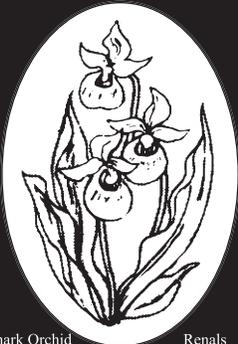


January 2013 Newsletter



The colour of
springtime is
in the flowers;
the colour of
winter is in the
imagination.

Terri Guillemets



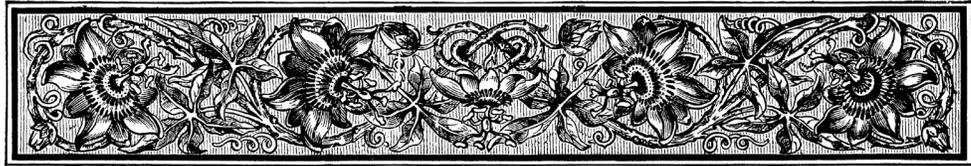
Lanark Orchid

Renals

Perth & District
Horticultural
Society

P.O. Box 494
Perth, ON, K7H 3G1
www.gardenontario.org

District #2 of the
Ontario Horticultural
Association



President's Pen

I am happy to serve this society as President for 2013. I am amazed at how quickly the past year has gone. It is also amazing how much the members of this society have accomplished in 2012. I applaud the very enthusiastic, tireless volunteers who manage to pull everything together at the right time.

I was thinking of the Junior Gardeners Program the other day. How wonderful it is, that we have an opportunity to sow the seeds of the pleasures of gardening, and hope that they take root and flourish in the children.

Then there are the community gardens which we are very proud to hang our handle to. This all takes work – many

hands, etc. Once again we have some dedicated volunteers who take pride in these gardens and showcase our society in the Town of Perth.

These are just a couple of our endeavours – there are many more.

Tonight we spend an hour with Alan Titchmarsh looking at some of the gardens in England. The video is two hours long but we will only be showing one hour. If you are a member of the society you will be able to borrow the video and watch it all at home at your leisure, just be sure to return it!!!!

Enjoy the Gardens of England.

Madeline Archer



Video Lending: “Secret Gardens Of England”

If you enjoyed the video of the Secret Gardens of England tonight, you can borrow the video from the PDHS Library to view the other hour which we were not able to screen.

Please see Kevin Long who is in charge of the PDHS Library at our next meeting.

Share The Wealth

Tonight is the debut of our “Share the Wealth” program. Half of the proceeds will go to the PDHS to offset some of the expenses we have in bringing a vibrant program to the Society. The other half of the proceeds will go to a lucky member. If you have any comments

or suggestions about the program, please see Madeline Archer.

Christmas Social

We closed the year in December 2012 with our annual “Pot Luck” holiday dinner and PDHS AGM where four new members were elected to the Board. Always well attended, always fun, always a treat, always a wonderful meal and great conversation. Our District 2 Director, Kathryn Lindsay spoke for a few minutes about the OHA, District 2 and thanked PDHS for all of their volunteer efforts. Many thanks to the members who created some amazing centerpieces that were given away as door prizes to some very lucky members. Many thanks to Janet Osborne and her team for organizing the event.



President: Madeline Archer

Secretary: Peggy Clark • **Newsletter:** Pam Pratt, Irene Hofmann



Members of the 2013 board of directors for the society at the annual Christmas Social and AGM.

2013 Board Members

Below is a list of members who have volunteered to serve on the 2013 Board:

President: Madeline Archer

Treasurer/Vice President: Margo Fulford

Secretary: Peggy Clark

Past President/Community Gardens/

Plant Sale: Lynda Haddon

Directors:

Yearbook/Webmaster/Printing: Linda Bartlett

Publicity/Newsletter: Pamela Pratt

Membership/Junior Gardener Liaison: David Archer

Library: Kevin Long

Directors-at-Large

Noreen Tyers

Gerda van Wingerden

Janette Wood

Carolle Anne Armour

Off-Board Coordinators

Junior Gardeners: Janet Cain

Social: Janet Osborne

Speaker Liaison: Ted Bryant

Upcoming Events

April 6, 2013 - District 2 AGM, Renfrew, Ontario.

July 19-21, 2013 - OHA 107th Convention in Thunder Bay. Convention Theme: "Up North and Down to Earth"

August 10, 2013 - District 2 Flower Show
Beachburg

More information will be given about these events as it becomes available or check the OHA website for further information.

Junior Gardeners Gearing Up For New Season!

As strange as it may seem we are already preparing for the 2013 version of our über-successful Junior Gardener Program.

We need all of you with green thumbs to start cuttings of your house plants for the upcoming program starting as soon as possible. Once your cuttings have roots you can pot them up or bring them in to one of our meetings for Janet Cain who will arrange to have them potted for you. Start snipping all of your plants and put them in some water now. We only have two more meetings before the Junior Gardener program starts and we would like to have some nice, healthy plants for the Plant Library.

Once again we are looking for supplies. We do not need strawberry containers! We do need the following: styrofoam meat trays, tuna cans and yogurt containers. All washed please!! Bring them to the next two meetings.

We would love it if you saved and donated your Canadian Tire money again this year. It certainly helps defray the expenses and everyone has been very generous in this regard.

Of course we are looking for volunteer teachers. If you have never done it before but think you would enjoy helping the children you are more than welcome. No experience required!! If you have done it before and like it so much you want to do it again, please be sure to give your name to David Archer or Janet Cain.

For those of you who have asked about making a personal donation - yes! of course we accept them and thank you very much for your generosity. Please see Margo Fulford.

We have a great and supportive Society for this program and for that we thank you all. Give

yourselves a big pat on the back and then roll up your sleeves for the 2013 version!

Yearbook 2013

Once again Linda Bartlett has done a fabulous job of producing our 2013 Yearbook. The cover drawing was done by one of our members, Questa Lewis which, we are sure, will be a contender for best cover again this year.

Thank you, Linda, for all your hard work.

Many thanks to all of our generous sponsors which you will find listed on the cover of the Yearbook. If you happen to be in any of these businesses, try to remember to thank them for their support.

New Year's Resolutions For Gardeners

by Dale Odorizzi, Lanark Master Gardeners

As the old year ends and the new year begins, many of us make resolutions as to how we can improve our lives and our health. This is also a good time to make resolutions about how we can improve our gardens. I have included some areas you can consider and different levels of "resolutions" you might want to consider.

Garden Rehabilitation: This year I vow to (a) review the notes I made in my Gardening Journal about plants that need dividing and areas or times of years that need a boost and act on those actions; (b) make notes during the gardening season about plants that need dividing or about areas I would like to improve on next year; (c) cut back the weeds that have grown taller than my plants.

Compost: This year I vow to (a) add organic material to my existing compost pile and turn the pile 2 times a month; (b) build a compost pile, using my kitchen waste and organic materials from my garden; (c) buy a bag of compost and put it around my Peonies and delphiniums.

Learning: This year I vow to (a) enrol in a gardening course; (b) join the local Horticultural Society and attend the meetings; (c) call or visit a Master Gardener about one of your gardening questions.

Reading: This year I vow to (a) buy and read a new gardening book or subscribe to a gardening magazine; (b) borrow and read a gardening book or magazine from the local library; (c) buy and read one gardening magazine.

Nature: This year I vow to (a) obtain Canadian Wildlife Backyard Habitat Certification for my garden; (b) plant bird or butterfly friendly plants in

my garden; (c) accept that you need caterpillars to get butterflies.

Lawns: This year I vow to (a) replace some of my lawn with flower or vegetable gardens; (b) learn non-chemical methods for maintaining my lawn; (c) embrace the fact that weeds in my lawn help to keep it green in the summer, can be pretty when they bloom and are butterfly and bird attractors.

Vegetables: This year I vow to (a) grow a good portion of my own vegetables; (b) plant a few vegetables in containers; (c) visit the local Farmers Markets often to buy local produce.

Regardless of how many or level of these resolutions you wish to embrace, there is one resolution that I hope all gardeners will make and keep.

I vow to enjoy my garden and feel proud of what I have done and not feel inadequate for what I have not yet done.

Happy New Year!

It's a Snap!

A series of tips on garden photography.

Engage with the subject

Once you've found a subject that has caught your attention, whether it be a flower, set of branches or a piece of garden architecture, but sure to spend time with it. Avoid just snapping a couple of shots and moving on, get involved with the shot, angle yourself so you have the best vantage point. Get low, shooting from the level of the plants. Try shooting from above, with a bird's eye view. If you find a subject with particularly interesting detail, grab your macro lens and get in close. Single flowers or patterned leaves make for great garden macro shots. Try to fill the frame with the subject and avoid including any unwanted visual distractions that may detract from any pattern or symmetry within the image.



Margo Fulford with the winning entries of last year's PDHS photo contest. Be sure to take lots of pictures and enter in this year's competition!

Are Coffee Grounds Good For The Soil?

www.renegadegardener.com

Not likely. Coffee grounds will probably do more harm than good. Yes, coffee grounds are organic, but like all things organic, they contain chemicals. One chemical in coffee grounds is allelopathic (fancy term for "inhibits growth;" juglone, the chemical introduced into soils by black walnut trees, is allelopathic). These chemicals affect different plants in different ways.

Lettuce in the vegetable garden seems to benefit from a few applications of coffee grounds scratched into the soil during the season. The allelopathic chemical appears to not affect lettuce, while other

chemicals in coffee grounds provide some mild benefit (probably nothing more than its 2% nitrogen content). However, growth of tomato plants is negatively affected, with coffee grounds serving as a mild poison.

If you are an inquisitive gardener prone to doing research, adding coffee grounds to everything you grow, recording the applications, monitoring the developments, and reporting the results would be a fine exercise. You could add to the university research already done on this topic, publish a paper, or, at the very least, send out Tweets. You might discover a few additional plants that benefit from coffee grounds. But in general you would discover that most plants are either not affected or are negatively affected by introducing coffee grounds to the soil.

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 any 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 Floating Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant, maintain, clean-up of Community Gardens | | |

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

Volunteer by time commitment only: Amount of time available _____

Thank you all.