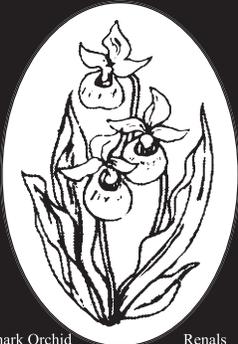


September 2012 Newsletter



The greatest gift
of the garden is the
restoration of the
five senses.

Hanna Rion



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'S PEN

Garden Visits

On July 10th we had our first "garden visits" evening. It was a lovely evening and we had the opportunity of visiting Barbara Miche and Karen & Ed Roberts' gardens. At both gardens we were welcomed by their hosts who were happy to show us around their little bit of heaven. Barbara's garden is a country garden with meandering paths around well kept flower beds stocked with interesting plants. Not a weed in sight! Karen & Ed's garden is a town garden on the edge of the Tay, filled with various points of interest including a water feature. You must ask Ed to tell you the story about the kingfisher who was not happy about the installation of this feature. Delicious cookies, iced tea, and coffee were served by the gracious hosts.

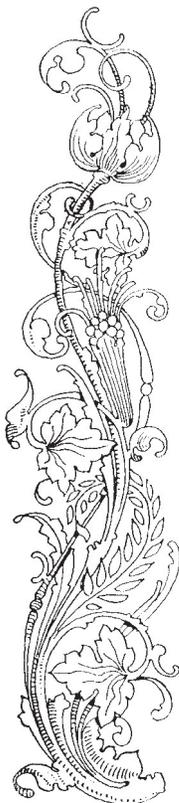
While there were two gardens also lined up for August, due to an unforeseen event, there was only one open for viewing. Time was spent for that evening in Lynda Haddon's garden. Lynda's 40-year old garden is another country garden with paths leading you around the house with various points of interest to make you want to stop and spend time there.

There were about twenty people, mostly members who took the opportunity of visiting these three very different gardens.

We think that this was a successful venture and hope you agree.

We plan on doing it again next year. If you would like your garden to be on the tour please let me know.

Madeline Archer



October Speaker

Our next meeting will be on October 9, 2012 and features Crispin Wood who will talk to us about "Trees in Your Backyard". Mr. Wood knows a great deal about trees. He studied forestry at college and is now lead arborist for the Central Experimental Farm Arboretum. So join us at 7:30 p.m. in the Library at PDCI to hear about our trees and how to look after them.

Collect Mugs For 2014

As you know, PDHS will be the host for the 2014 District 2 AGM. While that may seem far away, preparations are already starting for the event. You can help by saving and collecting coffee mugs that will be given away to participants. If you have some now that you want to get rid of right now please contact Pam Pratt (jpratt@storm.ca) or bring them to any meeting and give them to any one of the executive. We are expecting a lot of participants so will need a lot of mugs - please, no chips or stains!

Ikebana Workshop For Beginners

Date: September 27, 2012

Time: 6:45 - 9:00 p.m.

Place: Steve's Independent,
455 McNeely, Carleton Place

Cost: \$10.00 (cash)

Instructor: Ritsuko Honda, a certified Ohara School Ikebana teacher and an OHA judge; she has received Ikebana lessons for over ten years in Japan.

Description: Following a slide show of Ikebana exhibitions, participants will learn some of the rules by creating a basic arrangement, with individual hands-on instruction.

Bring: a shallow flat bottom bowl/dish about 2 ½ inches deep, a pair of sharp pruning shears or scissors and a kenzan (metal frog or pin). If you need to purchase one, Lee Valley carries several kinds of kenzan, and Ritsuko would recommend getting one called 'Sun' with a diameter of 2 ½ inches for \$11.95.



President: Madeline Archer

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

Register: Please let Linda Bartlett know by September 15th if you're planning to attend at lmbartlett@ripnet.com

OHA 2012 Fundraiser

The Ontario Horticultural Association, in conjunction with the Perth & District Horticultural Society, is holding a fundraiser for bulbs.

There are 2 types of bulbs available: Crocosmia (3 varieties) and Camassia (3 varieties). The cost to our members is \$7.00 per package.

We will collect orders at our September and October 2012 general meetings. Delivery of the Crocosmia bulbs will happen March/April 2013 while the Camassia bulbs will be delivered August/September 2013.

Please visit our website at <http://www.perthhort.society.com/activity.htm> under Fundraiser for more details, pictures and order form.

If you have any questions or would like to purchase the special bulbs come to our general meeting. We look forward to seeing you! *Linda*

Canada World Youth

In early June a group of 18 eager volunteers arrived in Perth. These Canada World Youth participants, 9 Canadians and 9 Hondurans, work in the community on various assignments. The focus of their project is Food Security. Again this year, our horticultural society was asked to provide placements for these aspiring cultivators.

I was fortunate to be matched with two very personable, hard-working young men. With little guidance they revamped an existing garden which was over-run with weeds. They applied techniques and practices gleaned from their weekly instructional sessions.

Besides the help, I also got to interact with two very engaging young men. This has been a most rewarding, enjoyable experience and I would highly recommend members to take advantage of this program in the future.

On September 15th, the group is inviting the community to a fund-raising dinner. Besides the Honduran culinary specialties, there will be cultural displays of songs and dance. A silent auction is planned to help them reach their goal of \$ 4400 .- for their building project. The plan is to build 100 latrines in a Honduran community where the river is the only sewage system, resulting in polluted drinking water and rampant disease. Donations of new items for this auction are gratefully accepted. Plan to attend this event and meet some very enthusiastic, altruistic, passionate young people.

Library News

Our horticultural society maintains an active library, with a variety of books, magazines and even a few

DVDs, related to gardening themes. The library cabinet is located against the wall on the Victoria Street side of the room. To borrow an item, put your name and today's date on the card found in the item, and leave the card in the designated box. When you bring back the item (preferably at our next meeting), simply place it in the return box. If you have questions or would like assistance with the library, please speak to our librarian Kevin Long.

Saving Tomato Seeds

Dale Odorizzi Lanark County Master Gardeners

Did you grow a tomato you loved this summer? Try saving its seeds so you can enjoy the same great taste next year.

Select a tomato you loved. There is no point saving seeds from an inferior plant. It will result in inferior tomatoes next year. Save seeds from tomatoes that are:

- Open-pollinated or heritage plants. Seeds saved from hybrid tomatoes won't come true.
- Fully ripe, but not over-ripe.
- The best-looking, best-tasting fruits on the plant.

Slice the tomato across the tomato, not from stem end to blossom end. Squeeze the seeds and surrounding gel into a plastic or glass container. Pour 2-3 inches of water over the seeds in your container. Cover the container with plastic wrap and poke a hole in the centre. Label your container and set it in a spot where it won't be in the way or disturbed too much. Let it sit for 2-3 days until you see white mold growing on top of the water. This is a sign that the gel coating surrounding the seeds has broken down. This process will smell bad.

Pour off the mold and as much water as possible and any seeds that are floating as they will not germinate. Rinse a few times, pouring off the rinse water. Dump seeds into a fine mesh strainer and rinse well, using your fingers to dislodge gel that sticks to the seeds.

Write the name of your tomato variety on a paper plate or coffee filter and dump your seeds onto it. Make sure that the seeds are in a single layer so they dry well and don't get moldy. Set labeled seeds aside for a few days to dry completely.

Once your seeds are completely dry, put them in an envelope, small baggie or other container to store. Label them properly and store in a cool, dry place. When stored properly, tomato seeds will germinate reliably for up to 10 years or even more.

While most tomato seed savers use this fermentation approach, you can also try the "non-fermentation" method. Slice tomato in half horizontally. Scoop out the seeds and place them on the paper towel. Note that each seed is enclosed in a gel-like sac. As you spread the seeds on the paper towel, space them so that they're one-half to one inch apart from each other. When placing each seed, gently press the gel into the paper to disburse it a bit.

After arranging your seeds on the paper towel, set your paper towel on wax paper or plastic wrap move the towel to a warm, dry environment. The towel will

wick moisture away from the seeds quite quickly. Allow several days drying time.

Once the towel and seeds are completely dry, separate the towel from the wax paper and fold the towel so that the seeds are on the inside. Use the top outside of the folded towel to label your seeds. Store the seeded towel in a relatively air-tight container at room temperature.

When it is time to plant the seeds, you can plant the paper towel and all in your pot. Next August, you will be enjoying this same great taste.

Financial Statement

JUNE 30 - AUGUST, 31, 2012

Ledger Balance – June 30, 2012 \$ 3,030.77

RECEIPTS:

July

GIC and Interest	\$2,524.88	
Bank Interest	<u>.01</u>	\$2,524.89

August

GIC Interest	\$ 2.05	
Bank Interest	.01	
Yearbook – AGM Prize	10.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>60.00</u>	\$ 72.06

July & August Receipts \$2,596.95

EXPENSES:

July

GIC reinvested	\$2,524.88	
Dist. 2 AGM 2014	100.00	
Plant Sale-rental at Stewart	136.00	
Meeting Expenses	<u>31.64</u>	\$2,792.52

August

Community Projects	\$ 262.28	
Hillside – Flag Garden Plants	469.95	
Alloy Foundry-F.G. Plaque		
OHA AG Convention	500.00	
Meeting Expenses rental	5.00	
Exec. Mtg. at McMartin House		
Library – Can. Gardening	20.95	
Postal Services-P.O.Box	<u>158.20</u>	\$1,446.38

July & August Expenses \$4,238.90

BALANCE AUGUST 31, 2012 \$1,388.82

Reserve Fund – GIC due July 18, 2012 \$2,524.88

Investment + Interest @ 1.150 will be reinvested each year

Members Only Summer Garden Tours A Success

If you attended the members only summer garden tours this summer, you know what a success they were

and what fun it was to see our members' beautiful gardens. Many thanks to Lynda Haddon, Ed Roberts, Barbara Miche and Janet Cain for generously offering to open their gardens for viewing. All gardens were well attended and the event was such a success that we will attempt to do it again next summer. If you wish to volunteer your garden for next year, please see Madeline Archer.

PDHS Has Talent!!

The recent OHA Covention in Niagara-on-the-Lake on August 16-19 was a fest of recognition for the talented people we have in the PDHS. Our fantastic yearbook cover won 1st place in the category of "Yearbook Cover primarily hand drawn". Many thanks to Linda Bartlett who was responsible for the design of the cover and to Rowan McCulloch, a PDCI student, whose artwork was featured. Good Work Ladies!

Our PDHS website at www.perthhortsociety.com won 2nd place for the Website Competition. This is for all of Ontario by the way. Congratulations to Linda Bartlett, our talented webmaster, who does all of the work on the website. We are very lucky to have someone so dedicated. If you haven't looked at the website, make a note to check it out.

We also have some great floral designers. David Archer won 3rd place for his design in the Class "Urban Steel" and Madeline Archer won 3rd place for her design in the Class "Global Connection" and Honourable Mention for the Class "Exploring the Bruce". Congratulations to both of you.

At the recent District 2 Flower Show in Manotick on July 7, Linda Bartlett won 1st place for her design in the Class of "All Foliage". Great work Linda!

Helping Your Garden Survive Drought

Heat. The last few months have been the warmest we have seen in a long time and according to various weather gurus no relief is in sight for future summers.

Drought. Many areas have suffered through a drought this summer and Lanark county is no exception. Luckily for gardeners, there's something they can do about the plants they see wilting in the heat. Here are a few secrets that may help your garden survive:

The secret of garden design

Smart garden design takes into consideration the water needs of the plants. For instance, gardeners should place plants with the highest water needs closest to the house. They can be easily observed there and watered at the first sign of heat stress. Plants that are more self-sufficient should be placed further from the house.

Tougher plants that once established seem to survive drought conditions better than others. Some samples are:

- Sweet black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*)

- Meadow blazing star (*Liatris ligulistylis*)
- Obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*)
- Northern dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)
- Blue wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*)
- Lance-leaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*)
- Pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*)
- Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)
- Switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*)
- Pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)

For self-sufficient non-natives, its best to check with local nurseries rather than try to offer generalized ideas. Some examples of self-sufficient plants include lavender (*Lavandula* spp.), catmint (*Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low'), leadwort (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*), golden dwarf sweet flag (*Acorus gramineus* 'Ogon'), barrenworts (*Epimedium* species) and Lenten roses (*Helleborus x hybridus*). The first two are for areas of the garden that receive full sun. The latter four plants prefer shade or part shade.

Other plants that would make excellent candidates for surviving tough summer conditions are Mediterranean herbs such as rosemary, and succulents, such as *Sedum spectabile* ("Autumn Joy"), or groundcover sedums, such as gold moss stonecrop (*Sedum acre*).

The best local source for regional drought tolerance is a nearby botanical garden such as the one found at the Experimental Farm in Ottawa. The plants in their display garden are a good indication of plants that will thrive in that particular region.

How to deal with drought

Plants are composed of anywhere from 50-90 percent water. When they suffer heat damage, the cause is always because of an insufficient amount of water being available to them. Turgid leaves are a sign that a plant has sufficient water and is able to take in carbon dioxide from the air through tiny, open pores on the underside of the leaves and make food.

When plants wilt from lack of sufficient water, they stop growing, stop producing and will die if their cells are not replenished with water.

The best way to get moisture to the plants, is to apply water at ground level with a soaker hose. The idea is to give the plants a deep soaking. Water that seeps deep into the soil will help plants develop a deep root structure, which helps them survive prolonged periods without rain.

The best time to water is early in the morning. This is the coolest time of the day, and there is less evaporation while temperatures are relatively cool than later in the day when the temperature is at or near its peak. The second best time is right at dark.

Avoid using sprinklers because a significant amount of water will be lost because it will evaporate from the leaves into the air before the leaves can absorb the water.

For patio container plants try adding water gels to the potting mix. The gels absorb water and release it slowly to the plant roots, reducing the number of times the plants will need to be watered.

Another option for patio containers is a self-watering pot. These types of containers have a water reservoir from which water is absorbed up into the pot and to the root zone. Like the gels, these specialized containers will reduce the need for frequency of watering.

Another way gardeners can help their plants survive excessive heat and drought is to mulch their garden beds. The mulch will help reduce evaporation, insulate plant roots from the high temperatures and reduce or eliminate weeds, which compete with desirable plants for water and nutrients.

Reprinted from - Tom Order, Mother Nature Network

Making A Gardening Difference

It is no doubt safe to say that we all love our gardens. They are the places we rest, smell, savour the textures and colours, try new plant adventures, and are sometimes called upon to divide and conquer. There are times, however, when life steps in, calls our name and we cannot easily get to our sanctuary or times when we need to take a step back and let the garden grow as it may. If you have a neighbour, relative or friend who might need some support during a trying time, if might be health, emotional, or stress related, please consider spending an hour, or even half an hour, helping them maintain their grounds so that when things come back into balance, they can take solace in their joyful space. After all, we never know when we may need a caring spade, trowel or whipper snipper ourselves.

World Famous Gardens

On September 11, 2012, the world famous "Les Jardins de Quatre Vents" will be coming to the Perth and District Horticultural Society. Debbie Lytle will be our speaker and our guide through the presentation about these fabulous gardens. Quatre Vents is the private gardens developed by Francis Cabot and the Cabot family and are located in La Malbaie, Quebec. The gardens have overcome the area's cool northern climate to become a vision of astounding botanical bounty. The 8-ha (20-acre) estate was developed during the 1930s to '70s and are considered by many to be the finest gardens in Canada. They are certainly among the most eccentric, filled with exuberant folly.

Debbie Lytle is an OHA judge and received her Garden Clubs of Ontario Judging accreditation at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. She has inherited her gardening enthusiasm from her parents and notes that she was blessed with the gardening gene. She joined the Carleton Place and District Horticultural Society over 23 years ago and having served many different positions on the executive is recognized as a life member in the society. In her spare time Debby enjoys gardening at her home and cottage, creating landscape plans for those who request her services and visiting and photographing great gardens with her husband Dave.