

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

The Newsletter of the Valley Gardeners Club

July 2017
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Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Valley Gardener's Club. There are purposely no pictures in the newsletters to allow for less expensive black and white printing. Always looking for submissions, critiques or suggestions. Send to: Editor: Donna Crawford, sparrowsong@eastlink.ca.

GETTING READY FOR THE HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The worlds longest running horticultural show - established 1768 is The Ancient Society of York Florists. Ours probably won't last long enough to beat that, but it has been going since our Club began. Our Show helps us achieve an objective of our Club Mission Statement : to encourage interest in all kinds of recreational gardening and promote better horticultural practices. As such, it is an important part of our Club activities and should be something in which each member participates in one way or another.

Of course, for any of our activities to take place, there has to be a planning committee. If you are more of an administrative bent, this is where you can shine, and is a great way to learn how things work. Don't be afraid to volunteer.

If you don't feel confident enough for the planning stage yet, you can also have fun helping out on the day. There is a job for everyone from baking for the tea to helping place entries in their proper places. A volunteer list is circulated at meetings or you can talk to a member of the Committee or inquire of the editor of this newsletter.

Most important of all to the success of our Horticultural Show is to contribute entries. By now you have received the Show Schedule. Read it over with care, *twice*. Think about what you have in your garden or pantry. Is something doing particularly well for you this year? Mark it on your Schedule and pamper it along in your garden until Show time. Again read the requirements carefully and bring along on the day of the Show. There will be people there to help you fill out your entry tag. Or you can pick up tags before hand from people whose names are on the front of your Show Schedule.

If you don't have a garden, you can still show off your skills. Love to cook? Enter your pickles or jams or scones or cupcakes. Love flowers? Try your hand at flower

arranging. You can purchase the flowers you use or get them from a friend, or pick them from forest and roadside.

There is something for everyone in the Show and it is a delightful way to share the love of gardening with fellow members and the public.

Anyone is allowed to enter; you don't have to be a member. So share your Show Schedule or ask me to forward one to your friends.

It is the one time in the Club year we can interact with those sharing a love of gardening. Invite everyone you know to come and have a cup of tea and nibbles while enjoying the wonderful entries, displays, and Allison's talk.

KEEPING A GARDEN JOURNAL

My resolution to keep a garden journal has been haphazard. Every year when I am wondering what I at some time in the past, I start to write something. Then it goes by the wayside. That being said, what notes I have bothered with have been invaluable. Unfortunately there are not enough of them.

Do not do what I do, but try what I say. Make a garden journal. Here's a few hints on what to include (from a website):

- A sketch of your garden layout from season to season
- Pictures of your garden
- A list of successful plants and those to avoid in the future
- Bloom times
- A list of plants you'd like to try, along with their growing requirements
- When you started seeds and transplanted plants
- Plant sources
- Expenses and receipts
- Daily, weekly and monthly observations
- Dates when you divide your perennials

I would suggest that you keep it simple. Doing it on the computer may be easier for some people. Certainly makes it easier to insert pictures and to cut and paste notes about new varieties you read about on line, or You Tube videos you would like to find again.

If you are the type who likes to read chatty notes, for sure, do it that way. Lovely to be able to bring back thoughts from past gardens.

I keep notes about what I entered in Horticultural Shows, judges comments and dismal failures so I don't do that again! One year I actually wrote down every plant that was producing the week of the Show for future reference. Amazing how easy it is to forget when something was at its peak.

Depending on how you garden, whether you are a veggie gardener, a collector of Alpines, or just like some containers on your deck, a journal can be a wonderful thing. Give it a try. And don't forget to record your failures too. You will thank yourself in the future.

One of the most pleasant afternoons I spent was finding a small journal I kept in my early days at gardening. It was a chatty journal, and in reading it I was once again transported to the feeling of absolute joy in seeing something appear in the spring garden, or in getting a plant from a friend. Definitely worth the time it took to write it.

ON THE WEB

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=524> - Poisonous plants

SEED EXCHANGE

This is a new feature for the newsletter. Let me know if you have seeds to exchange (or plants for that matter).

- Rosaleen McDonald is looking for some bright pink columbine seed and will have columbine "Red Hobbit" (wine and white) to exchange.

MENTORS

The following is a list of members who have volunteered to mentor new (or old) gardeners:

Barry Yoell 902-542-9240 b.e.yoell@xcountry.tv Interests: most stuff.

Shirley Marston 902-542-9323 shirlmarston@hotmail.com Interests: Perennials, roses, shrubs.

Rosaleen McDonald 902-542-2474 rosacork@eastlink.ca Interests: Seeding, alpines, herbs, perennials.

Ericka Crowell secrowl@eastlink.ca Interests: Woodland gardens, water gardening, shrubs and perennials.

Alison Scott Butler 902-670-8612 ascottbutler@gmail.com Interests: Vegetables, herbs, small plants, local.

Larry Marsters 902-681-5129 Interests: Any.

Donna Crawford 902-365-2168 sparrowsong@eastlink.ca Interests: Club activities (Newsletter, program, Show, Plant Sale, etc), perennials, herbs, vegetables.

DO YOU KNOW

Do you know the names of the native 10 Canadian maple trees? (No, the invasive Norway Maple is not one of them.)

1. Douglas maple (*A. glabrum* ssp. *douglasii*)
2. Bigleaf maple (*A. macrophyllum*)
3. Manitoba maple (*A. negundo*)
4. Black maple (*A. nigrum*)
5. Striped maple (*A. pensylvanicum*)
6. Red maple (*A. rubrum*)
7. Silver maple (*A. saccharinum*)
8. Sugar maple (*A. saccharum*)
9. Mountain maple (*A. spicatum*)
10. Vine maple (*Acer circinatum*)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July 15, 2017** - Valley Gardeners Members Garden Tour. We will be visiting gardens at Rena Nixon's and at Carol Goodwin's garden. Tea following will be on Alice Goodwin's lawn. Please bring some finger foods for the tea. A map and guide has been sent out. If you didn't receive one, contact me.
- **July 15, 2017** - Champlain Garden Club Tea and Flower Show, Royal Canadian Legion, Annapolis Royal. 2-4 pm. \$5.00 entrance fee.
- **18 July 2017** - Wilmot Flower Show and Tea, Kingston Lions Hall, 2-4 pm, admission \$5.00.
- **August 12, 2017** - Valley Gardeners Flower and Vegetable Show celebrating Canada 150. Kingstec. Entries from 8 am to 10 am. Open to the public from 1-4 pm. Free will offering tea. Contact sparrowsong@eastlink.ca for copy of the Show Schedule. Entries from the general public or members welcome. Committee needs volunteers...lots.
- **August 14, 2017** - VG Meeting. 7:30 at the Irving Centre, Acadia. Lower Level classroom to the right of the auditorium. Av Singh speaking on "Soil Amendments and Beneficial Microbes". Av is well known to farmers for his knowledge of organic farming, having worked as a consultant with the Department of Agriculture, Perennia and the Small Farm Centre.
- **August 19, 2017** - Charing Cross Flower Show at the New Ross Fair Grounds.
- **August 19, 2017** - Valley Gardeners Summer Tour (replaces the bus tour) to the Tangled Gardens and Grand Pre Park Gardens. Entry to the Tangled Gardens is \$5.00. More on this later.

LEAVES

Leisure

by William Henry Davies (1871-1940)

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

FROM THE GARDEN RECIPE BOX

Are you over run with zucchini yet? If not, you soon will be. Here's an easy recipe which can use that one that got away from you and got a little too large. Freezes well too. I sometimes add a few raisins, nuts or dried cranberries for a different texture.

Whole Wheat Molasses Zucchini Muffins (Makes 16)

1 cup grape seed oil or canola oil
½ cup molasses
½ cup honey or maple syrup
2 eggs, beaten

2 teaspoons vanilla
3 cups grated zucchini
1½ cups whole wheat flour
1½ cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
1½ teaspoons cinnamon
½ tsp. cardamom or nutmeg

Preheat the oven to 350 F.

In a medium bowl whisk the oil with the honey and molasses.

Whisk in the eggs and vanilla. Stir in the zucchini.

In a large bowl whisk the two flours, baking soda and baking powder, salt and spices.

Add wet ingredients to dry and stir gently until almost combined.

Spoon into prepared muffin tins and bake for about 20 minutes (until the tops feel done when you touch them lightly.)

KNOW YOUR CLUB EXECUTIVE AND CHAIRS

The following people work hard at keeping our club up and running. Feel free to express your opinions to any of them. Some, like the Show, Plant Sale and Communications Committee are looking for volunteers as well. There are only names, no contact info. Should you wish to contact one of the named people please drop me a line or call and I will provide the info.

Executive: President: Philip Longmire. Vice President: Janet Herbin. Secretary: Cinda Kaulkman. Treasurer: Gerri Robertson. Program Chair: Robin Whidden. Communications Chair: Donna Crawford.

Show Chair: Allison Magee.

Plant Sale: Larry Marsters

Publicity: Lucie Giroux

Membership: Elizabeth Yoell.

In November, at our AGM we will be looking for some new Chairs and Committee members. Start thinking now of what you may be interested in or have some time to participate. Allison Magee will be the Chair of the nominating committee, so let him know your interests or discuss the responsibilities with the current Chairs.