

'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
October 2016



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

The Jaded Gardeners

On Wednesday, September 21, we enjoyed a fun-filled evening of laughter and learning. Twenty-two people brought in their jade plants given out last September by Deb Murray. Deb and Judy Eastman had come up from Haileybury earlier in the day to set up the hall ready to receive the entries and to display the 'trophies' Deb had made. While Eileen and Deb were judging, Carrie Anne Field gave a short demonstration on how to use a pie pumpkin as a container for succulents. Eileen gave a short quiz both before and after her brief talk on succulents and needless to say, everyone did much better on the second time through! Prizes were awarded for classes ranging from the tallest to the smallest to the prettiest jade, and much more. First prize went to Amy Vickery Menard, second to Claudette Black, and third went to Rick and Carol Heaslip. What a great time we all had and we get to try it again next year at the second annual Jaded Gardener Contest!



Mark It On Your Calendar:

- October 19: General Meeting
- October 22: Autumnfest (sponsored by the Museum; we are helping sponsor the decorating competition)
- November 30: Christmas Workshop

Looking Back



Canadian Gothic

I love this photo of Past President, Jean Wallace with her husband Richard Williams in their property in Marter Twp. This was taken just before one of our Garden Tours. Anybody know the date?

Vegetable Storage Hint: Stored vegetables quickly shrivel and lose quality without proper moisture. Storage areas must have the humidity raised to reach the ideal 80 to 90 percent relative humidity that most vegetables prefer. A simple humidity gauge, available at most hardware stores, is the best way to measure the relative humidity.

Looking Back

At the 1979 Annual Meeting of District 12 (which at that point ranged from North Bay to Kapuskasing) Director Ruby Bryan presented Englehart Horticultural Society member Arnold Edwards with the District Service Award for outstanding service to better the aims of horticulture in the north. Mr. Edwards had given his time and extensive knowledge to promote the science of horticulture in northern Ontario.



OHA/District 12 News

On September 24, Bonnie Warner, Ginny Montminy, and Eileen Fisher represented our Society at the District 12 Fall Planning Meeting in Kapuskasing. This meeting dealt with District 12 business and to begin making plans for the Spring Annual Meeting which will be held in Kirkland Lake in April 2017. The theme for this meeting will be 'From Gold to Green'. We hope we'll have lots of support for Kirkland Lake by attending this meeting come April 29th.

Important news from District 12: The OHA has put together a lovely 18 month calendar as a fundraising project. Each district in the province has contributed a page consisting of a colourful collage of gardens from throughout the district. As there are 19 districts in the province, there are 18 pages, with the 19th featured on the cover. We in District 12 have a page, with several gardens in the Englehart area being featured. These will make lovely gifts for friends and family and cost \$20.00, with the profits being used by the OHA to improve things for all of the Societies. Contact Ginny Montminy to order these lovely calendars asap as the orders must be in by October 10th.

Reports from Your Directors:

Social: This month's meeting will be our annual Awards Night and potluck supper. Please bring along a dish to share with others ... main course, salad, dessert, your choice. Mary Schippers reminds Bonnie Warner that she is the hostess and that Amy Vickery - Menard brings the gift for the free draw. Set up is at 5:30; if you can help, it would be appreciated. Supper begins at 6:00, followed by the awards.

Programme: Following the potluck supper, prizes and trophies will be awarded to the exhibitors who won in classes in August's Festival of Flowers. Even if you were not an exhibitor, please come along for the fun and the collegiality of sharing a meal with our friends. November's meeting will be our annual Christmas Craft evening.

Website/Facebook: We currently have 84 members on the Facebook page. Check us out to find out all the latest horticultural and gardening news. Don't forget to check out the website for the latest information and pictures of the Society's activities.

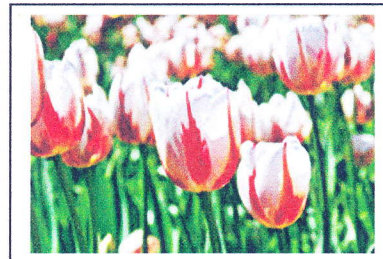
Christmas Workshop: On November 30 we will be holding our annual Christmas Workshop in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. There will be 45 kits going on sale for \$10 beginning at 6:30 p.m., workshop starting at 7:00. We hope to have a great turnout. This year the craft will be lovely centerpiece involving a lantern.

****Attention all "Jaded Gardeners"... if you were unable to come to last month's meeting and you had a jade plant to enter, please email a photo of your plant to Deb Murray at debmurray@fibreop.ca****



Tulips

With 2017 being Canada's 150th birthday, many people are planting the beautiful Canada 150 tulips to help celebrate. Any tulips are a favourite in the garden but these ones are especially special. Their beautiful flowers and vibrant colors are a refreshing change after a cold and dreary winter. Here are instructions and a few growing tips to help ensure we get to enjoy these lovely blooms come spring.



- Choose bulbs that are plump and firm; don't use any that have soft spots or mould since they likely suffer from rot.
- Choose a location where they will receive at least six hours of sun; they need plenty of sun so they can store energy for next year's show. Soil should be well drained to prevent rot.
- Tulips prefer well dug soil, so prepare it by digging at least 12 " deep so it's loose and clump free. Instructions are often included with the bulbs. If not, a basic guideline is to bury them three times the bulb height in depth (so if it's 2 inches high, make a hole 6 inches deep, leaving 4 inches of dirt above the top tip).
- Tulips look better planted in groups of uneven numbers (3, 5, 7, etc.) so plant several together, digging an area large enough to accommodate them all instead of just one hole at a time .
- Position them with the pointy side up, the flat root side sitting at the bottom. Sometimes it's hard to tell which end is which, in these cases a safe bet is to lay it on its side—the plant will figure things out and grow up. Fill the hole back with soil making sure there are no air pockets and pat the ground lightly as you fill.
- Water thoroughly.

A few hints:

- Some gardeners like to sprinkle a bit of bone meal in the bottom of the hole before planting. A layer of mulch may help your tulips come through one of our cold winters.
- To avoid squirrel problems, don't put the box or bag of bulbs down on the soil and make sure to pick up any of the brown skin which may have fallen from the bulbs. Squirrels love to eat our tulips and can smell them even if the bulb has only sat for a few minutes. Some people swear that spreading a bit of blood meal on top of the soil where you have planted can trick the little varmints!
- Tulip bulbs reproduce and can become overcrowded, resulting in fewer and smaller blooms. They should be dug up every few years and replanted according to the above instructions.

The Society is planting the beautiful Canada 150 tulips at the cenotaph and in the garden in front of the Legion Hall. They should make a beautiful display this spring.

Plant of the Month

Fall Blooming Aster (aster novae-angliae)

This autumn favourite, also known as New England Aster or Michaelmas Daisy, blooms well in to the autumn and provides us with a range of colours from white, pink, to mauve-blue and purple. They are hardy here in our area and varieties vary from less than a foot to five feet in height. The taller varieties do better with staking. Good air circulation is important to avoid mildew. These hardy perennials are quite easy to grow, prefer full to part sun, and aren't fussy about soil, as long as it is well drained.

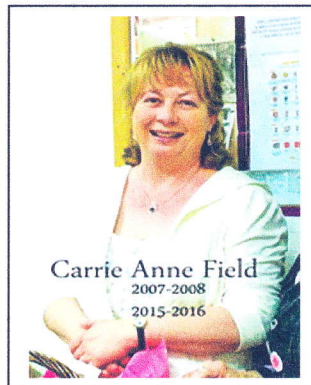


Our 18th President

Carrie Anne Field

2007-08 2015-16

Last year I started running a piece in each bulletin featuring our past Presidents. This month we will be featuring the last President to date, indeed, our current President, Carrie Anne Field. The day Carrie Anne joined our Society was a very lucky day for us. This young woman has been a great asset to the club, with her knowledge of horticulture, her incredible energy, her ties with Aidae Creek Garden, her love of plants, and her willingness to try new ideas. Carrie Anne quickly took on convenorships after joining and, and even though she has been President the past two years, she has also convened two of our most important committees...Civic Improvement (which she has held for many years) as well as Program, an important undertaking in itself. We have also enjoyed several bbqs in her beautiful gardens.



Poetry and Prose

Listen!

*The wind is rising
And the air is wild with
leaves.*

*We've had our summer
evenings*

And now for October eves.



This bulletin brings us to the end of our 'Past Presidents' feature. I hope you have enjoyed learning about these generous members who lead the club during their years in the office. We wish the best of luck to all members who will succeed Carrie Anne, particularly Rosemary Campbell, who will be taking over in January. We also hope you will consider allowing your name stand for office as well.

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Englehart & District Horticultural
Society
Box 677, Englehart, ON
PoJ 1H0
President: C. A. Field
Secretary: Bonnie Warner
Treasurer: Ginny Montminy
Editor: Eileen Fisher
Mailing: Joyce Marie Smith
Labels: Rick Heaslip