



FEBRUARY THYMES 2024

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Our **fees are due**. They remain at \$15 for single and \$20 for family.

If they are not paid by March 2024, you will no longer receive the newsletter.

If you are unable to pay in person you can send an eTransfer to Dorothy Lanyi

When sending an eTransfer please include the answer to the security question.

Shasland41@gmail.com or mail a cheque, made payable to Paris Horticultural Society, to 81 Ashgrove Ave., Brantford. N3R 6E6

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday February 7th, 2024. Social time 7:00 pm. Meeting at 7:30 pm.

Guest speaker is Heather Jerrard, on Low Maintenance Gardens.

Heather has been working in the Landscape Profession since 2013; she was a horticulturalist at Whistling Gardens and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington.

Snacks will be provided by Marlene Harrison and Deb Vickers.

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"He who plants a tree, plants a hope" Lucy Larcum

The new year brings renewed hope for our own gardens for 2024 but there is a renewal for the community of Paris by the County of Brant to add many more trees and pollinator gardens to our parks in the coming years. This is a definite positive in the face of the expansion of our community.

I hope you have time to cozy up at home, look at a few seed catalogues, do some winter sowing and stare out the window at the snow. Enjoy the rest from gardening.

Carol Reansbury, Co-President



Cucumber Tree, Paris 2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 2024

Bob Heil (District 6 ADD & Treasurer) and Susan MacMillan (District 6 Secretary) attended our meeting to officially induct our executive and directors to their 2024 roles.



Carol Reansbury, Co-President. Dave Collins, Secretary. Dorothy Lanyi, Treasurer. Patti Gladding, Co-President. Edith Stone and Nancy Burkholder, Past Presidents.

The Board (below): Doug Hanna, Public Planting & Mini. Ed. Brenda Simpson, Program. Carol R. Dave C. Dorothy L. Patti G. Edith S. Nancy B.

Deb Vickers, Library.

Back row: Serryn Stevenson, Publicity. Margaret Collins, Newsletter.



Pat Hasler-Watts was the lucky draw winner, a fresh bouquet from the new flower shop in town, Petal



After the induction we had a very relaxing 30 minutes viewing a slide show of photos from previous garden tours. The photos and the slide show were by Dave Collins.

PHS subscription to the St. George Lance and the Paris Chronical has been renewed at cost of \$30/yr.

VOLUNTEERING for Paris Horticultural Society

Secretary, Dave Collins, keeps a record of our hours, to be used when requesting grants. This past year 2023, we had 102 members. This includes 7 Life members and 26 new members.

A total of 1,218 volunteer hours were completed.

The GARDEN CLUB OF ONTARIO is holding a Judges Council Zoom session, "How to Ensure You are Writing a Good Schedule". This will be attended by our members Dave Collins and Doug Hanna.

HEART-SHAPED PLANTS IN THE GARDEN (from Elisabeth Ginsburg/Fafard)

Hearts are on sleeves and everywhere else in February. Valentine's Day, arriving mid-month, is a high point, celebrating love in its many forms. It is the perfect time to give a loved one or yourself, a heart in the form of a house or garden plant that has either heart shaped leaves or flowers.

Common blue violets pop out everywhere in early spring. Some people regard violets as weeds, but many welcome the green heart shaped leaves and winsome blue-purple blooms.



More hearts appear on false-forget-me-not (*Brunnera macrophylla*) a low growing plant with lots of blue spring flowers, which resemble forget-me-nots as an added attraction.

Some of the most visible hearts in the spring garden belong to the classic perennial bleeding heart. This vigorous plant features pendant, heart-shaped blooms in red, pink or white, accompanied by fern-like foliage. They are happy to grow in that shady corner of your garden. It is important to remember that the plant will often naturally go dormant in the heat of summer.



Photo by Sarah Jean Green

Many hostas also support heart shaped leaves.

The leaves of the classic lilac bush are heart shaped and last long after the flowers are a fragrant memory.



You can add interest such as an Eastern Redbud. A modern variety such as "Forest Pansy" with purple heart-shaped leaves, toning to green.

Heart-shaped flowers are not as common as heart-shaped leaves among houseplants, but *Anthurium*, sometimes known as flamingo flower, boasts hearts in spades. Flowering plants feature leathery heart shaped spathes in red, pink or white. The true flowers are on the spadix that produces from the centre of each heart. To keep your anthurium healthy plant it in a course medium, like orchid mix and provide bright, indirect light. A

warm room will suit its tropical nature, as will positioning the pot atop a tray filled with pebbles and water.

Also appropriate is the "heart-leaf" hoyo. Young plants are often sold in 4 inch pots, with a single, plump green heart shaped leaf protruding from the pot. Additional leaves sprout as the hoyo grows. Indoors, supply bright indirect light and water sparingly. String of Hearts sports hearts to spare. An evergreen succulent vine native to South Africa, string of hearts generally feature multiple vining stems with small green heart shaped leaves that sprawl outward from the plant's base. This trait makes string of hearts subjects for hanging baskets or pedestals. To keep healthy, treat it to a well drained potting medium and bright indirect sunlight. Water when surface of the soil feels dry. Plants go dormant in winter, so reduce water and food during that time.

"What type of flower is kissable?"

Tulips

FORCING BULBS INDOORS (From Down to Earth Gardening and Design, Lisa Video)

If you have some spring bulbs this would be a very good time to plant them and have them blooming for Easter. This is a fairly easy process and the best bulbs to force are: daffodils, tulips, crocuses, paperwhites, and hyacinths. The bulbs should have gone through a chilling process before planting. It's a bit late for the chilling process unless you can find prechilled bulbs.

Almost any container will work and a drainage hole is not necessary. If the container will not hold water, you can line it with plastic, then after planting, hide the edges with moss or stones. There are a variety of fillers for drainage to use at the bottom. Glass containers offer the availability to view the growth and the interest of your drainage choice. Things such as stones, shells, sea glass or sand work well for drainage.

Add 5-10 cm of drainage medium depending on size of container, add water to top of drainage material. Place bulbs, pointy side down, with bottom of bulb just above surface of water level. Not touching bulbs. You can now put any decorative cover over the bulbs. Moss is very popular. If you decide to use soil to cover the bulbs, use a spray container as you don't want the bulbs to sit in water.

If the bulbs have had their chill time, they can now be placed in a cool room (18-19°C) away from direct sunlight. This is a fun project and the results are so worth waiting for.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 24th, 2024: District 6 Spring Breakfast. Hosted by the Flamborough Horticultural Society. Register at flamhort@hotmail.com. St Thomas Apostle Church, 715 Centre Rd., Waterdown. Speaker Darrell Bley, a winner of the Outstanding Educator of the Year 2020, speaking on the Coniferous Forests of Canada.

Feb. 10-12, 2024: Orchid Show and Sale, Sat 12-5, Sun. 11-4. RBG, Admission \$10.00

April 20th, 2024: District 6 AGM hosted by Haldimand Horticultural Society

May 11, 2024: Annual Plant Sale, Syl Apps Community Centre. Details to follow.

June 8 – 9, 2024: Our annual Garden Tour.

March, 2026: District 6 Spring Breakfast Meeting, hosted by **Paris Horticultural Society.**

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



Our web page has been discontinued.

parishortsociety1@gmail.com

www.gardenontario.org Look for updated awards book for Technical Achievement and the updated and expanded Paris Hort. Society page.

or on Facebook as Paris Horticultural Society

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