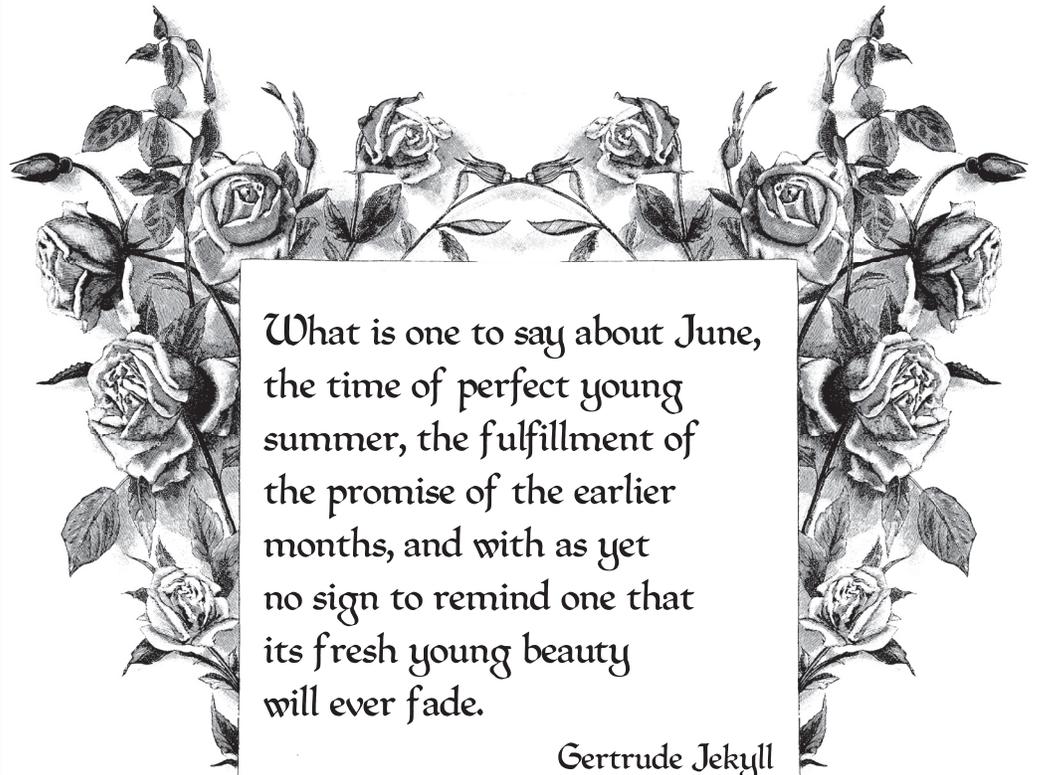


# June 2014 Newsletter



What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfillment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade.

Gertrude Jekyll



## September Meeting

The next regular meeting of the PDHS is on September 9, 2014. The planned topic is *Creating Indoor And Outdoor Displays For Your Home* with the speaker being Sylvia Van Oort. And until then, enjoy the summer tours of members' gardens, listed below.....

## PDHS Summer Tours of Members' Gardens

These gardens are open to PDHS Members from 6:30-8:30 pm

### July 8, 2014

Debi McEwen,  
1026 Ford Road

and Linda Bartlett,  
1060 Ford Road,  
Gillies Corners (15 minutes

east of Perth, off of  
Hwy. 10 from Perth)

### July 22, 2014

Pam & Dave McCord,  
22 Port Elmsley Road  
Port Elmsley (off of Hwy 43  
towards Smiths Falls)

### August 5, 2014

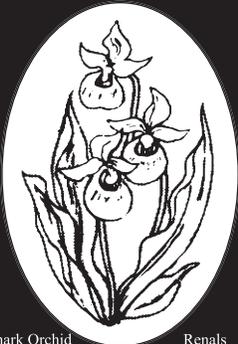
Dale Odorizzi,  
505 Clarchris Road, Perth  
(off of Hwy. 511 towards  
Balderson

### August 12, 2014

Pam Newton,  
262 Lakewood Lane,  
Perth (off of Rideau  
Ferry Road towards  
Rideau Ferry from Perth)

### August 26, 2014

Max Wood, (organic  
vegetable gardens)  
1380 Bathurst Con. 7, Perth  
(off of Harper Road, past  
Kiwi Gardens)



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:** Madeline Archer  
**Vice President/Secretary:** Margo Fulford • **Newsletter:** Irene Hofmann

## District 2 Fun Day

Gloucester Horticultural Society Invites OHA Districts 1 and 2, Saturday, September 20, 2014 for a FUN DAY Exploring Mer Bleue Bog and Trails. For more information, invitation and registration form, please view the District 2 Website Fun Day.

## Junior Gardeners

The Junior Gardeners' 6 week sessions ended in May after another successful season. The five local schools participating were Queen Elizabeth, with 2 classes, St. John's Elementary, also 2 classes, The Stewart School, 2 classes, Drummond School, 1.5 classes and Sacred Heart in Lanark, with 1 class. The total number of students was 170 +/- . This year we had 29 volunteers involved, some completed the 6 weeks and some helped out part time.

As the co-ordinator of the program I would like to thank the volunteers for their dedication and often their flexibility while participating in this program, without them the program would not be possible. I am stepping down from the position after 9 years, and Nancy Wiseman will be taking over. There is a lot of work involved in co-ordinating this program and I have "grown" with it, starting with approx. 45 students, 3 schools and 6/8 volunteers. Nancy will need a helper to be able to manage everything that has to be done. If anyone is interested, then please contact me at the June meeting and I can give you information.

Thank you to members who brought in plants for the "Plant Library", especially Ruth Nelson who donated at least half the plants needed for each student to receive one to take home each week. Between myself, Edith Lepine and Ruth we managed to accumulate over 200 plants.

The Horticultural Society would also like to thank Canadian Tire for the gift card with which I purchased seed and cactus soil. Brownlee's Metro for supplying us with seed potatoes and The Brown Shoe Factory for the empty shoe boxes. Lorena Warnock and Linda Bartlett for hens and chicks. Nancy Wiseman and Linda Bartlett for their help in sorting out the Mother's Day flowers.

Here is the list of volunteers who worked in the schools: Carol Kettle, Susan Green, Christiane McGlynn, Phyllis James, Rene Saumur, Renate Graf, Ed and Karen Roberts, Nancy Wiseman, Heather Bowstead-Ford, David Archer, Robin McIntosh, Aileen Conboy, Ed Chenard, Suzanne Bullock, Richard Catchpaw, Catherine Gallipeau, Kathy Allen, Laurie Clark, Linda Bartlett, Cynthia Thompson, Karen Kristine, Mary Dixon, Tineke Doornbosch, Janet Cain, Pam Pratt, Barb Michie, Helene Rivest, Ian Doig. I think I have mentioned everyone, but if I have missed anyone I apologise.

*Janet Cain*

## OHA 2014 Convention

*Cornwall, Ontario - July 18 to 20*

The Early Bird Registration for the Convention has been extended until June 18, 2014.

Cornwall is about 45 minutes from the world's second-largest botanical garden. It's close to gardens and hiking in Vermont, Quebec and the Adirondacks for another example. Cornwall itself has made huge strides in community beautification - which is worth seeing. There are lower-cost accommodation options nearby as well as some of North America's best artisanal cheeses and beers. The keynote speaker is Larry Hodgson, a free-lance garden writer, lecturer, photographer, and author of over 40 books. For more information, visit <http://www.gardenontario.org/>

## PDHS September Flower Show

### Section I: Horticultural Specimen

- Class 1 Dahlia - 3 stems
- Class 2 Gladiolus - same variety - any colour - 3 stems
- Class 3 Zinnia - 3 stems
- Class 4 Rose - hybrid tea - any cultivar - 1 bloom
- Class 5 Rose - floribunda - 1 spray
- Class 6 Rose - miniature - 1 bloom or spray
- Class 7 Rose - fragrant - 1 stem
- Class 8 A collection of roses
- Class 9 Rudbeckia - one cultivar - 3 stems

- Class 10 Echinacea (coneflower) – one cultivar – 3 stems
- Class 11 A collection of sunflowers
- Class 12 Tuberos Begonia – one bloom floating in water – without leaves
- Class 13 Any other annual – named
- Class 14 Any other perennial – named
- Class 15 Collection of vegetables displayed in a basket – minimum 3 kinds – named
- Class 16 Garlic – 3 bulbs

### Section II: Design

- Class 17 Novice Class: “Where Have All the Flowers Gone” – a design using only foliage
- Class 18 “Found Outside My Garden” – a wayside design
- Class 19 “Thinking of You” – a bouquet of summer’s best in a vase

## Water Garden Tour

will be held June 14th, 2014.

The Greater Ottawa Water Garden Horticultural Society is having a Garden Tour in Ottawa. For more information about the upcoming tour, please go to [www.ottawawatergardens.com](http://www.ottawawatergardens.com)

## Turf Wars... Trees and Lawns

*Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor  
University of Vermont*

A common problem in many landscapes is the competition of trees and lawn for the same light and resources. In many home landscapes, what began as a lush lawn with small trees has become a thin and weedy lawn shaded by many large trees. By knowing what both trees and lawns require for site and maintenance, you can determine if you can have a lawn in the shade of trees and, if so, how.

Both trees and lawns are not only attractive in landscapes, but serve many functions. Both trees and lawns produce oxygen, cool the air, stabilize dust, trap air pollutants, and help control erosion. In addition, trees provide shade for buildings in summer and windbreaks, they provide habitat and food for wildlife, and harbor

many insects that birds need for food. Lawns provide a groundcover for lower traffic areas, a place to walk and play and entertain.

Both trees and turfgrasses compete for water, nutrients, and light. By reducing this competition, you may be able to have both. Turfgrasses, like many trees, also need good soil drainage to grow successfully.

Most lawn grasses will not grow well if they get less than 50% (less than 4 to 6 hours per day) direct sun. One solution to allow more light to grasses below trees might be to eliminate some trees, perhaps weaker and spindly ones. Or you might remove some limbs to allow more light to reach the ground below. If trees are large, this is often a job best left to an arborist. Even removing some lower limbs will allow more light and air, so lessen diseases.

Another option might be to choose more shade tolerant grasses. Fine fescues (such as red, Chewing, hard, and sheep fescues), as well as rough bluegrass, are the most shade tolerant. Fine fescues prefer drier soils and don't tolerate continually wet soils. For moist, shaded areas consider a rough bluegrass such as the variety Sabre, or supina bluegrass. For moderate to light shade, you can grow tall fescue (the coarse leaf texture doesn't make it great for home lawns), or some Kentucky bluegrasses such as Glade or America. You may be able to find a seed mixture formulated for shade. Keep in mind, though, that just because a grass or mixture is listed for shade doesn't mean it will grow perfectly well in dense shade.

While shade above ground is the most obvious limiting factor for grass under trees, the below-ground tree roots are equally important to consider. Most tree roots are in the top two feet of soil, contrary to what many think, and most the finer roots that absorb water and nutrients are even shallower. Grass roots in the full sun occupy much more soil than tree roots, which can be a problem if planting young trees. But under mature trees, the grass is thinner and the roots less dense, so they compete poorly with these tree roots.

Since grass doesn't grow as vigorously under trees as it does in full sun, the common recommendation is to fertilize at about half the normal rate, or about two pounds of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet. Fertilizing in fall, after leaf drop from trees, benefits grasses

as they are somewhat active then compared to the trees going dormant. Another time you might fertilize grasses is early spring, about a month before leaves appear on trees. Don't use fertilizers containing herbicides, as they can be taken up by tree roots, and weaken trees over time.

Avoid high nitrogen fertilizers, as they promote succulent top growth. Best are ones with higher potassium (the third number on a fertilizer bag) as this promotes stronger blades more tolerant to wear, and decreases disease susceptibility. Most soils contain sufficient phosphorus (the middle number on a fertilizer bag), so unless called for by a soil test, try not to add this. Excess phosphorus washes into and pollutes waterways in many cases. Many prefer low analysis, organic fertilizers (such as 5-3-4), with their nutrients released over time.

Good culture and the right conditions will help reduce weeds, without using herbicides. A common lawn weed, mosses, indicates the soil is too moist and poorly drained, compacted, with low fertility, acidic, or a combination of these.

In addition to nutrients and light, water is the third factor needed by both lawns and trees. If rain does not measure an inch or more a week, or consists of light showers, water deeply but infrequently. Frequent, shallow watering leads to surface roots that dry out quickly during drought or under tree roots. In my own landscape, soil moisture under trees can be 30 to 40 percent lower (35 to 35 percent soil moisture) than in full sun areas without tree competition.

In addition to dealing with these three main competing factors, mow lawns under trees higher (one-half to an inch higher) than those in full sun. As with any mowing, do so regularly, not removing more than one-third of the blades at any one time. Leave clippings to replenish nutrients and organic matter back into the soil. They won't cause thatch buildup.

Minimize foot traffic on shaded lawns, as

they can't recover as well as those vigorously growing in full sun. Remove leaves and branches, particularly in fall, promptly. Grass in the shade needs all the light and water and air it can get to avoid stress and diseases. You may need to "overseed" (sow more seeds on top of the existing grass) in early spring every year or two.

If planting new trees in a lawn, make sure they have plenty of space to grow over time, and are far enough (40 to 100 feet for many) apart to allow plenty of light between them. Avoid trees with shallow roots, such as beech, maples and willows. Avoid trees with dense canopies if possible, such as oaks and maples. Lindens (basswood), ginkgo, birches, and poplars are good choices for planting near lawns. On the other hand, if establishing a lawn near trees, don't till the soil as this will damage the shallow tree roots.

In spite of your best efforts, if a lawn just doesn't perform as you'd like under trees, consider just placing bark mulch under the trees out to below the edges of branches (the "drip line"). At a minimum, placing mulch around trunks, but only an inch or two deep, will keep mowers and weed trimmers from damaging the tender tree bark. Don't make a "volcano" of mulch up around tree trunks, as this can smother bark and harbor insects.

If you can't grow grass in the shade, but want plants and not mulch in an area which won't get foot traffic, consider groundcover perennials. If such areas are large and you want to walk through them, consider a combination of groundcover with mulched paths. Perennial vinca (where not root invasive), pachysandra or spurge, creeping foamflowers, lily of the valley, barren strawberry, ferns, and ajuga or carpet bugle might be used. Just make sure they don't escape into adjacent lawn areas, as some like the carpet bugle can take over these areas too.