

May 2012 Newsletter



*It's a sign of wisdom
that seeds don't
squander their energy
all at once, instead
calmly waiting until
the time is right.
Seeds aren't stupid.*

- Mida's Dekkers



Lanark Orchid

Renals

**Perth & District
Horticultural
Society**

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District #2 of the
Ontario Horticultural
Association



PRESIDENT'S PEN

I saw a sign today that said "can you believe it, we will be picking strawberries in less than two months".

That sounds really good on a day like today which is over-cast and damp – a bit like England. But at this time of year I really look forward to rhubarb. While driving lately I see that it is already up and quite bushy in some folk's gardens. Not ours yet so I will raid the neighbour's garden while waiting for ours. One dessert I make with rhubarb is a Rhubarb Fool which isn't quite a fool because the rhubarb is not mixed up with the cream. Anyway I really would like to share this marvellously simple yet elegant recipe with you, so as soon as you have enough rhubarb you can make a fool.....

2 ½ lbs rhubarb trimmed and
cut into six inch lengths
½ cup juice from one large orange
1 cup plus 2 tbs of sugar

Pinch of salt
2 cups heavy cream

Soak rhubarb for 20 minutes in cold water. Drain, pat dry with paper towels, and cut crosswise into ½ inch pieces.

Bring the orange juice, ¾ cup of sugar, and the salt to a boil in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the rhubarb and return to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer, stirring two or three times, until the rhubarb begins to break down and is tender, 7-10 minutes. Transfer the rhubarb to a large bowl, cool to room temperature, cover with plastic wrap, and refrigerate until cold, at least 1 hour or up to 24 hours.

Whip the cream and remaining sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer until frothy, about 1 minute. Increase the speed to high and continue to whip until the cream forms soft peaks.

To assemble, spoon about ¼ cup rhubarb into each of eight 8-ounce glasses, then layer about ¼ cup cream on top. Repeat, ending with a dollop of cream; serve. (The fools can be refrigerated, covered with plastic wrap, up to 6 hours.)



Junior Gardeners - A Different Perspective...

Have you every faced a group of 8- and 9-year-olds who are expecting you to tell them everything they ever wanted to know about gardening?? This is the second year that I have had this experience, and it can make you tongue-tied. Peggy Clarke and I are running the class of Grades 3 and 4 at Sacred Heart School in Lanark.

Fortunately, the teacher is a gem and has been priming the kids all year re composting, planting, seeding, etc., so the Grade 4 kids especially know what is going on and seem delighted that they can answer every question that we ask - they nearly all had Janet Cain last year when they were in Grade 3!

Last Thursday we made a dish garden. I had to try one to get ready to look like I knew what I was doing. I remember when I was teaching at Algonquin to night students. They



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

were all adults and you couldn't pull the wool over their eyes if you didn't know what you were talking about. These kids look up to you as if you are the Almighty!! The biggest problem is to keep them from all answering at once. Why not try it next year? With 242 kids in five schools we can find you a job. I have to admit I get all revved up and am on a high every week as I am leaving. You too can look like 'the big cheese'. It's better than sitting around the house all day! *Submitted by Margo Fulford*

May Plant Sale - Calling All Members!

As you all know, our fundraising plant sale is taking place on May 19, 2012 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Gym of the Stewart School. You also know that this sale helps fund our Junior Gardener program which is now underway. You have also heard about the incredible success of the program this year (240 local children participating!) and the incredible costs that go along with that success. That is why the sale this year is so important to our finances and future success of the Junior Gardener program.

Not only do we need your plants, potted up and labeled, but we need your assistance in telling your friends and bringing your relatives!

Of course, we also need volunteers to help. Please contact David Archer during the break to offer your assistance.

Community projects are the reason why we are able

to be part of the Ontario Horticultural Associations group of horticultural societies so let's all help to keep our Junior Gardeners afloat and our status as a Hort Society.

Rose Mix For Sale...

Our wonderful rose mix is for sale again this year. We are offering it to our members for \$1.75 per bag at the break. See David Archer. Whatever is left over will be sold at the plant sale on May 19, 2012.

If you don't know what our rose mix is, it is a magical blend that makes your roses and every other plant in your garden grow and bloom profusely.

Congratulations To...

On 17th April, one of PDHS's own, Sam Kingdon, received Ontario Heritage Trust's Heritage Community Recognition Award from Mayor John Fenik. Sam has been a member of PDHS for many years as well as overseeing the running of Inge Va and its gardens for over a decade. He has now signed on to mentor with the Perth Food Bank and its gardening endeavours. All in all, Sam has over 65 years of gardening experience. In his 'spare' time, Sam is involved with the Perth Historical Society, and is a Past Chair and now a member the Heritage Management Committee, to name just two of his other interests. Congratulations to Sam on this well-deserved recognition of his many contributions to Perth and our community. *Submitted by Lynda Haddon*

*David and I
would like
to thank
Lynda Haddon,
Kim Warring
and
Barbara Smith
for helping
to prepare over
200 bags of
fertilizer on
Monday,
April 30th.*

Madeline Archer



June Meeting - Dessert And More And Dessert!

We had a lot of fun last year with our Master Gardeners Open Forum, our super-duper flower show and of course the delectable desserts everyone brought to share. We had so much fun, in fact, that we are going to do it all over again!

Join us on June 12, 2012, in the Library and bring along your best dessert - the gooiest, chocolatiest (my favourite) most delicious dessert you can muster, to share. Don't eat anything sweet from now until then. Besides, none of the desserts we eat at the Hort. Society have any calories in them whatsoever!

Prepare your most difficult questions for the Master Gardeners question and answer session - really put them to work to solve any problems or answer any questions you may have about your specific garden or gardening in general. They really know their stuff and are looking forward to the challenge.

Study up on your own gardening skills because we will have a general quiz again and a few prizes for those with the best answers.

Last but not least is the "super-duper" flower show. This competition is "in-house" which means it is for you to have a chance to try your hand at the various categories just for fun and no pressure. You may even win a ribbon to show off to your friends! Look at the schedule listed in your Yearbook or look further in this newsletter and resolve to give it a try. Everyone has at least one stalk or one spike or one bloom in their garden that fits the schedule so bring it in and enter it. You will have fun seeing people admire your efforts.

Looking forward to seeing you there - oh - and the desserts too.

Super-duper June Flower Show Schedule

Section I: Horticultural Specimen

- Class 1 Poppy double, one cultivar - 3 blooms
- Class 2 Poppy single, one cultivar - 3 blooms
- Class 3 Peony single - 1 stem
- Class 4 Peony double or semi double - 1 stem
- Class 5 Collection of peonies
- Class 6 Bearded Iris dwarf - 1 spike
- Class 7 Siberian Iris - 1 spike
- Class 8 Any Rose - 1 stem or spray
- Class 9 Lupin - 1 spike
- Class 10 Columbine - 1 stalk
- Class 11 Columbine - 1 stalk
- Class 12 Daylily - 1 scape

- Class 13 Heuchera - 3 leaves
- Class 14 Hosta, one cultivar - 3 leaves
- Class 15 Hosta, different cultivars - 3 leaves
- Class 16 Any other perennial, named - 3 stems
- Class 17 Rhubarb - 3 stalks
- Class 18 Leaf vegetable - 3 stems
- Class 19 Collection of Herbs, minimum 3, named

Section II Design

- Class 20 "Perthscape" - a synergistic design (see definition)
- Class 21 "Fruit Bowl" - a design featuring spheres which have been covered with leaves or petals (see definition for Petalling)

Section III Special Exhibit

- Class 22 Dish Garden - minimum 2 plants (see definition)

Help Wanted! Flower Show Steward

Are you able to arrive at the PDHS meetings a little early? If you are and don't like sitting around, why not volunteer to help set up for the in-house flower shows. Get a couple of tables together and label the show area. It only takes a few minutes to do and isn't an onerous task. If you want to help but don't want to get too involved this is a great job. You also get to meet lots of new people.

Talk to Linda Bartlett at the break.

Library News

by Kevin Long

As you head out into your garden this month, we have some books that might help in your endeavours. Head over to our library cabinet to sign out books and magazines, including these three that we are highlighting this month.

How to Get Your Lawn & Garden Off Drugs

(635.964784 Rub) by Canadian Carole Rubin.

Most of us want to garden without using harmful chemicals and pesticides. This book shows you how to protect your lawn and garden from pests and diseases in a natural way. Learn to choose the right plants, and how to fertilize, care for and prune them successfully.

Bedding Plants: Step by Step to Growing Success

(635.962 Mur) by Ian Murray.

Bedding plants are a great way to add spectacular splashes of colour to your garden. Discover all the steps involved, from starting by seed or purchasing seedlings, to designing your garden beds and caring

for them throughout the season. Ian Murray writes from the British perspective, but has much to offer to us in Canada too.

Earth, Wind & Wildlife: The Challenges of Cottage Gardening (635.097131 New) by Lillian Newbery and Gordon Handley.

Gardening at the cottage can be a special challenge, where you often face poor soil, rock, wind, wildlife and native plants. Learn a number of strategies to deal with this unique type of gardening. The book is also full of beautiful photographs of some Ontario cottage gardens.

Buying Plants For Your Garden Or Container

The best part of growing in containers is the shopping part. You want good plants for the best value and the best way to do this is to get to the root of the matter before buying. A quick look at the roots can tell you a lot about the plant.

With your fingers over the pot straddling the stem, tip the plant out and have a look. Healthy roots will fill the pot and are just starting to circle at the bottom. The soil should hold together quite well. If the roots are barely visible, odd are this plant was just recently put in the pot and won't take off as quickly as the one with the roots filling the soil. On the other hand, roots poking out of the drainage hole will often reveal a mass of roots inside the pot. These plants will take a longer and slower time to establish.

Sopping wet soil? Withered tops? AVOID!

*Submitted by Lynda Haddon
from Gardening Gate Magazine*

Veggie Garden Hints

Submitted by Lynda Haddon

If you would still like to plant a few vegetables but don't have the space as your flower garden has been your focus, think about adding a few vegetables right into in your flower bed. There isn't a rule to say flowers and vegetables have to be kept separate. If you have an empty spot in your flower garden, try peppers, onions or romaine lettuce. Pair the edible plants so as one finishes, another is ready to take its place. Such placement may make it more difficult for rabbits and deer to find your veggies, at least one can hope so.

Seeing Red.....

Did you know that insects cannot see red but hummingbirds can and tend to go to that colour because there is more nectar in red plants?

Long-lasting Colour You Can't Miss - Veronica (Speedwell)

Easy-to-grow perennial with long spiked flowers of pink, white, purple or true blue. Bees and butterflies love the blooms. Hardy to Zones 3 to 8, they range in size from front-of-the-border 8-inch sweeties to middle-of-the-border 36-inch ones (Hocus Pocus, Red Fox, Icicle, Hungarian speedwell, 'Crater Lake Blue'). There is also a creeping type. Choose between purple, pink or blue flowers: Waterperry Blue or Georgia Blue.

Deadheading keeps Veronica reblooming. Snip spent blooms just above a leaf node to encourage side stems. To divide plants, dig out the complete plant, then split the woody crown and dense roots with a sharp spade. Replant at the same depth as the original plant was growing.

*(Source: Garden Gate magazine, June, 2012
www.gardengatemagazine.com)*

Financial Statement March 1 - 31, 2012

Ledger Balance -

February 29, 2012 \$ 1,685.64

RECEIPTS -

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Grants | 1,000.00 |
| Youth Activities | 253.03 |
| Membership | 226.00 |
| District 2 Annual Meeting | 275.00 |
| Bank Interest | <u>.02</u> |
| | \$1,754.05 |

EXPENSES -

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Youth Activities | 13.48 |
| District 2 Annual Meeting | 325.00 |
| Monthly Meeting Expenses | 126.47 |
| Speaker Fee | 75.00 |
| Office Supplies | 34.58 |
| OHA Dues | 82.50 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>18.08</u> |
| | - 675.11 |
| | \$1,078.94 |

Balance March 31, 2012

\$ 2,764.58

