



'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
May, 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 being my first 'Through the Garden Gate', I hope you will be understanding of any changes, mistakes, etc., as I have very big footsteps to follow. It is with sadness and yet with a sense of vicarious excitement that I have undertaken the difficult job of replacing long-time editor, Jean Wallace. The sadness is because we will all miss Jean. I will miss her so much as we have had a long family-type relationship for many years. I have been able to call upon her for advice about almost anything, from gardening to grammar. That vicarious sense of excitement comes because Jean is starting out on a huge next-step on her life's path. She has sold her house and is moving, with her daughter, Janet, to Barrie, where she will be setting up a new household and, knowing Jean, establishing new gardens in a zone that is almost tropical compared with our Zone 2. Jean, your friends from the Society will miss you and wish you and Janet all the best.

Mark It On Your Calendar:

- May 15: a trip to Aidie Creek Gardens
- May 24: bring in your donations to the Plant and Bake Sale
- May 25: Plant and Bake Sale
- June 5: Directors' Meeting
- June 9-15 Horticultural Week
- June 19: General Meeting

Looking Back:

On Wednesday, April 17, members of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society took a step into spring with a presentation by Carrie Anne Field of Aidie Creek Gardens. Carrie Anne, also Second Vice-President of the Society, gave an interesting talk, with lots of concrete examples, of what is new in the plant world at Aidie Creek Gardens this year. With a great display of lilies, dahlias, petunias, a variety of grasses and bedding plants, and much, much more, Carrie Anne described the plants and spoke about the care and appropriate use for each plant. She also invited all E&DHS members to join her for the next general meeting, which will be held at Aidie Creek Gardens.



Looking Ahead:

This month's general meeting is going to be a change in several ways. First, we will be meeting at the Anglican church at 6:30, not 7:30 p.m., with a container you wish to plant for the summer. We will then be carpooling to Aidie Creek Gardens, where we will be planting our containers. Aidie Creek will be supplying us with fertilizer and soil. All we have to do is purchase the plants we want in our pots. After our planting we will be returning to the church for our shared snack.



OHA/District 12 News:

Five members attended the District 12 AGM in Kapuskasing on April 27th. Joyce Marie Smith and Rosemary Campbell were delegates, representing our Society. Business was conducted in the a.m., with Kees Stryland being re-elected as District Director. Frances Crundwell of Cochrane is First Assistant and Anne Jaimeson of Kapuskasing was elected to the position of Second Assistant Director. One other change that should be noted is that delegates at the meeting voted to open up the District 12 Bursary (to which each society in District 12 contributes and which was the brainchild of our own past member, Ruby Bryan) to students entering a university or college, majoring in Environmental Studies. The afternoon was given over to two very worthwhile presentations, the first by Laurier Guilmette of Kapuskasing, on 'Growing Fruit Trees in the North', followed by a demonstration of floral design by a very dynamic duo of Kapuskasing women.

Reports from Your Directors:

Civic Improvement:

Carrie Anne Field has reported that plans have been firmed up and some planting (of frost-hardy plants) will occur this month, while the majority of plants will be planted in June, during Horticultural Week. Further information will follow. Carrie Anne will be looking for all helping hands for this, one of our main events. Please contact her with any questions you may have.

Horticultural Week:

Chairperson Jean Bott reported that plans for this event are firming up nicely. Local councils have officially declared the week of June 9-15th as Horticultural Week and are encouraging all area residents to get out into their yards and gardens during this time. There will be displays throughout the local area, and stay tuned to CJBB during that week for some information from the Society. Once again, Jean has plans for the local school children to be involved in this activity. As noted earlier, the Civic Improvement committee has planned to do some of the local plantings during this week, which happily coincides with the fact that Saturday, June 14th has been declared National Gardening Day.

Show Schedule:

Chairperson Rick Heaslip reported that the committee met at his house and spent many hours making changes/tightening up the new show schedule for the Festival of Flowers. These show books are available from Secretary Bonnie Warner, (as are copies of the OHA Judges' and Exhibitors' manual, which is a booklet anyone who is interested in entering any flower show should have). The theme chosen for the next two flower shows is 'Oh, The Places You'll Go'. There are new classes in most of the sections, and in other important show information, so please take a good look through the show schedule.

Plant and Bake Sale:

Remember that the Plant and Bake Sale is later this year than usual, due to conflicts with bookings at the Legion Hall. Considering the later spring we've had, this may work out well for us. So, remember that set up will take place at the Legion Hall on Friday, May 24. This is the day to bring in your donations of plants and baking, from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Please have the plants and baking named. If you are able to include any information about the plants, ie.-annual/perennial/ colour of bloom/height/when blooming/does it spread, etc, it would be greatly appreciated by the purchaser and the pricers. We have found that cut-up old venetian blinds work very well as name tags, preferably written on with a sharpie-type marker. The sale will start at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 25 at. Remember, we are looking for any donations – garden plants, house plants, any kind of baking, garden tools, etc. Small boxes, such as pop flats, and plastic bags are also appreciated. Convenor Les Peever is looking for volunteers to staff the sales tables, and to help out with carrying material on Saturday a.m. Also, most importantly, we need pricers and helpers to show up on Friday at noon hour as the many hundreds of donations need to be priced and placed. Please call Les Peever with any questions or to let him know if you can help.

Festival of Flowers:

Convenor Eileen Fisher reports that plans are working out well, and asks members to remember to mark the dates on their calendars: set-up at Holy Family School on Tuesday, August 13, and entries in on Thursday, August 15, before 11:30 a.m. More information to follow next month.

Going Green

This is a perfect time of year to get rid of those old ashes from your fireplace or wood stove and to help out some of your perennials at the same time. Sprinkle the ash on a calm day over the roots of plants such as clematis, peonies, roses, and gently scratch in. You can also sprinkle the ash in layers in your compost. Sprinkle ½ to 1 pound of ash around shrubs and rose bushes. Wood ash supplies extra potassium and other essential nutrients to soil, especially if soil is fairly acid. Don't use ash on acid loving plants, however.



Plant of the Month

The Daffodil or Narcissus

Daffodils (the botanical name is narcissus) are long-lived plants, growing from bulbs, that should be planted in the fall. They bloom in the spring and will naturalize and spread, and live for many years. The leaves are usually strap-like and semi-erect, and the blossoms consist of a central cup or corona surrounded by six petals. They are usually yellow or white, while the cup can be orange, yellow, red, pink, orange, and even green. There are over 2500 cultivars or varieties. Daffs prefer full sun but will do fine in partial shade. They prefer a slightly acid soil, with good drainage. Plant the bulbs in the fall, pointed end up, twice as deep as they are wide, so 3 to 5" (7-12 cm), mixing a bit of bonemeal with the soil in the bottom of the hole. Water well and keep watered if the season is dry. It doesn't hurt to top-dress with a bit of bonemeal or bulb fertilizer each year. Bulbs can be divided if they are becoming overgrown. Do this after blooming, but leave the leaves on as long as possible, as they provide food to feed the bulbs. Very few pests bother this hardy bulb, so plant a few this fall so you can enjoy their cheerful blossoms this time next year.



Good-bye to Our Friend, Jean.

On Saturday, April 20, about 25 members of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society attended a 'Going-Away' Party in honour of Jean Wallace. Jean has been the backbone of our Society for a very long time, and has held many positions in the club, including that of President, and was convenor of the Judging School for many years. Jean was Director of District 12 and has been honoured by both the District and our Society for her years of work. Some time ago, Jean was also honoured by the OHA for her years of service to horticulture in Ontario and was presented with the Silver Trillium.



Long time member, Clint Hack, wishes Jean Wallace good luck in her new home in Barrie.

Poetry and Prose

*Gracious Gardeners
Ablly arranging
Riotous rows
Dedicately deciding
Eagerly encouraging
Noticeably new
Sensational specimens.*

By Jean Bott

(This poem written by Jean was entered into the District 12 competitions this month.)

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