



The Peony Post

May/June 2017

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How does your garden grow? With cockleshells and silver bells? Probably not. We may complain when we have another grey day with lots of rain but it's amazing what it has done for our gardens. I have rarely seen everything looking so lush and healthy at this time of year. This is especially true of our public gardens which don't receive supplementary water.

PUBLIC FLOWER SHOW

Do you realize that we have only 10 days to go before our public flower show? As usual, we are asking for your participation. Last year we had 145 entries in the horticultural division, 7 entries in the design division. Considering the exuberant growth in our gardens, could we possibly increase those numbers? We certainly think so.

It is always a lot of fun to see visitors to the rec complex looking so surprised to be greeted by a sea of colourful blooms. Children in particular seemed to be fascinated and want to inspect everything very closely.

Please note: for this show, the usual restrictions about the number of entries per exhibitor do not apply.

Please consult page 37 of your yearbook for all the details.

NEXT MEETING
JUNE 27TH, 2017
7:30 pm

'Nurture Nature'

is the theme for our speaker

Paul LaPorte

Past President of the North American Native Plant Society

Let's learn about the advantages of including native plants in our landscape.



May Meeting Recap

This meeting was very well attended with more than 55 members showing their support. Our speaker, Jon Story, came well prepared with enough plants to fill a whole table. We were already familiar with some of the plant species but Jon explained how these newer hybrids were different and presumably better suited for certain conditions. It was very interesting and to top it off, we were absolutely delighted when he announced that all the plants were ours to be raffled. We thank Jon for his informative talk and, of course, his generosity.

Flower Show

As is usual for our first flower show of the, this May show was wonderful. Spring flowers are such a joy and we had 107 of them on display.

Congratulations to these 'Best in Show' winners:

<i>Ada Mueller</i>	red/red blend tulip
<i>Hermie Schmalz</i>	Narcissus collection
<i>Barbara Twiner</i>	Fritillaria
<i>Ada Mueller</i>	houseplant (orchid)
<i>Barbara Twiner</i>	'Judge's Choice' for her Saintpaulia (African Violet)
<i>Karen Bardeau</i>	Advanced Design ('Tints and Tones')
<i>Jan Garvey</i>	Beginner Design ('Tickled Pink')

This was the first time for Jan Garvey to get a 'Best in Show' for design and yes, she was 'tickled pink'. It's never too late to start!

Plant Sale Thank You

First of all, we would like thank all of you who took the time and made the effort to contribute plants to our sale. Without your support it would not be possible to hold this annual fundraiser for our society. Without fundraising, our fees would need to be increased substantially.

Secondly, thank you to all of you stayed around and helped with sorting, pricing, giving advice and gave all-around excellent customer service.



Next Meeting – June 27th

You may wonder why our June meeting is on the last Tuesday of the month instead of the usual second Tuesday. It is because having the meeting in late June gives us a chance to show off our lovely roses. This year we have added clematis to the show schedule as well. I am convinced that every garden deserves at least one rose bush and one clematis plant. Let us admire what you have.

Our Floral Emblem

*We chose the Peony for her beauty,
For forgiving us our forgetfulness.
For strength in our cold Canadian clime,
When each spring her loyalty does bless
Our eager expectations one more time,
With breathtaking splendour, without fuss,
Confirming the wisdom of our choice.
Or possibly, just maybe, she chose us?*

We found out recently that the Oshawa Garden Club have now chosen the peony as their floral emblem as well. This is no surprise as they are heavily involved with the annual peony show at the Oshawa Botanical Garden. This is just a reminder that we chose the peony in 1997 for all its outstanding qualities:

Adaptable and versatile – will accept almost any soil; hardy and vigorous; thrives on benign neglect; is steadfast and sturdy with no-nonsense growth; puts on a spectacular show; and many more reasons.

We like to think that most of these virtues are reflected in our members as well.



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