



The Peony Post

Oct./Nov. 2016

www.pickeringhorticulturalsociety.com



Another gardening season is coming to the end. The leaves have been raked and are covering our flower beds; annuals have been transported to the compost bin and new plans are being hatched for next year. Now we can relax just a bit before the big Christmas rush.

October Meeting Recap

Announcements

- Once again, we were pleased to welcome a room full of people.
- Susan commented on the Pickering Blooms Award Night and expressed her disappointment that very few of our members were present. She then drew names for the gift and free membership we received for having a 'Garden of Distinction'
- Susan explained that we had to change the venue for our Annual General Meeting on November 14. Instead of being at St. Andrew's, it will be held in the O'Brien rooms on November 8.
- Barbara read a poem about "The Dirty Dozen", meant to inspire people to become more active in the society.
- Howard Kopstick is enthusiastic about collecting seeds from flowers in his garden. He spent a lot of time and effort sorting and labeling them. He offered them free to us and also give us some hints about using them. Thank you, Howard.

Feature Speaker – Judy Zini

Judy kept us spellbound with her presentation of photos of the fascinating variety of Gesneriads. The Gesneriad family contains some of the most decorative and widely grown of the tropical plants. Virtually everyone knows the African Violet and the common Gloxinia. The Lipstick Plant is also widely grown, and it is not uncommon to see Goldfish Plants. However, not all Gesneriads are grown for their flowers. For example, Episcia species and hybrids often have very colourful and patterned foliage, ranging from a combination of pale pink, white and green through dark red and chocolate brown to brilliant emerald green.

Next Meeting
January 10, 2017

**MEETING
START TIME
7:30 pm**

Come on out and
give a warm
welcome to our
feature speaker

Patricia John

Patricia will be sure
to fascinate us with
the ancient wisdom
of
**'Feng Shui in Your
Garden'**

All in all, the gesneriads are an interesting and fascinating plant family. Many can be grown easily in the average home. Regardless of a grower's conditions or expertise, there is always a very desirable plant that is just tricky enough to provide a challenge, but just easy enough to be worth trying. A true recipe for addiction!

We thank Judy for a very interesting presentation and we are sure some of us will pay more attention to the rest of gesneriad family, not just African Violets.

Refreshments

From sweet to savoury – we had a lovely selection of goodies to snack on. A Thank You for providing them goes to Barbara Twiner, Judy Carpino, Wendy Kenny and Sigrid Squire. Of course, let's not forget Mary Dawson who always makes sure that everything is perfect. Also, thank you to those of you who remember to bring your own cup for your liquid refreshment.

Flower Show

It is always interesting to see what shows up at our October show. From ornamental grasses to dahlias, roses to annuals – everything is still in good shape. Although we had a very dry summer, this show was excellent. It was interesting to see the large number of marigolds displayed. I guess they really liked the hot dry weather.

Congratulations to these 'Best in Show' winners:

<i>Karen Bardeau</i>	- Best Ornamental Grass (Hakonechloa 'All Gold')
<i>Ada Mueller</i>	- Best Other Hort. Specimen (Dahlia)
<i>Trish Stephens</i>	- Best Houseplant (Curly Ponytail Palm)
<i>Karen Bardeau</i>	- Best Collection (Evergreens)
<i>Ada Mueller</i>	- Judge's Choice (Rose)
<i>Barbara Twiner</i>	- Best Advanced Design (Fireworks)
<i>Barry Neil</i>	- Best Beginner Design (Thanksgiving)

Next Meeting – January 10, 2017

January brings us our very popular photography show. We hope you have taken lots of pictures to show off. Our feature speaker will be Patricia John, presenting her thoughts on "Feng Shui in your Garden". Pronounced "fung shway", feng shui literally means "wind and water". Its roots are 5,000 years old. Feng shui seeks to promote prosperity, good health, and general well-being by examining how energy (qi) flows through a particular room, house, or garden. We look forward to it as I am sure all of us would be happy with a little more of the good things feng shui promotes.



Annual General Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner

Our baseball themed AGM attracted 52 people, including guests. The decorating team did a good job putting some baseball atmosphere in our bright and spacious new surroundings. It complimented the goodwill and warmth of our membership who gave fitting tribute to 'our' Toronto Blue Jays. Blue shirts and baseball caps were in abundance.



As usual, the variety of food was amazing and delicious. After enjoying our desserts, District Director Rick Causten conducted the election of officers and directors. Although we had hoped to attract some new blood to the Board of Directors, we are fortunate to have the current Board volunteer to serve once again. They are:

President	-	Sigrid Squire
Vice-President	-	Joanne Shaw
Secretary	-	Silke Schick
Treasurer	-	Sigrid Squire
Directors	-	Susan Saunders, Jane Hiley, Mary Dawson, Hermie Schmalz, Barbara Twiner, Pat Best

We would like to thank Susan for doing a great job as President for the last two years. It is rare to find someone as well prepared, organized and detail minded. Fortunately, Susan has agreed to stay on the Board and will still be a great help in her capacity as Show Chair.

Special kudos must go to

- Barbara and Joanne for pulling off MC duties as if they were born to it. Special thanks also to Susan for preparing their wonderful speaking notes.
- Jane and Stephen for sourcing and then picking up and returning dishes. It saved us from the indignity of using paper plates.
- Mary for once again for giving 'champagne' service and then washing all those champagne flutes.
- Hermie for her beautifully decorated draw prize table.

Now we take some time off for preparing for the holiday season. We look forward to seeing you happy and healthy in the New Year.