



The Ladyslipper

Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com



Est. 1984

P.O. Box 494
Perth, ON K7H 3G1
November 2020

COVID-19 Daffodil Planting in Stewart Park

Submitted by Sandi Sissons and Lynda Haddon

On October 14, under blue sunny skies at 9:30 in the morning, 12 horticulture volunteers met in Stewart Park to plant a 1,000 daffodil bulbs that David Archer had kindly donated. We gathered in our masks and with our planting tools, while maintaining social distances, the work began. At times looking over the area, we resembled worker bees in a hive as we worked up and down and across the hill.



Photo Credit: John McQuarrie



Photo Credit: Sandi Sissons

There was an easy pleasant atmosphere as everyone worked together: some digging, some planting and covering, then move and repeat. In an hour and half we completed the planting (amounting to 18.5 volunteer hours).

Now we have to wait for spring and Mother Nature to help us produce a show for our members and the town of Perth to enjoy.

Thank you to the following members for a job well done: Jane Avery, Kim McPherson, Rita Godin, Gail Guy, Richard Catchpaw, Rilery Garner, Muriel Hopper, Joan Hunter, Pip Hanes, Ed Roberts, Lynda Haddon and Sandi Sissons.

President's Pen

Hard to believe it is the month of November. The weather this past week has been incredible. I took full advantage of the warm afternoons and put my gardens to bed for winter in hopes that I will be ahead of the game in the spring.

I would like to thank the Archers for the donation of the daffodil bulbs and the idea of planting them in an area where we can all go enjoy their beauty in the spring. I also was to thank Lynda Haddon for connecting with the Town of Perth to arrange the planting of the bulbs in Stewart Park.

We are going to start Guest Speaker Zoom meetings for our members until we can meet again in person with our first one being the Christmas Floral Design Demonstration I mentioned in our email earlier this week and again on this page.

Take care and stay safe.

Linda Bartlett

Email: pdhsmembers@gmail.com

Please share your horticultural photos with PDHS. We would love to feature them in upcoming newsletters.

Jane Avery is pleased to share this image of her prize carrot.



Christmas Floral Design Demonstration

Special Virtual Zoom Session

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Since we cannot meet in person, the PDHS Board is pleased to announce a Virtual Christmas Floral Design Demonstration for your viewing pleasure while staying safe and relaxing in your home. It is our way to stay connected and reach out to our members in a new and different medium.

Rhonda from Sweet Pea's Fresh Flowers in Perth will demonstrate different Christmas floral designs through a virtual Zoom session.



At the end of the demonstration, we will raffle the designs to members who are still on the Zoom session. Pick up of the arrangements will be at Sweet Pea's on Gore Street in Perth the following day.

I will send out the Zoom Session information a few days before the event.

I will create a 15-20 minute practice Zoom Session for Monday, November 16th at 7:00 pm for anyone who is not familiar with Zoom. I will send the link for this session out as well in the next few days.

GROWING AMARYLLIS TIPS

Condensed tips from www.healthyhouseplants.com



Force Amaryllis Indoors for the Holidays

Now that fall is here, it's time to get your bulbs for forcing. Several options exist for types of bulbs to grow as houseplants, but one of the most spectacular and reliable of indoor bloomers is amaryllis.

Within 6 to 8 weeks of planting amaryllis indoors, the bulb blooms. Plant your amaryllis bulbs soon, and you'll enjoy this stunning tropical flower lighting up your indoor garden during the holiday season.

Amaryllis come in many colours and patterns, from solid colours like white, green, pink, red, burgundy and cream, to eye-catching variegated patterns that contain stripes, speckles and spots. Oversized flower heads appear at the end of 12- to 18-inch-long stalks and last for several days once open.

Keep the following cultivation tips in mind when growing amaryllis as a houseplant.

Choosing Amaryllis Bulbs

Pick the largest amaryllis bulbs, as they will produce the biggest flowers and the strongest stems.

Check for firmness. Amaryllis bulbs should have no mushy spots or look to be rotting.

Planting Amaryllis Bulbs

Plant amaryllis pointy side up in a container without drainage holes that contains loose, well-draining soil. Or grow them in a glass container filled with polished river rocks.

For amaryllis in containers, fill the pot three-quarters full with soil and place the bulb into the soil, until it almost covers the bulb, but leaves an inch of the bulb tip exposed. For amaryllis grown in river rock, submerge the bulb until the top half is located above the rocks and the bottom half below.

Watering Amaryllis Bulbs

Water amaryllis when planting to moisten the soil and then keep the container moist but not soggy during the growth and flowering process. For amaryllis grown in water, keep the rocks filled with water to just below the bottom of the bulb. Once the rocks fill with roots, keep the water level high enough to submerge the roots.

Indoor Amaryllis Location

Place amaryllis in a bright location, such as an unobstructed eastern or southern window. The bulbs also respond well under artificial lighting, such as full-spectrum bulbs. Locate the bulbs away from drafty locations like heating ducts and doors and windows.

Fertilizing Amaryllis

Bulbs don't require feeding until the flowers are spent. It is after blooming finishes that the bulbs store up energy for re-blooming. Try feeding amaryllis with a bulb food, and you may enjoy re-flowering next spring or summer.

Flower Arranging Inspiration from www.flowermag.com

Pat Roberts and Sherry Spencer, the mother-daughter duo behind Southern Blooms, designed this arrangement with 'Piano' garden roses, 'Red Charm' peonies, red amaryllis, oncidium orchids, blue viburnum berries, string of pearls succulents, begonia foliage, camellia foliage, nandina foliage, olive foliage, cedar foliage, and curly willow.



Photo by Kip Dawkins

The Well Gardened Mind?

Source: Sue Stuart-Smith, Published by Willian Collins

Unwinding with nature...

This is a book review adaptation from The Guardian

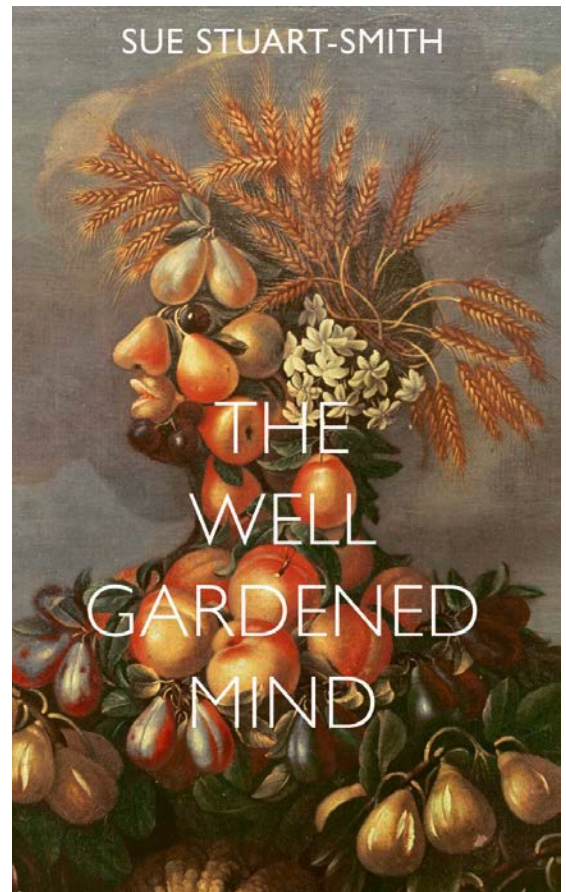
Sue Stuart-Smith, a psychiatrist and psychotherapist, has a unique view of gardening: *“I have come to understand that deep existential processes can be involved in creating and caring for a garden.”* For her, a garden – such as her own at Serge Hill, Hertfordshire, England – is far more than just a much loved physical space. It is also a mental space, one that *“gives you quiet, so you can hear your thoughts.”* When you work with your hands in the garden, weeding or clipping, you free your mind to work through feelings and problems... By tending your plants, you are also gardening your inner space and, over time, a garden is woven into your sense of identity, becoming a place to *“buffer us when the going gets tough.”*

It was Wordsworth who said that to walk through a garden is to be *“in the midst of the realities of things,”* to be immersed in the primal awareness not just of nature’s beauty, but the eternal cycle of the seasons, of life, death and re-birth. The psychoanalyst Carl Jung believed modern technological life had alienated us from the *“dark maternal, earthy ground of our being.”* He grew his own vegetables and argued that *“every human should have a plot of land so that their instincts can come to life again.”*

The fast and unremitting pace of modern urban living, with its smart technology and instant feedback leads to a *“devaluing of the slower rhythms of natural time.”* We have become disconnected from nature: *“the pace of life is the pace of plants.”* Informed by literature as well as psychoanalysis, Stuart-Smith’s beautifully written book is filled with insights into the joys of gardening, but also the remarkable therapeutic benefits that tending plants can offer, not just to people who feel they have lost their place in nature, but to everyone: *“As we cultivate the earth, we cultivate an attitude of care towards the world.”* She argues for a greening of our lives – bringing green spaces back into housing developments and encouraging community gardening schemes.

This is a life-affirming study of the special pleasures of tending your garden and growing things, from planting the seed and watching it grow each day (*“seeds have tomorrow ready-built into them”*), to cropping home-grown vegetables and cooking delicious meals with them. Even the chores like weeding and watering have their unique joys: *“watering is calming and strangely, when it is finished, you end up feeling refreshed, like the plants themselves.”* Her heartfelt arguments for the benefits of nature and gardening for our mental health are informed by research in neuroscience and the evidence of patients who have improved through therapeutic gardening. Gardening brings together the emotional, physical, social, vocational and spiritual aspects of life, boosting people’s mood and self-esteem.

Stuart-Smith agrees passionately with Voltaire’s conclusion to *Candide*: *“Il faut cultiver notre jardin”* – we must cultivate our gardens. For, as she says: *“In this era of virtual worlds and fake facts, the garden brings us back to reality.”*



Rose Pink Applesauce

By Debi Traub.

Source: www.cbc.ca/life/food/rose-pink-applesauce-1.5037965

This is a head-turning applesauce if ever there was one. Debi Traub, founder of Simply Beautiful Eating, has us wondering why we've never done this before, and looking for an excuse to make applesauce, if ever we needed one. If latkes at Hanukkah are not in your future, an alternate fried or crispy roast potato dish is crying out for a pretty dollop too.



Latkes and applesauce is a traditional Hanukkah combination, a delicious pairing of salty and sweet, crunchy and soft, warm and cool. Even if latkes are not on the menu, you can serve it to dollop on top of your kugel or serve as a side dish for meat or chicken. This pink applesauce gets its colour from the red skin of apples. So pretty to serve as part of your tablescape.

Ingredients

- 3 lbs red apples, ideally Fuji or Red Delicious for a sweeter sauce or Macintosh for a tangier flavour
- 1 cup apple cider
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 2 tbsp sugar

Preparation

Wash the apples well and do not peel them. The skin is what gives this sauce its beautiful pink colour.

Core apples, then chop into small pieces.



Place apples, cider, cinnamon and sugar into a heavy pot. Bring to a slow boil over medium heat, then reduce to a simmer, cover tightly and cook for 20-25 minutes, stirring often, until the apples are soft.

Remove the cinnamon stick and puree apples in a food processor. Refrigerate until needed, for up to one week in an airtight container.

Servings: Makes 3 cups

Prairie Garden to launch new edition Nov. 18

The Prairie Garden, which publishes a yearly growing guide for northern gardeners, will host an online launch of its latest edition — its 82nd! — on Nov. 18 at 7 pm via Zoom. Registration on Zoom is required for the event, which will also be streamed on YouTube, where it can be viewed later.

The title of the volunteer group's latest publication is Flowering Shrubs, with a Special Feature on Roses. Editors and contributors will introduce the book and provide insights into what gardeners can learn from the new edition. The book can be ordered through theprairiegarden.com.

Thanks to Garden Making magazine's editor Beckie Fox for this timely announcement. <http://gardenmaking.com>

The Soul of the Garden

Webinar highlights from Paul Zammit's October 27th presentation, hosted by the Ottawa Horticultural Society
<http://Ottawahort.org/events/the-soul-of-the-garden/>

In his presentation *The Soul of the Garden*, Paul Zammit takes a closer look at why we garden and what gardens mean beyond a collection of plants. Paul also explores the possibilities of gardens both from an aesthetic and personal perspective.

Paul is a graduate of the University of Guelph and is a professor of Horticulture at Niagara College. Prior to joining the faculty, he held the position of the Director of Horticulture at the Toronto Botanical Garden for 10 years. He is a passionate and energetic gardener and lover of nature who has been delivering presentations across Canada, throughout the US and internationally in countries such as Switzerland, Germany, Bermuda and South Africa for over 25 years. For the past five years Paul has been providing gardening advice on the CBC *Here and Now* radio program. In 2017, *Garden Making* magazine selected Paul and his wife as two of Canada's top 20 people shaping gardens across Canada. Paul was also the recipient of the 2019 Garden Communicator of the Year award from Landscape Ontario.

Paul referenced a number of his favorite gardens, during his talk. You may wish to explore these gardens virtually, and to make plans to explore them in person, when travel opens up again.

Les Quatre Vents (The Four Winds) located at la Malbaie, Quebec

Here is a link to the TVO documentary on Francis Cabot entitled: *The Gardener*. It is superb!

tvo.org/video/documentaries/the-gardener



Abkhazi Garden in Victoria BC, "The garden that love built"

<https://www.abkhaziteahouse.com/>

The world famous Abkhazi Garden is an exquisite heritage home and garden located in Victoria, British Columbia, a city known for its wonderful gardens. The Prince and Princess Abkhazi began creating their garden in 1946, the year they married and settled in Victoria, after living separate lives touched by privilege and tragedy. They immediately began to develop their one-acre property, and continued to maintain and improve the garden throughout their lives together.



The garden is discreet from the street, with only hints of what exists beyond the hornbeam hedge. It is blessed with dramatic glaciated rocky slopes, magnificent native Garry oaks and gorgeous vistas. The garden flows around the rock, with Japanese maples and rhododendrons which over the last 70 years have grown to an impressive maturity with carpets of heather, irises and daylilies.

**Wildside, Devon UK - "Wiley at Wildside:
Vision, Landscaping , Planting & Risk Taking"**
<http://wileyatwildside.com/the-gallery/>



"Looking at the treasure trove of gardening ideas to be found in nature, from under our noses to far-flung corners of the globe. By allowing our observations of natural landscapes to inform our plantings, I believe that we can loosen the strait-jacket that long-established horticultural practices impose allowing the enormous creative potential, latent within most of us, the freedom to express itself." Keith Wiley

"Wildside is an extraordinary place. Keith's ability to replicate different environmental situations and plant habitats – and blend them together seamlessly – is nothing short of spectacular."

Chris Young, Editor, The Garden RHS Magazine 2019

Sissinghurst Castle Garden

"England's most romantic country garden"
nationaltrust.org.uk/sissinghurst-castle-garden

Sissinghurst is managed by The National Trust. NT celebrated their 125th anniversary in 2020. The Secret Garden was filmed at several NT locations including Bodnant Garden, Conwy, UK. Bodnant Garden was the grand vision of Victorian scientist Henry Pochin who, together with his descendants, created a landscape of buzzing meadows, woodland glades, water gardens & exotic blooms collected by plant-hunters.



Great Dixter, Northiam, East Essex England
www.greatdixter.co.uk/

Great Dixter was the family home of gardener and gardening writer Christopher Lloyd – it was the focus of his energy and enthusiasm and fuelled over 40 years of books and articles. Now under the stewardship of Fergus Garrett and the Great Dixter Charitable Trust, Great Dixter is an historic house, a garden, a centre of education, and a place of pilgrimage for horticulturists from across the world. Lloyd was known for his innovative gardening and love of colour, as well as his wit and strong opinions. Lloyd took a degree (1949) in horticulture from Wye College, University of London, and in 1954 opened a nursery at Great Dixter. He wrote a few books: *The Mixed Border* (1957); *The Well-Tempered Garden* (1970) and *Succession Planting for Adventurous Gardeners* (2005). Lloyd wrote the weekly column "In My Garden" for *Country Life* magazine from 1963 to 2005. He was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1979 and was appointed OBE in 2000.

