

# May 2016 Newsletter

"If it's drama that you sigh for, plant a garden and you'll get it. You will know the thrill of battle fighting foes that will beset it. If you long for entertainment and for pageantry most glowing, plant a garden and this summer spend your time with green things growing."

-Edward A. Guest, *Plant a Garden*



## From the President's Pen

Okay, now I am excited! We can finally get out and play in our gardens. The local nurseries are abounding with new shrubs, trees, annuals and perennials. For me, it's kind of like a child in a candy store as I tend to get so tempted while I look through all the new flowers and I keep putting more into my basket with the promise that I can fit them into my already full gardens. I keep forgetting how wide or tall they can grow but

that doesn't seem to matter as I become mesmerized by the beauty before me.

Lots to do but as we busily work outdoors, we feel alive. The smells and sounds open in us new dreams and make us feel inspired. We can only imagine how beautiful our gardens will become in the coming weeks. So to all my gardening friends, embrace this season as we start fresh with great expectations; but most of all, have fun.

Jane Law



## Upcoming

**June 14, 2016 -**  
Question & Answer with  
Master Gardeners  
Summer Social

### Summer Garden Visits Of PDHS Members' Gardens

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

**July 19, 2016 -** Richard Catchpaw  
454 Keays Road, Balderson

**August 9, 2016 -** Noreen Tyers  
10 Victoria Street, Perth

## Annual Plant Sale

The 2016 Plant Sale occurs on  
Saturday, May 21 at The Stewart  
School, 7 Sunset Blvd., from  
8:30am to 10am.

Set up, staging and pricing of  
plants will take place on Friday,  
May 20 from 6pm to 8pm.

Please bring your potted perennials, shrubs, trees, annuals and summer bulbs on Friday evening to the gymnasium rear entrance at the back of the building. Plants should be labeled with all relevant information that a purchaser would want to know,



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Lanark Orchid

Renals

Perth & District  
Horticultural  
Society

P.O. Box 494  
Perth, ON, K7H 3G1  
[www.gardenontario.org](http://www.gardenontario.org)

District #2 of the  
Ontario Horticultural  
Association

such as name, variety, mature size, bloom time, bloom colour, etc. Please put labels on sticks as labels stuck on the sides of pots cannot be seen from above. Water plants on Thursday evening or Friday morning to allow time for excess water to drain before bringing them in.

We will also need help on the Friday evening 6-8 and Saturday morning 8-10.

This is an opportunity for us to show what our members grow and interact with the public.

## PDHS June Flower Show

### Section I: Horticultural Specimen

- Class 1** Any peony – 1 stem
- Class 2** A collection of peonies – at least 3
- Class 3** Bearded Iris – 1 spike
- Class 4** Siberian Iris – 1 spike
- Class 5** Any rose – 1 stem or spray
- Class 6** Hosta – one cultivar – 3 leaves
- Class 7** Any other perennial – named – 3 stems
- Class 8** Collection of herbs – minimum 3 – named

### Section II: Design

- Class 9** Church Spires – a parallel design
- Class 10** City Scapes – an interpretative design
- Class 11** Pik'n Plunk – a centrepiece using flowers of the same colour/tones/tinges

### Section III: Special Exhibit

- Class 12** Dish Garden – Living miniature garden in a container

### Show Rules

- Exhibitors must be members of the Perth & District Horticultural Society.
- Maximum of one entry per exhibitor for each Design Class.
- Maximum of two entries per exhibitor for each Horticultural Class providing specimens are of different cultivars.
- Once placed, entries may only be moved by the show steward.
- All entries in cultural classes must have been grown or have been in the possession of the exhibitor for three months.
- Entry tag must be completed and remain with the entry.
- The decision of the judge is final.

- No exhibit will receive a prize, even though it is the only one in the class, unless judged to have sufficient merit.
- No exhibit may be moved before the specified closing time.
- All shows will take place during regular meetings.
- Entries to be placed prior to scheduled meeting opening time of 7p.m.

## Controlling The Leek Moth

*Gerda Franssen*

*Master Gardener of Lanark County*

The leek moth (*Acrolepiopsis Assectella Zeller*) is a small nocturnal moth that is a pest for alliums, namely leek, garlic and onion, causing damage in the larva stage. When outdoor temperatures reach 12°C, the adult moths mate and lay eggs singly on the garlic [host plant] leaf, the egg hatches and the larva feeds on the leaf. In the pupa stage a mesh cocoon can be found on the garlic plant.

There are two methods of controlling the leek moth in your allium crop: squeezing the larvae and pupa, or installing row covers, a woven spun material available at your local nursery. Install the row covers mid April to create a barrier preventing the moth from laying her eggs on your crop. These covers may be removed during the day to weed and remove the scapes, but must be put back in the evening as the moth flies and lays its eggs at night; remove at time of harvesting.

There are three generations of leek moth per growing season. The first generation feeds on the foliage – mid May to June. Squish to control. Second generation you will notice a round pin hole on the stem, larvae burrow down the stem – mid June to July. Remove the stem 4 cm below the hole and discard the damaged portion by burning. The plant will continue to grow. The third generation burrow down to the bulb so when harvesting cut the stalk off 6 cm from the bulb and discard as above. Inspect your harvest while it is curing for frass (insect feces). If you find some damage use these bulbs right away, as the damaged clove will not keep.

Practice good housekeeping in your garlic patch by discarding all of the foliage. Do not add to your compost pile.

If you are successful at controlling the first

generation, there will be very little damage done during the rest of the garlic [allium] growing season.

Further information on the leek moth maybe found at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/08-009.htm>

## Deer-scaping

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

Deer-scaping combines landscaping and garden plants not for deer, but to discourage them. It is one of three main control techniques, probably the one most try after deterrents but before resorting to fencing.

Here are ten deer-resistant strategies that relate to choosing and placing your plants, and to designing your landscape. These and many other tips can be found in the the book *Deerproofing Your Yard and Garden*, by Rhonda Massingham Hart. As with any controls, if the deer are hungry enough, only exclusion or proper fencing may work.

Choose deer resistant plants. This is the first place most begin. After you decide what type of plant you want for such features as foliage, texture, color, and habit, then choose from plants deer tend to avoid. Instead of hybrid roses for instance, substitute the more thorny rugosa ones. If you like spring bulbs, try daffodils instead of tulips. Of course make sure plants you choose will grow in your climate, soil, and site. If you must have a certain plant that deer like too, be ready to use repellents and other strategies.

Create entries to your property that are not attractive to deer. They are creatures of habit, so tend to beat down the same path. Find where they usually enter your property, and put the most deer resistant plants here. This is the place to begin using repellents and other strategies. Such entries may be the place for play areas, paved areas, groundcovers, or lawn.

Protect the perimeter or edges of your garden or property. You might use an unattractive (to deer) hedge that is fuzzy, thorny, or strongly aromatic. If the deer pressure isn't high, you might just mix such plants in a border for the same effect. I like to move pots of

tender and fragrant herbs, such as rosemary and pineapple sage, that I have overwintered inside around the landscape in summer.

Use terraces, multiple levels, wide hedges, or double fences around your landscape. This is another way to protect your perimeter. Deer can jump, but won't if they are not sure they'll have a safe landing. This is the idea behind low wire fences that slant outward. If you have a wood rail fence, just add another one four to five feet away to create this "unsafe" zone for deer clearance.

Use multiple levels within your landscape. Deer don't like climbing up and down, in and out of areas, or getting into confined spaces. Create intimate garden "rooms" with plantings, trellises, and walls. Use raised beds and sunken areas. Your landscape will be more interesting to you, but much less attractive to deer.

Camouflage your choice plants. You do this by confusing the deers' sensitive nose by interplanting highly aromatic plants such as garlic or herbs. They sense danger with their noses. If this sense is blocked, and they can't "smell" danger, they won't be comfortable. You also can hide choice plants with taller plants in front, or surround trees and shrubs with unappetizing plants. Create a "moat" of strong odors they have to cross to get to your plants, and they often may not even try, if they can see them.

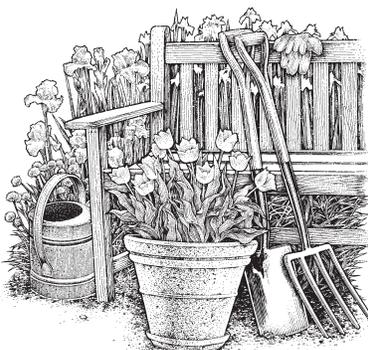
Out of sight, out of mind, applies to deer and your landscape. If you have a tall or thorny hedge, or solid fence, deer won't be tempted by what they can't see. Put choice plants out of sight with such a hedge or aromatic border, or even a fence with vines. Remember deer have poor eyesight, so take advantage of this.

Remove cozy deer beds. Deer like to bed down in tall grass and brushy areas. Keep these trimmed, tidy, or mowed, even if on the edges of your landscape.

Keep up with the harvest. If you have fruit trees, keep drops picked up. Clear away corn, peas, and other favorite deer vegetables as soon as your harvest is done.

Substitute hardscape elements for plants. Do you have some gardens that deer just won't leave alone? Consider replacing them with landscape elements such as patios, benches, arbors, or statuary.

As with other deer control strategies and deterrents, deer-



scaping techniques are best started before you have a problem. Train deer early that your landscape is either too unsafe, too much trouble, too bad tasting, or too aromatic, and maybe they will move on.

## Some saps are better avoided.....

There are a few common plants which have a milky, latex-like sap. They can cause damage if their sap gets into the eyes and/or can result in a rash if on the skin. When working with any of the following plants, always wear gloves. Wash smears on your skin with soap as soon as you can afterwards. It is also a good idea to wash any of the tools which you were using for cutting or pruning.

- ~Amsonia *Amsonia spp.*
- ~Balloon flower *Platycodon grandiflorus*
- ~Butterfly weed *Asclepias tuberosa*
- ~Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*

- ~Moonflower *Ipomoea alba*
  - ~Poinsettia *Euphorbia pulcherrima*
  - ~Vinca *Vinca minor*
  - ~Cushion Spurge *Euphorbia polychroma*
- ~Adapted from *Garden Gate* magazine,  
April, 2015, Issue 122

## Mulching Trees

When spreading bark mulch around trees, be sure to remove the old mulch first and not spread the mulch against the tree trunk. You should only have a 2- inch thick layer of mulch around the tree so roots can breathe.

Mulch piled against the tree trunk (called "volcano" mulching after its appearance) can lead to crown rot and eventual death of your tree. Use the old mulch in compost, or spread on flower and shrub beds. It is already partially broken down and, as it continues to decompose, it will add organic matter to soils.



## Horticultural Heritage:

*From the archives of The Perth Courier  
Friday, April 26, 1901*

### Lecture on Insect Enemies

The Perth Horticultural Society provided an enjoyable and profitable entertainment in the town hall last Friday night, to a very large audience. The chief attraction of the programme was a lecture on horticulture by Dr. Fletcher, the clever botanist of the Ottawa Experimental Farm. The stage was beautifully decorated with potted plants, with a garden scene in the background. Mayor Stewart opened the entertainment by a few remarks concerning the objects and benefits of the horticultural society. The local society had a membership of over 80 and the membership fee was \$1.00 per annum. An annual grant is made by the local government to each district, and the amount is divided among the different societies. The Mayor pointed out the following benefits to be derived from being a member: – 1st, Each member secures the *Canadian Horticulturist*; 2nd, The annual report of the Fruit Growers' Association is sent to each member; 3rd, The Fruit Growers' Association contributes an annual amount of fruit, plants, bulbs, etc., to be divided among the members. The Mayor informed the audience that the Perth Society would hold one exhibition a year, also at least one lecture a year, and that four prizes would be given for the best

kept gardens in Perth.

Dr. Fletcher was then introduced and addressed the audience first on the gardener's insect enemies. He stated that he was pleased to see such a large number interested in horticulture present. A horticultural society in any community was a sign of progress, and the presence of such a society was of great use to a community. The object of a horticultural society was to foster and encourage horticulture in all its branches and it becomes the duty of every member of the Perth society to make the town as beautiful and attractive as possible. The home can be beautified and made attractive by house plants, and to have nice flowers we must know how to protect them. There are two large classes of enemies to plants and flowers – insects and diseases, such as blights, rust, etc. There are over one hundred different classes of insects, but all of these are not enemies, for there are just as many beneficial as injurious insects, in order that they might do the work which Nature intended them to do. In Nature, a magnificent balance is kept up and when man interferes he takes the risk of interfering with Nature's plan. The speaker described many of the different insects and gave many good suggestions which will undoubtedly be beneficial to those interested in horticulture. He also addressed the audience on plants worth growing, and gave many good pointers on this particular branch of horticulture.