

Bittersweet Muse

Newsletter
of the
Lennox &
Addington
Horticultural
Society



Summer 2011

Summer Garden Tour

On a very warm evening in July we visited the Prince Edward County Lavender Farm near Hillier. It was a beautiful place and we were very warmly welcomed by the owners, Rolande Ann Leblanc and Derek Ryles.

From their demonstration garden, Rolande gave us a brief overview of how the farm came to be, the types of plants they grow, and the characteristics and requirements of lavender.

Then we headed out into the field for a closer look. The rows of purple flowers

had such a beautiful scent it was hard to leave.



Derek distills lavender oil from a piece of machinery he made himself from old parts. We all gathered around in the field as he demonstrated how oil is produced from flower heads using steam.



Recipes from our Pot Luck Suppers

First a note of caution: this recipe is meant for spraying not drinking.

Even though it isn't really something from our pot luck suppers, this recipe is useful if you have something growing in your garden you wish wasn't there, like poison ivy. This spray will cause plants to wilt beyond repair, including something you may want that's growing close by. So if your favourite Petunia's growing behind a noxious weed, take it easy with the spray!

Plant Spray

In a spray bottle, mix the following together in equal proportions:

water, bleach and vinegar

Add a good shot of dish soap

Spray this mixture on noxious plants shielding anything you wish to keep.



Plant Sale News

To say the day of our plant sale in May was damp would be an understatement.

Members brought the most wonderful plants to the sale and, despite the drizzle, we sold most of them. Thank you to everyone who participated by helping to set up, bring in plants, advising customers where the plants would do best in the garden and helping to clean up afterward. Your help during our one fund raising event of the year is very much appreciated.

Thanks for making the day such a success. Certainly didn't need to water anything during the sale!



Customers brave the dampness (above) while Norma has a close look at what's for sale (right).



President's Message



Hello, Fellow Gardeners:

If you can't find me, holler. I might be in one of those tall weed patches pulling wild parsnips or grasses, or whatever is smothering my perennials.

Right now the ground is like cement and I have to leave stubble until I can get to the roots of evil after a downpour. But, surely, I'm not telling you anything you haven't experienced first hand.

Now to something most of you also know but what easily gets lost in the shuffle. Our L&A Horticultural Society is one of 15 groups in District 3, part of the Eastern region within the Ontario Horticultural Association. Our representatives attend District (and provincial) meetings to report on our activities and achievements, and to share ideas. We send part of our membership fees to the organization and receive annual grants, as long as we have at least 50 members. Other operating costs for speakers, hall rental, etc., have to be raised by our plant sale. New ideas are welcome!



Outside the greenhouse at this year's plant sale.

We have a mandate to share the joy and knowledge of gardening and care for our environment with you, our members, and our community. One of our Society's involvements is our partnership with the Stewardship Council and their Urban Renewal Project. Our association with the Macpherson House has a long history. Some of our members are involved in helping with the maintenance of the garden. The community garden is indirectly supported by us, initiated by Susan Withers and others, with volunteer support of Society members and members of the Salvation Army. The produce was, and is again this year, going to the food bank.

We have an arrangement with NDSS, the local high school, to grow plants for our (and their) plant sale. This maintains a relationship with students, who, through a horticultural course, and financial help of the Society, get some knowledge in raising plants in a greenhouse. Some years ago, our members got together in good sized flocks to transplant tiny petunias and other greens, doing all the work ourselves, and we had fun too!

We have to keep this level of involvement, enthusiasm and energy to keep the Society going. New members? New ideas? Get involved, much depends on every single member.

My thumbs are green and shredded from all this weeding, my fingernails are black. Time to wash the dishes! Time is flying - have a nice summer and fall!

Hildegard

Upcoming Events for Our Horticultural Society

Everyone is welcome to join members of the Lennox & Addington Horticultural Society. Regular meetings are generally held the third Wednesday of the month.

August 17 – this is our annual Society barbeque. Luzy has generously said we could hold the barbeque in her beautiful garden in Napanee, starting at 6 o'clock. After supper, we could go by the community garden and see how all the vegetables are doing.

September 21 – we return to the Memorial Building at 7 pm for our regular meeting. Please use the Robert Street entrance. Everyone has the chance to say how their garden did this past summer and there will be a seed swap.

October 19 – growing vegetables in our back yards in raised beds will be the topic of tonight's meeting. Melanie Kerr will present this topic at our regular meeting at the Memorial Building at 7 o'clock.

November 16 – Our annual meeting takes place tonight at the Memorial Building starting at 7 pm. If you wish to hold an office in the society, please let Hildegard know. Larry will show us something from his movie collection.

December 7 – This is our annual Christmas pot luck supper in the basement of Grace United Church on at the corner of Bridge Street West and Robert Street in Napanee at 6 pm. Don't forget your plate and cutlery for this evening's festivities.



Kim keeps the money dry under an awning overlapping the tailgate of her van at our annual plant sale in May.

Lennox & Addington Horticultural Society Executive –

President: *Hildegard Dorosh*
Past President: *Harold Bentley*
Treasurer: *Kim Hay*
Secretary: *Florence Bell*
Newsletter: *Gail Knowles*
Webmaster: *Kim Hay*

Be sure to check the Internet for Society news. Our website is: www.gardenontario.org/site.php/lennox

Member of District 3 of the



**ONTARIO
HORTICULTURAL
ASSOCIATION**