



'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
April 2016



**Englehart and
District Horticultural
Society was formed in
1956.**

General meetings:
3rd Wednesday of most
months at 7:00 p.m. in the
Presbyterian Church
basement

- *Speakers, workshops,
demonstrations
- *Civic Improvement
- *Youth Involvement
- *Displays and Competitions
- *Environmental Stewardship

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Going Green

This April 22 is Earth Day. Here are some things we can do as individuals:

1. Stop using disposable plastic, such as water bottles. Get a reusable/refillable container. At the very least, reuse those plastic bottles and make sure you take a reusable bag for grocery shopping.
2. Look for ways to reuse/recycle your 'E-waste' (electronics). Many communities have depots where you can take old computers, phones, etc. or you can donate them to charities.
3. Don't throw poisonous/hazardous materials into the garbage. They will only corrode and poison the land around landfill sites. Once again, watch for days when local communities have a depot to drop these materials off. New Liskeard is holding one on Saturday, June 4, from 9:a.m - 2:00p.m. (continue to watch the Speaker for info.)

Mark It On Your Calendar:

April 20: General Meeting
April 22: Earth Day
April 30: District 12 Annual Meeting
May 21: Spring Plant and Bake Sale

I apologise to those who have their bulletins mailed to you. I had the wrong date for the District Annual Meeting, and the Christmas Workshop will be November 30 (not the 23rd). Sorry!

**MAKE
EVERY DAY
EARTH DAY**
[reduce * reuse * recycle]

Gardening in Small Spaces ~ Part One

With many of us thinking about moving to smaller houses or apartments, we fear giving up on our gardens. An often made mistake is thinking that a garden requires a large amount of space. The truth is you can have fruit, vegetables and flowers even if you have a small space for gardening. The secret is to think of all the options and plan carefully. Raised beds on tables give a chance at layering, with enough soil for shallow rooted plants above and room under for larger pots of plants that don't require full sun, or simply storage space. Using soaker hoses or drip irrigation in raised beds makes it easy to keep plants watered properly. Make sure the raised beds get at least partial sun each day.



Looking Back



Newly elected to office for 1981 on Tuesday evening at the Englehart and District Horticultural Society meeting were left to right: Mrs. Bonnie Warner, second vice-president;

past-president Marilyn Lett, president, Arlene Letheren and first vice-president, Mrs. Dorene Stark.

Horticulturists elect 1981 officers

These four ladies all served our society in a variety of ways, including holding the office of President. Bonnie Warner, Marilyn Lett, Arlene Letheren, and Dorene Stark all held that position in the late '70s and early '80s. Bonnie went on to serve as President for two more terms. That's dedication!

*"The best way to find yourself
is to lose yourself
in the service of others."*

Mahatma Gandhi

OHA/District 12 News:

On April 30, we will be hosting the District 12 Annual Meeting once again. We had good practice last year, so this year should be easier. The difference is that we will be holding this year's meeting in the Legion Hall. The committee has been very busy making plans for this event and people will be attending from as far away as Kapuskasing. We hope that Englehart will have a great turnout, not only for Saturday's meeting, but also for the set up on Friday??? We can use a hand setting up and decorating the hall. Please contact Bonnie Warner by April 14 if you haven't already registered and still wish to.

Reports from Your Directors:

Programme: Convenor Carrie Anne Field reports that April's programme will be 'What's New at Aidae Creek for 2016". This is always an interesting and well-attended meeting, so come early...bring a friend!

Social: Mary Schippers is the hostess this month and Dee Hill brings the gift for the free draw. Remember to bring along something small for the shared snack.

Show Schedule: The committee is meeting with convenor Rick Heaslip to discuss and plan for changes to the Show Schedule. Since this is the second year of the current one, make sure you have your show book from last year and keep the additions/changes on the page at the end of next month's bulletin. If you need a show book, contact Bonnie Warner.

Plant and Bake Sale: Our next big event will be the spring Plant and Bake Sale. This is our major fund raiser of the year. Convenor Jean Bott reminds members that we will be looking for plant material- perennials, annuals, herbs, vegetables - anything you can plant in a garden or a pot. We do ask that you identify the plant (if possible) and adding a short description (ie likes shade/ ground cover/yellow flowers, etc.) really helps to sell the plant. But if you are unable to do this, don't let that stop you from bringing it in. Please try to provide enough damp soil to cover the roots as these plants may well have to sit for several days before being planted. We will be setting up/pricing on Friday, starting at 1:00 and would appreciate your help with this. Baking is also being sold. It can also be brought in on Friday. Low boxes/pop flats, bags are also needed. If you can donate something for a free draw, we'd appreciate it.

Website: Convenor Rick Heaslip reports that there were 368 visitors to the site in March.

Facebook: We are now up to 59 people who visit and post on our page. If you haven't already, please check us out at "Englehart and District Horticultural Society" on Facebook. You don't have to be a member just to visit and see what's happening.

Membership: Ginny Montminy reports that we are up to 60 members. If you want to give a membership as a gift to a friend or family member, contact Ginny Montminy. It makes a great gift.

District 12: Rosemary Campbell and Jean Bott are our two voting delegates to the District Meeting on April 30. Remember- this meeting is open to all members and is only \$20.00 for a great day of interesting speakers, delicious lunch and snacks, silent auction, door prizes and more! Contact Bonnie Warner to let her know you will be attending... the more, the merrier.

Creating Biodiversity in Our Yards (part 2)

Currently, there is a move in gardening to plant native species. I think it's a great idea, but don't believe that we have to go overboard. In fact, the latest study in biodiversity in England is showing that it really doesn't matter if a plant is native to the area. What's important is that it provides what the creature needs...pollen and nectar. According to the results of 'The Plants for Bugs Pollinator' research, it is the diversity of plant material that attracts the maximum range of bug species, not whether they are native. To quote the study, "The value of a site can be maximized for pollinators by choosing plants from different regions of the world."

Crop Rotation Part 4

It's important that you follow a plan for successful crop rotation gardening. You just make up your own using the vegetables and herbs that you like to eat. Here are a few suggestions to help:

- Choose one crop or group of crops as your focus for a particular bed, and plan around that crop.
- Plan around crop diseases and try to avoid planting crops that experience the same disease in all beds. That way, next year you can move crops to another bed that will not carry the disease.
- Plant heavier feeders after you plant legumes (ie- peas/beans), since the soil will be rich with nitrogen.
- Try to alternate root vegetables and shallow-rooted vegetables so that the soil gets a variety of root structures.

If you don't design your garden beds well, crop rotation can seem overwhelming. Here are a few hints to try:

1. Understand and plan for the space you have...Sunny? Shaded? Type of soil? Ease of access?
2. Are you going to choose a three-year rotation? If so, develop an understanding of three places that work for your plants.
3. Create or use semi-shade beds for crops like lettuce and peas. Choose sunny locations for crops like tomatoes and squash.
4. Grow plants with similar habits and needs together.
5. Are there any companion plants for your crops? Add the companion plants too, either nearby or in the same beds. Companion plants can help repel pests and attract pollinators.

Plant of the Month

Trollius

Trollius is a genus of about 30 species of plants in the family Ranunculaceae, so are related to the buttercup. Also called globe flower, with pretty blooms ranging in colour from pale yellow to bright orange, it is native to the cool temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere. Trollius like regular garden soil, but will also do well in heavy, wet clay soils. They do better in full sun to light shade. Most of these pretty plants bloom in the spring in our area and are very attractive to early pollinators. They are also called 'globeflower' because most have petals which form rounded balls of blooms, held high above lacinated or cut leaves. There is a variety of trollius which blooms here in the summer and has a lovely orange blossom with long, graceful stamens which protrude past its petals.



"Where flowers bloom, so does hope." (Lady Bird Johnson)

Our 13th President

Bonnie Warner

1985-86; 1997-98; 2010-2011

It was a very lucky day for us when Bonnie Warner came to Englehart. She soon joined the Horticultural Society and quickly became a Director. Bonnie displayed great organizational skills and was interested in learning all she could about horticulture. She took and gave courses in all aspects of the subject, becoming a Master Gardener. She also served three terms as our President as well as taking on the position of Director for many years, heading a variety of important committees. Bonnie became involved with District 12, serving as District Director for several years. She is currently the District 12 Secretary. Through her District 12 experience, she became involved in the provincial level of our organization, and served as Secretary of the Ontario Horticultural Association for many years. Bonnie has received the District Service Award, the Society Service Certificate, and the OHA's highest award, the Silver Trillium. She is also our current secretary. Bonnie has devoted herself to our town's betterment, opening her home and garden to many art and garden tours.



April Song

*Willow in your April gown,
Delicate and gleaming,
Do you mind in years gone by
All my dreaming?*

*Spring was like a call to me
That I could not answer.
I was chained to loneliness.
I, the dancer.*

*Willow, twinkling in the sun,
Still your leaves and hear me,
I can answer spring at last,
Love is near me,
(Sara Teasdale)*



Published 11 times a year
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