



'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
February 2019



Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.

General meetings:

3rd Wednesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Paul's Emmanuel Community Church basement

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

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Website:

engleharthort.weebly.com

A Word From The Editor

If you didn't make it to the Annual Meeting in January, you missed a great time. The food for the shared supper was delicious, the business meeting was over quickly, thanks to incoming President Jean Bott, the elections were handled well by Twyla Wilson, and the presentation by Jeff Warner, of Aidie Creek Gardens, was fabulous. The results of the election are on page 5 of this bulletin, and we are happy to welcome some new faces as Directors and are pleased that many of our experienced Directors chose to stay on. The list of 2019 executive and committee chairs can be found on page 5 of this bulletin. A very special presentation occurred at the

Annual Meeting. Past President Carrie Anne was pleased to present the Society's Service

Award to Claudette Black. Since she joined our group, Claudette has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the Society. Claudette is often the first to volunteer whenever help is needed and has welcomed us to her beautiful yard. Congratulations, Claudette. You deserve the recognition from the Society.



Mark It On Your Calendar

February 20: General Meeting

April 27: District 12 Meeting (mark it on your calendar)

Programme: Organic Gardening



Organic Gardening

This month's programme is going to be a very interesting one. We were lucky enough to gain a new member recently who is an experienced organic gardener. Kim Inglis, who will also become a Society Director this month, has agreed to speak to us about her experiences gardening organically. I know that there are many members who are interested in joining the thousands of gardeners who have begun gardening organically. This will be a wonderful

opportunity to listen to and talk with a member who has actual experience. Come along to the St. Paul Emmanuel Community Church (across from the Post Office) on Wednesday, February 20th at 7:00. Feel free to bring a friend. Don't forget that after the presentation we all enjoy participating in the shared snack, so bring along a small something to nibble on.

District 12 News

Vickie Wiemer of North Bay served as President of the OHA from 2010-11. Vickie passed away in 2017 and I failed to recognise this. The following is from the OHA website: "On September 29, 2018, in memory of OHA Past President Vickie Wiemer, a tree dedication ceremony took place at the Oak Grove at the Guelph Arboretum. A long-time member of the North Bay Horticultural Society and a Past President of the Society, Vickie had served as the District 18 Director prior to becoming the OHA President in 2011. In attendance were members of Vickie's family, Maureen Ranger, (North Bay Horticultural Society Co-President), and several OHA board members and Past Presidents." Vickie was well liked and admired for her hard work for our District at the time when North Bay was part of District 12.



Reports From Your Directors

Social: Joyce Marie Smith is the hostess this month and Bonnie Warner brings the gift for the free draw. As this is a potluck snack, members are asked to bring along something small for sharing.

Membership: Convenor Ginny Montminy reports that we have 29 members who have paid their 2019 memberships. Please contact Ginny about paying your annual dues of \$15.00. A cheque made out to the Englehart and District Horticultural Society will ensure that your membership will continue. Our address is on page 1 of the bulletin.

Bulletin: If you have an interesting idea or article for our monthly newsletter, please let me know. Also, I ask that if you change your address (mailing or email), please let either Ginny Montminy or myself know so we can ensure that you don't miss getting your monthly bulletin. Don't forget to renew your membership so you can continue to receive the monthly newsletter.

Website/Facebook: Rick Heaslip reports that our site experienced 435 unique visits in January, 92 unique visitors per week, and that he has updated the site for 2019. Take a look- lots of information about our group is available. We now have 238 members on our Facebook Page. Both of these are excellent ways of keeping in touch with our members between meetings.

Nominating: This committee met in early January to prepare for the upcoming year. Thanks to all who have accepted positions on the Executive. Thank you also those who agreed to take on a position of convenor of a committee. Our Society would not be able to exist without people who volunteer their time.

Planning Your Vegetable Garden Part 2 (cont'd from January)

STEP 2: How large will your garden be? This step applies to both an existing garden and a new garden build. If your garden currently exists, but you would like to add to it, consider the current existing size and how much larger you would like it to be. If you don't have a garden, consider these questions: What size were you thinking of? Will it be one large bed, planted directly in the ground? Will it be a square or rectangular shape? Maybe it will be a collection of smaller beds? If that's the case, how many garden beds would you like to have? Consider all of these questions when planning out your future garden. Another option is to build raised beds. If that's the case, draw out the raised beds in the configuration that you would like. Feel free to be creative when designing your garden beds. You may design a kitchen garden layout with a circular bed for herbs, add other beds for lavender and flowers, plant dwarf fruit trees within the beds and even create a beautiful design reminiscent of a French castle garden. There is no limit, so feel free to be creative and have fun other side of the bed without stepping on the soil. (Con't on page 4)

The African Violet – An Old and New Favourite

Growing African violets – botanically Saintpaulia ionantha is very simple. Their care is fairly easy and they propagate readily through division or leaf cuttings. However, propagation by leaf cuttings is probably the most popular.

Rooting An African Violet In Water

When selecting a leaf cutting, choose middle-sized leaves, cut them with about an inch of leaf stem (called the petiole). To give the leaves the best conditions, prepare a clear glass, a transparent plastic jar or plastic pots with a top that's wider than its bottom part. This will allow you to easily monitor the water and roots. If you doubt the cleanliness of the water, boil it for three minutes and let it cool down before using. Warm water and cold water will harm the young roots. Cover a water-filled glass tumbler or mason jar with wax paper or clear wrap held in place with a rubber band. Pierce the paper in three places. Insert the leaf stems in these holes deeply enough for the stems to reach into the water. Set glass or jar where the leaf-cutting receives about the same light your growing plants do – indirect light or sunny window or under florescent grow lights. *If you use faucet rather than rain water, let it stand uncovered for twenty-four hours beforehand so that all chlorine may be released.* In two to four weeks, depending on variety and location, roots should appear at the ends of the stems. Change the water then. By the end of another week or so small green leaves may appear at the base of each parent leaf. If the parent leaves began to deteriorate, you can now make a transfer of rooted leaves by potting into 2-inch pots of light soil or pure sand with drainage holes. If the parent leaves remain firm and healthy, wait until a cluster of leaves about one inch long appears before transplanting. Transplant cuttings into solid media (moistened vermiculite or 50% bagged African violet plant soil mix – 50% perlite) when the leaves of plantlets unfold and the little plants are about an inch high. A two inches small pot soil is right for this first shift. Place transparent plastic bags (or use plastic bottles) over the new plants to ward off shock. These can be removed within a week. After six weeks of growing, the plants can then be shifted into three-inch pots and given regular African violet care. You can let them flower in these pots, and as they mature, move them into four-inch pots. (to be continued) (*I can't remember where I got this info so unfortunately I can't give credit for it!*)

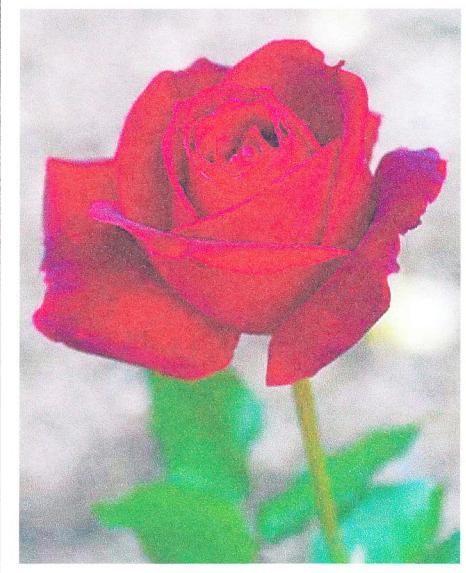
Going Green

We try our best to get optimum harvest from our gardens. We can, freeze, pickle, or ferment and we're always careful with our procedures, (especially with canning), and then our prepared food is ready for us in the off season. There's no "best before" date written on the label because we know when it was done and when it will be used. Seldom do we waste food we have "put down" ourselves. But there are other items on store shelves which come with a "best before" date. This can not only be confusing, it can be downright misleading. **Best Before** is a manufacturers/producers way of protection. Best before, not bad after. Best-before dates refer to food quality, not safety. Many products that carry the dates don't even need them. Consumers have no idea of what it is they're looking at. A product might say 'best before 1/3 and it's not clear whether that's January 3rd or March 1st. That means good food ends up in the kitchen garbage bin and the grocery store dumpster. Many people see 'best before' and they think it means if they eat it afterwards, there's going to be a health problem. That's simply **not true**. Don't toss that yogurt cup even if it's a few days past its best-before date - it's still good weeks after. All this fear results in tons of wasted food. Research proves that Canadians are among the biggest food wasters in the world. (excerpts from the National Zero Waste Coalition)

Plant of the Month

Oklahoma Hybrid Tea Rose

What could be a more appropriate Plant of the Month for February than a red rose? I wanted to know what would be the best red rose to recommend so I contacted someone who should know...Carrie Ann Field. In her words "Oklahoma has a wonderful strong perfume, grows about 5ft tall and 4 ft. wide. It is a hybrid tea of course, and a sister to Mr. Lincoln. The main difference is that the petals on Oklahoma are a deep velvety red, just an amazing depth and have a richness to them so you can't resist touching to see if they are real!" Roses like Oklahoma need extra winter care. Hybrid teas are difficult to grow here and the bud union, where the rose is grafted to the root, must be buried 1 - 2 inches below ground level when planted. In the fall it is advised to heap soil up against the stems of the plant at least 10-12". Some people surround the plant with dried leaves held with burlap. With care, a hybrid tea like Oklahoma may be able to survive for several years in our area.



Planning Your Vegetable Garden Part 2 (con't)

STEP 3: Will you be walking on the garden soil? This consideration is important for both raised beds and gardens planted in ground. Walked on soil becomes compacted. Compacted soil has poor drainage and few air pockets, causing water to stand on the soil and rot plant roots. Air pockets are important in the soil; walking on it will close them. If planting in raised beds, build your beds no wider than 4', allowing you to reach in from either side without stepping on the soil. The bed may be as long as you'd like, but no wider than 4'. If the beds are built against a wall, make sure they are no wider than 2'. Since the bed is only accessible from the one side, a 2' wide bed will allow you to reach the other side of the bed without stepping on the soil.

STEP 4: How much sun/shade will your garden have? When choosing the location of your vegetable garden, a full sun location is best. Most fruiting vegetables, like tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and corn require a minimum of 6 to 8 hours of full afternoon sun. If you don't have a full sun location to build your garden, don't give up. Many vegetables will grow in a partially shady/partially sunny environment as well. Vegetables like salad greens, arugula, endive, herbs like parsley, dill and cilantro, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, radish, Swiss chard, kale, mustard greens, spinach, and some berries will grow in a location that receives a minimum of 3 to 6 hours of direct sunlight. Once you've chosen your location, be sure to plant the appropriate vegetables or fruit that will grow in your garden's light.

Poetry and Prose

A Red, Red Rose

Oh my Luve's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June
O my Luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly play'd in tune
As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,
So deep in luve am I
And I will luve thee still, my dear,
Till a' the seas gang dry.
Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun:
I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.
And fare thee weel,
my only Luve
And fare thee weel, a while!
And I will come again, my Luve,
Tho' it were ten thousand mile.
Robbie Burns

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