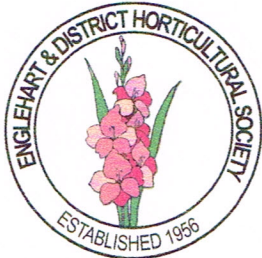


'Through The Garden Gate'

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

President: B. Wilson
Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher
Website:
engleharthort.weebly.com

A Word From The Editor

S.O.S. The dreaded Lily beetle has arrived in Englehart. A few years ago they were reported in New Liskeard, so it was only a matter of time. These creatures are bright red, shield-shaped beetles that lay orange-yellow eggs under the leaves. The larvae hatch and hide under the leaves, covering their bodies with their own feces. They quickly strip the leaves from lily plants, fall to the ground, pupate and hatch quickly, and the cycle starts again. Hand-picking should be the first level of control. Daily checking and quick removal and disposal of beetles, eggs and larvae can help control an infestation on a small number of plants. Some gardeners drop them into a can of water with vegetable oil on the top. Be careful: The adults are easily spooked when you try to pick them by hand, and if you miss them, they drop to the ground where they land upside-down and since their undersides are black, they disappear. One suggestion is to place a light-colored cloth under the plant before you hand-pick in order to be able to see them if they fall. If hand-picking isn't working, some people report success with insecticidal soap, while some have found the use of Neem oil to work. Neem is made from a plant and is also used as a medicine in some countries. I would suggest investigating Neem as you would any other insecticide before using it.

Mark It On Your Calendar:

- June 9-15: Horticultural Week
- June 12: general meeting- 'Pursuing the Red Ribbon'
- June 15: civic planting
- July 17: Summer bbq and pot luck
- August 15, 16: Festival of Flowers at Holy Family School

Looking Back:

- *May's meeting at Aidie Creek was a great success. Thanks to Carrie Anne and to Aidie Creek Gardens for a great evening. We all went away happy.
- * Convenor Les Peever reported a very successful Plant and Bake Sale. Please read his report in the 'Directors' Reports' on page 2 for more information.



Marg McMurray and her beautiful basket of plants made at ACG.

Looking Ahead:

Convenor Carrie Anne Field reports that our June meeting will be held on the 19th and will be called 'Pursuing the Red Ribbon', an evening of hints to help members gain success at the Festival of Flowers. Eileen Fisher will also be demonstrating how to make a basket of flowers. This will also be good preparation for the Festival of Flowers, as there are classes for an assortment of baskets in the different sections. It will also help those who just want to learn how beautiful baskets, large or small, are made. Hope to see you there.

Tomato Talk

*plant with a tbsp. of Epsom salts worked into bottom of the hole
*mulch with clean organic mulch
*de-sucker (remove the little leaves growing out from stem at the joints of leaves)

OHA/District 12 News:

There is still time to register for the OHA Convention in Thunder Bay. Check out the OHA website at Garden Ontario or contact Secretary Bonnie Warner for further information.



For better blooms next year, resist the temptation to cut back the leaves of your spring-blooming bulbs until they have almost completely died back.

Reports from Your Directors:

Civic Improvement: Convenor Carrie Anne Field reports that plans are finalizing for our annual civic planting. Saturday, June 15th is the day to meet at the cenotaph at 9:00 a.m., with your gardening gloves and a trowel, rain or shine (unless we hear otherwise). Many hands make light work, so the more people who come out to help, the faster this important job is done. Eileen Fisher is looking for volunteers to meet her at EPS (gym door) to work in the Millennium Garden at 9:00 a.m that day as well.

Programme: Looking ahead, Convenor Carrie Anne (a busy lady!) reminds people about the annual summer bbq at Mary Pillsworth's on July 17th. Don't forget a chair, some utensils, and either a salad or a dessert, and bring along a bit of money for the live auction.

Plant and Bake Sale: Les reports that we made the wonderful sum of \$1122.00, due mainly to the generous donations of plant material and baking, and the support of all of our customers. Money was also raised from the draws run by Ginny, who also sold memberships and gave away free information. The Legion Hall was open on Friday from 12:00 to 4:00 to accept donations and a group of busy members priced and displayed the plants and baking. It was opened on Saturday at 10:00 am to the happy shoppers. Thanks to the donators, to Munroe Burton for his valiant efforts to keep the hall clean and to the cashiers and those who helped carry materials. A great round of thanks goes to Convenor, Les Peever, for a very successful day.

Horticultural Week: Convenor Jean Bott has a full calendar of events planned for the week of June 9-15. The Town of Englehart and the Township of Charlton-Dack have declared this as officially Horticulture Week and encourage all citizens to get outside and make our area a beautiful place in which to live. Jean reports there will be displays in Northern Variety, the Library, and at the Heritage Centre in Charlton, where co-convenor Louise Williams is planning an outside display. Jean will be visiting classes in E.P.S, and Temagami Public to do some horticultural activities with the children and to give each student in the classes she visits a plant. Don't forget, National Gardening Day is June 14, so get out and garden!

Website: Website convenor, Rick Heaslip, reminds us all to check out our website at engleharthort@weebly.com. He is continually updating the site with the latest news and photographs of Society activities. It is a beautiful website and is full of informative news for all members, and for gardeners in general. If you have misplaced your bulletin, Rick has them all on the site, as well as all the latest Society happenings. He reports that many people are using the website, and noted that the number of times the website was visited this May is up to 751, about double from last May. Thanks, Rick, for the great job! (He also reported that the society brochure has been updated. Thanks again, Rick.)

Membership: Membership convenor Ginny Montminy reports that our 2013 membership is now standing at 78. If you know anyone interested in joining, or anyone just curious about the club, invite them to come along to a meeting. A membership only costs \$10.00 and makes a good gift for anyone.

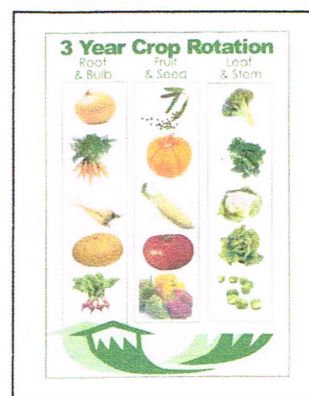
Festival of Flowers: Plans are well under way and convenor Eileen Fisher hopes that all members are planning on entering at least one exhibit into the show. We're looking forward to great horticultural exhibits, art work from the EAA, a silent auction, free draws for bouquets, and a tea garden in which we can relax and socialize. (Bruce and Twyla Wilson ask people to bring their donations for the silent auction to the gymnasium either when we are setting up on the Tuesday pm, or on the Thursday am, or give them a call for pick up.)



Going Green

* Remember to rotate vegetable crops to help control pests, disease and keep the soil in good condition. (I do the same with my glad bulbs to help control pests and diseases which may overwinter in the soil.) This helps to do away with a lot of chemical controls, and as different crops require more of some nutrients than others, it gives the soil time to renew itself (with your help of course.)

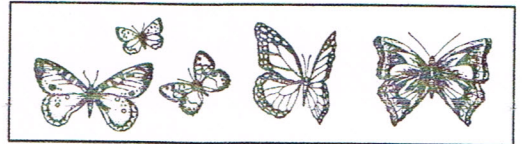
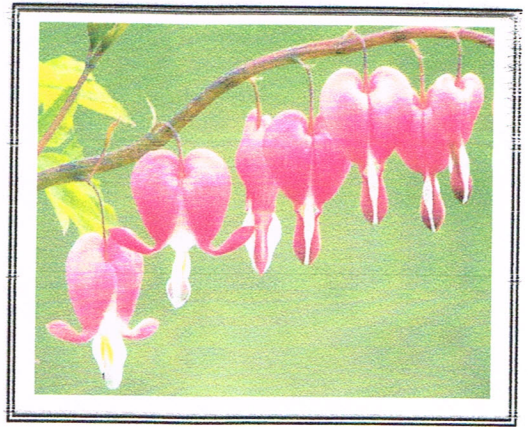
* To protect your young cole/brassica plants (cabbage, broccoli, etc.) from cutworms, cut the top and bottom from a tin can and press into the ground around the plant, sinking it until about 1/4 inch (2-3 cm) is left above the ground. Try this before going for something 'chemical'.



Plant of the Month

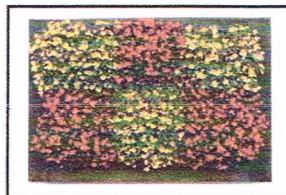
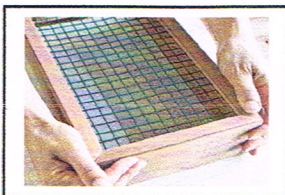
Bleeding Hearts (*Dicentra spectabilis*)

These hardy herbaceous perennials (perennial plants which die down to the ground each fall) are traditional favourites in the late spring garden. Their pink and/or white heart-shaped blossoms which dangle gracefully from arching stems appear in June in our area. They grow well in partial to full shade, in a soil that has lots of humus, and bloom better in cooler, damp weather. They should be divided in the spring after they bloom. They die back through the summer months, so a result, it's a good idea to have them placed near other perennials which will fill in the gaps during the summer. Fringed bleeding hearts are smaller than the 'spectabilis', with very pretty fringed foliage and dusty-pink blossoms. The wildflower 'Dutchman's Breeches' is also a *Dicentra*.



Vertical Gardens

Since there is a new class in the show schedule this year for a 'Vertical Garden', I thought I should investigate this on the net. I googled 'Vertical Garden', and was swamped with pictures and articles on huge, exotic, impossible-for-me-to-make gardens. They were interesting and beautiful, but not for me. Then I looked under 'How to Make a Vertical Garden' and did come up with a few simple ideas. One was to use a hanging holder (like those used to hold shoes) that is made up of rows of 'pockets'. I could also buy a ready-made frame, or do it myself. In essence, I could make a wooden framed box, like the wooden boxes Jean Wallace used to use, but solid, without the slats. The experts suggest lining the box with felt, inserting a framework of wire mesh or lattice inside the frame and pushing soil through, packing it in. Small plants are then planted through the holes in the mesh. The box is left lying flat for some time, until it can be hung safely. If you're really into vertical gardening, you can include a watering system into the box before planting, or, as I will do, simply take the frame down and water it on the ground. I'm going to try growing succulents in mine. How about you?



Poetry and Prose

And what is so rare as a day in
June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days;
Then Heaven tries earth if it be in
tune,
And over it softly her warm ear
lays:
Whether we look, or whether we
listen,
We hear life murmur, or see it
glisten.

James Russell Lowell



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