



'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
September 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

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A Word From The Editor

Once again we are happy to announce that our Society sponsored youth garden competition was successful with 5 youngsters entering their gardens to be judged. Many thanks go out to our hardworking judges, Lois Dekker and Judy Brownlee, who gave up their time to visit and talk with the children involved. The results are as follows:

- JK-SK: 1st: Lauryn Menard
2nd: Makayla MacPherson
Gr. 1-5: 1st: Aiden MacPherson
2nd: Chase Hamilton
3rd: Nate Hamilton



Mark It On Your Calendar:

- September 21:** General Meeting- 'Jaded Gardeners'/succulents
September 2: District 12 Fall Planning Meeting
October 22: Autumn Festival, fall decorating contest



What a Great Group!

Our Society was lucky enough to have five past presidents at our 60th Festival of Flowers. The 'matriarch' of the Society, Jean Wallace, came up from Barrie to help us celebrate this occasion. We were grateful for her attendance and all present enjoyed her short speech about the history and importance of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society in our small town. She particularly stressed the efforts of early members such as Ruby Bryan. In the picture from left to right: *Front:* Eileen Fisher, Bonnie Warner, Jean Wallace *Back:* Current President Carrie Anne Field, Rick Heaslip, Bruce Wilson.

Here is a list of some of the top fall blooming perennials hardy to our area. Why not give some a try in your garden come next spring.

- * New England Aster
- * Colchicum
- * Sedum spectabile
- * Chelone (Turtlehead)
- * Monkshood (Aconitum)
- * Sweet Autumn Clematis
- * Helianthus (Perennial sunflower)
- * Helenium (Helen's Flower)
- * Japanese Anemone
- * Autumn crocus
- * Anise Hyssop (Agastache)



Japanese anemones

Festival of Flowers

Our 60th Festival of Flowers was a very successful two days for our society. Set-up went well on the Tuesday, thanks to a few dedicated members and their families. Everyone was busy picking, sorting, cleaning, arranging, etc. on Wednesday, and Thursday was a busy day, with many entries coming in before 11:30. The workers enjoyed a delicious lunch served by the Legion Auxiliary before the judging began. Thanks to Charlie Warner, Amber Elliot, Bill Smith, Joyce Marie Smith, Darlene Wroe, and Rosemary Campbell for their hard work judging the entries. The show was opened by Mayor Nina Wallace, after an address by District 12's First Assistant Director, Shari Brown. Thank you, Nina and Shari. We were lucky enough to have Past President Jean Wallace join the other past presidents in attendance (Bonnie Warner, Rick Heaslip, Eileen Fisher, Bruce Wilson, Twyla Wilson) and current President, Carrie Anne Field. Jean spoke about the history of the Society and the work of some of its early members, such as Ruby Bryan. We all enjoyed a beautifully decorated cake (made for our 60th flower show by Erin Brownlee). Friday was a busy afternoon with visitors receiving a free bookmark on entry, enjoying the lovely displays and the many give-away arrangements made by a great group of helpful and talented people. We were pleased to have a very good showing in the youth section, with entries from 6 children. The convenors would like to thank everyone for all of their efforts to make our special show a success.

Reports from Your Directors:

Social: Don't forget to bring a small something for the shared snack following the programme.

Programme: This month's programme revolves around our Jaded Gardener contest. Last year, people attending the September meeting were given a cutting of Deb Murray's jade plant. We were to keep them alive and bring them back in for judging this month. Deb reminds everyone that you need to have to original stick with the number on it to be judged...there will be different categories for judging, so bring in your 'baby' no matter how small for a fun evening. We'll also enjoy a short presentation on succulents and making a succulent garden. There will be prizes and fun to be had. I hear there may even be a trophy! So, don't forget your plant! According to Deb, it has been heard that there are some participants putting together explanations/"excuse stories" to go with their entry, maybe even poems!

Website/Facebook: As of this month, we have 83 people learning from and posting information on our FB page. Rick Heaslip reports we had 457 hits on our website in August. Remember also to check out our website as Rick has posted info and photos from our Festival of Flowers.

Dividing Perennials

Are some of your perennials overgrown? Taking over the garden? Not doing as well as they used to? Perhaps they need dividing. There's still time to divide your perennials this fall if you start now.

1. Dividing perennials may keep them healthy. Many perennials grow quickly, forming large clumps. If you don't divide them every three to four years, these clumps can die out in the middle, leaving a bare centre.
2. Division can also protect plants from fungal diseases and insect infestations by allowing more air circulation around them. Keeping them beautiful is another reason to divide them.
3. Overcrowded perennials often have fewer and/or smaller flowers than normal. Division will help return blossoms to their larger size.
4. Some perennials are especially vigorous or even aggressive. Dividing these plants will help keep them from taking over the garden.
5. Get more plants. Dividing perennials leaves you with more plants of the same variety - perfect for adding to other places in the garden or trading with friends, family, or neighbours

Spring and fall are the two best times to divide plants. This is because dividing your perennials can be stressful on the plants and they'll recover better from the shock in cool, moist conditions. Watering the clump several days before can help soften the soil and make it easier to work. Up here, September is a great month for this chore. Here's how:

Step 1: Dig up the clump of perennials to be divided by inserting the shovel deep into the soil around the perimeter to loosen roots and isolate the clump.

Step 2: Remove the clump: Force your shovel or garden fork under the root ball and lever the ball up and down to loosen and position it on the shovel, then lift the shovel and root ball. Try to keep the root system as intact as you can. Depending on the type and the size of the clump, you can split it with a sharp spade into as many pieces as are viable. If this is difficult, you may want to shake, wash, or brush any excess soil from around the root ball. This makes it easier to pull the clump apart.

Step 3: Separate the crowns and replant:

Pry or cut apart individual crowns. Each clump needs to have sets of leaves and roots in order to grow. Then replant the divisions promptly so the roots don't dry out. Plant at the same depth as before and water the plant well. Cover the soil with mulch (I use dried leaves/grass clippings to help conserve moisture while the new plantings become established).

Weird and Wonderful

Lithops

Lithops, also called 'living stones', are plants that are often mistaken for stones or pebbles. Their unique shape is caused by the merging of two separate fleshy leaves. This plant should be allowed to go drier in the winter, watering just enough to keep the root hairs alive. This unusual plant grows wild mainly in dry areas in South Africa. Lithops can be found in various colors like white, gray, pink and purple, and can live for more than 50 years



Plant of the Month

Autumn Crocus

The autumn crocus or meadow saffron is actually a member of the lily family, and is one of around 70 species in the genus *Colchicum*. *Colchicum* have an unusual life cycle - the colourful flowers appear in early autumn. All parts of autumn crocus plants are toxic and autumn crocus bulbs are also used as medicine, as in treating gout. The colourful blooms of the autumn crocus appear in September, without any foliage. They fade within two or three weeks, and then lie dormant until the following spring, at which time three to eight, large strap-like leaves appear and remain until early summer. The autumn crocus develops from a corm, which should be planted in late summer or early fall, two to four inches under the surface of the soil. The flowers of the autumn crocus tend to be delicate and should be protected, such as under low growing plants or shrubs. Autumn crocus aren't fussy and will grow well from full sun to partial shade.



Try To Remember

*Try to remember the kind of
September
When life was slow and oh so
mellow,
Try to remember the kind of
September
When grass was green and grain
so yellow,
Try to remember the kind of
September
When you were a young and a
callow fellow,
Try to remember and if you
remember
Then follow—follow.*

Our 17th President

Twyla Wilson

Twyla was very involved in the Agricultural Society, and like her husband, Bruce, brought many skills and interests with her to our Society. She rose through the ranks, serving as the convenor of many committees, then through the chairs, as well as serving as the OHA convention registrar. Twyla enjoys the social aspect of our club as well, and has often been hostess for many 'dos', both at her home and at meetings. Twyla has also represented our Society at both District and Provincial levels. Serving many years as a town councillor, she has been a busy woman who is always willing to help out in any way she can.



*The greatest gift of a garden is the restoration of
the five senses. (Hanna Rion)*

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