



**THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF GRENADA
BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING.
SAT 27TH APRIL, WHISPER COVE, WOBURN.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow members,

Welcome to the 2013 biennial general meeting for the Horticultural Society of Grenada – I'm pleased as President to report on the Society's activities for the past two years.

Firstly, let me thank the Members of the Executive for their continued hard work, their support and their unflagging good humour! Again, the progress that we continue to make in this Society is a direct result of their dedication to our common goals and their desire to see the Society continue to grow and develop.

This key word for this past term has been achievement - Gardening in Grenada is enjoying a renaissance!

Our activities and fundraisers over the past two years include:

- ✚ Two highly successful cake, bake & plant sales.
- ✚ A luncheon and plant sale at the Grenada Yacht Club.
- ✚ A pest & diseases workshop led by Paul Graham and Junior Greene from Caribbean Chemicals, Trinidad.
- ✚ A well attended flower arranging workshop led by Beryl Grant, Hazel Bierzinski and Cathy John.
- ✚ Field trips to Tufton Hall Estate & Mt Edgecombe Estate. Another to Calivigny Island and visits to the beautiful gardens of Anthony Browne and Le Phare Bleu.
- ✚ A talk by Dr Tim Aycliffe on the prolific poisonous plants of Grenada.
- ✚ A talk by the eminent artist Trish Bethany on Gardens in Art.
- ✚ The instigation of a series of short talks by members on different plant groups.
- ✚ The resurrection of the plant exchange at our monthly meetings.
- ✚ We enjoyed Dodie Helgerson's hospitality for our Christmas Luncheon 2011 and a wonderful Christmas luncheon at Le Phare Bleu 2012.
- ✚ After continuing with the planting of trees in other locations, the completion of the Tree Project culminated with four society members spending a weekend in Carriacou working with the forestry department planting trees over nine separate locations.
- ✚ We hosted a wonderful, happy night for Society members and our guests from Trinidad that had travelled to Grenada to participate in our 2012 Show. Alston's playing brought out the best in everyone!
- ✚ Two of our members, Ellen Radix and Agnes Forrester travelled to Trinidad to participate in their 2012 Horticultural Show and proudly brought home a 1st place medal for their display.

The Chelsea Flower Show.

As sponsors of the Chelsea flower show we continued our support in the form of a cash contribution in 2012, we were heartened by the success of the Grenada team and hope that this success continues in 2014.

Treasure's of the Garden, Flower & Garden Show.

We were fortunate to be able to stage the 2012 Show in the Convention Centre of the Grand Beach Hotel. It offered a wonderful backdrop for a most impressive Show.

Once again we were most fortunate to enjoy fantastic support from the hotels & restaurants and business community. Without their continued support we would have no Show.

I am extremely grateful for the invaluable support of all of the HSG members and their friends & family in staging this venture and especially grateful to the executive team - without everyone pulling together this Show would not have been the success that it was.

We were happy to welcome once again, the professional input of Tony T'Ang Ai and the continuing participation of the Trinidad & Tobago Horticultural Society. In addition, this year we were delighted to welcome a significant contingent of members from the Eastern Horticultural Society of Trinidad & Tobago. They made a significant impact in the flower arranging section of the Show. As part of our appreciation for the participation of so many individuals from Trinidad, we organized a welcome cocktail party which turned into an evening of fun and fellowship. It was a great success and enjoyed by all who came. We excelled in our expectations with the financial support we received. We reduced the ticket cost and had around 800 visitors. I am proud and pleased to say that we managed to increase our profit from the Show by almost 25% to just over \$14,000 – unprecedented.

The Glorious Garden Competition, organized by Pat Deacon and Liz Tingling, was a great success. Central to our growth as a society is our

ability to reach and engage with all gardeners, regardless of their knowledge and experience – whether they are a world class expert or an excited novice. The Glorious Garden Competition is one way that we do this. We had a total of almost 30 entries, a significant increase on the number of participants in previous competitions.

The hard work across the Society has resulted in our retaining our membership and continuing to grow as more people sign up as members, indeed the HSG is celebrating its highest ever membership at over 60 members.

Looking ahead to 2013 – 2015, part of the future of the HSG relies on deepening existing links with our agricultural and agronomist partners and building new collaborations with them through shared projects. We need to continue and strengthen our commitment to inspiring others and demonstrating horticultural expertise where possible and keep this philosophy at the core of everything we do.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for having the confidence in me to unanimously return me as President for two terms. It was a privilege to have the opportunity to guide the HSG forward, a responsibility that I took very seriously.

I thank you all, each member, for your constant support and words of advice and encouragement.

Margaret de Roche'
27th April 2013

