



'Through The Garden Gate'

The monthly newsletter of the Englehart and District Horticultural Society
September 2019



Englehart and District Horticultural Society was formed in 1956.

General meetings:
3rd Wednesday of most months at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Paul's Emmanuel Church basement

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

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

A Few Fall Gardening Jobs

The fall is a busy time in the life of a gardener... so many jobs to do, weather that is often unpredictable, and the feeling of "Oh no, not already" is upon us as the fall approaches. Here are a few reminders of garden activities which are good to get done soon:

- Stop pruning/trimming
- Divide and move perennials that need it
- Cut back any perennial that has finished blooming or is diseased.
- Dig up and store tender bulbs such as glads, dahlias, callas
- Start planting spring blooming bulbs such as daffodils, tulips
- Harvest vegetables except cold hardy varieties such as Brussels sprouts
- There is still time to plant trees and shrubs, watering well.
- Pick herbs for drying or freezing.
- Remove diseased foliage from all plants...perennials, vegetables, etc. Bag up and garbage; do not put in the compost.
- Remove dead branches from trees and shrubs
- Rake fallen leaves for composting, garden protection, etc.

Mark It On Your Calendar

September 18: General Meeting
September 28: District 12 Fall Planning Meeting

September's Competitions... Fruits and 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

We hope everybody who can will put something into this month's competitions. It adds interest to our meetings and can also bring you some money (to buy more seeds and plants for next year!)

Please bring your entries in a bit early to place them in the correct class and fill in the entry tags.



September 2019

District 12/OHA News

Our delegates, as well as several members of our society who are past Directors or hold a position within the District, will be attending the annual Fall Planning Meeting in Kirkland Lake, where they will be discussing District business and making plans for the 2020 District 12 Annual Meeting. Hopefully, the weather will be better for us than it was in April, when no one from our Society was able to attend due to an unexpected snow storm. The 2020 Annual Meeting will be held in Kapuskasing.

Our programme this month will be **“Preserving the Present”**. Jean Bott and Rick Heaslip will be describing and demonstrating the various methods for preserving plant material. This is an appropriate topic for the fall and will prove to be of interest to anyone who wishes to preserve and keep plants, leaves, flowers, etc. for display and decorative purposes. Make sure you come to this meeting!

Youth Gardeners

In August, judges Lois Dekker and Dorothy de Champlain visited the yards of 16 young people who had been caring for their own gardens for several months. The children were responsible for the planting, weeding, and general care for their gardens. It took Lois and Dorothy several days to complete this task. They reported that it was a difficult job to make choices but once again they did a fine job. We hope that this important part of our mandate will continue next year and that if there is anyone in the Society who would like to be involved, they will contact us. Below are some photos of a few of the gardens.



Reports From Your Directors

Social: Joyce Smith and Irene Bond are the hostesses this month and bring the gift for the free draw. Don't forget to bring along a small snack for sharing.

Civic Improvement: Our gardens looked lovely this year and helped improve our community's beauty. Many thanks to Mary Schippers and Bruce Wilson for their work on this committee.

Facebook/Website: We currently have 294 people using our Facebook page of information and for fun. Anybody may join the page...you do not need to be a member of the Horticultural Society. Rick Heaslip, our webmaster reports that we had 432 unique visits to our site last month...check it out for great info.

A Visit to Lilley Bee Apiary

There was a great turn out for our trip to Lilley Bee Apiary in Earlton last month. Our hostess made us welcome and filled our heads with information about all aspects of their operation and about the lives of bees and their importance in the local farming community. Thanks to Joyce Marie Smith for organising this interesting meeting. Claudette Black presented Christina Greer with a bouquet of flowers arranged by Anna Regele.



Sorbus Americana...the Mountain Ash

I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree... These words, written by poet Joyce Kilmer, have stuck with me since my childhood and are so appropriate for this, one of my favourite trees, the Mountain Ash. Some people think this to be a poor, scrubby specimen when compared to the mighty oak or beautiful maples, but I love its toughness and the beauty of its flowers and fruit. *Sorbus americana*, called American Mountain Ash, is a small, deciduous tree that is native to north-eastern North America from Newfoundland to Manitoba, south to the northern US. It typically grows to 15-30' tall with an open rounded canopy. It is noted for its attractive, relatively small form, its white spring flowers, serrated compound pinnate leaves and bright orange/red fall fruit. Its smooth, gray bark may become scaly with age. Dense flattened cluster of small 5-petaled white flowers (each to 1/4" wide) appear in May. Its bright orange/red berries (each to 5/16" diameter) ripen in late summer and are attractive to birds and animals, but are too acidic to be eaten fresh by humans. However the berries may be made into jellies. Its attractive foliage turns yellow in the fall. Mountain ashes usually have ash-like leaves, but are actually members of the rose family, and are not related to true ashes (*Fraxinus*), which are in the olive family. Bacterial fireblight can be a problem, causing scorched leaves at the end of branches. Scab can also affect these trees, as can cankers, crown gall, powdery mildew and rust. Insects such as borers, aphids, sawfly and scale may be found on the mountain ash. This litany of problems may sound like reasons not to grow this tree but don't let them put you off from enjoying it. Up here there are so many other trees for these pests and diseases to attack. I have had two which I can say have never had a problem. The mountain ash remains a lovely small tree to be enjoyed in our own area. (some information from horticulturalist and author Denis Mailloux)



Thank Goodness for Our Houseplants

I remember the sadness on my mother's face when the first frosts of September forced her to take her houseplants from her lath house, where they had lived for the summer, into the house. I had to help her bring them in and at that time, as a child and teenager, the number of plants seemed endless. Coming from England, mom never got used to our long and cold winters when she was no longer able to work in her gardens. As a result, she turned her attention from her annuals and perennials to her inside garden. It's strange how history repeats itself. I myself find it a sad time when, in September, I have to do the same thing as my mother did... I bring in my houseplants from my deck and gardens. I carefully spray them with Safers' Soap and set them in an area of the house where any critters still on them can't spread to those plants which don't go outside. I watch them for a week to ten days, then set them in their winter homes and repot those which need it. Then, through the long cold months, I do as my mother did... I tend my indoor garden. Since our homes tend to be dry, I group them and mist them (as often as I remember) and sometimes I set them on rocks in saucers, which I try to keep filled with water. This helps with the humidity which most of them need. Throughout the winter months, our houses are dry, which can encourage growth of pests such as spider mites, so we need be vigilant. I know that I am not alone, that there are others who feel as I do, that our houseplants, no matter how small, or how few, become our indoor gardens for our long winters.



Plant of the Month

Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*)

If you are interested in a beautiful, colourful, low maintenance smallish shrub, Barberry may be your answer. I have a lovely purple/pink leaved one and a bright lime green variety as well. Occasionally I have to prune a bit of deadwood but overall, these shrubs are worth it. When pruning, you will find they do have sharp thorns but the beauty of their colourful leaves makes it all worthwhile. Most are hardy to Zone 4 (we are zone 3a) but I have had two beauties for over 10 years, with little care or maintenance. I do provide winter protection by covering them with dried leaves in the late fall. They can be grown in full sun to partial shade and are adaptive to a variety of soil types. If you're looking for a splash of colour, why not try a Barberry next spring?



Hilliardton Marsh Hummingbird Garden Party 2019

On August 17th, several members participated in the Garden Party, with a cute craft for young people. It was a resounding success with children and adults alike. For those of you who haven't been to the Marsh, this is a great day to find out what it's all about. The Pollinator Garden, with which the Society was involved, is doing very well and provided a lot of interest for everyone. Hope to see you there next August.

(Lilly and Leah Fehr and Judy Walton)



Poetry and Prose

*The avenues of autumn are
vivid with colour. Red and
golden trees arch against a
bright blues sky. The sunshine
falls benignly through air as
crisp and clear as a boy's
whistle. One exults in the
gladness of living and looks
over the bounties of the year.
So should the autumn of life
be... a joyous contemplation of
present joys and the treasured
memories of past achievement.*

Esther B. York

Going Green (with some fall hints)

The following hints may help our gardens and our environment...

- Don't tidy up the garden too much. Leave some places for little birds and creatures to shelter, and for insects to nest.
- Compost and mulch work well with organic fertilizers to restore life to the ground during autumn rest.
- Make a list of what worked well in the garden, and what could use fine tuning. Is a tree getting too big? Did design elements such as hardscaping and plant combinations work together effectively? Think ahead to next year's projects, such as building a new path, patio or water feature.

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Englehart & District Horticultural
Society
Box 677, Englehart, ON P0J 1H0
President: Jean Bott
Secretary: Bonnie Warner
Treasurer: Ginny Montminy
Editor: Eileen Fisher
Copying: Ginny Montminy
Mailing: Joyce Marie Smith