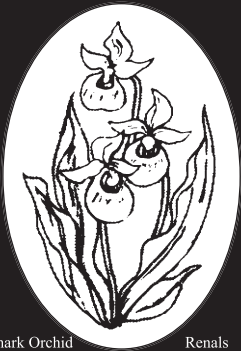


# March 2013 Newsletter



Gardens are  
a form of  
autobiography  
- Sydney  
Eddison



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

THE PERTH  
&  
DISTRICT



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

## Community Foundation Grant for Junior Gardeners

The Perth & District Horticultural Society has been fortunate enough to be the recipients of a \$1500 grant for our Junior Gardener Program for 2013 from the Perth & District Community Foundation.

This grant will assist us in covering the costs of our popular program for over 200 local schoolchildren starting this April for six weeks. Our costs vary from flowers, greenery, earth and seeds to workbooks, plant logs and speciality bowls for our cactus gardens.

The Perth & District Community Foundation is a local, incorporated charitable public foundation serving western Lanark County. It is one of a number of Community Foundations in Eastern Ontario including Ottawa, Brockville, Kingston and Napanee.

The mission of the Foundation is to work within the greater community in order to build a permanent fund to enrich the quality of life throughout the western half of Lanark County. The Foundation encourages philanthropy and provides a focus for those who want to make a lasting contribution to their community.

The PDHS, represented by Pam Pratt and Linda Bartlett, received the cheque at an AGM and Grant Recipient luncheon held at the Stone Cellar on February 21, 2013.



### Grow Your Own

Our next meeting in April will present "Plant, Grow, Eat - Grow Your Own Vegetables" with our own Dale Odorizzi, Master Gardener. Join us on April 9 when Dale will help us plan our vegetable gardens and give advice on the best types and growing techniques.

### Legion Ladies Auxiliary Dinner

The Legion has once again asked us to create the table centrepieces for their Annual Ladies Auxiliary Dinner on May 7, 2013. If you would like to participate this year and wow the Legion with your design capabilities, please contact Linda Bartlett or Madeline Walker to sign up.

### Seedy Sunday

Seedy Sunday was a great success this year. The PDHS had a table where Barb Michie sold her garden seeds for donations to our Junior Gardener Program. Her seeds will be on sale at the break this evening and all proceeds go to Junior Gardeners. Thank you Barb for your hard work and generous spirit!

Many people at Seedy Sunday expressed an interest in our club and others hope to join. Our pictures of our school children and their cactus gardens and Mother's Day arrangements generated a lot of interest. Thanks to volunteers, Janet Cain, Kathy Allen, Carolle Anne Armour, Barb Michie, Pam Pratt and Linda Bartlett.



**President:** Madeline Archer

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

## Library News

by Kevin Long, Librarian

As we enter another gardening season, keep our library in mind if you have questions. We may have a book that can give you information on how to grow a certain plant, or how to deal with pests or diseases. Our magazines contain good articles on how to plan your garden, and may introduce you to plants you might not have considered before. The printed word can be a great way to get you in the mood for putting your hands into soil again.

## New Books in the Library

Mary Vandenhoff has generously donated some new gardening books from her Nature Lover's Bookstore. Kevin Long will have them ready for the Library in April for those who are interested in garden design, water features, container gardening, etc.

Thank you Mary!

## Junior Gardeners

The Junior Gardener Program is getting started for 2013. Janet Cain, our Co-ordinator, is busy planting seedlings for our plant libraries. If you have any plants which need potting up, contact Janet at the break to arrange delivery of your plants. If you have already potted up some plants arrange with Janet about delivery.

If you are interested in volunteer-ing in the schools, please see Janet ASAP. It's lots of fun and the children are very keen to participate.

We are also still collecting Canadian Tire Money for the Junior Gardeners. While we are lucky enough to have received a grant for our program, it still won't cover all of our costs so bring it in and give it to Janet.

## Garden Design Workshop -- April 27, 2013

On April 27, 2013, Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton are hosting a day-long, intensive garden design workshop at Canadian Air Force Base Uplands. This day is intended for gardeners at all skill levels who are interested in making changes to their garden. Proceeds from the day will support the educational activities of Ottawa-area Master Gardeners, and registration is limited. In addition to four formal information sessions, participants will also benefit from one-on-one advice offered by Master

Gardeners. Seating is limited so register now at: <http://mgottawa.mgoi.ca/forms/designworkshop.php>  
or Email: [register@mgottawa.mgoi.ca](mailto:register@mgottawa.mgoi.ca)

## Square Foot Gardening Workshop

Carolyn Klickermann is willing to run a Square Foot Gardening Workshop in anyone's home backyard this spring.

A workshop would consist of a minimum of 10 folks (excluding the host) @ \$10. each for a 2 hour workshop covering the concepts of Square Foot Gardening, demonstrating the building of the box, mixing the soil as well as Q&A and a free draw. With the coming of the longer daylight hours in April, an evening workshop could be held during the week or any day through the week (except Sunday) morning or afternoon. You can contact Carolyn directly at 613-256-3314 or by email [cklickermann@hotmail.com](mailto:cklickermann@hotmail.com) the sooner the better as she gets booked quickly after March 15th!

## 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 - "Reflections" - a waterviewing design (see definitions in Yearbook)
- Class 10 - "New Growth" - a small design using material from your garden
- Class 11 - "He Popped the Question" - a satellite design

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.

## Monthly Financial Statement

### FEBRUARY 1 - 28, 2013

Ledger Balance	
– January 31, 2013	\$ 1,250.77

#### RECEIPTS –

Donations – General Fund	\$ 52.00
Membership	175.00
Bank Interest (Jan)	.01
OHA Conf/Meetings	<u>20.00</u>
	+ 247.01

#### EXPENSES –

Meeting Expenses	\$ 31.64
Speakers	75.00
Office Supplies	29.32
Misc. Donations	40.00
Miscellaneous	<u>7.34</u>
	- 183.30

Balance February 28, 2013	\$ 1,314.48
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Reserve Fund –	
GIC due July 4, 2013	\$ 2,500.00
	\$ 3,814.48

## Phalaenopsis Orchids

(the ones in the Grocery Store!)

Considered one of the easier orchids to grow and available in nurseries, grocery and hardware stores, these beautiful, colourful and stunning plants will bloom for months, rest then do it all again. As with any plants, there are some critical, but easy, care requirements.

#### Light:

- need bright, indirect light. Avoid mid-day sunlight, especially in summer.
- Foliage should be semi-erect, leathery and medium olive-green. Dark green, limp leaves indicate not enough light.

#### Temperatures:

- daytime 21-29°C
- cooler night time 15-18°C, a lower night time temperature initiates the production of a flower spike (13°C).

#### Water:

- do not have pseudobulbs that store water, so cannot be allowed to dry out completely between waterings.
- if potted in bark, water approximately every 5-7 days when dry 2 cm below surface.
- if planted in sphagnum moss, it may need water every 10 days of whenever it dries out 5 cm below the surface.
- plastic pots hold moisture longer than clay.
- water in the mornings so that water in centre of plant can dry out before dark, avoiding crown rot.

#### Humidity:

- require a fairly high humidity about 50-70%. Misting in the morning helps a lot.

#### Fertilizer:

- need to be fed regularly. Schultz Water Soluble Plant Food for Orchids 19-31-17 provides strong growth. Follow the instructions.

#### Repotting:

- growing medium breaks down with constant watering so need to be repotted every 1-2 years.
- best time to repot is late spring or fall when blooming is complete.
- use a well-drained orchid mix.
- they produce new leaves at the top rather than the base, so rarely outgrow their present size of pot.

#### What to Watch Out For

- relatively pest free.
- spider mite, scale, mealy bugs and aphids can sometimes infest plants. Spray several times with Safer’s Insecticidal Soap.
- sudden temperature changes and cold drafts can cause flower buds to drop.
- mature plants which fail to bloom can be encouraged if given 2 months with 10°C nights in the fall

*Adapted from a brochure by Sheridan Nurseries, Toronto  
www.sheridannurseries.com*

## Pruning Clematis

There are 3 types of clematis:

**Group A** - Mainly evergreen, found in the Zones 6 to 9 and bloom early in spring. They respond best to some grooming to keep the vine tidy. Remove any dead stems.

**Group B** - (e.g. Nellie Moser) In late winter or early spring, when you see leaf buds starting to swell, remove all dead leaves that may still be clinging to the stems. Cut away any dead or broken branches with no new buds swelling. At this stage, stand back and look at what remains. Does the vine fit the trellis? If not, trim off some of the branches which are sticking out. If it looks thin, bend several long stems back onto the trellis and tie them in place with strips of



fabric (which will not cut through the branch surface). If any areas are too thick, thin out a few branches. As the flowers fade and new growth develops, train the new growth back onto the trellis for more blooms later in the season.

**Group C** - Blooms mostly on new growth so this clematis is a late spring, early summer bloomer. Stay strong when pruning! As soon as new sprouts start to swell, cut all of the stems down to within a foot of the ground. It will break your heart, but go for it. Cutting back encourages more flowers on the stems.

## Getting Growing

In general, annuals and vegetables germinate quickly and are easy to grow, so if you are just getting started, these are your best bet. Annuals tend to germinate at temperatures between 64 to 70°F (18 to 21°C), but many perennials need cold treatment to break dormancy.

In the real world outside, they lie on the ground all winter and then sprout when the weather warms in spring. You can mimic this in the refrigerator or outside in a cold frame.

### What to use as a growing mix

For sowing, use a commercial starting medium (a mix of peat, perlite and vermiculite, such as Pro-Mix). Moisten it an hour or so before sowing. It should not be soggy - aim for the moisture of a wrung-out sponge.

As general rule, sow seeds about as far below the growing mix as they are large. Big ones generally should be covered with growing mix, and tiny ones barely need to be covered.

If light is needed for germination, do not cover them at all - just press them into the growing mix.

Give all trays or pots a light watering and cover with a plastic dome lid or seal the container inside a plastic bag. Newly sprouted seedlings tend to look alike, so be sure to label containers as you sow.

### Sprouted seedlings

Small ones can be tricky. A simple solution is fold a piece of paper and then pour the contents of your packet into the fold and tap the end of the paper lightly so that the contents can slide off onto your germination mix. If they still stick, sprinkle them with a bit of baby powder to reduce static cling.

### Caring for your baby plants

As soon as you notice germination, remove the plastic dome or plastic bag. Make sure seedlings have plenty of light. Grow lights are ideal. Check daily for moisture, but avoid over-watering.

### Caring for sprouted seedlings

When you notice germination and seedlings beginning to grow, remove the plastic dome or plastic bag over your planting trays. Check daily for moisture, but avoid the temptation to over-water.

Soggy soil, excess warmth and poor air circulation can lead to damping off, a common fungal disease that can kill baby plants. Prevention goes a long way, and you can use a fungicide called No Damp to help combat this.

Most young plants grow best at day-time temperatures between 70 to 75°F (21° to 24°C) and night-time temperatures between 55 to 65°F (13° to 18°C).

For healthy, bushy growth, tiny sprouts need plenty of light, and they're more likely to get it under fluorescent lights than on a windowsill. You don't have to use expensive grow lights: ordinary cool-white 40-watt fluorescent tubes do nicely, as the young plants will only need to grow under them for a few weeks. Shop lights that hang from chains on a light stand are ideal. The chains allow you to adjust the lights to keep them right above the seedlings. This helps prevent plants from growing weak, spindly stems and from stretching too tall. Set your lights on an automatic timer set to be on for 18 hours and off for six hours.

*Yvonne Cunnington, Flower Gardening Made Easy*



## It's a Snap!

*A series of tips on garden photography.*

### Look Like A Genius

Great professional photographers share only their best photos. When you get your photos back from the developer or uploaded to your computer, examine them as if you don't remember why you took them, and evaluate each image. Is the focus sharp? Are the colors rich? Does the frame feel dynamic? Does the eye go to the heart of the photo, or does it wander off the edge? Throw away or delete any photos that have flaws.

Exploring a garden with your eyes attuned to photographic possibilities won't only give you better pictures. It will give you a more intimate understanding of beauty—by design and by happy accident—in the garden.