



Blooming News

Our website: www.haldimandhorticulturalsociety.com Email: bloomingnews@xplornet.com



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is definitely a first, that is, officially writing the "President's Report". I'm not quite sure how I managed to get myself into this predicament – but alas, here I am and I will certainly do my very best to keep you all enlightened, humoured and in good spirits.

I can certainly say that I was delighted and encouraged to see so many faces at our January meeting. Many of which were new. Just think, I came to my first Haldimand Horticultural Society meeting January 2007 – and look at me now.....YIKES!

This year will be very exciting for us, particularly since we were awarded the Mayor's Charity Golf grant in the fall of 2007. These funds have given us the opportunity to identify four special projects within our community where we can make significant improvements to existing gardens.

At our January executive meeting we identified the Hagersville Hospital garden, Cenotaph, Oasis and Sims Locks as our special projects. Luckily, according to the funding agreement, we have 3-5 years to complete these projects. Hopefully, at our March general meeting, plans will have somewhat evolved and I'll be in a better position to let you know which project or projects we will be focusing on in 2008. Chances are excellent, that at some point, we will need volunteers to help plant and pitch in with some simple gardening tasks. I can promise you that a good time will be shared by everyone... and ... I'm not opposed to bribery with culinary delights and sweets.

I'm pleased to say that our newsletter format is starting to take shape. This month we have started a column titled "My Garden Journal" that we hope you will enjoy.

As a friendly reminder, 2008 membership fees are now due. You will find details at the bottom of page 2 of this newsletter.

On a closing note, we are underway on developing a new website where you will have access to newsletters, coupons, upcoming events, and announcements. This is a "work in progress", if you are curious and want to see how it's developing, go to www.haldimandhorticulturalsociety.com and feel free to share your thoughts with myself or anyone else.

Until we meet again,
Susan Oliver



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Monthly Meetings:
4th Thursday of each
month 7:30 p.m. at
St. Paul's Anglican
Church, 27 Orkney
St. East, Caledonia

February 28th, 2008 - Agenda Preview

1. More new initiatives
2. An opportunity to sign up for a **free subscription to a Garden Catalogue** (you must be present in order to sign up - this is a one-time only offer.
3. Sign up for the pre-purchase of **Dahlias, Cannas and Callas** from Van Noort Bulbs Company at an **amazing price**
4. Learn about our new initiatives
5. Enjoy refreshments with fellow gardeners, and,
6. "Become Inspired" as there are only **four weeks to Spring**.

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FEBRUARY MEETING

Sherry Hayes will be our Guest Speaker at the February 28th, 2008 General Meeting:

Sherry is an Honours Graduate of the Landscaping Design Program at Mohawk College of Applied Arts in Hamilton. She is also the founding owner and lead designer of "Landscaping With Style". Her subject for the evening is "Planning your garden - Landscape Ideas & Advice"

What else about Sherry -

- * she was the Landscaping Advice Columnist for the Hamilton Spectator 2002-2006 Saturday New Homes Edition,
- * guest spots have included CHTV Morning Live with Lori DeAngelis discussing landscape ideas and advice,
- * guest speaking has included "A Day with Sue Warden & Friends", HGTV's personality & host of CraftScapes & Creative Decor,
- * she's presented "Spring Delight", "Garden of Wishes & Dreams", "Live the Dream" at The Ontario Garden Show, "The Serenity Garden" at The Total Woman Show, and, The Hamilton Bridal Show.

MONTHLY COMPETITION:

February Monthly Competition:

#1 Design Section

- (a) On the Hill Top - A Line design - some artificial material allowed (see publ. #34)
- (b) At the Drinking hole - a winter water design

#2 Specimen Section

- (a) Any variety bulb forced by the exhibitor for indoor enjoyment
- (b) Mixed Planter with a minimum of 3 varieties of plants

#3 Horticultrual Section

- (a) A Craft Article with a floral theme - any medium allowed e.g. wood, metal, stitchery etc.

INSIGHT INTO MARCH:

March Monthly Competition:

#1 Design Section

- (a) "Touch of the Irish" - a Monochromatic Colour Harmony design
- (b) "Easter Bunny" - a table design in a basket

#2 Specimen Section

- (a) Potted Fern - Any variety
- (b) African Violet - either a single or double bloom, **single** crown.

#3 Photo Section

- (a) "Where is Spring?" - A photo of some aspect of nature to depict this theme. Photo must have been taken by the exhibitor.

March Guest Speaker: Jim St. Marie, "Perennials, What to Buy, Planting and the Care Of".

More details to follow.

Remember - 2008 Membership Subscription is due!

First name(s) _____ Last name _____

Address: _____ P. Code _____

E-mail address: _____ Phone: _____

Annual membership fee: \$8:00 single / \$12:00 family: Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail to: HALDIMAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 2078, Caledonia, ON N3W 2G6



MY GARDEN JOURNAL

February, 2008

by Susan Reeder

Today is a very bleary day. The winds are fiercely blowing and the temperature is very cold. But, there is a bright side to this dreariness because I'm able to stay inside, in front of the woodstove, and, look through all the Perennial and Bulb calendars that have arrived at our home over the past month.

There are catalogues from Brecks in Port Burwell, Ontario; Veseys in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Botanus in Langley, British Columbia; and McFayden in Brandon, Manitoba. And so, I am sitting back and dreaming of how wonderful these plants would look in our 2008 garden and trying to decide if I should put pen to order form and venture forth.

As I travel through the catalogues, I am intrigued by the many new plants being offered. I know that these new plants will be the "must haves" for the gardening shopaholics out there like me. However, I am aware that I should be cautious to choose plants that can tolerate our droughts or be prepared to give lots of attention to plants that require special treatment.

All of the catalogues offer the same trendiest plants of the season and these are the ones that capture my interest:

Anything Lime Green in colour is appealing and new and there are wide selections to choose from if you want to add this colour to your garden. There are Echinacea "Green Envy" at McFayden and Brecks; Echinacea purpurea "Coconut Lime" at Botanus and Veseys; Heuchera villosa (Coralbells) "Citronelle"; an exotic primrose titled Primula hybrid "Francesca" with yellow flowers rimmed with bright lime green; and a beautiful Hybrid Lily "Gerrit Zalm" at Veseys.

Veseys has a lovely variegated Lily of the Valley 'Albostrata' with "deep green leaves striped with creamy white veins". There is also a Double Lily of the Valley 'Flore Pleno' with extra blooms featured by Veseys.

Lilies come in a variety of colour these days and a favourite of mine is still the 'Landini' which is almost black and is very striking for its contrast in the garden.

A hosta which is new this year and appears in all of the catalogues is the Blue Mouse Ears Dwarf Hosta. Veseys refers to it as the Hosta of the Year for 2008. The description in the Brecks catalogue says "One of the most popular dwarf hostas displays thick, rounded blue-green leaves that resemble cute mouse ears. Best of all, slugs find them utterly repulsive. Clusters of lavender flowers on slender stems appear in midsummer. Fast growing foliage is ideal for shady garden areas. Its diminutive size and colour provide a striking contrast when planted with larger hosta varieties. An ideal plant for a rock garden or in mass plantings."

Callas are really outdoing themselves these past few years. The traditional white callas are now competing with a wide range of colours like pinks and oranges and reds and deep purples.

Cannas are also offering variations in flower colours and most notably in foliage. Leaves come in the traditional green and new choices are bronze leaves and multicoloured variegated leaves.

It was interesting to notice that Veseys is offering Cacti and succulents for the first time this year. I wonder if this is a reflection of our drought summers? Several of my gardening friends have talked of putting cacti in their gardens.

So there you have it. Some very interesting plants are offered this year in the catalogues.

But the decision will be – do I buy now and pay the shipping costs in order to ensure that I get the plants I want; or do I take my chances that my local nurseries will be offering these plants at a less than catalogue price?

Decisions – Decisions, but all part of the fun of dreaming of the summer to come!

Special Thanks -

A special thank you goes out to our January Refreshment Hosts - Karen Culp, Carol Thompson and Irene Baxter.

Another thank you is extended to Edna Forster for her kind donation of vases and baskets at our January 2008 general meeting.



Until we meet again..... March 28th, 2008