



Cuttings



Barrie's Garden Club

<http://www.barriegardenclub.com>

February 2012

Open Meeting Tuesday, Feb 07/12 7:15 pm

Southshore Community Centre

Gord Slemin presents an enlightening talk on 'Honey Bees & Pollinators'.

Gord is president of the Huronia & District Beekeepers Association which includes territory from Innisfil to Wasaga Beach, Orillia to Beaverton.

In preparation for Gord's talk you might wish to view this amazing short film clip. How they capture these pictures is beyond me!!

<http://www.youtube.com/v/xHkq1edcbk4>

Why are Pollinators Important to Us?

Worldwide, approximately 1,000 plants grown for food, beverages, fibres, spices & medicines need to be pollinated by animals in order to produce the goods on which we depend.

Foods & beverages produced with the help of pollinators include: apples, bananas, blueberries, chocolate, coffee, melons, peaches, potatoes, pumpkins, vanilla, almonds & tequila. Imagine a world without some of these things!!

In Canada, pollination by honeybees & other insects produces billions worth of products annually.

Check out some of the following websites:

www.napcc.org

www.batcon.org

www.hummingbirdsociety.org

www.monarchwatch.org

Canada Blooms Bus Trip - Save the Date

The Club is again chartering a bus to Canada Blooms.

The date is **Saturday, 17 March 2012** (wear green!!)

It will depart at 8:30 am from the parking lot behind the Metro Grocery store at the Kozlov Centre. The cost is \$45.00 which includes entry into the show. Contact Catherine Waffle by phone (705 725-0472) or e-mail (cwaffle@rogers.com) at least 2 weeks prior to reserve a seat. As Canada Blooms has partnered with the National Home Show, the combined show promises to be gargantuan - so where comfy shoes (& maybe a pedometer!!)

Daisy Committee Members

If you are a Daisy Committee member & plan to remain so for the upcoming season, please return just the packages to Clarinda at one of the next couple of Open Meetings.

If, however, you are not wishing to continue on the Daisy Committee, please return BOTH the daisy signs & the packages to Clarinda at one of the next couple of meetings. Thank you.

Valentine's Day Trivia

Well, we've all seen the Valentine's Day cards on the racks shortly after Christmas - please give us a break. But did you know.....

- About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year. It is the largest seasonal card selling day of the year, next to Christmas.
- Commercial Valentines were first made in the early 1800's & many were blank inside with space for the sender to write a message.
- Approximately 85% of all Valentine cards are purchased by women.
- 73% of Valentine's Day flowers are bought by men, whereas women buy only 23% of Valentine flowers.
- The red rose was the favourite flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love. The colour red stands for strong romantic feelings, making the red rose the flower of love.
- Cupid is a symbol of Valentine's Day & is associated with it because he is the son of Venus, the Roman goddess of love & beauty.
- Cupid often appears on Valentine cards & gift tokens holding a bow & arrows, as he is believed to use magical arrows to arouse feelings of love.
- Doves & pigeons mate for life & therefore are used as symbols of 'fidelity'.



Ten Cent Word

Vespertine pronounced **ves-per-tin**, an adjective.

Definition: of, pertaining to, or occurring in the evening; flowers that open in the evening; animals that are active in twilight.

Example: Mary was taking her usual vespertine stroll when she came upon a racoon raiding her compost.

Leap Year & Sadie Hawkins Day

Leap Year has been the traditional time that women can propose marriage. Do you ever wonder how such role reversal traditions get started?

St. Bridget's Complaint

It is believed this tradition was started in 5th century Ireland when St. Bridget complained to St. Patrick about women having to wait for so long for a man to propose.

According to legend, St. Patrick said the yearning females could propose on this one day in February during the leap year.

Now it gets interesting - the current Sadie Hawkins day started in the comic strip Li'l Abner - I'm not making this up!!

Sadie Hawkins Day is rooted in the story of Sadie Hawkins, a character created by Al Capp in the comic strip Li'l Abner. Sadie was described as "the homeliest gal in the hills," & as such was unable get a date. So her father, a prominent citizen in the town of Dogpatch, named a day after her to help Sadie get a man. On Sadie Hawkins Day, a footrace was held in Dogpatch so the women could pursue the town's eligible bachelors.

If a woman caught a bachelor and dragged him, kicking and screaming, across the finish line before sundown - by law he *had* to marry her!

Capp's creation captured the imagination of young people & by the early 1940s the comic strip event had swept the nation and acquired a life of its own. The practical basis of Sadie Hawkins Day is one of simple gender role reversal. Women and girls take the bold initiative by inviting the man or boy of their choice out on a date. So, all you single females out there, exercise your prerogative & invite some nice fellow out for coffee.

What's in a Name?

Recently, I was out purchasing flower & vegetable seeds, as it's never too early to be prepared!! One annual I made of point of acquiring was Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia rotundifolia*) as I had seen this tall, vivid orange plant in a friend's garden. Reading up on how to grow this plant in The Harrowsmith's 'Annual Garden' by Jennifer Bennett & Turid Forsyth the final paragraph

said this plant 'takes its genus name from the legendary Tithonus, whom the goddess Aurora turned into a grasshopper.' Well, thank goodness for Google!!

This is the fascinating legend I discovered.

In Roman mythology, Aurora is the goddess of the dawn. She has two siblings: a brother Sol, the sun & a sister Luna, the moon. Every morning, Aurora awakens, renewed & vibrant to a set a blanket of reds, oranges & pinks across the wakening sky; opening the gates of heaven so her brother, the Sun, can ride his golden chariot across the sky.

Aurora was a lusty young maiden who took numerous lovers, but her all time favourite was Tithonus, the prince of Troy. Her love for him was so strong that she asked Zeus, the king of the gods & goddess, if he would grant her lover immortality so they could be together for all time. Zeus, devious god that he was, granted immortality, but not youth. Thus, Tithonus, though immortal, continued to age. His body eventually because so old & decayed, as he shriveled up, Aurora turned him into a grasshopper. Moral of the story: be careful what you wish for!!



Gardening Riddle

There was a green house.

Inside the green house there was a white house.

Inside the white house there was a red house.

Inside the red house there were lots of babies.

What am I?

Answer: A Watermelon.

The Last Word

Light in the garden is a quarter of the battle. Another quarter is the soil of the garden. A third quarter is the skill & care of the gardener. The fourth quarter is luck. Indeed, one might say there are the four 'L's of gardening: in the following order of importance: Loam, Light, Love & Luck.

Beverley Nichols