

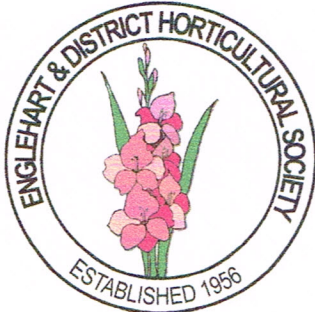


'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
April 2015



Until further notice, our Directors' & General Meetings will be held in the Presbyterian Church basement.



Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.

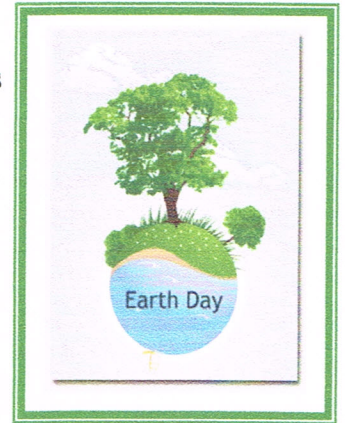
General meetings:
3rd Wednesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church basement

- *Speakers, workshops, demonstrations
- *Civic Improvement
- *Youth Involvement
- *Displays and Competitions
- *Environmental Stewardship

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engleharthort.weebly.com

A Word From The Editor

Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22. It might sound like a bit of a cliché, but planting trees is one of the most important things we can do to help our planet, ourselves, and our grandchildren. Trees act like sponges, soaking up the carbon dioxide which is building up in our atmosphere, mainly from the burning of fossil fuels. If every person on the planet planted one tree, we would have nearly 7 billion new carbon sponges. Now, not every person is going to plant a tree, but you can! You can plant a tree in your own backyard, or find a friend with a bit of land that needs a tree. Each year, Dalton and Claudette Black pot up many small maple and oak trees which germinate on their property, and they share! The sides of country roads are often lined with little evergreens that are going to be either cut down or sprayed, so why not dig one up? As long as you don't trespass on private property, our area is filled with little trees to be rescued and planted with loving care. So - have a happy Earth Day, get outside if weather permits and plant a tree!



Mark It On Your Calendar:

April 15: General Meeting
 April 22: Earth Day
 April 25: Annual Meeting in Englehart



What's My Problem?

My seeds aren't germinating well. Some seem to do well, others just don't grow or fall over and die after germinating. 1. Are the seeds old? If so, germination may be spotty. 2. Have you several varieties in the same container? Different plants may require different times for germination. 3. Did you plant too deeply? Always follow the instructions on the package. 4. Are you watering too forcefully? Spray gently, or soak from below in room temperature water. 5. You may have a condition called 'damping-off' caused by a fungus. Make sure the soil is clean to begin with and do not allow it to stay damp and cool (as this allows the fungus to thrive). Sterilize your containers and tools to avoid the problem, and don't overcrowd. Some people suggest watering or spraying with a weak solution of chamomile tea.

Imagine If Trees Gave Off
 Wifi Signals, We Would
 Be Planting So Many Trees
 And We'd Probably Save
 The Planet Too.



Too Bad They
 Only Produce The
 Oxygen We
 Breathe.

Looking Ahead:

Now is the time of year to be starting seeds and bulbs indoors, in your hothouse, under lights, wherever you can find space. (I remember once starting seeds that needed heat to generate in an electric frying pan, as all the other good spots, such as the top of the fridge, heating vents etc., were being used!) Make sure you check last year's show schedule from the Festival of Flowers to see what you can grow to enter in the Flower Show; the schedule for Cut Flowers doesn't change all that much from year to year.



OHA/District 12 News:

District 12's Annual Meeting will be a great day to be a horticulturalist here in Englehart. The Directors have planned a interesting and entertaining day for us, based on the theme "Our Natural North". We'll enjoy several speakers and demonstrators as well as participate in the silent auction, This day is open to all so please contact our secretary, Bonnie Warner, if you plan to attend, as numbers for meals must be in a.s.a.p. Costs for the day are \$28.00, which includes everything- attendance at the meeting, lunch, snacks, entering competitions (if you choose) listening to speakers, etc. Please, let's make a good showing, Englehart. (We will be setting at the Catholic Church for this on Friday, April 24 at 1:30 and would appreciate your help

April hath put the spirit of youth in everything. ~William Shakespeare



Reports from Your Directors:

Programme: The programme for this month will be 'Spring Vase Arrangement' with Shelley of the Englehart Flower Shop. Hope we have a great turn out for this meeting.

Social: This month's hostess is Ruth Webb and Len Fisher brings the gift.

Plant and Bake Sale: Next month will find us up to our ears in this, our biggest fundraiser of the year. Convenor Jean Bott will be looking for volunteers to help set up in the Legion Hall on Friday, May 22, putting out and pricing the plants and baking, horticultural odds and ends, and draw and door prizes. Saturday, May 23 is our busiest day and we will need people to work the sales tables, carry bags and boxes for shoppers, and point them in the right direction. Please give Jean Bott (544 2972) a call if you can help us on either day. If you know a high school student who is looking for volunteer hours, please ask them to contact Jean. Doors open at 10:00 for shoppers. Come earlier if you're planning on helping. If you need, or know someone who needs help with the digging, call Jean and she will make arrangements.

Membership: Ginny Montminy reports we have 58 members to date.

Horticultural Week: Don't forget to mark this week on your calendar: June 7-13 is a week for us all to celebrate and be involved with beautifying our communities.

Civic Improvement: Convenor Carrie Anne reports that plans are well underway and hopes that, depending on the weather, we will be beautifying the town by planting on June 13.

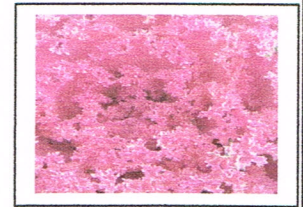
Festival of Flowers: The committee members are hoping that all members are taking the time to check over the show schedule to see what we can enter into our August show. Soon we'll be visiting greenhouses, checking our seedlings and plants to see what we can grow to enter the show. Many of us like to grow and enter gladioli into the Festival of Flowers and the following hints may help us do well: *An ideal gladiolus spike should have 1/3 open florets, 1/3 buds showing colour, and 1/3 buds not yet showing colour. The spike should be evenly tapered and gradual. The florets should be clean, clear, and have a good substance. They should all face forward. The best shaped spike does not allow any stem to show through the lower florets.*

What Am I?

Last month's mystery plant was the *Centaurea Montana* or perennial Bachelor's Button. It is also known as the Cornflower and comes in a lovely shade of blue or white.

This decorative plant looks like a bloom but is not. This rosette looks too pretty to eat but you can.

What do you think it is?



Tuberous Begonias:

Begonias are slow growers, and should be started indoors in late March or early April. The top of the tuber is the side with the depression in it. Make sure that you don't water directly into the depression or it will rot. When starting them, cover them shallowly and keep slightly moist until you have shoots a few inches tall. Once they shoot, they can be transplanted directly into eight inch pots. When transplanting, plant them an inch or so deeper than you started them at. This will cause more roots to form above the tuber and make for a sturdier plant. Some growers say you shouldn't start a begonia tuber until you can see a sprout forming, while others say to go ahead, but to not cover them with too much soil, and not to keep them too damp.

Going Green

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: The first term is perhaps the most important. If we reduce our consumption, we will have less to reuse or recycle. Do we really need to buy something new, or can we get our old 'thing' repaired? Can we buy a used article instead of going brand new? Do we check the classified ads when we're shopping? Do we really need to purchase items individually wrapped, or can we buy larger amounts in bulk and either store or share? Using tap water, or buying a water filter can reduce the huge number of plastic water bottles we have to recycle. Just a few ideas to think about. Speaking about thinking, consider these interesting facts:

* 5 percent is the fraction of the energy it takes to recycle aluminum versus mining and refining new aluminum.

* 544,000 trees would be saved if every household in the United States replaced just one roll of virgin fiber paper towels (70 sheets) with 100 percent recycled ones.

Speaking of 'Going Green'... how about this? Now you really can 'go' in a green way. There is a company which sells 'urns' which allow you to become a tree. The urn is decomposable, can be 'planted' anywhere, and contains the seed of a tree which you choose. What a green legacy to leave for future generations. You can find further information at <https://urnabios.com/>. I'm not saying we should all do this, but it certainly is a novel way of going green.

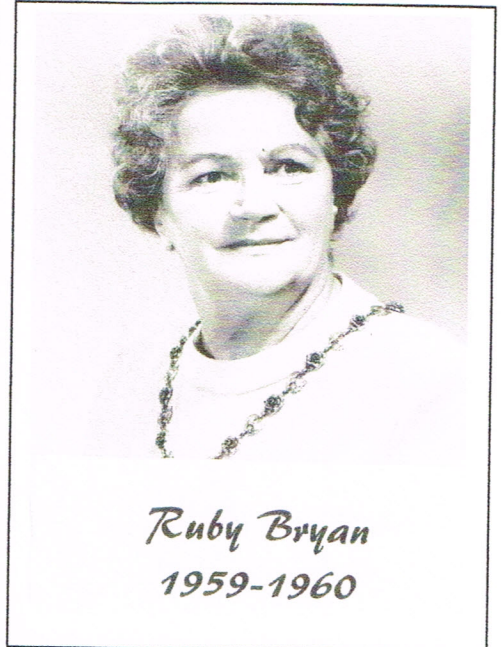
Plant of the Month

Pulmonaria

One of the first perennials to bloom in the spring is the Pulmonaria, also called Lungwort, or as my mother called them, 'Soldiers and Sailors'. This is great for us here in the north, as they provide early nectar for hungry, early-arriving hummingbirds and bees. Most of them have clusters of blossoms of pink and blue bells. Many species have white-spotted green leaves, covered with a fine hairy coating. If kept well watered, these largish leaves can be useful in hiding untidy dying bulb foliage. Pulmonarias grow well in cool shady places - they hate to dry out in summer. If they get too dry and become ratty, cut the leaves off and give the plants a good watering. Some species will grow better with regular division - this is particularly true of 'Sissinghurst White'. Pulmonarias are easy to divide to share with friends or to naturalize under trees.



Our Second President



Ruby Bryan
1959-1960

Spring in My Garden

*Tiny umber patches emerge from beneath an ivory blanket.
Each day's warmth exposes more damp, rich soil.
Even before the last vestige of snow is gone,
tiny green shoots appear,
offering anticipated beauty.*

*Many shades of green carpet my garden...
chartreuse, jade, moss, viridian,
so welcome after the long months of unending white.
My spring garden is a promise,
A vow made last autumn
that even as its life force sinks beneath the ground,
as the rotation of our planet brings
the cycle of the seasons,
life will return.*

*As sap rises from buried roots,
as fragile shoots, with unimagined strength,
emerge from their cold, dark prison,
as tender leaves unfurl
and crumpled gossamer petals of violet, lemon, and peach
spread to greet the warmth of the sun,
that ancient promise has been kept once more.
Spring has returned to my garden.
E. Fisher*

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