



'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
September 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

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Bulletin Editor: E. Fisher

Website:
engleharthort.weebly.com

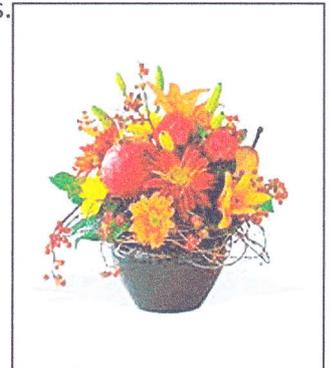
A Word From The Editor

Decorative Ideas for Autumn

Autumn...a time of crisp, golden days, blazing colours, smells of earth and harvest. Early autumn is a time of abundance in our gardens, in stores and in road-side stands. Pumpkins, cabbages, squash, and corn, sunflowers, chrysanthemums, goldenrod are in their prime.

Autumn is a time to turn our bountiful gardens and nature's wild harvest into jams, jellies, pickles, and so on. But don't forget, it's also a wonderful time to turn this same cornucopia of plants into creative and beautiful autumn decorations. It's a time to bring the outside in, as we begin to prepare for those long, cold winter days.

Because of our early Thanksgiving, we tend to think of table centre pieces and horns of plenty, which often disappear shortly after the middle of October. But, by combining fresh, dried, and eventually even some artificial material, we can extend the time period for enjoying our fall arrangements, and branch out into swags, garlands, outside designs, etc.
(con't. page 2)



Mark It On Your Calendar

September 19: Monthly meeting
September 29: District 12 Fall Planning Meeting

Programme

Do you enjoy herbs? Do you grow herbs? Cook with herbs? If so, you will really enjoy this month's meeting with Evelyne Nemcsok. Even if you don't grow herbs, this will be a chance to get some hints and tips on growing, cooking, and preserving herbs. Make sure to come to our meeting on Wednesday, September 19th to learn all about it.



Englehart Fall Fair

I was saddened by the fact that this month's fall fair was the last one. I would like to extend a huge thank you to our sister organization, The Englehart and District Agricultural Society, for the many years of service it provided to our area. Some of my fondest childhood memories are of fun at our fair. This organization has provided a show case for our area's talented growers, showers, farmers, and gardeners, young and old. Well done to all involved with the fair and thank you from all who have benefitted from your efforts.



(Con't. from page 1)

Take advantage of houseplants which may have been outside and are being cut back before coming back inside. Cuttings of coleus, ivy, etc. add to the variety of textures, colour, and line in fall designs. The vegetable garden and fruit trees also add important elements. A variety of long-lasting specimens such as gourds, apples, squash, etc., can add interest to any fall design. Walk along a country road or tramp through the bush (wearing brightly coloured clothing and making a lot of noise if it's hunting season!) and gather material such as dock, choke cherries, goldenrod, seed pods, fungus, bull-rushes, and moss.

Traditional fall designs like the overflowing horn of plenty are always lovely, but with the abundance of material, take on the challenge of creating something different... a modern design, an arrangement of branches and foliage, a simple one-bloom design. You don't have to be a top-notch designer, nor spend a fortune on exotic blooms. Just remember, if you're picking wild material, make sure you're not picking rare or protected species, and that you leave more than you take, even of common plants. September is the ultimate month to let your flower arranging imagination run wild. Have fun!

Reports From Your Directors

Membership: Ginny Montminy reports that we have 69 members to date.

Social: This month's hostess is Carrie Anne Field and she also brings the gift for the free draw.

Facebook/Website: We currently have 221 people enjoying our Facebook page. If you wish to join us, please ask on the page and you will be added. We try to keep it interesting, informative, and fun, so if you have anything you want to share, we'd love to have you with us. Rick reports we had 347 unique visits for August, 758 page views and 3074 total visits for 2018 Check out our website at englehart Hort.weebly.com for all the latest Society news and pictures as well as past years' information.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Avelyn Peever last month. Avelyn was a long-time member of our Society and enjoyed attending our meetings and events, as well as working in her own gardens. Avelyn was the widow of one of our past presidents, Ivan Peever. Our condolences go out to her family.

Saving Squash Seeds

Saving the seeds of winter squash is easy. Don't pick squash from the garden for seed saving until their rind is very hard, and then let them cure off the vine for a couple of weeks. You can scoop the seeds out with a spoon after cutting into the squash. Let them dry thoroughly before rubbing off the clinging squash meat and threads or you can soak them in a pail for a day or so, at which time the threads are easily rinsed away. Next, spread the seeds out to dry. Squash seeds will stay true to type as long as you haven't planted too many kinds of varying species (there are only four squash species so this isn't hard to avoid). Do the same thing for pumpkins and don't be afraid of using pumpkins in cooking like you would a squash. You might even find you like them better.



Competitions for September
(One entry per class)

This is your chance to show off what you have been able to grow in your gardens this year... and win some money! Come a bit early to place your entries and fill in your tags.

Vegetables: Adult Classes

Class 1: Pumpkin (1)

Class 3: Carrots (3)

Class 5: Any other vegetable (1)

Class 2: Squash (other than pumpkin) (1)

Class 4: Potatoes (3)

Youth Classes

Class 1: Pumpkin (1)

Class 3: Beets (2)

Class 2: Carrots (2)

Class 4: Fantasy creature made from fruits
and/or vegetables

The Sun... A Natural Clock (continued from August)

The plants were planted like a clock's face, with flowers that opened at certain times being planted according to the time on the clock. In each section, the flowers opened at the given time, allowing passers-by to tell the time. However, due to the fact that the flowers have a specific life span and go to seed at certain times, the clock, though it worked well, was not a long lasting success. However, the principle of the flower clock is quite fascinating. According to the author, we can use the plants in our own gardens to roughly tell the time of day. According to Wohlleben, the day starts off with the pumpkin and zucchini flowers opening first at around 5:00 a.m. (I hope someone has been up early enough to confirm his statement!) At 8:00, marigolds begin to spread their petals, followed by daisies at around 9:00. When the sun is at its zenith, at noon hour, the midday flowers, such as the ice plants (mesembryanthemums) open their blossoms. Between 2:00- 3:00 p.m. dandelions begin to close, and around 3:00 p.m., the gourd flowers have finished for the day. At close to 6:00, the poppies close up. Why do plants open and close their blossoms at different times? According to the article in The Star, they do it to attract pollinators, which risk being overwhelmed if all plants open simultaneously. Bees can't possibly visit every plant that opens at the same time, so some flowers would have to go without a visit from a pollinator, and thus may not be fertilized and set seeds. It gives late opening flowers a chance to show off their pollen and nectar and be fertilized, in the same way that very early openers catch the first hungry pollinators. It also helps the bees take advantage of more nectar to take back to their hives and improve their chances of producing a surviving new generation of pollinators and also insures that the flowers will continue to produce seeds for the next generation of plants. Another interesting finding is that flowers which have been fertilized will often close up, while unfertilized flowers will often remain open longer, to extend the time for their own pollination. According to his book, Wohlleben believes that if your flowers are not keeping to a normal rhythm of opening and closing, it may mean that your plants aren't being visited by pollinators and that perhaps you need to encourage the insects to your gardens by setting up an insect hotel. I also suggest that you follow some of the suggestions for attracting pollinators which Bonnie and I provided at our June meeting and were included in the July bulletin.



Plant of the Month

Eutrochium purpureum

Joe Pyeweed is one of those native plants we take for granted because we see it by the side of the road. The species (wild variety) can get a bit out of hand and become a spreader, but newer cultivars work well in a garden. Many of the newer Eutrochium hybrids have been bred to grow shorter. There are taller versions, dwarves, some with darker foliage and some with white flower heads instead of the familiar mauve. These newer varieties are better behaved than the species. This plant is loved by pollinators, especially at this time of year. If you have damp, low spots in your yard, Joe Pye Weed is a good plant to grow. It prefers average-to-rich moist soil and it does well in areas of full sun to partial shade. The ultimate height of these cultivars is directly influenced by the amount of sunlight received, how consistent the soil moisture is, and the degree of soil fertility



Youth Garden Competition

We were very lucky to have Lois Dekker and Dorothy De Champlain as our judges this year. They had a very difficult job as there were 9 gardens to judge, ranging from pre JK to grade 6. The judges were impressed with the quality of the gardens and offered suggestions to the young gardeners as well. The children will receive their awards at the October meeting. Here is one of our young gardeners, Kyra Shearing (with her sister) in one of her gardens.



The fall is a great time to make your own wreath, using different types of vines. Cut your vining plants, such as grapes, clematis, wild clematis -any vine you may grow, when they are still green and pliable. Wrap them around the base of a garbage pail. Use a small gauge wire to tie the vines together. Try to include vines that have interesting seed heads and tendrils. When you have wrapped enough vines and carefully tied them together, remove the pail and let the vines dry. (Hint- the vines will shrink as they dry and the wires may need to be tightened a bit.) For fall, add some coloured leaves, berries or small fruit, grains, dried weeds, etc. Later on, add some jingle bells, holly, balls, Christmas lights, etc. (Make smaller wreaths using smaller pails.)



Poetry and Prose An Autumn Meditation

*For autumn days
To me not melancholy are,
but full
of joy and hope,
mysterious and high,
and with strange promise rife.
Then it me seems
Not failing is the year,
but gathering fire
Even as the cold increases.*

Richard Watson Gilder



Published 11 times a year
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