

Lanark Orchid

Renals

Perth & District Horticultural Society

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District #2 of the
Ontario Horticultural
Association

May 2011 Newsletter

Your first job is to prepare the soil. The best tool for this is your neighbour's garden tiller. If your neighbour does not own a garden tiller, suggest that he buy one.

~Dave Barry

President's Pen

You've no doubt been following the water ban in three Ottawa South areas. We are spoiled in Canada and have always benefitted from a good supply of water and when we are asked to tighten our belts and curb the water flow, some people are not pleased about it. Further, it may not always be clear how to do so. My daughter, on a trip to Israel, had a water bottle about one-quarter full. She walked over to a plant and dumped it as the stopover included refilling water bottles with cold water. She was immediately given a dressing down by a trip guide: "Why are you wasting that water? Just add cold water to what you already have!" In a hot country such as Israel, water is a precious commodity which is doled out carefully, stored, saved when it is plentiful and plants are watered when they can get the most benefit from what is available. Here are some watering tips that we all need to keep in mind:

- Don't water on a windy day. Too much is blown off the target area and/or evaporates in the wind.
- Water in the evening so that the plants have the whole night to take up as much as they can. An alternative could be early in the morning.
- Never water mid-day as the evaporation rate is very high and tender plants with water droplets can burn as the heat of the sun refracts through them.
- Have at least one rain barrel, or if possible two, even if you have a well, it never hurts to save rain water.
- Don't wash down your driveway. It is a huge waste of water and sweeping it, even though a little more labour intensive, is a great exercise. We cannot continue to have an abundance of clean water at the rate we are going through it. If we all did our little bit to conserve, it would make a world of difference.

See you in the garden, *Lynda*



Upcoming

- **May 21:** Annual Plant Sale
- **June 14:** Open Forum with the Master Gardeners and Summer Social Evening

Annual Plant Sale

Spring appears to be arriving finally. The robins are nesting, the grass is getting its first mowing and those faithful perennials are pushing their way through the surface of the earth to begin another celebration of summer. This then is the time to take your shovel to them.

No, not the robins or your lawn but the perennials. That new growth is just asking to be divided, giving it the chance to rejuvenate and grow stronger. Maybe some of it in another garden,

giving pleasure to someone else. It could even help to fund our society's programs.

You probably have grasped the message by now, Yes we need plant donations for our annual Plant Sale. We do not only sell perennials but also annuals, vegetables, shrubs, trees, house plants, water garden plants and summer bulbs. If you have a surplus of any of these we would be delighted to include them in the sale. Please pot them up as soon as possible to get them established and looking their best for the sale. Label them and bring them to the Stewart School gymnasium between 4 and 7 pm on Friday, May 20th.

The sale will take place on Saturday, May 21 from 8 to 11 a.m. If you are not donating plants, then please come and find some bargains to add to your



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Secretary: Pam Pratt

Newsletter: Pam Pratt, Irene Hofmann

own garden, and tell your neighbours and friends of our sale.

There will also be plants from the greenhouses of Sylvia Van Oort. The Lanark County Master Gardeners will be joining us again this year with plants and advice.

Any of our organic rose fertiliser mix left over from this meeting will also be sold.

We will also need volunteers to help with the set up on Friday and the sale on Saturday.

Unfortunately, the chrysanthemum cuttings will be late arriving this year and it looks like they will not be ready for the sale. They will however be ready for our members at the June meeting.

Please help to make this another great sale by contributing some plants.

David Archer.

Popular Rose Mix On The Menu Again

Our popular rose mix, that magical mixture that makes your roses bloom and bloom will be on sale at our May meeting for \$1 per bag. If you haven't used this on your roses, you haven't lived. We have 200 bags for sale. Any leftover bags will be sold at our annual Plant Sale on May 21, 2011 at Stewart School. First come gets bloomin' roses!

June Meeting

Don't forget the fun meeting planned for June 14, 2011. We will have an Open Forum with the Master Gardeners who will all be vying to answer your questions and give you their expert advice. Start thinking and saving up your questions. Maybe you will get great advice or maybe you will stump the panel!

The June meeting will also feature the "super-duper" flower show and will be a Social evening with all sorts of events planned and a variety of delectable desserts. Everyone is encouraged to bring a little of your specialty dessert to share. Since the event is environmentally friendly, bring your own mug, plate, fork and spoon. It should be lots of fun.

OHA Allium Bulb Fundraiser

The Ontario Horticultural Association is once again selling premium allium bulbs as a fundraiser to benefit all Horticultural Societies in Ontario. This will, of course, include PDHS. Bulb orders can be

placed any time until May 30, 2011. Contact Kathy Allen or see her at social time to place your order. The bulbs will be delivered in early September ready for planting in the Fall.

Purple Sensation is a beautiful Allium with dark purple flowers from 70-90 cm tall. Each bulb is 70 – 90 cm tall. 10 per package - \$5.00

Bulgaricum is also 70-90 cm tall and has pastel hued flowers. 10 per package - \$5.00

His Excellence is a towering 90 cm with bluish lilac flowers. 1 per package - \$5.00

Sphaerocephalon is smaller at 60 cm with vibrant magenta flowers. 50 per package - \$5.00

June PDHS In-house Super-duper Flower Show

June will be our super-duper flower show and we are hoping as many people as possible participate. Never participated? Don't be shy – you may be surprised to win a ribbon for your efforts and show off any gardening talent.

You can find the flower show details on page 7 of your 2011 PDHS Yearbook but just to remind you:

Section 1: Horticultural Specimen

Class 1 - Poppy, double 3 blooms

Class 2 - Poppy, single, 3 blooms

Class 3 - Peony single, 1 stem

Class 4 - Peony double, 1 stem

Class 5 - Collection of Peonies

Class 6 - Bearded Iris, 1 spike

Class 7 - Bearded Iris dwarf, 1 spike

Class 8 - Siberian Iris, 1 spike

Class 9 - Any Rose, 1 stem or spray

Class 10 - Lupine, 1 spike

Class 11 - Columbine, 1 stalk

Class 12 - Any other perennial, named, 3 stems

Class 13 - Rhubarb, 3 stalks

Class 14 - Leaf vegetable, 3 stems

Class 15 - Collection of Herbs, minimum 3, named

Section II: Design

Class 16 - "Summer Solstice" – an interpretative design

Class 17 - "Northern Lights" – a synergistic design

Class 18 - "Shooting Stars" – a line design

Section III: Special Exhibit

Class 19 - Dish Garden – minimum 2 plants

Descriptions of rules, definitions and hints or tips can all be found in the Yearbook. Why not give it a try?

David Archer And Linda Bartlett

David Archer of the PDHS, who has been serving on the OHA District 2 Executive as an Assistant Director stepped down at the recent AGM in Pakenham. Linda Bartlett of the PDHS has agreed to fill the vacant position for the new term. Thank you, David, for all your hard work and congratulations Linda on accepting your new challenge.

PDHS Library

Do you know that Kevin Long is our official librarian? Sometimes he can be a lonely man waiting for customers at the library case! Don't forget to check out our great selection of books and magazines that can be borrowed by all members. The June 2011 edition of "Fine Gardening" has now arrived so find Kevin during social time and peruse the library.

Rain Barrel Report

I am happy to report that we sold 121 rain barrels during this event. The pick-up was on Saturday April 30. The few that were not collected on that day should all be with their new owners by the time you read this. We could have sold more but did not want to be

burdened with inventory after the event.

With all of the awful weather that we have had recently we were really fortunate to have two good days for receiving and dispersing the barrels. For those who installed them promptly we arranged for some rain to fill them. But it can stop now, pleeeeeease!!!

There were a number of people who helped Dale Odorizzi and myself with this project who deserve recognition. Aileen Conboy signed up new members, Renai Rennick helped check people in, Tom Lynch helped hand out the barrels and Gerda Franssen from Master Gardeners gave valuable installation demonstrations. Barbara Smith took orders while Dale and I were away in the winter, helped unload the truck, took and kept track of the money and handled the paperwork. Judy Wall allowed us the use of her garden centre for the distribution and Brian Perkin helped us get the word out on Lake 88. This is by no means an exhaustive list as others helped, including the volunteers who arrived to unload the truck only to find the job done because the truck arrived early.

We do not have financial results at this time as there are still some beans to count, but it should definitely help the coffers of our society and the Lanark County Master Gardeners, with whom this was a joint effort. Many people bought rain barrels at an excellent price and we have done a little bit to help the environment.

David Archer



Ask A Master Gardener

Dear Master Gardeners: My daffodils were just beautiful this year. Do I need to do anything now so they will be as beautiful next year?

Daffy about Daffodils

Dear Daffy: You are so right that now is the time to help your Daffodils bloom again next year. First of all, if you have not already done so, cut off the flower stem. You want the energy to go into the bulb, not into seeds. Feed your plants with compost or bone meal. A nice inch of compost around your bulbs will provide a meal for your plants. Finally, be sure to let the leaves die down naturally. This is essential to keep your bulbs healthy. Some older books recommend braiding the leaves to keep them looking neat. This is now viewed negatively. As my leaves die back, about once per week, I tug gently on the leaves. If they come off easily, I pull them off.

At our June Horticultural Society Meeting, we will have a special Ask a Master Gardener segment. A number of Master Gardeners will be present who can answer your questions directly.

If you have a plant you would like to have identified, bring as much information about the plant as you can. If you have a photo (.jpg format is fine), bring it. If you want to bring a piece of stem with 2-3 leaves, that is helpful. If you do not like to ask questions in public, we will welcome any written questions. Hopefully everyone will come with lots of questions to test our group. Of course, if you have a question that just can't wait, send it to us at lanarkmg@gmail.com or 613 267-7272.

If you have any questions, send an email to lanarkmg@gmail.com or call Dale 264-8135, Renai 267-7272 or Kevin 279-2098.

Rain Barrel Installation

Congratulations if you are now a proud owner of one of the 121 Rain Barrels we sold at the Great Lanark Rain Barrel Sale.

Installation

- 1) Ensure the ground beneath the rain barrel is firm and level
- 2) Cut the downspout 4 to 6 inches above the top of the barrel
- 3) Install a short flexible pipe or a downspout elbow onto the cut downspout to direct water into the top of the barrel
- 4) Keep the remaining portion of the downspout so it can be reconnected when the rain barrel is winterized.
- 5) Run the overflow either back into the drain or into a nearby garden. Additional lengths of 1.5 inch sump pump overflow hose can be purchased at most hardware stores.

Operating Instructions

Place the rain barrel filter basket under a downspout and connect a garden hose to the bottom ball-valve spigot. You can elevate your rain barrel by placing it on cement block to increase pressure resulting from gravity. One end of the T-shaped overflow adaptor is closed and can be opened to allow a second rain barrel to be connected in series.

Maintenance

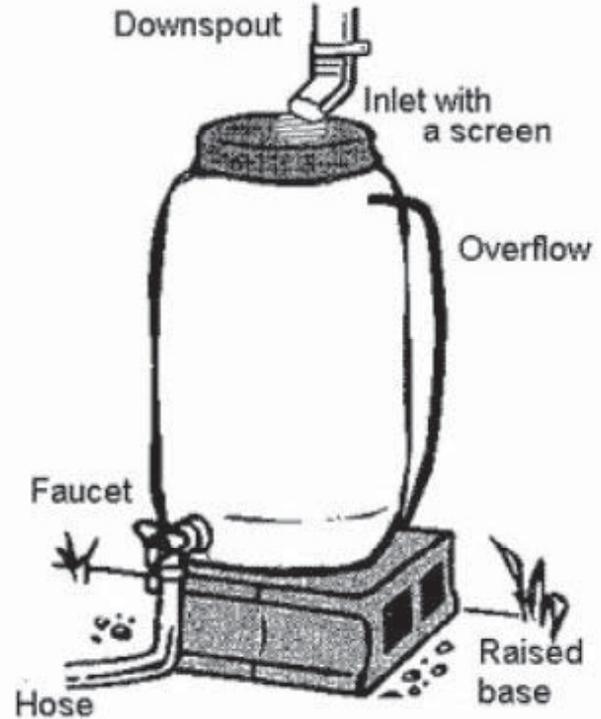
Maintenance includes clearing debris from the filter basket on occasion. Before winter the rain barrel should be disconnected, emptied, the bottom ball valve left in the open position and the rain barrel should be rinsed with a garden hose. Storage indoors is recommended but if left outside it must not contain any fluids. Frozen fluids could damage the rain barrel and/or bottom ball-valve and void the warranty.

Enjoy—Your Plants definitely will!

Stay Off The Garden!

We have had so much rain in the last few weeks that it has been impossible to get spring clean up done. As soon as the first rays of sun appear everyone will be eager to get into the garden and start digging. Resist the temptation until we have had some dry weather. Walking on and digging in wet soil will cause soil compaction. Compaction is a problem because it can affect plant growth. When soil is compacted the pores or spaces in the soil are compressed and that can affect root growth, drainage and air circulation. If your soil is clay-like or heavy the compaction will be especially severe if you work it when it is wet. If you must walk in the beds take a board with you and stand or kneel on it to spread your weight over a larger area. Putting stepping stones throughout your beds is also a good idea because you can work from the stepping stones to weed or trim without damaging the soil structure.

White House Perennials newsletter



Treasurer's Report

March 1 to March 31, 2011

Balance February 28, 2011 \$4,217.19

Receipts:

Memberships	\$240.00	
OHA conf/meetings	200.00	
Bank Interest	.01	
Miscellaneous	<u>480.00</u>	
	\$920.01	\$920.01

Expenses:

Youth Activities	\$210.25	
Speaker Fees	150.00	
Meeting Expenses	63.28	
Fees dues/ins.	12.00	
Donations	40.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>35.00</u>	
	\$830.53	\$830.53

Balance March 31, 2011 \$4,306.67

Bank Balance March 31, 20110	\$2,414.23	
Reserve Fund	<u>2,500.00</u>	
	\$4,914.23	

Outstanding cheques	\$(25.31)	
	(12.00)	
	(40.00)	
	(320.00)	
	(207.92)	
	<u>\$(2.33)</u>	
	\$4,306.67	