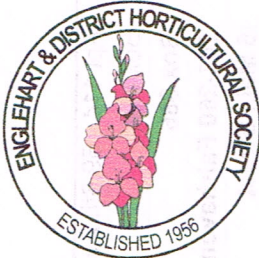




'Through The Garden Gate'

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



Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.

General meetings:
3rd 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

I hope everyone had a peaceful holiday and enjoyed time with friends and family. Don't forget that the Horticultural Society offers a similar situation- time spent with fellow horticulturalists is time well spent. Sharing knowledge and experiences is a great way to relax and to learn new concepts. You can do this at our monthly meetings, where we try to present varied programmes that will interest and entertain us all. This month's meeting will be a potluck supper, followed by the Annual Meeting, and end with a slide presentation of Len and Eileen Fisher's trip to Paris and Strasbourg, including visits to the Botanical gardens in both cities. It may help to pass the cold days of this month to spend some time in a lovely garden.

*'The days are short, the sun a spark
Hung thin between the dark and dark,'*

John Updike

Mark It On Your Calendar:

January 21: Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Supper
February 18: General Meeting

"To read a poem in January is as lovely as to go for a walk in June."

Jean-Paul Sartre



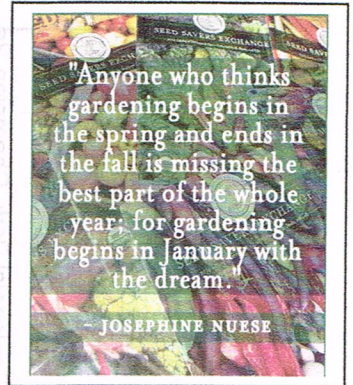
To while away the winter hours and satisfy your interest in horticulture this month try a visit to the Englehart Public Library. They have a great gardening section, including these books:
Tree and Shrub Gardening for Ontario – Alison Beck and Kathy Renwald
Gardening and Landscaping Techniques (a little bit of everything about gardening) – Rodale Publishing

It was with sadness that we learned in December of the deaths of two friends and members of our society. Marie Hack had been a very active member and Director who enjoyed socializing with friends in the society and who loved her garden and exhibiting in the Festival of Flowers. Munroe Burton was a hardworking gentleman who was a very welcome addition to our club. We will miss his cheerful smile and his tireless work at the Festival of Flowers and the Spring Plant and Bake Sale.



Looking Ahead:

2015 is upon us and we have much to look forward to. The shortest day (alright - the day with the least amount of daylight) has come and gone, and even though the days remain cold and wintery, we'll soon notice that the days are 'getting longer'. (By the end of the month, we will be gaining 4 minutes of daylight a day!) It's time to begin leaving your seed catalogues beside a comfy chair and start dreaming. Hopefully, Carrie Anne will be soon telling us about what's new at Aidi Creek Gardens.



OHA/District 12 News:

The Ontario Horticultural Association's 109th annual convention will be held in Ancaster. Plans for speakers and bus tours are underway. Perhaps you will consider attending this year. The conventions are always interesting and informative, as well as a lot of fun.

Also, the Englehart Society is hosting the District 12 Annual Meeting this year. The theme is "Our Natural North" and we're looking forward to a great meeting with interesting speakers and presentations that will interest us all. Keep watching for more information right here in the Garden Gate, as well as on the Englehart Society's and the District 12 websites.

Reports from Your Directors:

Programme: The Annual Meeting is our most important meeting of the year and we hope that you'll be there on January 21. The Nominating Committee Convenor will be presenting a slate of people who have agreed to stand as a member of the Executive, or assume the role of a Director. It is these people who handle the business of the Society, who plan our activities, etc. However, anyone may run for a position within the Society, so nominations from the floor are very welcome. We will start off the evening with a Pot Luck Supper at 6:00 (anyone who can come early to help set up is welcome), and we will follow up with presentation of reports, elections, and end the evening with a slide presentation of pictures from the Fisher's trip to Strasbourg and Paris. Everyone is welcome and feel free to bring a friend.

Membership: Ginny Montminy reports that we have 50 members for 2015 to date.

Nominating Committee: Convenor Carol Heaslip and her committee met on January 8 and made many phone calls to fill the positions of First and Second Vice, as well as Directors of the Society. Unfortunately, we have had no volunteers to fill the first two positions. We have a good number of Directors, although we hope to have more nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting on the 21st. We really would like you to consider what will happen to our club in the future. Carrie Anne, a very busy lady, has agreed to take on the two year position of President. After her term, however, we have no one to lead us. Without a President, we will not be able to continue as a society. This will be very unfortunate for us and for the community. I don't mean to put the position down, but actually, being President is not as difficult as some committee convenors' jobs. It entails presiding over two meetings most months (and sometimes none!) and organizing the agenda. In my 6 years as President, I never even had to vote! There are several very experienced and willing-to-help people on call- Secretary Bonnie, Treasurer Ginny,

and by then Past President, Carrie Anne, as well as three other Past Presidents with 22 years experience in the post as President. Convenor Carol Heaslip is hoping to hear from someone soon!

Social: Hostess for this month's meeting is Ruth Webb and Joyce Smith brings the gift for the free draw. We also will need some help to set up for the shared supper which will begin at 6:00, so if you can come about 5:30 to help with this, we'd appreciate it. Don't forget, it is a potluck, so bring along your favourite main dish, salad, dessert, or buns, etc.

Website: We'd like to welcome Rick Heaslip back to Englehart after a long and trying visit to the hospital in Sudbury. Things did not immediately work out as planned for him, but he is home and is healthier than he was, although he is housebound for a while longer. He reports that after a very high total of unique visitors in October (over 1000), traffic in November and December to our website has decreased to 312 and 253 for November and December respectively. However, our total visits for 2014 are 13,173 which is 3 thousand more than the previous year in 2013.

Here are pictures of the last three types of bulbs that we will be selling as a fundraiser through the OHA. These bulbs cost \$7.00 per package and of that, we get \$.50 per pack. Each type has a different number of bulbs, all for the same cost. Bonnie will have the information and forms available at upcoming meetings.

Narcissus 'Jack Snipe'



Muscari Armeniacum



Tulip 'Calgary Flames'



Weird and Wonderful

It's time for something new. There are so many strange and interesting plants in our world that I thought it might be fun to learn about some. The Titan Arum is probably the weirdest, in my opinion. Also known as the Corpseflower (because of the dreadful odour it gives off as it opens, which it uses to attract pollinating insects), the upright spadix of this crazy plant can grow many centimeters in a day, and can reach a height of 3 metres. It takes years to bloom, then may not bloom again for many more years. The one in the photo is in Kew Gardens near London and had not bloomed for about 30 years when I saw it. The plant produces one huge leaf which dies each year. This plant produces both male and female flowers, but to avoid self pollination, the females open first, the males several days later. The corm (bulb-like tuber) can weigh up to 50 kilograms. The board to the left of the arum shows the daily growth of the plant.



Plant of the Month

Azaleas

(*Rhododendron simsii*)

These beautiful flowering houseplants, which are often received as gifts, actually can help clean the air in your house. They prefer a cooler area in bright light, but not direct sun. They thrive in moderate to high humidity, so consider placing the pot on a tray or saucer of pebbles in water. Azaleas are acid lovers, so a good peat-based soil is appropriate. They prefer to be thoroughly moist, but don't allow them to sit in water for too long. Allowing them to dry out, however, stresses the plant and will cause leaf and bud drop. Azaleas should be fertilized during the growing season with a fertilizer made for acid-loving plants.



Some Gardening Humour for a Cold January Day

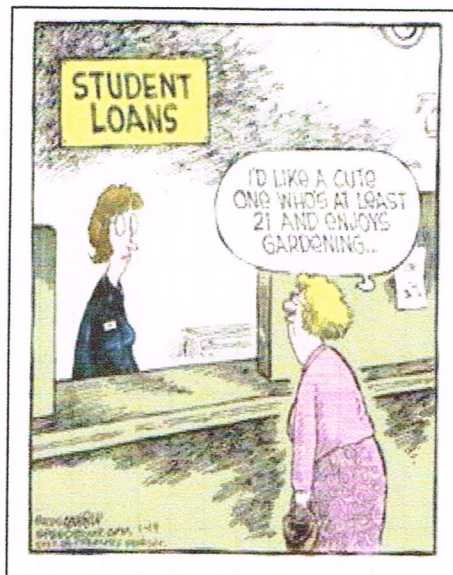
The best way to garden is to put on a wide-brimmed straw hat and some old clothes, and with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig. (Texas Bix Bender)

My husband said that if I buy any more plants he would leave me.

Darn! I'm going to miss that man.

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

God made rainy days, so gardeners could get the housework done.



He Knows No Winter

*He knows no winter, he who
loves the soil,*

*For, stormy days, when he is
free from toil,*

*He plans his summer crops,
selects his seeds*

*From bright-paged catalogues
for garden needs.*

*When looking out upon frost-
silvered fields,*

*He visualizes autumn's golden
yields;*

*He sees in snow and sleet and
icy rain*

*Precious moisture for his early
grain;*

*He hears spring-heralds in the
storm's turmoil.*

Sudie Stuart Hager

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