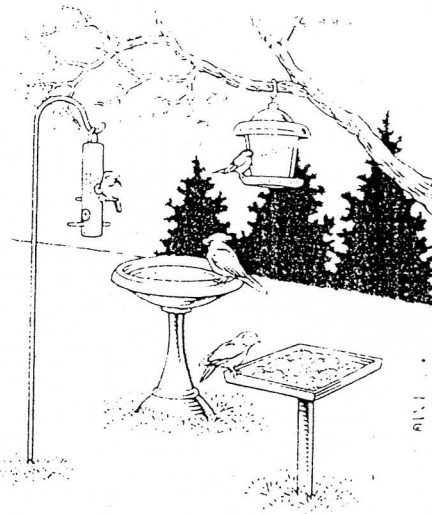


ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2012

**WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 16th 2013**, in Pioneer Hall,
Anglican Church (5th Ave), beginning
with a Shared (Pot-Luck) supper at 6:00



The Meeting is for the purpose of receiving the Reports of the Committees and Officers for 2012, including the Financial Report; and for the election of Officers and Directors for 2013. Guests are welcome and appreciated.

Shared Sit-down Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish of food to share for either first course, salad or dessert — enough for yourself and your guest(s). Mary Schippers (Social) and the Committee will put this together.

SET UP: Can you help with **set up starting at 5:30 p.m.** If you can come early to help it would be appreciated. Hostess Mary Schippers. Gift: Joyce Marie Smith

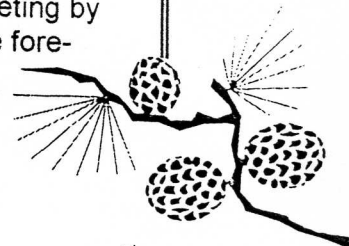
Annual Meeting at 7:00. We plan to start then if at all possible, to give time for the program.

Program: *Eileen Fisher will have an audio-visual show covering Ontario Horticultural Association Convention at Niagara-on-the-Lake this year*

Englehart & Dist. Horticultural Society is looking for a Secretary-Treasurer. Joyce-Marie Smith who has been our very capable Secretary-Treasurer for several years now, is retiring. Have you ever thought that you would like to be a part of the team of officers? You may be surprised at how enjoyable it is and how much one learns. For more information and/or to apply please call or see, Joyce-Marie (544 7652) at Box 677, Englehart, before the end of January, please

2013 PLANS:

Forecast for 2013: The forecast is edited each year and presented at the Annual Meeting by the 1st Vice-president, Bruce Wilson this year. If you have suggestion(s) to add to the forecast, please call or contact Bruce

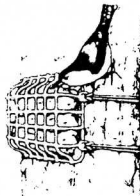


REPORTS AND COMMITTEE BOOKS:

Some convenors have not yet submitted their Reports for 2012. Please send to Joyce-Marie (e-mail joice@ntl.sympatico.ca) just as soon as possible so they can be included in the Annual Report for the meeting on the 16th. Be sure to include the total number of volunteer hours for your Committee, including your own. The binders are to go to President Eileen.)



window-sill
suet log



soap-dish
suet feeder

ENGLEHART SOCIETY'S VERY OWN WEBSITE:

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE: (If you have internet)

<http://www.englehart.weebly.com>

Site contains direct links to seed companies—order seeds online. Put it in your “Favourites” and it will always be handy.

Also other interesting things—even a copy of this newsletter! Rick Heaslip is the webmaster and you can get in touch with him from the website.

Ontario Horticultural Association website: www.gardenontario.org is the website of the provincial Association. The home page has links to different Societies, including Englehart's. There is also a “newsletter” and a “garden share” feature. Find it next time you are at the computer and put it in your “Favourites” list so that you can go often to see what's new. Joyce Marie Smith is maintaining

the Englehart Society site.

MEMBERSHIP: It is time to renew for 2013. All memberships run from Jan to Dec. If you were a winner at the Festival of Flowers, your membership for 2013 has already been deducted from prize money and you are one of the 49 members we have so far for this year.

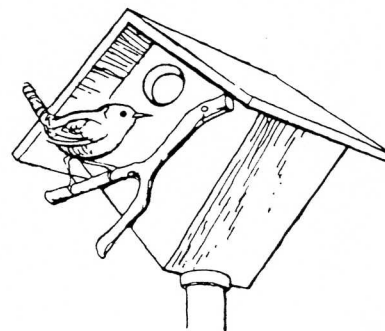
Send your cheque for \$10.00 to Secretary-Treasurer, Box 677, Englehart or, see Joyce Marie at the next meeting.

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP REPORT:

The project this year was decorated pine boughs: white spruce, blue spruce and cedar with holiday cones, berries and ornaments. Rosemary Campbell, Convenor, reported that 34 kits were sold, and \$187.28 made (not that this is a money raising project, we just like to make sure we break even). Maureen Howie won the Door Prize. Eileen Fisher, Bonnie Warner and Joyce-Marie helped with readying the kits for the workshop.

GARDEN TOUR 2014? Would you like to have our Society arrange a Garden Tour for 2014? If so, we will need mainly, GARDENS TO VIEW. Would you consider offering to have your garden on the tour. I know, it's not perfect, but gardens are always a “work in progress” and people are very interested in seeing what other local gardeners are doing.

Wren house.



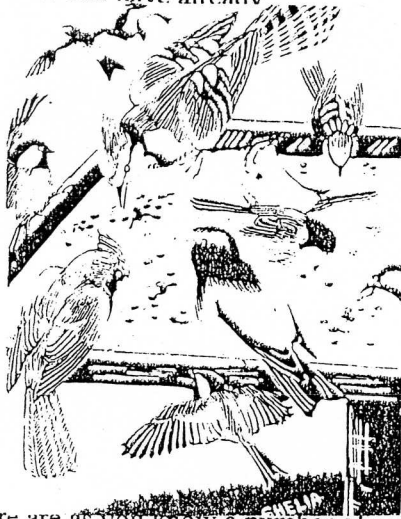
BIRDING FOR YOUR HEALTH?

"Whether you plant berries for waxwings or put out suet for nuthatches, it's very gratifying to feed the birds"

You know the old saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away"? If you have already developed an interest in watching birds from your windows, think about the fact that it is only a small fraction of what you can do to learn more about local birds and get yourself outside at the same time. There are as you know a number of species that stay here all winter and you can start by taking binoculars with you when you go for a walk. Watching for birds as you go can turn what might be a boring outing into an interesting one. This is a healthy hobby that can have a big impact on your well-being.

Outdoors, moving around and breathing fresh air, we tend to take deeper breaths thereby giving our bodies a dose of more oxygen. And of course if the sun is shining (most of us would prefer that when we go walking in winter!), in a half hour we can soak up a full day's requirement of Vitamin D.

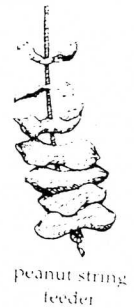
A number of people in Englehart area who watch birds and record their sightings for Feederwatch, a North-America-wide project to track bird populations, fluctuations and migrations. It's too late to join this year, but, if you are interested and have some knowledge of who comes to your feeder, I would be happy to supply you with information. (Can. Website: pfw@bsc-eco.org) Reporting on what you see does focus your interest and sharpen your knowledge. You will need an authoritative bird guide, the sooner the better. The standard for many years has been A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America, by Roger Tory



Peterson, but there are others as well.

As spring comes and many, many species of birds migrate through our area birding is exciting and can become addictive! I know—only lack of mobility has forced me to curtail a very long birding career. If you are already a knowledgeable birder invite someone to come along with you; that is the best way to really learn what you are seeing. I shall always be grateful to Eileen Fisher's Mother, Marie Armstrong for guiding me in my first days of being interested in birds back in the early 60's. As we go watching for birds we are bound to see other natural sights we may not have noticed before. All the things connected with looking for birds add variety and energy to our lives. The authors of the article where I saw this idea claim that studies have shown that the mental exercise of learning a new hobby can actually improve your brain function!

(With material from *Birds & Blooms*, Dec, 2012 article by Kenn and Kimberly Kaufman)



DID YOU KNOW?

Many of our everyday expressions date as far back the 16th Century, or earlier?

Bread was divided according to status: workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust".

Houses had thatched roofs—thick straw piled high, with no wood facing underneath. It was often the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained the straw became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall from the roof; hence the saying: "It's raining cats and dogs". www.funpages.com

ATTRACTING BIRDS NATURALLY

Winter Gardens for Wildlife

Each animal prefers a certain kind of habitat; it may be high in the canopy or deep in small bushes. If you have a variety of landscape niches (different plant heights and landscape), you will attract a greater variety of wildlife.

Feederwatchers try to attract birds to their feeders. They may plant thick foliage and establish brushpiles for shelter, provide water for birds to bathe in (I bought a heated bird bath, but they barely used it in winter); plant a wide variety of native plants to shelter and feed birds year-round.

Native vegetation is perhaps the best way to improve the environment and attract birds. Many wild shrubs and trees have berries or fruit attractive to birds. And shrubs such as the following can be used to create a "layered" landscape, that is to provide an understory for large canopy trees. Look at your property from the birds' point of view:

they need to be able to escape to cover very quickly and are reluctant to be in the open for long. They may also use this cover for nesting. Local wild varieties that have berries or fruit include: Chokecherries; Serviceberries; Haw trees; Pincherries; Sumacs; High Bush Cranberry; Crabapples. You can attract bees by also planting local wildflowers, if you like—that is, if you like the bees and the look of the plants! (Information from "Winter Bird Highlights 2010-2011, Attracting Birds Naturally", by Susan Newman, Cornell Lab of Ornithology)

Simple Sanctuaries

Rock piles, wood-piles, and brush piles provide winter refuge for spiders, snakes, mice, beetles, adult butterflies, and amphibians. Locate them along the edges of your garden, away from roads or low damp spots.

Dying trees attract cavity-nesting birds. Prune branches for safety, but don't cut the trunks down unless they pose a threat.

Rough bark, peeling from a tree or loosely attached to a fence post, makes an overwintering site for adult anglewing and mourning cloak butterflies.

Nesting boxes do double duty as a warm roosting site for birds in winter and a nesting site in spring. Clean out old nests and debris in fall to get rid of interlopers and parasites.

MORE SHRUBS TO FEED THE BIRDS:

Here is a list of other hardy shrubs that encourage birds to your property: (from Harrowsmith's Canadian Almanac 2013, with permission)

Dogwood; Russian Olive; Red Cedar; Honeysuckle; Alpine Currant; Elder.

On the other hand there are some garden plants, shrubs and trees that can quickly outgrow their welcome: Manitoba Maple (Box Elder); Norway Maple; Scots Pine (this pine out competes native pines and spreads everywhere quickly); Foxglove; Periwinkle; Mint.

Suggestions taken from a Special Edition of "Birds & Blooms", Sep 2011:

"We line large pots with newspaper before adding soil and plants. This helps keep the pots from drying out." Lucy London, Florence, Oregon, U.S.

"When I plant containers, I place a used dryer sheet at the bottom of the pot. No potting soil falls through the holes, but I can still water my plants, since the dryer sheet allows for good drainage." Donna Moon, Woodgate, N.Y. U.S.

(This is one to remember for next year): In the fall, I spread and till in compost and manure on the garden. Then cover the surface with several thicknesses of newspaper and straw. In spring there are no weeds and the garden is ready to plant. Dorothy Simons, Bremerton, Wa, U.S.

If a bird flies away when it sees you approach with a camera, don't give up. Stand still and wait. It will likely return. Belinda Norris, Slater, Miss, U.S.

SPRING IS ON ITS WAY!!

PUBLISHED 11 times a year by Englehart & District Horticultural Society, Box 677, Englehart
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Printing: Courtesy Englehart & District Hospital

