

June 2013 Newsletter



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



"What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfillment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade."

- Gertrude Jekyll, *On Gardening*

Garden Tour and Strawberry Social

Mark your calendars and don't miss out on this wonderful partnership of our Society with the Perth Museum, Matheson House.

On June 16, 2013, the Perth and District Horticultural Society is delighted to team up with the Perth Museum to present a truly spectacular Garden Tour of nine stunning local gardens as well as a delicious Strawberry Social.

The nine selected gardens are located in Perth and the local area and feature the member's gardens of the Perth Hort. Society. Some feature small but beautiful gardens while others feature large acreage, water features and decorative sculpture. All are unique and truly beautiful.

The Gardens on the Tour open at 10a.m. and close at 3p.m. while the Strawberry Social features two sittings: one at 11am - noon and the other at 3 - 4 pm at the Perth Museum, Matheson House, 11 Gore Street E., Perth. Tickets are \$20 for the Garden Tour and \$12 for the Strawberry Social only which has two sittings: one at 11 - noon and the other from 3 - 4 p.m.

Tickets for the Tour and Social are available by reservation from the Museum at 613-267-1947. Maps

and directions to the Gardens on the tour will be provided.

September's Speaker

"A Walk Down the Garden Path"
with James Graham.

James Graham is the Past President of the Waterloo Horticultural Society, Past District 19 Director of the Ontario Horticultural Association and presently 2 Vice President of the Ontario Horticultural Association.

With his wealth of gardening experience, James will take members and visitors on an inspirational walk down the garden path - something that will be both informative and entertaining.

Join us on September 10, 2013, in the Library of the PDCI at 7:30pm.

DISTRICT 2 (that's us!) Summer Flower & Vegetable Show

If you are looking for a pleasant day away with some gardening friends, give some thought to going to the District 2 Summer Flower and Vegetable Show being held on Saturday, August 10, 2013, in Beachburg, Ontario at the



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

Beachburg Hall, 1767 Beachburg Road. The event is being hosted by the Beachburg Horticultural Society and Deep River Horticultural Society.

If you want to exhibit in the show please go to their website for the rules and times for exhibitors at www.gardenontario.org/site.php/district2

If you wish to go to view all the beautiful exhibits, they will be open for public viewing from 2- 4:30 p.m.

Sounds like a great plan for a day trip - a nice drive, lunch out and the flower show.

Junior Gardeners A Success Once More

Our 2013 Junior Gardener Program has wrapped up once again and has proven to be a big success. Nearly 200 children participated again this year with a new school, Maple Grove in Lanark, being added.

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteer teachers and volunteer leaders and especially our coordinator Janet Cain who has quietly worked for the last ten years on Junior Gardeners and her two assistants Kathy Allen and Linda Bartlett.

We were very lucky to be the recipients of many generous donations this year. We received a grant from the Perth & District Community Foundation, a donation from the Perth Lioness Club, a printing discount from Staples, gifts of money earned by many member's in personal fundraisers and generous support from local businesses. Barnabes supplied us with new styrofoam trays, Metro provided the seed potatoes, Hillside Gardens donated impatiens for

our plant library and we were able to purchase the flowers for our Mother's Day arrangements wholesale from Sylvia's Plant Place. Last but not least, thank you to our members who collected and donated Canadian Tire Money, strawberry containers, tuna tins and yogurt containers again this year.

We couldn't have done it without you!!

In-house September Flower Show - Go Ahead, Show Off!!

Given the cold Spring and slow start our in-house Flower Shows held during our meetings have suffered from a lack of blooms but a bumper of a show is planned for September - with your participation of course. Bring in one, two or as many of the following Classes as you like and show off the flowers that actually decided to bloom this year! Without you, it will be a bust!

Section I: Horticultural Specimens

- Class 1 Dahlia, single type - 1 stem
- Class 2 Dahlia, bloom under 4",
one cultivar - 3 stems
- Class 3 Dahlia, bloom over 4" - 1 stem
- Class 4 Dahlia, different cultivars - 3 stems
- Class 5 Gladiolus, single colour - 1 spike
- Class 6 Gladiolus, bi-colour or multi-colour
- 1 spike
- Class 7 Zinnia, bloom over 3" - 1 stem
- Class 8 Zinnia, bloom under 3" - 3 stems
- Class 9 Rose, hybrid tea, any cultivar
- 1 bloom
- Class 10 Rose, floribunda - 1 spray

Junior Gardeners



- Class 11 Rose, miniature - 1 bloom or spray
- Class 12 Rose fragrant - 1 stem
- Class 13 Rose - single bloom, displayed in a bowl
- Class 14 Modern Shrub Rose i.e. Austin, Explorer, Morden - 1 Spray
- Class 15 Rudbeckia one cultivar - 3 stems
- Class 16 Echinacea (Coneflower)
one cultivar - 3 stems
- Class 17 Sunflower - 1 stem
- Class 18 Sunflower - 1 spray
- Class 19 Tuberous begonia, 1 bloom floating in water, without leaves
- Class 20 Collection of vegetables displayed in a basket, minimum 3 different kinds, named
- Class 21 Garlic - 3 bulbs

Section II: Design

- Class 22 "Granny's Quilt Block" - a pavé design in a baking pan
- Class 23 "Rideau Trail" - a parallel design using wayside material
- Class 24 "I never Promised You a Rose Garden" - a small design

Check Out Our Site www.perthhortociety.ca

If you haven't checked out our Society's website why not look soon? It receives over 900 visits per month, so it has to be good.

The website is managed and maintained by our excellent webmaster Linda Bartlett. If you have looked at it and been impressed - why not tell her?

Lanark Master Gardeners

The Lanark Master Gardeners also have an excellent website with many informative articles on gardening and notification of special courses given in the region. You can find them at: lanarkmastergardeners.mgoi.ca

Early Blight on Tomatoes

*by Helen Halpenny
Lanark Master Gardeners*

Early blight on tomato plants is a fungal disease that causes defoliation of the leaves. Early blight is commonly called leaf spotting.

First, small circular spots appear and later they become irregular in shape and affect both the central portion and the edges of the tomato leaf. The bottom leaves of the plant are affected first and the disease works its way up the plant, sometimes completely defoliating the plant, exposing the fruit to sunscald and reducing yield. Sometimes the fruit is also affected. The pathogen survives between crops mainly in diseased plant residues. Spores can be carried by wind. The early blight fungus also can be seed-borne in tomatoes. Its short disease cycle allows for numerous infections and can cause rapid defoliation under the right conditions. When leaves are continuously wet and temperatures are high, conditions for early blight are perfect. Plant susceptibility increases with age, heavy fruit load and inadequate nutrition. There are several cultural practices that will help control early blight. First of all, practice crop rotation. Plant in different ground each year. Don't replant an area for at least three years. Use disease-resistant transplants. Minimize plant injury and maintain plant vigor by providing ample nutrients. When watering is necessary, do it early in the morning so leaves will dry off before evening. If you want to be pro-active, spraying with a fungicide at 7-10 day intervals may help. A homemade remedy that will help control fungal disease is: teaspoon of soda in a spray bottle of water. Spray on leaves on a dry day. It is also helpful to remove diseased leaves from the site and burn or put them in the garbage. Do not compost them.

Watering Containers And Hanging Baskets During The Summer.

*By Ankaret Dean
Lanark Master Gardeners*

Although hanging baskets and container gardening are very popular, watering these plants during the summer months is one of the most difficult tasks. Plants need a balance of air and water and the soil mixture used will affect the ability to hold and retain water. When a soilless potting mix is used, it can be difficult to rewet as the soil shrinks and cracks when dry, and the water simply runs straight through. To overcome this, immerse the container in a bucket of water and allow it to soak for up to thirty minutes. Another idea is to add a small

quantity of dish washing soap to the watering can which will help the absorbency of the peat moss; however this can also deplete the amount of oxygen in the soil if done regularly. Ideally the soil mixture will contain a certain amount of organic material, which will absorb moisture. The surface of soil-based potting soil can become compacted and crusted over time, becoming slow to absorb water, in this case add a fresh layer of organic mulch to the surface. Hanging baskets will dry out much more quickly than a container on the ground as they are affected by wind and sunshine, and they should be checked daily, specially during hot spells. Rainwater is the best as there are no chemicals or lime from hard water, pond water is also good. The water is ideally 'room temperature' and if well or tap water is used it is better to allow it to warm up. Most plants like to be well watered then allowed to dry out before being watered again. The most effective way of watering is to pour water onto the base of the planting without using a rose. Avoid watering in the same place as this can create a 'hole' in the display. To avoid having to stand on a chair or step ladder to water hanging baskets, it is possible to buy water bottle with a long curved plastic tube, or a stick handle hose adapter. Alternatively a pulley system can be used to lower the hanging plants. If the gardener is planning to go away for a few days it is a good idea to take down the hanging plants and leave them in a shady area where they are unlikely to dry out. In the case of an absolute disaster when everything looks limp and dried out, gently spray all the plants and soak the container. It is sometimes quite amazing how they will revive. There are now 'wicks' available that will carry the water from a pail to the plants, and also plastic holders that are filled with sand and allow the water to gradually seep through. With that increased use of hanging baskets and planters to decorate our towns and villages, the care and watering has become quite a science.

Don't Stake Young Trees At Planting Time

Thigmomorphogenesis. It's really not that tough, sound it out and say it slowly, quite soon it rolls off the tongue. Plus you've learned the word that means, the response of plants to wind. And now can easily learn why saplings should not be staked.

Staking trees at time of planting, particularly tall deciduous trees, involves placing three stout stakes in the ground around the tree, then running taught wire or strong cord from each stake to a girdle of rubber or strong cloth affixed to the trunk about a third of the way up. This keeps the tree from swaying in the wind. Pull the wire or cord taut enough, the trunk won't move at all.

Not such a good thing. Botanists experimenting with tree planting discovered in the 1950s that trees planted and allowed to sway in the wind grew thicker, stronger trunks and branches than those that were staked. The reason? Thigmomorphogenesis. The buffeting from winds causes trees to release ethylene gas, a growth mediator that triggers the formation of wood-strengthening lignin. Staked trees tend to mature a bit taller; however, in the end they are more susceptible to wind/storm damage due to their weaker, more slender growth.

If planting a large evergreen or deciduous sapling in an area where constant wind is a concern, the best compromise is to stake the tree using one stake positioned on the windward side. The tree will sway a bit side-to-side, but cannot be blown clean over by a strong gust. Remove the stake after 18 months. The tree will have grounded itself with sufficient root system to prevent toppling, after which it should be allowed to sway away.

—It's a Snap!—

A series of tips on garden photography.

Let it Rain

Clinging water drops on flowers produce fascinating images. Go out in the garden when the dew is on the blossoms or at the end of a light rain. Include a diaper or lint-free cloth in your camera bag which readily absorbs water on equipment and dries out more quickly than other materials. When out in the field on a stormy day, wipe down equipment frequently. Another tip: A simple plastic cap can cover the camera quickly between shots to keep it dry. Raindrops add sparkling jewels to your flowers. In fact, a drop of water can become the subject of the photograph.