



Lanark Orchid Renais

Perth & District Horticultural Society

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District #2 of the
Ontario Horticultural
Association

June 2011

Newsletter

I pray that
the life of
this spring and
summer may
ever lie fair in
my memory.

Henry David
Thoreau

President's Pen

It is probably safe to say that all gardeners have a favourite flower or five. However I've been working on a few plants that absolutely drive me around the bend. It seems that the minute one or two of these voracious weeds get a toe-hold in the garden, it becomes an endless challenge to find out who is going to prevail, gardener or weed! I acknowledge that not all gardeners will feel the same labels of "annoyance" as I do. No. 1 and perhaps one of the most obvious is goutweed. I have heard that some garden centres sell it. If so, what a shame and perhaps the idea needs to be strongly reconsidered. I would hate to think how many hours I have tied up in trying to eradicate it. No. 2 would definitely be the Star of Bethlehem. In 3 years it has gone from never having been in my garden to completely taking it over, crowding out and cozying up to some really lovely specimens. I don't have a clue how it got there in the first place, but this year it has jumped into the far corners from where it originally began. It isn't clear to me how it is propagating itself so quickly and efficiently. When I dig it up, I leave it on the ground and turn it over for several days to ensure that it is dead before it goes into the compost, hopefully never to be seen again. No. 3 on my Hit List is creeping charley. Miss one little tiny piece and in no time at all it again has a stranglehold on precious plants. I remember pulling on a "mat" of the stuff which had climbed and had a strong "embrace" on a lilac bush and while pulling on this mat, about 4 feet up was swaying back and forth! I am not so crazy about ajuga, which is another one which sends out feelers to tuck itself up against lupins, delphiniums and anything else where it can stay camouflaged until it gets a better hold. It's not the end of the list: Creeping bellflower is relentless, artemisia (I have noticed that some gardeners spit out its name when mentioned) and mint, which although pleasant to work in, takes over as soon as you turn your back. I can handle clover, dandelions and thistles because once you get the main tap root, the future looks brighter. It is just the quantities they arrive in that can be daunting. I try to catch these challengers before they go to seed but the ones which send out their roots to surreptitiously travel underground cause a lot of guesswork as to the direction they are travelling and are therefore no doubt here to stay. It is all worth the trouble in order to offer my more favourable plant choices room to grow and flourish.

See you in the garden, *Lynda*



REMINDER:

**Next Meeting is
September 13, 2011**

Remember that there is no general meeting scheduled for July or August. Everyone is busy gardening and vacationing so our next meeting will take place in September. Happy Gardening!

Ask a Master Gardener

This month, you have "live" Master Gardeners to ask your questions. If you are shy, write your question on

paper and give it to one of us or ask us directly during the social component. As always, feel free to contact us by phone or email. Renai 267-7272, Kevin 279-2098, Paul 273-5683, Kathleen 283-5982 or Dale 264-8135 or lanarkmg@gmail.com.

Upcoming

• "Take It Indoors" with Owen Munn, September 13, 2011: Owen Munn will be our speaker for the September meeting giving us tips and tricks to deal with our houseplants



President: Lynda Haddon • 613-267-6754 • haddon@istar.ca

Secretary: Pam Pratt

Newsletter: Pam Pratt, Irene Hofmann

over the winter (nasty word!). Transplanting those tender plants from your garden to a container to overwinter indoors can sometimes be tricky.

Owen is the expert so don't miss this meeting. Same time (7:30pm) same place (PDCI Library).

Flower Show

September 13, 2011 In-House Flower Show

Our in-house flower shows are for all members and are meant to be a fun way to show what is growing in your garden and a fun way to learn the ins and outs of flower arranging. The PDHS 2011 Yearbook outlines the schedule for each month's show. Consult page 8 for September's show and detailed information on how you can participate. Madeline Archer and Linda Bartlett are flower show experts who are always available to answer your questions.

September Flower Show Schedule

Section 1: Horticultural Specimen

- Class 1 - Dahlia, 1 stem
- Class 2 - Gladiolus, 1 spike
- Class 3 - Zinnia, bloom over 4", 1 bloom
- Class 4 - Zinnia, bloom under 3", 3 blooms
- Class 5 - Rose, hybrid tea, any cultivar, 1 bloom
- Class 6 - Rose, floribunda, any cultivar, 1 spray
- Class 7 - Rose, miniature, any cultivar, 1 bloom or spray
- Class 8 - Rose fragrant, 1 stem
- Class 9 - Rose, single bloom, displayed in a bowl
- Class 10 - Modern shrub rose (i.e. Austin, Explorer, Morden), 1 spray
- Class 11 - Rudbeckia, one cultivar, 3 stems
- Class 12 - Coneflower, one cultivar, 3 stems
- Class 13 - Tuberous begonia, 1 bloom floating in water, without leaves
- Class 14 - Collection of vegetables displayed in a basket, minimum 3 different kinds, named

Section II: Design

- Class 15 - "Super Ex" - a kinetic design of choice
- Class 16 - "Hiking Trail" - a wayside design

Muskrat Love Re-visited...

There is Muskrat Cove, Muskrat Bay, Muskrat River, Muskrat Lake, Muskrat Basin Brook, Branch and Creek and then there are the muskrats of the Little Tay.

It's that time again – the Floating Gardens vs. the

Muskrats of the Tay. We think we have them beaten this year. They didn't eat the cleome last year so we are planting cleome with a vengeance this year. David Archer is coordinating this year's effort.

We will plant the gardens during the 3rd week of June and can use all the help we can get. All members will be contacted by e-mail with the time and date so if you can spare an hour, come out and help us defeat those determined little rascals. Watch the Tay River at Mexicali Rosa's after July 1, 2011 when the gardens are launched and see if we are successful.

Treasurer's Report

April 1 to April 30, 2011

Balance March 31, 2011 \$4,306.67

Receipts:

Memberships	\$130.00	
OHA conf/meetings	80.00	
Bank Interest	.01	
Miscellaneous	<u>318.00</u>	
	\$528.01	\$528.01

Expenses:

Youth Activities	\$291.69	
Speaker Fees	75.00	
Meeting Expenses	31.64	
Plant Sales	12.43	
Fees dues/ins.	73.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>750.33</u>	
	\$1,234.09	\$1,234.09

Balance April 30, 2011

\$3,600.59

Bank Balance April 30, 2011

\$1,737.88

Reserve Fund 2,500.00

\$4,237.88

Outstanding cheques

\$(25.31)

(2.33)

(73.00)

(43.81)

(216.98)

(12.43)

(234.33)

(29.10)

\$3,600.59

Magical Mystery Garden Tour

The Perth Museum's First Annual Magical Mystery Garden Tour and Afternoon Tea will take place on June 18th. Ten private gardens will be open for your enjoyment. Tickets are \$15 which includes the tea at the museum. For information contact 613 267-1947.

Library News

by Kevin Long

Our Perth and District Horticultural Society has a small collection of gardening-related books and magazines, kept in a bookcase in the high school library where we have our meetings. Since I joined the executive and took over the librarian's duties earlier this year, I have been reorganizing this collection. (That is why you see me at our meetings busily working with books in the bookcase!) When this task is completed, our library will be organized by the Dewey Decimal system, the same method of classification used in the public library. Items are being catalogued with the help of a computer program, and this should make it easier to keep track of items, search for topics, and compile a list of resources when needed.

If you have had out materials from our library for a while, please return them so they can be catalogued and labelled.

In the autumn, we will be looking for readers among our society members who would be willing to write short book reviews on materials from our library. These reviews could then be published in the newsletter to encourage others to read some of our good resources.

So stay tuned this fall to see what our library has to offer!

Bud to Bloom Garden Tour 2011

Sponsored by Kemptville Horticultural Society

Saturday July 16, 2011 from 10 to 4

Tickets \$15 in Advance or \$20 Day of Tour

Available at Brewed Awakenings, Kemptville or by cheque to Kemptville Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 451, Kemptville, Ontario K0G 1J0

For information please call Arline at 613-258-4645 or Paul at 613-258-0808.

www.gardenontario.org/site/php/kemptville

District 2 Flower Show and Pickle Fest, Smiths Falls

The District 2 Summer Flower Show will be held in Smiths Falls during Smiths Falls Pickle Fest on September 10, 2011.

Location: Centennial Park, Smiths Falls

Date: 10 September 10, 2011

Time: Open to the public 12:30 - 3:30 pm.

Check out the show schedule on the Smiths Falls

Horticultural website.

In addition to the District 2 show, there is a Best Pickle contest to judge the best:

- dill pickle, no garlic;
- dill pickle, with garlic;
- sweet pickle,
- fruit jelly
- vegetable jelly.

Members are welcome to bring entries. Entries must be on the Pickle Table by 11 a.m.

Your Fertilizer Might Be Feeding More Than Plants

Do deer-resistant plants really exist? There are plenty of plant lists that say they do, but why do some of those plants quickly become deer food? After 25 years of gardening, I have made a surprise discovery that every gardener who's looking for truly deer resistant plants should know: Those lush plants fertilized with nitrogen? Deer love them.

I made this discovery while working on a client garden. I purchased lilyturf (*Liriope* spp. and cvs.), a plant I know from experience to be deer resistant. The morning after I had placed it outside, however, the plant had been eaten. What was different about this particular lilyturf? The only difference seemed to be that this plant was large for the pot it came in, meaning, most likely, that it had received a healthy amount of fertilizer. Is it possible that deer prefer a fertilized plant?

For the next six months, I experimented with this theory. I bought two identical deer-resistant plants and grew them side by side in pots; both were in a potting mix, but only one plant was treated with fertilizer. I chose a basic fertilizer from Osmocote, with a nitrogen value above 10 percent – the typical amount used by most nurseries. I, at first, covered the plants with netting to protect them, then removed the netting. The fertilized plant was always the one eaten by the deer.

Because of this initial experiment, I have tried fertilizing deer-resistant perennials to encourage lush growth. Most have been eaten by deer in the weeks following fertilization, whether organic or not. In addition, many plants purchased in nurseries also proved to be more vulnerable than the same plants I'd grown from vegetative cutting.

A chemist I know suggested a scientific basis for my theory. The nitrates found in fertilizer produce the same "flavour" as salt, which we all know deer love. With the addition of nitrogen-rich fertilizer, casual deer browsing can become serious consumption.

Plants given the proper care require less fertilizer to look their best, so start by siting your plants correctly and giving them enough care. When using soil amendments, prepare the soil well ahead of planting

time to allow the nitrogen level to lessen. Minimize the use of nitrogen-rich fertilizer, and amend with compost instead. If you use a store-bought fertilizer, stick with something that has less than 10 percent soluble nitrogen. Planting in fall, as plants go into dormancy, may also reduce browsing damage. Always protect new plants until the fertilizer has had a chance to dissipate over several weeks. With a little foresight, deer-resistant plants really can exist.

Carolyn Singer, author of Deer in My Garden, Fine Gardening, October 2010

Did You Know?

- The seeds and roots of columbine are extremely toxic, so always wear gloves or wash your hands after you handle them.
- Balloon flower is one of the last perennials to emerge each spring. Plant crocus around the crown to mark its location.
- Order spike blazing star by mail and you may receive what looks like tiny potatoes. Plant these tubers 3-6 ins. deep and about a foot apart.
- Sundrops' cousin evening primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*) opens at night and is closed by morning.
- Japanese painted ferns make excellent accent plants in containers. In early fall relocate ferns to a permanent position in the garden.

Magazine Garden Gate, June, 2011, Issue 99

Success With Clematis

By Suzanne Patry, Whitehouse Perennials newsletter

Bruce just put nine trellises up across the back of our sales area. I had a tough time picking which clematis to plant there because there are so many gorgeous varieties to choose from. I planted some of the more traditional flower shapes and some double flowered forms but I also selected some that you might not even recognize as clematis. All of them share the same cultural requirements for well drained soil high in organic content and lots of soil depth. An established clematis vine will send roots about one meter into the ground so the site needs to be dug as deeply as you can.

An Important Tip - When planting a new vine sink it at least three inches deeper than it is growing in the pot. I had always believed it was necessary to plant something at the base of a clematis to keep its roots cool. From my research this is not totally accurate. Clematis are moisture lovers and will grow best with a constant supply of moisture. Shaded areas are usually moist, but plants that compete with

the clematis for moisture are not recommended. A shallow rooted groundcover would be a better choice than a big water hogging perennial. The best way to keep your clematis roots moist is to apply a heavy layer of organic mulch that will keep the soil moist and protect it from the drying sun. To avoid rot don't pile the mulch against the stems of the Clematis. The pruning of clematis is often a source of confusion. Fortunately the Internet has many sites devoted to this topic so it is easy to research the requirements for the variety you have. Clematis don't have to be planted on a trellis. They can be trained over fences, old stumps or planted inside obelisks. Remember that clematis take at least three years to establish so if you are an impatient gardener buy the largest pot you can find.

It's not Latin, its "Garden"

Have you ever consider how many phrases, metaphors, quotes and jokes are derived from garden related terms? How often do you say any of these things?

- Everything's coming up roses.
- Fertile ground.
- Gone to seed.
- Grow like a weed.
- He's feeling his oats.
- He's pushing up the daisies.
- Hold out the olive branch.
- The last straw.
- Led down the garden path.
- Make hay while the sun shines.
- Nip it in the bud.
- Not worth a hill of beans.
- Putting it in a nutshell.
- Red as a beet.
- Save it for a rainy day.
- Say it with flowers.
- Shake like a leaf.
- They're like two peas in a pod.
- This is for the birds.
- A thorn in my side.
- Turn over a new leaf.
- Wrinkled as a prune.
- You have to separate the chaff from the wheat.
- You're barking up the wrong tree.
- You reap what you sow.