



DECEMBER Thymes 2025

THE PARIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, founded in 1986, an approachable garden club. Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month, from September to June, at the Paris Fairgrounds. Refreshments are served at 7:00 pm and following the meeting; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME

Co-presidents: Carol Reansbury rboos3918@rogers.com 519-442-3918

Patti Gladding patti@gladding.ca 519-442-1530

Past Co-Presidents: Nancy Burkholder and Edith Stone

Treasurer: Dorothy Lanyi

Secretary: David Collins

NEXT MEETING: December 3rd, 2025

Social at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm

This will be our annual Christmas dinner.

We will have dinner in the larger room this year in order to accommodate all who want tickets.

This will be a traditional turkey dinner prepared for us by the PA Homecraft.

The meal includes dessert and entertainment.

Thank you to Ellan Riddle and Brenda Simpson for the treats for the October meeting. Special thanks to Susan MacMillan our ADD District 6 who generously brought a snack.

January snacks will be provided by Pat Hasler-Watts and Bob Hasler



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



“Chill December brings the sleet, blazing fire, and Christmas treat.”
Sarah Coleridge.

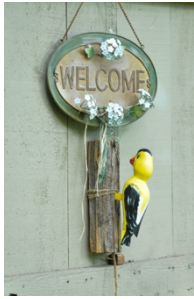
December is also a time of inspiration; from the garden arrangements outside to welcome friends and family, to the winter bulbs such as Amaryllis and Paper Whites as well as Poinsettia and Star of Bethlehem to warm up the inside.

Hoping to see everyone at our annual traditional Christmas dinner and dessert with entertainment by the Beechnuts.

Wishing everyone a joyful December and may all your gardening wishes come true in 2026

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 🥳

Co-Presidents, Patti Gladding and Carol Reansbury



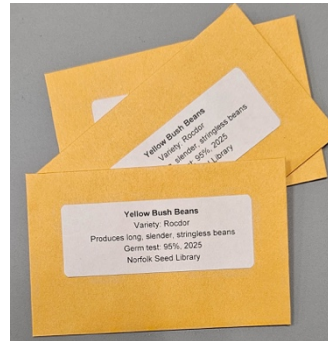
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Esther Carter and Linda Geary. Esther is a new arrival in Paris.

SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER: Sarah Judd of Meadow Lynne Farms

Due to technical difficulties Sarah Judd was not able to show her photos but she did an excellent job of improvising. She spoke mainly on composting and covered the many methods, including worms! She declined any fee for her evening talk but she put us to work packaging seeds while she spoke.

She passed around a box of envelopes and labels, we were to take 3 and label them. Then a container of Yellow Bush Bean seeds. We placed 10 – 12 seeds per envelope and turned them back to her at the end of her talk. A very clever and fun way to help this busy mother of 3 children under 4 get seeds ready for the Norfolk Seedy Saturday.



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LIBRARY: The books are set out each month. Lots of information *in print*.

COMMUNITY GARDENS: Thanks to Dave Collins and Doug Hanna, the gardens have been put to bed for the winter.

SHARE THE WEALTH: The \$40.25 was won by Lynne LaPlain.

DRAW PRIZES: Lots of prizes: winners this week were Robert Riddle, Bob Hasler, Maureen Little, Anne Marie Brown and Lynne LaPlain.

CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners!



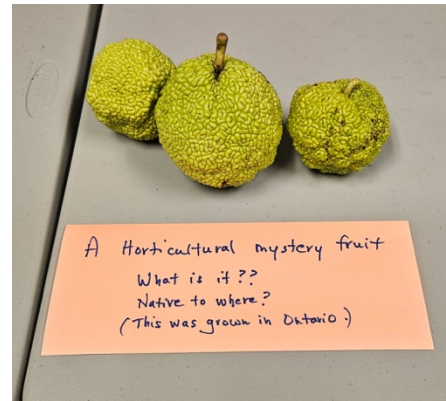
COMPETITONS:

1. The Last Perennial: 1st; Amanda Williams. 2nd; Brenda Hunt. 3rd; Edith Stone.
2. A Photo of Your Summer Garden: 1st; Brenda Hunt. 2nd; Amanda Williams.
3. An Arrangement from Your Garden using dried foliage, seed pods and flowers. 1st; Pat Moore. 2nd; Brenda Hunt.

Thank you for entering and **CONGRATULATIONS!**

OSAGE ORANGE: (*information from the web and photo, submitted by Nancy Chipman*)

Nancy Chipman brought in this mysterious looking fruit to challenge our knowledge. Turns out to be an *Osage Orange*. They can be found in our Carolinian Forest areas as well as south central United States. The fruit resembles an immature orange, which turns from brown to yellow green in the fall. It is not related to the “orange”, typically not eaten by humans and rarely by foraging animals. American settlers used the “hedge apple” to exclude free range livestock from vegetable gardens and corn fields. It forms a dense thorny barrier said to be “horse high, bull strong, and pig tight”. The wood was used for war clubs and bow making because it was strong, flexible and durable. Now the fruit is used in floral arrangements. *Thank you Nancy.*



PARIS PLANTERS and PARIS HORTICULTUAL SOCIETY

Once again PHS members stepped forward to help with the planting of the Christmas planters. Doug Hanna and Edith Stone arranged for the greenery with assistance from Mackenzie Sheppard.



Upper left. Cathy Mayled, Pat Moore, Patti Gladding, Janet Snaith, and Edith Stone.
Below: Tricia Cressman, Liz Hopkins, Liz Geffros, Nancy Chipman, Deb Vickers, Pat Moore, Cathy Mayled, Janet Snaith, Janine Heather, Shirley McAlpine, Edith Stone, Patti Gladding and Doug Hanna.
Photos by Margaret Collins, Doug Hanna and Mackenzie Sheppard.



BRANT COUNTY VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARDS:

The Paris Horticultural Society will be recognized for the Community Impact Award. Members Doug Hanna, Dorothy Lanyi, Brenda Hunt, David Collins, Pat Hasler-Watts and Bob Hasler will be recognized for their volunteer work with a Community Leader Award. We congratulate all the winners for stepping up and helping Paris look so pretty. Thank you.

PARIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY BURSARY WINNER:

Every year we award a bursary to a Brant County student who is going to study a course in the field of horticulture or agriculture. On October 18th, the award was presented to Jack Klunder at the Paris District High School Commencement Ceremony.

“A killing frost devastates the heart as well as the garden.”

Eleanor Perenyi, b.1920



CANADIAN BALSAM (*from Garden Gleanings December 2024*) (*photo from the web*)



The Balsam Fir tree is a medium size evergreen tree native to eastern and central Canada. It is a classic Christmas tree noted for its rich green needles, natural conical shape and needle retention. It is one of the most fragrant of Christmas trees with a strong spicy scent.

Balsam fir needles contain Vitamin C and have been studied for their effect on bacterial and viral infections. The needles can be eaten directly off the tree and used in tea. Its essential oil has shown effective against ticks. The long erect seed cones are dark purple that ripen brown and then release winged seeds in September.

Balsam fir seeds are eaten by squirrels and mice. The tree provides shelter and food for small mammals, birds and insects.

Native Americans used the gum, needles and bark of the balsam fir for medicinal purposes: for colds, to cure scurvy, as an antiseptic ointment for blisters and sores, as a poultice for open wounds and insect bites for heart disease, as a laxative and for rheumatism.



POINSETTIA TRIVIA *from Garden Gleanings December 2024*

The poinsettia is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico. It was originally called Mexican, Flame Flower or Painted Leaf and grew wild in canyons of Mexico. The flowers bloom for a short period of time around Christmas. Although considered toxic, they are not dangerous but consumption can cause nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. Over 1000 varieties have been patented in the US. Dec 12 is a National Poinsettia Day to mark Poinsett's death.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 3rd, 2025: Our annual Christmas dinner. Social time at 6 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. We will be gathering in the larger room so will be able to accommodate more members. It will be a traditional Turkey dinner with dessert and the Beechnuts will be entreating us with their Ukuleles.

April 25th, 2026: District 6 Spring Breakfast Meeting, hosted by **Paris Horticultural Society. The Special Events building at the fairgrounds has been booked.**

July 24th, 2026: The Ontario Horticultural Association AGM & Convention.
Hosted by District 4 & 7 in Oshawa.

PHS MEMBER INFORMATION

WALTER'S GREENHOUSE DISCOUNT: Members of PHS are allowed **10% discount** on Tuesdays at Walters. This is only on regular priced items and you must show your membership card.
Walter's closes shortly after Christmas and opens again in March 2025.

PARIS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AND THE ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

We enjoy a membership at the RBG.

If you are wanting to go you can contact Dave Collins for our free pass.

Call 519-442-6495 or email at dcollins55@bell.net



WHERE TO FIND PHS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

parishortsociety1@gmail.com

www.gardenontario.org Paris Horticultural Society page.

or on Facebook as Paris Horticultural Society

PHOTOS IN OUR NEWSLETTER/FACEBOOK

If for any reason you do not want your photo used in any of our notices, please inform the photographer.

The Thymes Newsletter: Margaret Collins 519-732-1952 or mardene29@rogers.com

Submissions are welcome and must be in by the third Wednesday of the month.
Unless otherwise noted all photos by Margaret Collins

