

THE EAST YORK GARDEN

NEWSLETTER OF THE EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB



The East York Garden Club is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association, District 5.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except August and December) in the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Avenue at 7:30 p.m.

Refreshments are available at 7:00 p.m. The Clubhouse is wheelchair-accessible. Visitors are always welcome.

Yearly membership fees are \$20 for a single, and \$30 for a family. To inquire about membership, please contact Suzanne Boyd at 416-423-5857.

Visit us on the web at www.eygc.ca

President:

Veronica Callinan

Vice President:

Linda Boyko
Susan Bartlett

Newsletter Editor:

Susan Bartlett



Thursday, January 21, 2010

Topic: Roughing it in the Bush: Our Cottage Garden

Speakers: Michael and Susan Dolbey

Mike and Susan Dolbey are long-time members of, not just the East York Garden Club, but also the Ontario Rock Garden & Hardy Plant Society and the Lakefield Horticultural Society. As well as gardening in East York, they also have a cottage garden northeast of Peterborough.

This is first People's Choice photo contest of the year. The category is "In the Pink" - entries must be in by 7:15 please.

Following the meeting there will be a draw table.

Members with surnames beginning with "A" and "B" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares for the refreshment table.

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Topic: Your Questions Answered by Master Gardeners

Get a head start on the gardening season by asking our Master Gardeners those perplexing questions. Whether it's where, what or how to plant it, or maybe what went wrong – help is here. Our Master Gardeners are local and really know the conditions and microclimate that East York gardeners deal with.

This is the second People's Choice photo contest. The category is "Around the House" (entries in by 7:15 please). Following the meeting there will be a 50/50 draw. Members with surnames beginning with "C" to "D" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares.

Our regular monthly meetings resume in January. Doors open at 7:00 for coffee (please bring your own mug), refreshments and the opportunity to mingle with other members.

Please note 2010 memberships are due. If you haven't renewed yet, the form is on the back of this newsletter.

2010 Photo Contest

by Malcolm Geast

In 2009 we marked the completion of a full decade for our photo contests. During that time we've seen some changes to the contests, and to photography in general. When we began, in 2000, we had one contest with five categories, and all the entries came from cameras using photographic film. Ten years and 52 categories later, we've branched out to include five monthly "People's Choice" competitions, and almost all of the entries are taken with digital cameras.

This year, the annual contest in the fall will be taking another step forward with a significant increase in the number of categories. For the first time, some non-horticultural subjects will be included: "Bridges", "Clouds", and "Water". As well, the "Captured Beauty" category has been split into Experienced and Novice. (A Novice is a person who has not yet won a first place award in a previous EYGC annual photo contest.) In total, there will be 12 categories this year, more than twice the number we started with 10 years ago.

To help mark the contest's first ten years, we invite you to look back through the photos that you've taken during the period that we've been running the contest, and submit your best horticultural picture from the period 2000 to 2010 for the category "A Decade of Photos". And in case you're wondering how a decade can cover an 11-year period, just think of it as the photographer's version of a baker's dozen.

This year's People's Choice contests will begin again in January and continue until April. We'll also have one in November, with the winning picture appearing on the 2011 yearbook cover. In these competitions, the categories are open to liberal interpretation, and we encourage you to let your imagination run free with your photos. All members who attend the meeting will be able to vote to decide the winners.

The procedure for the People's Choice contests are the same as in 2009 – bring in your photo, with

your name on the back (please don't put any identifying marks on the front). We'll have all the photos laid out on a table, and ballots will be available for all members to vote. It will be done on the honour system, so please take only one ballot.

Of course, with every contest, we have to have some rules. And here they are:

- Members may submit one print, no larger than 5 by 7 inches (approx 13 by 18 cm)
- The member's name must be printed on the back of the photo. (Note: Press lightly when writing, so as not to make an impression on the front of the photo.)
- The photo must fit with the category for that month's contest.
- Entries must be received by 7:15 p.m. on the day of the contest.
- Ballots will be provided for those attending to vote for the photo of their choice, one vote per member.
- First, Second, and Third Prize winners will receive ribbons and points to be counted toward the awarding of the annual trophy.
- Photographs are to be produced from any still-camera (film or digital), and must have been taken by the entrant in 2009 or 2010.

Categories and rules for all the photo contests will be included in the yearbook. But to get you started, here's a list of the categories for 2010:

Fall Photo Contest

Horticultural

1. Captured Beauty (close-up of a single flower) (experienced and novice classes)
2. Black & White (any horticultural subject, in black and white)
3. Garden Sheds (the building usually found in the garden - not an insect shedding its skin)

Fall Photo Contest cont'd

4. Stumps
5. Garden Art (sculptures & structures in the garden, but not including buildings)
6. Seed-Pods & Seed Heads
7. Old Man Winter
8. A Decade of Photos (any horticulturally-related subject taken between 2000 and 2010)
9. Anything Grows (any horticulturally related subject) (children and youth classes)

General

10. Bridges
11. Clouds
12. Water (a picture with water as the subject - ponds, rain, fountains, etc.)

People's Choice Contest

- January - In the Pink
- February - Around the House
- March - Ugly
- April - Spring
- November - Yearbook Cover

2010 Flower Show - Changes to Awards

Changes have been made to the awards, effective for the 2010 year:

Any individual cannot win more than \$100 from their points in Annual & Monthly Shows. This does not include special awards in the Annual Show.

We will continue to have cash prizes for the highest aggregate points (\$40/\$25/\$10) in Annual and Monthly shows and those prizes are also included in the \$100 maximum cash prize.

(This information will also appear in the 2010 Yearbook.)

**Survey Says ...
by Susan Bartlett**

Thanks you for filling out your 2009 surveys. It helps give the Executive a snapshot of what our members enjoy about the meetings and the club, and what didn't work so well.

The top rated speakers in 2009 included Belinda Gallagher on Perennials; Gary and Dianne Westlake on creating garden ornaments and Toronto Master Gardeners Q & A. We are pleased to have Toronto Master Gardeners back in February. We appreciate your suggestions on speakers; however sometimes the more well-known speakers are too busy or charge more than our budget will allow. We also try to make members aware, through email, the Club website or this newsletter, of interesting talks at nearby clubs or at the TBG.

Many of you said you would like more demonstrations and "tricks and tips". We're working on how to make these regular features at meetings – perhaps you have something you would like to show or share with other members?

For the July meeting, the majority preferred to have a pot luck dinner in a member's garden, rather than the Rockery. Once chosen, we will let you know the location of the lucky member.

You don't have to wait until the next survey if you have any ideas or suggestions for the Club – feel free to email or talk to any of the Executive.

Get the Jump on Spring

The Toronto Botanical Garden and the Ontario Horticultural Association District 5 are teaming up again to present Get the Jump on Spring. The 2010 edition of this annual show will take place on Saturday, February 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Toronto Botanical Garden. As well as appearances by vendors, horticultural societies and specialty societies from across the GTA, there will be speakers, demonstrations and Master Gardener seminars throughout the day. Among the many speakers will be Charlie Dobbin, Dugald Cameron, and Paul Zammit.

Slugs



(This article originally appeared in the Toronto Star, Nov. 19, 2009)

After Lisa Bendall and her daughter spotted some unusually coloured slugs while walking to school one day, they launched an investigation that has the world of amateur and professional malacologists (slug and snail watchers) scratching their heads.

“We were in awe,” says Bendall, a freelance writer, of the pumpkin-coloured things, which are 10 centimetres long when extended. But she and 10-year-old Emily didn't realize how rare the slugs actually are.

They appear to be a species native to Europe, one that has never been reported in Ontario. If the Etobicoke creatures turn out to be of European descent, it will likely remain a mystery whether they're newly arrived or have been here undetected for a long time.

After her discovery, Bendall contacted one of Canada's few experts in slugs, who was intrigued and urged Bendall to look for more of the molluscs. She found them.

One of her neighbours said the slugs were driving her crazy. She took Bendall to her backyard vegetable patch. After light prodding with a pitchfork, they found 13 slugs. The neighbour also showed Bendall the slug bait she'd left out – they were feasting on it.

Bendall sent photos of the slugs and live samples to Aleta Karstad, an amateur malacologist who, with her biologist husband, Frederick Schueler, runs Bishops Mills Natural History Centre, south of Ottawa.

“They are tremendously interesting,” says Karstad, “like slow-moving lions in the vegetable world.” Karstad forwarded

EYGC 2010 PROGRAM	
Jan. 21	<i>Roughing it in the Bush: Our Cottage Garden</i> Speakers: Michael & Susan Dolbey
Feb. 18	<i>Your Questions answered</i> Master Gardeners Panel
Mar. 18	<i>City Gardening</i> Speaker: Gayla Trail
April 15	<i>The ABCs of Containers</i> Speaker: Paul Zammit
May 20	<i>Wildflower Stories</i> Speaker: Alan Foster Flower Show, Plant Sale
June 17	<i>Iris, the Rainbow Flower</i> Speakers: Ann & Bob Granatier Flower Show
July 15	Members' Pot-Luck Dinner (location to be announced)
Aug. 21 (Sat)	Annual Flower Show & Tea
Sept. 16	<i>All About Bulbs</i> Speaker: Ken Brown Flower Show
Oct. 21	<i>Composting Made Easy</i> Speaker: Karen Widmer Seed Exchange
Nov. 18	Members' Pot-Luck Dinner & AGM

the images to Swiss taxonomist Ulrich Schnepat, who was recently in Canada giving workshops on slugs.

Even experts such as Schnepat say they can't be certain what these slugs are. The sure way to identify them is to examine their genitalia. This is achieved through delicate anatomical dissection.

Schnepat says the Etobicoke slugs resemble the *Arion rufus*, which originates in Europe. Anything further is speculation.

The *Arion rufus* – whose colour ranges from black to vivid orange – has been seen in British Columbia.

It's not known how or when the intruders arrived in the garden near the Queensway and Royal York Rd. Large slugs likely do not move more than a few metres in their lifespan – usually about a year long, but sometimes as long as six. Birds and animals can carry slug eggs in their feathers or fur. Slugs may also hitchhike on plants, the bottom of campers' tents, on trucks or on timber.

“The slugs in Toronto are not necessarily new invaders to Canada,” Schnepat says. “Even big populations of comparably big slugs may survive for years without detection by a biologist.”

Once slugs arrive, they tend to thrive. “They are invasive, quickly take hold and flourish,” says Robert Forsyth, a research associate at the Royal British Columbia Museum and a self-taught malacologist who lives in Smithers, B.C.

Slugs are hermaphroditic – they have both male and female reproductive organs. Because some slugs are self-fertilizing, one slug can start a population.

Since slug identification is tricky, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has commissioned a book to be published next spring: *Identifying Land Snails and Slugs in Canada*, by F. Wayne Grimm, Forsyth, Schueler and Karstad.

Slugs cont'd

As for the Etobicoke slugs, Karstad says they are garden pests and should be eradicated. She proposes setting out dishes of beer in the spring. Another technique: collect them at night and immerse them in boiling water. Nobody knows how slugs survive Canadian winters. "Slugs have the phenomenal ability to disappear from the surface," says Schueler. "Everything is speculation about slugs in winter." They may burrow in the earth below freezing depth or find refuge in the cracks around the foundation of houses.

Meanwhile, Karstad will preserve and dissect the slugs Bendall sent her. She also asks Toronto gardeners to alert her to any unusual slugs they find. "Scientists are few on the ground. We can really use the help of the public in reporting what they see." She can be reached at karstad@pimicola.ca.

(Original article by Leslie Scrivener, Toronto Star, November 19, 2009)

<http://www.thestar.com/news/sciencetech/article/727232--10-cm-etobicoke-slug-a-big-slimy-mystery>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 24, 2010 - History of the Garden at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie)
Three-part Sunday afternoon lecture series examines the development of European and North American gardens. First lecture is "Petals and Metals: Floral Jewellery in France, England and America, 1600-1960." Runs from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Admission is \$20 for TBG & Leaside Garden Society members and \$30 for non-members. Sign up for all three lectures for \$45 for TBG & Leaside members, \$70 for non-members. The final two lectures are on **January 31 & February 7**. Further information: <http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/programs/history.htm>

Sunday, January 24, 2010 - Ontario Hosta Society Winter Meeting at 6435 Edwards Blvd, Mississauga
Guest speaker: Reggie Millette, President and founder of the Quebec Hostas and Hemerocallis Society. Runs from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. New members are welcome. Further Information: call 1-866-742-7155 or <http://www.ontariohostasociety.com/>

Wednesday, February 17, 2010 - Tallgrass Prairie - One of Canada's Most Threatened Native Habitats at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie) Janine McLeod, Natural Heritage Coordinator of the Alderville Black Oak Savanna and Tallgrass Prairie, will speak about the use of prescribed burns and illustrates the results of this method of restoring nature back to its former glory. Begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Garden Hall. Admission is \$8 for NANPS members, \$12 for the general public. <http://www.nanps.org/calendar.aspx?year=2010&month=2&day=17#1260372414270>

Wednesday, February 17, 2010 - An Adventure in Green Gardening at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie) Speaker Matthew Wilson will discuss the issues facing gardeners today and in the future: water efficiency, plant choices, carbon reduction, and gardens in their relation to local wildlife. Begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Floral Hall. Admission is free for members, \$20 for non-members. [Toronto Botanical Garden Edwards Lectures](#)

Saturday, February 20, 2010 - Get the Jump on Spring at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie)
Speakers include Paul Zammit, Dugald Cameron, Charlie Dobbin, and Doug Kennedy. Admission is free, but a \$2 donation gives you chances for hourly draws for great garden prizes! Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Further information: <http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/events/gtjos.htm>

February 13 & 14, 2010 - 30th Annual Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie) Over 30,000 orchids, on display. Further information: <http://www.soos.ca/index.htm>

Sunday, February 21, 2010 - Seedy Sunday at Artscape Wychwood Barns, 601 Christie St.
Seed exchange, eco-fair and gardening event. 1 – 6 p.m. Further Information: <http://www.seeds.ca/ev/events.php>

What to do in the Garden in January & February

by Anna Leggatt

Nothing?

Check your shrubs and small trees after a heavy snowfall. Struggle out and try to shake snow off bent down branches. Make a note to put netting or string round them next fall.

Keep bird feeders well supplied, cleaning the feeders regularly to prevent disease. Provide open water - heated bird baths are great. Join Project Feeder Watch with Bird Studies Canada, and be part of an ongoing survey across North America. Clean out any bird boxes before nesting starts, perhaps in March. Birds may be finding sites.

Note any unattractive views in your garden which you can see from your window (surely not). Plan on planting for winter interest next year - tall grasses with soft plummy heads, evergreens with differing shapes and needle colour.

Check web sites and catalogues and start to make lists of plants and seeds to order. Look at the 2010 year book to see what you can enter in the upcoming shows. Add these to your lists.

Snuggle down with a new gardening book.

Congratulations



Malcolm Geast and Dawn McEachern are the proud grandparents of Jack, born January 11, 7 lb 14 oz. (parents are Morgan and Gus).

East York Garden Club Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

Postal Code Phone #.....

email.....

(Note that we will only use your email address to send you EYGC information. We do not distribute it to anyone else.)

- Single Membership Family Membership
- Renewal New Membership

Age Bracket: Under 18 18-60 Over 60 (Note: it is strictly voluntary if you choose to check one of these boxes. The rental rate at Stan Wadlow is a lower rate for organizations with a high number of seniors (over 60) and youth (under 18) therefore it is helpful, but not necessary, for us to have this information.

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees for 2010 are \$20 for a single, and \$30 for a family membership. Fees can be paid in person at a regular meeting of the Club or by mailing this form and a cheque (payable to "East York Garden Club") to:

East York Garden Club
17 Fairside Avenue
Toronto, ON M4C 3G8