

A close-up photograph of several pink coneflowers (Echinacea) with vibrant orange-brown centers. The petals are light pink and slightly drooping. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting foliage.

Gardener's Gate

*Edmonton Horticultural Society
March/April 2017*

edmontonhort.com

EHS Board Highlights

- EHS Board received the Review Engagement report (Financial Statements for year ending 2016) conducted by Certified General Accountants.
- EHS Board endorsed two new Board members: Tamara Sloboda (Treasurer) and Lori Enns (Board Director) as recommended by the Nomination Committee.
- EHS Board approved an updated Code of Conduct for EHS Board members.
- EHS Board endorsed June 17, 2017 as Garden Day and will ask the Mayor of Edmonton to declare it Garden Day in Edmonton. A public event is planned at the Muttart Conservatory this day to celebrate the new garden beds.
- EHS Board welcomes Casino Program Leads Linda and Duncan Campbell. The 2017 casino is scheduled for September 30 and October 1, 2017.
- EHS Board conducted an orientation for new Board members at their March 13, 2017 meeting.
- EHS Board recognized outgoing Treasurer Brian Heidecker for his 4 years of service.
- EHS Board recognized outgoing Program Leads - Gwen Holland, Eric Koroluk, Neil Lang, Leah Luoma, and Linda Thomas.

EHS Annual General Meeting Highlights

- Members approved the slate of Board members presented:

President	Patricia McKendrick	
Vice-President	Rosemarie Pelz	
Treasurer	Tamara Sloboda	
Secretary	Julie Brown	
Directors	Lori Enns	Maggie Neilson
	Britta Johnson	Judy Rybaczok
	Kate McLeod	Jane Starr
	Mike Michaud	Christine Werk
- New EHS membership fees were approved by the membership:

		Old	New
Individual membership	1 year	35.00	45.00
Individual membership	3 years	90.00	115.00
Family	1 year	45.00	60.00
Family	3 years	120.00	155.00
Corporate	1 year	140.00	140.00
Corporate	2 years	280.00	280.00
Community Garden	1 year	35.00	45.00



EHS OPEN GARDENS

Did you know that **Open Gardens** is one of EHS' most popular member's benefits? It is a lovely way to spend a relaxing Sunday afternoon. This year, EHS is offering 8 Sundays (1:00-4:00 pm) between June and September for you to enjoy gardens in a relaxed informal atmosphere. It is never too early to think about offering your own garden for viewing. EHS would like to offer a special shout out to those members who have never considered showing their gardens before. This member's only benefit is a great way to meet other EHS members and share gardening ideas.

Look for upcoming information about **Open Gardens** in the following places.

- Members' Portal on the new EHS website.
- EHS eNews.
- April and May 2017 monthly meetings.

The Open Gardens Program Leads look forward to meeting you!
Kate McLeod and Rosemarie Pelz




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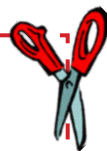
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Deadlines

Articles, photographs and advertising to appear in the newsletter must be received by the content deadline date for each edition to meet the estimated delivery date to readers' homes.

Newsletter Edition	Content Deadline	Estimated Delivery
Jan/Feb	Jan 7	mid-Feb
Mar/Apr	Mar 7	mid-Apr
May/Jun	May 7	mid-Jun
Jul/Aug	Jul 7	mid-Aug
Sep/Oct	Sep 7	mid-Oct
Nov/Dec	Nov 7	mid-Dec

For contact information refer to the newsletter directory or our website at edmontonhort.com.

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Show Your Card and Save

These businesses offer EHS Members special pricing on non-sale purchase of certain goods and services. Available discounts may change without notice; inquire before you purchase.

All Seasons Garden Centre	780-448-2385
Apache Seeds Ltd	780-489-4245
Arch Greenhouses	780-438-4349
Arrowhead Nurseries	780-472-6260
Aspen Grove Nurseries	780-962-3148
Aspen Ridge Greenhouse	780-464-5527
Best Curb	780-945-6787
BMR Greenhouses & Water Gardens	780-986-0787
Canar Rock Products	780-466-6650
Cannor Nurseries	780-987-9133
Cheyenne Tree Farms	780-929-8102
Ellerslie Gift & Garden	780-988-6622
Flowers on 50th	780-463-7673
Friends of the Devonian Botanic Garden	780-221-6467
Jils Landscape Supply	780-456-4848
Kuhlmann's Market	780-475-7500
LaRue Tree Certified Arborists	780-603-5317
Lawnmower Hospital	780-437-1851
Millcreek Nursery Ltd.	780-469-8733
Organic Green	780-444-5931
Prairie Gardens & Greenhouses	780-981-2272
Salisbury Greenhouses	780-467-5743
South Cooking Lake Greenhouses	780-922-6765
Sunstar Nurseries	780-472-6103
The Wildbird General Store	780-439-7333
Timbertrim Treeworks	780-449-8733
University of Alberta Botanic Garden	780-987-3054
Wild Birds Unlimited	587-521-2473

A valid membership card and photo ID must be shown before the sale is rung in.

Not yet a discount? Show your stuff to our members at one of our meetings!
Send us an email to
officeadmin@edmontonhort.com



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Karen Kennedy;
First place, Pretty in Pink;
2016 EHS Photo Competition

Community Garden Members

Alberta Avenue Community Garden

www.albertaave.org/community-garden.html

Dovercourt Community Garden



Corporate Members

Arch Greenhouses

www.archgreenhouses.com

Cheyenne Tree Farms

www.cheyennetree.ca

City of Edmonton

Building and Parks Operations
www.edmonton.ca

Classic Landscapes

www.classiclandscapes.com

Ellerslie Gift and Garden
ellersliegift.com

Greenland Garden Centre
www.greenlandgarden.com

Kuhlmann's Market Garden
www.kuhlmanns.com

Lee Valley Tools

www.leevalley.com

Manderley Turf Products

www.manderley.com

Millcreek Nursery

www.millcreeknursery.ca

Pegasus Publications

(Alberta Gardener)

www.localgardener.net

Salisbury Greenhouses

salisburygreenhouse.com

Sunstar Nurseries

www.sunstarnurseries.com

University of Alberta Botanic Garden

www.botanicgarden.ualberta.ca

The Wildbird General Store

www.wildbirdgeneralstore.com

Timbertrim Treeworks Ltd.

www.timbertrim.ca



Gardeners' Calendar

For more information on Gardening Events and Courses:

EHS Speaker's Series: No meetings in January, July, October and December
edmontonhort.com/events/events-and-activities

Note: Check to confirm dates, times and location. Events listed may charge for admission.

EHS Speaker's Series

Who: Everyone is welcome. Free to EHS members (show your card). Non-members pay admission or are welcome to purchase a membership at meetings.

What: Informative and inspiring speakers and presentations at the EHS meetings. Opportunities to chat with other gardeners. Displays, great door prizes, tea, coffee and treats!

When: Last Monday of February, March, April, May, June, August, September and November. Come at 6:30 pm for the Gardener's Corner and browse the displays. Speakers begin at 7:30 pm.

Where: Central Lions Seniors Recreation Centre, 11113 – 113 St, Edmonton. Parking is free.

Why: Amazing and informative speakers. Find the details on the EHS website at: edmontonhort.com/speakers/speaker-series

Mark your calendars! Speaker's Series 2017 with topic titles:

Monday, March 27: Zone Envy (Morgan Webb) and an introduction to permaculture (Claudia Boli)
Monday, April 24: Have Fun in Your Garden—New Ideas for 2017 (Donna Balzer) Why should kids have all the fun? Taking the lead from best selling, richly illustrated *No Guff Vegetable Gardening*, Donna will speak about new ideas in the garden plus old garden ideas worth recycling! This talk will include soils, fertilizers, trends and new technologies that will boost your garden success meter.
Monday, May 29: Xeriscaping (Sara Williams)
Monday, June 26: Native Plants for Prairie Gardens (June Flanagan)
Monday, August 28: Cool Containers (Paul Zammit)
Monday, September 25: Carnivorous Plants (Joe Gadbois)

Monday, November 27: Annual/ Perennial Grasses (Katrina Diebel)

Gardener's Corner:

This session will field gardening questions, give advice or connect individuals with an expert in the area. Maggie Easton is organizing the Gardener's Corner and each month she will have a theme and provide "experts" to address your questions. Gardener's Corner is intended to be an informative as well as a social service.

Small Talks:

Thursday, May 11: Medicinal Marijuana
Thursday, September 14: Bulb Planting

Member's Meet:

Tuesday, April 11: Tour of Arch Greenhouses, 11 am; topic will be the use of beneficial insects and new trends in gardening this year.

Alberta Regional Lily Society

April 29, 2017: AGM, 10 am–4 pm; 4540 50 St NW, Edmonton, AB

Cactus and Succulent Society of Alberta

April 9, 2017: Members' meeting at Bogani Café, Heritage Village, 2023 111 St NW, Edmonton

Edmonton Permaculture Guild

April 22-26, 2017: Map and Design Your Permaculture Property, University of Alberta Botanic Garden

May 13-14, 2017: Gardening 101; St. Albert Grain Elevator Park, St. Albert, AB

Orchid Society of Alberta

April 7-9, 2017: Orchid Fair, Enjoy Centre St. Albert, AB

April 23, 2017: Beginners Month - Hands-on Growing Demonstrations

May 28, 2017: Sergio Garcia, Olompali Orchids - Focus on Brazilian Orchid Species

Stony Plain Horticultural Society

April 4, 2017: Phil Bakker, "Growing Potatoes made Easy (Earth Apples Seed Potatoes)", 7:30-9:30 pm, Basement,

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 5021 52 Avenue, Stony Plain, AB

It's more important than ever that you keep your EHS membership up to date. **We will check your membership card at the Speaker's Series events so don't forget to bring your card!** EHS members also receive great discounts with many local businesses - see page 2 for our current "Show Your Card and Save" list of discounters.

Affiliate Organizations

Alberta Horticultural Association

www.icangarden.com/clubs/AHA

Alberta Invasive Species Council

www.invasiveplants.ab.ca

Alberta Native Plant Council

www.anpc.ab.ca

Alberta Regional Lily Society

www.arls-lilies.org

Cactus and Succulent Society of Alberta

albertacactusandsucculent.org

Calgary Horticultural Society

www.calhort.org

Colouring the Canadian Landscape Foundation

www.cclf.info

Edmonton and Area Land Trust

www.ealt.ca

Edmonton Native Plant Group

edmontonnativeplantgroup.org

Edmonton Permaculture Guild

edmontonpermacultureguild.ca

Evergreen Garden Club

Josanne Thiessen at prairielily1@gmail.com

Friends of the Devonian Botanic Garden

friends-devonianbotanicgarden.org

Glenora Gardening Club

Sheila Taschuk at shetaz77@gmail.com

Master Gardeners Association of Alberta

www.mgaab.org

Operation Fruit Rescue Edmonton

operationfruitrescue.org

Orchid Society of Alberta

www.orchidsalberta.com

Orchid Species Preservation Foundation

www.orchidspecies.ca

Sangudo & District Horticultural Club

Marlene Petersen at hpt1960@telus.net

St. Albert & District Garden Club

www.stalbertgardenclub.info

St. Albert Botanic Park

www.stalbertbotanicpark.com

Stony Plain Horticultural Society

www.sphsociety.ca

Strathcona Garden Club

Brenda Brooke at Brook_eb@yahoo.ca

Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village

www.history.alberta.ca/ukrainianvillage

Wetaskiwin Horticultural Society

Barb Lucas at bmlucas@telus.net

EHS Perennial Exchange

By: Cheryl Lewis

Photos by: Wilf Maul

Ready... It's almost noon and the rope is being dropped. Now, now... no toes over the line...

Set...Do you have your tray, box or bin to store your new treasures? Do you know what area you want to look at first?

The tag is being pulled out of the hat...GO!!!

The biannual EHS Perennial Exchange is on!

Held May 27th and September 16th in 2017, the adrenaline rush of getting new varieties and plants in exchange for your own happens in the EHS administrative office parking lot. It gives us gardeners an opportunity to share or buy plants and visit with fellow plant enthusiasts over a coffee and donut while waiting for that noon rush.

We are constantly surprised at the huge, continually changing variety of plants that come into our exchange. We never know until the plants arrive. We have had hostas, astilbes, primulas, Solomon's seal, bergenia and violas just to name a few that perform well in part to full shade. We have had strawberries, yellow and red raspberries, fruit trees and rhubarb. There are all kinds of evergreens, trees, shrubs and roses, peonies, irises, day lilies, rock garden plants, decorative grasses, native plants, water plants, and a variety of houseplants including our prickly cactus friends. So much more than perennials! I wonder what will be the favourites this year?

We have great, garden-savvy volunteers! Wilf Maul donates orchids and other fantastic perennials, and Leo Krupka digs, washes, labels and donates a variety of beautiful Asiatic lily bulbs. These gentlemen are always willing to provide a bit of welcome gardening advice so that the plants they donate flourish! Mr. Shove has given us gorgeous dahlia and gladiola bulbs, while Val, Jane and Will are kind enough to donate luscious vegetables, many heritage varieties of peppers and tomatoes to sell at the

sales table.

Renee, Sylvia and Bonnie run the intake table, ensuring plants are labelled, counted and meet our criteria.... we can't accept

noxious weeds like the creeping bellflower, no matter how pretty their blossoms are! Other volunteers like Dustin, Dan, Margaret, Morgann, Marie, Cathy, Val and Maureen help attendees haul plants to the intake table, label plants, divide the plants into their various categories in the staging area, and run the sales table.

Plants usually arrive between 9 am and 12 pm, with the actual exchanging taking place between 12 pm and 12:15 pm. The sales table opens at 10 am and runs until 2 pm. Many EHS members grow and bring fantastic and interesting varieties of plants just for our sales table! We sell these plants at very reasonable prices to help make some money for the EHS. We also accept garden tools and gadgets to sell to other gardeners who might find them more helpful than the donor.

This year we will also have a question runner; if people are looking for a special plant the volunteer will look to see if that type of plant has come in, and in what category it is placed so people can plan their route of attack! For those of you who haven't participated in the Perennial Exchange, check us out. I hope this helps give you a picture of what it is like, but seeing is believing!

Good growing, and we hope that we will see everyone at the Spring and Fall Perennial Exchange!

Cheryl Lewis, Program Lead



Fulton Place Community Garden

The Sunshine Garden

By: Linda Harris

Photos by: Linda Harris

Doreen and Eldon Wyman hosted an open garden for EHS members on Sunday August 21, 2016.

Since the early nineteenth century in the UK and in Europe, community gardens were allotment gardens whereby families could grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. Today, if you were to ask people what a community garden meant to them, they would each tell you something different. They might say it's a place to reconnect with nature; they might say that they are taking part in revitalizing a sense of community among neighbours; or they might say that it is a place to grow vegetables, flowers or herbs because they don't have enough space at home to have a garden. The Fulton Place Community Garden or "The Sunshine Garden" embodies all of these ideas of what a community garden should be and is.

It started with Sherry Prokopuk's seed of an idea and her seed grew into a 5,500 square foot community garden alongside St. Augustine's Anglican Church, near the centre of the Fulton Place community. The "Sunshine Garden", named thusly because the garden features 38 raised garden beds radiating in lines outwards from the church's steeple, similar to a sunburst, opened in 2015.

If you build it, they will come and come, they did. The garden's vision statement says it all: "cultivate personal, neighbourhood, and environmental well-being through a welcoming garden community". This garden is tailored for its young right up to its older citizens as the community has many seniors and young families. Several garden plots are raised 25" off the ground, so that someone with reduced mobility could easily garden from a walker or wheelchair, or sit on the side of the garden bed when working. There are ergonomic gardening tools available that are especially designed for those gardening from a seated position. For children, the garden has partnered with the Fulton Place Childcare Association, the Capilano Playschool Association and the Hardisty K-9 School so that children in the neighbourhood have access to the garden and can learn about growing food. This garden bridges their young and older citizens allowing them to interact.

Community neighbours gather here for gardener swaps (Spring/Fall); potlucks (Spring/Fall); and coffee in the garden (twice per month).

Four Guiding Purposes:

- Cultivate community through a welcoming, accessible neighbourhood garden that provides opportunities for community partnerships
- Fertilize environmental stewardship by raising awareness about sustainable urban agriculture
- Pollinate educational opportunities by sharing garden experiences, showing children how food is grown, and demonstrating a vibrant food garden
- Germinate healthy living by growing nutritious food, being physically active, and enjoying a peaceful place

The Fulton Place Sunshine Garden uses the concept of good environmental stewardship to educate people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds in the art of growing healthy food. The garden includes 38 accessible garden boxes, a rainwater storage system, and a 3-bin compost system. Twenty-nine of the boxes are rented to individuals and groups for a nominal fee.



There are 9 communal plots. These include a Salad Garden; a Donation Garden (vegetables are grown and then donated to those in need and Meals on Wheels); a Bees and Butterflies Garden (native plants that are beneficial to bees and butterflies); a Three Sisters Garden (named for the companion plants: corn, beans and squash); a Medicinal Herbs Garden; a Touch, Taste & Smell Garden; a Try It Out Garden (unusual varieties of herbs and vegetables); a Tall & Red Garden (includes plants that are either tall or red); and a Beets & Carrots Garden. Hardisty

students help with the planting of communal areas. Those gardeners who do not wish to rent a plot can become a Friend of the Garden and help with planting, maintaining, and sharing produce from the communal areas of the garden.

If only all of our communities had community gardens!

Fun Facts

- Winner of the EHS Garden Competition, Community Garden, 2016
- Winner of the City of Edmonton's Front Yards in Bloom Community Garden Award sponsored by Sustainable Food Edmonton, 2015

- 120 volunteers contributed more than 1,000 hours to build the garden
- St. Augustine's provides blessings and thanksgiving for the land and the harvests
- Garden partners include St. Augustine's Anglican Church; Fulton Place Community League; Hardisty K-9 School; Fulton Child Care Association; Capilano Playschool; L'Arche Edmonton
- garden is 150 feet by 50 feet, around 5,500 square feet
- 38 garden plots/beds
- Garden is organic (no pesticides or chemical fertilizers) sustained by a composter
- Crushed limestone paths allow easy access for wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers

References

"Community garden radiates inviting glow, energizes neighbourhood" in *Aging better together*. June 2016. Age-friendly

Edmonton. p. 5. <http://www.seniorscouncil.net/uploads/files/AgingBetterTogether.PDF>. Accessed Jan. 15, 2017.

Henderson, K. "Fulton Place Community Garden brings 'sunshine' to community". *Edmonton Journal*, May 10, 2015. <http://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/fulton-place-community-garden-brings-sunshine-to-community>. Accessed Jan. 15, 2017.

Johnston, Doug. "To be located in Fulton Place, the Sunshine Garden promises to bring the community together". *Edmonton Examiner*, Nov. 5, 2014. <http://www.edmontonexaminer.com/2014/11/05/to-be-located-in-fulton-place-the-sunshine-garden-promises-to-bring-the-community-together>. Accessed Jan. 15, 2017.

The Sunshine Garden. Fulton Place Community Garden information sheet. Edmonton. 2016.

For more information: <http://www.fpccommunitygarden.net>



Compost bins



Rainwater storage system



Prairie Urban Farm

By: Elizabeth Atherton-Reid

Photos by: Elizabeth Atherton-Reid



It's early August and I'm surrounded by rows of tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, beets, squash, cucumber, corn and herbs. North and south of me are farm buildings, some new, some very old. An immense blue sky arches over this lush green landscape and it's hard to believe I'm in the middle of a big city but I am. I'm on the South Campus of the University of Alberta, in the middle of the one-acre plot being vigorously and thoughtfully developed as a community food system called Prairie Urban Farm.

I'm learning about this garden from Debra Davidson who is a Professor at the University of Alberta in Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology which is part of the Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES). In her academic role, Debra looks critically at our agricultural systems and a few years ago, she realized she was tired of criticising and wanted to contribute to resilience in our local agri-food system. Happily, she found many encouraging signs right here where the City of Edmonton's goal is to have a Community Garden in every community. Another popular program, Plant a Row, Grow a Row, encourages home gardeners to grow extra to contribute to the Edmonton Food Bank.

Debra and her colleagues began discussing how the University could support these trends. After applying to the appropriate offices, in early June 2012, they got the go ahead to use an acre of land in South Campus. There was a precedent for this.



In 2009, the Green and Gold Garden, run by volunteers, began growing vegetables which are sold to raise money for a not-for-profit organization in Rwanda.

Getting Started

That first summer in 2012, Debra and five of her colleagues began the grunt work of preparing one-third of their acre. They removed chunks of wire and clumps of concrete from the clay land. They were very grateful to Barry Irving who arranged for the volunteer gardens to have their land tilled and manure supplied.

In the five years since, they have developed their full acre and advanced in their goal to create an avenue of conversation between the University and the rest of the community about local food and sustainability.

By the summer of 2016, they had heard from four hundred volunteers, mostly students. A core group shows up regularly for their volunteer evening. Others help occasionally. Those who work in the garden take some vegetables home.

Activities and Events

Until a grant ran out, they were able to hire Garden Coordinator Nicole Martin who made some excellent community connections. Since 2014, a number of groups and school classes have been

hosted for field trips, including a group of girls from E4C's Art Adventures camp: a summer program offered to youth from inner city schools.

For the past two years, Prairie Urban Farm's relationship with the Art Adventures program has brought youth aged 8 to 12 out to spend a day in the garden with volunteer Nicole Martin to work on projects tied to urban sustainability and food security. Last summer they created a bee hotel and then made a big salad for themselves, harvesting all ingredients from the garden. Previously, their idea of a salad was lettuce, tomatoes and cucumbers with bottled dressing. This salad contained baby carrots, ends of pea shoots and edible flowers. They made the dressing from oil and vinegar. Along with the salad, Nicole tied in messages about how growing local food makes our communities more resilient.



As part of their goal to contribute to local food security, the Garden has donated food to the Intercultural Centre which works with refugee families.

Debra and her Board are committed to offering regular courses to volunteers and to the community on how to grow food sustainably and how to preserve it. They've already offered courses on how to can and preserve.

Debra is happy about the media coverage they've been getting, and the number of people interested in volunteering. They have enough volunteers showing up to manage the work, but what they really need now are experienced gardeners who can act as mentors to the inexperienced ones. Inexperienced volunteers don't always know the difference between a vegetable and a weed.

One of their most experienced and treasured leaders is Iris Barrington Leigh who told me about this garden. She is a member of our Edmonton Horticultural Society and has been gardening all her life.

Debra says if they had more seasoned leaders they would make fewer mistakes on the land, could offer more courses, and would provide a true learning experience to all the volunteers.

To volunteer, email Debra at debra.davidson@ualberta.ca

www.prairieurbanfarm.ca



Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens

By: Karen Kennedy

Photos by: Karen Kennedy

The ocean, the sunshine, quaint back road vineyards, and a spectacular garden near historic Fort Anne, and the Habitation: of course it is Nova Scotia. Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens is in the centre of this small community on the Annapolis River.

The gardens, which stretch to the banks of the Allain's River off the Annapolis, opened in August of 1981.

The afternoon we visited the gardens, the weather was hot and sunny and you could smell the salt water. The gardens cover 17 acres and include the salt marshes and the dykelands along the banks of the river.

The dyke walk includes signage explaining the building of the dykes, the grasses growing there, the shore birds, and the tides.

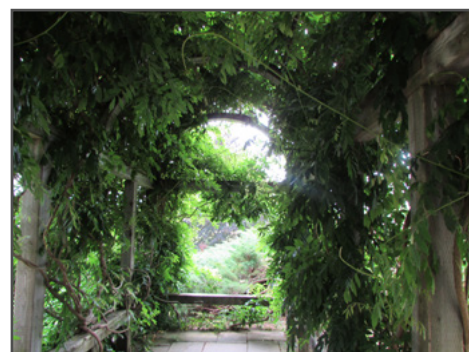
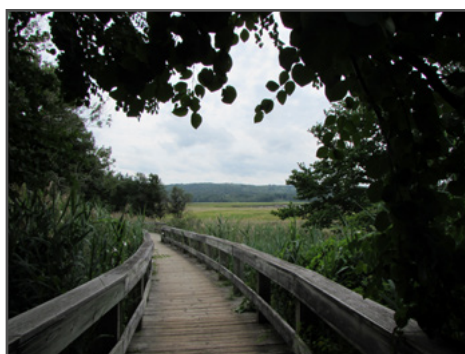


Map reproduced with permission from Trish Fry, Manager, Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens

At the rear of the gardens next to the dykes, you will find La Maison Acadienne, a replica of a pre-deportation Acadian dwelling with a family vegetable garden and complete with costumed interpreters to answer your questions.

The walking paths wind gently throughout the gardens visiting a variety of mature trees, water features and ponds. If you rest a while on one of the plentiful benches, you are sure to spot butterflies, bees, and unusual birds.

At the beginning of each year, the Historic Gardens accepts applications for the Art in the Garden program. Each year, selected Nova Scotian artists incorporate their works into the gardens in various ways. This year, a colourful display of bird sculptures



was created by Dartmouth artist Shauna MacLeod. These little surprises were delicately perched on the branches in a particular area of the garden, complete with a game challenging children to spot all the hidden birds amongst the trees and shrubs. Another delightful creation, by Windsor, Nova Scotia artist Michelle Heron, was a 7-foot fairy sculpted of wire nestled in a greeny alcove.

It was difficult to walk away from the breath-taking beauty of the large rose garden, with its magnificent display at its finest. Included in the more than 270 cultivars are hardy roses formerly part of Agriculture Canada's breeding program.

The raised beds in the innovative area are part of an accessible gardening program. Information panels here and throughout



the gardens provide educational details and celebrate the contributions and dedication of the garden volunteers.

The gardens held something unusual and fascinating around every corner. This friendly, community-supported attraction is a place to truly be explored and enjoyed.

At <http://www.historicgardens.com/> you can see the gardens in winter, the Christmas sales, the Saturday morning markets with local produce, and other on-going activities, such as kitchen parties.

The Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens is a special find and not to be missed on your next trip to Nova Scotia.

*A special thank you to Trish Fry, Manager,
Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens*



EHS 2016 Garden Competition (Part 2)

By: Leah Luoma

Photos by: Jane Starr

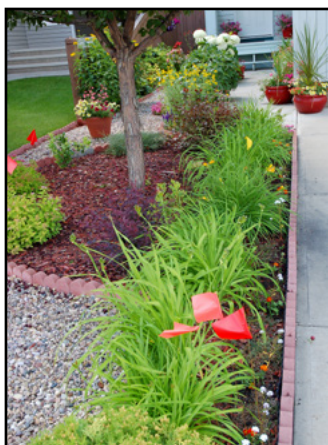
Mixed Perennial Bed or Border



First Place: *Joyce Yelich*

Joyce's mixed perennial bed is a beautiful feature of her award-winning front garden. It sits behind a wildly colourful annual bed and stands on its

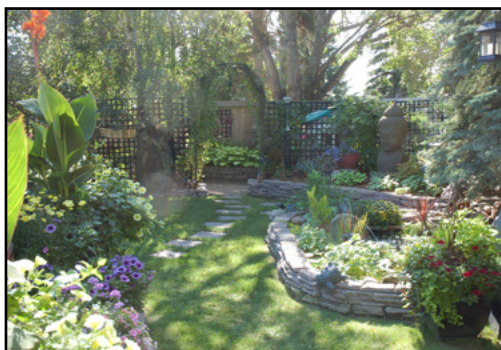
own with beautiful mixes of reds, yellows and purple flowers with beautiful texture and well balanced architecture. This bed would be impressive on its own, but wait until you see the rest of the garden!



Second Place: *Daisymol George Kannayiram*

Daisymol's perennial bed runs the length of the house, from the front to the back, and beautifully frames the walk up to the front door, as well as accenting the side of the house with lilies, hydrangeas and roses. The photos we could get do not do the garden justice, what a great job.

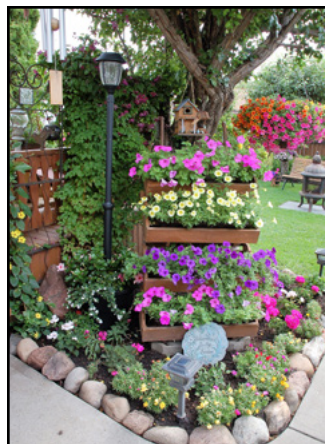
Decorative Back Garden



First Place: *Donna Nolan*

We left off in Donna's specialized side garden, a gateway to another country that is her back yard. With clear inspiration from the Far East,

you would never know you were still in Edmonton. All of the ornamentation was on theme and the choices of plants also were appropriate for the theme. From dragon fountains in the pond to a beautiful pergola, this garden was transplanted from another continent.



Second Place: *Lawrence and Sheila Sorochan*

The beautiful water garden entered separately was just a small part of the Sorochan's amazing back yard. The sun pours in and you can feel how lush all of the plants are in the yard, from the multiple flower beds, the plethora of beautiful containers of all shapes and sizes, to the veggie garden tucked in behind, this yard is immaculate from end to end.



Third Place: *Susan Parker*

This garden provided us with the friendliest feline tour guide. He led us from the forest-like seating area in a sunken corner of the yard, around multiple beautiful

beds lining the lush lawn, and left us for a nap on the sunny deck resplendent with containers full of an impressive array of plants and accent pieces.

Decorative Front Garden



First Place: *Joyce Yelich*

Driving up to Joyce's home you see a cascade of colour and plant life looking as though it will at any moment burst through the sidewalk and grow into

the road. The winning perennial bed is but one bed among over a dozen in the front yard, including full sun beds, and lush beds under conifers. Sitting down for coffee at the neatly hidden table under the living room window must be a treat every morning or evening.



Second Place:

Donna Nolan

Donna's front yard is very neatly maintained and an exercise in coordinating foliage. I've never seen so many different shades of green, from purple to red, to

yellow. All of these plants complement one another so nicely, I am amazed how much colour and contrast has been achieved by very smart pairing of plants.



Third Place: Twila and Stephen Riopel

The Riopel's front yard is a happy highlight in the neighbourhood, given planting restrictions to prevent digging into the turf. The arrangement

of pots full of annuals of every variety is very neat and cheerful. Using containers and stands of varying heights really helps increase the impact of every container in this yard.

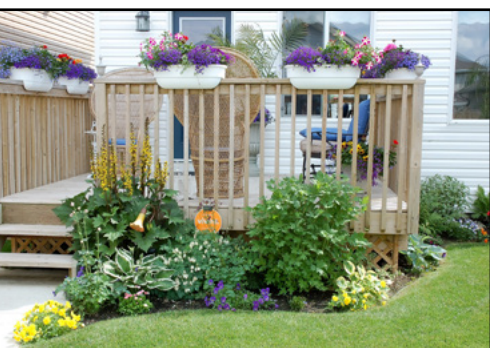
Newly-Designed Garden



First Place: Joel Winder

What a fresh, clean garden. In front the roses serve to root the house into the young garden, and the containers bring balance to the yard. In back, all

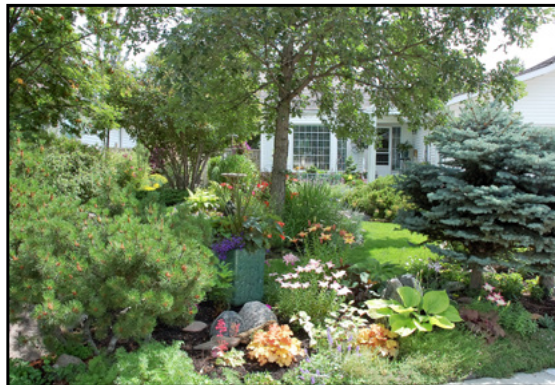
sides of the yard are covered or bordered with beds of wonderful annuals and perennials, again with containers helping to connect the garden and house. Already the collection of ornaments is beautiful and helps to set the theme. An amazing start front and back, which will undoubtedly mature into a lush yard.



Home Garden Grand Challenge

First Place: Penny Reidford

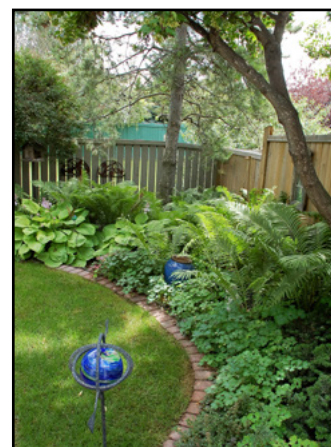
Congratulations go to Penny Reidford, winner of the Home Garden Grand Challenge. What a masterful garden! Every plant has been placed and spaced with precision, accounting for very variegated conditions due to large trees, and green grasslands neighbouring



this garden. Shade beds blend seamlessly with sun beds. Looking at any bed you can trace where the shadows fall as the days go by based on what is planted. Every surface is ornamented with



beautiful objets d'art, mirrors and statues. Everywhere something can be planted, there is a plant. Functional spaces are also beautiful with aesthetic interest. What a truly amazing garden, a



masterpiece that deserves its own photo spread.



**Second Place:
Marie and
Emmett Wenger**

What a harmonious garden. The front yard is nicely balanced and suits the façade of the house. The ornamental and

edible gardens are seamlessly merged with bees buzzing everywhere. The backyard is filled with very voluminous flowers and, once again, edible plants interspersed throughout. There are at least five seating areas allowing for very different experiences of the garden, and at least one suited for any time of day. Beautiful work!



**Third Place:
Lal Weera**

Lal Weera's garden is a beautiful experience for all of the senses with a style all its own. The collection of roses on its own is impressive, as well as an awe-inspiring water feature. Every angle of this garden stands on its own. The garden provides a welcome to the house with very neat ball gardens, roses and ornaments. In back you are invited to sit down and enjoy the smells of the flowers and the beautiful sounds of the water garden. What an achievement!



Closing Remarks

Running the garden competition in 2016 has been an honour. I thank everyone who participated. I have learned so many things from visiting the gardens. Congratulations to all of the winners and those who placed in the 2016 competition. Sincere thanks to all of the entrants on your excellent entries. Hopefully the Garden Competition was as enjoyable for you as it was for me. I'd like to extend special thanks to the judges and volunteers who ensure that the competition is a success.

Judges: Carol and Heiko Lotzgeselle, Donna Wood, Cecilia Feng, LoraLea Gaboriau, Marie Wenger

Finally, thanks to all of those who took the time to assist with various tasks and duties and bringing me up to speed on the competition.

Happy Gardening in 2017; I hope we have provided some inspiration for the upcoming spring and summer!

EHS 2017 Photo Competition

By: Mike Michaud and Linda Harris

Categories:

- Snow and Ice - winter photos in the garden
- Purplelicious – purple-coloured plants in the garden
- Garden Vegetables - the more unique the better
- Sunrise/Sunset - natural or artificial light in the garden
- Competition is limited to EHS members.
- Limit of one photo per category per member.
- Entries must be a 5"x7" photo print submitted to Mike Michaud c/o the EHS office (10746 – 178 Street, Edmonton, AB T5S 1J3) by **September 13, 2017**. Photos may also be

dropped off at the office, which is usually open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

- Photos must be trimmed, removing any white space from around the edges.
- Your name and the category must be printed on the **back** of each photo. Names must not be on the front of photos.
- Attendees of the September 2017 Speaker's Night will vote for their favourite photos.
- Winners will be recognized at the November 2017 Speaker's Night.
- Winning photos may be featured on the website, in the *Gardener's Gate*, or in EHS eNews. Digital copies may be requested for this purpose.

Creating a Log Container

By: Elizabeth Atherton-Reid

Photos by: Elizabeth Atherton-Reid

My first log container was an unexpected happening, a gift from a big old aspen tree that was growing along the creek which wound through our farm. The beavers had chewed partway through the trunk and my husband, Noel, was afraid it would topple down on the nearby fence. I was with him that day twelve years ago, when his chain saw roared to life and he dropped the tree right where he wanted it, safely opposite the fence.

It turned out the core of that big tree was starting to rot, and as Noel started sawing the trunk into manageable pieces, I had a brain wave. "That trunk could be a planter for our front yard". And so it happened.

Noel used the chain saw to hollow out a five-foot section, and brought it home where we located it under the large pine tree in our front yard. For several years, people walking by could see tuberous begonias and lobelia peeking through the pine branches. By last year it had rotted beyond use.

My first log container was easy to hollow out and to handle because it had partly rotted. The containers in my yard now come from fresh spruce logs. They average about four feet long and eighteen inches in diameter and they are extremely heavy and awkward to move.

I live in Brookside, an area developed in 1970, where some of our neighbours are having their 45-year-old spruce trees taken down. The tree cutters need to haul these trees away and probably pay

a dumping charge, so when I come around scrounging for three- to four-foot trunks, I've found they'll drop it off at my house or at the least, load it on my truck.

We no longer have a chain saw but I found a handy guy who was good with a chain saw and he hollowed out the logs into which Noel drilled drainage holes.

To extend the useful age of the log containers, I scoop the soil out in the fall and turn the logs upside-down.

Plants

The depth of soil in the logs is about ten inches, much less than in my other large containers. This means that plants do not grow as tall as they could. For example, purple fountain grass grew about half as tall in a log container as in a large deeper pot, both in partial shade.

The log container for which I received first prize for single container this past summer contained angel wing begonia, tuberous begonia, Bonfire begonia, Boston fern, hosta, coleus, purple fountain grass, sweet potato vine, and creeping Jenny.

As with most of my containers, the plants did not grow exactly as I had planned (for example, my purple fountain grass was supposed to be taller) but the judges who came to my house did not know what it was really supposed to look like so I won a prize anyway.



Orchids at the Muttart

By: Dave Nixon

Photos: © Orchid Species Preservation Foundation (Doug Bovee/Dave Nixon)

Sources for this article were taken from: Ethnobotany of the Orchidaceae by Leonard J Lawler / Orchidwiz / Orchid Photographic Encyclopedia / Charles Baker / The Plant List / Wikipedia

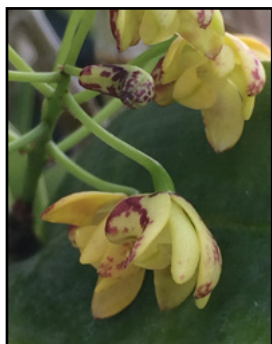


Coelogyne mooreana

One of 215 species of *Coelogyne*, this species was originally discovered in 1905 growing in the Lang Bien Mountains northeast of Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) by the collector Wilhelm Micholitz. The highland montane cloud forests provides the ideal growing conditions for this medium-sized, cool-growing species that produce 3 to 8 fragrant 4-inch

(10 cm) flowers on each racemose inflorescence.

The species was named after Mr. F. Moore, a Director of Edinburgh Botanical Garden. This specimen is kept in our cold house on the east shadier side of the greenhouse. We unfortunately do not know how this specimen came into the collection, but I suspect it was part of the 250 "assorted coelogynes" donated to the OSPF by Mrs. Betty Berthiaume.



Dendrobium gracilcaule

One member of the very large *dendrobium* genus, this species can be found from southern New South Wales to Queensland. The habitat varies considerably. Plants usually grow on trees in shady rainforests, but they are occasionally found on rocks or in coastal scrub and open forest, frequently in very sunny situations.

It is commonly known as the Delicate Stems *Dendrobium* or in Australia, as the Blotched Cane Orchid or Yellow Cane Orchid.

The plant is a medium-to-large-growing *dendrobium* flowering in the late winter and spring as younger plants and becoming free-flowering with age on drooping fragrant-flowered inflorescence.

This species needs a distinct dry winter starting in the mid-fall and fertilizer needs to be withheld until new growth appears in the spring. This plant is kept in our cold house on the west sunnier side of the greenhouse.



Dracula cochilops

This species is commonly known as The Snail-Eyed *Dracula* as the sepals protrude and resemble the eyes on stalks of snails. It is found in Colombia on the eastern slopes of the Andes in remnants of cloud forest at elevations around 2200 meters.

This plant is kept in our cold shadier side of the greenhouse and was part of the Keith Day donation to the OSPF in 2004.

Macodes petola 15903B sht 22



There are 14 species in this terrestrial to epiphytic genus occurring most often within Indonesia. The plants are grown more for the striking coloration and striping of the leaves than for the smaller and less striking flowers. Culture is similar to that given to *Ludisia* and *Anoectochilus*.

This particular species is found throughout the Indonesian archipelago growing in a range of habitats from damp forests, which do not have a long dry season in Java, to mossy rocks in forests in Borneo.

This particular species has many folklore traditions associated with it. The Javanese regard this plant as of divine origin and relate the following legend. Long ago a radiantly beautiful goddess, *Petola*, was sent by the gods to Java to show the uncivilized natives the right and good ways. Her gentleness did not persuade them, and they chased her away to a rocky outcrop in the deep forest. She returned the next day in an angry mood and the people subjected themselves to her. They pleaded for her beautiful scarf as a sign of forgiveness, but she would not leave it. She returned to the rocky outcrop and while asleep laid her scarf down on the ground. Soon the ground was covered with lovely plants that bore on their leaves the pattern of the heavenly scarf, and so originated the *daun petola* of Java, brought there by a goddess.

Soon the news of the divine flowers spread and people came from far and near to collect them for themselves. All these plants, however began to die. The goddess magically restored them to the rock, breathed life back into them and left them in the care of the mountain fairies. The Javanese explain that this is why the plant cannot be grown away from its place of origin.

This plant is grown in the hot house shady side of the greenhouse and is lovingly tended by our mountain fairies on our temporary workers exchange program.

Partners In Parks – Edmonton

By: Erin Isaac, Community Greening Coordinator, City of Edmonton

Background photo provided by the City of Edmonton

Help beautify your neighbourhood this spring and summer!

The City of Edmonton's longstanding Partners in Parks program provides individuals, families, stewardship and community groups the opportunity to contribute to overall beautification and the City's standing as a Community in Bloom.

By volunteering to maintain and enhance a mulched shrub bed, citizens can help beautify Edmonton's parks and green spaces. These volunteer activities boost pride in the city, bring beauty to neighbourhoods and provide personal satisfaction and enjoyment.

2016 Highlights

In 2016, the program had 126 volunteer participants engaging in weeding, picking up litter, mulching and planting annuals and

perennials, and more.

At the Communities in Bloom awards ceremony, two special program volunteers were recognized for an outstanding commitment to beautification and for being program ambassadors helping to engage new volunteers.

Registration

This year, we hope to see all of our dedicated participants renew their volunteer applications. We are also extending a warm invitation to new members of all skill levels and ages. We would specifically like to see more families gardening with young children, as well as youth seeking to gain experience and develop horticultural skills. Registration is easy! Current volunteers will be contacted directly and new members can register using the online form, which will be available in April. New members can also connect with the Partners in Parks Community

Greening Coordinator by calling 311.

Benefits and Recognition

As an incentive to increase plant diversity and the aesthetic appeal of shrub beds, participants will receive a complimentary Edmonton Horticultural Society membership! Use the vendor discount to find red and white plants to celebrate Canada 150 or promote a vibrant texture or colour theme. You may even want to enhance the beds with native species and plants that attract pollinators! We especially hope you will use the membership to network with other gardeners and access all of the great workshops and educational opportunities.

Plus, in June, the Edmonton in Bloom nominations process begins and participants and sponsors are recognized for their efforts in the fall! For more information about Partners in Parks, please visit edmonton.ca/partnerinpark

EHS Perennial Exchange

Gardeners love to share! The EHS semi-annual Perennial Exchange is a great opportunity to clean up your garden beds and provide new homes for extra plants, exchange them for new ones, and buy locally-hardy plants at reasonable prices.

This event is held twice a year, rain or shine in the spring, as you are getting your garden started and may have extra plants, and during fall clean-up, when you may be dividing perennials or have seeds to share.

When Spring: May 27th, 2017
Fall: September 16, 2017

Where EHS Office, 10746 - 178 St, Edmonton

How it works

For every plant you bring, you get one credit. Then during the exchange:

- Trade your credits for an item someone else brought.
- After the exchange portion of the event, remaining plants are sold.
- There are vendor and display tables to browse.
- Popular Garden Tools table, where EHS members can donate gently-used unwanted garden equipment to be sold to benefit EHS will be there.

Why participate?

- To get new plants that grow well locally.
- To share your excess plants with others.

- To connect with fellow gardeners.
- To have a good time.

Prepare before you come & guidelines for preparing your plants:

- Pot healthy plants in individual, sturdy containers (not paper or plastic bags).
- Bulk, bare root stock (such as iris) is permitted but must be identified as to the quantity of tubers, bulbs, or corms, as well as the labeling requirements listed below.
- Exchange Plants must be labeled.
- Identify plants by botanical name, if known, and common name.
- Provide as much information as available, like height, spread, colour, location preference, and bloom time.

Qualifiers

- No guarantee there will be plant material available of equal value to your plants.
- No credit is given for Chives or Goutweed.
- Plants designated as noxious or prohibited noxious are not accepted.
- The Exchange Director will resolve any disputes and her decision is final.

Tips for an enjoyable experience

- Arrive early
- Dress for the weather.
- Bring trays, a crate, a bin or a wagon to collect and take away your chosen plants.
- Bring cash, if you plan to purchase plants or refreshments.

Schedule for the day

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

- Exchange plants are accepted at the receiving tables and exchange credits are provided.
- Browse vendor tables, chat with fellow gardeners, and enjoy refreshments while you wait.

During this time, plants are separated into categories in the staging area and there is no access to the staging areas except by designated volunteers.

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

- Sales table and vendor tables are open.

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

- Staging area is open to exchange-participants to select plants in exchange for their credits. It can be a mad scramble of fun and camaraderie!

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

- Staging area is open to non-participants and remaining plants are sold.

All payment is by cash only. Credits may not be exchanged for vendor products or refreshments. For further information or to volunteer or to arrange for a vendor, contact volunteer@edmontonhort.com or call Cheryl Lewis at 780-478-2570.

Questions About Feeding Wild Birds

By: Dave Cleary

Chickadee photo by Wild Birds Unlimited

Q: How can I attract birds to nest in my backyard?

In Edmonton and area, we can attract Chickadees, House Wrens, and Red-breasted Nuthatches to nest in our yards by hanging nesting boxes in trees, on posts, garages, and pole systems. Because they are cavity nesters, they will use nesting boxes. If they can find a suitable tree (usually partially dead), Chickadees will excavate their own nest. If you put wood shavings inside the nesting box, they prefer to take that box because it allows them to empty the box of shavings, as they are used to doing when taking a nesting location in a tree! Cool.

House Wrens are dependable backyard nesters, returning year after year in some cases. This feisty little bird with the pleasant morning song arrives in town in early May. The male will build as many as five nests, while the female selects the one they will nest in. They will sometimes use a nest that has been previously used by Chickadees earlier in the Spring.

Robins and House Sparrows are also frequent backyard nesters. Robins like to use ledges to build their cup-shaped nests made from grass and twigs lined with mud. House Sparrows will also use nesting boxes provided the opening is larger than 1½", sometimes chewing the edges of the hole to make it large enough to enter. If a nesting box or other cavity is not available, they will also build dome-shaped nests of woven grass, twigs and fibers in hedges and branchy trees. You can often find bits of string, fabric and other bits and pieces from your yard in their nests. If you have pieces of string, slips of cloth, or other fibers you can put these in your yard for the birds to use. Wild Birds Unlimited also carries nesting material.

The hole size in birdhouses is critical; 1½" works best for these Chickadees, Nuthatches, and Wrens. Any larger and House Sparrows can easily take over the box. Squirrels may also try to chew their way in. To keep unwanted birds and squirrels out of your nesting box, you can attach metal washers sized for particular birds that prevent intruders from enlarging the hole. You can also get nesting guards which are short pipe-like attachments that go over the hole to prevent predator birds from reaching in to steal

eggs and newly-hatched young from the nest. The nesting guards do double duty as they also protect against birds trying to chew a larger hole opening.

Bird houses can make your birds' lives a little easier. After all, they have already expended a lot of energy establishing territories, courting and looking for scarce food. If you already have birdhouses in your yard, now is a good time to clean them out, removing twigs, moss, string etc., to make way for the next bird couple. A wash of 10 parts water to one part bleach can be used inside the box to sanitize it, killing any mites that could affect the incoming birds.

Early in March, birds' natural food supply is at its lowest point of the year, depending on snow cover. Insect populations are still low, and the few remaining wild fruits, berries, seeds and nuts

are either hidden or undesirable. Unpredictable weather doesn't make life any easier. Sunny, warm, spring-like days can turn into cold, damp conditions that challenge birds' survival skills. And to make matters worse, this is all happening as some birds prepare for nesting season. This is one of the best times of the year for you to help birds. Offer your birds lots of high energy foods, such as Bark Butter Bits, peanuts, suet, and black oil sunflower



seeds (either in the shell, or out of the shell to avoid shell mess on the ground). Loaded with fat and protein, these are beneficial substitutes for the scarce insects many birds would eat if they could find them.

This time of year you may notice the songs of birds preparing to mate and raise young. Listen in your yard or on your neighbourhood walk for the sound of Chickadees calling out, "Hi Sweetie" or "Cheesburger." Pairs of House Finches can be heard singing their beautiful song as well. And in May, you'll hear the insistent call of House Wrens. It's an exciting time of year in your backyard.

Dave Cleary and Jan Chapman are owners of Wild Birds Unlimited at the corner of 122 St and 107 Ave on the northside in Edmonton. The mission of Wild Birds Unlimited is to bring people and nature together. See their website at www.wbu.com/edmonton or call them at 587-521-2473.

EHS Gardener's Gate is the newsletter of the Edmonton Horticultural Society

Growing Together since 1909

Gardener's Gate is the full-colour magazine-style newsletter of the Edmonton Horticultural Society and is published six times per year.

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Visit our Web site, join us on Twitter, follow us on Facebook!

About the EHS

Our Vision: Gardening for a better world.

Our Mission: Inspire, support and celebrate: more gardeners; more gardens; more gardening for all.

We welcome:

- Garden enthusiasts of all ages and interests
- Gardeners from the novice to the very experienced
- Gardening and horticulture professionals
- Corporate and business members
- Like-minded non-profit groups

The EHS is a volunteer-run, non-profit society which has been a vital part of gardening in the Edmonton area for over 100 years. EHS offers a variety of activities for members and the general public.

We offer:

- Gardening and horticultural expertise for every level of gardener
- Perennial plant exchanges and sales to build your collection
- Garden tours and competitions
- Our year-round Speaker's Series (see the Gardeners' Calendar for dates)
- Workshops and Small Talks
- Emailed news updates on gardening-related topics
- Our website with current information about events occurring in the gardening community

EHS members also receive:

- Free admission to the Speaker's Series
- A subscription to the *Gardener's Gate*
- Emailed news updates on members-only activities
- Exclusive access to Open Gardens
- Discounts at various garden and landscape suppliers

EHS has a long tradition of working in the community and partners with the City of Edmonton in a variety of activities. We also connect with other like-minded groups.

Volunteers are our strength. If you are passionate about gardening, want to share and build gardening knowledge, love growing food, flowers or trees, or simply enjoy being outdoors – join the EHS. Our volunteers do it all!

Join the EHS!

Single: \$45/year or \$115/3 years

Family: \$60/year or \$155/3 years (two people in same household, two membership cards)

Community Garden: \$45/year/garden (two membership cards for use by any garden member)

Corporate: \$140/year (two membership cards for use by any employee, advertising discounts)

Note: There is a \$5 charge to replace lost membership cards.

For more membership information:

Email: membership@edmontonhort.com

Web: <https://edmontonhort.com/membership/join-us/>

To Contact Us

Email: info@edmontonhort.com or refer to the Directory at the bottom of this page

Web: edmontonhort.com/ehs/contact-us

Mail: Edmonton Horticultural Society
10746 - 178 Street N.W.
Edmonton, AB T5S 1J3

Phone: 780-456-3324 (Please leave a message)

In Person: at any EHS monthly meeting (see the Gardeners' Calendar)

Advertising Opportunities

Reach gardeners in the Capital region throughout the year. Ads should be submitted in electronic format, and in high resolution. A signed Advertising Agreement must be received prior to publication, and the agent assumes all liability for content. The EHS reserves the right to carry only those ads it deems appropriate; publication does not imply endorsement. Space is limited, check with us for availability.

Newsletter: The *Gardener's Gate* newsletter is published six times per year. There are multi-issue and Corporate Member discounts available.
newsletter@edmontonhort.com

Web site: Your message on our home page will reach garden enthusiasts across the region.
webmaster@edmontonhort.com

For more advertising information: edmontonhort.com/advertising

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EHS Twitter Account [@YEGardening](https://twitter.com/YEGardening)

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