



The Ladyslipper



Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com

Est. 1984

March 2024

President's Pen

Welcome to our first in-person meeting of the year at our new location.

The Perth & District Horticultural Society participated at Seedy Sunday last weekend. Caroline Bolduc organized the table and created a beautiful farm box that we raffled off for anyone who purchased or renewed their membership. We sold 22 memberships (8 renewals and 14 new members). Thank you and welcome to our horticultural society. The farm box was won by Mary Hutcheon. Congratulations!



Our Community Garden volunteer coordinators are gearing up for another year of tending the gardens around Perth. Inge Va, Perth Museum, Flag Garden and Cenotaph are the four gardens we take care of in the community. Judy Buehler and Doug Smallwood coordinate the Perth Museum Garden; Cheryl Moss and Rita Godin coordinate the Inge Va gardens. We are looking for members to

coordinate the Flag Garden. If you are interested in working in the gardens or a specific garden, please send an email to pdhsmembers@gmail.com and we will ensure your information is passed on to the coordinators.

We are hosting the District 2 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, May 4th at Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church on Wayside Drive in Perth. We will be having Lorraine Johnson as our Keynote Speaker and she will be talking on Native Plants and Shrubs. We will have vendors on hand as well. We need volunteers for the Registration table and to help with the coordination of the kitchen: Coffee, muffins, lunch, etc. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

The PDHS Board is looking for a few more members to join to help ease the burden of the seven members we have now. If you are interested in joining the Board or at least want to attend a meeting to find out what is involved, please let me know in person or by email at pdhsmembers@gmail.com. If you are interested in being a coordinator only but not attend Board meetings, we are looking for someone to coordinate the Flower Shows, Social Events and Garden Tours, again please see one of our board members or send an email.

Linda

PDHS Program for 2024

February 13

Dazzled by Daylilies

The Tattooed Gardener

March 12

Gardening on the Cheap

Speaker: Dale Odorizzi

April 9

Draught Resistant Perennials

Speaker: Laurie Bachand

May 14

Introduction to Bonsai

Speaker: Owen Marsh

May 18

Annual Plant Sale

Perth Farmers' Market

June 11

Q & A Master Gardeners

Flower Show & Summer Social

September 10

Dahlias, Care & Storage

Speaker: Brittiny Lepage

October 8

Intro to Orchid Care

Speaker: Janet Johns

November 19

Christmas Social/AGM

Xmas Floral Demo

Junior Gardener's Program for 2024

The Junior Gardener program was developed by members of PDHS some 20 plus years ago. Over this time it has evolved into a 4-week intro to gardening program for Grade 3 students that our volunteers bring to area schools once a week for an hour at a time.

Our Society provides all the supplies so that students can sow seeds, plant seed potatoes and make a flower arrangement for Mother's Day.

Not surprisingly, the 4 weeks pass by quickly. Please consider sharing your love of gardening with area students. It's not only rewarding, it's also a lot of fun.

For more information contact Robin McIntosh, Junior Gardener coordinator
robinmcintosh435@gmail.com
(613) 253-5690

April 9, 2024 Meeting

Laurie Banchand from Stoneridge Gardens and Nursery will be our guest speaker

and she will talk about Draught Resistant Perennials to consider planting in our gardens.



The Thrifty Gardener

By Dale Odorizzi

If you were a thrifty gardener last fall and brought in some of your annuals, now is the time to get them ready for Spring—yes, spring will be here soon.

Zonal Geraniums, with the large flower heads, are common in our containers and annual gardens. If you stored your geraniums in a cool, dark basement, trim the stems to one-third of their original height and bring the pots into a location with lots of bright sunlight. Water the plants just enough to moisten the soil and fertilize with a water-soluble fertilizer. When new growth appears, remove plant from its pot and shake off old soil. Repot with new potting soil. Once new shoots are 3-4 inches long it is time to take cuttings from the old plants. If you have kept your plants blooming in a window all winter, you can take cuttings right away.

The cuttings should be 7-10 cm long. Cut with a clean sharp knife. Cut new leaves off cleanly at the base. Dip the cut end into rooting compound, shake off excess and plant in a good quality starter mix or vermiculite or perlite. Using a pencil or your finger, make a hole in your planting medium and gently place your cutting into the hole. Rooting compound, vermiculite and perlite is available at any garden centre or hardware store. Place plants in a sunny window or under a grow light and keep evenly moist. Fertilize every second week with 10-52-10 water soluble fertilizer at half strength. Geraniums can easily rot if they are kept too wet. Because of this, you should not cover the geranium cuttings. From time to time, tug gently on the cutting. When you have resistance, your plant has roots. If you started your plant in vermiculite, transplant into a potting mix.

You can also create Fuchsia, Hibiscus, Flowering Maples or Oleander plants using the same process. Your parent plants will be healthier when you cut it back at this time of year. Cover the cuttings or put in a clear plastic bag to create a mini greenhouse.

Ivy, Coleus and Sweet Potato Vines that have been kept growing all winter can easily be rooted as above or simply put your cuttings in a glass of water and watch the roots sprout. Be sure to keep your glass full and once the roots have started transplant into potting soil.

If you saved the tuber from your tuberous begonia, start them now. Press the tuber firmly into the growing medium, hollow side up. Water the tubers once very well, to wake them up, and place them in a warm, bright spot. Cover the freshly planted tubers with paper or polythene to promote growth. Remove the covering as soon as growth appears. Don't water again until you see some growth, or the soil is quite dry. Some begonias will sprout right away others will take weeks. Expect to see growth shoots in five to six weeks.

Once the shoots are showing, water regularly never allowing the soil to dry out. Give maximum light, but shade from direct sun. Feed them with half strength fertilizer when their leaves and stems are about 3 inches tall, wait two weeks, and then start a regular feeding schedule. When the shoots are 15 cm tall, the Begonias are ready to be transplanted to the garden or outdoor containers. Don't put them outdoors, though, until all danger of frost has passed, and remember to harden them off properly.

This link takes you to a “when to start seeds” calculator. It is not an active link. Key it into your web browser.

[Awaytogarden.com/when-to-start-seeds-calculator](http://awaytogarden.com/when-to-start-seeds-calculator)

2024 District 2 Flower & Edibles Show

Saturday
August 17, 2024



Show Theme:
Bridging Communities



Hosted by Almonte, Carleton Place and Pakenham
Horticultural Societies

Open to the Public 1:00-3:30 PM
Free Admission
Tea Room, Silent Auction and Vendors

Almonte Civitan Hall
500 Almonte Street (Wolfgrove Road)
Almonte, Ontario

GardenOntario®



*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*

Have a Lucky Day

