



'Through the Garden Gate'



*The Newsletter for the Englehart & District Horticultural Society
February 2023*



Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.

General meetings:

3rd Wednesday of most months at
7:00 p.m. in the
St. Paul's Emmanuel Community Church

- *Speakers, workshops, demonstrations
 - *Civic Improvement
 - *Youth Involvement
 - *Displays and Competitions
 - *Environmental Stewardship
- President: Evelyne Nemcsok
Bulletin Editor: Evelyne Nemcsok
Website: engleharthort.weebly.com

A Letter from the New Editor

In Eileen's last bulletin, she mentioned she was writing with mixed feelings, and so am I. I'm incredibly happy to be here, for the experience and the opportunity, and also a little bit nervous about the remarkable footsteps to follow in.

I am in no way an expert gardener, more of a novice with lots of experience. But isn't that part of why we love gardening so much? That there is always so much to learn, and so many things to try?

I look forward to continuing in my lifelong pursuit of gardening and all things horticultural, and I look forward to getting this newsletter out to you each month! Please continue to share all the things with me, visit our website, our facebook group and I'll see you at our next meeting!

Mark it on Your Calendar

Wednesday, February 1: Director/Executive Meeting- 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 15: General Meeting- 7:00 p.m. - See details below



General Meeting

Garden Bodies with Val Kennedy
Wednesday - February 15, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Emmanuel Community Church



A short meeting to be followed by the presentation, by Val Kennedy on getting out bodies ready for the garden season!

Bring along a friend and if you wish a snack to share for a little social after the presentation.

Competitions: Wreaths / Pressed Flowers

Class 1 Wreath - any occasion Class 2 Pressed Flower Post Card - 6x8 framed or not framed

Class 3 "Crisp Winter" - a winter photo

Garden Bodies with Val Kennedy

How to get your body ready for all of those long arduous hours you're going to be spending in the garden!

Bird Bistros

At our annual meeting held in January 2023, Bruce Murphy from the Hilliardton March talked about creating pollinator habitats in our gardens, and different ways to attract more birds. Of course, like most civilizations, birds are looking for shelter, water and food. A good way to create these atmospheres for the birds is by leaving the dead trees, as they make great homes for many birds (and are often filled with delicious bugs!) adding some misters and other clean water sources and giving them easy to get to food, with places to hide.



Gardens in Winter

“All that is gold does not glitter. Not all those who wander are lost: the old that is strong does not wither, Deep roots are not reached by the frost.” — J.R.R Tolkien

Even though our gardens appear to be asleep in our very cold and snowy northern winters, there are great things happening deep in the soil, and even greater things happening in the minds, and hearts of gardeners. A seed catalogue in January is to a gardener as the Christmas Wishbook is to a kid in late fall, pure fodder for dreams.

While the coldest months of the year also happen to be the darkest, it is also a time where we can have the most beautiful gardens, with none of the weeding, because the gardens stand splendid in our imaginations. It's easy to picture what might be next season when looking at a clean white snowy backdrop. I don't know about you, but my gardens always look fabulous this time of year when I promise to myself that I will weed them regularly, control the lilies, and keep the squirrels from confiscating the bulbs. Come spring and summer it is a different story of course, when we are so quickly reminded of the things we neglected to do in the fall. This is why I choose to enjoy the garden in winter, and dream and hope for spring.

Reports from the Directors

The committee chairs have been named for 2023, and everyone is looking forward to the year ahead. They are as follows:

The Bulletin - Evelyne Nemcsok
Christmas Workshop - Anna Regele & Carrie Anne De Jong
Civic Planting - Mary Schippers
Service Certificate - Claudette Black
Hort Week - Evelyne Nemcsok & Katherine Bond
Membership - Ginny Montminy
Nominating - Bruce Wilson
Prizes & Awards - Ginny Montminy

Program - Anna Regele
Social - Mary Schippers
Publicity - Claudette Black
Plant & Bake Sale - Jean Bott & Barb Curran
Youth Garden Competition - Bonnie Warner
Website - Evelyne Nemcsok
Constitution - Bruce Wilson
District 12 Fall Planning Meeting - Bonnie Warner
Facebook - Eileen Fisher

Garden Trends 2023

Maximalism

Turning your yards and gardens into vacation like settings, energizing, vibrant and with firepits, pizza ovens and elaborate furnishings.

Vertical Gardening

Making the most of the space you have and using a trellis, or pergola, hanging baskets, fence shelving, and living walls

Bee Friendly

Still popular, and gaining more awareness, people are inviting more bees and pollinators to their yards, with their favourite foods, water features and shelter.

Unfussy Wild Gardens

Wild, earthy, wildflowers, romantic arbors, with woods, and gravel paths.

Meadowscaping

Will we see more people switching out their lawns for native wildflowers, edible plants, and natural landscapes vs. manmade features?

Allergen Friendly

Reducing exposure to pollen is the idea with these gardens that feature allergen friendly plants, like spider plants, lavender and English ivy.

Xeriscaping & Climate Conscious Gardening

Drought tolerant plants is the main focus, and anything that requires less watering, along with using more seaweed and other green manures and wood based composts.

Gardeners are Punny People



Never a dill moment, in a day in the leaf of a gardener. But don't let it herb your enthusiasm, when you're all dressed up and nowhere to grow. Remember to seed between the lines, do your good seed for the day. Eat, drink, and be rosemary.



SNAILED IT

Going Green

It's about the time of year when we are just itching to start seeds. Hold off for a little longer, but in the meantime, in the spirit of going green, it's a great opportunity to collect items from our recycling collections, and re use many of them for planting. If it can hold it's shape, it can hold a plant. If you are able to put a few holes in the bottom for drainage, then you can use it to start seeds. Everything from yogurt cups, to juice cartons is fair game. Clear cartons or jugs make excellent mini green houses. Those same cartons can make really great watering cans as well, and even tool holders! I have seen the use of egg cartons and ice cream cones, and while I think this is generally brilliant, I fear it may lead to a sodden mess. If you've done this with success, I want to know!

Many of us already save our food scraps for compost, and this is another relatively easy way to make our lives a little greener.

Send me your Going Green Tips Wins and Losses and we can publish them here.



Flower of the Month

Rex Begonia (*Begonia rex-cultorum*)

Light: bright, indirect

Water: regular watering, avoid over watering

Toxic to dogs, cats and horses

A house plant grown mostly for its foliage

Large heart shaped leaves, that come in a variety of colours, like green, red, silver, and purple.

Propagate by dividing, by taking leaf cuttings, or by pinning a leaf to the bedding mix and making small incisions in the leaf veins or by inserting a leaf with a petiole directly into the soil.



Asked & Answered

Should you plant flowers in the vegetable garden? And which ones?

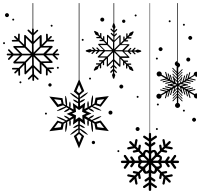
Yes! Planting flowers in among your vegetables helps to attract more pollinators, repel some of the nastier insects, and attract some predator pests; you know, the bugs that eat bugs that eat our plants (I'm looking at you aphids!), Also, some flowers make great companion plants for some of our favourite vegetables.

Many flowers, like marigolds, nasturtiums, cosmos, sweet peas, lavender and calendula, will act as good crowd control by repelling or trapping the true pests so that the beneficial insects can eat them. And others, such as sunflowers, not only attract pollinators, they act as supports for other plants as well. Also worth noting, the flowers such as borage, lupins, and clover attract pollinators, provide good ground cover, an are nitrogen fixing plants, and make great additions to your compost, and if turned back into the soil, can help to replace the nutrients that have been lost to growing all of those vegetables.



Poem of the Month

Winter



The street cars are like frosted cakes
All covered up with cold snowflakes
The horses hooves scrunch on the street
Their eyelashes are white with sleet
And everywhere the people go
With faces tickled by the snow

-Doroth Aldis

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