



P.O. Box 21032, Stratford, ON, N5A 7V4
<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/stratford>

the gardener Fall 2012

**“To plant a garden,
is to believe in tomorrow.”**

September: brilliant blue skies, an extra blanket at night, colourful squash, fall asters roadside ... oh yes, and ragweed, Nature's nuisance. Pass the kleenex box, please!

In our garden, this year's success story is owed to *Heather MacDonald* who organized a behind-the-scenes tour of Colour Paradise greenhouse for us in May. It was a fascinating view, giving us even more appreciation for the growers who enable us to plant beauty in our surroundings. That evening, three of the four people in our car bought banana plants which came home stuffed between our feet. (Yes, the trunk was full of other purchases!) Three brief months later, the attractive one gallon-container plant would only fit on a flat bed truck! Impressive! No, we haven't yet talked about over-wintering. Photo note: Banana on left, Canna on right, fence height 6'.



September also indicates that the Annual General Meeting is a short two months away. The Nominating Committee is comprised of *Heather MacDonald, Henry McVey, Jinny Macdonald, Penny Keegan* and me. We will present a slate of directors for your approval at the AGM. If you can help with the running of this terrific organization, please contact one of us. We'd like to add your name to our roster.

Over the summer, I've had reason to remember advice or information from our meeting speakers earlier in the year. Last weekend's Toronto Star column by *Mark Cullen* had a question about failing impatiens; those of us who heard *Roger Tschanz* at the May meeting had advance warning and perhaps avoided that disappointment. I immediately thought how fortunate we are as members to have the opportunity to learn the latest info from the expert speakers *Larke Turnbull* finds for us.



If you don't have a subscription to Gardens Central, you may want to grab a newsstand copy. The September issue, shown here, features *Diane & Tom Kydd's* garden. In the past year, three of our members' gardens have had beautiful articles in the magazine, spreading the word about the city's gardens far and wide. I'd like to note that all three gardens have been on our Garden Tour, which should let everyone know that this is an event gardeners and gardening magazine readers shouldn't miss. Thanks to this year's Garden Tour hosts, volunteers, and *Margery Leggott's* committee for another wonderful day in the private gardens of Stratford.

You'll read in the Civic Beautification report of the hard work and showcase results of those volunteers, particularly *Louise, Dennis and Mike*. Especially during this hot, dry year, I don't want to overlook *Henry McVey* who has spear-headed the pergola garden, and *Harry Brightwell* who is the sole gardener at *Catherine East* garden. If you think of it when you see any of these fold, please take a second to thank them.. They don't expect it, but I'm sure they'd appreciate it.

Our Hort. Society is a member of the Royal Botanical Gardens. This is a fabulous jewel in Ontario, and relatively close to us, in Burlington. Over the years, we've looked to the RBG for speakers, advice, and ideas. A few years ago, we contacted them for help in replenishing our *Father Corcoran* memorial iris bed on McLagan Drive. We were particularly interested in locating a City of Stratford iris which, to the best of my knowledge, was no longer in our gardens. No one was certain of the colour – was it blue? Or magenta? Or brown? *Wayne Staley*, an RBG head gardener, said he'd help but we'd have to wait until the bearded iris beds were divided. In the meantime, he gave us two trunkloads of siberian iris to fill in our bed and ultimately to extend the period of colour. This spring, the catalogue for the RBG Auxiliary plant sale listed the City of Stratford iris; we were able to get almost thirty plants in advance of the sale, and they were recently planted by our own iris pro, *Mike Matthews*. Next June, you can decide how *you* would describe the colour!



City of Stratford iris

Happy Autumn! *Darlene Irwin, President.*

Civic Beautification

This summer has been a busy one in the Civic Beautification department. We have struggled with heat and lack of rain, but all-in-all the gardens look good. We did some more modifications to the Iris bed in late July and August. More Iris were added (many were donated by *Mike Matthews* and we also planted City of Stratford Iris close to the large rock), plus the pathway to the large rock was put in place. Many hours were spent weeding, grading, preparing, planting and landscaping that bed- but it looks very neat and tidy. Now all we have to do is sit back and wait for the flowers to bloom! Then we will put the next step into place- identifying, photographing, and tagging all of the Iris in the bed so that when we split them for a future plant sale each will have a photo and name attached. Many thanks to *Mike Matthews* for all he has done and continues to do for our Irises.

Another accomplishment was erosion control at the Centre Street bed. We fortified the area under the seat with more crushed rock, added river rock to the edges of that area and put in a "dry stream bed" to direct rainfall to the front bottom of the bed -all we need now is the rainfall to see if these modifications will help! Once again Mike saved the day and *Dennis Rawe* provided all-season long help with maintenance and planting new specimens in this bed.



Centre Street Perennial Bed

The City made sure our annual beds survived the drought conditions, so now we need to turn to plans for Fall clean-up projects at our other perennial beds. Volunteer help will be appreciated and details will be outlined at the September General Meeting.

Louise Spandler, Chair, Civic Beautification.

Coming Events

The weekend of September 21 – 23 will be a very busy one in Stratford. Savour Stratford will bring tourists from afar, and beginning Thursday, Sept. 20, the Agricultural Society's Fall Fair will offer exhibits from and for the local community. If you have a chance, consider supporting both endeavours. As a Society, we we donate cash prizes for the children's entries at the fair. Not only do the kids grow, they like to show – thanks for the example, kids!

OHA Fundraising

Please support our parent group with a fundraiser offering two different types of difficult-to-find varieties of bulbs. They are *crocosmia* (spring planting) and *camassia* (fall planting). Three colours will be available for each flower.



crocosmia, Lucifer



Orders will be required by November 1st with delivery of *crocosmia* bulbs next spring and the *camassia* later in the fall. We will sell them for \$7.00 per package. Pictures, details and order forms will be available at the next 2 meetings. Cash or cheque only please.

Order by phone from *Maureen* at [REDACTED] or drop by [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Maureen Cocksedge, Fundraising

Upcoming Meetings

September is the fall flower show. Our welcome back speaker is *Gwynedd Brundrett* with stories entitled "My Family Landscaped My Garden". Gwynedd is a past O.H.A. Director, a past president of the Wilmot Horticultural Society, and a gardener whose property has been featured in Harrowsmith magazine.

October has a free plant exchange for members. If you don't have a plant to offer, there will likely still be plenty for you to take one home. The meeting highlight will be a demonstration of winter floral designs by *Ann Diebel*. Ann is a teacher, demonstrator, international exhibitor and judge, and a long time friend of our society.

November is the Annual General Meeting. In response to last year's member survey, there will be a potluck dinner before the meeting, so dust off your cookbooks. Author and gardener *Paul Knowles* will be our speaker.

Tales of Terroir

What were your success stories or your garden challenges this summer? Let us know and send pictures, if possible. We'll print some of them in the Winter newsletter when we all need to remember long sunny days. Please send to,

Bruce Wilkinson, [REDACTED]

Exhibit & Floral Design

The SDHS Exhibit and Floral Design Committee wants to extend their congratulations to ALL exhibitors from the June Flower Show. What a show it was! The peonies were outstanding and a big THANK YOU goes out to *Darlene* and *Flo Bowman* for their tips on holding peonies in limbo previous to a flower show! We had 25 adult exhibitors, 9 of whom were novices! It is nerve wracking to get entries ready but didn't you all have fun? There was a total of 154 exhibits and 47 of those were in design categories! What inspiring designs they were too! Considering we had a fairly new committee, started too late and had a new venue to set up, I was very pleased with the results. Thanks to everyone for their constructive comments and we are taking them seriously for next years' event. If there is anyone out there who would be interested in joining our committee, we'd be delighted to welcome you on board. We've worked out most of the "bugs", so I'm expecting everything to go smoothly next year. (Gardeners are such optimists!)



September 2011 Flower Show

Just a reminder, we do have a flower show happening at our September meeting - so check your schedules and bring in your entries! If you don't have a schedule, please contact *Bernice* at [REDACTED] We're looking forward to seeing all of you there; let's fill that room with flowers!

Bernice Barratt, **Chair, Exhibit & Floral Design**

Spare Storage?



This is on our wish list – a garden shed, or perhaps part of a garage, where we can gather the props of various committees in one location. Then, with an inventory list, we will no longer have to remember who took home the sign that we need for an event tomorrow!

If you have such a spot (perhaps 5' x 5'), we'd be very grateful if you would let us use it.

Verry grateful!

NEWS!!

Everything Goes!!! at Anything Grows.



We're cleaning up and clearing out. It may come as a surprise to you, but for many reasons, **Anything Grows** is closing it's doors. The store will close by the end of this year. Anything Grows has been helping to improve gardens for almost 18 years and loved the experience. Thank you for your support, purchases, ideas, conversation and friendship. The time has come to move on, but not without saying **thank you** and sharing what lies ahead!

Anything Grows, Seed Shop will continue to operate. The joy in exploring organic, heirloom, and unique seed varieties has us hooked. We plan to be at the Stratford Garden Festival (Feb.28-Mar. 3, 2013), Seedy Saturdays, January through April--including Stratford's Seedy Saturday (February, 2013--date and location to be confirmed). As this adventure unfolds, there seem to be many opportunities lying dormant--yet to be awakened. As we launch other ideas, we'll keep you posted. If you would like to keep in touch, please, do nothing and I will maintain our e-mail list.



Sincerely, Allan Watts.

Recipe: Roasted Beets and Carrots with ginger citrus sauce.

Ingredients:

4 beets, peeled and sliced, 1/4" thick	2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
3 large carrots, peeled and sliced, 1/4"	1 tablespoon honey
1st tablespoon olive oil	2 teaspoons minced ginger
1 teaspoon sea salt	1 teaspoon soy sauce
1/3 cup orange juice	2nd tablespoon olive oil
1/4 cup lemon juice	

Method: Reserve 1/2 cup each of sliced beets & carrots. Preheat oven to 400°F. Toss remaining veg with 1st Tbsp olive oil and 1 tsp salt. Place in a baking dish, cover with foil and bake 15 min.

In a blender, add the reserved veg slices, both juices, and the remaining 5 ingredients. Purée until smooth and add to the previously cooked veg slices. Recover the dish and bake an additional 45 minutes until tender. Stir and serve.

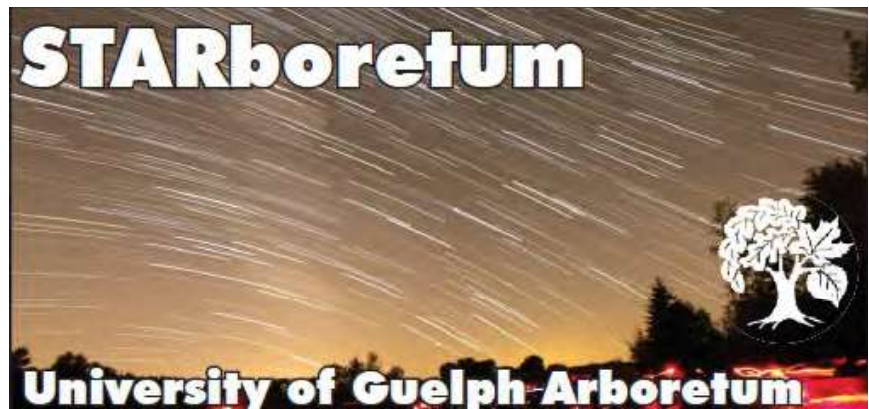
Coming Events



**Friday, October 12,
9:00am-4:00pm
\$75.00 (+HST)**

Get up close and personal with some of Ontario's amazing reptilian fauna! Improve your identification skills and learn about the natural history of Ontario's snakes, turtles and lizards. Conservation issues will also be discussed. Participants will have the opportunity to handle a variety of live specimens, with Guest Instructor **Jeff Hathaway**.

To register, please call The Arboretum at 519-824-4120 ext 52358. Pre-registration and payment required by Thursday, October 4, 2012. Cash, Cheque, Visa or MasterCard. Go to www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum and click on "Education and Events", "Workshops" for more details



**Saturday, October 13, 8:00pm-11:00pm
\$10 (+HST)**

(Rain Date: Saturday, October 20, 2012)

The stars of the autumn sky tell tales of gods and monsters and epic battles fought long ago. The planets are not well positioned for viewing in the evening this fall, but there is an abundance of other curious objects that pass over our heads at this time of year, including a magnificent galaxy, lovely star clusters and a selection of colourful double and multiple stars. No matter the time of year, there is always something of interest to see. A large telescope will be made available to help us do just that, with Guest Instructor **Trevor Chandler**.

Stratford & District Horticultural Society Board of Directors 2012

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-----Detach Here-----

2012 Membership Renewal and/or Request to E-mail "the gardener"	
I hereby give my permission for the Stratford & District Horticultural Society to send the newsletter with full colour photos and other information of horticultural interest to my e-mail address. It is clearly understood that this address will not be shared or used for any other purpose.	
Name:	
Address:	
E-mail address:	
Signature:	Tel:

Please fill out & clip this form and bring it to a general meeting.
You may also **RENEW** by mailing this form with your payment (\$15)
to

Stratford & District Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 21032, Stratford, ON N5A 7V4