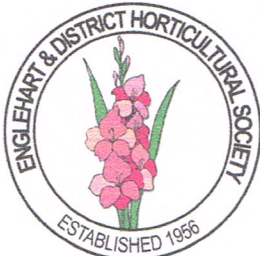




'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
July 2014



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

General meetings:

3rd Wednesday of most
months at 7:00 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:
engleharthort.weebly.com

Healthy Soil

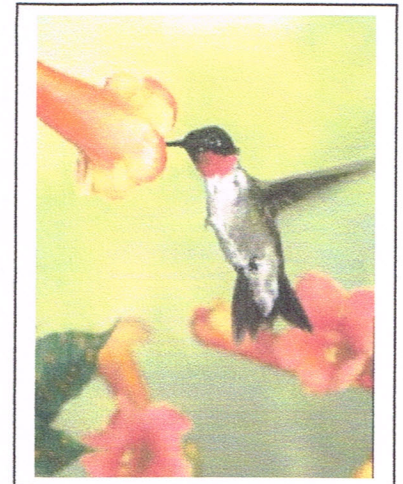
Last month we started learning about the importance of healthy garden soil. Chemically speaking- there are three macronutrients which most plants need: **nitrogen**, **phosphorous**, and **potassium**. Nitrogen is what makes plants green and encourages growth of leaves and stems. Yellowing of leaves or grass blades often indicates a nitrogen deficiency. If you overdo it on nitrogen, your plants will be huge and lush but not very strong, as that rapid growth is more susceptible to diseases, insects, and frost damage. The numbers on a bag or box of fertilizer- ie- 20-10-10 means that 20% of the fertilizer is made up of nitrogen while the other two nutrients account for 10% each. Natural sources of nitrogen include blood meal, fish emulsion, manure, and crops which you plant and till into the soil, such as alfalfa. Avoid using nitrogen close to fall as it encourages soft green growth before winter. We'll talk about phosphorous and potassium in a later bulletin.

Mark It On Your Calendar

July 16 : Summer BBQ **6:00 p.m**
July 18-20: OHA Annual Convention in Cornwall
August 12, 13: Kirkland Lake Society Flower Show
August 19: Set up at Holy Family School for Festival of Flowers
August 21, 22: Festival of Flowers at Holy Family School

Hilliardton Marsh

Although the Hilliardton Hummingbird Garden is not an activity sponsored by the Horticultural Society, several of our members are involved with this worthy project. Deb Murray, one of our Directors, has been in charge of planning and building the garden, with help from Eileen Fisher. This garden will show visitors to the Marsh concrete examples of what plants are attractive to hummingbirds. Anybody interested in learning more about this project should call Deb Murray (of Haileybury) or Eileen Fisher for information. There was a bee on Saturday, July 5th, with several garden areas being worked on. This is an ongoing project and will be a work in progress for several years. Donations of plants, labour, etc. are more than welcome. Stay tuned for a report on its progress next month. Check out the Hilliardton Marsh website or the Marsh's Facebook page for updates as they happen.





Handy Hints and Tips for the Gardener

Here are a couple of hints to help make your gardening life easier:

1. Always looking for your clippers? Can't find your string, name tags, marker? Get yourself a carpenter's apron and keep it filled with all the little gardening necessities. Keep it handy to put on when you head out into the garden.

2. If you use a water filter (as in the photo), when it's finished, allow it to dry and unwind the rope or string to use in your garden- to tie up plants, etc. (Thanks, Annette Deacon for the great recycling idea.)

3. Drop a bar of soap into the toe of a nylon knee high or panty hose leg and hang it near your garden hose. This will save you running into the house to clean up between garden jobs. (Thanks to 'Great Gardening Gizmos' for hints 1 and 3.)

OHA/District 12 News

If you plan to be in the Cornwall area around July 18-20, you should consider taking in some of the OHA convention this year. There are some wonderful speakers and demonstrations planned as well as the business and reports of the Association to be dealt with. Check it out on line at gardenontario.org. In District 12 news- don't forget to log on to the District 12 website that Rick Heaslip has established, which features information important to all of the societies from Englehart to Kapuskasing. The address is: district12hort.weebly.com

Reports from Your Directors

Horticultural Week: Len and Eileen Fisher set up displays in the Library, the Museum, and Northern Variety's window advertising the week, and visited both elementary schools to do some planting with the grade 3 classes. Eileen recorded an interview about our club on CJBB and also recorded new gardening hints which were featured during Horticultural Week and will continue to be played throughout the summer. Civic planting on the 14th rounded out our Horticultural Week activities. Thanks to Aidie Creek Gardens for donating the boxes of pansies.

Civic Improvement: Convenor Carrie Anne Field was a well-organized convenor and so the civic planting went very quickly. About 14 members brought their trowels (Alexia Heaslip brought her whole set of tools and a handy watering can) and we were done before we knew it. We headed to the Wilson's where Twyla had prepared a lovely lunch for us to enjoy. After eating, the society presented Joe Muething and Kathy Martin with a gift as a token of our appreciation for all the years of work they have done for the society. *****Anyone who is willing to help weed or water our civic gardens or boxes, please call Carrie Anne Field.*****

Festival of Flowers: Just over a month left until the big show, and the convenors hope that everyone's gardens and houseplants are happy and healthy and longing to have a chance to shine in the show. Time to check your show schedule (if you haven't got one, please call Bonnie Warner), and start looking at the possible entries in your garden. Remember, Bonnie also has copies of the Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards handbook, with all kinds of helpful ideas to help you impress the judges. We'll also be looking for help setting up for the show on Tuesday, August 19. Please meet us at Holy Family School at 1:00 p.m. If you can help bring tables, etc. to the school, please meet us at the garage behind Ace hardware at 10:00 am. We will also need help getting the tables from EHS that morning. If you have a truck or trailer and/or are willing to help us out, please give Eileen Fisher, Bonnie Warner, or Rick Heaslip a call.

Programme: The meeting this month is our annual Summer Barbeque at the home of Carrie Anne Field on the corner of First St. and 6th Ave., at **6:00 pm**. Bring along a salad or dessert, a lawn chair and utensils. We supply the beverages, burgers, hotdogs and condiments. Bonnie will have entry tags for the flower show and possibly judging handbooks. Don't forget that this evening will also feature a fun auction of donations from the Directors and Executive of the Society, and from anyone else who wishes to donate something. We'll have everything from soup to nuts, so bring along a little bit of money to bid on something you just must have! Guests are very welcome. Hope to see you there!

Social: Convenor Mary Skippers reminds us that Jean Bott brings the gift in July for the draw and Mary herself will be the hostess.

Website: Rick reports that we had 1406 visitors to the site in June, up over 700 from last year, and have had 7100 visitors to date for 2014.

Membership: Convenor Ginny Montminy reports that we have 88 members.

Here are a few pictures of June's Civic Improvement and Horticultural Week activities.



Alexia and Bonnie in Centennial Park.



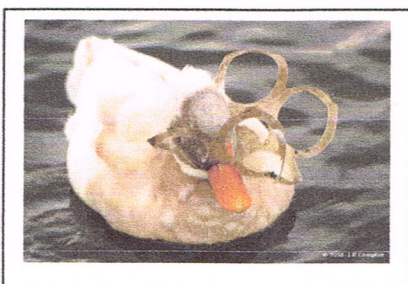
Kathy and Joe's last Civic Planting.



Grade 3 students at EPS and Holy Family planted pansies.

Festival of Flowers Hint #7: When showing fruits/vegetables, Charlie Warner always says a judge looks for what he or she would like to eat or serve at their table. When showing multiples, such as raspberries, bean, or peas, uniformity is very important. It is better to have 5 or 6 well matched specimens than some big and some small beans. Beets and carrots can be carefully washed, not scrubbed. Brush potatoes carefully with a soft cloth, and try to handle peas as little as possible, to retain the 'bloom' on the pod.

I used the term '**herbaceous perennial**' in the June bulletin to describe Lady's Mantle. A herbaceous perennial is one which dies to the ground in fall, remains dormant under the ground through the winter, and grows from its roots in the spring. Delphiniums, bleeding heart, and oriental poppies are herbaceous. Roses, tree peonies, and climbing honeysuckle are examples of **woody perennials**.



Going Green

Please Be Kind

I'd like to ask a favour of all of you reading this bulletin, and also ask that you pass this request on to your friends and family. When you discard the plastic rings that come around groups of cans that we buy, please just take a few seconds to cut each and every ring, even the little ones in the centre. It only takes a bit of time but can save our wildlife, even our pets, a brief lifetime of pain and suffering.

Plant of the Month

Echinops or Globe Thistle

This is a plant that should be in every perennial garden. It produces beautiful globes, which are usually a pale to a deeper blue colour, in midsummer. There are also several white varieties. The balls are actually made up of hundreds of small individual blooms. The flowers are loved by insects, especially butterflies and bees, and dry naturally in the garden, leaving spiky blue globes which are great for dried floral designs. Pick as soon as the tiny blossoms drop if you want to use them in dried arrangements or leave them to enjoy for weeks in the garden. This tall plant (1-1.5 m) loves the sun, is fairly drought resistant, and is easy to grow. The leaves are fairly large and jagged, and are usually a green-blue colour. Echinops always draws a lot of attention, both in the garden and in a floral design. It is easily divided, preferably in the spring or early fall.



A Word from the Editor - Gardening Trends

Every year a new trend in gardening appears on the scene... white gardens, vertical gardens, using only native plant, etc. A few years ago it was all lime green and dark purple, which looked very nice in small splashes. Recently, one magazine apparently listed composting as a 'coming trend'! Now, we all love to look through gardening magazines, seed catalogues, even websites to learn what's new in the floral world. I know I do. But, when it comes right down to it, we need to grow what we like, what likes us (or rather what we do for it), and what is reasonable for our zone (which, by the way is officially 2b, but with the changes in our climate, really zone 3, and many of us grow plants slated for zone 4, even 5 with a lot of mulching and good luck).

If you're planning on keeping up with the latest trends, good luck. Many of them are not applicable in the north; some 'in' plants will not be suited to your soil or may need more sun or shade than you can provide; some are expensive; and some of them are downright silly (whoops- in my opinion). I say grow what **you** like, what looks good in **your** yard, and what makes your neighbours happy. Never forget that your neighbours may not appreciate a new tree overhanging the fence, or your small patch of goutweed which has the potential to take over their yard.

Poetry and Prose

The Mystery of Life

Working in the garden gives
me a profound feeling of inner peace.
Nothing here is in a hurry. There is
no rush toward accomplishment.
no blowing of trumpets. Here is the
great mystery of life and growth.
Everything is changing, growing,
aiming at something, but silently,
unboastfully, taking its time.

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