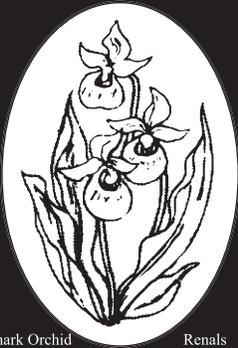


June 2012 Newsletter



*"Bad seed is a robbery
of the worst kind:
for your pocketbook not
only suffers by it,
but your preparations
are lost and a season
passes away unimproved."*

- George Washington



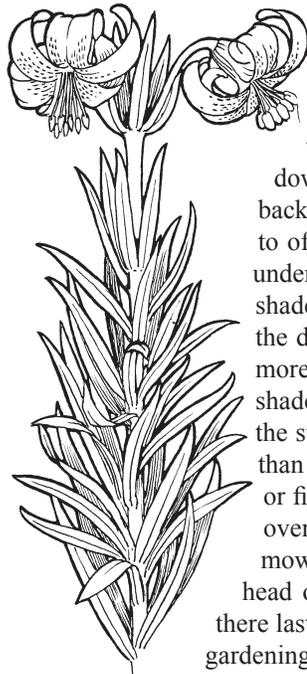
Lanark Orchid

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

Look up! Traditionally gardeners look down as they work their beds. We dig, loosen the soil, add compost, insert plant, pat down, mulch and water. A plant's final height will determine front, back or middle of the bed. Sounds quite reasonable actually. I'd like to offer an additional thought: look up, too. Is the chosen location under a tree or bush? Will that long branch provide too much sun or shade? Check where the sun might be located as it moves throughout the day and how that will affect the plant. Will the plant require more or less sun or shade? As the sun moves around the house, will shade from the house, or tree, block light and what time of day will the sun hit the plants, if at all. Afternoon sun is quite a bit stronger than morning sun. How about overhead wires? That beautiful maple or fir tree we are wanting to plant, will it eventually interfere with overhead wires? Another good time to look up: when on your riding mower. It can really knock some sense into you when klunking your head on new branch growth. The attack of the trees: they weren't there last year! Looking up is equally important as looking down when gardening. Taking the full surroundings into consideration can prevent headaches as well as needing to dig up and transplant some time in the future.

In July and August we can "look" at four of our members gardens. Let us meet together at these gardens and gain inspiration and share our passion with gardening.

Madeline Archer



Thanks! - We Couldn't Do It Without You...

Our Junior Gardener Program is over for this year and was a phenomenal success - over 240 children participating from Stewart School, Queen Elizabeth School, St. John's Elementary, Drummond Central School and Sacred Heart School.

Not only did we appreciate help from our corporate sponsors but also from our community sponsors - Canadian Tire for their gift certificate with which we bought soil and seeds: Hillside Gardens who donated wax begonias; Metro for donating seed potatoes and Sylvia's Plant Place for providing flowers for Mother's Day arrangements at wholesale prices.

Lake 88 and the Perth Courier participated by advertising our Great Perennial Plant Sale as a fundraiser for

the Junior Gardeners.

The success of the program was due mainly to our fantastic organizers - Janet Cain, Kathy Allen and Linda Bartlett, who organized everything - schools, participants, supplies and volunteers over countless weeks in preparation. Thank you so much to the three of you for your terrific effort.

Of course, we have to thank our wonderful volunteer teachers who brought it all alive to the children- Janet Cain, Kathy Allen, Barb Michie, Pam Pratt, David Archer, Muriel Hopper, Carol Kettle, Lucille Crawford, Phyllis James, Rene Saumur, Suzanne Bullock, Diane Gunning, Joanne Clobridge, Carolle Anne Armour, Aileen Conboy, Tineke Doenbosch, Ed Chenard, Linda Bartlett, Daphne Bennett, Karen Roberts, Ed Roberts Peggy Clark and Margo Fulford.

Did you know that Lucille Crawford and Rene Saumur actually joined the PDHS in order to participate in the



President: Madeline Archer

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

program? Wow! That's above and beyond...

We also couldn't have done it all without the active participation of all of our members - that's you! A special thank you to Lorena Warnock who provided hens and chicks for the cactus gardens and to all of you who brought in Canadian Tire money, tuna tins, yogurt containers and strawberry containers - a big thank-you. To all of you who donated cash to the venture - another big thank-you. An additional thank you to Barb Michie for her fundraising efforts and to all those who participated in the Great Perennial Plant Sale. Together we all made it happen.

Kathy Allen held a BBQ bash for all the PDHS volunteer teachers - great hamburgers, salads and of course, our favourite - dessert!

Naturally, we are hoping that we can make it happen again next year. If you have any observations, suggestion or criticisms, please call or email Janet Cain - we are always looking for ways to improve the program. See you again next year!

Trip To Three Nurseries

On Wednesday, June 20 we will have a trip running to the Almonte Herb Garden on Old Almonte Road, Brantim Garden Nursery on Hamilton Side Road both off Dwyer Hill, and then to Whitehouse Perennials where the daylilies should be really out by that time. Brantim Nursery are known for their hanging baskets, besides other plants.

A list will be sent around at the June 12th meeting and we will meet behind the Bargain Shop at Barnabes at 9:00 a.m. where we will try to cut down the number of cars going. Somewhere along the way we will 'do lunch', so if you have suggestions let me know.

Margo Fulford

Making A Gardening Difference

It is no doubt safe to say that we all love our gardens. They are the places we rest, smell, savour the textures and colours, try new plant adventures, and are sometimes called upon to divide and conquer. There are times, however, when Life steps in, calls our name and we cannot easily get to our sanctuary or times when we need to take a step back and let the garden grow as it may. If you have a neighbour, relative or friend who might need some support during a trying time, it might be health, emotional, or stress related, please consider spending an hour, or even half an hour, helping them maintain their grounds so that when things come back into balance, they can take

solace in their joyful space. After all, we never know when we may need a caring spade, trowel or whipper snipper ourselves.

Plant Tag Confusion

I am really frustrated with the incorrect information printed on plant tags. I wonder how gardeners are ever able to get the right plant for a certain location when they can't depend on basic information on a tag. Recently a customer was hesitant to buy Black Snakeroot (*Actaea 'Hillside Black Beauty'*) for her shade garden because the tag showed full sun. Snakeroot will take full sun if it is kept well-watered but it is one of the nicest plants for the back of a shady border. I was able to show her the plant growing in the shady corner of our display garden. If she had relied on the tag, she would have left behind a marvellous plant. Ligularia often shows a full sun symbol on a tag but it looks dreadful in sun because it wilts as soon as the sun hits the leaves no matter how wet it is. The information on tags is designed to cover North America so sometimes incorrect information is a result of the need to be so general. Other times there are mistakes that are never corrected. For many years on tags the height of Nepata 'Walkers Low' was listed as 25 cm. I got a BIG surprise when I used it as an edger! Even hardiness information is suspect. Plants that are listed as Zone 6 according to the tags sometimes die. Don't believe everything you read on the tags. Visit display gardens, talk to fellow gardeners, go on garden tours and use the Internet. There is a fascinating government website on plant hardiness, Plant Hardiness.

Reprinted with permission from Suzanne Patry, Whitehouse Perennials, June, 2012

Ed Note: Also, never trust the flower colour on the plant tag photos, it's better to see the actual plant in flower.

Legion Ladies Delighted

We once again thrilled and delighted the ladies of the Perth Legion by designing wonderful floral centrepieces for their Ladies Auxiliary Honours and Awards dinner. On Friday, May 10, 2012 a centrepiece "bee" took place at the Legion where the PDHS created their masterpieces. Linda Bartlett organized the volunteers and got the event together. Not only were beautiful centrepieces created, but the "bees" had a lot of fun! Thank you to our wonderful flower arrangers: Linda Bartlett, Pam Newton, Joan Hunter, Margo Fulford, Janet Cain and thanks to Kathy Allen for her assistance.

September Meeting

As you know, we are not having any meetings during the summer months. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 11, 2012. The speaker will be Debbie Lytle and will feature "Les Jardins de Quatre Vents" which is Francis Cobot's private garden in the Charlevoix region of Quebec. Located in La Malbaie, the gardens of Quatre Vents have overcome the area's cool northern climes to become a vision of astounding botanical bounty. This 20-acre estate was developed during the 1930s to '70s by the Cabot family, its cultivation inspired by gardens from England to Japan. It sounds wonderful and I am sure will be accompanied by some lovely pictures. Be sure to join us at 7:30 p.m. in the PDCI Library.

PDHS Summer Program

Just in case you are wondering what to do on the second Tuesday evening in July and August, we have organized something really special. Four of our members have very graciously opened up their garden for us to visit.

Please note the following dates:

July 10th

Janet Cain, 1907 Concession 4C, Perth, K7H 3C8

Barbara Miche, 1616 Drummond Concession 7,
Perth, K7H 3C8.

August 7th

Lynda Haddon, 1 330 Barrie's Side Road,
Perth K7H 3C8

Ed Roberts, 36 Mill Street, Perth, K7H 1V9

We do hope that you enjoy visiting these gardens.

September Flower Show

This is strictly an in-house flower show for all of us to enjoy and to participate in. It is as simple as snipping the required flower outlined in the schedule and bringing it in to show. The more venturesome can try their hand at a design and bring their creation in for all to enjoy.

Section I: Horticultural Specimen

Class 1: Dahlia, single type - 1 stem

Class 2: Dahlia, bloom under 4", one cultivar - 3 stems

Class 3: Dahlia, bloom over 4" - 1 stem

Class 4: Dahlia, different cultivars - 3 stems

Class 5: Gladiolus, single colour- 1 spike

Class 6: Gladiolus, bi-colour or multi-coloured - 1 spike

Class 7: Zinnia, bloom over 3" - 1 stem

Class 8: Zinnia, bloom under 3" - 3 stems

Class 9: Rose, hybrid tea, any cultivar - 1 bloom

Class 10: Rose, floribunda - 1 spray

Class 11: Rose, miniature - 1 bloom or spray

Class 12: Rose, fragrant - 1 stem

Class 13: Rose - single bloom, displayed in a bowl

Class 14: Modern Shrub Rose (i.e. Austin, Explorer, Morden) - 1 spray

Class 15: Rudbeckia one cultivar - stems

Class 16: Coneflower one cultivar - 3 stems

Class 17: Sunflower - 1 stem

Class 18: Sunflower - 1 spray

Class 19: Tuberous begonia, 1 bloom floating in water, without leaves

Class 20: Collection of vegetables displayed in a basket, minimum 3 different kinds, named

Class 21: Garlic - 3 bulbs

Section II: Design

Class 22: "It's Over" - a design incorporating seeds and seed heads

Class 23: "Living Locally" - a design using flowers, fruits and/or vegetables

Class 24: "Autumn Jewels" - a miniature design

Consult your Yearbook for definitions and hints.

PDHS Photo Competition

The PDHS is holding its annual photo competition and now is the time to think of taking your pictures. The photos will be displayed and ribbons distributed at the annual Christmas Social in December. The entry deadline is October 9, 2012 but you will see why we are telling you about it now when you read the classes below. Have fun and start snapping.

Class 1: "Sleeping Beauty" - a picture of your garden in winter

Class 2: "Spring at Last" - a picture of one or more spring blooms

Class 3: "As the Plot Thickens" - a picture of your garden in full bloom

Class 4: "Green With Envy" - a picture featuring foliage

Class 5: "Pot Bound" - a picture of one or more containers

Class 6: "Sink or Swim" - a picture of a water feature in a garden

Class 7: "On the Road" - a horticultural picture taken on your travels

Interesting Hints

From The 2012 AGM Speaker

Submitted By Lynda Haddon

At the recent District 2 AGM in Ottawa, one of the speakers for the day was Larry Hodgson. He lives in Quebec City, is perfectly bilingual, has written over 30 gardening books and given many lectures across Canada.

He shared with us 32 of his favourite plants introduced for 2012. His enthusiasm, knowledge and joy at describing these plants made one want to race out to our local nursery and order, oh, at least 32 of them!! If you would like to check out his website, you can do so at: www.jardinierparesseux.com Here are the highlights of some that took my interest:

Fleuroselect: 'Astello Indigo' Anise Hyssop (Agastache

x hybrida 'Astella Indigot') is a good and continuous bloomer. **Perennial of the Year:** 'Jack Frost' Siberian Bugloss (*Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost') loves the shade! **Daylily of the Year:** 'Lady Elizabeth' (*Hemerocallis* 'Lady Elizabeth'), a rare creamy white with large blooms and is a rebloomer! **Hosta of the Year:** 'Liberty' is slug resistant! **Perennials:** 'Misty Blue' White Baneberry (*Actaea pachypoda* 'Misty Blue') loves deep shade. Pretty Ladies series of Fall Anemone: *Anemone hupehensis* 'Pretty Lady Emily' grows about 40cms tall and exceedingly well on the edge of a forested area. 'Mighty Pip' *Astilbe* likes its roots to be continually damp, makes a wonderful impression at about 4 feet high.

'Empress Wu' Hosta is gigantic at 2 metres across, is slug resistant. **Annuals:** 'First Yellow Improved' Garden Pelargonium (*pelargonium* 'Pacyell') Supposed to be a yellow geranium but carefully check colour before buying. **Shrubs:** 'Candy Lights' (*Rhododendron* 'Candy Lights') is a hardy Azalea, loves acid soil, mulch in hardier zones. Bobo PeeGee Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculate* 'ILVOBO') a short hydrangea at 90 cms. that requires no pruning. **Trees:** 'Shiloh Splash' River Birch (*Betula nigra* 'Shiloh Splash') has gorgeous variegated foliage and interesting bark for the winter effect. It likes sun to partial shade, is insect resistant and comes in trunk clusters or with a single trunk - this was very special! **Conifers:** 'Zmatlik' *Arborvitae* (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Zmatlik'), a thin, narrower hedge cedar grown from cuttings. It is expensive but after trimmed you can start some others. **Vegetables:** 'New Moon' Pumpkin (*curcubita pepo* 'New Moon') is a totally white (inside and out), edible pumpkin. There were groans at the prospect of white pumpkin pie. 'Naga Viper' Hot Pepper (*Capsicum* x 'Naga Viper') is the hottest pepper grown at 270x stronger than a jalapeno pepper. Gloves are advised when harvesting them. Apparently UTube has videos of people trying them out.....

Library News

by Kevin Long

Please remember to return any books and magazines to the library. If you would like to sign materials out for the summer, please feel free to do so. Happy Reading!

Financial Statement May 1 - 31, 2012

Ledger Balance –		
April 30, 2012		\$ 2,029.21
RECEIPTS –		
Youth Activities	\$ 326.00	
Membership	39.00	
Plant Sale	2,115.25	
Yearbook	50.00	
Miscellaneous	175.00	
Bank Interest	<u>.01</u>	
		\$2,705.26
EXPENSES –		
Youth Activities	\$ 624.20	
Community Projects	80.34	
Plant Sales	427.25	
Meeting Expenses	31.64	
Speakers	80.65	
Social	36.53	
Library	55.34	
Postal Services	13.79	
Office Supplies	55.14	
Miscellaneous	<u>168.00</u>	
		\$1,572.88
Balance May 31, 2012		\$ 3,161.59
Reserve Fund – GIC due July 4, 2012		\$ 2,500.00



Perth Museum Gardens And Visitor's Centre

The Perth Museum gardens and Visitor's Centre is now a reality and a welcome and inviting retreat for all. Thank you to all the Hort Members who so kindly came out to work on the Museum's heritage gardens. Your continued support, expertise and willingness to get your hands dirty made a wonderful impression on all those in attendance. If you are in the Museum area, do take time to stop by and enjoy the gardens.

The Museum is sponsoring a Fashion Show on June 21st at Algonquin college with "Eve and Glory" and "Streve" the featured retail stores from Perth. There are tables of 8 and tickets are \$25 per person which includes coffee, dessert and a donation to the Museum (tax receipts available). Should you wish to attend, please make all of your arrangements directly with Karen Rennie, Heritage Manager/Curator, at the Museum. Tel: (613) 267-1947 Email: krennie@perth.ca

