Flowers of ‘FIRE’
Marg Gillies

FIRE was the theme for a festival held in Hamilton’s Gage Park during the latter part of October. Observing a fire truck among the displays of colourful chrysanthemum blossoms, the reason for the festival’s theme suddenly came into focus. Although having many experiences working among the long beds of chrysanthemums in my father’s greenhouses during my formative years, I mostly remembered white, yellow mauve and bronze as the mainstay colours. As I viewed the displays at this year’s Chrysanthemum Festival, my eyes feasted on an array of colour combinations, shapes and sizes that modern hybridizers have developed. Indeed, using one’s imagination, some of these modern bi-colour versions did remind one of fiery colours.

According to the USA National Chrysanthemum Society, chrysanthemums were first cultivated in China as a flowering herb, which was believed to have the power of life. The chrysanthemum became important in the Japanese culture about the eighth century as a single flowered blossom was adopted as the crest and official seal of the Emperor. Over time prominent Japanese have also adopted other types of chrysanthemum into their family crests.

Following the introduction of chrysanthemums to the western world in the seventeenth century, the daisy-like blossoms under went changes that have caused some varieties to become unrecognizable. Chrysanthemum flower heads are composed of two types of florets. The ray florets make up the petals of the blossom (Flowers of ‘FIRE’ continued on page 4)
Welcome 2012… and another season at The Arboretum.

Our last Volunteer Information Session #9 was held on Wednesday October 19. Two presentations were put on by Auxiliary members… first Ken Marchant did a presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer, then Marg Gillies did a slide presentation of ‘Rural Gardens of Grey & Bruce Counties’… a garden tour that had been arranged by Clare Newson Travel. An e-mail summarizing this Volunteer Info Session was sent out to my Arboretum Auxiliary e-mail distribution list on Oct. 26/11… so I will just include a few highlights here.

**Emerald Ash Borer – presentation by Ken Marchant:**

- Ken’s knowledge from working for Canada Food Inspection Agency in the area of Quarantines made him an excellent resource for this presentation. As a consultant, Ken is presently developing management plans for Kitchener, Mississauga and Halton.
  - EAB is the worst invasive pest. This insect is very hard to photograph due to its iridescence.
  - EAB was introduced to North America in the 1990’s and found killing trees in 2002 in the Detroit area, then migrated to Windsor. This pest came from Eastern Asia... i.e. China. It attacks other trees in China. With the genetic variability it is only attacking Ash trees here in North America.
  - EAB is a ‘forest killer’... it will destroy most of the Ash in North America. West of London there is a huge amount of Ash already killed. It's a 'spectacular die off’. Pelee Island has been impacted.
  - EAB can't be eradicated... most Ash will die within 10 years. A pest control 'Tree Azin' is used by tree specialists... but it is very expensive. It is injected into the tree.
  - Municipalities are on their own. They can do nothing... letting trees die... but they still must be cut down (i.e. safety issue with dead trees falling)... or they can develop an active management plan to try to save some of the trees
  - EAB is a pest due to human activities and has been acclimated to North America. North American Ash have no resistance to this pest. Ash will come back. Blue Ash seem to be resistant to EAB.
  - Biological control... i.e. insects that kill their hosts. Also woodpeckers are good at finding EAB larvae... so if you see many woodpeckers on your ash tree be aware. Squirrels also love EAB larvae.

Ken also brought in vials to show us what the EAB looks like, and also sample of destruction to tree/bark. A very interesting an informative presentation.
Rural Gardens of Grey & Bruce Counties (June 2011) – presentation by Marg Gillies:
My words can’t do justice to Marg’s wonderful pictures and description of all the gardens visited. Also refer to Marg’s article on this garden tour in the September issue of the Arb Aux. Here's a few highlights from Marg's presentation:

- Gorgeous peonies in a variety of colours, huge arrays of iris in many unusual colour combinations, and a wonderful display of poppies in various brilliant colours.
- One of the unusual plants I enjoyed seeing was the 'pink dandelion'
- At Keppel Croft Gardens there is a Stonehenge look alike... called Keppel Henge. Also located at this garden is an analemmatic sundial... where time can be measured... not only in hours but in weeks and months.
- Tranquility on the Rock even has its own little miniature railway throughout the garden.
- Moreland Place is a magical garden with large European style architectural landscaping... with interesting buildings, hedges and of course majestic stone lions and urns... what a wonderful retreat!
- Of course in many of the gardens there were rocks galore that adorned and highlighted the various plantings in their respective gardens.
- Many of the gardens had ponds of various sizes... small to large alike... all different, of course, with a variety of plantings around the pond
- Garden ornaments of all shapes, sizes... all with their owner’s artistic flare
- And don’t forget those special memories... dedicated to their loved ones... family and animals... special memories hidden in spots within their garden.

Marg also added her personal touch with comments about these gardens, their owners. She also included several famous quotes that seemed fitting on many of her slides.

Arboretum Auxiliary Plant Sale (Saturday September 10, 2011) – Financials:
Minutes from our Plant Sale Wrap-up meeting (Oct. 17/11) were issued by e-mail on Oct. 17/11. Included with the minutes were the financials for this sale. Total revenue was $16,636.51 minus expenses $2,110.94 for a Net of $14,525.57. Details from the cash register tapes revealed that 58.26% of the revenue were for Woodies. As well, we had income from the spring sale of $1,366.50.

I was raised by the song of the murmuring grove
And loving I learned among the flowers.
*Friedrich Holderlin*

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Volunteer Information Session #10
Date: March 21, 2012
Time: 3 - 4:15 pm
Location: Boardroom in The Arboretum Centre
Agenda will be forwarded in a separate e-mail to all Auxiliary members
Bryoria kockiana named for Henry Kock
Barbara Parke

For those who don’t get my e-mail correspondence thought I would share this with you.

A new species of horsehair lichen that resembles ‘tree beards’ is being named after Henry.

Details can be found in the attached link from a U of G campus bulletin.

http://www.uoguelph.ca/news/2011/12/santa_claus_con.html

As well there was an article in the Hamilton Spectator, written by Kathy Renwald, which mentioned Henry… see the attached link.

http://www.thespec.com/living/style/article/649782--gardening-with-grace

Children’s Theatre – Spring 2012
Barbara Parke

After a year’s absence of our Children’s Theatre, due to lack of sponsorship in 2011, we are pleased to announce that we have once again secured sponsorship from Stone Road Mall for a spring performance. Three Muskateers will be presented by the “nearly world-famous” DuffleBag Theatre on Tuesday April 10, 2012 in The Arboretum’s Auditorium. A free afternoon performance will be held for a Guelph school, yet to be chosen by our Children’s Theatre volunteer coordinator, Theresa Knierim. The evening performance will be at 6:30 p.m. Ticket price for this performance is $8.00 (includes HST).

DuffleBag has wowed audiences of all ages in theatres, festivals and schools across the country, and we’ve had the privilege of enjoying their performances many times in the past several years. There is always active audience participation in all their performances. This is a great venue for exposing children to live theatre. Let’s see what antics arise with these three inseparable friends who live by the motto "all for one, one for all".

Tickets for the evening performance can be ordered through Bev Healy, Administrative Assistant, at 519-824-4120 ext. 52358. Come out and enjoy the performance!

while the disc florets form the centre of the flower where the pollination occurs. In some varieties, the plant breeder must use scissors to uncover the disc florets for manual pollination to take place.

From a gardening perspective, viewed as an autumn flower, greenhouse chrysanthemums are virtually available all year. This is made possible by manipulating the number of hours of daylight and darkness during their growing cycle through the use of lights and dark shade coverings. For me, part of the enjoyment off having a pot of chrysanthemums or a bouquet in my home at any time of the year relates to the longevity of the blossoms. I am glad that I responded to my neighbour’s recommendation of attending the Chrysanthemum Festival. It is a pleasant autumn outing, especially on a rainy October afternoon. Whether you like fiery or softer shades, chrysanthemums have a way of warming one’s spirits.