



The Ladyslipper



Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com

Est. 1984

September 2024

President's Pen

Summer went by too quickly. We had a few garden tours that were enjoyed by many of our members. I would like to thank Sylvia from 4th Line Florals for opening her flower farm to our membership on July 16th. A big thank you to Richard Catchpaw and Janette & Max Wood for opening their gardens to the membership on July 30th. Welcome to our September meeting where we will hear about Dahlias which are at their peak in the gardens this time of year.



4th Line Florals, photo credit Janette Wood

For our October 8th meeting, we will have Jan Johns from the Ottawa Orchid Society speak on Phalaenopsis: The Moth Orchid. How do these orchids grow in the wild and how does that inform us about keeping them happy and healthy? You will learn how to care for your new "box store" Phalaenopsis (Moth Orchid) and keep it blooming for many years in your own home. We will also have a Mini Flower show. The schedule is on the back page of this newsletter as well as our website: www.perthhortsociety.com.

As our November Annual Meeting approaches, we encourage you to consider joining the PDHS Board. You might be wondering what the Board does. Each month, the Board directors meet to discuss upcoming events, review finances, membership updates, and discuss new initiatives. Beyond the monthly meetings, we stay in touch via email when needed. The Board plays an active role in leading the society's activities. The directors organize both society and community events like Seedy Sunday, Earth Day, the plant sale, flower shows, garden tours, community garden upkeep, and other

gatherings. Behind the scenes, we manage tasks such as speakers, social media and website, email communications, membership recruitment and retention, finances, record-keeping, and staying connected with larger groups we are affiliated with, such as District Two and the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA).

There are no specific requirements to join the Board, but members are generally reliable, passionate about horticulture, and willing to contribute time to their local community. Most importantly, Board members are committed to encouraging and supporting gardeners, both new and experienced, by promoting horticulture through events and education. We deeply value the contributions of PDHS members and volunteers.

Currently, five members are continuing on the Board next year, but we need four or five new members to fill roles including President, Junior Gardeners Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Speaker Coordinator and Flower Show Chair. Returning Board members are more than happy to guide new participants. Fresh faces and new perspectives are welcome as we continue to grow the Perth & District Horticultural Society.



Janette's garden, photo credit Janette Wood

Would you like to be part of this vibrant team? If so, please see Muriel Hopper or Caroline Bolduc as they will be forming the Nominating Committee for the Board.

As always, your ideas for speakers, outings, workshops and newsletter content are welcome.

Best!

Linda

Junior Gardeners Program 2024

This past spring, we continued the popular Junior Gardener Program in these area schools: The Stewart School, St. John Catholic Elementary School in Perth, and Drummond Central P.S. We had a total of 91 students in 4 different Grade 3 classrooms which were led by 9 volunteer members.

Every week of the four-week program, from April 25 to May 16, the students selected a new plant from the “Plant Library” to observe and record in their journal, which they then exchanged the following week. In the first and second weeks, the students were given hands-on experience planting tomato and marigold seeds, and seed potatoes. For the third week, the students created a flower arrangement for Mother’s Day. The last week was spent with the students reviewing what was taught, receiving instructions on how to transplant the plants they had started in class as well as choosing their own “Library” plant to keep. This year as in past years, we were very fortunate to receive donations from generous “Community Sponsors” like Canadian Tire and Barnabe’s YIG. And, of course, we couldn’t run this program without the generosity of so many PDHS members who donate materials and, most importantly, their time and expertise.

Thank you to all PDHS members who help with this program in big ways and small: by donating cuttings for starting “Plant Library” plants; strawberry and yogurt containers which each of the students received to plant their seeds and potatoes.

Finally, a special “thank you” to our dedicated volunteers, who devote their time and energy to bring the weekly sessions alive to the classes. Every one of you is making an important contribution to our youngsters and tomorrow’s gardeners. The feedback we receive every year from students, parents, and teachers is that this is a valued community service!

But sadly, this program will not be able to continue without additional interest from our members. Due to the reduced number of volunteers, we had to refuse four additional classes this past spring. With the requirement for each volunteer to have a current Vulnerable Record Check (which can be tricky) and the advancing age of our current volunteers, I have little hope that Junior Gardeners will continue in 2025.

Sincerely,

Robin McIntosh
Coordinator, Junior Gardener Program



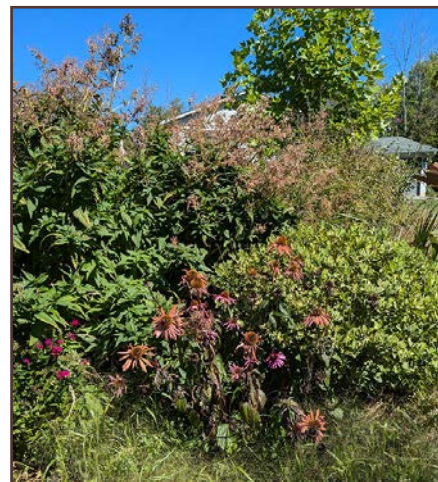
Fall Garden Clean Up

by Dale Odorizzi, Lanark County Master Gardeners

Fall garden clean up has changed a lot in the last few years. In the past we were told to cut all the plants to the ground and to remove the cuttings from the gardens. Now we are encouraged to leave some of the perennials, especially those with hollow stems so that our native bees can find a convenient winter resting place. Also leave plants with seed heads such as Black Eyed Susans and Cone flowers for the birds to enjoy in the winter. We should still clear out any diseased plants to prevent any diseases from overwintering. Diseased plants should not be put in the compost pile. Instead, add any healthy plant material to your compost pile along with leaves that fall from the tree.

Weed your garden thoroughly to prevent them from seeding and causing problems next year. Always try to remove weeds in your garden before they go to seed and making more weeds for next year. Weed seeds can lay dormant in the ground for seven or more years before they rear their ugly heads.

September is a great month to divide or move perennials. In fact, it is the best month to move or divide your peonies. Doing this in September, allows time for the roots to establish before the heavy frosts come along. Add compost to your garden beds, especially around any plants that you have moved or divided. If you are fortunate enough to have lots of trees, adding leaves, preferably shredded leaves to your gardens will protect your plants and add needed organic matter to the beds.



Fall Garden, photo by Linda Bartlett

Often, our vegetable gardens are left bare for the winter. Nature abhors bare soil and planting a cover crop like buckwheat is a great way to protect the soil and add organic matter to it.

If you have been planning a new garden bed, the fall is a wonderful time to put those plans into action.

Clean and store your garden tools. Scrape all the dirt from the tools and remove any rust by rubbing the tool vigorously with steel wool. Sharpen tools that have a sharp edge such as shovels, edgers and pruners. Spray the metal parts with lubricating oil to protect them from rust. Another approach is to fill a bucket with clean sand. Mix in a litre of cooking oil (new or used). Do not use motor oil. Plunge the metal part of your tools two or three times into the sand oil mixture. You can keep the sand oil mixture over the next growing season to keep your tools well lubricated. Store your tools in a dry spot. Avoid leaving them on the garage floor or any other place that may get damp over the winter.



Sharpening cutters, photo by Linda Bartlett

Enjoy September in the garden.

October - Last of the Season Mini Show

SCHEDULE

Section I: Horticultural Specimen

- Class 1: Last Rose of Summer – any cultivar – 1 bloom, stem or spray
- Class 2: Any perennial other than rose – 1 bloom or stem - named
- Class 3: 3 leaves – same cultivar – named
- Class 4: Any annual – 1 stem – named
- Class 5: Holiest Hosta Leaf - 1 leaf - most damaged you can find
- Class 5: Garlic – 2 bulbs – displayed on a plate
- Class 6: Any other vegetable – named (one to a maximum of three each)

Section II: Design

- Class 8: Octoberfest – a design using flowers and/or vegetables
- Class 9: Kick the Roadside – a wayside design in a boot (no invasive plants)
- Class 10: Last Showing – an arrangement in a vase using fall flowers and ornamental grasses from your garden

SHOW RULES

Exhibitors must be members of the Perth & District Horticultural Society.

Entries are to be placed prior to 7:00 p.m. when judging takes place.

Once placed, entries may only be moved by the show steward.

Only one entry per exhibitor for each Design Class.

Maximum of two entries per exhibitor for each Horticultural Class providing specimens are of different cultivars.

All entries in Horticultural 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.

Definition of Wayside Design - A design composed of common and plentiful flowers, foliage, fungi and/or weeds such as bulrushes, ox-eye daisy, Queen Anne's Lace, goldenrod, etc.

Plant species listed as endangered, threatened, of special concern or invasive should not be used. See Endangered Species and Invasive Plants for further details and -sources of current lists of these plants. Canada - Species at Risk Public Registry and Ontario Wildlife and Nature (Species at Risk and Invasive Species).

Please refer to the website for more information: <https://www.perthhortsociety.com/>