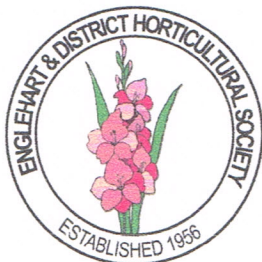




# 'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society  
September 2013



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

### General meetings:

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of most months at 7:30 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:**  
englehartort.weebly.com

## September's Garden Jobs

- Collect seed and herbs for drying.
- Add compost to garden beds. .
- Check houseplants for pests, then move indoors.
- Plant new trees and shrubs (although spring is a better time for us in the north)
- Plant spring flowering bulbs.
- Clean bird feeders, gardening tools.
- Continue watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes.
- Bring in any clay pots.
- Pull weeds before they go to seed to reduce the number of weeds next year.
- Fertilize your lawn.
- Cut diseased areas out of perennials. Do not compost.
- Rake and compost fallen leaves.
- Clean up garden debris. Remove dying vegetable plants and fallen fruit.
- Remove dead annuals from the garden, after a frost.
- Cut back perennial foliage to discourage overwintering pests. Leave flowers with seeds for the birds. (I do leave some of my perennial stems, such as roses, to catch and hold the snow.)
- Sharpen lawn mower blade and pruners.
- Trim tall grass away from trees and corners of your home to discourage small rodents from creating nests.
- Dig up tender bulbs such as dahlia, canna and gladiola. Store in a cool, dark space. *(Some of these chores can be held off until October, depending on the weather and your energy!)*

## Mark It On Your Calendar:

October 2: Director's meeting  
October 5: District 12 Meeting in Englehart  
October 16: General Meeting/Awards Night

## Civic Improvement

Civic Improvement convenor Carrie Anne Field reports that we will be 'deplanting' the beds and boxes on Saturday, September 28. Please meet at the cenotaph at 10:00. Anyone with a truck or trailer who can take away the plants would be most welcome. In the event of rain, we will meet at 1:00 on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Please come out and lend a hand.



Bonnie Warner and Sue Wozny take a break after working in the Millennium Garden in June.



## *Planting Spring Blooming Bulbs*

September and October are the best months to plant those bulbs which we will enjoy in the spring. The following are a few hints to make this effort more successful:

- Plant in well-drained soil with the pointed part of the bulb facing up. Most suppliers suggest planting the bulbs 2 1/2-to 3 times deeper than they are wide. Therefore, the bigger the bulb, the deeper it goes.
- Groups of bulbs look better in bloom than a row of blossoms, so plant in groups, leaving a reasonable amount of space between the bulbs. Most suppliers will provide the appropriate spacing in their planting instructions.
- In bulbs, bigger is better. Spend a bit more to get the biggest, plumpest bulbs and you'll be rewarded with bigger and better blooms.
- Fertilize when planting. Use either a special bulb fertilizer, or bone meal worked into the soil prior to planting.
- Tamp the soil down carefully but firmly. Water well.
- If planting tulips or crocus, remove all traces of the skins from the planting area, as rodents love these bulbs and are smart enough to dig down when they find traces on the soil surface. Some people suggest planting tulips inside a ring of daffodil bulbs. Might be worth a try.



*Good luck and good planting.*



## *Going Green*

### **Time for Some Detective Work!**

September is the month when we bring back into our houses all of those houseplants we've had outside enjoying a holiday from the house. Carefully check each plant before allowing it re-entry to make sure it isn't infected with any pests or diseases. Wash smaller plants in your sink with lukewarm water. Check the stems, fronts and backs of leaves carefully. If you have any doubt, spray the plant with an insecticidal soap. If possible, you should segregate all of your returning plants from any of those that haven't been outdoors for a couple of weeks, just to be sure you don't expose all your plants to any travelling pests or diseases. Safer's yellow 'sticky stakes' work well on flying insects, such as aphid adults and fungus gnats. Make sure you check your pots and saucers as well, as they can provide hiding places for slugs, earwigs, etc. Burn or dispose of any infected plants in the garbage. Never compost them.





### Looking Ahead:

Convenor Carrie Anne Field reports that this month's general meeting will be a round-table discussion on the successes and those not so successful happenings in our gardens this year. Please don't be shy about sharing your knowledge about what worked, what didn't work, and how we can improve our gardens for next year. If you have pictures, please bring them along. Don't forget to bring along a snack for sharing after the meeting.

### Something Special

At the Festival of Flowers, a special presentation was made to Mary Schippers. Mary was presented with a Society Service Certificate. This award is given to a person who has made long-term contributions to the Society. Mary was awarded the certificate for her years of work as the Social Convenor, as well as all the other work she willingly does on behalf of the Society. Last year's recipients, Marg and Alec McMurray, presented the certificate to Mary. Congratulations, Mary!



### Reports from Your Directors:

**Festival of Flowers:** Convenor Eileen Fisher reports that the annual show was a great success, despite her fears due to the rain and cool weather this summer. Thanks to Madelyn Vickery for the sound system, to Joyce Smith, Marg McMurray, and Claudette Black for handling the Tea Garden, and to Johanna Paradis for feeding us on Thursday. Thanks also to Holy Family School for allowing us to use their facilities, and to custodian, Fran Carron, for all she does for us, to Rick Heaslip and Bonnie Warner for helping me with the give-away arrangements, and to Ginny Montminy, Louise Williams, and Dorothy Robertson for their work. We were lucky enough to have great judges and very helpful judges' assistants. Special thanks to everyone who helped set up and strike the show. If you have any suggestions, no matter how small, for improving our show for next year, please let me know. Look for the full report in the Annual Booklet in January.

**Fall Fair Booth:** Convenor Linda Murray was responsible for our wonderful booth at the Fall Fair. She set up an interesting and comfortable area where we were able to 'show our stuff' to the public. Twyla Wilson had put together a basket of donated items for a free draw and we also gave away printed material and answered questions. It was also the first time to use our new 'triptych', a three paneled tabletop display about our society.

**Programme:** Convenor Carrie Anne Field reminds members that the October meeting will be our annual Awards Night. The potluck supper will begin at 6:00 pm, with the award ceremony following. Please bring along a dish to share, your appetite, and you'll enjoy a fun-filled evening as we reward our members who took the time to exhibit in this year's Festival of Flowers. PS- if you can help set up for the meal, Social Convenor Mary Schippers asks you to come at 5:30 to set up the tables.



## Plant of the Month

### Actea Racemosa

Formerly known as 'cimicifuga', this plant is also known as snakeroot, black cohosh, or bugbane. It is a tall plant that will grow in shade to full sun. It is easily grown in average soils, although it prefers humousy, organically rich, moisture-retentive soils. Foliage tends to scorch if it is allowed to dry out. Because of its height, it is best grown in locations sheltered from strong winds. It has been domesticated from wild actea and though most of the racemes (stems) bear 'bottle-brush' blooms made up of tiny white flowers, there are new varieties with a pink tinge. The leaves are deeply cut or 'lacinated', can be green or a purple colour, depending on the variety, and are useful in flower arranging. In our area, this stately plant blooms in September and into October, and is greatly appreciated by bees and other insects which are attracted to its blossoms' sweet scent in the fall. It is a fairly slow growing plant, but is not fussy once it is established. People have used actea for years as a herbal remedy for a variety of ailments.



## Gaia's Garden

*My garden is a glorious place  
Filled with pleasures both great and  
small*

*From ephemeral butterflies and  
filigreed Queen Anne's Lace  
To glowing waves of goldenrod in  
the fall.  
Nature's bounty fills my heart with  
pleasure.*

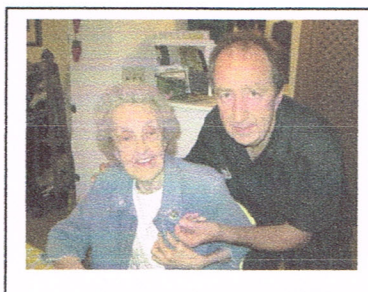
*My heart soars when I enter her  
inviting domain  
An Eden of life in soil and above  
Where I need not toil to enjoy the  
treasure  
Simply stroll along an inviting  
country lane  
And in her wildness feel the warmth  
of Gaia's love.*

## Fifty Years of Membership and Service!

For long-time service and dedication to the Englehart & District Horticultural Society, Jean Wallace and Mary Pillsworth were recently presented with 50-Year Pins! President Bruce Wilson visited both ladies and presented them with their 50 Year pins.



*Jean Wallace and Bruce  
Wilson at her home in Barrie.*



*Mary and Bruce at her  
her home in Englehart*

We also say goodbye to long-time member and Associate Director Phulo Singh at the end of this month. Good luck Phulo.

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Society  
Box 677, Englehart, ON  
PoJ 1Ho

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

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