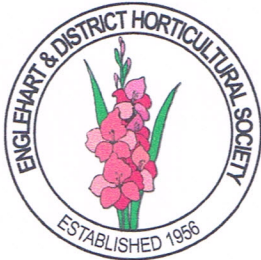




# 'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society  
October 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

This time of year makes me think of Ruby Bryan. She always used the term 'putting her garden to bed'. The heat of the summer and the busy work started in September is nearly over. Take some time this month to just enjoy the last days spent in your yard and garden. Go for a walk in Kap Kig Iwan, visit a friend or neighbour with a jar of jam or some late garden produce, take a break in your lawn chair before you put it away for another year. But, don't forget to rake up those dead leaves and put them to good use as a mulch. In the words of that great gardener, Thalassa Cruso:

*"Fall is not the end of the gardening year; it is the start of next year's growing season. The mulch you lay down will protect your perennial plants during the winter and feed the soil as it decays, while the cleaned up flower bed will give you a huge head start on either planting seeds or setting out small plants."* For more suggestions about fall preparation, make sure you read the programme report on page 2-3 of this bulletin.

## Mark It On Your Calendar:

October 15: Pot Luck supper and Awards Night (6:00 for supper/5:30 set up)

November 19: 'An Evening with Amber'

November 26: Christmas Workshop

## Looking Back:

Our civic efforts this year were appreciated by many citizens in the area. The in-ground beds grew very well and seemed to appreciate the cool, rainy summer weather. The boxes did not fare quite as well, but most provided splashes of colour for much of the summer. Our thanks go to Carrie Anne Field, Bruce Wilson, and Claudette Black who 'deflowered' the beds and boxes and especially to Carrie Anne who spent many hours as convenor of this committee.

October is pumpkin time- pies, cookies, jack o'lanterns and much more. Here's a quick and easy snack to make out of something we just usually throw away. Enjoy!

### **Spiced Pumpkin Seeds Snack**

Ingredients: 1 1/2 tbsp. melted butter; 1/2 tsp. salt; 1/8 tsp. garlic salt or powder; 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce; 2 cups raw whole pumpkin seeds. Preheat oven to 275F. Combine and mix ingredients in baking dish. Bake 1 hour, stirring occasionally.

Delicious and healthy!



### Looking Ahead:

Before we know it, the snow will be here to stay. Hopefully we'll have had time to harvest our vegetables, save some seeds from our favourite annuals and vegies, planted some bulbs that will bloom next spring, and tidy our yards before they're buried under a white blanket. But...what about your gardening tools and accessories? Have you taken care of them? If not, here are a few ideas borrowed from Better Homes and Gardens:

- Scrape and scrub hand tools such as spades, rakes, etc. Try dipping your shovels, hoes, etc. in a bucket of sand to which a little lightweight machine oil has been added.
- Clean, sharpen, and wipe shears, secateurs, etc., with an oily rag
- Clean out and make repairs on cold frames
- Store bags and containers of soil amendments, fertilizer, etc., in air tight containers, or up high away from potential moisture damage.
- Clean up your power tools. Run things such as lawn mowers until they are empty or fill tanks with gas and add fuel stabilizer. Clean the blades and casing on the machine of grass clippings which can hold moisture and cause rust.
- Drain garden hoses and store away out of the elements.
- Make sure you have drained, dried and cleaned out your wheel barrows, garden carts, etc. check the wheels, bearings, etc. for rust and apply a little oil to moving parts.
- On a sunny day, apply a little bright paint to mark your tools to make them easy to find come gardening season 2015.



### OHA/District 12 News:

Delegates Mary Schippers, Rosemary Campbell, and three past District Directors from our society attended the Fall Planning meeting in Cochrane in September. They report that we will be busy in the next two years as we will be hosting the Annual Meeting in 2015 and 2016! Plans are underway already and we hope that you will be able help out come April. We are looking forward to an exciting 2016 as this will be our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a society. Thanks to Cochrane for delicious food and a well-run day. In the picture above, past District Director and current Secretary, Bonnie Warner, and past District 12 DD, Bruce Wilson, speak with the current Director, Anne Jamieson. Don't forget to check out the latest information from District 12 by checking out the website at [district12hort.weebly.com](http://district12hort.weebly.com)



### Reports from Your Directors:

**Programme:** The theme of the September meeting was 'What Worked/What Didn't in Your Garden This Year'. This led to a very informative and interesting discussion at the meeting as we shared our successes and failures and discussed how to improve things for next year. One suggestion for the problem with maggot in root crops is to try, as Claudette Black did this year, to use floating row covers to keep the adult fly from laying its eggs on the plants. Another suggestion to combat slugs and snails was to spray in the spring with a mixture of 1 part (con't)

ammonia to 4 parts water, then throughout the summer with a ratio of 1 to 10 Another suggestion for fighting slugs and snails was to use diatomaceous earth or Epsom salts around your plants and in between rows. These, like sharp sand, damage the soft underbodies of many garden pests. Handpicking of those darn red lily beetles seems to have helped some gardeners keep the numbers manageable, but you have to start early in May, just when the lilies are beginning to poke through the soil. Deb Murray noted that she had a very poor result with her morning glories this summer and realised too late that these lovely flowers actually prefer poor, gravelly soil. Cannas and their winter storage were also discussed. If the cannas are in a pot, they can be cut down just above soil level and the whole pot can be stored in a cold room until spring. If they were in ground, dig them on a dry sunny day, cut off the tops, allow to dry out that day, then store in an open basket or paper bag until next spring.

**October's meeting** is our annual Awards Night, where we recognize those who entered and won prizes in the Festival of Flowers. If you can come at 5:30 to help set up, we would appreciate it. The pot luck supper begins at 6:00. Convenor Carrie Anne Field reports that, once again, we will enjoy an evening with Amber Elliot in November, as Amber and Patsy bring us an evening of entertainment and learning about what's new in winter/Christmas decorations.

**Membership:** As of this month, Ginny Montminy reports we have 25 members for 2015.

**Social:** This month's meeting is a Pot Luck supper, with Mary Schippers as hostess. Lynne Rowlandson will bring the gift this month.

**Christmas Workshop:** Convenor Rosemary Campbell reports that plans are underway for this year's Christmas project. Don't forget to mark November 26 on your calendar.

**Website:** Webmaster Rick Heaslip reports that we have had over 11 000 hits on our website to date. Check the site out later this month to see photos from our Awards Night, as well as information and photos posted earlier from the Festival of Flowers and lots more.



### Going Green



I was listening to CBC radio last month, and the gardener, Ed Lawrence, was asked what he thought was the most important thing to do in the garden in the fall. His answer surprised me somewhat. It was, in essence, to practice good garden hygiene. His advice was to clean up your garden as much as you can in the fall, get rid of what you can by composting, and to burn or garbage diseased or pest-infested plants. The subject of slugs and snails came up, due to the very wet summer we have experienced this year, and Ed made several good suggestions. One was to mix up a 10:1 mixture of water and ammonia (10 parts water to 1 part ammonia) and to spray/drench the soil in the rows of your vegetable gardens in the fall, to kill the slugs and snails and destroy any eggs in the soil. Bonnie Warner has a different way to control those slippery little pests. She goes out regularly into her garden with a pail of water and ammonia and handpicks not only slugs, but also those nasty lily beetles which have arrived in our area. They are very fast moving, as opposed to the slugs and snails, and so you have to be quick to get them. However, for every one you do manage to get, that means there are going to be hundreds, maybe thousands less of the nasty critters in next year's garden.

## Plant of the Month

### Sedum 'Autumn Joy'

This dependable plant is a great addition to the garden in October. It can bloom right to the end of October and is a godsend to bees, butterflies, and other nectar loving insects. The flowers, which can resemble broccoli flowers, open pink and often mature to a lovely copper colour. It can grow to 2 feet tall and wide, and has juicy, succulent stems and leaves. 'Autumn Joy' looks great with ornamental grasses, late-blooming Rudbeckia, and ornamental cabbage and kale. Sedum prefers moderately fertile, moist, but not wet, soil in full sun, but can do well in drier conditions. 'Autumn Joy' can be tip pruned when about 6 to 8 inches to shorten the plant, but this will also delay its blooming. I have planted mine in the top part of an old tomato cage to prevent flopping. You can take cuttings in early summer. If your Autumn Joy is getting overgrown, you can divide it in the spring. This is a fairly trouble free plant, but slugs, and snails will sometimes enjoy their crisp leaves in wet periods.



## Our Fall Gardens

As noted above, sedum are great plants to give our garden colour in the autumn. A few others hardy to our area which we can use to provide late blooms and colourful foliage are:

- New England Asters
- Russian Sage
- Helianthus
- Colchicum (fall blooming bulbs)
- Autumn crocus (similar to Colchicum)
- Helenium (September's flower of the month)
- Japanese Anemone (not always hardy but I have had some for years)
- Turtlehead (Chelone glabra)
- Monkshood (Aconitum)
- assorted perennial grasses
- Peony foliage
- Perennial Geranium foliage (Cranesbill sanguineum)



## Poetry and Prose

*O suns and skies and  
clouds of June,  
And flowers of June  
together,  
Ye cannot rival for one  
hour  
October's bright blue  
weather.*

*Author unknown*

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