



"The Foxglove Fanfare"

"We bring gardening down to earth"

The Uxbridge Horticultural Society

www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com

May 2009 - Series 6, Volume 3

**Support the
Businesses who
support us:**

A special "Thank You" to all those who donate door prizes.

**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.

Quote of the Month
from Pam

"When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden."

Minnie Aumonier.

Dear fellow Gardeners who I am sure are way ahead of me in the garden,

Our first flower arrangement and silent auction was great. Sharon Bognar had a good idea.

I am going to miss the May meeting and our beautiful flower show, which is one of my favorites. Here's my great idea, if someone could enter something beautiful in my name and win me a prize, oh wait that is against the rules. Here is my next great idea: I love Day Lilies and that's our topic, so if someone could memorize the presentation and come to my house when I come home and present it to me, I will give them a homemade cookie!

June is the month that our members can present their idea for a centrepiece at our District 17 meeting. Remember our colours are purple and yellow and our theme is "Spring Awakening". Our members will pick which centrepiece they like the best and that will be the one we use. I can't wait to see all of your ideas. I don't think that it will be an easy job to pick just one.

Today 16 of our members and I went to the District 17 Annual Meeting in Port Perry. Our Society had the most members there. Pine Ridge did a great job. There was lots of room, it was very well organized and the food was yummy. We picked up some good ideas for next year. Man was it ever an exciting morning. We went into the meeting with no one running for the executive positions and after some tense time we ended up with all the positions filled. I tell you, there were sure lots of opinions in that room. Unfortunately Margaret Bishop was a little wild and crazy at the meeting, but I'm sure we will get her trained for next year.

Now the ball is in our court and I know we will all be hot stuff.

That's it for now; see you in June.

Pam Kuiper

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Thank You

To **ALL** who made and donated a Flower Arrangement for our Fundraising. We made \$335

Correction

Year Book: Page 42 – Delphinium Trophy was won by Marg Saban – Our Apologies Marg

Attention! Attention!

For June's Meeting

Please do not forget to put in your sample table centrepiece for the District 17 meeting in April 2010. We would appreciate you donating it for another fundraiser silent auction. Thanks for participating.

You've
gotta read this...



From the desk of Gini Sage
Durham Master Gardener

Herb of the Month

Nasturtium – *Tropaeolum majus*

Nasturtium plants were first discovered in the 16th century in the jungles of Peru. In Canada, they are grown as annuals, and are loved for their rich, saturated jewel-toned colors. They are fast and easy to grow and thrive with a little neglect. There are varieties for almost every gardening purpose: bushy plants for borders and edges, trailing plants for walls and containers and climbers to add dramatic height in a garden. The leaves and flowers are edible, with a peppery tang, and even the seed pods are used as a substitute for capers.

Plant Nasturtiums from seed, either directly into the garden in spring, or in peat pots indoors 2–4 weeks before the last frost. They do not like being transplanted, so do not disturb the roots when planting them out in the garden. Nasturtiums prefer a sunny location, in fully drained soil, but keep them watered throughout the season. Nasturtiums flower the best in soil that is not too rich. Do not fertilize them throughout the growing season, as this promotes leaf growth over flowering.

As Nasturtiums are a 'magnet' to aphids, many people plant them in their vegetable gardens to draw the aphids away from other plants. A short blast with the hose is all it takes to remove the aphids. They may also be a host plant for the cabbage butterfly caterpillar.

Plant some this year for a cheery addition to your garden and your plate!



Recipe of the Month

Cynthia's Stuffed Nasturtium Flowers

*Recipe courtesy of Forest Glen Herb Farm
Lambton Shores, ON*

(1) 8 oz. (230 g) package cream cheese, softened
2 tbsp. (30 ml) unflavoured yogurt
1/4 to 1/2 cup (60 to 125 ml) mixed chopped fresh herbs, such as chives, parsley, dill and chervil
18 to 24 unsprayed nasturtium flowers

1. In a mixing bowl, combine all ingredients well except for nasturtium flowers; chill for 2 to 3 hours.
2. Fill each nasturtium bloom with 1/2 to 1 tsp. (2 to 5 ml) of cheese mixture and arrange on a platter; serve immediately.
Makes 6 to 8 appetizer servings



Flower of the Month

Perennial Cornflower or Mountain Bluet – *Centaurea montana*

Perennial Cornflower, or Mountain Bluet is native to southern Europe, and has naturalized over the years in the British Isles, Scandinavia and North America. As the name implies, this is a hardy perennial. Propagation of Perennial Cornflower is either by division, or planting seed. It prefers full sun, and will grow well in almost any soil from sandy loam to heavy clay. The only condition these plants will not tolerate is wet soil. Be cautious, however, when choosing your location for this plant, because it can re-grow from pieces of root left in the soil after moving the plant. It may also readily reseed itself in the garden. (I never found this to be a problem in my own garden).

Perennial Cornflower grows 30–70 cm in height, and blooms heavily in late May early June, with continuous secondary blooming throughout the summer, making it one of the longest blooming perennials in the border. The colour and shape of the blossom make it an ideal companion plant for Shasta daisy and tall garden phlox.