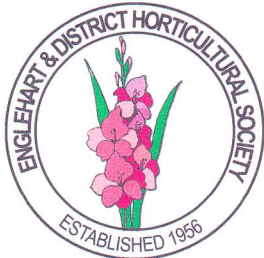




# 'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society  
April 2019



Englehart and District  
Horticultural Society was  
formed in 1956.

**General meetings:**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

President: J. Bott  
Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher  
**Website:**  
englehartort.weebly.com

## *A Word From The Editor... I Love Tomatoes!*

Last year I wrote an article about growing tomatoes in the spring bulletins. This year I thought it might be interesting to learn about the different varieties that are available now. Here is some information about a few of them from Plant Care Today to help you choose your favourite:

**Cherry Tomato:** This delightful selection produces abundant, tiny cherry-like red, deep red, yellow, orange or dark purple fruit ideal for snacking and for salads. Cherry tomatoes grow well in containers and hanging baskets.

**Grape Tomato:** These small, oblong tomatoes are great as snacks and in salads. They generally produce lots of fruit and not many leaves. They are not quite as sweet and juicy as cherry tomatoes. These tomatoes come in both red and yellow varieties. One advantage of the yellow type grape tomato – the birds do not find it quite as attractive as the bright red fruit, so you can keep more of your harvest for yourself. (cont'd in May)

## *Dates to Remember*

- April 17: Monthly meeting
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 27: Annual District 12 Meeting in South Porcupine

April's programme will be another interesting presentation by our own Carrie Anne Field... **"What's New at Aidie Creek Gardens in 2019"**. Come along and bring a friend as this is always a fun-filled evening

## *Planning Your Vegetable Garden Part 4 (cont. from January)*

**STEP 7: How large will your garden be?** This step applies to both an existing garden and a new garden build. If your garden currently exists, but you would like to add to it, consider the current existing size and how much larger you would like it to be. If you don't have a garden, consider these questions: What size were you thinking of? Will it be one large bed, planted directly in the ground? Will it be a square, rectangular, or circular shape? Maybe it will be a collection of smaller beds? If that's the case, how many garden beds would you like to have? Consider all of these questions when planning out your future garden. Another option is to build raised beds. If that's the case, draw out the raised beds in the configuration that you would like. Feel free to be creative when designing your garden beds. You may design a kitchen garden layout with a circular bed for herbs, add other beds for flowers, plant dwarf fruit trees within the beds and even create a beautiful design reminiscent of a French castle garden. There is no limit, so feel free to be creative and have fun. (cont. on page 4)



## *Looking Back*

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Les Peever in February. Les was a member of the Society, as his mother Avelyn and father Ivan had been. Les played an active role on the Board of Directors and was always there to help with any Society activity. Our sympathies go out to his sister, Dale, and his aunt and uncle, Twyla and Bruce Wilson. The Society has made a donation in Les's name to the Hilliardton Marsh.



## *District 12 News*

This month some members of our society will attend the District 12 Annual Meeting in Porcupine on April 27th. This event is meant as a formal meeting to exchange information regarding the societies in our area, to conduct business with regard to and following the procedures of the OHA, and to gain information from speakers, which will be shared with our society by our delegates this year. There are also competitions, interesting speakers, a silent auction, free draws, and lots of fun to be enjoyed. There is room for visitors as well as delegates. Contact Secretary Bonnie Warner if you are interested in attending. Below are some photos from two past Annual Meetings held in Englehart.

**Former member Lynn Coutts**



**A floral design demonstration**



**OHA president/Dist. 12 executive**



## *Reports from Your Directors*

**Membership:** If you have not renewed your membership, this will be your last bulletin. We would hate to lose you. Our membership is quite down compared with other years, so we hope that you will send/give your \$10.00 to Ginny Montminy or renew at the April meeting.

**Social:** Anna Regele is the hostess this month while Jean Donaldson brings the gift for the free draw.

**Bulletin:** If you have any interesting horticultural articles or ideas for the bulletin, please let me know about them. I like to keep the bulletin current and interesting, so please free to help.

**Plant and Bake Sale:** Next month is our annual Plant and Bake Sale, which is our only real fundraiser. It is also a chance to share our garden and house plants with others, so if you have some overgrown perennials to split or some extra annuals you started, we'd love to have them. A good idea is to take a walk around your yard in May, check what is doing well or overgrown and would benefit from being divided. Start saving your plastic bags (if you use them) or plant pots in which you can place your donations. Names of plants are appreciated or at least a description of the plant. Convenors Barb Curran and Jean Bott also hope that people will bring in some small boxes/pop flats, trays etc. for customers to use.

**Website/Facebook:** Rick Heaslip reports that we had 541 unique visits to our website in March. He has updated it with photos and information about Les Peever, as well as the February bulletin Eileen Fisher reports that we now have 247 people enjoying our Facebook page. If you have anything of interest that could be shared on our page, Eileen would welcome it.

## *Competitions for April ... Houseplants*

**Class 1:** African Violet

**Class 2:** Foliage Plant

**Class 3:** Flowering Plant (no African Violets)

**Class 4:** Cactus or succulent,

Remember, you may have two entries per class. Come a bit early to fill in your tags.

## *Creating Depth in Your Garden*

### **Small Garden, Big Impact**

Many town gardeners wish they had more room to practice their garden art. While the average garden is shrinking in size, it does not have to look or feel small. A few simple tricks can create the illusion of depth, making a garden appear larger than life. Wielding the tools of **colour and texture**, gardeners can define and transform small spaces into landscapes with impact.

**Colour:** To maximize depth, we must take advantage of the way colours interact with the human eye. Cool colours, such as green, blue and purple, are calming and make objects look smaller and farther away. Since these colours tend to recede from view, they should be situated toward the back of a planting. Here, they will add visual depth where very little actual space exists. Warm colours, like red, orange and yellow, give a feeling of energy and excitement. They can make an object appear larger and closer. When placed at the middle and front of a garden, warm colours make the planting move toward the viewer. Together, cool and warm colours create an illusion of depth, with the cool colours drawing away from the viewer and warm colours jumping forward. In this way, the cool colours work as a backdrop to showy, warm colours.

**Texture:** We can also draw upon the qualities of texture to create depth in a planting and to make spaces look larger. Texture refers to the surface qualities of an object that can be seen or felt. In garden design, we are primarily concerned with the visual texture of plants and hardscape materials. While plants offer texture through bark, flowers and fruits, the dominant source of texture is foliage. Foliage texture ranges from fine to medium to coarse (sometimes called bold). Medium textures dominate the plant world and the landscape. You can create interest and depth in a planting by accenting medium-textured plants with fine and coarse texture. Look for contrasting textures to create the most drama.

**Putting It All Together:** To create maximum depth, account for both colour and texture in your garden design. Fine textures and cool colours move away from the eye. Add layers of plants with warm colours and/or bold foliage to visually move the garden toward the viewer. Lastly, tuck in a few green-foliaged plants and top it off with flowering bulbs and perennials to provide pops of colour. Geometry also plays a part in creating depth in the garden. Adding curves to your walkways and flower beds can give the illusion of more distance to travel. The human eye can detect that there actually is more distance involved and so the mind interprets the actual occupied space as being greater. (Thanks to Denis Mailloux)

## *Planning Your Vegetable Garden Part 5 (continued)*

**STEP 7:** Once your garden is planted, how will you water it? Will your garden have a water source or will you need to cart in water with watering cans or install a rain barrel? This is an important consideration. If your garden is close to the house, it shouldn't be a problem to stretch a hose to the garden and either water using a watering wand or drip irrigation. However, if your garden is far from the house, you may need to pipe in water under the ground and set up a tap directly in the garden. If your garden will be located far from the house and far from a water source, think about how you will be watering your garden before deciding on a permanent location. (Rain barrels can save you so much work, especially if you have a shed or building close by with attached eaves trough to guide the rain into the barrels.)

## *Plant of the Month*

### **Solomon's Seal ( *Polygonatum odoratum* )**

Solomon's Seal are fairly easy to grow in our area. They like dappled shade, rich and organic soils, and plenty of moisture—think woodland plants. Once they are established, they can survive short droughts fairly well but they will need watering in dry times. There are several varieties, ranging from 12 inches to several feet in height, some with variegated leaves, blooming from late May through July. White bell-shaped blossoms dangle below attractive, arching stems. They produce bluish black berries in late summer. The attractive, ribbed foliage turns a golden yellow color in autumn and dries beautifully. False Solomon's seal has similar, opposite leaves, but flowers form on the end of the stem in a cluster. Apparently Solomon's Seal got its name because the scars on the stems where leaves have dropped look like the sixth seal of King Solomon. These beauties grow well in my shady gardens and are great as cut flowers.



## *Our March Meeting*

Our March meeting, while not all that well attended, was a lot of fun. The long, cold winters make us appreciate our houseplants even more than most southerners. We count on our African violets, philodendron, cacti, etc. to provide us with our doses of greenery for our long months of weak winter sunlight. Houseplants also give us the joy of caring for living things, watching their progress, hopefully waiting for a bloom, anticipating that new leaf growth. If you're buying a blooming plant, here are some hints: **1** Buy as fresh as possible. (Look for lots of buds on a plant you are going to buy). **2** Keep the plant away from ethylene gas (given off by ripening fruit). **3.** Keep plants away from heat sources (vents, fire-places, south facing windows) **4** Remove dead or dying blossoms or seed pods to prevent a houseplant's strength going to setting seeds. Below, Bonnie Warner speaks about propagating houseplants.



***You know you're a horticulturalist when your criteria for a quality doctor include the health of the waiting room plants.***

## *Poetry and Prose*

### *It's Your Earth*

*It's your earth.  
Will you neglect it,  
Or nurture it?  
Will you tend it,  
Or squander it away?  
The choice is yours,  
But if you're going  
To make a stand,  
You'd better start today.*

*Kelley Roper*

Published 11 times a year  
Englehart & District Horticultural  
Society  
Box 677, Englehart, ON P0J 1H0  
President: Rosemary Campbell  
Secretary: Bonnie Warner  
Treasurer: Ginny Montminy  
Editor: Eileen Fisher  
Copying: Ginny Montminy  
Mailing: Joyce Marie Smith