

GARDEN CLUB OF NIAGARA NEWSLETTER

January 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The creative transformation of the McFarland House in December was exceptional. Added touches of Victoriana in each room made the house come alive. That is not to say that the work from previous years was any thing but outstanding. However, each year, new ideas and themes present themselves and visitors are in awe of the talent our club presents. Kudos to Lil Haworth and Ruth Bolton who guided each team with humour and lots of tangible support. Well done everyone. This event truly brings us together. Also, the work done in Joan Coyne's house was a credit to the team, headed by Diane Hockey and Lindy Fedchun.

It would be impossible to list all the accolades that were shared during the three days of the Rotary House Tour. Of course the milder winter temperatures made December 2015 easy to tolerate. In fact, people were working outside with light jackets and sunglasses. What a season it was. Thanks to the planning that was done by Franca Moss and the very successful luncheon that culminated the celebration of the garden club's Christmas efforts.

Now on to 2016. I want to wish everyone and their families a happy and healthy new year. As usual your executive has planned a fulsome year with flower shows, workshops, outstanding speakers and the comradery of people who enjoy both horticulture and design. This newsletter will include information until the spring edition as the March publication will not be posted. There will however be a newsletter in early April. Any bits of relevant information will be broadcast in short emails and announcements at our meetings and that should suffice in keeping everyone up-to-date. Also, don't forget that there is a Garden Clubs Ontario website. Check the site out. The year ahead will include a flower show that will be showcased with the Niagara Park 80th birthday celebration, recognition of our 20th anniversary and charter members, a Triennial flower show at the RBG and we will be hosting the annual general meeting in June for The Garden Clubs of Ontario. As well the McFarland kitchen garden will be one of the gardens that will be visited again by the judges for Communities in Bloom.

There will be a binder made available in February and subsequent months that will outline the responsibilities of the various executive positions. Your nominating committee will be looking for people to step forward for the following positions: (newsletter, Ways & Means, Library, Program, Correspondence, Treasurer, Vice President and Secretary). Each role has a term of two years and these are the seats to be announced at the May annual meeting. If you are even thinking about taking a leadership role do speak to Anne Lemon as she chairs the nominating committee. This committee will then present a slate of names to the executive and in turn the names will be presented at the May meeting when the new executive is presented to the membership

Our accomplishments are due to many people pitching in and contributing their time and talents. Your help is needed to keep this club interesting for all members. Now there's a resolution – to get involved and help in one or more of the many activities that our group participates in. Here's to 2016 – may it be a good year.

Respectfully submitted, jacquie MacInnes

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, **January 25**, 1:00 pm

Programme: Designs with Manipulated Foliage - presented by Wendy Downing from the Garden Club of Hamilton

Monday, **February 22nd**, 1:00pm ** Please note this is the **4th Monday** of the month not the last Monday of the month. **

Programme: "Divas on Your Doorstep" - fun new items for 2016 - presented by Connie Bijl from Dam Seeds

Monday, **March 21** at 1:00 pm. ** Please note this is the **3rd Monday** of the month as the School is not available to us on our normal **4th Monday** of the month

Programme: Climbers - presented by Dugald Cameron, former owner of Gardenimport

Monday, April 25 at 1:00pm

Programme: Contemporary Designs - presented by Celia Roberts from the Garden Club of Toronto

Ways and Means - Ann Meuris

The January meeting is traditionally our annual book and magazine sale. While the more "established" members don't get excited about books, we have many new members who still have space on their bookshelves. Please bring any books or magazines you would like to donate for this sale as well as shopping money. The suggested prices follow:

Hard cover books \$2; Soft cover books \$1. "Current magazines: 3 for \$1"

"Dated magazines: 5 for \$1. If you have a cherished book you cannot release for \$2, please price as you think you must. Stickers will be available for individual pricing.

We also have, once again, the popular "Yard Sale" of containers, mechanics, accessories or anything related to floral arranging or gardening. Items (grouped or individual) will be sold for 50 cents, \$1 or \$2 or individually priced for a treasure selling for more than these categories.

Bring what you no longer plan to read, peruse, or use and we'll share the wealth.

Correspondence - Linda Ashmore

I sincerely hope that this new year has started out well for all of you. I will be travelling overseas for the months of February and March, and Nina McCutcheon has generously offered to take over the role of Correspondence in my absence. Nina can be reached by phone or email if any member wishes to have a card sent out on behalf of the membership.

***Workshops* - Barbara Bedell**

JANUARY, Monday, 25th, 10am to noon.

Leaf Manipulation demonstrated by Wendy Downing.

Downstairs at Niagara Parks School of Horticulture.

\$20 at the door. All materials included. Please bring your design work kit including green tuck tape, stapler, scissors and secateurs. As always, you can bring a brown bag lunch.

THIS WORKSHOP HAS BEEN FILLED. You will be getting an email prior to the day as a reminder if you have signed up for this.

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

Monday, February 22nd 10am to noon

There will be a sign up sheet for this workshop at the January meeting or email barbbedell@cogeco.ca or (905) 468.3528

It will be a simple contemporary design thinking ahead to St. Patrick's Day. ie. Green.

Demonstrator...Lindy Fedchun

Cost \$10.00 Most materials supplied..some additional greenery will be up to the entrant to supply. ie. euonymus or emerald cedar.

Room for 20

2016 BASIC FLORAL DESIGN COURSE - Louise Van Atte

April 6, 2016 - May 11, 2016

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

These six classes are an introduction to Floral Design.

Topics covered:

- Principles and Elements of Design.
- Care and Conditioning of plant material.
- Floral Design demonstrations
- Mechanics used in Floral Design.
- Creating your own design to be critiqued.
- Flower Show rules.
- Short written and practical tests

Following the completion of the Basic Course, a certificate will be issued.

Advance registration is required before March 21, 2016 and forms are available from;

Barbara Bedell - barbbedell@cogeco.ca 905-468-3528

Louise VanAtte - louise@edwardsdesigns.com 905-468-3472

Those members who have taken the basic course and wish to repeat are welcome but preference will understandably be given to first time participants.

Newcomer Tea - Lindy Fedchun

Our club is fortunate to have many new or nearly new members. We realize that it can be hard sometimes when you only meet once a month to get to know the other ladies. If you are new to the club this year or even last year, we'd like to invite you to a casual tea on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 10:00 a.m. at Lindy Fedchun's home at 11 Golden Boulevard, St. Catharines. Come and have the opportunity to chat with other newcomers, plus some of the long standing members. Feel free to ask questions about anything that you've been wondering about, like McFarland House, workshops, Basic Course, concerns....anything! We'll try our best to give you good answers and have an opportunity to enjoy each other's company. Maybe you have suggestions. We'd love you to share those as well.

Library News - Lindy Fedchun

Now that the snow has arrived many of us enjoy curling up with a good book! I hope you'll check out our collection at the next meeting. You'll find me downstairs with some pretty amazing books you'd be hard pressed to find anywhere else. You can keep the books for a month so you have lots of time to enjoy them. I'd like to draw your attention in particular to an interesting floral design book called "The Professional Floral Design Manual". Don't be put off by the title. Many of you have taken the Basic Floral Design Course from Louise. You'll find Elements and Principles that you studied, clearly illustrated here, plus lots more! It isn't too early to start thinking about designs for our next Flower Show!

Newsletter - Diane Hockey

The next newsletter will be sent out in early April. This one has a lot of information but updates will be communicated to you by email or phone. At the January executive meeting it was decided that the Executive member in charge of Correspondence will be responsible for contacting those members who do not receive Email with any important information that arises.

Walker Living Campus - A New Garden Club of Niagara Community Project

At our November General meeting a motion was passed to support the Walker Living Campus with a donation of \$1000.00 per year for five years, a total of \$5000.00. This is an exciting District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) initiative that will be available to schoolchildren from Kindergarten - Grade 12 in the entire Niagara region. An old run down outdoor centre on the Niagara Escarpment at Woodend Conservation Area is being transformed into a one-of-kind Living Campus. Our donation will provide the funds to create a 'Wild Zone'. A plaque will be placed acknowledging the donation from Garden Club of Niagara. We have made our second \$1000.00 payment and the work

should be underway soon if not already started. Kevin Graham is the Team Leader and has sent an email thanking our group of wonderful people and telling us to let him know if anyone would like to stop by and see the Wild Zone.

Upcoming Events

Stratford 16th annual Garden Festival will be held on March 3 to 6. Information is on line "stratfordgardenfestival.com"

The **Annual General Meeting** for Garden Clubs of Ontario will be held on June 6th at the Casablanca Winery Inn. The Garden Club of Niagara is hosting this event so you will be hearing a lot more about it.

Triennial Flower Show

Garden Clubs of Ontario presents a very special Flower Show every three years. A committee has been hard at work preparing for this event for many months. **Art Through the Ages: A Floral Journey** will take place on June 14th -16th at the Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West in Burlington ON. Hard copies of the Schedule will be available for members to look at at our January meeting but the best way to see the schedule is to go online to the Garden Clubs of Ontario' website. gardenclubsofontario.ca The Garden Club of Niagara is one of 9 clubs that are a part of GCO. The website provides a lot of information about GCO as well as information and great photos of the Garden Club of Niagara's past events. It's also a great way to see what the other 8 clubs are doing. Members of all Garden Clubs are encouraged to enter the Flower Show at the RBG as well as attend it. Its a fun day trip and a real opportunity to see a top notch Flower Show!