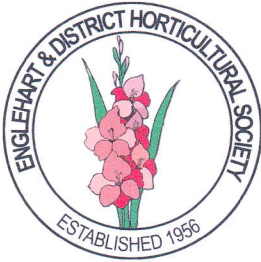




'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
July 2020



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

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

President: Jean. Bott
Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher

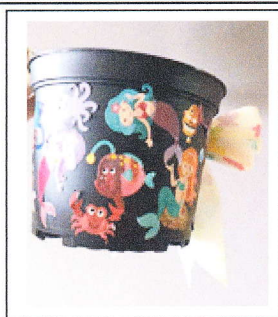
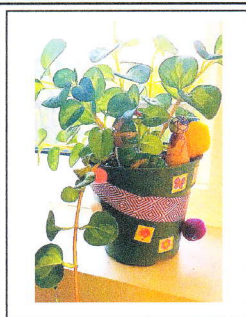
Website:
engleharthort.weebly.com

A Word From The Editor

This has been a difficult time for us as gardeners, as members of the Horticultural Society, and as Canadian citizens. Our lives have been changed and rearranged to keep us safe during the Covid 19 pandemic. We have missed our monthly meetings, our interesting speakers, our annual Plant and Bake Sale, the camaraderie of horticulturalists sharing ideas and experiences. I'm sure that those of you who have gardens have been enjoying them. We can't enjoy close interaction with our friends but we can enjoy talking to them, sharing photos on line, working in our gardens, watching our crops and plants grow and bloom. Fingers crossed!

Horticultural Week

What did you do for Horticultural Week? I hope you had time to spend in a garden...yours or someone else's. The Society was busy, with members participating in a variety of events, all involving social distancing, of course. The photo challenge on our Facebook page was well entered and we saw some fabulous pictures. We also sponsored a competition for children **A:** ages 5 and under **B:** ages 6 to 8 years **C:** ages 9 and up. The challenge for Groups A and B was to decorate an existing plant pot with any material/design they chose. Group C's challenge was to "upcycle" something into a plant pot or container. We had five youngsters enter the contest. Parents sent in photos of the finished works and these were judged and prizes were awarded to the youngsters. Photos are below. Our thanks go to convenor Evelyne Nemcsok for her work this year.



1st: Leona Campbell 2nd: Alistair Charlton 1st: Kyra Shearing 2nd: Rayna Charlton 3rd: Karly Charlton

We were pleased to have 5 children participate in our Horticultural Week Youth Contests. There were two classes -Age 5 and under and Age 9 and up. Leonna Charette placed first in the younger class, with Alistair Charlton coming second. In the second group, Kyra Shearing placed first, Rayna Charlton placed second and Karly Charlton came third. We wish to extend our congratulations to the children and a vote of thanks to their parents who encouraged them. Thanks to all who participated in Horticultural Week.

Gardening Hints

- Take 15 minutes to walk around your gardens looking for trouble. Insect and disease infestations are easier to eradicate when caught early.
- Cut down on watering by drought-proofing terracotta and wooden containers. Line with a plastic garbage bag, cut a drainage hole, plant, then top with two cm of mulch, such as shredded bark.
- Keep grass from growing into garden beds by edging with a 10-15 cm outward slanting edge.
- Save your back- use a wagon or a small tarp to drag heavy articles such as bags of soil amendments flats of plants, etc.

Garden Wisdom

“A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness, it teaches industry and thrift, and above all, it teaches entire trust.”

(Gertrude Jekyll)

“In every gardener there is a child who believes in the Seed Fairy.”

(Robert Breault)



Reports From Your Directors

Horticultural Week: Convenor Evelyne Nemcsok’s reports that to say things were different this year would be an understatement. With the Covid-19 Pandemic and resulting social distancing guidelines and state of emergency rules over gatherings, our usual Horticultural Week activities were put off this year, and the focus was put on remaining active and creative in our gardens, and sharing as much as possible with each other on social media, through the Society Facebook page. Our daily photo challenge that we started doing two years ago, and had minimal success and engagement with, ended up being our main event this year. Our members were engaged, encouraging and welcoming. We even had a contest for the kids! I think the daily photo challenge that got the most love was the upcycle- and perhaps the beverage to celebrate the week the most satisfying. Thank you to all who participated - keep growing stuff! (It was great seeing the responses to Evelyn’s photo challenge on our Facebook. EF)

Civic Improvement: Convenor Mary Schippers reports that the beds we plant in town are doing well. If you happen to be near one of our beds and see some weeds, please feel free to help Mary out by pulling them! Thanks again to Mary and Bruce Wilson for their work on this committee.

Youth Garden Competition: We are hoping for a great contest this year, with entrants in the JK-SK class, Grades 1-3, 4-6, and Grade 7 and above. Please don’t forget to remind any children you know who have a garden that they must let Bonnie or me know that they want to be judged in August. When most other children’s social activities are shut down, what a wonderful time it is for a child to be gardening

Facebook: We now have 444 people using our Facebook page for information and sharing ideas. It has been very well used since the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic. People seem to be enjoying gardening and use our page to ask questions, share photos, and give advice. If you want to join the page, just go to the Englehart and District Horticultural Society page on Facebook and ask to join the page.

Website: Webmaster Rick Heaslip reports that he has been keeping the website up to date and has been posting all the latest information and photos that have been sent to him. Check it out to help you keep in touch with other like-minded people.

Going Green

Insecticidal Soap

Back in November I included a short article about using insecticidal soap to fight pests on our plants. I would like to continue this month with some information on how to make your own insecticidal soap. There are several ways to do this. The choice depends on the ingredients on hand and the extent to which one wants to use natural ingredients, i.e. those without perfumes or dyes. To make insecticidal soap, simply mix the following horticultural soap recipe ingredients carefully:

Combine one cup of oil, any variety, such as vegetable, peanut, corn, soybean, etc. with one tablespoon of dishwashing liquid or other “pure” soap. Be sure to avoid any dish washing liquids which contain degreaser, bleach, or those that are for an automatic dishwasher. Mix two teaspoons of this “soap” mixture to every cup of warm water and put into a spray bottle. Tap water is okay to use, but if you have hard water you may want to substitute bottled water to avoid any soap scum buildup on foliage. Mix only what is needed for a one-day application.

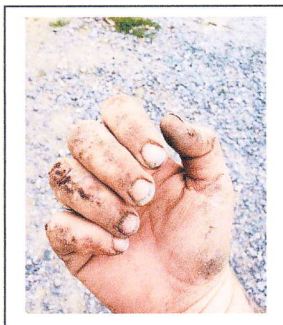
Alternate Horticultural Soap Recipe: Homemade horticultural sprays can also be made using a natural soap product without synthetic additives or perfumes, which can be found in local natural food stores. Combine one heavy tablespoon of liquid soap to one quart of warm water. To either of these soapy concoctions, a teaspoon of ground red pepper or garlic may be added to further repel chewing insects. Also, a teaspoon of cider vinegar may be added to assist in the removal of powdery mildew. Bar soap may also be used in a pinch by placing into a gallon of water and leaving to sit overnight. Remove the bar and shake well before use. There are few limitations to horticultural soaps. Just be sure to thoroughly wet the insects, and be aware that effectiveness may be limited if the soap solution dries or washes away. Phytotoxicity may occur if applied during hot days, so avoid spraying if temperatures are over 32 C.

Before using any homemade mix: It should be noted that anytime you use a home mix, you should always test it out on a small portion of the plant first to make sure that it will not harm the plant. Also, avoid using any bleach-based soaps or detergents on plants since this can be harmful to them. In addition, it is important that a home mixture never be applied to any plant on a hot or brightly sunny day, as this will quickly lead to burning of the plant and its ultimate demise. (borrowed from Gardening Knowhow)

Pictures from Horticultural Week



Garden Creature



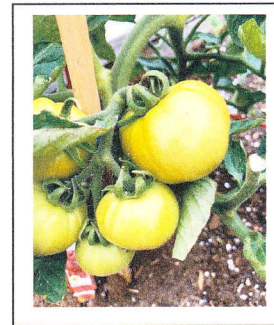
Garden Hands



A Bouquet



A Nice Beverage



Homegrown Edible

in your Favourite Green Space

The above photos are by Catherine Hanson, Ashley Fehr, Dorothy de Champlain, Jessica Marie, and Lois Kozak, Many thanks to all who participated in our Horticultural Week Photo Challenge and special thanks to the convenor, Evelyne Nemcsok.

Plant of the Month

Portulaca

Portulaca is a brightly coloured low growing annual that can spread up to 24". Portulaca prefers full sun, and will tolerate moist to dry soil. It is an annual plant in our area and is lovely in a hanging basket as it will spill over the edges. Moss rose plants make good companions for flowers that also thrive in hot, dry, sunny gardens. Gomphrena flowers, zinnias, and dusty miller are very pretty when planted with a moss rose border. Portulaca is also good for filling in gaps left in the garden after spring bulbs have finished blooming and their foliage is withering and turning brown. It will bloom from early summer until the frost kills it. There are single and double varieties and some even have a pompom in the centre. They will bloom for months but become leggy after a while. However, they benefit from a pruning and form new flowers to continue blooming into fall.



The Benefits of Gardening with Children

We know that being outside in the fresh air has health benefits and we know that planting flowers is therapeutic for adults. Both fresh air and planting flowers are even better for children. Young people learn best when engaging all their senses. When they are gardening, they can touch and feel the dirt, seeds and flowers, see the variance of colors and varied sizes of the plants, feel the smoothness or roughness of a flower or vegetable, smell the amazing scents of the flowers. Allowing all the senses to be involved helps young people understand and grasp the concept of gardening, as well as the math and scientific concepts that go along with it...counting, measuring, weighing, etc. One of the best lessons a child can learn from gardening is patience. Plants don't grow and mature overnight. It takes time to germinate, to grow roots and leaves, to produce flowers/fruit/seeds, and the anticipation of these activities helps a child develop patience. Eating healthy food is vital for brain and body development but it can be hard to get kids to eat those fruits and veggies. This is where pride comes into the picture- by growing their own potatoes, strawberries, and carrots, children will take ownership and feel pride in their work. This will also help them understand the benefits of healthy eating. Fine and gross motor skill development is aided by gardening activities. Pouring dirt into pots, sorting and planting the seeds into the earth, carrying and pouring water onto their plants all take and improve both fine motor control and strength. Cooperation can also be developed through gardening. Taking turns watering, sharing gardening chores, deciding what crops to grow, etc., can all help develop a sense of fellowship. (to be continued)



Poetry and Prose

An Afternoon in July

How hushed and still are
earth and air,
How languid 'neath the sun's
fierce ray—
Drooping and faint—the
flowerets fair,
On this hot, sultry,
summer day!
Vainly I watch the
streamlet blue
That near my cottage home
doth pass,
No ripple stirs its azure hue,
Still waveless,
as a sheet of glass
R. E. Leprohon

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