



"The Foxglove Fanfare"

"We bring gardening down to earth"

The Uxbridge Horticultural Society

www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com

June 2008 - Series 5, Volume 4

Quote of the Month

from Pam

If you are not killing plants, you are not really stretching yourself as a gardener.

J.C. Raulston

Support the Businesses who support us:

A special "Thank You" to the following who donated May's door prizes: Canadian Tire, John's Garden, Richters, Zehr's and many Horticultural Society Members.

Member's Notice board

Please give your Zehr's (Uxbridge) tapes to Marg Saban or drop them in the Zehr's box at the reception desk.

If you would like to advertise your business by leaving flyers or business cards at the info desk, please feel free to do so; simply clear it first with Rick or Pam.

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

I am suffering from a rotten-stinking-chill-giving-ear-aching-plugged-nose-make-me-bitchy cold, so this will be a short little letter. Hey can anyone out there make a hot toddy?

Our plant sale was amazing, perfect weather and a great turnout. I think that we made tons of money, so that is good. Special thanks go to Joyce Brown who worked her buns off for this and all the plant sales. No one realizes the amount of work and organizing it takes to pull this all together. Thanks also go out to Angie Andruss and the other volunteers.

Some of us potted up one hundred red oak trees for the plant sale, and Rick has hauled them to the sale and back to his house. If anyone is interested in purchasing them, they are \$4.00 each or three for \$10.00.

Hopefully everyone has started to collect items that we can put in our baskets for the raffle in August.

We will be planting our gardens in Uxbridge on June 7th. Please contact Rick if you can give a few hours of your time to help.

Well, Sneezy is going to bed now, and turning on the electric blanket because I'm freezing and I need my sleep because I am putting in a veggie garden.

See you at the meeting.

Pam Kuiper

905-985-1550

abelkuiper@sympatico.ca

Important Notice

Volunteers needed to help with the hospital garden.

Please call Yvonne at 905-852-7232 or email yvonne.deruiter@sympatico.ca

Upcoming Events

Sunday July 20th - Garden Tour

Saturday August 9th – Annual Show, Sale and Tea

August 22nd to 24th – Ontario Horticultural Association Convention in Brampton

Highlights from May's Meeting



After the business portion of our meeting, Marg Collingwood introduced our guest speaker Conrad Richter who talked about various herbs, including the many that are used for tea. It was so interesting it makes you want to grow your own tea.

Our first show was a colourful delight that filled the perimeter of the hall. The multitude of beauties was amazing to see. Well done, and congratulations to all.



First Place - *Robert Clarridge* - 90
Second Place - *Joyce Brown* - 76
Third Place - *Angie Andruss* - 71
Flowering Bulb Trophy Winner - *Robert Clarridge*



You've
gotta read this...



From the desk of Gini Sage
Durham Master Gardener

Herb of the Month

Summer Savoury – *Satureia hortensis*

Summer Savoury is an aromatic annual, native to the Mediterranean region, and the genus *Satureia* was named by the Greeks after the satyrs, which were horned creatures with cloven hooves that were forest dwellers. This association led to its reputation as an aphrodisiac, which in turn led to its popularity as an herb used in cooking. It should not be confused with Winter Savoury, which is a tender perennial in the same genus. The flavouring of summer savoury is considered superior to the winter variety, and is preferred for cooking today.

The ancient Romans first used ground Summer Savoury with vinegar to make a sauce for roasted meat. The English grew savoury in their knot gardens and kitchen gardens, and mixed it with breadcrumbs as a coating for both fish and meat. It is also a traditional flavouring for beans in Germany, as it is often considered a digestive aid. Its peppery flavour compliments both stuffing and sausage, and is often used today in Italian salami.

Summer savoury grows between 18 and 24 inches tall, and has erect branching stems with oblong pointed leaves with a purplish tinge. It blooms in the late summer to early fall bearing small whitish pink flowers in groups of three to six in the upper leaf axils. The seeds should be sown in the spring in a sunny location in average soil. The plants should be thinned to approximately 10 inches apart, and kept well watered during hot, dry weather.

Recipe of the Month

Grilled Country Ribs with Summer Savoury Mustard Marinade

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1 tablespoon red-wine vinegar
¼ cup olive oil
1 tablespoon dried summer savory, crumbled, or 3 tablespoons fresh summer savoury, chopped fine
1 tablespoon water
2 pounds country-style pork ribs (about 6)

Prepare grill.

In a bowl, whisk together mustard, vinegar, oil, summer savory, water, and salt and pepper to taste. In a baking dish large enough to hold ribs in one layer coat them with marinade and let stand, covered, at room temperature 15 minutes.

Grill ribs on an oiled rack set 5 to 6 inches over glowing coals until just cooked through, about 10 minutes on each side. Serves 2.



Flower of the Month: Columbine – *Aquilegia*

Columbine was named by the ancient Romans after the Latin word for doves, columbae, because the flowers looked like a covey of birds scattering upwards. The native Eastern Columbine is *Aquilegia canadensis*, which is a small plant with short-spurred red and yellow flowers. Its native habitat is woodlands, therefore grows best in rich, moist fertile soil in partial shade. The wide variety of hybrids available on the market today will grow in a range of conditions, but still perform their best in moist, rich, well drained soil in light shade. The plants are one to three feet high, and generally begin blooming in early to mid-May, and will often continue through June, if the flowers are removed as they fade. Columbines are a favorite flower for hummingbirds, and are excellent additions to the rock garden, or in native woodland plantings. As they are delicate in appearance, they combine well with astilbes, ferns and perennial flox in the garden. They tend to cross-pollinate, hybridize, and self seed freely, creating new strains and colours. However, the formation of seeds will shorten the productive lifespan of the plant, so it is best to remove the spent flowers promptly. Columbines tend to lose vitality after 3-4 years and are best replaced at that time. The plants should be set out one to two feet apart with the crown (*where the roots and tops meet*) at soil level in spring or late summer. Once established, feed them monthly with a soluble all-purpose (5-10-5) fertilizer and keep them well watered during growing season. They establish a long taproot, therefore, should not be divided.

Alternatively, the seed may be sown directly in the garden in early spring or up until mid summer. The seeds should be left uncovered, because they germinate faster in light. These seeds will produce flowering size plants the following spring. If starting Columbine seeds indoors, they will need to be sown into their pots or flats, and then chilled in the refrigerator for 1-3 weeks before moving them to 70-75 degrees, where they will germinate. The pest that affects Columbines most often is leaf miner, and the best method of control is to remove and dispose of any infected leaves.

Highlights from May's Plant sale

Our event was a great success, thanks to our Volunteers and all the members who donated so many beautiful plants.

