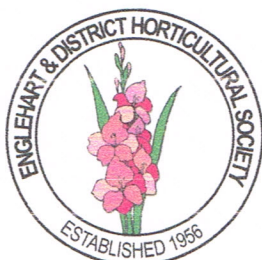




'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
July, 2013



Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.

General meetings:

3rd Wednesday of most months at 7:30 p.m. in the Anglican Church basement

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

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A Word From The Editor

This month I'd like to say a few words about involving children in horticulture. Children who garden, or have plants, develop a sense of responsibility for the environment, they make connections with the world around them, and they understand the importance of caring for something natural. Young children usually revel in growing their own plants and begin to understand where their food comes from. During their teenage years, they may drift away from horticulture (not cool enough!), but I have found that they often come back to it as they mature. A child who grows a plant is not the child who tears up community gardens. Gardening together can also bring generations closer together. Our society sponsors a Youth Garden Competition which is quite popular. If you know a child who you think could benefit from horticulture, why not ask them to help you in your garden? Maybe next year you can help them establish their own garden. Maybe you'll start them on a life-long hobby. Maybe you'll help to grow a great Canadian citizen. (By the way, there are lots of good horticulturally-oriented sites on the internet for children to enjoy.) Perhaps you'd like to be a Junior Garden Club leader. It's time our society started one again.

Mark It On Your Calendar:

- July 17: summer BBQ at Mary Pillsworth's
- July 27: Open House at the United Church to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of members Vi and Ed Tucker, from 1-3 p.m. All welcome.
- August 13: set up for Festival of Flowers
- August 15, 16: Festival of Flowers
- September 5-7: Englehart Fall Fair
- September 18: General Meeting

Looking Back:

*Our June meeting involved a discussion of hints to help exhibitors prepare for the Festival of Flowers, and also featured yours truly demonstrating how to put together a basket for the show or for your own pleasure. (Hope we'll see more entries, especially baskets, this year!)

***Horticultural Week** was a great week to get into our gardens, to enjoy the displays, to involve youngsters in EPS and Temagami Public in horticulture, and to get some gardening tips on CJBB, thanks to convenors Jean Bott and Louise Williams.



Looking Ahead:

There will be no general meeting in August. Instead, we will be enjoying another Festival of Flowers at Holy Family School gymnasium on Thursday, August 15 and 16. Don't forget to get your entry tags from Bonnie Warner and bring your entries in on Wednesday evening or Thursday before 11:30 a.m.

Programme Convenor Carrie Anne reports no general meeting in August due to the Festival of Flowers but has a great programme planned for September, featuring a discussion of successes and problems with our summer gardens 2013.



OHA/District 12 News:

The OHA Convention will be held from July 19-21 in Thunder Bay. District 12's own Cecile Young of Kirkland Lake will be awarded the Silver Trillium for her years of service to horticulture in her society, her town, and her district. Congratulations, Cecile!

On Saturday, September 28, our Society will be hosting the District 12 Fall Planning Meeting. This is the day when delegates from all of the societies in our district meet to plan the next year's Annual Meeting. President Bruce will be providing us with more information on this event, but mark it on your calendar, as we will need help to host a successful day.

Reports from Your Directors:

Programme: Don't forget to bring some utensils, a chair, and either a dessert or a salad to our annual summer BBQ at the home of Mary Pillsworth on July 17 at 6:00. This is always a fun, informal event for us as we get a chance to socialize and enjoy Mary's beautiful garden. Feel free to bring a guest and also bring along some money to bid on the articles in the Auction which have been donated by your Directors.

Festival of Flowers: Plans continue to develop for our upcoming show, 'Oh, The Places You'll Go'. Hope you're all planning to put in at least one entry. Twyla and Bruce Wilson ask members to remember that there will be a **Silent Auction** at the show, and ask that if you have something to donate to it, to please bring it to the Holy Family gym by the Thursday a.m., or to give them a call. If possible, please come out to help us set up for the show on Tuesday, August 13 at 1:00. It takes many hands to complete this task. By doing it on Tuesday, it leaves Wednesday free for you to work on your entries!! If you can help pick up tables from EHS and material from Ace Hardware garage, please call Claudette Black (544- or Eileen Fisher (544-8074). New exhibitors: please feel free to call on a Director for advice about the show, and if you haven't got your copy of the show schedule or the very helpful guide to growing and exhibiting, the Judges and Exhibitors' handbook, contact Bonnie Warner at 544 8916. **We are still looking for someone (or 2 people) to handle the Tea Garden at the show. The binder is full of the 'hows' to do this job; we just need someone to take charge. If we can't get someone to be in charge, perhaps the job can be split- one person doing Thursday evening, another doing Friday afternoon. Please consider volunteering for this. Call Eileen (544-3771) or Bonnie (544-8916) if you can help us out. It would be a shame to have a show with no Tea Garden!**

Membership: Convenor Ginny Montminy reports we have 79 members. Let's try to get at least 90 members this year.

Civic Improvement: Convenor Carrie Anne Field reports that the Civic Improvement committee was very busy in June as well, with a great group of members planting beds and boxes throughout the community. Joe and Carrie Anne had been busy in advance, preparing beds, and getting the plants ready. Thanks to Claudette and Dalton for the watering. A group of volunteers met at EPS later in the month to finish weeding the beds in the Millennium garden at EPS.



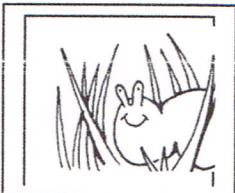
*Joyce and Bruce finish cleaning up in the Millennium Garden.
*Peonies bloom in the Millennium Garden.

Hints and Tips

*Don't forget to dead head (remove the spent blossoms) from your plants, especially in containers and hanging baskets. This helps ensure continued bloom throughout the summer.

*Next year, place a piece of wet oasis (floral foam), sponge, or even a piece of disposable diaper at the bottom of your hanging baskets. This helps the pot retain moisture during the hot summer days.

*Check your gardens in the evening or very early morning for slugs. These horrible creatures are most active then, and can be hand-picked and dropped into a can of water. To protect your special plants, some people suggest placing a ring of wood ash, crushed egg shells, or poultry grit around the plants as these irritate the slug's underbelly. A band of copper around pots and containers has also proven to work against slugs.



Going Green



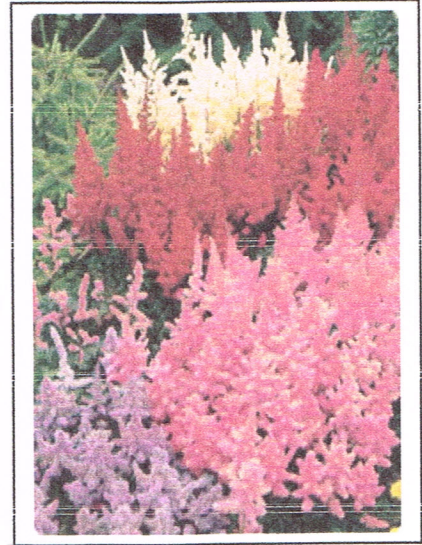
Slugs vs Hostas:

Household ammonia helps hostas to win the battle! Mix the ammonia with water and either spray or pour through a watering can nozzle onto the hostas. I like to start as soon as the hosta leaves appear, using 1 part ammonia to 4 parts water. It is recommended that the routine be repeated once a week, with a 1-10 ratio. Apply in the evening or early morning, as this is a 'contact' effort. The slugs are active then and they must be drenched with the solution for it to be effective. The ammonia also puts nitrogen into the soil, and as hostas are fairly heavy nitrogen users, this is a win-win situation.

Plant of the Month

Astilbe

Astilbe is a perennial with beautiful, showy flowers like plumes in soft shades of pink, mauve, reddish and white. It has pretty fern-like foliage and its height varies from 6 inches to 5 feet, depending on the type. Astilbes are easy to care for and will live for a long time in your garden. To get the best blooms from your astilbes, make sure they are in a good loamy soil that is kept moist, but not wet. They will grow in full sun to part shade. Occasionally they may push themselves up in the spring, but are easily either covered with fresh soil or gently pushed back into the soil. The Astilbe seems to be a pest-free plant. I like to leave the flowers on for interest in the fall and winter garden.



A Bit of Fun

Latin is a language as dead as dead can be. It killed the ancient Romans, and now it's killing me. I remember this little ditty from my early high school years. However, I was lucky enough to study Latin with Miss Pearl Ross, and although I don't remember much of what she taught me, I have appreciated my Latin when it comes to deciphering plant names. I have found it very helpful when purchasing plants, especially from a catalogue, so I thought that I'd share a few plant terms commonly seen on seed packages and plant labels with you in the odd bulletin. After all, Latin is the language of science. I think Miss Ross would be pleased.

- heli – sun
- grandi/macro/magnus – large
- xero- dry

These prefixes are often found in front of the name of a plant/horticultural term, such as 'heliopsis' (resembling a sun), rosa grandiflora (large flowered rose), xeroscaping (dry landscaping)

The following are fairly common suffixes:

- bunda/bundus – abundant or continually
- folius or phyllus - leaved
- ensis- place of origin

You may see words such as 'floribunda' (many flowered); 'chinensis' (from China); 'trifollius' (three leaved).

Poetry and Prose

*"That beautiful season the
Summer!
Filled was the air with a
dreamy and magical light;
And the landscape
lay as if new created in all the
freshness of childhood."*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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