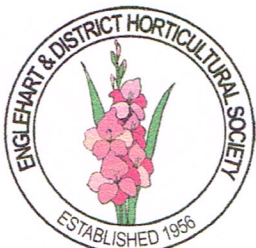




'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
November/December 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

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A Word From The Editor

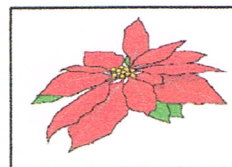
Rudyard Kipling once wrote
*All we have of freedom, all we use or know,
This our fathers bought for us long and long ago.*

It's that time of year when, once again, we remember the brave men and women who put their lives on the line for their country. This year seems to have been a time of more turmoil throughout the world than usual and sometimes it has been difficult to watch the news. However, we do have much to be thankful for. We live in a prosperous and peaceful land. This November 11th and every day after, let us always remember those who died for our freedom.



Mark It On Your Calendar:

November 19: An Evening with Amber
November 26: Christmas Workshop
January 21, 2015: Annual Meeting



Looking Back:

We had a great time at last month's Awards Night. We had lots of children in attendance and all were thrilled with their awards and trophies

Picture 1: Youth winners: Back row: Aaron Mowbray, Nate Hamilton, Amelia Menard, Maggie Mowbray. Front row: Lauryn Menard, Chase Hamilton

Picture 2: Back- Amy Vickery Menard, Bonnie Warner, Eileen Fisher, Jean Bott, Mary Schippers Front- Carrie Anne Field, Rick, Heaslip, Marie Black .(Missing- Mary Anne Linton, Rosemary Campbell)

1.



2.



Looking Ahead:

In early January, the Nominating committee will be getting together to make plans for next year, including asking members to consider standing for office, either as First and Second Vice President or as a Director. We hope that you will say yes to the committee when they call. We have gone all year without a Second Vice President. We really need people to step up and take on the position of First and Second Vice this year. We cannot run our society without the guidance of our Executive and the assistance and direction of the Directors.

OHA/District 12 News:

Bonnie Warner reports that we have booked the Catholic Church basement for the District 12 Annual Meeting next April 25. Make sure you mark it on your 2015 calendar. It promises to be an interesting day.

The OHA is sponsoring a Bulb Fundraiser for 2015. There will be 3 different varieties of tulips, 2 varieties of narcissus, and 2 types of muscari (grape hyacinths). Our Society will receive \$.50 for every package sold. More info will follow in the new year. Below are some of the bulbs available.



tulip Queensland



narcissus Thalia



muscari Valerie Finnis



tulip Red Riding Hood

Reports from Your Directors:

Programme: November's programme, 'An Evening with Amber', promises to be a fun-filled and instructive meeting. Amber will be demonstrating interesting and innovative ways of decorating for Christmas and winter. Make sure you come early as this is a popular programme. Our Annual Meeting is coming up on January 21. There will be a potluck supper at 6:00, followed by the presentation of the annual report booklet, elections of executive and directors, and we'll take a trip through the gardens of Paris and Strasbourg via the Fishers' slides.

Christmas Workshop: Convenor Rosemary Campbell has been hard at work preparing another great evening of Christmas craft for us to enjoy. We will be making a beautiful table centerpiece with candles, greenery, and decorative accents. On Wednesday, November 26, the doors will open at 7:00 p.m. when kits go on sale, with the workshop beginning at 7:30. Kits will cost \$10.00. If you can bring along a pair of secateurs or clippers, and a pair of wire cutters, it would be helpful.

Social: Convenor Mary Schippers reminds Linda Murray that she is Hostess for this month's meeting, and will also bring the gift for the draw. Regarding the Christmas workshop, Mary will be the hostess and Rosemary Campbell will supply the gift.

Awards and Trophies: Once again our busy treasurer has completed her second job as convenor of this committee with her usual skill. Ginny always does a fabulous job of this important aspect of our Awards Night, getting the plaques and trophies to the engraver and having the work done in time for our awards ceremony. Thank you, Ginny, for all your efforts on our behalf.

Membership: Convenor Ginny Montminy reports that to date we have 46 members for 2015. Don't forget, memberships only cost \$10.00 per year and bring many rewards...attendance at our monthly meetings, ability to enter the Festival of Flowers, exposure to interesting speakers and demonstrators, attendance at workshops, 11 monthly newsletters, and much more. At that price, what a great Christmas gift a membership would be for a friend or acquaintance. Give Ginny Montminy a call to obtain one.

Nominating: Convenor Carol Heaslip and her committee will be busy contacting members in the next month or two to ask you to support the society by taking on an active role in the Society. We are a very community-minded group and are always looking for people to help us out. We hope that you will say 'Yes' to Carol.

All Convenors are asked to prepare and get your committee reports in to Secretary Bonnie asap. Putting together our Annual Report is a huge job and so to help Bonnie out, the sooner you can get your report, including your volunteer hours to Bonnie, the sooner she can get going on it. Please contact her with any questions.

Christmas for the Birds

Here are a few food ideas to help our feathered friends have a Merry Christmas:

- *Strings of popcorn or peanuts in their shells
- *Whole fruit such as apples and pears
- *Strings of dried fruit such as cranberries and raisins
- *Pine cones spread with lard or peanut butter and dipped in bird seed
- *Bread or toast cut into Christmassy shapes and covered with fat and seeds
- *Dried sunflower heads
- *Suet balls and cakes
- *Fruit cake
- *Small net bags filled with nuts and seeds.



Going Green

Here are a few green hints to help you save energy this winter:

- * Changing your thermostat to a programmable one allows you to control the temperature in your home at different times of the day without you being home. Keep the heat lower when you're out of the house and set it to turn back up before you get home. It may cost more than a regular thermostat but will help you reduce costs over time.
- * If you have a forced air furnace, make sure to clean or change the furnace filter regularly. Most furnaces will need to be professionally cleaned and tuned once a year.
- * Use insulated drapes over your windows to keep the cold out in the winter and the heat out in summer. An uninsulated drape can cut window heat loss by one-third. A well insulated drape can reduce it by up to half.

Plant of the Month

African Violet

One of the most popular, yet trickiest houseplants to grow is the African Violet. These plants from African jungle floors can be grown very well in our dry, overheated houses if some of the hints below are followed:

Make sure the light on the violet is slightly filtered or not direct during the spring through autumn months so it does not damage or dry out the plants. In the winter months, place your African Violets in good sunlight to be sure they get enough natural light each short day. The best watering method is to place the pots in a saucer of water to allow for steady watering and then pour off the excess water after 15-20 minutes. If you decide to water your plants from the top, be careful not to get moisture on the leaves as this will damage them. The plants often experience a dormant phase late in the year so cutting back on water and heat will help them thrive when winter is over. Use 1/4 to 1/8 tsp. of fertilizer per gallon of water of 20-20-20 general fertilizer or a fertilizer with a higher middle number every week. A "soiless" mix or 1/3 African violet soil, 1/3 perlite and 1/3 vermiculite works well. Turning your violet every day or two 1/4 turn will help achieve a good circular form. A hint: careful use of toothpicks inserted into the soil against a stem can help to slowly move an out-of-place leaf.



Poetry and Prose

*Out of the bosom of the air,
Out of the cloud-folds of her
garments shaken,
Over the woodlands brown
and bare,
Over the harvest-fields
forsaken,
Silent, and soft, and slow
Descends the snow.*

HW Longfellow



My How Time Flies!

As I typed this bulletin, I couldn't believe that this is the last 'Through the Garden Gate' of 2014. We have enjoyed a busy and successful year and have proven this year that co-operation, flexibility, and going the extra mile are things this Society does very well. They are the reasons our Society is so strong. As we leave this year behind, and look forward to 2015, we can be proud of our community endeavours, our teamwork, and our openness to new ideas. May we continue to work for the betterment of our community and our environment, and have fun while doing so.

The festive season will soon be here and I hope that we will have a great turnout for our Christmas Workshop and Evening with Amber to start everything off. May you all enjoy a joyous Christmas holiday and hopefully Santa will bring you something horticulturally-oriented as a present!



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