



# Cross Pollination

February 2010

## Coordinator's Corner

### Happy New Year!

This is going to be an exciting year for Halton Master Gardeners. I've been quite excited by all the positive energy and enthusiasm of our members. A variety of both small and more important projects is keeping our group current and vibrant.

#### **Teamwork divides the tasks and doubles the success**

Our new program committee will be revealing the results of their survey at the February meeting and giving recommendations for improving the educational portion of our meetings. Together, they have worked hard and come up with some great ideas to improve our meetings, an essential component of our group.

#### **Working together works**

Halton Master gardeners will be working closely with the Royal Botanical Gardens staff to make their new garden show in April a great success. We will have opportunities to participate in advice clinics and give mini workshops to help the gardening public. This support will strengthen our relationship with the RBG and provide us with opportunities to fulfill our mandate of working with the public.

The possibility of hosting our own Technical Update in the fall is going to require the input and resources of all our members. It is certainly not too early to start thinking of how you can pitch in to make this important event a success. What have you appreciated in past Tech Updates? What should our Tech Update look like?

These changes, challenges and new partnerships will continue to motivate us and make us a progressive and dynamic group.

*Claudette Sims*



## Halton Region

### Master Gardener Meetings:

**7:15 p.m. RBG - Rooms 3 & 4**

*Please bring something for the draw table and some change to buy tickets:*

- \$2.00 each
- 3 for \$5.00

**A friendly reminder - please bring your own cup for beverages.**

### 2010 meetings:

- February 3rd
- March 3rd
- April 7<sup>th</sup>
- May 5<sup>th</sup>

### Garden Worthy Dates:

- Symposium on Sustainable Horticulture**  
February 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>
- Seedy Saturday** Saturday, February 20;  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m
- Orchid Society Show** February 27 & 28;  
RBG Centre
- RBG garden show** April 23, 24, 25
- Members Mulch Day** Saturday, April 24; 8  
a.m. to noon

## REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE:

MEETING	SNACKS (& NAPKINS)	BEVERAGES (& PAPER CUPS)
FEBRUARY	Donna Parker	June Wright
MARCH	Karen Walsh	Patty King
APRIL	Maureen Millar	Larry Aldebert

### A message from Roberta:

I need to downsize my reference magazines and have copies of 2002, 03, 04, 05 and 06 Royal Horticultural Society magazines which I'd be pleased to bring to the next MG meeting if anyone is interested.

These are very substantial with 75 pages of everything to do with horticulture and gardens.

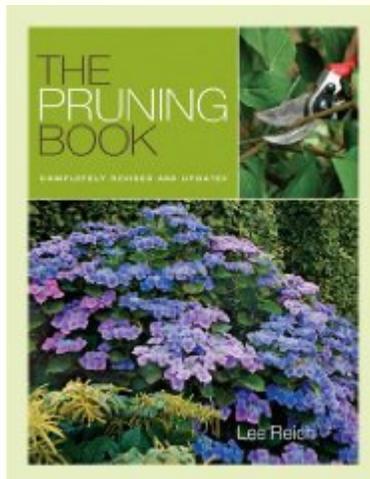
Just let me know by email to:

[robertsjr@globalserve.net](mailto:robertsjr@globalserve.net)



## New books in Roberta's library:

The Pruning Book, by Lee Reich The Taunton Press. 2010 Amazon \$16.94



When I first started in Master Gardeners I had heard that Reich was the book to have for pruning but couldn't afford it at the time. I received a notice from Amazon that a "completely revised and updated" edition was to be published and it has arrived.

The book has 233 pages, is divided into three parts - 1. The Basics: Why Prune? Tools, and plants response to pruning. 2. The Plants - deciduous ornamental bushes, deciduous ornamental trees, evergreen trees and bushes, ornamental vines, edible fruits and nuts, houseplants, and herbaceous plants. Part 3: specialized pruning techniques. pollarding, pleaching, topiary, standards, mowing, bonsai, and espalier, along with a glossary of pruning terms, a bibliography and sources (Lee Valley is the only Canadian source for pruners and The Vido Family in N.B. for scythes.) A very full index includes a comprehensive list of plants (and some diseases e.g. fireblight) ranging from apples to monkshood to yucca.

The book covers trees, all kinds of shrubs, (includes list of those that make few suckers, which flower on one-year wood, pruning up the shrub or at ground level, full details on roses differentiating between different types e.g. shrub, polyanthas, and the different groups of clematis), fruits, perennials and annuals (e.g. dividing and deadheading). There are numerous step-by-step "how to" illustrations. I have a number of very overgrown shrubs in my own garden so I plan to follow the directions in the early spring. The book will be useful in my own garden and I anticipate it would be helpful to show at clinics to people asking "how-to" with the step-by-step illustrations I have not compared his advice with my other pruning books but will do so before I venture forth.

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**Shelmerdine Plant & Garden Guide: 3000 Hardy Plants and 2500 Photos.  
\$19.95**

The book is from a nursery in Winnipeg and is presented like a catalogue with lots of illustrations to identify a wide range of plants, trees, roses, grasses, bulbs, shrubs, fruit, etc., as well as various hints, gardening suggestions and problem-solving. One new to me suggestion for discouraging slugs is to scatter orange peels around.

The book has 229 pages packed with individual plant information. Again, it would be useful at a clinic trying to identify a plant or specific varieties.

**Flower Arranging - The American Way Amazon \$40 CDN**

If anyone is interested in looking at the ultimate in floral design, this book has been prepared by US floral arrangers in advance of the World Association of Flower Arrangers (WAFA) World Flower Show to be held in Boston in 2011. It is beautifully presented with full page photographs illustrating the different trends in design today from various countries. There is movement in the field away from traditional designs and these modern arrangements are most interesting.

This book is right up to date with the latest and of the high quality of a coffee table production. It would add to your knowledge and understanding of floral designs at Canada Blooms and Success with Gardening Show next month.

**Note:**

In the next issue, I'll report on "**Black Plants**", a small book with descriptions and illustrations of black or almost black plants which I got from Amazon a couple of months ago. However I can't find it in all the mess of reorganizing my study!