

"Through the Garden Gate"

Bulletin of
The Englehart and District
Horticultural Society



JULY GENERAL MEETING SUMMER GARDEN BARBECUE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18TH AT THE HOME OF MARY
PILLSWORTH (Corner First Street and Ninth Ave),
BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

The evening starts with a barbecue. Drinks and hot dogs will be supplied. Please bring a small salad or dessert, cutlery for yourself and a chair (if possible).

There will be a Live Auction—Auctioneer: Eileen Fisher. Directors please bring an item suitable for auction. Other than the Auction, there is no program, just an evening for visiting with your Horticultural friends.

Every member is welcome. Also, bring a friend and enjoy the good food, the beautiful grounds, and the visiting.

And don't forget to bring \$\$ to bid in the Auction.

Hostess: Mary Schippers Gift: Avelyn Peever



FLOWER SHOW

ADVANCE NOTES RE: "SONGS FROM THE GARDEN", Annual Flower Show, to be held at HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL, Thursday, August 9th and Friday, August 10th. **NOTE DATES** (I may have published Aug 16 and 17 for the Flower Show, but that was in error. The dates were changed because the OHA Convention is the 17th to 19th). *Exhibits must be in place by 11:30 a.m. Thursday the 9th*

New hours set last year will continue for this year also: : Thursday, Open at 7:00 p.m. (Opening ceremony at 8:00), until 9:00 p.m. ; Friday, 1:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

We will need help from members with the following:

1. **Help with set up** on Tuesday, August 07th at 1:00 p.m. to move items stored at Williams & Scott Hardware to the School. A truck or van is helpful too.
2. **Donations for Silent Auction** —which can be delivered to Twyla Wilson or brought to the School set-up day or Thursday a.m. August 18th.

3. **Small flowers** and delicate greenery (asparagus, cedar) suitable for corsages. Bring to Show Thursday a.m. please.

4. **Tea Garden:** Mary Schippers is finalizing plans for the Tea Garden. Thursday evening dessert and beverages will be served and, on Friday, sandwiches as well. She will be contacting members for donations of food items for the Tea Garden.

5. **Your participation:** *(1) We are again appealing for TWO exhibits from every member. I know some of our members put in considerably more than two exhibits and we are grateful for that. It would be very encouraging if those who have not usually entered would make the commitment this year!* There are classes for beginners! There will again be a Peoples' Choice Award at the Show, and also one for the children's entries.

The Convenors encourage you to enter in the Show classes, help with set-up, with make corsages, on various sub-committees (these have already been asked); being present at the Show; bringing visitors. Now is the time to get a copy of the new Prize book and see what you have that will be ready for entering. . . If you do not yet have a copy of the new 2011-2012 Prize book, please contact Joyce Marie Smith, Secretary Treasurer (544 7652), or obtain one at the meeting.

MEMBERSHIIP: Membership Chair Virginia is away with her husband, Mike for medical treatment so we have no report. We are very close to the magic number of 100. At the Flower Show, any memberships sold will be for 2013. Now, if we could obtain a few more memberships between now and August 9th, we would reach our target number!

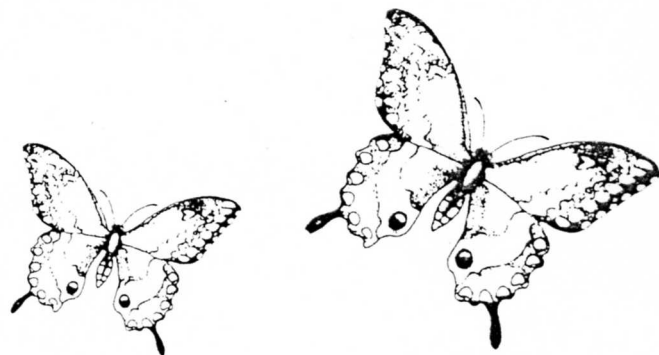
YOUTH GARDENS: There are two

categories: Gr 1-5 and 6 and up. To enter call Mrs. Warner (8916) or Mrs Fisher at 8074

HORTICULTURAL WEEK: Jean Bott reported that posters have been put up around Englehart and Charlton. There are horticultural displays both in Englehart and Charlton-Savard Public Schools. E. Fisher recorded gardening tips at CJBB for use in Horticulture Week and after.

ONTARIO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION in Niagara-on-the-Lake this year, from Friday, August 17th to 19th. Eileen Fisher has been named a delegate and we can still send a second one if you are interested.

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT: Civic planting has been completed. Convenor Carrie Ann Field thanks her co-Convenor Claudette Black for all of her help and also everyone who came out to help with the planting. Bonnie Warner congratulated Carrie Ann on the organization and on a job well-done. The millenium Garden at E.P.S. was weeded on June 21st.



engleharthort.weebly.com Don't forget to check our Society's website, maintained by Rick Heaslip. New items appear periodically.

IN DEFENCE OF LAWNS

“Green spaces, both community and private, may be our most overlooked environmental resource, valuable for air, water and soil. “

(To counter negative publicity about the environmental effects of lawns, an article “Lawn Sale”, published in June 23rd’s Globe and Mail, by Marcus Gee, discusses the many ways in which lawns are valuable and improve our environment. Mr. Gee uses information and quotes from Alan White, owner of Turf Systems Inc and a knowledgeable grass enthusiast. The following piece is written with information from that article.)

We need something in open spaces around our buildings and homes to keep the earth from blowing away and to halt the natural progression from weeds to woody plants to bush (have you looked at a neglected hayfield lately?). Grass just happens to be nature’s best ground cover. Grasses’ most obvious virtue is that it withstands traffic, can be cut over and over again and can still re-vitalize itself, as grass can reproduce without seeds. Grass plants send out rhizomes (horizontal underground stems that produce new shoots) making it able to recover from cutting or traffic, drought or some neglect (not too much).

Besides its environmental criticisms, grass has also been called a “sterile environment”. Anyone intimately familiar with a lawn at lawn level, knows that it harbours every kind of bug—grubs, grasshoppers, mites, earthworms, beetles, not to mention the millions of microbes that feast on the root thatch and grass cuttings. All of these have their place in the great scheme of things.

Then there is the water it needs sometimes. Yes, a lawn is not as important as human hygienic needs, etc., but any water not used by the grass is

filtered into ground water where it eventually joins the underground water table. Grasses’ absorbency means that there is less run-off and more water filtered and re-cycled into the ground water. Again, though, if the lawn is already browning, no amount of water will restore it until the “gentle rain from heaven” falls. It has gone into dormancy and it will emerge again into growth as soon as it has sufficient water (i.e. rain) and cooler weather.

A patch of grass has a cooling effect. Water drawn in by the roots transpires into the air and works something like what happens when humans sweat. A grass patch is about 7 degrees cooler than bare ground and 18 degrees cooler than asphalt. Think for a moment what larger areas of grass could do to a city environment!

Finally, grass sequesters carbon. One study claims that even a lawn given minimal care can absorb as much carbon as an equivalent forested area. If this seems miraculous, think about the fact that grass produces about 6 shoots per square inch, a very dense root system indeed. Now, if on top of having a lawn the owner leaves the cuttings on the lawn, as many are starting to do, the lawns of the U.S. could store 37 billion pounds of carbon a year.

Good soil and top dressing (adding compost or soil every couple of years) give a lawn a good start and Alan White recommends regular fertilizing, as well as watering where permitted. It’s not the lawn that is a problem it’s the herbicides and pesticides that owners put on the lawn, so manage your lawn without these chemicals and don’t worry if there are a few unwanted plants here and there. It’s all green!

PLANTS TO AVOID: (With information from TLC, Summer 1990, an article by Douglas Green, an experienced nurseryman growing over 800 varieties of perennials)

At the top of the all-time hit list is Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria variagata*) a green and white plant, with a three-part leaf. It will spread underground, invading all the good gardens with the quickness of a speeding bullet. As it grows it smothers other, more desirable growth.

Another rampant spreader is Chinese Lantern (*Physalis alkekengi*) Many of us have grown it for its bloom which is useful in fall flower arrangements. It spreads both by seed and by root growth and you will find it all over your garden the second year. It is hard to eliminate but it is your duty to do so or you will soon be growing *Physalis* and nothing else!

The plants *Lysimachia* have become quite popular of late, but they too are of spreading, hard-to-control habit, especially the common yellow-flowered moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*) Every little piece weeded out will root wherever it touches the ground. To prevent its spreading, put the pieces in a plastic bag and send with the garbage. Douglas Green, Simple Gifts Farm Greenhouse, Athens, ON in TLC for Plants

AERATING THE LAWN:

Prevent a host of turf problems by adding this step to your lawn care regimen

What is aeration? Removal of small cores from the lawn with a machine that lifts the cores and deposits them on the lawn.

Why aerate? It improves flow of water, oxygen and nutrients through soil; encourages grass to root more deeply,

promoting healthier growth and greater drought tolerance; controls thatch by increasing the activity of micro-organisms that help in decomposition.

What to Do: Mark the location of any underground sprinklers, hoses, drains that are within 5-6" of the surface

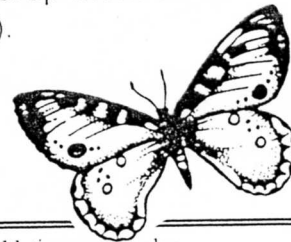
Thoroughly water the lawn, 1 -1 ½" deep, two days before aerating. Plugger can penetrate more deeply and bring out plugs more easily. Use the lawn cutting pattern, moving lengthwise and then crosswise

When finished you can improve the lawn by applying a thin layer of compost or composted manure, raking loosely over the turf to fill in the aeration holes. If it needs it, the lawn can be re-seeded immediately after aerating.

Core aerators are available at tool rental places and at some nurseries. You will need a van or truck to transport the machine, so it is a good idea to ask someone to help you and perhaps split the cost of rental.

TLC for Plants, Summer 1990

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP: It takes a long time to collect enough pine cones to supply a Workshop. So Rosemary Campbell, Convenor, is asking that as you go out and about this summer you pick up Red Pine or Blue Spruce cones and either call her (7537) or drop them off at her house (20 Sixth Ave).



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