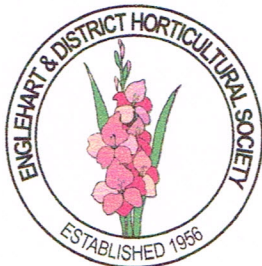




'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
July 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:
engleharthort.weebly.com

Becoming More Environmentally Friendly

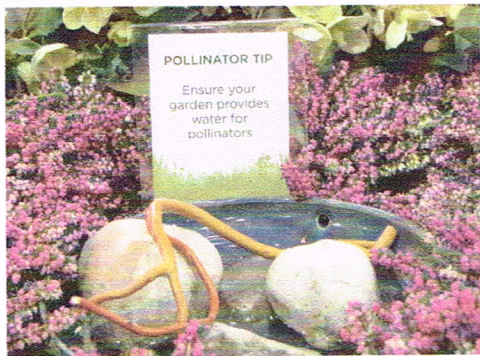
Attracting Pollinators:

Pollination can occur in many ways: bees, butterflies, animals (mammals-Ed), and wind. In Ontario, over 1000 insects and animals, including bees and butterflies use pollen and nectar from flowers. By choosing locally grown, pollinator-friendly plants, you encourage these beneficial organisms to visit your garden and contribute to the health of the entire ecosystem.

Here's how you can help:

1. Use plants with different blooming times to stagger flowering and attract bees throughout the growing season.
2. Bees and other pollinators prefer purple, yellow, white, and blue flowers with single, fragrant blooms.
3. Choose composts, natural fertilizers and Health Canada approved insecticidal soaps to control garden pests.
4. Take care of your garden. Prune and remove spent flower heads (deadheading) as needed, to encourage new growth and a longer flowering season.
5. Consider adding a water feature or birdbath to your garden to provide essential fresh water to pollinators.
6. Leaving dandelions in the yard during the early spring will help bees start the season off with a food source when there are few others available.

(from *How To Create A Pollinator-Friendly Garden* by Flowers Canada (Ontario) Inc.)



To help insects and small animals survive the heat of our summers, keep a small dish filled with fresh water in your yard. Place some stones or twigs in the dish to give the creatures a spot to land and prevent them from drowning.

Mark It On Your Calendar

- July 15: General Meeting and BBQ
- August 11: Kirkland Lake flower show
- August 20, 21: Festival of Flowers

During Horticultural Week, our Society got its own Face Book page. You can check it out at 'Englehart and District Horticultural Society' on Facebook. You can either just enjoy the site as a visitor, or ask to 'join' and then you're also able to post on the page. Take a look and perhaps give us a 'like'. We'll try to keep it as up-to-date as possible with Society news, but also use it to encourage even non-members to become interested in horticulture. Spread the word!

Something Interesting!

At an earlier meeting this year, Clint Hack shared an amazing fact with us. His amaryllis plant had two stems with a total of 11 individual blossoms! At first he supported the stems with a cardboard tube from a roll of paper towels. Eventually he had to tie the stems to a chair. Wish we had a picture of this!

Reports from Your Directors:

Programme: Our programme this month is our annual summer barbeque and garden party to be held at the home of our president, Carrie Anne Field at #21 6th Ave. Please bring along a salad or dessert, your cutlery and a lawn chair. Burgers/hotdogs/drinks will be provided by the Society. We'll have a fun auction so if you have anything to donate, please bring it along. We'll eat at 6:00 pm so come a bit earlier to socialize.

Social: Carrie Anne and Erica Field are the hosts for July's meeting and will bring the gift for the free draw.

Civic Planting: Convenor Carrie Anne Field reports that all went well and thanks the 10 members who came out to help with the civic beautification.

Horticultural Week: Convenors Eileen and Len Fisher report that it was a busy and interesting week. The Library and the Museum were venues for displays, Eileen recorded many horticultural hints which will be played throughout the summer months, and the grade ¾ classes in both elementary schools were involved. The children in Holy Family planted marigolds and worked on some fun activity pages. The children from Mrs. Foley's class at EPS came up to the Fishers for the afternoon, explored the gardens and the pond, planted some marigolds, and seemed to have a ball.

Festival of Flowers: Convenors Bonnie Warner, Rick Heaslip, and Eileen Fisher remind members to make sure you've got a copy of the prize list and to start checking out your garden against your prize list. What have you got growing that you could enter in the show? We hope that you'll agree to help us out if we 'offer you a job' at the show. If you haven't got a copy of the Judges' and Exhibitors' Handbook (which is filled with hints about growing and showing), contact Secretary Bonnie (544-8916) to obtain this helpful book. **Don't forget- the show this year will be held in the Legion Hall.** The convenors have been meeting and making plans for our new venue at the Legion Hall. We will be setting up on Wednesday, August 19th at 1:00, and will accept entries on Thursday evening and on Friday morning. We can use lots of help with the set up and take down of the show. Please, if possible, have your tags filled in in advance to save yourself time. Tags and your number are available from Bonnie Warner. We will be looking for donations of squares/cookies for our refreshment area. Please let one of the convenors know if you are able to help us out with this.

Membership: Convenor Ginny Montminy reports we have 75 members.

Youth Garden Competition: We are looking for a judge or two to visit the children's gardens in early August. If you can help us out here, please let Bonnie or Eileen know asap. It involves visiting the gardens and using a scoring sheet, deciding the order of the winners.

Here are a few hints for those of you thinking of entering the Festival of Flowers:

1. Use your show schedule to mark what entries you are thinking of entering as you visit your garden in advance of the show.
2. Cut your flowers and foliage the evening before or on the morning of, to ensure freshness; some plants like to be cut the evening before, to ensure that they 'harden' for the show. Harden by cleanly removing lower foliage (which will be below the water line), place in a tall container of luke-warm water, recutting the bottom of the stem with a sharp knife, and place in a cool, dark area for several hours or overnight.
3. Groom your entries- clean them as well as you can, without damaging the entry. Remove dirt, pollen, stains, insect damage, etc. as much as possible, without hurting the appearance of the specimen.
4. Be careful- a bud showing colour is considered a bloom. If you are entering a class which calls for 'one bloom', make sure there are no buds showing colour. Snip them off carefully.
5. Always bring a few extra specimens in, if possible, to replace ones which may be injured during their trip to the show.
6. As mentioned before, obtain your entry tags and number early and get as much filled in in advance, to save time.
7. When in doubt, feel free to call a member whom you know will be able to help you out.
8. The best advice is to get a copy of the judging and exhibiting standards from Bonnie Warner.

Elsie (Harman) Elyea (1922-2015), who died on June 20th, was a long-time member and a Life Member of the Englehart & District Horticultural Society and also of a group of growers and flower arrangers whom Ruby Bryan encouraged, who in turn were her helpers in carrying out many projects in the Society. Elsie lived on a piece of Eden she had established by Evanturel Creek (known locally as Jean Baptiste Creek). On the fertile soil of the river bank she established trees, lawns, flower and vegetable plantings creating a protected garden and grounds crammed with growing things. Elsie truly had a "green" thumb! For arranging plant material Elsie had a dramatic, original talent, using the abundance of her gardens to create stunning presentation baskets and designs. She exhibited wonderful material for many years in the Flower Show and won all sorts of prizes and trophies including the Society Award of Merit for her contribution to horticulture. (The photo shows Elsie receiving a trophy from then President, Lloyd Briggs)



Skillful as Elsie was in handling plant material, it was in growing it that she really excelled. She grew anything that would grow in Zone 2b, and more. When she acquired a plant she was always able to produce offspring from one specimen and, moreover, she was generous in sharing the largesse of her garden with her friends and the Horticultural Society.

Although Elsie shied from speaking in front of an audience or taking office, she contributed much material sharing with others her knowledge about plants and arranging. In spite of her self-consciousness in public she was one of three of us who developed and taught a 6-week course in flower arranging, growing and presentation in the 80's. Ruby Bryan, Elsie and I developed the course; Ruby obtained material both plant and mechanical from her wholesale contacts. For her presentations Elsie demonstrated and Ruby or I provided commentary.

Elsie was one of the leaders of the Junior Garden Club for many years. Her gentle manner encouraged children to do their best and to be proud of their work. Always she was a most valued exhibitor and behind-the-scenes helper, ready to step in to help and to encourage new members.

Thank you to Jean Wallace for sharing her memories of Elsie in this write-up.

Plant of the Month

Echinacea

This pretty and tough perennial has become very popular lately. The original plant, *Echinacea purpurea*, a pinky-mauve colour, grows wild in eastern North America. Recently there have been red, white, yellow, and orange petalled plants bred, as well as doubles. These are a low maintenance plant, requiring full sun to part shade, and dry to medium moisture. The showy, long-lasting flowers are attractive to birds and butterflies, great for floral arrangements, and bloom from July to September. They are quite frost tolerant and are rarely bothered by pests or disease. These plants can be easily divided and look lovely in a mixed border or as an accent plant in a smaller garden.



Prune Those Suckers!

Most varieties of tomatoes quickly branch into a thicket of stems if no attempt is made to control their growth.

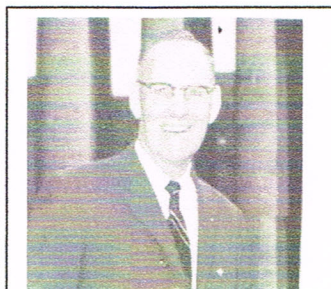
'Suckers' emerge at the spot where the tomato leaf attaches to the stem and, as it grows, each sucker becomes another stem. Removing some or all of these suckers helps the plants stay upright, maintains the

air circulation they need for good health, and improves fruit quality. Tomatoes trained onto stakes are best pruned to a single stem by removing all suckers. Caged tomatoes can be allowed to develop one or two suckers in addition to the main stem. Make a habit of clipping off unwanted suckers every few days. (**Rodale's Organic Life**)



Our 5th President

Syd Bryan was instrumental in the formation of our Society and served two terms as our president. He and his wife Ruby were both very involved in all aspects of the Society. While Ruby often worked overtly for the Society, Syd was more apt to work quietly and efficiently behind the scenes. In my memories of visiting Ruby and Syd in the summer months, I always see Syd with a hoe or a shovel, with his shirt sleeves rolled up, working in their garden.



Sydney Bryan
1967-1968
1971-1972

Bed in Summer

*In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.
I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.
And does it not seem hard to you
When all the sky is clear and blue
And I should like so much to play
To have to go to bed by day?*

R.L. Stevenson

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