



# 'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society  
February 2014



**Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.**

**General meetings:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. in the Anglican Church basement

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

President: B. Wilson  
Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher  
**Website:**  
engleharthort.weebly.com

## A Word From The Editor

### Hilliardton Marsh Information

As we have had both Bruce Murphy and Mike Werner speak to us about birds in the past, I thought it would be appropriate to let you know a few ways of finding local birding information. For those of you without a home computer, don't forget that the Englehart Library has many wonderful books on birds, as well as computers you can use to search out the following sites:

themarsh.ca (the Hilliardton Marsh)

timbirds.info (Temiskaming Birding)

Facebook page: The Hilliardton Marsh Research & Education Centre. This Facebook page is open to people who are interested in joining the group.

PS- Apologies for my mistake in January's bulletin. Suet does not have to be rendered, it is just plain beef fat. (Thanks, Jean W.)

## Mark It On Your Calendar:

**February 19:** February General Meeting with Larissa Yantha.

**March 6-9:** 'Successful Gardening Show' at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Check it at: [www.successfulgardeningshow.ca](http://www.successfulgardeningshow.ca)

**March 14-23:** Canada Blooms

**July 5-6:** Delphinium Festival, Plant Paradis Country Gardens, Caledon

## Looking Back:

Our Annual Meeting, held on January 22, featured a pot luck supper, our 2014 election, and a trip to Viet Nam, via Joe Muething. The results of the election are as follows:

### Executive:

**President:** Bruce Wilson; **1<sup>st</sup> Vice:** Carrie Anne Field; **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice:** vacant; **Past President:** Eileen Fisher

### Directors

Claudette Black, Rosemary Campbell, Rick Heaslip, Linda Murray, Mary Schippers, Deb Murray, Jean Bott, Joyce Marie Smith, Carol Heaslip, Len Fisher

### Associate Directors

Alec McMurray, Marg McMurray, Dee Hill, Vi Tucker, Sharon Black, Dawna Beausoleil, Ruth Webb, Leona Devries, Les Peever.

**Secretary** Bonnie Warner and **Treasurer** Ginny Montminy were appointed at the February Directors' Meeting.

*As you can see, we are still looking for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Please consider letting your name stand for this position. It is really a training position and would take 3 more years before standing for President.*



### Looking Ahead:

Although it is still only February, it isn't too early to start looking through the seed catalogues which have been arriving, checking out on-line catalogues and garden/plant centres, and making plans for our yards and gardens. Perhaps you saw something at Aidie Creek Gardens on our visit there last year. February is the perfect time to start dreaming and planning for the new garden season. By the way, as of the night of our meeting this month, we will have gained 2 hours and 9 minutes of daylight since the winter solstice! Yippee!



### OHA/District 12 News:

The following excellent and timely ideas are taken from the 'President's Message' in the Winter 2013-14 Ontario Horticultural Association's Newsletter 'The Trillium'. You can see all of James Graham's message, indeed, the entire Trillium on the OHA's website [gardenontario.org](http://gardenontario.org), or ask secretary Bonnie Warner to borrow the Society's copy.

*"For a successful society, fun plays a big role. Are the members enjoying themselves? The social time has been referred to as "the meeting within the meeting". Items and ideas are exchanged and often these would be of real interest to the entire membership. If you have an idea or a suggestion, bring it forward so it can be discussed properly."*

*"It is also at this time of year that most societies hold their AGMs. (Ed- Annual General Meetings) Joining the executive in any organization can be somewhat frightening. Be patient with yourself if you are taking on a new office. It takes time to learn the roles and responsibilities of any position."*

### Reports from Your Directors:

**Programme:** February's meeting will feature a talk and slide presentation by Larissa Yantha on her time spent in Kenya. We hope to have a great turn out to hear what this amazing young woman has to tell us about her African experience.

**Nominating:** Thank you to convenor Carol Heaslip and her committee for working hard to provide the Society with names of people willing to serve on the Executive, as Directors and Associate Directors.

The Executive met at the end of January to plan the Society's calendar of events and convenors for 2014. Below is the list of convenors:

**Social:** M. Schippers

**Bulletin:** E. Fisher

**Publicity:** C. Black

**Show Schedule:** R. Heaslip

**Plant & Bake Sale:** J. Bott/L. Peever

**Horticultural Week:** E. & L. Fisher

**Membership & Cards:** Ginny Montminy

**Festival of Flowers:** NO CONVENOR

**Website:** R. Heaslip

**Programme:** CA Field

**Phoning:** D. Hill

**Civic Improvement:** CA Field

**Nominating:** C. Heaslip

**Prizes/Awards:** G. Montminy

**Christmas Workshop:** R. Campbell

**Fall Fair Booth:** L. Murray

**Service Certificate:** M. Schippers

**Youth Garden:** B. Warner/E. Fisher



**Membership:** Ginny Montminy reports we have 55 members to date.

**Website:** Convenor Rick has updated and reorganized the website to include info from the Annual Meeting and has added an easy to download membership form to make it easy to join/renew your membership.

**Constitution:** The proposed changes to the society's constitution were discussed and passed at the January Annual Meeting. Copies of the amended constitution will be available soon.

*As noted on page 2, we currently have no convenor for the Festival of Flowers, our summer flower Show. We are currently looking for a volunteer or volunteers to co-convene the show. (Ed.) As past convenor, I am more than willing to work with anyone who puts their name forward, and would act as an eager assistant. It is a very important committee and it would be a shame to give up on one of our most important public events.*

If you have any ideas that you think will improve our society, please don't hesitate to let us know. We are always open to new ideas if they can work within our Constitution. We are also open to constructive criticism if you think we need to fix something that isn't working as well as it could. Just let us know.

***Festival of Flowers Hint # 2:** Get yourself a copy of the 'Ontario Judging & Exhibiting Handbook' from Secretary Bonnie Warner. It is filled with all kinds of advice about how to choose and prepare a prize winning exhibit - fruits and vegetables, potted plants, cut flowers, floral designs, etc. (Fingers crossed that we will have a show to be able to put these hints to good use this year!)*



### Going Green

#### **Epsom Salt**

Most of us have heard of Epsom Salt (magnesium sulphate). Magnesium sulphate is an inorganic salt, made up of magnesium, sulphur and oxygen. My mother was born in a small village just outside the town of Epsom, England, where these 'salts' occur naturally, hence the common name given to this chemical compound. My mother used Epsom salt in several ways, but in doing a bit of research, I have come across quite a few helpful hints using them to share with you over the course of several bulletins.

1. **Fertilizer:** Work some Epsom salt into the soil around roses to help produce beautiful, long-lasting blooms. Don't forget to work some into the soil when planting tomato and pepper plants.
2. **Hair rinse:** Try mixing one cup lemon juice, one cup Epsom salt, and one gallon water. Let it stand for 24 hours, and use the mix as a clarifying rinse for your hair. This apparently works well if you use hair products such as gel or spray which can build up on your hair. (More to follow at a later date.)



## Plant of the Month

### **Hawthorne Tree**

The Hawthorne (*Crataegus*) is an attractive deciduous tree, hardy to our area, and attractive in all seasons. It is actually a member of the rose family. It may grow to heights of 15'-30', and is not overly fussy about soil. It will grow in any well-drained soil, prefers sunlight, but will tolerate some shade. The hawthorn has extremely hard wood which is made into tool handles and fence posts. It will bloom with white or pale pink blossoms in late spring. By autumn, the berries which follow blooming will turn a bright red. These berries are enjoyed by birds and small mammals and are much appreciated in the depths of winter. The berries or 'haws' can also be made into jellies and jams. This tree has it all – interesting bark, good size, sweet-smelling blossoms, red berries, and is wildlife friendly. Just be careful of its thorns. They are hard, sharp, and can grow up to several inches long.



## Poetry and Prose

### Winter Garden

*In winter's cold and sparkling snow,  
The garden in my mind does grow.  
I look outside to blinding white,  
And see my tulips blooming bright.  
And over there a sweet carnation,  
Softly scents my imagination.*

*Cynthia Adams*

## Ruby-throated Hummingbirds



(Continued from January)

The female hummingbirds do the work of raising the young, including the nest building. The male just fertilizes the eggs. Ruby-throated hummingbirds usually nest in deciduous trees about 6 metres from the ground but they will build in small shrubs, on Christmas tree lights, actually, anywhere between 1.5 to 16.5 metres off the ground. The nest is made of thistle or dandelion down and the female attaches lichens to the outside with spider webs, making the nest almost impossible to spot. The entire nest will fit on a Toonie and is about 2.5 cm high. The female lays 2 very small white eggs. It takes 12-14 days for the eggs to hatch. The babies stay in the nest for about 3 weeks during which time they are fed insects continuously by the mother. (In March, look for a list of annuals, perennials, and shrubs you can include in your yard to attract the hummingbirds.)

*The following picture is of the Rufous Hummingbird, similar to the one found in Charlton last November. Let's keep our eyes open for them this spring and summer.*



Published 11 times a year  
Englehart & District Horticultural  
Society  
Box 677, Englehart, ON  
POJ 1H0

President: Bruce Wilson  
Secretary: Bonnie Warner  
Treasurer: Ginny Montminy  
Editor: Eileen Fisher  
Mailing: Joyce Marie Smith  
Labels: Rick Heaslip

Printing: Courtesy of Englehart &  
District Hospital