



'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
March 2016



Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.

General meetings:
3rd Wednesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church basement

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

President:
Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher
Website:
engleharthort.weebly.com

Canadian Seed companies (continued)

Last month I listed 12 Canadian seed companies and their email addresses. Here are a few more to take a look at:

<i>Richter's Herbs</i> (herbs)	catalogue@richters.com
<i>Saltspring Seeds</i> (heirloom seeds)	saltspringseeds.com
<i>Seeds of Victoria</i> (organic heirloom vegetables)	earthfuture.com
<i>Soggy Creek Seed Co.</i> (in Nipissing Village, N. Ontario!)	soggycreek.com
<i>Solana Seeds</i> (heirlooms/rare/unusual seeds)	solanaseeds.netfirms.com
<i>Stellar Seeds</i> (unusual vegetables)	stellarseeds.com
<i>Two Wings Farm Seed</i> (organic heirloom vegies)	twowingsfarm.com
<i>Upper Canada Seeds</i> (heirloom tomatoes)	uppercanadaseeds.ca
<i>Urban Harvest Garden Alternatives</i> (organics)	uharvest.ca
<i>Wildflower Farm</i> (wildflowers/grass seed)	wildflowerfarm.com
<i>Yuko Horiuchi</i> (organic open-pollinated/Japanese natives)	yuko.ca

Mark It On Your Calendar:

March 16: General Meeting
March 17: St. Patrick's Day
April 30: District 12 Annual Meeting

Houseplant hint: after boiling eggs, let the water cool and water your houseplants with this nutrient-rich water. They also like a drink of soda water once a week.



Special Events for 2016 (mark them on your calendar)

Plant and Bake Sale: May 21	Horticultural Week: June 11-18
Festival of Flowers: August 18-19	District 12 Planning Meeting: September 24
Awards' Night: October 19	Christmas Workshop: November 30

Looking Back: 1975

Once again, in keeping with our 60th anniversary as a Horticultural Society, we're looking back. The accompanying write-up says: "The new executive at last week's Annual Meeting of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society from left: Mrs. Marie Armstrong- 2nd Vice President; Mrs. Dorene Stark- Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Jean Wallace- President; Mr. Lloyd Briggs- Past President; Mrs. Gwen Colquhoun- 1st vice President.

Englehart Horticultural Society elects executives



District 12 News

On Saturday, April 30, our Society will be once again be hosting the District 12 Annual Meeting. As we had a 'dry run' last year, we should be able to do an even better job this year. A committee is working on plans already. We will be looking for help with kitchen duties, decorating, competitions, silent auction, door prizes, setup/take down, etc. Please call Eileen Fisher if you can help. I have included the list of classes for the competitions which you can enter at the District Meeting. Take a look and see what you have available as houseplants or what you may like to write or paint or perhaps enter a floral design (you may purchase flowers for this) The picture to the right shows last year's OHA President, Jeff Blackadar, and our own Bonnie Warner at the 2015 meeting..



Death is Colder Than Winter

*It is with frozen heart and hand
that I start this poem
The frozen wasteland in my head
now for thoughts of mine alone
Although the land is frozen too
in winter's cloak of gloom
My head, my heart, my every breath
shall not be unthawed soon
My only hope of inner peace
rests in a ground so hardened
The only solace I shall find
is in my neighbour's garden.*

Rosemary Campbell



Reports from Your Directors:

Programme: Convenor Carrie Anne reports that our speakers this month will be Lois and Don Dekker, speaking on their adventures: 'Tales from Chile and Other Places They Have Lived.' This sounds so interesting!

Social: Convenor Mary Schippers reminds Claudette Black that she is the hostess for this month and Ginny Montminy brings the gift for the free draw. Don't forget to bring something small for the shared snack.

Membership: Ginny Montminy, Membership convenor, reports that we have 48 members to date. *If you have not renewed your membership, this will be your last bulletin.*

Website/Facebook: Don't forget to keep up with Society activities and news by checking out both the website and our Facebook Page. Rick Heaslip reports that 348 people visited the site in February. Take a look at all the updates Rick has made to the site. We have 53 members on the Facebook Page, who regularly read and post articles and news on our page. You don't have to join the page to use it for information or just to enjoy the articles and pictures but you must in order to post or to ask questions/make comments. All you have to do is click on the 'Join' box and Rick or I will ok you.

Plant and Bake Sale: Jean Bott reminds members that the Plant and Bake sale will be on Saturday, May 21, with set up on Friday.

Creating Biodiversity in Our Yards

(with help from Mark Cullen)

The word 'biodiversity' comes from '**biological diversity**' and is defined as "the term given to the variety of life on Earth. It is the variety within and between all species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems within which they live and interact." Biodiversity in your yard is represented by the range of naturally occurring plant, animal and insect life that exists in it. There is a lot we can do to increase biodiversity, or the range of life in our yards.

Plant intensively. However small your yard or balcony, do not underestimate the impact you can have on the beneficial insect life in your neighbourhood by planting flowering plants. The longer each plant produces a flower and the more of them, the better. If you have a minimum of six hours of sunshine in your garden, you are in luck. The variety of plants available for you to grow is greater. If you are dealing with shade, you also have opportunities to plant flowering plants galore, but you will need to be more thoughtful about your plan. In either case, place your plants densely to attract the maximum number of pollinators.

Extend the Season: Here in zone 2, our spring comes late. But, there are plants that start blooming early, such as pulmonaria, wild flowers, and spring bulbs which provide pollen and nectar for early returning birds and awakening insects. The summer looks after itself, but make sure you also have a variety of plants which bloom into the fall and provide nutrition for migrating birds and insects, and amphibians preparing to hibernate. Plants for late summer-fall include cimicifuga, rudbeckia, heliopsis, Joe Pye weed, asters, mums, sedum, helianthus, turtlehead (chelone), and late monkshood, to name a few.

.....*Watch for more ideas next month.....*

Crop Rotation Part III (continued from February)

What Crops to Rotate?

How do you know what crops to rotate? Your garden needs a balance of soil improvers, heavy feeders, and light feeders. It also needs to have a diversity of plants so that you can rotate crops easily and so that you don't attract the same pests to all of the crops in the garden. What do you plan to have in your garden? The following may help you decide:

- Onions, garlic, grains, eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, and squash are heavy feeders in the garden. If you plant these, you need to have compost-rich soil and augment it regularly. These crops will exhaust the soil if they are not rotated through the garden beds.
- Radishes, turnips, beets, chard, carrots, and dill are all lighter feeders. You don't need to worry as much about depleting the soil with these crops, although some crops like carrots attract pests and should be moved regularly.
- Peas, beans, mint, basil, and sage all improve the soil. Legumes are especially good for the soil and need to be integrated into garden plots to add nitrogen, even if you are not planning to eat the produce.

A Plan for Crop Rotation

Crop rotation is often done in a three to four-year plan. That's long enough to complete a rotation that replenishes the soil. *(to be continued next month...)*

Plant of the Month

The Hoya (also called Wax Plant or Hindu Rope) makes a good houseplant. They like good light, but not full sun. A well-lit north window is fine. Its fleshy leaves are attractive (some varieties are actually curly) and its clusters of pinky-white waxy flowers are very sweet smelling. It grows as a vine and prefers to hang. A moist, well-drained soil is preferable in the growing months, but leave it a bit drier in the winter. Regular home temperatures are fine for this plant. The only thing it is really fussy about is that most people find it does not bloom well if it is moved. It likes some humidity but don't spray it when it is setting buds. The hoyia should be fertilized 3-4 times during its growing season with a balanced fertilizer (ie. 20-20-20).



Our 12th President: Dorene Bryan Stark, ~1983-84

Dorene followed in her mother's and father's foot-steps and became president of our Society in 1983-84, after having served several terms as Secretary. Dorene was a very organized President, and was dedicated to the Society. She enjoyed flower arranging and demonstrated this skill both as a speaker at meetings and in flower shows. She also attended OHA conventions as our delegate and participated in District 12 activities.



Poetry and Prose

St. Patrick's Day is here, you see.
We'll pick some shamrocks,
one, two, three.
We'll count the leaves and look
them over,
And maybe find a four-leafed
clover.
I'll sew green buttons on my vest,
Green for St. Patrick is the best.
I'll wear a green hat, very high,
And dance a jig - at least I'll try!



Long-time members of our Society, Kathy Martin and Joe Muething, were awarded with our Society's greatest honour, the Life Membership Award, given to long-serving and deserving members who have gone above and beyond simple

membership. We were fortunate to have enjoyed a great relationship with these two horticulturalists, and although we hated to see them go, we wish them well in their new homes and know they will enjoy gardening in Nova Scotia. Congratulation, Kathy and Joe! We miss you.

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DISTRICT 12 ANNUAL MEETING

April 30, 2016

Theme: "Celebrating Our Diamond Journey"

Prize Money in Adult Classes: 1st \$5.00 2nd \$4.00 3rd \$3.00

Design Competitions

Please note: **TWO** entries per person are allowed in each class.

Staging and accessories are permitted. can be fresh and/or dried plant materials, no artificial flowers/greenery

CLASS 1: "Celebrating Our Journey"

An interpretive design

CLASS 2: "Stand Proud"

A one bloom design

CLASS 3: "A Glance Back, A Look Forward"

A bridged design (see definition in the Judging Standards)

CLASS 4: "Diamond Dust"

A miniature design, max. size 5" (12.7 cm) in any direction

CLASS 5: "Woodland Journey"

A landscape design

For definition of terms, please refer to Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (Pub. # 34)

Photographic Print Competition

Please note: **TWO** entries per person are allowed in each class.

*Photos must not have been shown before in this competition.

* Entries must not be framed.

*Entries must be **COLOUR PRINTS**, size 4" x 6"(10.2 x 15.2 cm); mounts must not exceed 6" x 8" (15.2 x 20.3 cm)

CLASS 1: "Crystal Wonder"

A photo featuring ice or icicles in the landscape.

CLASS 2: "The Best Is Yet To Come"

Photo of a flower or flowers

CLASS 3: "The Future of Horticulture"

Photo of child/ children involved with horticulture

CLASS 4: "Celebration"

A Society event.

CLASS 5: "Feathered Friends"

Photo of a bird or birds

Creative Writing Competition

Please note: **ONE** entry per person is allowed in each class.

Class 1: "A Day in My Garden"

A garden diary entry, written in rhyming couplets, no more than 20 lines

Class 2: "A Gardening Journey"

A story, 500-600 words.

Potted Plants Competition

Please note: TWO entries per person are allowed in each class.

- CLASS 1:** African Violet, single crown, in bloom
- CLASS 2:** Plant grown principally for foliage
- CLASS 3:** Unusual plant, not commonly seen
- CLASS 4:** Plant grown principally for bloom (no African violets or orchids)
- CLASS 5:** Orchid, 1 plant in container
- CLASS 6:** Cactus, clumping, columnar or solitary growth habit
- CLASS 7:** Any other succulent, other than cactus

Publications Competition

Please note: All entries must be exhibited as they would be distributed to your members or the public.

One entry per Society is allowed in each class.

- CLASS 1:** "2015 or 2016 Special Event Poster"
- CLASS 2:** "2015 or 2016 Special Event Brochure/ Pamphlet or Flyer"
Folded or unfolded
- CLASS 3:** "Society Brochure/ Pamphlet or Flyer"
Folded or unfolded
- CLASS 4:** "2015 or 2016 Society Newsletter" -see note above
- CLASS 5:** "Society Show Schedule"
- CLASS 6:** "Society Bookmark"

Art Competitions

Please note: TWO entries per person are allowed in each class

- CLASS 1:** "Looking Back" -a painting representing days gone by- acrylic or oil
- CLASS 2:** "Northern Beauty"- a watercolour painting
- CLASS 3:** "Garden Gem (s)"- a collage
- CLASS 4:** "Forever Yours"- a design using pressed plant materials
- CLASS 5:** "Greetings From The Garden" - a greeting card, any medium

Youth Competitions

Please note: **One entry per child is allowed in each class.**

Classes will be grouped for judging in three different age groups.

The age groups will be: 6-8 years 9-11 years 12 years and older

Please put the child's age on the top of the entry tag.

Prize money for Youth Classes:

1st \$5.00 2nd \$4.00 3rd \$3.00 4th \$2.00 5th \$1.00

- CLASS 1:** "Greetings From The Garden- A greeting card, any medium
- CLASS 2:** "My Special Garden"- Create a collage depicting a garden scene, any medium