



Lanark Orchid Renals

Perth & District Horticultural Society

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www.gardenontario.org

District #2 of the
Ontario Horticultural
Association

January 2011 Newsletter

*It pleases me
to take amateur
photographs of
my garden, and
it pleases my
garden to make
my photographs
look professional.
~ Robert Brault*

President's Pen

It must officially be spring! It is the last days of December as I write this & the seed catalogues have begun to arrive. Who'd have thunk it? With all that snow on the ground and what is yet to come, it can't be spring. On the other hand, the colourful pages, vast arrays of produce, plants, trees and flowers are a visual feast in the current white landscape. A closer look shows old favourites as well as tempting new ones. Should I try it? It looks easy enough and would go great beside the _____ (you fill in the blank). And of course, the most important question: Is there room? The quick answer: There is always room for one more plant! Besides which, what is more pleasant than a hot cup of cocoa, a fire and a seed catalogue as visions of successes dance in our heads? I heard an interesting interview on the radio the other day about winter camping and how warm it is camping under snow "mounds." Yeah Right! While I found the discussion fascinating, and knowing full well I would never know firsthand, I did a mental translation to my perennial beds and the benefit they derive from having mounds of snow protect their roots from the deep freeze and frost. Any winter that does not come with a lot of snow, or if there are high winds to blow the snow, can put perennials at risk as any seasoned gardener knows. The discussion confirmed for me that if people can successfully camp under mounds of snow, then I can rest assured that the majority of my perennials, and yours, will come successfully through. Let it snow!

See you in the garden, *Lynda*



Upcoming Speakers

- **February 8, 2011** "Planting a cutting garden" - Speaker: Helen Halpenny
- **March 8, 2011** "Fabulous Delphiniums" Speakers: Hazel & Joe Cook, Blossom Hill Nurseries

Christmas Social

We had a great night at the PDHS Christmas Social on December 3, 2010 at the Perth Legion. Appetizers, delicious pot-luck dishes, turkey with all the trimmings and delectable desserts were provided by all members of PDHS.

To top it all off we were provided with terrific entertainment by a great band, Helmets in Spades, from PDCI who played a medley of Beatle's tunes. They were so good that many were

inspired to get up and dance.

Many thanks to Denise D'Aoust and her committee for organizing the event, setting up and cleaning up, as well as the Legion ladies for operating the kitchen and clean-up.

If you missed it this year, please join us in 2011 when we can do it all over again.

Annual General Meeting

The 2010 AGM was held after the Christmas Social on December 3 at the Perth Legion. Jeff Blackadar, District 2 Director, made a brief address highlighting the District and OHA events planned for 2011. This included the District AGM, April 16, 2011 in Pakenham and the OHA Convention



President: Lynda Haddon • 613-267-6754 • haddon@istar.ca
Secretary: Pam Pratt
Newsletter: Marilyn Devolin, Pam Pratt, Irene Hofmann

scheduled for July 15-16, 2011 in Sudbury. We will keep you posted about the plans for these events the closer we get to them.

Margo Fulford and Carole Wilson agreed to be the auditors for 2011. No errors or omissions were found in the books for 2010:

Kathy Allen, Ted Bryant (Directors) and Marilyn Devolin (Member) formed the Nominating Committee to establish your new Board for 2011. There were two new nominations to the Board – Kevin Long and Aileen Conboy. There were three retirements from the Board – Renai Rennick, Secretary; Nori Seymour and Julie Kennedy, Directors-at-Large. Kathy Allen thanked the out-going Board members on behalf of all the members of the PDHS for all their hard work and dedication and introduced the new Board to the members.

New Board Of Directors For 2011

At the Director's meeting of December 14, 2010 at the Factory Grind, the new Board assignments were determined as follows:

President: Lynda Haddon
Vice-President:.....Kathy Allen
Secretary:.....Pam Pratt
Treasurer/BudgetBarbara Smith

Directors:

Community Projects,

Plant Sale CoordinatorDavid Archer
 Venue Coordinator, Meeting Facilitator Ted Bryant
 Webmaster, Yearbook ChairLinda Bartlett
 Volunteer Coordinator, SocialKathy Allen
 Activity Programmer,

Flower Show Madeline Archer
 Youth Programming Janet Cain
 Member-at-large, SocialDenise D'aoust
 Library Kevin Long
 MembershipAileen Conboy
 Publicity.....Pam Pratt

Other: Newsletter – Irene Hofmann, Pam Pratt, Marilyn Devolin

In addition, the following board members agreed to assist on the following committees:

Yearbook: Madeline Archer, Janet Cain, Pamela Pratt
Community Planting: David Archer, Janet Cain

Do You Want To Meet New People And Make New Friends?

Why not volunteer for the horticultural society? On the back of this newsletter you will find a volunteer application form. Why not fill it out right now and get started? Kathy Allen is our new volunteer coordinator. She will be establishing a telephone committee who will contact all interested members.

We have often heard people say that they don't really meet new people at our meetings and we know this is so. We often don't get a lot of people volunteering and we have tried to address these two problems by melding the two together.

You will make new friends and you will meet new people this way. Please consider volunteering even in the smallest capacity – for a one hour project like decorating the Christmas tree at the Crystal Palace in the Tay Basin or by agreeing to take pictures at any of our events. You will even have fun to boot!!

The New PDHS Yearbook For 2011

Madeline Archer was the chair of the 2010 yearbook committee. She has now turned that job over to Linda Bartlett for 2011. Both Madeline and Linda have worked very hard to produce the new yearbook for 2011. When you see it, be sure to tell them your thoughts. It represents a lot of hours of dedicated work and we hope it will be a contender in the OHA convention competition in Sudbury.

In the yearbook, you will find our programming for 2011, our in-house flower show subjects and a lot of other interesting information.

PDHS website

We now have a fabulous new website:

www.perthortsociety.com

Check it out – it provides a lot of interesting information about our society, gardening and the OHA organization.

Linda Bartlett is our webmaster extraordinaire and we thank her for her hours of hard work creating this site for us. It is a work in progress so if you have any ideas for the site or items you would like to see on the site, contact any board member with your suggestions.

Check it out and let us know what you think by sending an email to pdhs@ripnet.com. Under the newsletter page, we will have 2 years of archived

newsletters for your reading pleasure (you can read them online or download to your computer to read at your own leisure).

Junior Gardeners

We will start a new junior gardeners program in April. Now is the time to take cuttings for our "plant library". If you have some nice, healthy indoor plants, could you please take cuttings, and root them. If you don't have pots or soil to plant them in, then you can bring them to the February or March Hort Society meetings and I can do this for you. Thank you.

We have more than 80 children involved in this program and so will need a lot of plants. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Janet Cain

In-House Flower Shows

Be brave! - Is the theme for our in-house flower shows held at each meeting. Make a new year's resolution to participate in at least one or all of them this year. These shows are strictly for us. There is no need to be an expert. In fact, many of the shows have a "novice" category for those of us who don't know what they are doing!

No experience? No worries! Madeline Archer will be judging the shows for 2011 so feel free to ask her about any criteria for any shows that interest you. Linda Bartlett is also a flower show judge who can help you and Kevin Long is a Master Gardener. You can only learn by trying and you might end up with a ribbon to show for your efforts.

The flower show for the next months meeting is always listed in your newsletter, on our website and in the yearbook.

Peterborough Garden Show

FRIDAY, APRIL 8 – SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2011

Well, OK, it may be a bit early and we do have winter to get through, but the Peterborough Garden Show is worth telling you about now.

The Peterborough Horticultural Society, the Peterborough and Area Master Gardeners and the Northumberland Master Gardeners put on this flower show every year. It has over 8,000 visitors and over 180 booths of vendors and exhibitors of all gardening related goodies you can think of. It also has a flower competition with dazzling entries, workshops, speakers, garden displays and floral arrangements.

Proceeds from the show are used for scholarships and beautification projects.

It is not to be missed and entrance fees are only \$6 per day. What a great day trip! We will provide you with more information in the months to come.

Treasurer's Report

November 1 To November 30, 2010

Balance October 31, 2010 \$3,682.50

Receipts:

Grants	\$ 50.00	
Bank Interest	.01	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 49.00</u>	
	\$ 99.01	99.01

Expenses:

Speaker Fees	\$ 75.00	
Socials	60.30	
Meeting Expenses	50.51	
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 25.78</u>	
	\$ 211.59	\$211.59

Balance November 30, 2010 \$3,569.92

Bank Balance November 30, 2010	\$1,206.62
Reserve Fund	\$2,500.00
	\$3,706.62

Outstanding cheques (25.31)

New Visitor's Policy

As of January 1, 2011, visitors to our PDHS meetings will be asked to pay an admission fee of \$3.00 at the door. This is to help defray the costs of presenting a number of our speakers. Our previous policy was to ask for a donation of any kind at the door.

All visitors are welcome at any of our meetings. We are always happy to see new faces. If a visitor intends to come to several of our meetings during the year, please remind them that a membership is only \$10 and much more economical than a "pay as you go" policy.

Create Your Own Soil Mixes

Seed starting: 8 parts peat moss, 1 part perlite
1 part vermiculite

Hanging baskets: Equal parts peat moss, vermiculite, garden soil

Outdoor containers and window boxes: 2 parts garden soil, 1 part peat moss, 1 part vermiculite or perlite

Propagating cuttings: 2 parts vermiculite
1 part coarse sand

Bulb forcing: 2 parts coarse sand, 1 part garden soil

Succulants, cacti and Alpines in containers:

2 parts sharp sand, 1 part perlite, 1 part heavy potting soil, 1 part peat moss.

Transplanting, new potted or bareroot shrub

Roses (1 bu. per shrub)

2 parts sharp sand, 1 part peat moss, 1 part composted manure, 1 part garden soil

(From Canadian Gardener, By Judith Adams)

Using Corn Gluten Meal

The middle of winter is the least likely time for gardeners to be thinking of weeds and corn. But it is the perfect time to consider corn-gluten meal as a weed-killing option. This product is only effective before weeds emerge; if you plan accordingly, it can be a great alternative to other chemically based products.

Corn-gluten meal, which contains 60 percent protein and 10 percent nitrogen by weight, acts as a weed killer by releasing a protein that inhibits roots from forming on germinating seeds (all germinating seeds, not just “weeds”). Seeds will usually form a shoot but will not form a root. Corn-gluten meal generally does not, however, inhibit the roots of mature plants or transplants unless you apply a lot of it (80 pounds per 1,000 square feet – or more).

Corn-gluten meal is only effective as a weed-control agent before weeds begin to grow. It has no effect on killing weeds after they sprout, and can actually act as a fertilizer for germinated weeds because of its nitrogen content. Corn-gluten meal usually continues to work for about five to six weeks following germination. In general, 20 pounds of product per 1,000 square feet is recommended for weed control.

Corn-gluten meal requires both water and a drying period to be effective as a weed killer. If it doesn't rain within five days of application, water the area with roughly a quarter inch of water. Follow this up with a short drying period of a few days to kill the plants that have germinated but have not formed roots. Timing is critical. If it is too wet during germination, the plants will recover and form roots. This is also true of chemical pre-emergent herbicides.

Corn-gluten meal should not be used at the same time as most seeds unless those seeds are deeply planted. Corn-gluten meal is generally fine to use with transplants and mature plants. Look for this product in the weed-and-feed section of home and

garden centres. The product name may not indicate corn gluten, but the list of ingredients will tell you if the product has a corn gluten base.

*Nick Christians, professor of horticulture
at Iowa State University*

Why Bother with Crop Rotation?

One of the most important things that farmers do with their crops is to rotate them: soybeans one year, corn the next and maybe even a third crop mixed in for good measure. Using this kind of system helps reduce insect and disease problems and can even reduce the amount of fertilizer needed to achieve the best results.

So should gardeners rotate crops? Yes, they should. As winter is slowly creeping to an end and you're flipping through seed catalogues to put together your order, take some time to familiarize yourself with the benefits of crop rotation and make a plan to incorporate this system into your garden this coming year.

The greatest benefit of crop rotation is a reduced chance of your plants coming down with a disease. Rotation can also prevent an insect infestation.

Many of the plants in your garden are closely related. Tomatoes, potatoes, eggplant and peppers, for example, are from the same family and so have similar diseases and insects that can attack them. By planting these plants year after year in the same place, you run the risk of having specific insects and diseases, such as verticillium wilt, build up in that area and cause problems for you in the future. Corn and onions, for example, are resistant to verticillium wilt and are excellent options for rotating with an unrelated crop, like tomatoes, from one year to the next.

Another reason to rotate your crops is to increase nitrogen content and, thus, decrease the need for adding fertilizer. Legumes, which take their nitrogen directly from the air, don't need much – if any – fertilizer to grow well; theoretically, they provide some nitrogen to the soil for future crops that can't take nitrogen from the air. The idea of using one crop to supply nitrogen for the next crop is a good one – with a weakness. The amount of nitrogen that a legume returns to the soil largely depends upon the amount of the legume left in the garden. If you pull your plants out at the end of the year, most of the nitrogen will go with it. If, however, you harvest the beans but leave your plants sitting on the soil, then much more nitrogen will get into the ground as these plants decompose.

Fine Gardening, Feb, 2011

PERTH AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM

Your PDHS needs your help! Not only do you help yourself by helping us to create a vibrant and interesting horticultural society but our programs and projects are a great way to meet new people, have fun and broaden your own horizons. You never know when an accidental meeting with someone can change your life.

Why not get involved today?

Bring us your ideas, offer us your knowledge and skills (we all have some) and help beautify and educate your community. You can volunteer one hour, one day, one week, the whole year through – the opportunities cover all possibilities.

Please fill out the information below and give to Kathy Allen, Volunteer Coordinator or Pam Pratt, Secretary, or any other PDHS Board Member. Better yet fill out the form on-line and send it to

volunteer@perthhortsociety.com

Feel free to ask about the time commitment for anything that interests you.

Your input is vital to making our Society a success!

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail (if available) _____

Please note: Your personal information is for PDHS business only and will not be shared with any outside agency or business.

Indicate your interests below or suggest any others you may like:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Gardeners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baking | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Christmas Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sale and Exchange | <input type="checkbox"/> Trim Christmas Tree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant, maintain, clean-up of | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Floating Gardens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | |

Suggest an area you are interested in that isn't listed:

Volunteer by time commitment only: Amount of time available _____

Thank you all.