

Open Meeting Tuesday, May 01/12

Southshore Community Centre 7:15 pm

All you Rose fanciers will want to attend this month's meeting as **Janice Schmidt** will enlighten us on the 'Basics of Growing Roses'. You might be surprised to learn it's not as complicated as you believed.

Out and About - Other Events & Venues

Saturday May 19th - Lower South Simcoe plant sale in Newmarket. Location is Church of Christ 230 Davis Drive (1/2 mile east of Yonge Street) Start time is 9:00 am till sold out.....

Saturday May 26th - Barrie Garden Club's very own plant sale in the usual location - Mulcaster & Collier parking lot across from the Farmer's Market. Start 8:00 am till 11:00 am or sold out. Individual vendors will have their plants for sale. Come browse, come buy, come have fun!!

Saturday May 26th - Oro-Medonte plant sale. Starts at 10:00 am & goes till sold out. Location is the Oro Fairgrounds at Line 7 North (off Hwy 11) & 15/16 Sideroad. Choose from a wide selection of perennials & a good assortment of native plants. Bring you own cardboard boxes to carry your treasures away.

Saturday May 26th - Creemore's Annual Plant Sale at the Station on the Green from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm (or until sold out). Master Gardeners will be in attendance to answer gardening questions.

Barrie Garden Club Plant Sale

This year's plant sale format is different, in that individuals sell their own plants to the public. For only \$25.00, the Club provides you with your very own spot in the parking lot. Any money you make from the sale of your merchandise is yours to keep. The more vendors we have the more fun it will be!! Team up with a neighbour & renovate your yards. Not just plants, but all garden related items are encouraged. Be creative & bring your treasures.

Early Spring Flower Show - Tonight

If you haven't yet picked up a Flower Show package, you can do so the night of the first show. The folder contains all the information for each of the subsequent shows during the year, thus helping you to plan for forthcoming shows.

Visit the Club's website to familiarize yourself with the revised categories.

http://barriegardenclub.com/show_sched.html

Remember, every entry can earn you points toward big prizes at the end of the season!!



Communities in Bloom (CiB)

The official kick-off for the 2012 Communities in Bloom season is **Saturday, 12 May** from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Botanix Barrie at 375 Bayview Drive. This is year **15** of the City's annual participation in the CiB competition at the national level.

Members of the CiB committee will be on hand to answer questions about the program & accept registration forms. Goody bags & prizes to be had. Demonstrate your community pride by registering your property on line via the City of Barrie website. The link is provided below:

<http://www.barrie.ca/Living/ParksTrails/Pages/CommunitiesinBloom.aspx>



Do You Smell That?

The human sense of smell is a very powerful, personal thing. Certain smells can evoke vivid recall memories. This is the time of year when plants are bursting with bloom & we love to stop & smell the flowers. Below is just a bit of scent trivia for you.

- While bees do not have noses, they do detect odour through receptors on their antennae. Various insects have sensory receptors in their shells or legs. Many insects have highly developed olfactory systems.
- A flower won't produce scent until it is mature enough for pollination. Pollinator attractant scents come from volatile oils produced in the petals & leaves of flowers. That production takes energy. Once the bloom is fully pollinated, it is no longer fragrant or only faintly so.
- The complexity of floral scents varies from species to species. The simple scent of a snapdragon is composed of as few as seven different volatile oils. An orchid's very complex scent has as many as 100 volatile oils involved.
- In sensitive individuals, some intense scents can induce asthma attacks, coughing fits or headaches. Hyacinth & Stargazer lilies are two strong scents people react to. Lavender can induce headaches in some people, while soothing the same in others.
- Several plants produce unpleasant odours. In some cases, it's to keep creatures away. In the case of carrion flowers, which smell like rotting flesh, the goal is to attract scavenging flies as pollinators
- Generally, women have a stronger sense of smell than men. Hypersensitivity to scent is *hypersomia*. Reduced sensitivity is *hyposomia* while a complete lack of sensitivity is *anosmia*. Folks who detect scents that aren't there are *phantosmic*.



Brought to You By.....

In the late 18th & early 19th centuries, as the British Empire expanded, the newly wealthy classes sought to flaunt their power & status. One of the ways in which they did this was to fill their vast estates with rare & unusual plant species. Enter the era of the great plant collectors. The names of these intrepid explorers live on in the names of the plants they discovered.

One of the most famous plant hunters was **David Douglas**. He was born in Scone, Scotland in 1799 & died in 1834 in Hawaii while climbing a mountain. He introduced 240 species of plants to Britain. Some of the most notable are Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, Western White pine, Ponderosa & Lodgepole pine, flowering current, lupin, penstemon and California poppy. Any scientific plant name that ends in *douglasii* is named after him.

Robert Fortune was born in 1812 in Berwickshire & was buried in London upon his death in 1880. He travelled extensively in China, disguised as a Chinese merchant. He is best known for bringing tea plants from China & India to Britain in 1848 for the British East India Company. Other introductions courtesy of this adventurer are Bleeding Heart, Balloon flower, Chinese anemone, fragrant honeysuckle, euonymus, forsythia and weigela. Any scientific plant name ending in *fortunei* is named for him.

George Forrest was born in 1873 in Falkirk, Scotland. He made seven trips to the remote province of Yunnan, China, dying unexpectedly of a massive heart attack in 1932 on his seventh & final trip there. A prolific plant collector, he discovered over 1200 plant specimens new to science. These include rhododendron, camellia, pieris, mahonia, berberis, buddleias, cotoneaster, deutzias, asters and primulas. Any plant name ending in *forrestii* owes its discovery to him.

Last Word

"And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils"

William Wordsworth (1770-1850)