



# greenleaf

NOVEMBER 2013

[www.oshawagardenclub.ca](http://www.oshawagardenclub.ca)



## President's Message

In days gone by our family camped all across Canada and one of our prime tenets was to leave our campsite in a better state than we found it. It is an idea that I have tried to practice in all facets of my life.

One of the decisions the Board of Directors made during the past two years was to make the Greenleaf available in an electronic format and archive it on the amazing OGC website. This has resulted in a smaller environmental footprint (paper and trees) and significant cost savings. In 2011 we printed an average of 269 copies per meeting and mailed newsletters to those who did not attend at a cost of \$1442.57. In 2013 the number of copies per meeting has been reduced to 75. We print 275 single sheet bulletins in January for a total of \$258.05, savings of over \$1100 per year. On a much smaller scale, the Directors' Manual is also provided to the board members as a .pdf file. (The cost comparison chart is available for viewing on the website.)

Club members gave freely of their time and expertise logging over 3700 hours last year helping with activities such as the Peony Festival, the Communities in Bloom Program, Community Clean-Up, Hearth Place, and Therapeutic Gardening at Hillsdale. I expect that the numbers will be higher this year in part because we hosted the highly successful District 17 AGM. I am still receiving compliments from other clubs! The club also donated tools to a project designed by one of our members to work with new immigrants at Simcoe Hall

Settlement House and set up a community garden. The group also plans to renew the gardens around the facility this coming summer. How exciting!

Our plant sale has always been successful and this year it was paired with a "Food for Thought" workshop organized by the City of Oshawa with Durham Integrated Growers and presented by the Durham Master Gardeners. Groups with ties to the gardening community had display and information tables set up for attendees. This year we plan to include horticultural students from G.L. Roberts H.S. and Durham College and further our community partnerships.

Strong fundraising activities were run and supported by members, as well as the OMAFRA grant (based in part on volunteer hours) subsidize our operating costs by about \$8 per member and allow us to keep the memberships fees low.

None of these accomplishments could have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of so many. To each and every one of you I extend a huge thank you and my deepest gratitude for the kind words, support and expertise you have given me. It has been a privilege to be a part of such a wonderful group. As I move into the role of Past-President I have no doubt that you will continue to build the club and strengthen its role within the community.

Debi Foster

## KEEP TRACK OF ALL "THE HAPPENINGS"



### Save the Date

May 3, 2014

Nov 25  
Board Meeting  
7:00pm Northview CC

District 17 Annual General Meeting  
Ontario Horticultural Association  
gardenontario.org

Dec 2  
Christmas Potluck  
Don't miss it!

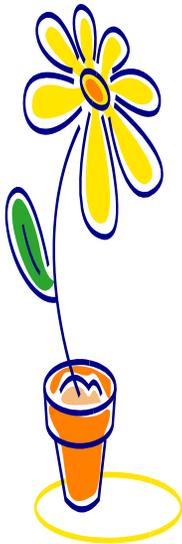
The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) is made up of 19 Districts. The 12 Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies in Durham are in District 17. Each spring, one of the clubs hosts the District's Annual General Meeting. (AGM) Next year the Newcastle Club will do the honours. The Show Schedule and entry details are now posted on the OGC website.

Jan 13, 2014  
Garden Club Meeting

***We look forward to seeing entries from OGC members in many of the classes.***

Look up interesting  
Winter programs at  
[www.Parkwoodestate.com](http://www.Parkwoodestate.com)

May 24, 2014



### OGC Annual Plant Sale

This is a very important date for our club.  
Mark your new 2014 calendar with this date.

It is our Annual Plant Sale

This Fundraiser supports our Club

Where: South Oshawa Community Centre

1455 Cedar Street, Oshawa

The Board members are working and planning now  
to make this a big plant sale and MORE

## OGC Annual Christmas Social Monday December 2, 2013

It is time to SIGN-UP for a delicious night out!

This is a time to relax, enjoy dinner, and chat about the holidays and winter and all things festive with your garden club friends.

Please bring a salad, a main dish or a dessert

You are welcome to bring a guest for a small cost of \$5.00

Dec. 2 will be here before you know it...don't wait, sign-up tonight

We love to see our new members come out.



\*\*For more information, please see Linda at the membership table or to sign-up after tonight's meeting, call her at 905-723-5557

\*\*Don't forget to bring a plate, cutlery and coffee mug; if your potluck dish requires a serving spoon, please bring that too.

### Tonight's Meeting and the Volunteers Who Make it Happen!

#### The Speaker

#### FESTIVE HOLIDAY DECORATING FROM FIELD AND GARDEN

Scott Turner, from "Branching Out" flower shops in Port Perry and Cannington will use materials found in nature to demonstrate indoor and outdoor holiday decorating

#### Winter Basket

Please support your club and see Barb to buy a ticket on the Winter Basket. Tickets \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00.

#### Craft Table Night

Enjoy "one-of-a kind" shopping tonight. We have 9 tables to browse and our generous crafters have donated door prizes for tonight's meeting. Good luck!

#### Imagination Station

*The imagination station was created to encourage interest and improvement in horticulture*

October's Theme: "It's A'maize'ing" was won by Debi Foster

November: Don't forget to stop by the table and see the designs that include a pumpkin

January's Theme: Vision in White. The only accent colours allowed are black or green

Good luck and keep on designing. Val Foster

A WARM WELCOME is extended to our New Members Patti Becker, Debra McCarten, and Lois Summers

Lobby Greetings THANK YOU to tonight's greeter, Gloria

#### Environmental Tips and Tidbits

Barb North keeps us informed on the environmental aspects of gardening at the environmental table.

We know that the members are full of knowledge and we are asking you to send in your environmental tips, to be shared in the Greenleaf.

\*\*Please forward any tips to [greenleaf@oshawagardenclub.ca](mailto:greenleaf@oshawagardenclub.ca)

Our first TIP comes from our President Debi - **Attach a soaker hose to your rain barrel and snake it through your garden. It waters the garden automatically and I cover my hose with mulch to hide it and help keep the water from evaporating.**

Thank you for tonight's treats! Cathy Buckner, Deborah Cameron, Denise Drinkle, Janet Ferguson, Sandra Jack

We have had requests for this delicious recipe, tasted at the October meeting.

Gingerbread Cookies (OGC member Mary Ellen Cole)

2 cups brown sugar

1 tbsp. each ginger and cinnamon

1/2 cup molasses

1 cup melted butter

2 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. each salt and ground allspice

1/2 cup boiling water

5-5½ cups all-purpose flour

Place sugar, baking soda and spices in a large bowl and stir until evenly distributed. Measure molasses, melted butter and boiling water. Add to the sugar mixture, one right after the other. Stir until sugar is dissolved; gradually stir in 4 cups of flour. Then continue to stir in 1/2 cup at a time until dough is too stiff for stirring; switch to kneading the dough with floured hands, sprinkling with flour until it reaches a good consistency for rolling out. Use cookie cutters to cut to shape. Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet at 300 F for 8 to 10 minutes. Yields 80 to 85 medium cookies.



Care for Gardening Tools at the end of the season

Extend the life of your tools by cleaning them and storing them in a dry shed or garage, preferably off the ground. You will be rewarded in the spring and ready to start the new season.



- Clean your tools with a stiff brush and water, removing dirt and debris
- Pruners require a little more care. Clean rust with 000fine steel wool and use Varsol to remove sap. Sharpen or replace blades...being very careful to note how they go back together. Keep pivot screws oiled.
- Prevent Rust in all your tools with an anti-rust/corrosion type spray or buy stainless steel.
- Tool handles: paint with a "wild colour," so that you can find them in the garden or sand lightly to remove dirt and splinters. Lee Valley recommends rubbing handles with boiled linseed oil. Tung oil is another option.
- Terra-cotta, clay, and stone pots will crack if left out in the winter. Water causes the damage by freezing inside the pot causing cracks and breaks. Clean soil out of pots with a stiff brush and soak in 1 part bleach to 9 parts water to eliminate germs. Soaking in vinegar is a better environmental choice. Store these pots upside down in a dry shed.
- Drain and store the hose in the shed.

*Next month: Therapeutic Gardening*