



Dogtooth

Newsletter of the Waterloo -Wellington
Wildflower Society

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/~botcal>

May 2007

May Activity : Guelph farmer's Market

Time: 7:00am -12.00 Saturday 26 May

Place: Guelph Farmer's market

Program: Plant Sale May 26

**Next Activity – The Society's BBQ on
June 20 at Allan's house 89 Downey
Rd.**

Executive Positions Open

The WWFWS executive is up for election this year. Positions are for two year terms and we are looking for a Vice President, Program coordinator, Publicity coordinator and Newsletter Editor. You may be getting a call, but we welcome volunteers. Call Judy Brisson at 519 824 9476 or e-mail judybrisson@rogers.com if interested.

Summer Outing

We are thinking about another summer excursion. If you have an idea for an interesting place to see wildflowers or can volunteer to lead

an excursion, contact Reinhardt at landform@albedo.net.

Winter Program

Work is just starting on the speakers and programs for next winter. We are always looking for suggestions for speakers or activities. If there are any topics or speakers that you would like to hear, please contact Reinhardt at landform@albedo.net.

Collect those Seeds!

The March 2008 seed workshop theme will be "Spring Ephemerals and Ferns". We will be relying on member collected seed, so please remember to save seed!

Most of the ephemerals have hydrophilic seed that will die if allowed to dry out. Store the seed in a moist paper towel or with moist vermiculite in a small baggie at room temperature until Thanksgiving, then store in the refrigerator until March.

Summer BBQ

The June BBQ is a WWWS tradition. We usually tour the host's garden, swap stories, raffle plants and share some potluck food. Hosting is not difficult, the club supplies the main course food, the host supplies a working BBQ, members supply salad and dessert. Allan is hosting this year's BBQ at 89 Downey Rd. in Guelph

Woolwich Trail Group Wildflower Walk

We have been asked to join the Woolwich Trail Association for their Spring Wildflower Walk. The walk is held in a beautiful wooded area along the Grand River near Bloomingdale. Last year we saw white trout lily, cut leaved toothwort and spring beauty along the way. Join us on May 27. The walk meets at 2p.m on May 27th in Rosendale at the intersection of Hopewell Creek Rd and Ebycrest Rd. From Guelph you can come through Maryhill then left on Spitzig Rd then right on Hopewell Creek Rd or along Hgwy 7 to Ebycrest RD (the Breslau turnoff) and then north to Hopewell Creek.

Here is the link to the Woolwich trails website.

<http://www.township.woolwich.on.ca/en/tourism/hikedates.asp>

President's Message

As you read this, I will be basking under the Caribbean sun at a family wedding –no doubt, there will be native flowers decorating the drinks! Spring has finally made it to the woods, with bluebells, bellwort, dogtooth violets, and trillium in bloom.

Our annual Native Plant Sale will be held on 26 May this month. We rely on plants donated by members for the sale, as you divide your plants or pot up the plants from seed workshop, please set aside some for the sale. Plants can be dropped off at the **Farmer's Market** around 7am on the 26th.

WWWS Forum for May

Our question for May. Please tell us what your favourite (or LEAST favourite) Aster is and why you feel this way. Alternatively, tell us what your favourite (or LEAST favourite) Solidago is and why.

Richard Frank: With regard to goldenrod and aster I like them all. Canada goldenrod on the one hand is aggressive and on the other hand it is home for a gall that provides food for birds in winter along with an abundance of seed.

Graham Buck: Favourite Solidago: Solidago riddellii. I find the arching leaves along the stem and the flat top make it an attractive and interesting goldenrod visually. It is also tolerant of very wet to very dry soils. Close second: Solidago ptarmicoides. The low stature and large flowers make it an excellent plant for the rock garden. My favourite Aster: Aster puniceus. The flowers glow in the wet meadow garden in September.

Darcie McKelvey: I like all the asters, but if pushed I would have to say my favourite is Aster cordifolia. Aster divaricatus would be a close second. I also think Aster puniceus is quite lovely, with its big big flowers,

but the bees in my yard prefer New England Aster. With respect to Solidago, I like the shade species best: Solidago flexicaulis, caesia and bicolor. Solidago rigida is interesting too, but it hasn't been tested in my yard for its spatial manners. I do not like Solidago canadensis much, and have developed some expertise on the best way to dig it out (which I do when I have another native plant which would do well in the same spot). I have TONS of Canada goldenrod – it takes a great deal of time to deadhead them in the fall but I do so religiously as I don't need any more!

Allan Anderson: My least favourite Solidagos are S. canadensis, S. altissima and S. gigantea as they are very weedy. S. rigida and S. sempervirens are good, like full sun and can be kept under control. S. caesia and S. flexicaulis are shade loving and again can be kept under control.

Judy Brisson: Favourite aster – Aster cordifolia or heart-leaved aster. This short aster (60cm) grows happily in sun or shade and is covered with a cloud of clear blue flowers from late August till frost. It sparkles in my prairie garden and brightens by woodland garden. I love to see it growing in the woods on fall walks. Best yet, it spreads easily by seed so I always have spring seedlings for plant sales and to share. Least favourite: Solidago - the three veined "Canada/late/tall" group. They spread everywhere with aggressive roots and choke out the other plants.

Harold Crawford: My favorite aster would have to be the New England Aster. The deep purple rays and the yellow centre help to alleviate the disturbing fact that the beginning of the aster season means that winter is nearing. The varying colour shades in the species are fascinating too. There used to be a nice collection in the Arboretum, resulting, from work done by John Ambrose.

Plant of the month

One of my favourite spring plants is the native phlox (*Phlox divaricata*). It blooms from mid to late May depending on the weather. It forms little clumps by rooting along the length of the stolons and can be easily be divided by cutting off rooted pieces. The flowers are fragrant.

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