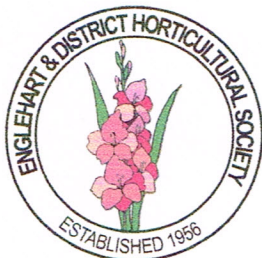




'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
May 2015



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

President: C.A. Field
Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher

Website:
englehartort.weebly.com

A Word From The Editor

Here is a little hint for anybody who is having a problem identifying a plant: if you are on Facebook or know someone who is, there is a great group called Plant Idents. I found it by accident, asked to join, and was made welcome. I have posted several photos/questions about plants I didn't recognize and within minutes, I'd received answers from people all over the world. These people are serious plant lovers and are full of knowledge which they are eager to share ... a collection of 'plant nerds'! I love it and would encourage anybody to check it out. The picture here is of a plant I found growing in a small clearing between North Bay and Temagami. I thought it was a veronica, but as soon as I posted the picture, I had the answer. It is verbena hastata...a wild verbena. I didn't know we had it in the north!



Mark It On Your Calendar:

- May 20: General Meeting
- May 23: Plant and Bake Sale
- June 7-13: Horticultural Week
- June 13: Civic Planting/Picnic in the Park



Tomato Dos and Don'ts (from Gardening Jones)

Don't purchase tomato seedlings with flowers on them. The plant goes through enough stress when planted in the garden and removing the buds/blooms help the plant put its strength into producing a stronger plant. (note it says seedlings- not the large plants in pots)

Don't over fertilize. It's fine to give your plants some good healthy compost, but take it easy on the fertilizer. Too much will grow wonderful bushy and green plants, but few fruit.

Do give them a bit of Epsom salts. If they don't need it, it won't hurt. It is good to have it as a preventative measure to help grow healthier plants.

Do plant your transplants very deeply. 'Up to their necks' is what the farmers say. This way they will grow a great root system, as more roots will grow from the buried stem. The better the roots, the more productive the plants will then be and the stronger it will held in the ground.

Don't water from above, if you can help it. This can cause soil to splash up on the stems, making them more prone to disease.

Do try to use a soaker hose whenever possible with tomatoes. Also, mulching your tomatoes does help to prevent that soil backsplash and also helps retain moisture needed in a dry summer.

Reports from Your Directors:

Plant and Bake Sale: Our big sale comes up on Saturday, May 23 in the Legion Hall. Please bring your donations to the hall on Friday, May 22 beginning at 12:00, or early Saturday morning if you are unable to make it Friday. The doors open for selling at 10:00 a.m Saturday (9:00 for workers) and we will need all the help we can get. Please contact Jean Bott if you can help out in any way. We really need people on the Friday afternoon to price and place the plants and baking. If you know anybody who would like to donate plants but has trouble digging, again please call Jean at 544 2972.

Programme: Convenor Carrie Anne Field reports that our May 20 meeting will feature our own Linda Murray demonstrating the planting of patio pots. Linda is well known for her interesting and innovative pots. Weather permitting, it will be held in the garden of Marie and Ed Black at #112 5th Ave. Bring along a lawn chair, a shared snack and we will provide the drinks. Hope to see you there. In case of rain, it will be in the Presbyterian Church basement.

Civic Improvement: Convenor Carrie Anne Field has plans well underway and asks that members meet her at the cenotaph at **10:30** a.m. on Saturday, June 13 to help plant the town beds. Bring along your trowel and hope for good weather. (please note the new time)

Horticultural Week: Convenors Len and Eileen Fisher report that councils have been approached to declare the week of June 7-13 as Horticultural Week in the area. They have a full week of events planned. Watch for displays around town, listen to CJBB for some helpful horticultural hints, and perhaps spend some time in your own yard or help out a neighbour with a planting activity. So don't forget to mark June 7-13 on your calendar, with a big circle around the 13th. After the civic planting is completed, we invite all members (not just those who planted) to join us for a picnic in Centennial Park. Please bring along a lawn chair and either a small salad or dessert to share. Hotdogs and drinks will be provided. This will be a fun way to finish up our Horticultural Week activities.

Social: Claudette Black will be the hostess for June. Dee Hill will bring the gift for the free draw.

Festival of Flowers: A big change this year is the venue for our summer show. We will be holding the show in the **Legion Hall**. The new Show Schedule has been presented and accepted by the Society. Thanks to convenor Rick Heaslip, and his committee of Bonnie, Jean, Rosemary, Joyce, Carrie Anne, and Eileen, for their hours of work. The show book will be available at the May meeting for anyone who intends to enter the Festival of Flowers competition, or by contacting secretary Bonnie Warner. Another change is the fact that there will be no 4th prize except for the Juniors and the Long Term Care Facility classes.

Membership: Convenor Ginny Montminy reports that we now have 68 members. Don't forget- a \$10.00 membership in our Society makes a great gift for a friend or family member. Even if they are unable to come out to meetings, they still receive the Bulletin and are able to compete in the Festival of Flowers.

Website: Convenor Rick Heaslip reports that we have had 875 hits on our website in the first four months of this year. Don't forget to check it out- Rick keeps it current, with information about upcoming events, pictures and write-ups about past events, and lots of helpful information for members. You can even find past 'Through the Garden Gates' on our site. Check it out at: engleharthort.weebly.com

District 12 News

The Englehart and District Horticultural Society did a fabulous job of hosting the District 12 Annual Meeting in April. Our members worked together to make our guests from Kapuskasing, Cochrane, Iroquois Falls, Timmins, South Porcupine, and Kirkland Lake feel welcome. The business meeting went smoothly and District Director Anne Jamieson did a fine job in her first Annual Meeting, assisted by the very able Bonnie Warner as her Secretary. We also enjoyed presentations on Bokahsi Composting and Growing Haskap Berries by the OHA President Jeff Blackadar.

Our own Amy Vickery Menard and Ginny Montminy were elected as co-chairs of the District 12 Bursary Committee, which offers a bursary to a student attending school in our area going to university or college who will be studying some form of Horticulture or Environment Science. Louis Fortier of Iroquois Falls was presented with the District 12 Service Certificate for his many years of service to both his own Society and to District 12. Our congratulations go to Louis for this well-deserved honour.

Many thanks go to all of the members who helped make the day a success. Special thanks to all who helped set up and decorate the hall on the Friday, to our delegates, Linda Murray and Rosemary Campbell, to Rick Heaslip, our judge for the competitions, to Rosemary Campbell, who presented a slide show of her beautiful pictures of northern beauty, to Social convenor, Mary Schippers and her committee of helpers, who kept us well fed with delicious snacks, the Catholic Women for the wonderful lunch, to Bonnie Warner and Joyce Smith, who, along with yours truly, demonstrated floral designs on a northern theme, and to all who stayed behind to help clean up the hall. Next year being our 60th anniversary, we will be hosting the Annual Meeting once again. We hope it will be as much a success as this year.



According to the Seattle Times, potatoes planted inside a box with the following method can grow up to 100 pounds of potatoes in just 4 square feet. All that is required:

Lumber Seed potatoes Soil Careful attention to watering

Here's how: Plant as early as you can, with an approximated 3 months to harvest turnaround time. Cut apart larger seed potatoes, making sure there are at least two eyes in each piece you plant. Fertilize with 10-20-20 fertilizer at planting and a couple of times during the season, or make sure you're using good compost. Water so that the plants are kept at an even level of moisture. Don't plant in the same area in consecutive years or use the same soil to fill your potato box, as potatoes can attract various diseases. To save space, it is recommended that you build a box and plant inside it, adding sides to the box as the plant grows, filling the new space with mulch or soil. When the plant blossoms, it starts setting potatoes in this added soil. Soon after that, you can start removing the bottom boards from your box and "robbing" the plant, reaching in carefully and pulling out new potatoes. You can also plant potatoes in a similar way in old tires which you can pile up as the plants grow. You can't remove any potatoes until harvest time with this method, though.

(Planting Potatoes in boxes con't)

HOW TO BUILD AND USE YOUR POTATO BOX

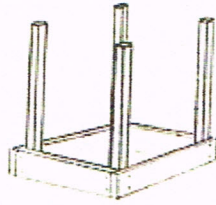
Materials:

Six 2-inch by 6-inch boards eight feet long

One 2-inch by 2-inch board 12 feet long

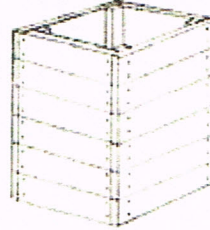
2 1/2-inch wood screws (96 of them)

[You can use pine, cedar or redwood, which will resist rot longer.]

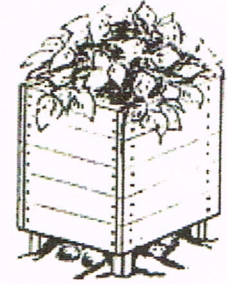


1. Cut the 2-by-2 into four lengths of 33 inches.
2. Cut the 2-by-6 boards into 12 lengths of 21 inches, and 12 lengths of 24 inches.
3. Pre-drill the screw holes in the 2-by-6 boards and attach the bottom row on the 2-by-2s.
4. Place over prepared soil and fill with soft soil or mulch, planting potatoes four inches deep.

Source: Irish Farm - Garden City Guide



5. When the vines are about 12 inches above the soil, add another board and fill with dirt, being careful not to cover more than one-third of the plant. Repeat this until the box is completed.



6. To harvest your potatoes, remove the screws from the bottom board and carefully reach in for the potatoes. Replace the soil and boards. Next time you need potatoes, remove the second board and "rob" spuds from that level.

http://seattletimes.com/html/homegarden/2002347126_potatoes25.html

Involving Youth In Horticulture

Many gardeners will tell you that their life-long love of plants and nature took root in their parents' or grandparents' gardens. When you share your love of gardening with children, you could be planting the seeds of a life-long passion. You can nurture that budding interest by keeping the focus on fun. So take a break from that mowing and weeding for a little while and spend some time down in the dirt with your kids. Here are some ideas you may enjoy:

- * Rainbow gardens are fun for kids. Plants that represent the colours of the rainbow are great teaching tools as well as entertaining.
- * Pizza gardens are a lot of fun. You can divide a circular garden into wedges and plant a different crop in each wedge. At harvest time, they can even make a pizza using their own produce.
- * Talk with the children about what their favourite flowers and vegies are. Most kids are interested in 'weird' plants: plants with bright colours, interesting smells and textures, over-sized and undersized plants, etc. Try some sunflowers for height, herbs for smells, peas for shape, pumpkins for colour and their vines, cherry tomatoes for size, etc.
- * Add some structures and decorative aspects: With the kids, build a teepee for vines to grow up, a scarecrow, add a bird bath, etc.
- * Buy/make some kid-sized tools to use in their own gardens.
- * Try some science experiments- what will happen if you plant some seeds too deeply? Keep some plants in the dark? Plant some in different soils? Whatever you do, make their first gardening experiences fun!



Plant of the Month

Gladiolus

Plant gladioli bulbs in the spring once danger of frost has passed and the soil has warmed. Use a garden fork or tiller and loosen the soil to about 12 to 15 inches deep. After loosening the soil, mix in a 2- to 4-inch layer of compost. Glads grow from corms. Set the corm in the hole about 4" (10-11 cm) deep with the pointed end facing up. Cover with soil and press firmly. Plant them 3 to 6 inches apart and water the corms thoroughly. If you grow a lot of glads, consider planting them in trenches or rows. Gladioli like well-drained, light soil and full sun. If you're planting tall varieties, be sure to stake them at planting time, being careful not to damage the corms with the stakes. It takes about 90 days from the time gladioli are planted to root, grow, bloom, and store enough energy for the next season, so get them in early. I try to plant mine in the second week of May. Water them regularly in dry weather; consider mulching them to keep the soil moist and weed free. Try to leave as many leaves as possible when picking glads, to allow the plant to make food to grow the bulb as large as possible. We'll discuss fall care in a later bulletin.



Our 3rd President, Asa McKay



Asa McKay
1961-1962

Some of you may remember Asa McKay. He and his wife, Zel, lived on 7th Avenue, about halfway down the block on the south side. Zel was disabled and Asa looked after her for many years. They loved their gardens and belonging to the Society.

Planting for Fall Birds

May is a good month to plant trees and shrubs with our bird friends in mind. Many plants produce fruit in the summer through to fall and some, such as crabapples, will hang onto their fruit well into winter. This works well for our migrating birds which may have travelled from the far north and still have thousands of miles to get to the south. What better way to welcome these creatures than to have a tasty feast for them in your yards.

Fruit Producing Plants

- *Elderberries (*Sambucus* spp.)
- * Dogwood (*Cornus*)
- * Raspberries
- * Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
- * Blueberries
- * Crabapple tree (*Malus coronaria*)
- * Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)
- * Serviceberry/Saskatoon berry (*amelanchier*)



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