free time she likes ballroom dancing, day trips to interesting places and of course, shopping for her home and garden.

District 17 Annual General Meeting 2017

Here is a reprint of a brief explanation given in our February issue:

Some of you may ask "what exactly is District 17?" Our society is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA). The OHA is divided into 19 districts. District 17 has 12 member societies, covering all of Durham Region, from Pickering to Newcastle and north to Beaverton. Each year, one of the societies hosts the Annual General Meeting when representatives from all 12 societies get together. We last hosted it in 2003 and next year it will be our turn again, two years overdue. To make this event something we can be proud of, we are counting on the involvement of a lot of our members. Over the next few months we will be working on some planning; then we will ask for your positive response to help with implementing those plans. This may sound kind scary right now but, trust me; it really can be a lot of fun.

In the meantime, some of the big decisions have been made. The meeting will be held at the 4Seasons Golf Club on Saturday, April 22, 2017. Two speakers have been booked, Lizzie Matheson and Malcolm Geast. Our theme will revolve around Canada's 150th birthday. Very soon, it will be time to ask you for help. There are plenty of jobs that require no special skills, just a friendly smile. Please be prepared to offer a few hours of your time.

The Peony Post is published by the Pickering Horticultural Society eight times per year. Comments, suggestions or contributions are always welcome. Please send them to the Editor, Sigrid Squire, at asquire8347@rogers.com