

May 2013 Newsletter



If you have
a garden and
a library,
you have
everything
you need.

Marcus Tullius
Cicero



Perth & District
Horticultural
Society

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District #2 of the
Ontario Horticultural
Association



May Plant Sale - Don't Forget Us!

A reminder that our annual fundraiser – the Great Plant Sale – is coming up in May. Pot up your plants, bushes, herbs, grasses and whatever else you can think of from your garden and bring them to the Stewart School on Friday, May 17 from 5:30-7pm. If you can stay to help set up or spend an hour or so on Saturday helping out, we would love to see you – you may even have a lot of fun.

Don't forget to clearly label your plant, indicate whether it is a shade- or sun-loving variety and provide a few care instructions.

We will also be selling our bags of wonderful rose mix fertilizer. Hope we see you there!

**Perth & District Horticultural
Society Plant Sale**

Saturday, May 18, 2013

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**The Stewart School Gymnasium
Sunset Blvd.**

Perennial Shopping Tips

When buying new plants there are a few tips to keep in mind to get the best value for your dollar.

While the plant must look healthy, it is also a good idea to also look at the roots. Simply open your fingers through the plant stems and gently tip the pot over and check out the roots. If the roots are short, it may have recently been replanted into a larger pot and the roots haven't fully developed yet. Try to get a discount on this plant but

understand that it will be a while yet before the plant is fully able to establish strong roots and produce.

If there are lace-like holes on the leaves, this usually indicates pest damage, e.g. Japanese Beetle. Skip this one.

Shrivelled brown or pale leaves indicate either overwatering or inadequate protection from the sun. These plants rarely bounce back - keep on walking by.

Not every plant on the table needs watering, but when watering occurs, everyone gets a drink whether they need it or not. If a plant has a dead crown or pieces can be picked off the surface because of very short roots, this is not the plant for you.

Adapted from Garden Gate magazine brochure.

Rose Fertilizer

On the 23rd April a number of our members gathered to enjoy the sunny afternoon, good company and also to assemble our organic fertilizer. Those who participated were: Christiane McGlynn, Fred and Edith Lepine, Pam McCord, Robin McIntosh, Barbara Smith, Carleen Watson, Madeline Archer and myself.

Many thanks to those who participated and also to those who signed up but were unable to make it on the day. We had a good crew and within two hours we produced over 400 bags of fertilizer.

David Archer.

Junior Gardeners

The first few weeks of Junior Gardeners have been completed. Next



President: Madeline Archer

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

week is Cactus Garden week and the children are usually pretty keen on gardening after that project is completed. The following week will be our Mother's Day flower arrangements in tuna cans which is wildly popular and the week after will be our last class. Really?



Here is a photo of Barb Michie at Seedy Sunday with her wonderful "seedy" Junior Gardener fundraiser. Good Work Barb!

Library News

by Kevin Long, Librarian

One of the biggest challenges for many gardeners is to design the garden in such a way as to not only showcase individual plants but also to create a stunning total picture. In his book *Design in the Plant Collector's Garden* (712.6 Tur), Roger Turner shares how you can turn your garden "from chaos to beauty." This book is new to our collection, a gift from Nature Lover's Bookshop.

June Dessert Social And Master Gardeners' Panel

Our last meeting before we adjourn for July and August will be our world famous dessert social on June 11, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Library.

Time to break out your famous dessert that everyone loves and bring it to share. We always have a great array of fabulous cakes, pies, squares and cookies. Did anyone mention chocolate?? Latest dietary news - chocolate is good for you! Hooray!

We will have our popular panel of Master Gardeners ready and willing to answer your most difficult gardening questions and a quiz to stump all of you.

Planting Guide

Plant	Start Indoors	First Seed Out	Last Seed Out	Transplant Out
Beans		Late May	Late July	
Beets		Late April	Late July	
Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower	Later April			Late May
Carrots		Mid May	3 rd Week July	
Corn		Late May		
Cucumber		Late May		
Eggplant	Late April			Late May
Lettuce		Late May	3 rd Week August	
Onions		Late April		
Peas		Late April	August 1 st	
Peppers	Late March			Early June
Potatoes		Late April		
Radish		Late April	3 rd Week August	
Spinach		Late April	Late August	
Summer Squash		Late May		
Winter Squash		Early June		
Tomato	Early April			Early June
Turnip		Late April	Mid August	

Door prizes are also going to be given out.

This meeting also features a terrific flower show. It will only be terrific though if many of you participate. See the article below for the schedule which you can also find on page 7 of your Yearbook.

This is a great evening and everyone leaves in a good mood - even if somewhat overdosed on sugar!

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 Clematis - 1 bloom
- 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 "Wedding Day" a bouquet of flowers in vase
- Class 21 "First Dance" a kinetic design
- Class 22 "Flower Girl" a miniature design

We Aren't The New York Philharmonic But...

Whether you're at the movies or the symphony, before the show you are always expected to be quiet and often prompted to do one thing: Turn off your cell phone. But at a recent performance at the Lincoln Centre of Mahler's Ninth Symphony by the New York Philharmonic someone did not heed the warning. The strings had come to roaring crescendo as some of Mahler's most emotional music sauntered toward the end. Suddenly, the calming silence was broken. A marimba sounded. But not just any old marimba - an iPhone marimba. A front-row spectator had not turned off his phone, which chimed and chimed

during the Philharmonic's epic climax. In most circumstances, the conductor, musicians and audience will try their hardest to push the offending sound out of their minds. But the marimba didn't stop, which aggravated Maestro Gilbert beyond belief. The conductor stopped the orchestra, turned to the cell phone owner and said "Are you finished?" The man did not audibly answer the maestro, causing Gilbert to say "Fine, we'll wait." The man finally managed to silence his cell phone. Cringe-worthy lesson for sure.

We are only the Hort Society and not the Philharmonic but the sentiment is the same. Our speakers have valiantly put together presentations for our entertainment - please respect their time and turn off your cell and your conversations.

District 2 Summer Flower And Vegetable Show

Date: Saturday, August 10, 2013

Place: Beachburg Hall, 1767 Beachburg Road
Beachburg, ON

Hosted by: Beachburg Horticultural Society and
Deep River Horticultural Society.

Photography Workshop

Recently Simon Lunn held a photography workshop on how to get the best garden photographs. Five of us met with Simon at Lynda Haddon's home and garden and following some preliminary background sharing of what our cameras could achieve, how and why, we hit a lovely but sparse (at this time of the year) garden. Simon still managed to identify a plethora of plants which provided opportunities for great pictures (Lady's Mantle and Lupines with morning dew drops; leafy columbine; colourful daffodils and lungwort). Cameras today come with so many bells and whistles and the biggest challenge in taking exciting photos is knowing what your camera is capable of, in what light and holding it steady as you zoom in on your intended target. Simon encouraged us to "think outside the box" and be creative in what we like to photograph and in due course and with some practice, our photos would grow, blossom, develop and bloom.

If you are interested in taking a 6-hour photography course with Simon, let one of the Board of Directors know and we can arrange another very worthwhile session. With a maximum of six people to a class, there is plenty of time for individual attention and support.

Cameras and gardens = a winning combination.

Submitted by Lynda Haddon

Monthly Financial Statement

1 March – 30 April, 2013

Ledger Balance – February 28, 2013 \$ 1,314.49

RECEIPTS –

March

Grants.....	\$1,000.00
Donations	1,550.00
Conference	90.00
Bank Interest01
Total March.....	<u>\$2,640.01</u>

April

Donations	\$ 76.00
Youth Activities	238.49
Membership	219.00
Yearbook.....	50.00
Bank Interest02
Total April	<u>\$3,223.52</u>

EXPENSES –

March

Youth Activities	\$ 617.53
Community Projects	13.54
Conferences.....	186.42
Yearbook.....	8.28
Meeting Expenses	63.28
Advertising.....	46.10
District 2 Fees.....	76.50
Total March.....	<u>\$1,011.65</u>

April

Meeting Expenses	\$ 24.86
Speakers.....	75.00
Miscellaneous	16.95
Total April	<u>\$ 116.81</u>

Balance April 30, 2013.....\$3,409.55

Reserve Fund – GIC due July 4, 2013 - \$ 2,500.00

Keeping Hostas Healthy

While relatively easy to keep, grow and divide, there are a few issues which may occur with Hostas:

Slugs are probably the most common pest found on hostas. If you have irregular holes on your plants, use Sluggo or other iron phosphate bait. Safe for use around kids and pets. Scatter, don't pile, the bait in thin strips around the plant base. Putting bait out in early spring as prevention stops things getting out of hand. Place bait as soon as the new hosta leaves peek

out of the ground.

Foliar nematodes are microscopic worms which live in the soil and eat the foliage between the veins from late summer to early fall. Control is difficult and prevention is the way to go. Remove any infected leaves and put them in the trash ASAP (not compost). This pest spreads as water splashes from plant to plant, so avoid watering the leaves and water at ground level.

Hosta Virus X - difficult to spot this relatively new disease because symptoms vary on different cultivars. Generally, look for leaf mottling throughout the leaf. Twisted, stunted or puckered leaves and stems are also warning signs. Unfortunately this plant has got to go! Remove it from your garden and trash it. The virus spreads easily through the sap, so when leaf cutting, dividing a clump or removing flower stems, the disease is easily spread on your cutters. Prevent this by dipping tools in a 10:1 bleach and water solution before moving onto another plant. (Be sure and dry tools thoroughly so they don't rust when you are finished.)

Adapted from Garden Gate magazine brochure

—It's a Snap!—

A series of tips on garden photography.

Time To Shoot

Think about the time at which you shoot very carefully. The quality of the light will make all the difference in how your shots turn out. Shooting in the middle of the day won't work as the sun is shining brightly, and the overhead light will be too harsh. You can try shooting on overcast days, as the light won't be as intense, but you're best off shooting in the early morning or early evening, when the light will be softer and warmer.

Choose a day when there is no breeze, otherwise the delicate plants and flowers will be blown all over the place and it will be really difficult to capture a sharp image. On a still day, you should be able to capture a plant at 1/125, but on a windy day, you'll need your shutter speed set to anything from 1/500 above, which will start making overall exposure difficult.

