



'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
May 2018



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: R. Campbell
Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher

Website:
engleharthort.weebly.com

May's Programme

Road Trip!

This month's meeting is going to be a great one (mind you, they are all great!) as we will be taking a short road trip. It'll be a follow up to last month's demo by Carrie Anne ... only this time, we'll be taking a trip out to Aidie Creek Gardens to see what's new in horticulture this year. We had a great time doing the same thing in the past and it will be just as much fun this year. Thanks to our own Carrie Anne Field for being 'the boss' of this meeting, as she's the 'woman in the know'. If you're interested in carpooling, meet at the Presbyterian Church at 6:30 and we'll head out from there. Bring along a pot, 18" or under. ACG will be supplying the soil and the expertise. Carrie Anne will be helping us find material for our pots. With regards to our shared snack, if the weather is good, bring your snack to share at the Creek. If it's too cool or miserable, we won't bother with snacks but will still plant our pots.



Mark It On Your Calendar

May 16: General Meeting (6:30 at Presbyterian Church)

May 18: Set up - Legion Hall 1:00 p.m.

May 19: Plant and Bake Sale in Legion Hall

June 10-16 : Horticultural Week and Civic Planting

Planting For Shade

Many of us think sun-loving plants when we think of gardening. However, there is always shade somewhere on a property- the north side of a building, under a tree, beside a fence, etc. I've put together a list of plants that you might like to consider planting in a shady area. These plants can take varying degrees of light, some actually preferring sun for part of the day. (continued on page 3)

Annuals

Ground Cover

Perennials

Browallia	Torenia	Ajuga	Hellebore	Virginia Bluebells
Coleus	Perilla	Vinca	Solomon Seal	Ladies' Mantle
Impatiens	Sweet Potato	Canadian Ginger	Bleeding Heart	Heuchera
Begonias	Mimulus	Lily of the Valley	Brunnera	Heucherella
Alyssum	Nemophilla	Lamium	Epimedium	Hostas

The Plant and Bake Sale

Convenors Jean Bott and Barb Curran report that plans are finalizing well. This is our major fundraising event of the year and we count on members supplying plant material and baking to sell. Perennials are the backbone of the sale but we are also looking for any annuals that you may have started from seed, fruit and vegetables, such as rhubarb, raspberries, tomato plants, any seedlings, such as cabbage, etc. Got extra seed potatoes, any houseplants you don't want any more, a shrub you remember that you were thinking of dividing or getting rid of last year? We'll take them! Jean and Barb ask that plants be named, preferably in permanent marker that won't wash off. If you don't know the name- a description would help. Pots, plastic bags, even small boxes, such as pop flats that will hold plants are welcome. We also are looking for things to use as plant tags, such as old mini blinds, popsicle sticks, etc. Also helpful is information about the plant-size, sun/shade/ colour of blooms, etc. Please contact Jean to let her know if you can help at the sale. We also count on our members to spread the word to friends and neighbours. Please bring everything to the **Legion Hall on Friday, May 18 at 1:00**. Perhaps you could stay for a while and help us set up.

District 12 News

Four people from our Society attended the District 12 Annual Meeting in Timmins this April. Our delegate, Carol Tucker (Barb Curran was unable to attend due to weather) represented our club, and past District Directors Bonnie Warner and Eileen Fisher also attended. Business, which was carried out in the a.m., included elections, reports from various committees, and plans for the 2019 Annual Meeting. In the p.m. we enjoyed presentations by Katrina Pelchet on Spiral Gardens, by Harri Ollila on 'Reclaiming the Land', and Vicki Lodovici demonstrated how to make a spring bouquet. Anne Jamieson was acclaimed as our District Director, Peggy MacIntyre of KL will be First Assistant Director, and Billie Rheault of Porcupine will be Second Assistant. Kathy Buller returns as Secretary-Treasurer, Ginny Montminy and Amy Vickery-Menard will be the Bursary co-chairs, Rick Heaslip will continue as Webmaster, and I will continue as Nominating Committee chair. The Timmins Society did a great job and made us feel very welcome. Check out the webpage and Facebook page for photos.

Reports from Your Directors:

Social: A reminder to Claudette Black that she is the hostess for the meeting this month and also brings the gift for the free draw.

Horticultural Week: Convenors Evelyne Nemcsok and Kelly Brownlee report that plans are underway for activities for this week. There will be displays in town, hints on CJBB, activities with school children, and more. Check out our webpage and Facebook page for more information. Civic planting will also take place during Horticultural Week.

Website/Facebook: We currently have 194 people enjoying our Facebook page. Rick Heaslip reports that 353 people viewed the website last month and he has updated it with pictures from the District 12 Annual Meeting. Don't forget to check these two out.

Youth Garden Competitions: This is the month for members to encourage the youth in our communities to plant a garden. It doesn't have to be a large garden; in fact, it can be part of an adult's garden, as long as it is separated somehow and has been planted and cared for by the child. It could be vegetables, flowers, or a combination of both. Information about this programme will be taken to the schools, is on the website and Facebook page, can be found at the Englehart Library, or is available from me.

Garden Myth

Wood Chips Rob the Soil of Nitrogen?

You may be familiar with the brown and green ratio suggested for composts. The reason for this ratio is that microbes need a certain amount of carbon (from brown material) and nitrogen (from green material) to prosper. If either one is deficient, the organisms have trouble growing. If you try to compost only brown material, like wood chips, the bacteria have trouble breaking down the wood because it lacks enough nitrogen. When wood mulch sits on the soil, the bacteria from the soil try to decompose the wood, but they don't have enough nitrogen. To solve this problem, they take nitrogen from the soil. But plants growing in the soil also need the nitrogen. For a long time, it was thought that the bacteria robbed the soil of nitrogen to break down the wood, which would prevent plants from growing properly.

More recent research has shown that bacteria do take nitrogen from the soil, but they only take it from the top 1/4 inch. This makes sense since bacteria are microscopic, and they have no way to reach farther into the soil to get nitrogen. The removal of nitrogen from the surface of the soil might affect germinating seeds, but it does not harm established plants because their roots are located deeper in the soil. A mulch of wood chips on soil is one of the best things you can do for your garden. It does not rob nitrogen away from plants. (Written by Robert Pavlis, author of two books, *Garden Myths* and *Building Natural Ponds*.)

Planting For shade (cont. from page 1)

Perennials (Continued from page 1)

Meadow Rue	Spurge	Rodgersia
Coral Bells	Various fern varieties	Aquilegia
Tiarella	Violets	Jacob's Ladder
Pulmonaria	Ligularia	Coral Bells
Astilbe	Epimedium	Jack in the Pulpit
Primula (primrose)	Jacob's Ladder	

Many of the plants listed on this chart will also do fine in some sun but all will do well in partial shade, some even better in mainly shady areas.

A Favourite Fruit/Vegetable: The Tomato (cont. from April)

Problems: Like many fruits and vegetables, tomatoes can succumb to a number of diseases over the growing season. Take preventative action by selecting varieties that are resistant to commonly occurring diseases in your area, and ensuring the right growing conditions. Keep your eyes open for late blight, the disease that every tomato grower dreads, as it strikes during periods of warm, wet weather. Caused by a fungus (*Phytophthora infestans*), blight can destroy plants in as little as a week. The spores are carried up to 30 miles on the wind, so the only real way of avoiding blight is to either grow tomatoes under cover, or to select one of the new blight-resistant varieties. Alternatively, grow fast-maturing tomatoes, such as cherry tomatoes, which can give a harvest before the threat of blight arrives. Destroy any plants infected by blight quickly.



Plant of the Month

Brunnera

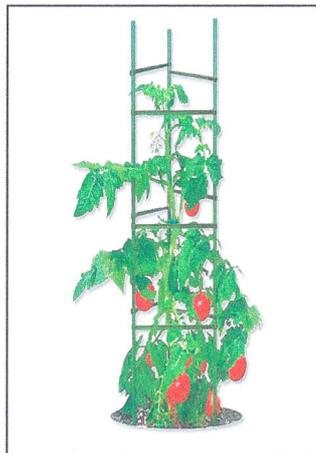
Also known as Siberian Bugloss and False Forget-me-not, this lovely shade plant with long-lasting sprays of bright blue flowers, is very low maintenance. The variegated varieties are a bit slower than the plain green to fill out, but provide interest and color all season. It is a slow-spreading, clump-forming perennial. The leaves are heart-shaped and the 5-petaled, blue flowers are held above the foliage. They range from pastel to electric blue, often with a yellow center. As their common name implies, the flowers bear a resemblance to forget-me-nots. They can grow in sun but prefer partial shade (and they're one of my favourite plants).



A Favourite Fruit/Vegetable: The Tomato

(cont. from April)

Planting Out: Tomatoes will first need acclimatizing to outside conditions to avoid shock. 'Harden' them off over a period of two weeks. Begin by leaving plants outside for just a couple of hours a day then gradually increase the length of time they spend outside, avoiding strong winds. (When I put any of my plants started in the house outdoors, I place them in a shady spot on the first day, gradually increasing the amount of direct sunlight daily). Bring plants under cover if temperatures threaten to drop below 40 degrees F. or 4 degrees C. Have tomato cages ready or some kind of stake to attach your indeterminate plants to and place as you plant. Don't wait until the plants are too big to place the support. Don't attach too tightly and use a soft material to tie the plants to the stakes. Plant outside after all danger of frost has passed or be prepared to cover with row covers, towels, sheets, large plant pots...whatever you have on hand. It is advantageous to try to keep the cover from direct contact with the leaves in the event of a hard frost- draping cloth over a tomato cage helps the frost from damaging the leaves, and, eventually, the fruit. Good luck with your tomatoes this year...fingers crossed for lots of sunshine and just enough rain that we don't have to water our gardens. I think I'm dreaming! (Thanks to a site called Grow Veg for some of this info). PS- my mother always swore by placing a handful of Epsom Salt in the bottom of the hole and mixing it well with the soil before planting. Turns out they like the magnesium sulfate.



Poetry and Prose

Tulips shyly smiling,
greet the spring,
Tightly closed when at
first we meet,
Tulips slowly opening,
begin to sing
gaining volume ever sweet
No longer shy, as days grow longer,
raising their heads
they begin to flirt
Tulips dressed in many a colour
Breezes swirling each floral skirt
Tulips, brazen painted hussies,
part their bright lips,
trying to seduce
the busy buzzing bees
far too bold for dainty tussies
Vibrant tulip flowers produce
visions certain to please.
Mary Havran

Published 11 times a year
Englehart & District Horticultural
Society
Box 677, Englehart, ON POJ 1H0
President: Rosemary Campbell
Secretary: Bonnie Warner
Treasurer: Ginny Montminy
Editor: Eileen Fisher
Copying: Ginny Montminy
Mailing: Joyce Marie Smith