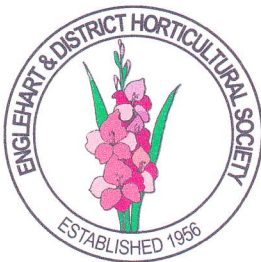




# 'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society  
June 2018



**Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.**

**General meetings:**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher  
**Website:**  
[engleharthort.weebly.com](http://engleharthort.weebly.com)

## A Word From The Editor

*Spring, being a tough act to follow, God created June. (A. Bernstein)*

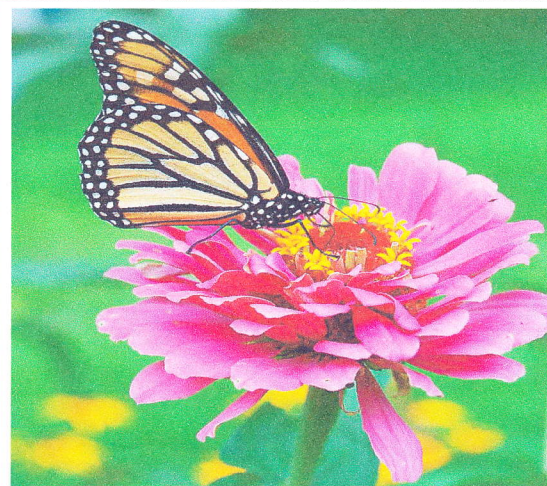
I remember my mother quoting the poem by James Lowell which begins "And what is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days." June is a northern gardener's heaven and nightmare simultaneously. The hours of light are coming to their peak on the day of the Summer Solstice, June 21<sup>st</sup> this year, and it seems as if every plant and every garden needs attention- pruning, weeding, digging, planting, transplanting. Hopefully you took some time earlier to prepare your tools so you don't have that job to do. We may still have had to cover against frost early in the month and have some seeds to plant still. In this month, it seems like everything in our gardening lives is demanding attention. However, this is the also the best time of the year to sit back, put your feet up, grab a refreshing drink, relax and just enjoy the beauty of the month of June. It is a wonderful month to visit others' gardens, to smell the lilacs, watch the birds nesting and the pollinators flitting from flower to flower, to read a book while sitting outside, to invite a friend to share the beauty of the day with you. May our good gardening days this month not be rare and may we all have time to enjoy the sunshine and warmth in our own ways.

## Mark It On Your Calendar

- June 10-16: Horticultural Week
- June 10-16: Civic Planting
- June 20: General Meeting

## Programme

Our programme this month is 'Plants for Pollinators'. It has been obvious in the past decade that our pollinating insects are in trouble. Pesticide sprays and dusts have been responsible for massive losses of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. As individuals we can't do a lot with regard to large agri-businesses but we can do our part by ensuring that our yards and gardens are pollinator friendly places. Bonnie Warner and I will be speaking at this meeting. We hope you will join us on the 20<sup>th</sup>.



## Youth Gardening Competition

Last year we had 13 young people enter the competition. This year we hope to have even more. It's not too late to encourage a youngster to start a garden but even if they don't want to compete, there are many reasons for children to have their own gardens: *"In this electronic age, kids need time for meaningful family connection. Time in the garden allows for team building and promotes communication skills. Planning a garden, planting the seeds and watching them grow give kids a sense of purpose and responsibility. Making sure that the plants get enough fertilizer, water and sun fosters mindfulness. The concepts learned while gardening, like composting food scraps for fertilizer or using gathered rain water, can show kids a deep respect and responsibility for taking care of our planet. Furthermore, studies show that when children have contact with soil during activities like digging and planting, they have improved moods, better learning experiences and decreased anxiety. Most important, the self-esteem a child gets from eating a perfect cucumber that he grew himself is priceless."* (PBS Parents). If you know of a child who might be interested please encourage them to plant a garden and give me a call 544 3771 or Bonnie Warner at 544 8916 if they want to enter the competition. Bonnie and I have the information to assist them.



## Reports from Your Directors:

**Horticultural Week:** Convenors Evelyne Nemcsok and Kelly Brownlee report that there will be lots happening this week, which will include horticultural activities with school children, displays set up around town, ads on CJBB, and civic planting. Jackie Livingston has planted flowers with children at Holy Family and Evelyne will be planting pumpkins with the grade 3/4 class at EPS during Horticulture Week. Please contact Evelyne if you would like to help out. Evelyne has also planned a 'Selfie' challenge for the week and we are hoping people will participate. The challenge includes: **Day 1: You and/or your garden Day 2: You working in your garden Day 3: You and a friend in a friend's garden Day 4: You at a town garden Day 5: You and/or your favourite flower Day 6: A pollinator at work Day 7: You and a pollinator habitat.** Please post your pics on our Facebook page or send them to Rick Heaslip for posting on our website. Let's all get involved and have some fun!

**Plant and Bake Sale:** Convenors Jean Bott and Barb Curran report that, considering the horrible spring, our sale was a great success. The draw table was very popular, and the birdhouse that Len Fisher made and donated raised \$92.00. Thanks so much, Len. Thanks from Jean and Barb to everyone who helped set up, worked at the sale, and donated plants and/or baking. Thanks to Jean and Barb for convening the event.

**Civic Planting:** Kelly Brownlee and Carrie Anne Field have been organizing the plants for this committee and people will be planting next week. Please call Kelly if you would like to help her.

**Social:** Jean Bott will be the hostess for June's meeting and also brings the gift for the free draw.

**Membership:** Ginny Montminy reports we now have 68 members.

**Facebook/Website:** We now have 201 people enjoying and using our Facebook page. Rick Heaslip reports that there were 386 visits to the site in May and 1914 visits this year. Check both of these places out for information, pictures, and information about our society and horticulture in general.

**Programme:** Just a heads up that our July meeting will be a social time- a bbq at Rick and Carol Heaslip's home. The society provides the hotdogs, buns, etc. and we bring a salad or dessert. There will also be our annual fun auction so keep a look out for something small to donate to the auction. This is always a great time and feel free to bring a friend.

## **Compost and You**

Are you a gardener? Do you compost? Actually, you don't have to have a garden to compost. Many communities have set up a community composting programme to help the local environment as well as supplying compost to those who choose to use it. Some people don't compost because they say it's messy and smelly but it doesn't have to be. There are even compostable bags to use in your house compost container. Composting is good for us and kind to Mother Earth, as evidenced by the benefits below.

### **Benefits of Compost to Your Garden**

- improves soil structure in all soils, and therefore improves water retention in loose, sandy soils
- improves drainage in heavy, clay soils
- prevents the soil surface from crusting, easing the emergence of seedlings
- resists compaction, making it easier for roots to penetrate the soil
- helps balance ph, making alkaline soils more acidic and acidic soils more alkaline
- provides a good environment for the microbes, earthworms, and insects that break down soil constituents into plant nutrients
- nourishes microbes that protect against some plant diseases
- reduces the need for other soil amendments and for fertilizer
- provides many micro-nutrients and low levels of macronutrients
- raises the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of soil, so that it also improves the soil's supply of nutrients, thus increasing the amount of time they are available to plants
- slows the leaching of nutrients, thus preventing them from reaching and polluting water
- encourages healthy plants, thus reducing the need for pesticides and fungicides.

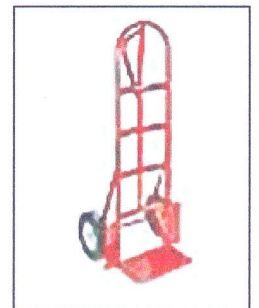
### **Benefits to the Environment**

- reduces the amount of garbage in landfills, and therefore
- reduces the greenhouse gases produced by hauling garbage
- reduces the amount of methane produced by landfills
- helps prevent runoff and soil erosion
- helps remediate (decontaminate) polluted soils, binding some contaminants in the soil and increasing plant uptake by others, allowing their removal from contaminated sites
- reduces the need for environmentally damaging pesticides and fertilizers

## **I Want My Dolly**

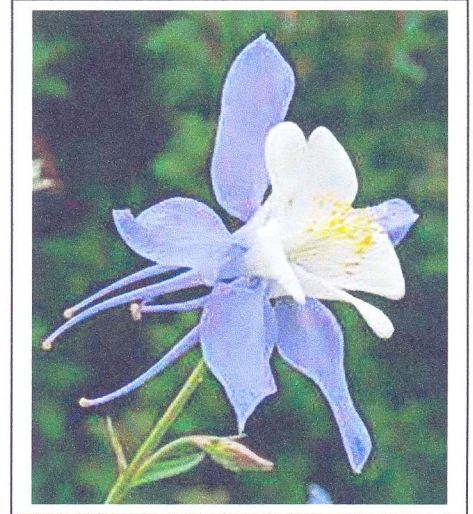
"I want my dolly! " This was generally true when I was a toddler and remains true in my senior years. I no longer have my battered cloth dolly with the plaster head. Now I have three dollies – small, medium and large, none of them as fragile as Minnie. These dollies are garden helpers. They are also efficient back savers helping me to preserve an aging spine while still enjoying a garden to the fullest. Dollies enable me to move rocks, potted plants, bags of soil and compost with ease and sometimes a bungee cord or two. Working in the garden lets us stay strong. Strong muscles help to support spines. If you don't already have a dolly, consider getting one. They store easily in the upright position so space should not be a problem. (from The Edible Garden (Lanark county Master Gardeners).

(Perhaps a dolly would make a great birthday or Christmas present for a gardener you know.)



*Plant of the Month*  
*Aquilegia*

Aquilegia, or Columbines, are June blooming plants which have an airy appearance, with small, rounded leaves and tall flower stalks that hold the blooms above the foliage. Aquilegia's bell-shaped flowers are popular with hummingbirds, bees and gardeners. Purple/mauve are common colours but newer hybrids come in many interesting colour combinations. They will grow in full sun to partial shade. Columbines tend to be short lived perennials but self-seed easily. Leaf miners can be a problem, leaving white lines in foliage but this foliage can be cut back and the plants will regrow. They are not fussy regarding soil but prefer a richer loamy soil.



*Competitions for June*

Remember- all members are invited to enter two entries into each of the competition classes. Money prizes will be awarded at the Annual Meeting. Show us what you can grow here in the north! This month's competitive classes are all from our flower gardens:

**Class 1:** Iris- 1 bloom    **Class 2:** Peony- 1 bloom, include foliage  
**Class 3:** Any Other Perennial- 1 specimen    **Class 4:** Blooming Shrub- 1 branch  
**Class 5:** "Spring Into Summer"- a floral design

\*Hint: points are given for included foliage in specimen classes (1-4)

*Hints and Tips for Pruning*

- Invest in a good pair of secateurs or pruners. It is well worth the money, as if not, you will be replacing them way too often. (Even better- ask for a good pair for your birthday!)
- Buy a brightly coloured pair or spray some part of the pruners with colourful paint because you will lay them down somewhere and they will surely disappear (speaking from experience!).
- Make sure your pruners are very sharp before cutting a plant- it's important to make a good clean narrow cut, to avoid crushing or damaging too many cells around the cut area.
- Clean the blades well if you have been cutting diseased parts of plants, to avoid spreading the problem to other plants.
- Rose Pruning tip: When pruning a rose, always cut just above full-sized leaf. That's where the hormones concentrate, so the plant is able to produce a new flowering shoot quickly.

*Poetry and Prose*

*On Gardening*

*What is one to say  
about June,  
the time of perfect  
young summer,  
the fulfillment of  
the promise  
of the earlier months,  
and with as yet  
no sign to remind one  
that its fresh young beauty  
will ever fade.*

*Gertrude Jekyll*

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