



'Through The Garden Gate'

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



Please remember that our meeting this month is in the basement of the Presbyterian Church



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

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engleharthort.weebly.com

A Word From the Editor:

"Winds of March, we welcome you,
There is work for you to do.
Work and play and blow all day,
Blow the winter wind away."



Hooray...it's March, the month named for Mars, the Roman god of war and, strangely enough, the guardian of agriculture. Here are a few interesting facts about the month:

March starts on the same day of the week as November every year, and ends on the same day as June. March's birthstones are the aquamarine and bloodstone. These stones symbolize courage. Its birth flower is the daffodil. The zodiac signs for March are Pisces and Aries.

Some March events are: St. David's Day (March 1); International Women's Day (March 8); Save a Spider Day (March 14); Pi Day (March 14); Ides of March (March 15); St. Patrick's Day (March 17); International Day of Happiness (March 20); Vernal Equinox (ranging from March 19-21.)

March also has some interesting weather lore:

- *When March comes in like a lion it goes out like a lamb.*
- *As it rains in March so it rains in June.*
- *March winds and April showers*

Bring forth May flowers.

So, let's all celebrate the third month of the year and start looking forward to getting into our gardens soon.

Mark It On Your Calendar:

- March 13-22: Canada Blooms
- March 17: St Patrick's Day
- March 18: General Meeting
- April 25: District 12 Annual Meeting in Englehart



Wise words to remember on a cold winter's day:

*Some people look for a beautiful place.
Others make a place beautiful.
Hazrat Khan*



Looking Ahead:

As mentioned in earlier bulletins, we are hosting the District 12 Annual Meeting here in April. We will be looking for help from our members to do things before the meeting as well as supporting us with your presence at the meeting. The theme of this year's meeting is 'Our Natural North' and promises to be an educational and entertaining day. We hope to see as many people as possible enjoy this fun-filled day. In preparation for our 60th Anniversary next year, we are going to look forwards and backwards by featuring photos of our past Presidents in each bulletin, beginning with our first...Mr. Arnold Edwards.

Last month's mystery bloom was an **okra** blossom. Are you surprised? I was. Here's another **mystery flower** to ponder over.



District 12/OHA News

*On Saturday, April 25th, our society will be busily hosting the District 12 Annual Meeting at the Catholic Church. We hope that we can count on you to volunteer to help out as we have many jobs to do to prepare for the day as well as ensuring that the day goes smoothly when the time arrives. We also hope that our members will enter the competitions which Bonnie and her committee have drawn up. Check out the website at <http://district12hort.weebly.com> for further information. The competitions list for the meeting has been added to this bulletin.

*Don't forget that the OHA Annual Convention is coming up this summer. This is our opportunity to see how our home organization runs and to help guide it by voting on business affairs. The convention will be held in Ancaster from July 3rd to 5th. Check it out on the OHA Garden Ontario website.

Reports from Your Directors:

Programme: Convenor Carrie Anne Field reports that March's programme will be a follow up to February's meeting. We'll be learning what to plant to attract birds and butterflies to our gardens. We all enjoyed our February meeting, with Bruce Murphy speaking about the Hilliardton Marsh and how we can get involved in this wonderful programme. We hope to have a great turnout for this meeting. Here are a few hummingbird tips from Bruce:

1. You do not have to boil the nectar if you make your own.
2. Hummingbirds seem to prefer feeders close to the house, possibly because they feel safer from predators.
3. They seem to like multiple feeders as there is more opportunity for the less dominant birds to feed.
4. It's okay to feed the hummingbirds into the fall as they know when to leave by the length of the days, not because of food sources.
5. Not about hummers, but if you see a redpoll or other birds with an orange band on a leg, please contact Bruce or someone involved with the Marsh, as they are tracking them.

The pictures show speaker Bruce Murphy as Erica Field looks on, and a variety of small birds caught and being banded at the Marsh. The banding programme is essential in the tracking of the birds that visit the marsh and migrate elsewhere.



Membership: Ginny Montminy reports that it is time to renew your membership for 2015. Please contact her to do so. Being a member brings you all kinds of great benefits- informative and entertaining meetings, lots of social times, the chance to learn and participate in workshops, the opportunity to participate in improving our community, as well as receiving monthly newsletters. If you have already renewed yours, perhaps you know someone who would love to receive a membership as a gift. Ginny reports there are 56 members to date.

Social: Dee Hill is the hostess this month and Ginny Montminy will bring the gift for the free draw this month. Please contact Convenor Mary Schippers if you can help out as a host/hostess this year, or bring a small gift for our free monthly draw.

Website: Rick Heaslip has been busy updating the website. Don't forget to check it out to see all the latest news and pictures.

Plant and Bake Sale: It's not too early to start thinking about this event. We are always looking for small boxes, pop flats, etc. as well as bags for carrying plants. What about starting some seeds? Annuals such as marigolds, asters, etc. are always popular. The past few years, people have been looking for varieties of tomatoes, cole crops, zucchini, etc. It's also time to be checking on your summer bulbs, tubers, and corms which you may have stored away in a cool spot last fall. Perhaps you could start some early and bring them along to the Plant and Bake Sale. Contact convenor Jean Bott if you have any questions.

Don't forget that we have some lovely bulbs from the OHA for sale for excellent prices. There are 3 varieties of tulips, 2 of daffodils, and 2 of grape hyacinths. The information about these are in the November and January bulletins. The more we sell, the more money comes back to us, as our Society will get \$.50 for each packages sold. The cost is \$7.00 per bag.

Orders have to be in to Bonnie Warner before May 15 and the bulbs will arrive in September in time for planting for lovely blooms in the spring. A package or two would make a lovely gift for a gardening friend!



Weird and Wonderful

Pitcher Plant

Pitcher Plants are carnivorous plants which grow either as vines in trees or out of the ground. Many pitcher plants, including the vine type, are native to tropical areas of the world. The plants contain a liquid in the 'pitcher' which smells attractive to insects and even small mammals and reptiles. The prey enters the opening of the trumpet or pitcher and either falls in or gets trapped and can't climb out. Their bodies are digested by the liquid in the pitcher and thus feed the plant. The Trumpet Pitcher Plants (Sarracenia) are easier to grow than the tropical Pitcher Plants (Nepenthes). Newfoundland's floral emblem is a sarracenia variety which has one nodding flower and a 'pitcher' formed from one curled leaf. The common pitcher plant that grows in Canada can be found growing wild in the Temiskaming area and can be grown in wet, boggy areas in northern gardens. The top photo is similar to the northern pitcher plants, the lower is a tropical hanging variety.



Plant of the Month

The Rex Begonia

These 'kings' of the begonia family prefer bright, indirect light year-round. They are not grown for their blooms but for their wonderfully coloured leaves. Rex begonias like even water, but hate being overwatered, and they thrive on humidity, but don't like direct misting, which encourages powdery mildew. They prefer average to warm (and humid) temperatures. They can be placed outdoors in the summer in filtered light but cannot tolerate freezing. Some types of Rex begonias go into a dormant period during the fall. Your potting soil should be airy, light, and fast-draining. Use liquid fertilizer weekly at quarter strength or biweekly at half strength, except if it is the type that goes dormant in the fall. R. begonias can be propagated by dividing the rhizomes when they reach the edge of the pot. They can also be propagated by pinning a leaf down to the potting mix and making small incisions in the leaf veins, or by inserting a leaf directly into soil



A Saint Patrick's Day Blessing

*May green be the grass you
walk on,
May blue be the skies above
you,
May pure be the joys that
surround you,
May true be the hearts that
love you.
May your home be bright with
cheer,
May your cares all disappear,
May contentment come your
way,
And may laughter fill your
day.*

Looking Back

Our first president: Arnold Edwards



Arnold Edwards

1956-1958

1965-1966

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COMPETITIONS at DISTRICT 12 ANNUAL MEETING
Englehart, April 25, 2015

Theme: "Our Natural North"

Prize Money In Adult Classes: 1st \$5.00 2nd \$4.00 3rd \$3.00

Design Competitions

Please note: **TWO entries per person are allowed in each class.**

Staging and accessories are permitted., can be fresh and/or dried plant materials, no artificial flowers/greenery

- CLASS 1:** **"Our Natural North"**
 An interpretive design
- CLASS 2:** **"Awakening"**
 A spring design
- CLASS 3:** **"Northern Lights"**
 A parallel design
- CLASS 4:** **"Fairy Dust"**
 A miniature design, max. size 5" (12.7 cm) in any direction
- CLASS 5:** **"Northland"**
 A design incorporating weathered wood, rocks, etc

For definition of terms, please refer to Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (Publication #34).

Photographic Print Competition

Please note: **TWO entries per person are allowed in each class.**

*Photos must not have been shown before in this competition.

* Entries must not be framed.

*Entries must be **COLOUR PRINTS**, size 4" x 6"(10.2 x 15.2 cm), mounts must not exceed 6" x 8" (15.2 x 20.3 cm)

- CLASS 1:** **"White Wonder"**
 Frost or snow in the landscape.
- CLASS 2:** **"We Re-cycle"**
 Photo of something recycled in the garden. .
- CLASS 3:** **"Future of the North"**
 Photo of child/ children involved with horticulture
- CLASS 4:** **"Treasures of the North"**
 A Society event.
- CLASS 5:** **"My Winter Garden"**
 Photo of an indoor plant

Creative Writing Competition

Please note: **ONE** entry per person is allowed in each class.

- Class 1:** "Our Natural North"
A narrative poem that tells a story
- Class 2:** "Northern Challenges"
A story based on the theme, 500-600 words.

Potted Plants Competition

Please note: **TWO** entries per person are allowed in each class.

- CLASS 1:** African Violet, single crown, in bloom
- CLASS 2:** Plant grown principally for foliage
- CLASS 3:** Unusual plant, not commonly seen
- CLASS 4:** Plant grown principally for bloom (no African violets or orchids)
- CLASS 5:** Orchid, 1 plant in container
- CLASS 6:** Cactus, clumping, columnar or solitary growth habit
- CLASS 7:** Any other succulent, other than cactus

Art Competitions

Please note: **TWO** entries per person are allowed in each class

- CLASS 1:** "Northern Landscape" - an acrylic or oil painting
- CLASS 2:** "Northern Beauty"- a watercolour including floral material
- CLASS 3:** "Treasures of the North"- a collage
- CLASS 4:** "Re-cycled Rock"- painted rock, not to exceed 12"(30.5 cm) in any direction
- CLASS 5:** "Greetings From The North" - a greeting card, any medium

Youth Competitions

Please note: **One** entry per child is allowed in each class.

Classes will be grouped for judging in three different age groups.

The age groups will be : 6-8 years 9-11 years 12 years and older

Please put the child's age on the top of the entry tag.

Prize money for Youth Classes:

1st \$5.00 2nd \$4.00 3rd \$3.00 4th \$2.00 5th \$1.00

- CLASS 1:** "Northern Wild Flowers"- Create a picture of Northern Wild Flowers using crayon, pencil or paint, size not to exceed 8 ½ x 11" (21.6 x 27.9 cm)
- CLASS 2:** "Greetings From The North"- A greeting card, any medium
- CLASS 3:** "Northern Experience"- Create a collage depicting a northern scene, any medium