

Blooms in Five Rooms for \$25

Kate Seaver of Kate's Garden (www.katesgarden.ca) gave us some easy ideas for last minute holiday decorating by quickly dividing a grocery store bouquet into five new arrangements. There should be enough plant material for a variety of vase sizes and heights to add a floral splash to the powder room, a living room mantle and coffee table, the kitchen counter, and the dining room centre piece. Kate stressed the importance of getting the original bouquet in water right away since every 15 minutes out of water shortens the bloom duration by one day. Ideally, the stems should rehydrate for a good hour before creating new arrangements. To prevent hydrangeas from drooping, submerge the full length of the stem including the bloom.



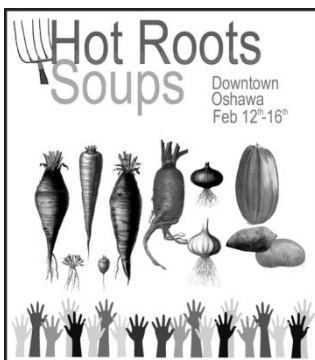
Kate demonstrated dismantling the bouquet and grouping the stems into categories: foliage, single flowers, floral sprays, etc. Stems can be cut and submerged in water. If the water is changed and the stems re-cut every two days, the blooms should last up to 10 days. Similarly, salad vegetables such as celery, lettuces and green onions, will stay fresh in your fridge for weeks if the stems are cut and water refreshed every two-three days.

For a more complete summary of Kate's presentation, see the OGC website [www.oshawagardenclub.ca].

*Karen Sciuk
Board Member & Editorial Team*

Community Gardens - Growing Our Future

The Oshawa Environmental Advisory Committee (OEAC) hosted "Community Gardens - Growing the Future," a day-long event focused on how community gardens improve access to nutritious food and support food self-sufficiency, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The event coincides with a new Durham College program on farming and food. OGC member, Joan Kerr, addressed attendees. Speakers emphasized the challenges of urban agriculture in light of municipal policies. Several organizations: OHA, CLOCA, Durham Farm Fresh, Feed the Need Durham, Durham Integrated Growers (DIG), Durham Organic Growers, Durham Lakeside Vegetarians, had displays.



Illustrated by Creative Carrot, Oshawa

Hearty Cup of Community Pride

Between February 12th and 16th, downtown Oshawa restaurants will celebrate locally grown winter vegetables with soups made from Afro-Caribbean, Cajun, Creole and First Nations' heritage cuisines. Most of the soups will be heart-healthy and veg-friendly. There will be a donation of funds to Hearsh Place Cancer Support Centre. Be sure to get your "Hot Roots Soups" passport-roadmap at the next OGC meeting!



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Opinions expressed by contributing authors may not reflect the opinions of OGC members.

Original articles, or excerpts, may be re-printed from **The Greenleaf** as long as appropriate credit is given.

Minutes of OGC Board Meetings are archived in the OGC Library and can be consulted by approaching the Library volunteers.

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All About Us . . .

We welcome the novice and experienced gardener. To find out more about OGC, please contact Linda at 723-5557 or check our website at → www.oshawagardenclub.ca.

See final pages for more information on our meetings. Members are encouraged to contribute to this newsletter. Please send your submissions to editor.greenleaf@gmail.com. Portrait photos and graphics in the *Greenleaf* are credited to the Editor, unless otherwise noted. OGC reserves the right to photograph OGC events.

*Keeping
Ontario
Beautiful*



The New Year is a time of beginnings.

I don't make resolutions per se, but rather, I prefer to take on projects that I know can be accomplished. They aren't usually things that result in personal gain, but something that result in a positive change.

This year I did begin a little early (for more selfish reasons than usual) and potted some bulbs that I found at a bargain price –with hopes of coaxing them to bloom in time for Easter. This is the first time that I have ventured beyond the grocery store amaryllis in forcing bulbs. As they sit in my garage, I am crossing my fingers that the fluctuating temperatures of December haven't pushed them along too early.

As a second new undertaking for the year, I plan to offer my assistance to at least one of the projects in the works for youth who have never experienced the rewards and joys of gardening. There is much that can be learned from working the soil. Beyond the horticulture, there is the entomology, the meteorology, the economics, the nutrition and, of course, the eating! As a role model, I will need to work on my lazy horticultural habits and the result will just be a bonus. Plus, who knows what else I will learn! I look forward to this unique opportunity to share knowledge and get someone else excited about digging into the soil.

With the start up of the new Community Gardens at the Legends Centre, I am certain that there will be others who might be in need of ideas or advice. If the opportunity arises, I hope that you will join us.

Help make the world a greener place!

Debi Foster,
President



Editor's News:

You will notice some changes in the *Greenleaf*. We hope the new design will make reading the newsletter online a bit easier. We are also trying to make the best use of our "paper real estate". All the best for 2013!

TBG: Get the Jump on Spring 2013: Saturday February 23rd, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Don't miss the Annual Horticultural Open House presented by a committee of volunteers from Ontario Horticultural Association, Toronto Master Gardeners and the Toronto Botanical Garden.

We encourage you to submit ideas and articles for the *Greenleaf* and OGC website. We cannot guarantee that all submissions will be used.

To submit an article, please send your submission to → greenleaf@oshawagardenclub.ca

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
February 2nd, 2012, 11:00 p.m.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome our new members:

Lynnda Bryan, Penny Love, Forrest McKnight,
Shirley Papenbrock, and Linda Wahrer.

Linda Wylie,
Membership & Club Secretary



Horticultural Pride

October's Flower show was a huge success thanks to all who participated. The OHA's guide book (Publication 34)

Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticulture and Floral Design states that the "Objectives of the Show are to:

- Educate stimulate interest in horticulture,
- Provide a venue for creative expression,
- Encourage community participation and
- Have a project in which all members can participate."

A standard show has a least two divisions, which must include one Horticultural and one Design Division, which our club may eventually get to but you will see a standard show when we host the District AGM show.

Within the Horticultural division you can see classes for a single bloom, multiple blooms, collections, cut foliage, flowering and or fruited branches of shrubs, trees and vines. Classes will be shown for container-grown bloom or foliage house plants, container-grown herbs, and topiary/trained plants. All these classes are judged on form, colour, substance, stem/foliage and condition/grooming.

There is a lot to learn but it becomes easier with each entry you try. Most of it is common sense in how you display your prize specimen on the table in the best possible manner to catch the judges attention in order to win that 1st prize ribbon!

Mary Ellen Simerson,

OGC member and horticultural judge

Volunteer Corner



JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION! We are looking for members to be OGC hosts at the upcoming D17 Conference on April 20, 2013. There will be a wide variety of opportunities, big and small. No matter your area of expertise, we would be happy to have you join us. It will be a chance to meet other gardeners, hear a great speaker, view unique and interesting horticultural and art displays, and enjoy some delicious food. Please contact Bonnie White or Debi Foster for further details.

OGC Christmas Social

The Christmas Social was very well attended this year and the members once again provided many delicious dishes. The Shout Sister choir provided the entertainment and the games and prizes completed the evening.



Images courtesy of Larry Kirtley and George McCormack.

Photos of the event can be viewed on the OGC blog at oshawagardenclub.ca.

Linda Wylie presented the membership award to Teresa Chircop. Pauline Aspden was the lucky winner of the beautiful Christmas basket and Iris Lucas won the chocolate sleigh. Thanks to Barb Colley who created and donated the outstanding Christmas basket and chocolate sleigh.

A very special thank you goes to my committee: Marney Carroll, Irma Dus, Gloria McRae, Heather Miller, Barb North, Penny Tracy and Linda Wylie for all your time and work. I would also like to thank Garry Lucas, Bob and Jan Kerr, George McCormack, Gloria Tepfenhart, Kari Fitzgerald, Diene Oegema, Betty Lustenberger, Larry Kirtley and Debi Foster for their help the day and evening of the event, and Nadia Bilyk for arranging the entertainment.

*Pat Aasen,
Committee Chair*



**2013
Successful Gardening Show
International Centre
Hall 3, 6900 Airport Road
Mississauga
February 21st-24th, 2013.**

OHA's Floral Design & Plant Competition seeks your creativity. For more info and entry forms, see: home-show.net/successfulgardening/swgoha/htm.

Imagination Station

The November meeting theme was “Birds of a feather”. The design is to be created using live plant material and feathers. In 1st place was Debi Foster with her imaginative turkey in a crate. Jo Ann Thow placed second with her ivy bird’s nest. 3rd place went to Debi and honourable mention to Vida Ycas-Abell.



But we are going to be “Pretty in Pink”. The only colour allowed is pink. Design to incorporate florals, enhanced by anything pink.

For those that looked and voted, but were afraid to try, this is your time to shine.

Val Foster
Committee Chair & Editorial Team

There has been a lot happening in the news lately. Therefore, for those that would like to have an outlet for all those newspapers, the January design is “Extra Extra, read all about it”. Design is to incorporate newspapers plus live plant material. No colour limitations.

February is hearts and flowers and chocolates.

Cranberry and Orange Soda Bread

from OGC member, Gary Mathers

Make sure the oven is preheated before you add the vinegar and soy milk mixture to the flour mixture. The dough starts processing as soon as the liquid hits the flour. The sooner you can get it into your hot oven, the better.

2 ¼ cups flour	2 tbsp sugar	½ cup dried cranberries	1 cup vanilla soy milk
2 tsp baking powder	½ tsp salt	1 tsp grated orange rind	1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
¼ tsp baking soda	½ tsp caraway seeds		

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Lightly oil a 9-inch loaf pan and set aside.

In a large bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, sugar, salt, caraway seeds, cranberries, and orange rind. Add the soy milk and vinegar and gently stir the dough until “just mixed”. (If the dough seems a little dry and stiff, add a bit more soy milk).

Pour evenly into loaf pan, smooth out, and bake for 40-45 minutes or until a toothpick or knife comes out clean. Let cool on a rack for 10-15 minutes before removing from pan. Yield: 1 loaf.

-Recipe borrowed from “La Dolce Vegan” by Sarah Kramer, Arsenal Pulp Press, Vancouver.

Upcoming 2013 OGC Events

All OGC meetings take place on a **MONDAY** at **LVIV Hall**, 38 Lviv Blvd, and start at 7:30p.m. unless stated otherwise.

February 11

Food Forest – Principles of Forest Gardening

Civi Jacobsen is an independent permaculture (permanent agriculture) specialist and orchard owner who lives near Orillia. She will speak on backyard ‘forest’ gardens that include fruit, nuts, herbs, flowers and vegetables and where these are synthetic pesticide and herbicide free.



TORONTO
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

February 23, 2013

10:00 am 4:00 pm

Horticultural open house!

Check out presentations, demos and a floral design competition, browse a marketplace with creative garden gifts, get expert gardening advice, stop by the café, and chat with members from other hort groups.



Please see www.oshawagardenclub.ca
for additional events or for details