



"The Foxglove Fanfare"

"We bring gardening down to earth"

The Uxbridge Horticultural Society

www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com

May 2007

Series 4, Volume 3

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A Special Thank You

to the following who donated the door prizes in April: Zehr's, Joyce Brown and Goodwood Gardens

I think this is what hooks one on gardening:

It is the closest one can come to being at the Creation.

Phyllis Theroux

Please Note...

The conditions under which we can use our membership card to obtain the 10% discount at Canadian Tire are:

- 1) The 10% discount applies ONLY to live plants and garden supplies if the product number starts with "33" or "59"
- 2) Items with these product numbers must be rung in separately from any other purchases in order to be given the 10% discount.
- 2) All purchases qualifying for the 10% discount must be bought in the Garden Centre as only those cashiers are aware of the discount.

Dear Achy Breaky Fellow Gardeners,

Life is great! We are finally having some wonderful weather and things are popping up all over the gardens.

On May 19th we will have our plant sale in the Parkette, so keep your fingers crossed for good weather. Now is the time to start the plants so that they are well established for the sale, which we hope you are contributing to. A few of us are also putting together hanging baskets and herb containers.

Our June meeting will be a celebration of the Society's 40th Anniversary. Wouldn't it be great if everyone entered something in the show so that we had the most entries we have ever had? We want the exhibit tables to be so full that they groan.

David Ahmad is our speaker this month and as we know from hearing him last year, we are in for lots of wonderful information. I hope that you will enjoy the evening.

Another event that's coming up is the basket raffle in August. We are pleased to report that we have all the baskets but now we need the items to fill them. I know that some of you have already started to collect them. Some of the things we need are articles for men, babies, children, the kitchen, preserves, lotions, perfumes, and of course gardening items and anything else that you can think of. If you can think of a theme for a basket or want to be on the committee, please contact me. Last year we met at my house to put the baskets together and finished with a potluck lunch. We had lots of fun.

You will not believe what I saw in my garden! Two Japanese Lily Beetles were doing what comes naturally on my daffodil plant. That is not allowed. I'm off to squish some beetles.

Have a wonderful May.

Pam Kuiper

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Tips for the June Flower Show

Poppy

- ❖ Cut when colour shows and stem starts to straighten
- ❖ A "Searing" method is required for this specimen (take a lighter, match or candle and hold a flame to the cut end of the flower until it is blackened)

Strawberries

- ❖ If show schedule does not specify number, always show five (5)
- ❖ Green calyx attached
- ❖ Firm, undamaged from insects

Herb of the Month

Lemon Balm – *Melissa Officinalis*

Melissa, the botanical name of Lemon Balm, is derived from the Greek word for bee, and it has been grown in the Mediterranean region for over 2000 years. It was said that bees would never leave a garden where balm was grown, and when new bees were introduced to a hive, it was customary to rub the inside of the hive with lemon balm leaves to encourage them to stay. Balm's lemony flavour and aroma can be used on the rims of white wine cups, and in teas and jellies. In Spain, it is used in sauces and salads. The fresh leaves may also be mixed with Indian tea for a refreshing drink.

Lemon Balm is a perennial, similar to bushy mint, and is very sweet smelling. The stems are square and slightly hairy, with greenish-yellow oval to heart-shaped leaves, which emit a lemony scent when bruised. Clusters of flowers form at the leaf axils, and are pale yellow, changing to whitish-pink in mid-summer to fall. Lemon balm grows 12-32 inches tall and prefers a sunny location, with rich, moist soil. As lemon balm can be somewhat invasive under perfect conditions, it is ideal to grow in large planters or pots.

Recipe of the Month

Faerie Blossom Cookies

2 Tablespoons sugar
¼ cup fresh lemon-basil leaves, packed down
¼ cup fresh lemon balm leaves, packed down
¾ cup sugar
½ cup butter, softened
1 egg
3 Tablespoons lemon juice
3 cups flour

Preheat oven to 350°, and lightly grease two baking sheets. In a blender or food processor, process the fresh herbs with 2 tablespoons sugar and set aside. Using an electric mixer beat the butter until creamy, gradually adding ¾ cup sugar. Add egg and lemon juice and blend. Add herb-sugar mixture, then flour, 1 cup at a time, beating to blend thoroughly. Shape into 1-inch balls and place 2 inches apart on greased baking sheet. Dip the bottom of a glass in sugar and flatten each ball. Bake until golden brown, about 8-10 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool. Yield: about 36.



Flower of the Month

Bearded Iris - *Iris germanica*

Bearded irises come in a myriad of colours, from white to almost black, some having a slight fragrance suited to their colour. The sizes vary from miniature, at no more than 4-6" tall all the way to the tall bearded, at over 36" tall. The plant grows from a fleshy tuber called a rhizome, and forms a cluster of lance-like leaves, with showy blooms in the spring and early summer.

Bearded irises require excellent drainage and at least a half-day of sun. Amend your soil with humus or compost and add low nitrogen fertilizer several weeks before planting the rhizomes.

To divide older clumps of iris, wait until 6 weeks after bloom, dig up the clumps and discard any diseased or insect infected rhizomes. Dip the remaining rhizomes into a 50-50 bleach and water solution to further reduce the incidence of disease or iris borer, the largest cause of problems in iris. To plant your iris, dig a hole, spread out the roots and create a small hill of soil in the centre of the hole to raise the level of the rhizome so the top is level with, or just below the soil surface. If the rhizome is planted too deeply, the plant may grow but refuse to flower. If you choose to mulch your garden, take care to keep the mulch pushed away from the rhizomes so the surrounding soil does not retain too much moisture.

Water the newly planted iris well, then water again deeply once a week for a couple more weeks if rainfall is insufficient. Over-watering may cause bearded irises to rot, so allow soil to dry out between watering. Once your iris has rooted in and starts to grow new foliage, it is no longer necessary to provide supplemental water. They may not bloom the subsequent year, but be patient, as this showy flower is well worth the wait.



April's Meeting

Pam introduced us to our speaker John Nowakowski who gave us all kinds of information about vegetables; where to get the best seeds, how to grow them, the best veggies for our zone and region, etc. etc.

John is the owner of "Brock 2000 Gardens" on Hwy #12 at 10th Conc., where he has bedding plants, cut flowers, and organic vegetables.

John offered the Society's members a 10% discount, which is appreciated by all.

Thanks John for all the information and to the Society for inviting him.

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.