



The Ladyslipper



Perth & District Horticultural Society

www.perthhortsociety.com

Est. 1984

September 2023

President's Pen

Welcome to our first fall 2023 meeting of the Perth & District Horticultural Society. We trust that you had a super summer. With all the rain, our gardens seemed like they were on steroids.

Thanks to our board member Wenda Veldman for organizing tonight's mini flower show. We will have another mini flower show in October. Please see the schedule in this newsletter.

As our November AGM approaches, please consider joining our board. We have a number of positions to fill including newsletter editor and flower show chair. Returning board members will gladly show new participants the ropes. We welcome new faces and fresh perspectives. Together we can grow the Perth & District Horticultural Society.

Our October meeting being held on the 10th will feature guest speaker Rebecca Last who's talk is entitled "Climate Change and Your Garden". Retired from Natural Resources Canada in 2021, Rebecca's research now focuses on gardening, plant science and food security. She volunteers with Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton, the Ottawa Horticultural Society and the Michelle Heights Community Garden, Ottawa, gives gardening talks across Ontario and shares her passion for the science behind gardening via her blog, Gardening at Last (<https://gardeningatlast.ca/>).

As always, we welcome your ideas for speakers, outings, work shops and newsletter content.

Best!

Jane & Linda

Purdon Conservation Tour

What fun, what a wonderful, fantastic time they had!

In June four members of our Hort society joined Jim Ronson for a guided tour of Purdon Conservation Area near McDonalds Corners in the Lanark Highlands

Pictured are Catherine Stephen Dunn, Sandy Sissons, Caroline Bolduc, Muriel Hopper and Jim Ronson.



Purdon boasts Canada's largest colony of Showy Lady's Slipper Orchids. Open dawn to dusk, Victoria Day to Thanksgiving, Purdon features a fully



accessible 1.7 km boardwalk trail, wheelchair accessible outhouse, parking and picnic area. The typical bloom period for the Showy Lady's Slipper Orchids is the third weekend in June to early-mid July.

The ladies who toured with Jim

were wowed by the orchids and pitcher plants on the trail. Lots of laughs and a good time was had by all. It is amazing to discover the treasures that grow right in our back yard.



For details go to the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority website www.Mbc.on.ca/conservation-areas/Purdon/

A Summer Road Trip to tour Glen Villa Art Garden in La Belle Provence

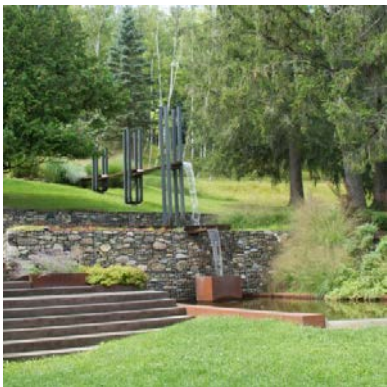
by Jane Avery

Inspired by an article read in The Globe Mail, I said to my partner John “Let’s Go!” We set off for a July weekend in picturesque North Hatley in Quebec’s Eastern Townships.

Glen Villa is a 750-acre property enhanced with contemporary sculpture, Asian artifacts, and works of art. Flowers, shrubs and stately trees add to the natural beauty of the land. Sculptures and art installations highlight the history of the property and the people who have lived on it.

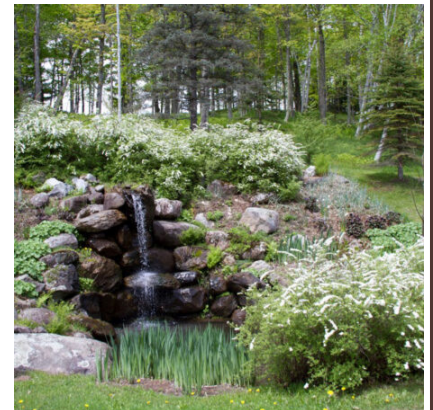
The original inhabitants of the land now called Glen Villa were Abenaki. In the early 20th century, two grand resort hotels welcomed summer visitors. After both hotels burned down, Glen Villa became the site of summer camps, cottages and year-round homes. Patterson and Norman Webster named the property Glen Villa after one of the hotels.

On occasion, Patterson opens up her stunning property on the shore of Lake Massawippi for tours. Our exploration was truly inspiring.



Of particular interest to me, a veteran of the print media business, was ‘Webster’s Column’, a monument Patterson created in 2010 to commemorate her husband’s 50-year career as a journalist. The glass column is filled with newspapers. The place names on the granite base show locations from which he reported. Webster’s bio is truly impressive! Quotations around the base illustrate different attitudes towards journalists and journalism.

We were delighted to meet Patterson on the terrace of her home. She gives talks on various aspects of gardening. I encourage you to check out her website: www.GlenVillaArtGarden.com where you can enjoy narrated videos that provide a preview of the gardens at Glen Villa. If you have the opportunity to tour the gardens in person next summer... I would jump at the chance.



2024 District 2 AGM

The Perth & District Horticultural Society will be celebrating 40 years in 2024 and we will be hosting the District 2 AGM in Perth on May 4, 2024 at Glad Tidings Church on Wayside Drive. We are in the planning stages and will look to all members of our society to help organize and create an extraordinary day for all societies in our District. If you have any ideas for this event, please let us know by email at pdhsmembers@gmail.com or talking to any of our board members at our meetings. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

Veggie Bites

by Judith Cox

Greetings fellow gardeners,

Oh, my goodness it is hot and dry. Hopefully, the temperatures will go down to normal soon and we will get some rain. So many of my plants are blooming right now, which is lovely, but the heat makes the blossoms end quickly. Irises, roses, and peonies are flowering fast and then gone. Lower temperatures should slow things down.



Picking Rose Petals

Early Monday morning I walked to the back of my property where huge thorny roses grow against the fence. The rose I went for is the one I know as Frontenac. I brought a four-cup measuring cup with me and filled it with rose petals. My first batch of rose petal jelly is ready to eat.

Rose Petal Jelly

- Fill a 4-cup measuring cup with unsprayed rose petals
- Add 3 cups of boiling water
- Place in fridge overnight (covered)
- Strain and discard petals
- Place water in large pot and boil with 2 ½ cups of sugar and ¼ cup lemon juice
- Boil for two minutes
- Add a pouch of pectin and boil 2 more minutes
- Remove from the heat
- You can add one or two teaspoons of rosewater should you wish
- Pour into sterilized jars

It is a good time to take a walk around your garden and see what is going on. Last fall I tried layering bulbs in a large pot. I have been hoping for some sign of flowers, but so far, all that has emerged is a few blue alliums. The red orach I seeded over the surface has done well and is ready to eat. I planted a tomato in the center and some purple alyssum to show off the colour of the orach. When my orach reaches about four feet, I can cut it and harvest the leaves, or I can harvest the leaves as I want them. I usually pull off a few leaves for every salad, chop them and enjoy their rich spinach taste.



Veggie Bites (cont'd) by Judith Cox

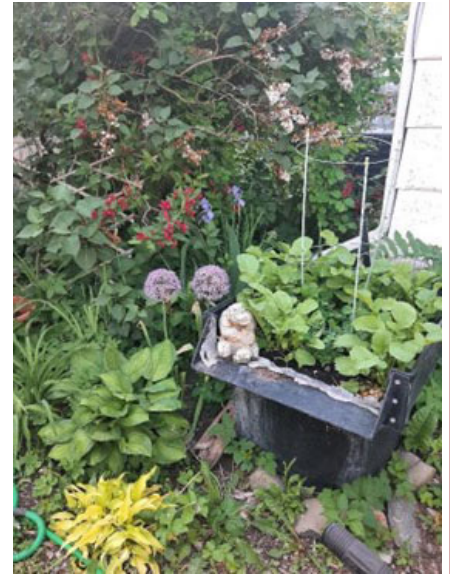
I checked on the cool crop planter, and it is doing well. The radishes are huge and need to be thinned. The peas are starting to climb, as is the spinach and the Swiss chard is happy. I need to fill the little bee-waterer every day because there is a red squirrel that continuously sucks the water out of it.

Although we have hot weather, I still have plants that need to get planted. I have several peppers that will be potted up and placed here and there. I don't want a concentration of peppers as I am trying to avoid pests. The Queensland Blue squash I planted in the hügelkultur are doing well. I cut the bottom out of some pots and planted them into the 'pot sleeve' so they could have a great mix of nutrients. I am planting the rest of the squash there as well, and those roots can work on mixing up the components of the hügelkultur. There are several Kevin tomatoes that need to be planted. One of my too-many cats, Kevin, has a problem with labels and reaches through the netting to pull out the labels and hide them. Last year he did that with my zucchini and cucumber seedlings, and this year I find myself with many unnamed tomato seedlings.

A friend is coming by this week as she enjoys working in the garden and I have more than enough goutweed that needs to be destroyed. It is a very productive time.

Keep watering and feed your tomatoes once a week; you do not want blossom-end rot. If you are using a commercial tomato food, follow the directions carefully or you may burn your plants. Enjoy your week. Judith.

(Email: sghorticultural@gmail.com) Veggie Bites are available at <https://sghorticultural.wixsite.com/website> or <https://gardeningcalendar.ca/category/veggie-bites/>



Cool weather crops

AND ALL AT ONCE

Summer

COLLAPSED INTO



To Prune or Not to Prune

By Paul Pietsch, Lanark County Master Gardeners

That is the question. Pruning, it seems to me, is a difficult procedure for most gardeners. The reasons for doing some pruning are usually many. In reality, there are only a few situations that really require any pruning. Fruit production, flowers, shape or foliage can all be helped or improved - but it is not necessary to the plants. If no pruning was done to a plant, apples would still ripen, tomatoes would turn red, and foliage would still be variegated. Now wait a minute! Perhaps not. Some plant anomalies require pruning. The two pictures below demonstrate how things could go wrong if nothing is done.



Harlequin Maple



Dwarf Spruce gone rogue

The first picture is a harlequin maple. It was bought as a small tree with light green and whitish leaves. All variegated plants, sooner rather than later, will send out branches that are all green. These “all green” branches must be removed. This is because branches that are all green have more chlorophyll and thus make two to three times as much growth as the lighter variegated branches. Eventually, the “all green” section becomes dominant. This is what happened to the tree in the picture below.

It is way too late to do anything about this tree. What should have been done is that as the green growth appeared, it should have been removed at the source. Do not leave any stubs.

The second picture below shows a Dwarf Alberta Spruce gone rogue. These spruce are very popular. They only grow about three inches per year. This keeps them very compact; thus, they fit nicely into many home landscapes. The original plant from Alberta has been propagated by cuttings many times over. The largest I have seen is one of the original cuttings taken from Alberta many years ago that was about twelve feet tall at Harvard University’s Arnold Arboretum in Boston. These are mutations of the original native White Spruce from which it grew. The mutated growth of Dwarf Alberta Spruce is soft and short. White Spruce which is the growth coming out of the dwarf spruce, is actually normal growth. It is possible for this normal growth to manifest at any time. If it does - it must be removed. It is not enough to just nip the tops of these long-growing branches- they must be removed from where they originate on the dwarf spruce.

These are two examples of required pruning. Most others are optional.

October - Last of the Season Mini Show

SCHEDULE

Section I: Horticultural Specimen

- Class 1: Last Rose of Summer – any cultivar – 1 bloom, stem or spray
- Class 2: Any perennial other than rose – 1 bloom or stem - named
- Class 3: 3 leaves – same cultivar – named
- Class 4: Any annual – 3 stems - named
- Class 5: Garlic – 3 bulbs – displayed on a plate
- Class 6: Tomatoes – minimum 3 – displayed on a plate
- Class 7: Any other vegetable – named (one to a maximum of three each)

Section II: Design

- Class 8: Thanks for the Season – a design using fresh and/or dried flowers
- Class 9: Spooky – an illuminary design
- Class 10: Pik n Plunk – an arrangement using fall flowers and ornamental grasses

SHOW RULES

Exhibitors must be members of the Perth & District Horticultural Society.

Entries are to be placed prior to 7:00 p.m. when judging takes place.

Once placed, entries may only be moved by the show steward.

Only one entry per exhibitor for each Design Class.

Maximum of two entries per exhibitor for each Horticultural Class providing specimens are of different cultivars.

All entries in Horticultural classes must have been grown or have been in the possession of the exhibitor for three months.

Entry tag must be completed and remain with the entry.

The decision of the judge is final.

No exhibit will receive a prize, even though it is the only one in the class, unless judged to have sufficient merit.

No exhibit may be moved before the specified closing time.

All shows will take place during regular meetings.

Definition of an Illuminary Design - A design that incorporates light or lights as an integral part of the design.

Please refer to the website for more information: <https://www.perthhortsociety.com/>