



"The Foxglove Fanfare"

"We bring gardening down to earth"

The Uxbridge Horticultural Society

www.uxbridgehorticulturalsociety.com

October 2007

Series 4, Volume 7

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A Special Thank You

For September's door prizes to:
Joyce Brown, John's Garden, Zehr's,
Canadian Tire and Terry Robertson.

*Will is the root, Knowledge is the stem
and leaves and feeling is the flower.*

Sterling

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 Leaf Gatherers,

By the time you read this newsletter you will be all turkeyed out. I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Man oh man, we need to be two people at this time of the year. My kitchen looks like a bomb went off in it. There are bottles of jam, relish, chili sauce, lids and bottles everywhere, plus a sticky kitchen floor.

Now for the garden. Well, I have not even started getting it ready for the winter yet. Here are a few pointers of things we should be doing in November: hill up roses, new bulbs should be given light protection the first year and old rhubarb plants should be mulched with manure. I just put lots of horse poop on mine, and if it does not do better next year it will be executed. And here is more: remove dead flower stalks from daylilies and cut the foliage back to about 6 inches and clean and oil hand tools before putting them away for the season. This all sounds very nice and organized but the chances of me getting them all done is zilch.

Here is the story of my first time planting roses. When we have a speaker I listen carefully and take every thing literally. One night we had a wonderful speaker on roses, he told us to plant garlic with our rose bushes. The next day I went out and bought rose bushes and several heads of garlic. I got home dug my holes, got my manure, and then sat on the grass and patiently separated and peeled all the garlic cloves. Every hole got a handful of garlic cloves in it. My friends killed themselves laughing when they heard what I had done and they told me that I was supposed to plant garlic plants or garlic chives near my roses. Can you believe that my roses did not smell like garlic the next year.

Ladies we will be having our cookie baking contest in November and we have a special judge this year. Kim Rabe who has her own "Home and Décor" business and was also a sponsor for our oh so fantastic cookbook, will come to the November meeting and stuff her face full of freshly baked cookies. Remember to bring your cookies to the contest and please do not toss your them.

See you at the meeting.

Pam Kuiper

905-985-1550

abelkuiper@sympatico.ca

14th of November Meeting

Time: 7:30 pm ~ informal chat 8 pm ~ meeting begins



Speakers: Sharon Bognar, Joyce Brown, Bob Clarridge, Marg Collingwood and Gerald Lawrence.



Topic: Deck the halls: how to make holiday centre-pieces, garlands and wreaths.

The evening's Event: Baking contest: Best cookie.

Please Note: Volunteers organizing the tea for that meeting are asked to contact judges for the contest.

Herb of the Month

Fennel – *Foeniculum vulgare*

The name fennel is derived from the Latin word meaning 'little hay' or 'little hair' because of the appearance of the strand-like dried leaves. Fennel's culinary use dates back at least 2000 years, and is the wild ancestor of the bulbous Florence fennel that is so popular in Italian cookery. The chopped leaves of common sweet fennel are often used in fish dishes, as they aid the digestion of rich or fatty foods. The seeds, whole or crushed, are used similarly to anise, with a sweet, liquorice flavour. Sow the seeds in spring in a sunny position, preferably in a light, well-drained soil. Keep the soil moist after sowing but do not over-water once the plant is in leaf.

Florence fennel, of *finocchio*, is an aromatic vegetable that can be difficult to grow, as it requires extra-rich earth and almost constant watering, similar conditions to celery. The 'bulb' is the edible part but must be harvested before it is overly large, or it may become stringy. Fennel bulb is best prepared fresh, baked or stir-fried, and it will pervade any dish with the mild flavour of anise.

Recipe of the Month

Fennel Cucumber Relish

- 1 lb fennel bulb, stalks discarded and bulb finely chopped
- 1 lb seedless (English) cucumber, halved lengthwise, cored and cut into a ¼ inch dice
- 6 tablespoons cider vinegar, or to taste
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped shallot
- 1½ tablespoons chopped fresh dill
- 1½ tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ¼ teaspoon salt, or to taste

Stir together all ingredients in a bowl, and let stand 15 minutes. Note: relish can be made a day ahead (though colour will not be quite as bright) and chilled, covered. Bring to room temperature before serving.

Makes about 4 cups.

Flower of the Month: Asters – *Aster spp.*

Aster means 'star' in Greek, and presumably this genus of plants was so named because of its rayed flowers. There are over 600 species of wild asters, most of them in North America. These flowers light up the fall roadsides with a spectacular show of white, lavender and purple, quite often with the golden yellow rays of goldenrod. The native species that are commercially available to the gardener are *Aster novi-belgii*, or New York Aster; *Aster novae-angliae*, or New England Aster and *Aster frikartii*, or Michaelmas daisy. Although the true natives prefer moist to wet soil, the hybridized versions of these perennials grow best in average, well-drained soil. Soil too rich in nitrogen can cause powdery fungi, ruining the appearance of the plants, and soil too rich in phosphorus or potassium has been shown to cause the development of wilt disease. The New York and New England Asters are tall plants, and either requires that groups of plants be loosely staked, or planted with other species such as monkshood, where their toppling nature is attractive. The last group of asters are the clump or mound forming asters, which are crosses of all types of parents, and are bred to grow in the same form as chrysanthemums.

The hybridized native asters should be divided every year or two to keep the blooms at their best. Spade out the entire clump in the spring when the shoots are 1 – 2 inches tall, and separate into clumps of 3 to 5 shoots. The flowers, once spent, should be removed before setting seed, as the seedlings from these plants rarely produce flowers that are the vibrant colour of the parent plant.

Plant and enjoy these species, as they will bring that welcome splash of colour to your late fall garden.



12th of December Meeting

Time: 6:30 pm Potluck Christmas Party
(Please do not forget to bring your own cutlery and crockery!!!)

Annual Meeting
Installation of 2008 Executive and Board of Directors

Trophy and Prize Presentation for:
Photographic Contest
2007 Shows Results



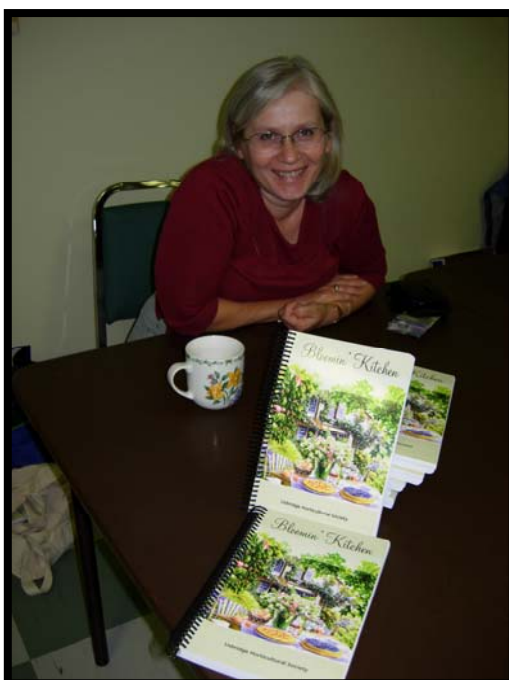
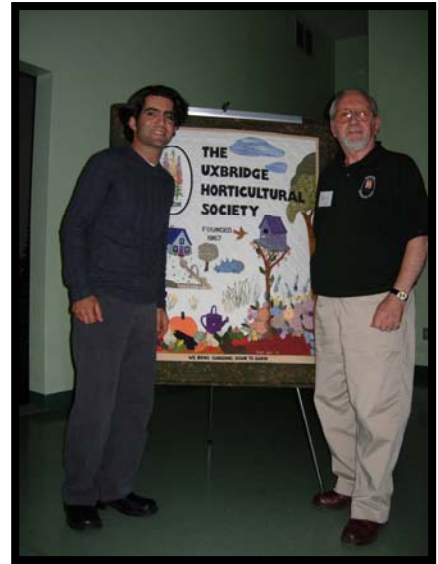
Highlights of September's Meeting

Al Rickwood the convenor for the evening introduced our guest speaker Paul Zammit.

The topic was spring and fall gardening practices.

The slides Paul brought made it a very beautiful and informative presentation. I'm sure that everyone enjoyed the evening.

Thanks Paul.



.....And the winners are:
Don't they look familiar.
Hum!!!
Well done.



And we are still selling our famous cookbooks. What a success. Pictured here is Yvonne who helped-out as Jennifer could not make the meeting.

Thanks again Jennifer for this great fundraiser. You and your committee sure did a great job.

Don't forget, these books make a great Christmas gift.



September's Plant Sale

Thanks to all our volunteers, we had another good plant sale.



No, Gini wasn't hiding from the camera. It was a very sunny day.
A BIG Thank You to all the ones who donated the lovely plants.



A nice family outing.

Potential future gardeners!!!

