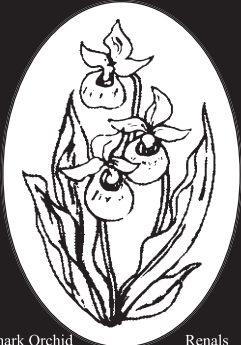


March 2012 Newsletter



*But maybe March is better
When all is done and said:
St. Patrick brings a promise,
A four-leaf-clover promise,
A green-all-over promise
Of springtime just ahead!*

*- Aileen Fisher,
Wearing of the Green*



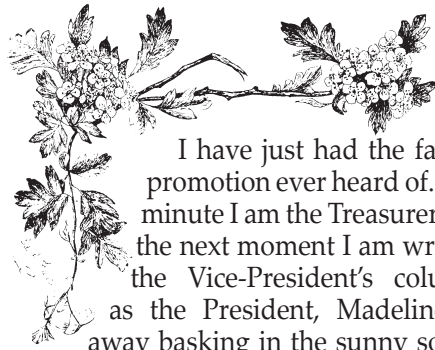
Lanark Orchid

Renals

**Perth & District
Horticultural
Society**

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

District #2 of the
Ontario Horticultural
Association



VICE-PRESIDENT'S PEN

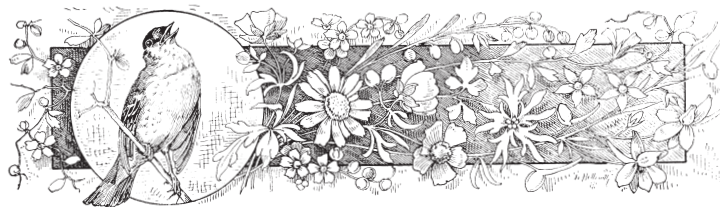
I have just had the fastest promotion ever heard of. One minute I am the Treasurer and the next moment I am writing the Vice-President's column, as the President, Madeline, is away basking in the sunny south, whacking the ball around. I hear that she has had rain to contend with, but better that than snow!!

This month the Youth Committee is gearing up for the Youth Programme – biggest number of students ever. I am told there are over 240!! Hard to believe that in 1994 it was hard to get two schools to give us time over the student's lunch hour – a class in each school – and we contended with kids eating lunch and talking to everyone but the instructor. Finally, the schools have realized that we will be running out of food with the change in weather and all the farmers going high tech and their wives working full time and no time for gardens. The same problem happened

with construction workers in the mid-80s when the Ontario government of the time decided to close all the woodworking classes in high schools and within ten years you couldn't find an electrician without having your name on a list for 6 months. Here we are with a brand-new technology school at Algonquin, both in Perth and Ottawa, and the seams are busting with students wanting to become carpenters, plumbers and electricians. Hopefully Algonquin will start a horticultural and landscaping course in Perth. Let's hope all our efforts will pay off with these young children. There are enough new lawns in front of new houses to keep them busy.

Over twenty horticultural members have 'stepped to the fore' to lead or help out at these classes. Why not volunteer – it's only for one hour a day, one day a week for six weeks. You never know – you might enjoy it!!!

*Margo Fulford, Treasurer,
Vice-President and general 'Dogs Body'*



Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina the morning.....

And the last few weeks have reinforced Al Jolson's song as bulbs bloom, azalea bushes strut their showy colours and camellias dominate and soothe the landscape. Of course the Carolinas are several weeks ahead of us and gardeners are already getting dirty. In fact, a bike ride to the community gardens in Hilton Head gave us an opportunity for a lengthy discussion with one devoted gardener who was busily harvesting a plentiful harvest of brussel sprouts. As is common with gardeners anywhere, she offered us some to take home. Sharing their bounty, whether it is produce, cuttings or seeds

is something that gardeners the world over do innately.

Another wonderful occupation we enjoy here is to bike ride. One can ride on the beach, keeping an eye out for dolphins or watching the pelicans fish – what amazing birds they are – or on bike paths that are canopied with boughs of live oaks dripping with moss as well as the deciduous trees decorated with big balls of mistletoe.

It truly is a wonderful place to be and Al is right in that nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the morning!!!!!!

Madeline Archer



President: Madeline Archer
Secretary: Pam Pratt • **Newsletter:** Pam Pratt, Irene Hofmann

April Meeting Change

Our Yearbook lists Suzanne Patry as our speaker for April but unfortunately she is unable to come. Luckily, we were able to book David Priest who will discuss "Garden Design Patterns". David will show us how the elements of garden design - form, foliage and flowers - when combined, develop beautiful designs in the garden. David is a very engaging and entertaining speaker so don't miss him on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. here in the Library.

Yearbook 2012

Have you looked, I mean REALLY looked at the Yearbook you were given when you joined the PDHS this year? It is a gem. From the cover illustration by a PDCI student to the detailed information contained within, it is something PDHS can be really proud to call our own. While many people contributed to writing the Yearbook, it was Linda Bartlett who designed the layout, edited, proofread, selected photographs and arranged for printing and production of the publication. It is truly a product of her hard work. So, take a good look at your Yearbook and read all the valuable information in there. After that, if you see Linda Bartlett, compliment her on a job well done.

April In-House Flower Show

April marks the start of flower show season here at the PDHS and we would love to see as many members as possible participating at our general meetings. Start your own collection of ribbons to show off. You don't need to be an expert - you just need to have a little daring and some imagination!

The is the schedule for our April meeting:

Section I: Horticultural Specimen

Class 1 - African Violet - any colour, single flower

Class 2 - African Violet - any colour, semi or double flower

Class 3 - African Violet - miniature, any colour

Class 4 - Narcissus trumpet, one

cultivar - 3 scapes

Class 5 - Narcissus small cup, one cultivar - 3 scapes

Class 6 - Narcissus large cup, one cultivar - 3 scapes

Class 7 - Narcissus double, one cultivar - 3 scapes

Class 8 - Spring bulb, other than narcissus - 1 stem

Section II: Design

Class 9 - "After the Snow" - a waterviewing design (see definitions in Yearbook)

Class 10 - "Signs of Spring" - a miniature design (see definitions in Yearbook)

Your 2012 Yearbook is a great source of information on the in-house flower shows if you want to participate. It outlines the "rules" and explains and defines terms. If you have questions, approach Madeline Archer, Linda Bartlett or Janet Cain for information - all are design whizzes! We also have a number of Lanark Master Gardeners in our group who would also be happy to help.

Spring Pruning Seminar

On Saturday, April 21, a pruning seminar will be offered for PDHS members. Attendance will be limited to 10 (first come, first signed on!). The session will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and the location is somewhat out of town, so car pooling will be in order; details later. The seminar will deal with pruning deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs and touch on grasses and perennials where appropriate. Participants should bring their own secateurs (pruning shears).

Those interested should contact the seminar leader, **Sam Kingdon**, at pat.samk@sympatico.ca as soon as possible.

Library News

by Kevin Long

Winter is a great time for reading! Head over to our library cabinet to sign out books and magazines, including these three that we are highlighting this month.

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle:

(641.0973 Kin) by Barbara Kingsolver. Read about this family



PDHS 2012 Executive

President:

Madeline Archer

Vice President/Treasurer:

Margo Fulford

Secretary/Communications/

Publicity: Pam Pratt

Membership:

David Archer

Community Gardens/Plant Sale:

Lynda Haddon

Yearbook/Website Chair/Youth:

Linda Bartlett

Liaison/IT/AV/Guest & School Liaison: Ted Bryant

Library: Kevin Long

Programs: Madeline Archer

Social: Janet Osbourne

Member-At-Large:

Carolle Anne Armour

Newsletter:

Pam Pratt / Irene Hofmann

Phone Tree: Margo Fulford/

Carolle Anne Armour

who took the 'hundred mile diet' to the extreme. For one whole year they vowed to eat only food which they raised themselves or bought in their local neighbourhood. An enjoyable book which will challenge you with some thought-provoking ideas.

Classic Flower Arranging (745.922 Wes)

by Pamela Westland. If you have ever thought you'd like to learn more about flower arranging, then this is the book for you. Full of beautiful photographs, it gives you step-by-step directions for making floral arrangements that will cause people to say "Wow!"

Perennial Ground Covers (635.932 Mac)

by David S. MacKenzie. Perhaps you have a section of your lawn where the grass is not growing well and you would like to try something different. This book explores the many types of ground covers that are available. Explore them now and then you may be ready to try something new this spring.

Peterborough Garden Show 2012

The Peterborough Garden Show in 2012 will take place on Easter Weekend, April 5-7, running from 5 pm Thursday to 4 pm Saturday at the Evinrude Centre, 911 Monaghan Road, Peterborough. Admission is only \$6 for this fun event. There will be free parking and shuttle bus service every 15 minutes Friday and Saturday to and from the Kinsmen Centre, Sherbrooke St., W., and Clonsilla Ave. The 2011 show was a great success with nearly 8,000 visitors and 175 booths of vendors and exhibitors all with gardening-related products and services spread over two arenas. This is a great day out and Peterborough is just up the road so please consider a visit to support our neighbouring horticultural society. For more information visit their website at: www.peterboroughgardens.ca.

"Go Local!" 2013

As President Madeline Archer explained at our general meeting in February, the PDHS is planning a "GO LOCAL!" fair tentatively scheduled for January 26, 2013 at St. John's Secondary School in Perth.

The objective of the "GO LOCAL!" fair is to provide local producers, artisans and businesses as well as environmental groups and other organizations with an opportunity to showcase local products and services and provide a venue for them to co-operate in promoting the local economy. Our parameters for vendors and exhibitors will be limited to the Town of Perth and environs, within a 50 km radius.

We also plan to have several speakers and workshops which will also reflect the "local" theme of the fair. Homemade soup and chili, prepared by volunteer members of the PDHS will be sold to the public along with the products exhibited by the vendors.

Several PDHS members attended the "Living Locally Fair" in Russell (www.russellgardeners.ca/livinglocallyfair/) this past January and saw for themselves how beneficial this day was for the town of Russell. The fair was popular and exceptionally well attended which lead us to believe that we can duplicate its success in our area.

Part of our mandate that qualifies us as a "Horticultural Society" in Ontario and ensures we are given a grant from the provincial government is to undertake projects that benefit the community and include the community in an educational way. We think the "GO LOCAL FAIR" is a good opportunity to fulfill part of our mandate in a fun way.

We are currently in the planning stages of this event and believe it will give great exposure to our local and surrounding businesses. We expect to draw visitors from all of Lanark and beyond for the day which can also benefit other businesses in Perth. January can be a quiet month and people often are looking for a reason to get out of the house - what better way to spend an Saturday than at the "GO LOCAL" Fair in Perth?

March Gardening Chores

The early part of March is usually still too cold and wet for major work in your garden. In the second half of the month, spring clean up can get underway. Indoors you can start seeds for many flowers and vegetables. It is a terrific time to start cuttings from the annuals you saved last fall—Fuschia, Ivy and geraniums are eager to get growing. Starting your Begonia tubers now will give you beautiful blooms much, much earlier.

Outdoor March chores:

- Clean and oil your tools if you didn't do it in the fall.
- March is generally too early for planting container-grown plants. Bare root plants may be available in March and if your beds are workable, they can be planted at this time. They can also be planted in containers in March to allow them to get acclimatized. Once they are established a bit, they can be planted into the garden later.
- Remove any evergreen bough mulch but keep handy in case of emergency cold weather. It's best to

do this on a cloudy day to prevent burning of tender pale growth.

- Remove any other winter mulch from the crowns of the perennials but leave the mulch on the ground surrounding the plants for a couple of weeks.
- Press back into the ground any perennials that frost heaved over the winter.
- Fertilize the gardens at the end of March to early April.
- Top dress the beds late March.
- Touch up mulching can be done at end of March.
- Cut back plants that were left for winter interest.
- Check broadleaf evergreen plants and remove any dead leaves.

Lanark County Master Gardeners

Treasurer's Report

FEBRUARY 1 – 29, 2012

Ledger Balance – January 31, 2012 **\$ 1,855.43**

RECEIPTS:

Bank Interest .01 + .01

EXPENSES:

Speaker Fee \$ 75.00
Office Supplies 44.80
Miscellaneous 50.00 - \$ 169.80

Balance February 29, 2012 \$ 1,685.64

Houseplants Spring Cleaning

Now that spring has sprung, its time to take a good look at some of your houseplants that have endured

the long cold winter. Most houseplants are tropical and require high humidity and warm temperatures, which they most likely will not get in the colder climate regions. The plan is to keep them thriving thru the winter in a restful stage until the warmer weather comes along. With days getting brighter and longer, a new growing season is beginning.

It's time to do some spring cleaning.

Check the pot size. Is your plant potbound? Does it have crammed roots? Are they wrapped around in circle? If so, replant in a 1 inch larger size pot loosening the roots so that they can stretch out.

Check for insects.

The dry , warm temperatures indoors is a perfect environment for spider mites. To check for mites, look for webs in the axils of the leaves. Place the plant or leaf on white sheet of paper, tap the leaf, see if there are any small black spots that are slowly moving, if so, you should spray the entire plant and underside of leaves with a safe indoor insecticide. Follow manufacturer's directions. An alternative (depending on the type of plant) is to clean each leaf with insecticidal soap or if you can, give the entire plant a soapy bath. Both methods will require additional treatments within 7-10 days.

Rotate the plant to ensure even sun exposure; this way you will have a nicely shaped plant.

Water when the plant is dry not according to a timed schedule. Warmer temperatures and active growth will increase the need for water.

Fertilize

Once temperatures get warmer and the plant begins to actively grow, start feeding with a diluted fertilizer or fish emulsion. Fish emulsion is not as strong as a chemical fertilizer and therefore is less likely to burn the roots or lead to soluble salt buildup.

Now your plant is ready for a new healthy growing season!



March bustles in on windy feet
And sweeps my doorstep and my street.
She washes and cleans with pounding rains,
Scrubbing the earth of winter stains.
She shakes the grime from carpet green
Till naught but fresh new blades are seen.
Then, house in order, all neat as a pin,
She ushers gentle springtime in.

- Susan Reiner,
Spring Cleaning