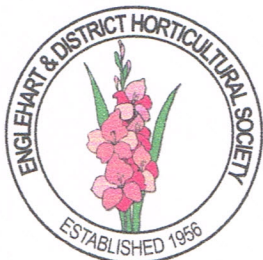




'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
October 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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The Octobers of my childhood were the best months to be a kid. We had settled back into the rhythm of school, made some new friends, and even though the days were quickly becoming 'shorter', they were often bright and crisp, with a sense of adventure in the air. The Fall Fair had come and gone, mom and dad were busy getting the yard and gardens ready for winter, but we could still play outside without the encumbrance of heavy winter clothing. Thanksgiving was coming, and even better, Hallowe'en was waiting for us. Nowadays, October seems to be a month of work and worry...will I get those last vegetables dug, the compost spread, the shrubs wrapped, the roses hilled up, and where are my winter boots? Looking back on the list of things to do in the fall in September's newsletter, I shake my head. But, Thanksgiving is still coming, and for those who celebrate it, I hope you enjoy your long weekend. And, even better... Hallowe'en will soon be here! So, it's time to cut ourselves some slack, accept that we may not get it all done before the snow flies, enjoy the beautiful days while we can, get some Hallowe'en candy in, and go out and kick up some leaves.

Mark It On Your Calendar:

- October 16: Awards Night
- November 20: General meeting: Amber Elliot
- November 27: Christmas Workshop

Looking Back:

- *As part of the Fall Fair, Linda Murray set up a display booth to advertise the Horticultural Society. It looked great and was enjoyed by many people, Linda.
- *Our September meeting was very successful, with great discussions about our successes (and failures) during the past gardening season.
- *Our Civic Improvement committee deserves a great round of applause for their work this spring and summer, making Englehart look so good. The beds and boxes were lush and beautiful. Thanks to all who came out on September 28th to help 'put the gardens to bed' for another year.

Our Fall Fair Booth



Looking Ahead:

*November's meeting promises to be an entertaining and innovative one. Amber will be back with her trusty sidekick, Patsy, to show us 'What's New in Decorating for Christmas in 2013'. The picture to the right shows Amber at last year's November meeting, having fun with a very large and elegant design

*Our annual **Christmas Workshop** will be held on November 27. Check in the 'Reports' for further information.



District 12 News:

Our delegates, Rosemary Campbell and Joyce Marie Smith, attended the Fall Planning meeting held here in Englehart on October 5. Plans were made for the 2014 Annual Meeting which will be held in Kirkland Lake Saturday, April 26, with the theme 'On Golden Ground'. Thanks to those members who donated muffins for delegates to enjoy while they worked.

Reports from Your Directors:

Programme: This month's meeting will be our annual Award's Night, where we reward all of our members who won prizes in August's Festival of Flowers. Ginny Montminy has been busy getting the trophies ready for this evening. Things will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a Pot Luck Supper (bring along your favourite dish to share...salad, dessert, main, appetizer- your choice), and bring along your appetites as well. Guests are always welcome. Convenor Carrie Anne Field also reports that the Rotary Exchange student, Dylan Thompson, will be with us that evening to give a brief presentation about his homeland, New Zealand. This promises to be an entertaining and educational evening. Hope to see lots of members out for this meeting.

Social: Convenor Mary Schippers asks that anyone who can help set up the hall in preparation for Awards Night meet in the basement of the Anglican Church at 5:30 to set up tables, etc. Bring along a dish to share with friends.

Website: Rick Heaslip reports that our site had 888 hits in September, compared with 337 in September 2012. For those without a computer, this means that people visited our website 888 times last month. He also reported that there are lots of new photos up and the latest information has been posted. Rick has been contacted by the Thunder Bay Society asking how to set up their website. Go online and check us out at englehartort.weebly.com. Rick does a wonderful job of keeping our society up-to-date online.

Fall Fair Booth: Convenor Linda Murray reports that she was very happy with our booth. Anybody who stopped by was offered free information, a ticket for the free draw, and a chance to look at our new display board. Our basket of assorted goodies was won by Audrey Woods. Linda thanks everyone who took a turn staffing the booth and donating to the basket. Thanks to Linda for the great job.

Christmas Workshop: Convenor Rosemary Campbell reports that this year we will be making an insert for a Christmas urn using natural material, birds, etc. The doors will open at 7:00 p.m. and the demonstration will begin at 7:30. There is always a delicious smorgasbord of refreshments offered at the end of the evening. Don't forget to tell everyone to mark November 27th, the date of this fun-filled evening, on their calendars and bring along a friend or two. Remember, this is an evening where the public is invited to start off the upcoming Christmas season by making something creative, beautiful, and inexpensive.



Here is an example of the lovely craft we made last year. Look for more information in the November bulletin.



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. (Albert Camus)

Going Green

It's not too early to start thinking about next year, especially if you're considering making changes to your gardens. Making garden plans during our long winter months can be a great way to pass the time. One change that we made several years ago was to build some raised beds. We did this because we garden on heavy clay, which, although it is rich in nutrients, can be very difficult to work and hard to get on early enough for me. "By building raised beds, you instantaneously can have good garden loam," said Ross Penhallegon, a horticulturist with the Oregon State University Extension Service. "Raised beds answer the question of how we garden in inhospitable areas that are too sandy, too wet or have too much clay." Gardening in raised beds is also great for people with back problems, or older gardeners who want to continue gardening as long as possible. Using environmentally friendly/recycled products, you can build a bed that is just the right size for you. Raised beds are typically three feet wide so you can reach across easily to weed and harvest. The bed can be as long and as high as you want. It's probably best to build and fill your raised beds early in the spring (or even the fall before) to allow for the soil to settle before planting. Fill the box with good sandy loam, compost/leaf mulch/well rotted manure.

Two gardeners at our September meeting reported success using raised beds. Dawna Beausoleil and Deb Murray (of Haileybury) both had great results this past year using this method of gardening. Perhaps a topic for a cold winter meeting?



John Beausoleil tends his veggies. Deb and Robert's tomatoes.

Plant of the Month

Dipladenia

Dipladenia (sometimes called Mandevilla, although they are different plants) have become very popular in the past few years as summer potted plants. It is possible to bring these beauties inside before the first frosts (following the suggestions in the September 13 bulletin) and keep them as houseplants. They prefer a bright but indirect light in the summer, but inside, a spot near a sunny window or under grow lights, is appropriate. During their heavy growth times, from early spring to autumn, regular watering and fertilizing (10-20-10 or approximate, at least every two weeks) is necessary. In the fall, stop fertilizing and cut back on the watering. Feel free to prune the longer tendrils until it's time to repot the plant in the spring. Add some crushed charcoal to the fresh soil when repotting and reintroduce the plant to more light and water. Keep a close watch on those new tendrils as they are susceptible to aphids. Enjoy those glossy leaves and bright pink, red, or white blossoms.



Poetry and Prose

Autumn Fires

*In the other gardens
And all up the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!*

*Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The gray smoke towers.*

*Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!*

Robert Louis Stevenson

A Word From The Editor

Time for Another Latin Lesson

I hope you remember our last three prefixes: *heli*, *grandi*, and *zero*, because I have a few more for you. You may have come across the descriptions *albiflorus*, or *alba*; *elegans*; *nanus/nana*; *repens*. Now you'll be able to understand more about the plant because you'll know the following:

Albiflorus comes from the Latin 'alba or albus', meaning white or pale. Thus, if a plant is called 'albiflorus', it has white flowers, such as 'crocus albiflorus',

Elegans is an easy one. It simply means 'elegant'. You'll be buying an elegant plant, such as 'Hosta elegans'.

Nanus or nana means dwarf or small. *Gladiolus nanus* is a shorter type of glad.

Repens means creeping or low. *Ranunculus repens* is that nasty creeping buttercup, a very invasive weed.

Published 11 times a year
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Printing: Courtesy of Englehart &
District Hospital

