



Green Thumbs

February 2010

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SCHS Board Meeting:

Monday, February 22
City Hall-Saltfleet Room
7:00 p.m.



Affiliate of
Ontario Horticultural Association
District 6

President's Remarks

Our Society is governed by the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies Act of Ontario which states that we are here to encourage interest and improvement in horticulture. They even tell us how to do this.

- Hold meetings respecting the theory and practice of horticulture
- Encourage the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers on public and private grounds
- Promote balcony and community gardening and outdoor beautification
- Arrange field trips, contests, competitions and exhibitions related to horticulture and awarding prizes
- Distribute seeds, plants, bulbs, flowers, trees and shrubs
- Promote the protection of the environment
- Promote the circulation of horticultural information through any media
- Promote the benefits of therapeutic horticulture
- Stimulate an interest in the study of horticulture

Let's keep this mandate in mind as we move into the coming year. Consider this an idea source, an opportunity to explore and expand what our members can do.

Elizabeth



P.S. I have some crocus sprouting.

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1926 – 2011 Next Year Stoney Creek Will Be 85!

Most Societies find ways to celebrate their special years - let's begin thinking and planning now. Any and all suggestions are welcome - here are some ideas so far.

- Host a District Breakfast Meeting
- Duplicate a Flower Show schedule from one of the early years
- Create a "time capsule" column in our newsletter
- Tree planting
- Create a History Book
- We've been asked to host a District Annual General Meeting (Spring 2011)
- Hold a Flower Show in a public venue with an historical display
- Sponsor a community competition. ✨ ET

A Geranium, by any other name ... Is a Pelargonium

(pronounced pɛlɑr'ɡoʊniəm)

by *Barbara Puchala*

President, Canadian Geranium and Pelargonium Society

For centuries, we've been calling them geraniums, ever since 1753 when the Swedish botanist, Carl Linnaeus started botanical nomenclature by classifying plants. He described 20 pelargoniums in his publication. It was assumed that these plants were all geraniums and so they were placed under the genus *geranium*. He lumped all the geraniaceae family of plants as *geranium* not differentiating between geraniums and pelargoniums.

It was some time before the differences were established as separate and different enough to warrant a separate classification. By then, "Geranium" was pretty much established and there was much reluctance to the introduction of a new classification called Pelargonium (probably because it is a much more difficult word). And so it remained.

Botanists later established five genera in the *geraniaceae* family – two of which are Pelargonium and Geranium.

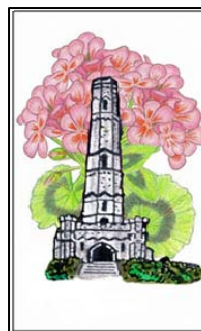
So what is in a name? In the case of these two plants, plenty.

In the most simplistic terms – that which we call a geranium is a pelargonium!

Within the pelargonium group are many different varieties. In addition to the well known 'common' zonal, the fancy, frilly and showy **Regals**; the **Fancy Leaf** varieties present colourful blooms and colourful leaves, **Scented** pelargoniums provide a wide variety of scents for the garden, potpourri, cooking; the **Ivy Pelargoniums** are indispensable for providing season long colour in hanging baskets and wall pockets; **Stellars** with their star-like flowers provide a hint of the exotic, and there are more. And they come in a number of sizes ranging from three to four feet (and taller) to 4 or 5 inches.

In this article we will talk about Zonals and Regals. These are the two varieties that have

been featured as part of the logo for the Stoney Creek Horticultural Society.



The flower in this logo is a 'pelargonium'. The shape of the flowers and in particular the dark zone on the round leaves are classic **zonal** pelargoniums.

It is hard to identify the exact named cultivar from a drawing, but it is possible to identify the fact that both are 'pelargoniums' – one a zonal and one a regal.



The flower in this logo is a 'pelargonium' as well. The shape of the flowers and leaves are different from the zonal pelargonium. The leaves appear to be more jagged and without the telltale marking. This would be one of the **Regal** Pelargoniums.

The **Zonal** pelargonium is the most common and easiest to recognize. Mention 'geranium' to most people and they immediately think of a red geranium growing on a cottage window sill, or contained in municipal planting beds (which is why they are also often referred to as 'bedding geraniums'). Those colourful blooms that fill public gardens, hanging baskets, containers and pots are pelargoniums.



"Mrs. Pollock"
an older tri-coloured
leaf pelargonium.

However they come in hundreds of named varieties - covering all the colours except yellow.

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A Geranium, by any other name... Is a Pelargonium *continued from page 2*

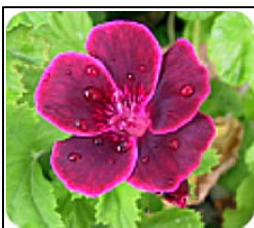
The leaves also go beyond the just green with zonal marking - some edged with white or yellow – others having green, gold and bronze markings and a whole range in between.



Zonal pelargonium "Mr. Wren." This is one that has proven its popularity since it was discovered growing in a garden several decades ago. It is easy to identify as there is no other variety like it.

During our plant sale, the most frequent remark you hear is "I didn't realize there were so many different kinds." Every year there are new introductions. Many just don't have what it takes, but there are many that end up being on everyone's keeper list.

Regals which are often referred to as "Martha Washington's" most commonly in the United States, are extremely popular. Stores and nurseries are filled with an incredible choice in the spring and it is often difficult to pick one. When "Regals" were first introduced in the United States, they included an extremely popular variety called "Martha Washington." The public started to refer to all regals as "Martha Washington" and the name has stuck. This particular variety of regal has been lost. However this group is correctly called Regals. They now come in hundreds of different colour combinations. They continue to be very popular because of their showy and eye-catching display of blooms. Not all Regals are big and showy, some are smaller with less showy blooms but carry as much impact when in bloom.



"Lord Bute" a regal pelargonium is an older variety introduced in 1910 and continues to be sought after today. It is a very dark, velvety purple with petals outlined in a fine light pink.

Regals require a bit more attention than zonals. They are not as fond of heat and prefer to be sheltered from the direct mid-day sun with their roots on the cooler side.

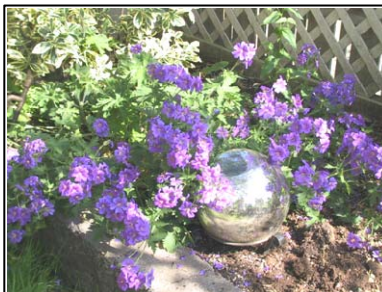


An older variety "Fringed Aztec"



A regal "Elegance Royalty White"

Geraniums are those plants that are often referred to as 'hardy geraniums'. They are completely different from the pelargoniums. It is hard to believe that they are in the same plant family. They too have their own charms. They are usually directly planted in the garden and come back year after year and are one of the true staples of a garden. It is possible to grow these in containers as well. There is a wide variety of plants suitable for any number of garden conditions.



Geranium "Magnificum" lives up to its name. With brilliant blooms fully two inches across, it is a show stopper. What is shown in the picture is one plant that is in its second year. Once it is done blooming, it is a nice compact plant.

They were viewed as pretty uninspiring plants with pretty non-descript blue or pink flowers - nothing to write home about. Some of the newer varieties are proving that these plants can hold their own in any garden with large, colourful blooms and long blooming times. Some will bloom all season, while others will give you a show

worth celebrating for a few weeks. They are definitely worth a look.

There are geraniums of every size – ranging from small tiny plants suitable for rockeries to large plants that will reach 2 to 3 feet in height and width.

continued next page

A Geranium, by any other name... Is a Pelargonium *continued from page 3*



Geranium "Ann Folkard" – has a large beautiful magenta bloom with a black eye. The new foliage is lime green and darkens as it ages. The plant sends out long trailing flowering stems which will ramble throughout nearby plants. The plant is sterile and in the fall dies down to a plant base the size of a tennis ball. When it is in full bloom it is a show stopper, This plant (yes – one plant) is planted in the corner boulevard and people regularly are stopped in their tracks as they take time to enjoy the site. It will continue to send out blooms until the first heavy frost.



There are compact plants which respect their neighbours and ones that go awandering poking out about the vicinity.

There is so much more to say about these wonderful plants. They are the unsung heroes of the garden.

They have all the attributes of the ideal plant – easy to care for, few pests and diseases, fairly drought resistant and have no problem dealing with neglect. They provide lots of colour, and when done blooming, they continue to add a rich green background for all the other plants. What more could you ask for? ✨BP

About the Author:

Barbara Puchala is President of the Canadian Geranium and Pelargonium Society which is located in Vancouver, BC. She was first introduced to the amazing pelargoniums at one of the Society's annual Plant Sales some 15 years ago. When she left the sale, the Society was much richer and her wallet was well depleted. Ever since, these plants have been the mainstay of her garden. During the summer, her small city garden and deck feature a display of colour comprising of over 80 large containers, hanging

baskets and wall pockets featuring over 65 varieties of pelargoniums.

While her garden is home to a variety of geraniums, her greatest challenge is finding more space for more plants, and convincing visitors to her garden that there is no such thing as too many pelargoniums.

The Canadian Geranium & Pelargonium Society has a website at <http://www.cdngeraniums.com> and they are happy to answer any questions concerning geraniums and pelargoniums. If ever you visit Vancouver, please come and visit.

"Science, or para-science, tells us that geraniums bloom better if they are spoken to. But a kind word every now and then is really quite enough. Too much attention, like too much feeding, and weeding and hoeing, inhibits and embarrasses them."

Victoria Glendinning



Happy Birthday to all Members

Celebrating a Birthday in February!

Olga Blaney

Krystyna Jokic

Ingrid Barthmann

Jack Jokic

June Hurd

Mary Simatovic

Mike Iskich

Chuck Sipos

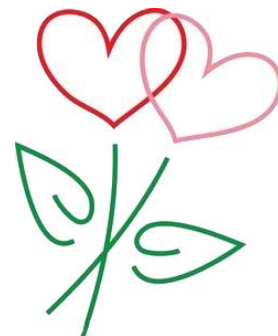
Upcoming Events



FEBRUARY MEETING - Monday, February 15

Guest Speaker - Silvana Valiani is demonstrating "Four Season Containers." Silvana is currently employed by the City of Hamilton as a gardener in charge of the annual and perennial beds at Gage Park. She also runs her own Landscape Design business specializing in four season containers. Previous to being employed by the City, she was the manager at Mountain Garden Centre in Mt. Hope for twelve years.

- February 13 **Niagara Seedy Saturday**, Ball's Falls Conservation Area, Vineland. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (905) 386-7388 for information.
- February 20 **Seedy Saturday** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Royal Botanical Gardens
Call (905) 527-1158 for more information or go to www.rbg.ca
- February 27-28 **Orchid Show**, RBG Centre, Royal Botanical Gardens
For more information visit http://www.osrbg.ca/orchid_show.html
- March 4-7 **Stratford Garden Festival**, creative display gardens, motivational presentations and a magical marketplace
Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Rd, Stratford
<http://www.stratfordgardenfestival.com>
- March 15 **Stoney Creek Garden Club Meeting**. Guest Speaker - Walter Zimmerman
"Honeybees and Honey"
- March 17-21 **Canada Blooms** - Theme "Passions" The Direct Energy Centre, CNE Grounds, Toronto
- March 18-21 **Successful Gardening Show**, International Centre, Toronto
OHA Flower Show - Schedules & Entry Forms at:
www.successfulgardeningshow.ca or www.gardenontario.org
Deadline for entries **March 13**
Contact: info@successfulgardening.ca or call 416-512-1305
- Two Shows, 1 Admission** - Adults \$14 Seniors/Youth - \$10
(includes Successful Gardening Show & International Home & Garden Show)
- March 18-21 **International Home & Garden Show**, International Centre, Toronto
- March 19-28 **Spring Bulb Show** - "Celtic Spring"
Tropical Greenhouse, Gage Park - Free Admission
- April 23-25 **First Annual RBG Garden Show** at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton
- April 24 **District 6 Workshop & AGM**. Milton, Ontario. Catered lunch in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Milton Horticultural Society.
Keynote Speakers: Belinda Gallagher & Paul Zammit.
Contact: Donna Hussey at delhi@gardenontario.org
- May 2 **Hardy Plant Sale** sponsored by the Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society
12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave E., Toronto
- May 22 **SCHS Annual Plant Sale**, Battlefield Park Pavilion, King St. East, Stoney Creek
8:00 a.m. - Noon
Support your Garden Club!
- August 13-14 **OHA Annual Convention**, Barrie, Ontario "Everything Old is New Again"
Floral, Photo and all Competition Guidelines:
<http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/com.php>



Annual General Meeting/Pot Luck—January 11



49% of our membership turned out for our annual general meeting and pot luck dinner. The evening also included a Silent Auction, announcement of winners of the annual photo contest, presentation of the 2009 Flower Show Awards and the installation of officers for 2010. Flower Show Awards are listed in the Membership Booklet. PHOTOS taken by Art & Kathy Ward and Nicole Naud. For additional pictures, check this link: [AGM Pictures](#) You'll also find this link by visiting our website at <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/stoneycreek> and following the link entitled **Programs**.



[Gerry Healy's](#) musical accompaniment during dinner was again enjoyed by all. Some members were even tempted to get up and dance. Members chit chat while awaiting dinner. Alice and Routie share a laugh while checking out the Silent Auction.



Chris presents Liz Guadagnolo with the OHA Society President's Award. Centre, Chris hands the torch over to incoming President Elizabeth Taylor. Art presents Chris with a gift on behalf of the Society for his three years' service as President.



Marg Bosnyak presides over the installation of officers. Irene and Shirley in the kitchen. Thanks to all the members who pitched in with preparation of the evening and the cleanup at the end. We were out the door by 9:10 p.m.

Annual Photo Contest Winners

Yearbook Cover:

1. Kathy Ward 2. Kathy Ward

Misty Mornings:

1. Shirley Temple 2. Gwen Allan 3. Shirley Temple

Don't Bug Me:

1. Kathy Ward 2. Art Ward 3. Liz Chapple

Raindrops Keep Falling:

1. Kathy Ward 2. Art Ward 3. Art Ward

Roses are Red My Love, Violets are Blue:

1. No first 2. Kathy Ward 3. Art Ward

Farewell Sweet:

1. Liz Chapple 2. Art Ward 3. Shirley Temple



Photo Tips

by Art Ward

- Be aware of your background—you don't want the background to distract from the main subject.
- Change your angle. Walk around the subject to find the best angle. Take several shots from different angles.



The Stoney Creek Garden Club's **Annual Membership Booklet** will be ready for pickup at the February 15 Meeting.

The book contains a complete list of the 2010 Board and Committees, Flower Show Awards 2009, 2010 Flower Show Rules and Categories, Entry Forms for the Floral and Photo Competitions. Make sure you have paid your 2010 dues and pick up your Membership Booklet at the February meeting.

Web Links

The Trillium - Four times a year, the OHA publishes and delivers a newsletter to Societies to keep them up to date with the affairs of the Association. Each edition contains articles about the OHA, gardening and the activities of other Societies.

If you would like to receive your own electronic version of each issue of the Trillium newsletter, just send your email address to editor@gardenontario.org with a request to add you to the list of e-subscribers. Download the Winter edition <http://www.gardenontario.org/index.php> Check out the last page. The Stoney Creek Garden Club is mentioned.

How to Winter Sow Seeds

<http://www.wintersown.org/wseo1/How to Winter Sow.html>

Common Errors in OHA Photography Competition

<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/beller/news/online/1337>

<http://technology.canoe.ca/2009/12/21/12233676-ap.html>

For those with an iPhone, there's an app called "Garden ToDo" which organizes yard tasks. Enter a list of your plants or planting sites and the app will tell you when to prune, mow, fertilize, divide and harvest among other chores. Many other apps related to gardening are listed as well.

Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society

<http://www.onrockgarden.com>

Top 10 New Year's Resolutions for Your Yard

http://landscaping.about.com/cs/winterlandscaping1/a/new_years.htm



Stoney Creek Garden Club & Horticultural Society

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 66597
Stoney Creek Postal Outlet
Stoney Creek, Ontario L8G 5E5

Monthly meetings are held at the
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 622
12 King St. East, Stoney Creek.
Guest Fee: \$2.00



Est. 1926

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Ward
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Email: greenthumbs_stoneycreek@hotmail.com

Green Thumbs is published nine times per year and is sent to all Society members and other interested parties. Material for the newsletter can be submitted to the editor by mail, telephone, fax or email.

March Green Thumbs Deadline: Feb. 24

We're on the Web!

<http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/stoneycreek>

ANATOMY OF A WEED

"When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it.. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant." Author Unknown

"A weed is no more than a flower in disguise." James Russell Lowell

"A flower is an educated weed." Luther Burbank

"What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Please Patronize Our Supporters!



Canadian Geranium & Pelargonium Society

The Society meets at 1 pm on the first Sunday of each month in the Cedar Room at VanDusen Botanical Gardens 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC.

Got Questions: email us at info@cdngeraniums.com
Website: www.cdngeraniums.com

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\$40 (9 issues)

Contact the Green Thumbs Editor for further details

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