



The Peony Post

September 2016

www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com



Early September – back to school – teachers and students complaining about not having air conditioning! Fast forward only 2 weeks and a lot of us are tempted to turn the furnace on; this is our typical month of September. Thanksgiving is just around the corner; in stores, Hallow’een and Christmas decorations share shelf space and we ask ourselves “Where did the summer go?”

September Meeting Recap

Announcements

- In order to up-date our membership list with correct information, we were asked to check the current list and indicate any necessary changes.
- Susan told us about her visit ‘home’ to Nova Scotia, where she was lucky enough to visit the local horticultural society. Beyond admiring their flower show, she found that we all seem to have similar problems.
- A round of applause for Barbara for once again arranging a terrific bus tour. Barbara pointed out that the gardens we visited in Beaverton won an award for ‘Canada’s Garden Street’.
- Sigrid announced that the annual Pickering Blooms Garden Showcase awards night will be on September 22, 2016. Paul Zammit will be the guest speaker.
- Barbara reported on the OHA convention, held in Kitchener in July.
- The theme for our AGM/Pot Luck Dinner in November will be “Take Me out to the Ballgame”

The Main Event

Instead of a guest speaker, the main event at this meeting was a workshop to create a planter in a glass bowl. Everybody came prepared with their own bowl, soil and plants were provided by the society. We had a lot of fun getting our hands dirty and were happy to go home with a lovely addition to our houseplant collection.

The trick now is to keep your masterpiece alive and thriving. Since your glass bowl does not have a drainage hole, it is very easy to overwater. I have found that the best way to keep the soil damp but not waterlogged is to use a spray bottle.

Next Meeting
October 11, 2016
7:30 pm

Let’s give a warm
welcome to

Judy Zinni

Judy will
encourage us to
explore the
wonderful world
of

Gesneriads

Hint: African Violets
are the best known
members of the
gesneriad family

All plants were donated by *Valleyview Gardens* and we thank them for their generosity. Should you get the urge to shop for plants, Valleyview Gardens is located at 3012 Kennedy Road, about halfway between Finch and McNicoll Ave.



Refreshments

We would like to thank Karen McKillop, Susan Saunders and Joanne Shaw for the delicious snacks provided for our enjoyment.

Flower Show

We had a total of 131 entries in the horticultural division, including 27 fruits/vegetables and 8 roses. Considering the unusually hot and dry summer we had, it was a terrific show. We also had 4 entries in the design division.

Congratulations to these 'Best in Show' winners:

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| <i>Vanita Seth</i> | - Best Plant of the Month (cherry tomatoes) |
| <i>Pat Lowe</i> | - Best Other Horticultural Specimen (Zinnia 'Oklahoma') |
| <i>Mary Dawson</i> | - Best Rose ('Bonica') |
| <i>John Lowe</i> | - Best Other Fruit/Vegetable |
| <i>Ada Mueller</i> | - Judge's Choice (Dahlia bloom over 6") |
| <i>Sigrid Squire</i> | - Best Design |

Important Notice

Annual General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner

Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances, we had to change the venue and the date for our AGM.

It will be held on

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

In the

O'Brien Rooms, Pickering Recreation Complex.

(our usual meeting place)

As mentioned in the announcements above, our theme for this year will be ***“Take me out to the Ballgame”***. Even if you are not a baseball fan, you have probably noticed the excitement in the GTA about our local ‘Blue Jays’ and the possibility of the team going to the play-offs. If you have any baseball paraphernalia – bring it on. If not – don’t worry. The team colours are blue and white and I am sure we will see a lot of those two colours.

Behind the Scenes – Joanne Shaw



Joanne joined the Board of Directors in 2015 and immediately took on the responsibility of letting the wider world know about our society. She makes sure our meetings and special events are publicized. She is active on Facebook and spreads the word about horticultural societies whenever she can. Joanne designed our new bookmarks and our new banner. In her other life, she is a landscape designer and hosts an internet radio show. A very busy lady, indeed.

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting on October 11th. It should be a good flower show. It includes houseplants, collections of evergreens and preserved material, and of course designs. The beginners design class calls for a Thanksgiving table centrepiece. With the meeting being on the day after Thanksgiving, why not give it try?

Happy Thanksgiving!



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