

COLUMBINE

KHS News Letter

May/June 2011

Your Garden Club

*All members and friends are cordially invited to our Meetings,
held on the second Thursday of each month, at 7:30 p.m.*

- Location of meeting:

Ongwanada Resource Centre auditorium -

May 12th Programme

“For the Love of Bees”

with

Bill Lake

And our Spring Bulb Show

And April Show Corner results

June 9th Programme

‘Marketplace’

No Speaker but a new activity - see page 4

And our Iris and Peony Show

and the June Member Plant Sale

Deadline for copy for September/October edition is August 16th.

Flower Arranging & Show Corner

with Ann Levison

& Sue Pritchard

Please Note

All plants entered for competition should have been grown by the exhibitor for at least three months prior to the show. (page 25, publication #34)

Results of April 14th Competition - Judge: Penny Stewart Decoratives

Class 1:	'Spring Forth'	1 st .	Ann Levison
2 nd .	Sue Pritchard	3 rd .	Maureen Williams
Class 2:	'Branching Out'	1 st .	Sue Pritchard
2 nd .	Ann Levison		

Horticultural Division

Class 3:	Create a 'Flower'	1 st .	Shirley & Hugh	2 nd .	Sue Pritchard
Class 4:	A pot of mixed plants.	1 st .	Sue Pritchard		

Many thanks to Yvonne and Roland Boegman for showing us their "Yesterday, today and Tomorrow" plant-- a native of South Africa. With the multi-coloured blooms, it looked too spectacular to be real!

May 12th Spring Bulb & Flower Show

Please use Publication 34 for definitions and information.

Section A – *Narcissi* – each class calls for one stem

3. Narcissus, Trumpet types
4. Narcissus, Large Cup
5. Narcissus, Small Cup
6. Narcissus, Double
7. Narcissus, Types with more than one flower per stem
8. Narcissus, Miniature
9. Narcissus, Any other, not listed above

Section B – Tulips – each class calls for one stem

10. Tulip, Single types not shown below
11. Tulip, Double - types not shown below
12. Tulip, Lily Flowered
13. Tulip, Fringed
14. Tulip, Parrot
15. Tulip, Viridflora
16. Tulip, Multiflora (more than one flower per stem)
17. Tulip, Species
18. Tulip, Any other type not listed above

Section C - Other Spring Bulbs

19. Hyacinth, - 1 stem
20. Grape Hyacinth, - 3 stems
21. Crocus – 3 stems
22. Iris (bulb) – 1 stem
23. Any other Flowering Bulb - 1 stem

Section D – Other Spring Flowers

24. Flowering Shrub – 1 stem, 45 cm (approx 17½ inches) or less in length
25. Perennials, not grown from bulbs, corms, rhizomes or tubers - 1 stem'

June 9th Iris & Peony Show

Section 2 - Iris –See page 44, Publication 34/2003

Tall Bearded Irises. Each class calls for one stalk

30. Self (one solid colour)
31. Bi-colour (standards & falls different colours)
32. Plicata (standards & falls self-coloured, overlaid with stitching, stippling or mottling)
33. Bi-tone (standard lighter colour than falls)
34. Any other colours
35. Miniature dwarf bearded iris (under 8" tall, approximately 20.3 cm.)

Other Irises. Each class calls for 2 stalks

36. Beardless: Siberian, Spuria, Pacific Coast, Japanese, etc.
37. Bulbous: Spanish, Dutch, English or Reticulata
38. Other varieties

Section 3 - Peonies. Each class calls for 1 bloom, no side buds

40. Red double or semi-double
41. White double or semi-double
42. Pink double or semi-double
43. Single, Japanese or Anemone, any colour
44. Tree peony, any colour

Paterson Awards - There are still some vacancies on the Judging Roster for the Paterson Awards. Consider taking a leisurely tour of one city district to admire and select outstanding gardens. For details, please contact Andrea Redston,

May Meeting Thursday, May 12th, 2011

Guest Speaker: Bill Lake, "For the Love of Bees"

Bill Lake is President of the Limestone Beekeepers Guild and is in his 24th year of tending bees. He will show & tell about his experience with bees and will also have honey for sale.

Spring Bulb Show – entries must be in place by 7:30 p.m.

June Meeting Thursday, June 9th, 2011

Marketplace - New format – lots of activity – very brief "meeting" – no speaker.

Featuring Member Plant Sale, Iris & Peony Show, and miscellaneous interest tables.

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Receive plants for sale & set up entries for iris & peony show.

7:30 – 8:00 p.m. Plant pricing & show judging & networking – visiting tables.

8:00 p.m. Meeting..

8:15 p.m. Viewing show results, visiting tables, soil testing, tool sharpening.

8:30 p.m. Member Plant Sale.

President's Message

Maureen Williams

WOW! It seems like yesterday that everything was brown. Today the garden is alive with colour and growing so fast I can't believe it. I recently read about a new garden accessory...a Time Lapse Plant Camera. I must admit my first reaction was "what will they think of next? "or "wouldn't it be like watching paint dry?" On second thought – what a clever idea. You mount the camera in the garden, set the intervals for photos or video clips and then walk away. Imagine capturing the perfect moment when a bud becomes a flower or a bee or butterfly lands. See www.veseys.com and search for Plant Camera to see a video. My quest this year is to photograph some of those special occasions when pollinators or other wildlife interact with plants... I'll be waiting for the bunny that ate my ferns last year.

May and June are defining months for gardeners...moving or splitting established perennials, creating new beds, shopping for new plants or experimenting with new container combinations.

In addition to our regular meetings May 12th and June 9th, the Society has a great line-up of events to enhance your gardening experience this year.

We are very fortunate to have Marjorie Mason coming to Kingston - -don't miss her – Saturday May 7th, 2 p.m, at Dupuis Hall Auditorium, 19 Division St., corner of Clergy. Her topic "Growing a Feast" suggests beautiful ways to interplant vegetables and herbs with your flowers. Be prepared to be inspired! Marjorie will also be bringing plants for sale from her Mason House Gardens in Uxbridge. Tickets are \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members. For advance tickets call me.

Saturday, May 14th is our annual Public Plant Sale at the Frontenac Mall. Plant donations will be received from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. The sale itself starts at 10:00 a.m. and will stay open for stragglers 'til 4:00 p.m. New members, be forewarned – don't be late – early birds waiting in line get the best worms! If you are donating plants, it is very helpful if you label them and add details about height, colour and bloom time.

Saturday, June 18th – Our Annual Flower Show at the Frontenac Mall. Decorative classes will be printed in our June Newsletter. All other entry requirements appear in our Show Booklet published last year. If you did not get a copy last year, you may pick one up at our June meeting, purchase a second copy or find details on our website.

Sunday, June 26th – Open Garden Tour – the list of gardens and a map will be printed in the June Newsletter, posted on the web or available at our June meeting.

More on ‘Sharing’ Plants

Sharing plants is one of the joys of gardening and plant sales are a significant benefit of belonging to the Kingston Horticultural Society. Members have always been generous when it comes to donating plants for sale. This year, we will have 3 plant sales; one open to the public (May 14 at the Frontenac Mall) and 2 Member Sales at our June and September meetings. All of them are fund-raisers which support other club activities but our objectives are much more far-reaching. By selling healthy specimens at reasonable prices we contribute to the reputation of the Horticultural Society and reinforce the benefits of membership. You should feel like you’ve taken home a treasure from every sale. Hence the request to avoid sharing extremely invasive plants. The more information you can provide about the plants you donate – the better. Labelling and descriptions are much appreciated.

In addition to plants needed to make these sales successful, we are soliciting for plants for our Pollinator Garden Project. Planting at the Memorial Centre site is projected for June with the date still to be decided. Plant donor lists will be available at both the May and June KHS meetings.

Thanks in advance to all plant contributors!

Maureen

Jane’s Notes

Jane Murphy

For a garden full of bloom:

These plants have been chosen because they are easy to grow, readily available as seeds or started plants in local nurseries, colourful and undemanding. They are suitable in a garden plot or in containers.

In the Sun:

From seed: Calendula, a.k.a. pot marigold. **Marigolds** of all shades and sizes. **Lavatera**, white and pink. **Bachelor buttons**, blue, pink and white. **Four o’clocks** - bloom in the afternoon. Sow seed on surface. **Nasturtiums** - trailers and bushy types, don’t fertilize or you’ll get lots of leaves, few flowers. **Zinnias** - 6 to 24 inches, all colours. **Asters** - bloom later than the others do and carry into the fall. **Salvia** - red and blue. **Cosmos** – all colours. **All will bloom continuously if deadheaded to prevent seed formation.** An annual’s reason for living is to bloom, set seed and expire gracefully. Removing the spent blooms prevents seed formation and they will continue to provide flowers in the hope they will eventually set seeds..

Grasses - Provide height in the back row, but Carex can be put in the mid position or the front ; good ones are millet, bunny tails, carex.

From plants: Annual grasses such as pampas grass; **Pansies** in a pot for an early spring show. **Petunias:** 2 of the Wave series or other modern varieties will fill an 18 inch pot by mid-summer and are equally at home in a border. They do not need deadheading, they are self-cleaning. **All other annuals** are readily available as started plants so if you don't have a place or the time to start seeds, you can still have a garden. Personally, I'd rather spend 2 dollars for a packet of seed, which I can share with a friend, than pay 2 dollars for a 4-pack of plants.

In the Shade:

All my choices are best grown as started plants. They may be started 6-8 weeks before the last expected frost date, or purchased as plants. Our changing seasons may well move this date back considerably, so I check the soil and if it is warm to my touch I do my planting of seeds or transplants. Of late years, I've found that this is about the 2nd week of May.

Coleus - Can be started from seed easily [6-8 wks], and there are many colours available.

Impatiens - 6-8 wks, so buy a few plants. **Lobelia** - Definitely as plants, brilliant blue.

Begonias- tuberous and fibrous: From plants; they take 4-6 months from seed. All these plants branch out quickly and make a nice show of colour in shady areas.

Suggestion: coleus, begonias and impatiens can be taken indoors in fall before the first hard frost; take stem cuttings with a few nodes on each, remove all but the top leaves and stick the stem into soilless mix up to the leaf. Some people put the cuttings in water until they root but that's an extra step. Put the pot into a south window, rotate it as the plant grows. If it gets too large, take more cuttings and discard the mother plant. Transplant out in spring.

General rules:

- Tiny seeds surface sow and keep moist .
- Larger seeds, cover as deep as they are wide, keep moist until they germinate.
- Use soil-less mix if starting seeds and cuttings indoors- prevent damping-off. Spray with No-Damp or water in with chamomile tea – 2 bags to a liter of water.
- Any vessel with holes in the bottom for drainage can be used.
- Light: window sill or fluorescent lights 12 hours per day.
- Fertilize weekly with half-strength fertilizer after 2nd leaves appear.
- Water when top 1" soil is dry. Pots may need water every day, and fertilizer every week.
- Harden off plants by putting out in a protected spot for a short time each day, 1 week before you expect to plant out.

- Outdoor planting: scratch up soil to loosen, about mid - May. Sow seeds sparingly unless you like thinning later.

Annuals are used to provide a show of colour, not as permanent bedding plants. If petunias, begonias and impatiens begin to look ratty, you can cut them back by half about early July and they will flush out again. Be generous- tuck the plants in close together. Deadheading, watering, fertilizing will keep the show going all summer and into the fall until the frost kills them. Then put them into the compost.

Perennials have a relatively short bloom time, which makes them less than ideal candidates for a colourful garden. Their foliage however may be good as a background.

One perennial that I would recommend for all-season enjoyment is Sedum Autumn Joy. It is pale green in spring, green and white in summer, pink in fall and keeps nice foliage late into the winter. It expands each year so you can share with friends. Leave the seed heads on- the birds love them. **Ferns** are great shade plants, and ostrich fern is sun-tolerant. **Malva moschata** blooms all summer and self-seeds but is not invasive.

Dahlias bloom June to frost in many shades and shapes - there are spider, pompoms and cactus-flowered dahlias. Their only drawback is that they aren't reliably hardy in our climate so their tubers must be dug up in the fall, and stored in a cool dry spot until the spring. Personally, I don't "do" plants that require that much work.

"Spring is sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where my flowers is?"

Don't worry, they're in the garden but still dormant. Lesson of the day: don't start digging too soon. Many perennials are slow to emerge and the over-eager gardener will dislodge them. If you do, replace them and firm the ground around their roots, and this time mark their place with a stake.

The minor bulbs such as **Crocus** and **Galanthus** are blooming now and will benefit from an application of 5-10-5 fertilizer. As the major bulbs, **Tulips** and **Daffodils** come into bloom, do the same for them. They all need some fertilizer to help them as they store nutrients and put energy back into the bulbs for next spring. Allow the leaves to die back and turn brown before cutting them off. To disguise the fading foliage, these flowers can be planted under deciduous shrubs or in a border with early-erupting perennials such as **Mertensia virginica** [Virginia bluebells], **Myosotis** [Forget-me-nots], and **Dicentra spectabilis** [Bleeding Heart]. **Dicentra formosa** [Fernleaf Bleeding Heart] blooms later from mid-spring to late summer. It's a great plant for part-sun to shade with a nice leaf pattern and white or deep-pink flowers. **Bergenia cordifolia** [Saxifrage] is another useful plant for the spring border. It has large elephant-ears and pink flowers held high on a long stem. It's evergreen and should never be cut back. Dead leaves can be removed in the spring. **Bergenia** can be divided every few years if it outgrows its space. Species Geraniums such as **Geranium sanguinum** and **Geranium endresii** 'Wargrave Pink' are good camouflage plants. They leaf out early, bloom from mid-spring onward, have a pleasing mounded shape and good fall leaf colour. Geraniums grow well in sun or part-shade and don't seem to be attractive to insects. **Alchemilla mollis** [Lady's Mantle] completes the spring display. It has lovely soft, crinkled leaves and the late-spring blooms are yellow-green and frothy. When the leaves and flowers begin to look tired, cut them back by half and they will re-grow. You

can have a beautiful perennial border and cover up the bulb foliage with these undemanding, easy to grow plants.

Happy Gardening, Jane Murphy

Calendar of Events - Lots of choices!

M. W.

May 7 – 2pm Feature Speaker Marjorie Mason

May 12 – KHS Meeting

May 14 - KHS Plant Sale

May 7,14, 28, & June 4 – Master Gardener Workshops

May 21 – At 8 -11a.m. Athens Plant Sale (Centre 76 Arena) 8-11am

May 28 - 29 Lemoine Point Plant Sale

May 28 – Collins Bay Plant Sale

June 5 – Wildflower Walk at Lemoine

June 9 – KHS Meeting

June 12 – Master Gardener Garden Tour

June 13 – Collins Bay Meeting & Flower Show

June 18 – KHS Flower Show

June 26 – KHS Open Garden Tour

June 27 – deadline for Communities in Bloom entries

The Rideau Thousand Island **Master Gardener Garden Tour** on Sunday, June 12th, will feature several of last year's Communities in Bloom winners. After viewing previous winning gardens, homeowners are encouraged to enter their own gardens in Kingston Blooms 2011. For further information and tickets, please contact Anne Maxwell at 613-542-0693 or Pat Hazlett at 613-483-0842. Tickets will be available at some of the gardens on the tour. However, if you purchase your ticket in advance, you will be eligible for a 10% discount on lunch, the day of the tour, at the Ambassador Hotel or Aunt Lucy's Restaurant and a 10% discount on annuals and perennials at Minnakers Flower Centre. The tour will run from 1:00 - 4:30. Tickets are \$8.00

Master Gardener Workshops, Canadian Tire - Cataraqui

Four workshops of 1 hour each are being held at Canadian Tire Store – Cataraqui. The workshops will be offered on Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. and then again at 11:00 a.m. The cost for these workshops is \$5.00 each.

May 7th – Garden Bones. Trees and shrubs create structure and form the bones of a garden. Learn how to select the most appropriate ones, given a variety of locations and growing conditions. Planting, maintenance and pruning will also be discussed.

May 14th – Garden Flowers. Perennials and annuals give a garden much of its beauty through a continuous palette of colour scent and form. Learn how to achieve this through a combination of suitable plants and discover which flowers will thrive in the harshest of conditions from hot sun to dense shade.

May 28th – Garden Edibles. Vegetables and herbs are both beautiful and tasty. Small fruits and edible flowers can also be a part of a home garden. Learn tips that will make growing your own produce a very satisfying experience for the whole family.

June 4th – Garden Colour. Containers are an easy way to bring a touch of colour or a whole mass of radiance to garden. Learn how to create a container garden, then display it and keep it growing and beautiful for the whole summer.

Annual Plant Sale, Saturday May 14th.

Frontenac Mall, Sale 10:00-4:00

Plant donations will be received from 7:30 - 9:30am. Please label with name and as much detail as possible. Other items which would be of interest to gardeners are also welcome...tools, books, baskets, planters, garden art...

Helpers are needed from 7:30 on to receive, sort and price plants. Volunteers will have an opportunity to purchase at 10:00 when the door opens. As in past years, the bulk of the work will be finished by 11:00 and a smaller crew needed to stay for afternoon sales and clean-up. A volunteer sign-up list will be available at the May meeting. Your help is invaluable for this major fund-raising event.

Lemoine Point

- Lemoine Point **Native Plant Nursery Spring Sale** May 28 and May 29 10-2. A limited number of trees, shrubs and flowers offered for sale; proceeds to maintain the Nursery operation. Enter via Coverdale Drive
- Volunteers willing to help with the nursery program are always welcome. Contact Jane Murphy. **Spring Flower Walk** – June 5, 1:00pm. Leaders David and Margo McMurray. Meet at Lemoine Point North Parking Lot.

Grounds for Compost?

Now that the weather is a little milder (wetter too!) it is time to put the 'green' bin away for the summer and feed our own compost piles. A quick note in the May 2011 edition of 'Canadian Gardening' indicates that coffee grounds added to the compost pile or sprinkled around the garden and watered in would provide a source of nitrogen and remove bad odours – if only it could get whites whiter it would be the perfect additive.

'Googling' 'Coffee grounds for Compost' revealed that many gardening gurus agreed with the 'nitrogen' benefits but argued about the pH. Would the result be acidic or neutral? In our Limestone City it is doubtful that we would notice it, certainly not in the compost. If slightly acidic it would be of benefit to acid loving plants. A ring around the roses should provide nitrogen, some acidity, reduce evil odours and keep away bugs that might be tickled to death trying to climb over the sharp edges of the grind to get to your plants. Apparently cafes and restaurants might be willing to hand you a bag of coffee grounds if you ask nicely – worth a try. Tea bags too are a good additive to the compost but beware of the plastic thread tea bags. Not all tea bags are paper, even though they appear so. To be on the safe side tear the bag prior to its addition to the pile.

I'm wondering now, if all the caffeine I add to the pile keeps the worms awake and working longer? Faster compost? An added benefit?

Barri

KHS Board for 2011

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Maureen Thompson

1st. Vice President:

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Once more let us ask that you, please, let 2011 be the year that you do something for KHS - Your Garden Club.