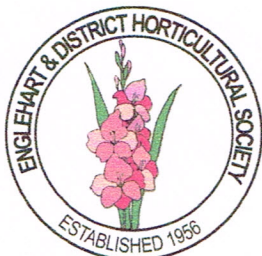




'Through The Garden Gate'

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



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

A Word From the Editor

It's hard to believe that it's August again! I hate to say it, but the sun is setting noticeably earlier, and although the weather is still good, we know the summer is flying because it's getting closer to the time for the Festival of Flowers! Now is the time all of our hard work pays off as we enter our flowers, vegetables, photographs, and house-plants in the show. I hope that some of our new members will take the challenge and enter something.

Remember, our flower show is only successful if members participate in it. Don't forget, we always need lots of help setting up, taking down, and all parts of the show in between.



Mark It On Your Calendar:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| August 11: | K. L. Flower Show (Legion Hall- 5:00-8:30) |
| August 18: | (Tuesday) Set-up for Festival of Flowers |
| August 20, 21: | Festival of Flowers |
| August 15: | Garden Party at the Marsh – 9:00-1:00 |
| September 2: | Director's Meeting |
| September 10-12: | Englehart Fall Fair |
| September 16: | General Meeting |

Hello August. Can time slow down, please?



Tetanus and Gardening

Years ago, tetanus (also known as lockjaw) would kill from 40-50 Canadians per year. Although it is rare now, it is still something about which we should be concerned. Tetanus is caused by the bacteria 'Clostridium tetani' which is found in soil all over the world. This bacteria can also be found in dust from the soil, so can settle on objects like fences and thorns of bushes. As a result, gardeners can be more exposed than others to this bacteria. Adults should have a tetanus booster every 10 years to maintain the necessary level of protective antibodies received through the shot. The same serum also protects us against diphtheria and whooping cough. It may be too late for us now, but next spring, perhaps you should check with your doctor about the date of your last tetanus shot, and make sure you're protected before that gardening season rolls around again.

(Thanks to Jean Bott for this excellent article from the Temagami Family Health Team, which I have abridged to fit in.)

Looking Ahead:

Are you planning on showing your African violet in the Festival of Flowers this year? Here's a hint from the March 1998 Bulletin. *36 -48 hours before judging, place the plant in a dark room. This will apparently force more buds to open, make the blossoms larger, and will help older blossoms stay fresher.* Also, don't forget to turn your violet plants a quarter turn each day, to retain the circular shape. You can also gently use toothpicks to guide and hold leaves in place by inserting the picks into the soil beside the stem, gradually moving it a bit at a time until the leaf is where you want it to be. (Don't forget to remove them). Remember, lots of light but not direct sunlight is important. If your plant has long, stretching petioles (leaf stems) and leaves that bend toward the sun, or it isn't blooming, it probably has insufficient light. Dense, compact, hard growth with bleached-out leaves tells you the plant is getting too much light.

Youth Garden Competition

Our new judges, will be busy this month visiting 5 gardens in the area. Congratulations to all of the children who have worked hard in their gardens this summer. Many thanks go to Lois Dekker and Judy Brownlee for taking on this important job, which really encourages children to become involved in horticulture. Don't forget that all school-aged children can also enter the youth section in the Festival of Flowers. The picture shows one of our long-time gardeners, Ryan Warner, in 2010!



Reports from Your Directors:

Festival of Flowers: Contact Secretary Bonnie Warner about getting a show book, your number, and entry tags well before the show, so you can get the tags filled in early. Remember also that you can choose and wash your vases and containers ahead of time. We will need help setting up the Legion Hall on Tuesday the 18th, beginning at 1:00 pm. This will give you time to get everything ready with your entries on Wednesday, and bring them in either that night between and or Thursday morning. Remember, all entries must be placed before 11:30 on Thursday. If you have been asked to be a judge's helper or to work on some other aspect of the show, make sure you're there in time to enjoy our pre-judging lunch at noon hour. We are also having our annual Silent Auction at the show again and hope that you have something you could donate to this cause. These are always lots of fun. Thanks to Twyla and Bruce Wilson for taking this on for another year.

Now, we have a problem which we hope you can help us solve. Last year at our flower show, we changed the format of our 'Tea Garden'. To make things easier, we did away with the formal tea garden area and had a self-serve, more informal area where people could help themselves to a beverage, cookies/squares, etc., and socialize. This freed up more people who had been used as servers. The tea garden payment was a good will offering. In other words, it was a much easier set-up. However, we have not had anyone volunteer to take this job on this year. It could be one person, or co-workers whose main job would be contacting people to bring in some cookies or squares and either being responsible for cutting/plating the sweets and making tea and coffee or asking for helpers to do so. Although this is not an onerous job, it is an important one and we really hope that you or you and

some friends would consider taking on this aspect of the show. There are ladies who did it last year who would gladly advise you and we would all be willing to help. Please think about this and call Bonnie Warner (544- 8916), Rick Heaslip (544-2278), or Eileen Fisher(544-3771 or 8074) for more information or to volunteer.

Programme: As there is no general meeting this month, due to the Festival of Flowers, our next general meeting will be on Wednesday, September 16. More information about this meeting will follow in September's bulletin.

Social: Social Convenor Mary Schippers reminds Linda Murray that she is the hostess for the September meeting and that Deb Murray will bring the gift for the free draw.

Membership: Ginny Montminy reports that we have 76 members to date.

Website/Facebook Page: Rick Heaslip reports that our site has had 1800 hits to date and he reminds people to check out our site at englehartort.weebly.com for the latest information and photographs. Eileen Fisher invites you to check out our Facebook page [Englehart and District Horticultural Society](https://www.facebook.com/EnglehartandDistrictHorticulturalSociety). You can either just browse or hit the 'Join' button and be able to post and participate in discussions. We share all kinds of ideas about gardening in the north as well as photos and Society information. You don't have to be a member to use this page.

Storing Squash

Did you grow squash this year? How do you know when are squash ready for the picking? The best time is when the rind has turned a deep color and is dull, (often) gray and can't be punctured easily by your fingernail. Be sure to leave an inch or two of stem to prevent rot from creeping in from the top. Do this before the first frost arrives. Hardier brands of winter squash can take a light frost but should be picked at the first sign of vine die-off. Eat these squash first as well as any that are bruised. Those that haven't completely ripened on the vine can still be eaten. These may not be quite as sweet but are still delicious. Eat them before the well-ripened ones you'll want to save for later dinners. The same rules apply to pumpkins. Storing squash is relatively easy. If you're lucky enough to have a root cellar or a basement that's not too damp, spread them out on palettes or something that keeps them from touching the floor. If space is limited they can be stacked, say one or two layers, but be sure to allow plenty of room for ventilation. Don't cover your squash in storage, as they need good ventilation. The squash have their own protection in the form of a hard, healthy rind. Check them periodically and take those that show any sign of turning to the kitchen asap. Does anyone have a favourite squash recipe? Perhaps you'd like to share it. If you send it to me, I'll try to get it in September's bulletin.

Here are a few photos from July's potluck/bbq at Carrie Anne Field's home:



Plant of the Month

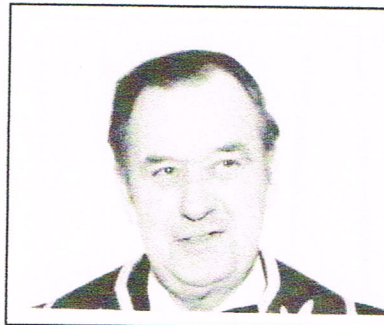
Heuchera

These North American natives have become very popular plants in the garden in the past 10 years. The Bressingham varieties are still reminiscent of the old fashioned 'Coral Bells', while many of the new hybrids have lovely dark purple, bronze, lime green, even pink leaves and stems of small but pretty flowers. They prefer partial shade and rich, well-drained soil. Here in the north, they benefit from winter mulch as they tend to heave the crowns above the soil. They can and should be divided in the spring when the centres become woody. The lovely leaves make these perennials very showy when planted at the front of a border. The leaves are also useful in floral designs.



Our 6th President, Frank Knapp

Frank Knapp was our President between Syd Bryan's two terms. He was a well-liked man who was married to Margaret, Tattie Higgins' sister. They had two children, Larry, an artist, and Donna, an author. Frank was a dispatcher for the ONR. I remember that Frank made home-made wine, which he always brought to share with us at the Society Christmas party, which was held at Syd and Ruby Bryan's every December.



Frank Knapp
1969-1970

Poetry and Prose

*To own a bit of ground,
to scratch it with a hoe,
to plant seeds and
watch the renewal of life...*

*This is the commonest
delight of the race,
the most satisfying thing
a person can do.*

(Charles D. Warner)



Published 11 times a year
Englehart & District Horticultural
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PoJ 1H0

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Printing: Courtesy of Englehart &
District Hospital

Just make sure you're up-to-date with your shots!!

August 2015