

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
newsletter@eygc.ca



Thursday, September 16, 2010

Speaker: Ken Brown

Topic: All About Bulbs

Ken Brown is a horticultural consultant, writer and photographer. Ken worked as the Superintendent of Horticulture at the Toronto Zoo when it was being planned and built, where he oversaw planning and planting of all the indoor gardens. He owned and operated an interior landscaping company for 20 years and he also has a horticulture teaching degree from the University of Toronto and has taught a variety of courses.

Ken is a certified horticultural judge and he is a frequent speaker at horticultural meetings and seminars. His writing and photography continue to be published in several magazines and newspapers. His own gardens feature a wide range of perennials, especially his iris and daylily collections.

The speaker starts at 7:30 p.m. but remember that doors open at 7:00 for coffee and social. It would be appreciated if those with the initial M could bring some cookies or sweets for the coffee.

Following the meeting there will be a draw table.

Thursday, October 21, 2010

Speaker: Karen Widmer

Topic: Black Gold: Peels and Castings into Soil Treasure

Karen Widmer is an Environmental Educator at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. She comes from a family of greenhouse people and has studied Herbalism at Dominion Herbal College.

She will talk about general information about the worms, types of soil for plants needs and how the castings nourish almost homeopathically, types of composters and how people can do this in their homes.

The seed exchange will be held after the speaker. If participating, please bring your seeds in envelopes indicating basic information (i.e., annual or perennial).

Following the meeting there will be a 50/50 draw. Members whose surnames begin with O through R are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

Annual Show & Tea

by Linda Boyko

In spite of the strange summer weather which resulted in many plants maturing early this year our 2010 annual flower show still attracted 12 entrants who exhibited 210 items.

Categories included Cut Specimens, Potted Plants, Fruits and Vegetables, Design, and Preserves.

Congratulations to Vera Stoyanoff who won Best in Show for her Planter (for those of you who were at the show it was the wheelbarrow with various plants in it).

Our two judges, Rosemary Dobson and Shirley Binns, both well known for their floral arrangements, commented that some of the arrangements would have shown well at Canada Blooms – a compliment to all who entered the design category.

In addition to club members, visitors to the show included MPP Michael Prue, Councillor Janet Davis and one intrepid gentleman from Parry Sound.

Some of the draw winners were Keith Saunders (the garden trough) and Michael Prue (Lee Valley Tools).

Our September 16th show will be the last one for 2010. Please look in your garden, check your schedules and see what you have to enter. Never entered before? No problem. There will be members of the flower show committee on hand to provide encouragement, help you fill out the form, answer any questions you may have. Who knows – maybe you will be our “Novice of the Year” for 2010?

Preparing for the Flower Show: Helpful Hints

(Reprinted from the Sept. 2010 newsletter of the Scarborough Garden and Horticultural Society. You can also see the EYGC Yearbook for our own tipsheet.)

Disbud early – Side buds should be removed from an exhibit calling for one bloom. Do this early so that wounds are small and have a chance to heal. This results in stronger flower development.

Cutting flowers – Flowers are ideally cut the evening before a show. Put immediately into a clean container filled with tepid water that has had a floral preservative added to it. Store in a cool, dark place overnight.

Floral preservative – A simple home-made preservative may be made by mixing 4 cups of water, 1 tablespoon of sugar and ½ teaspoon of bleach.

Cleanliness – Present a clean exhibit. Pollen should be brushed off flower petals or removed with a damp cotton swab, soil cleaned off by rinsing or gentle brushing, the plant relieved of insects. Remove dead florets and seed.

Foliage – Torn, bug-eaten or discoloured foliage should be removed flush with the main stem. The judge will look for signs of neglect, disease, discoloration, insect damage on the foliage.

Missing petals – Missing flower petals make a bloom unsuitable for exhibition. Petals that are discoloured or misshapen may be removed, as long as the overall appearance remains symmetrical.

Displaying cut flowers – In horticultural classes, foliage or flowers of cut flowers should not be resting on the mouth of the vase/container, nor should foliage be crammed into the mouth of the container and submerged in water.

Uniformity – Where more than one bloom is required, all blooms be as close in colour, size, stage of development and length of stem as possible.

Importance of all over appearance – In cut flower classes, points are given for condition, size, form, colour and substance of bloom, and for distinction of variety.

Potted plants – Points are awarded for form, cultural perfection, size, symmetry, foliage, grooming, distinction of variety and, if flowering, for colour, size, quality and floriferousness of bloom.

Weather damage – In the event of natural calamity, a judge will be aware of this and take it into consideration.

A judge will probably favour unusual varieties over more run-of-the-mill sorts; however, many common but obviously fresh, well-grown and well-groomed entries will win over bedraggled rarities.

OHA Photography Competition

At the OHA Convention in August Linda Boyko won the following:

Firsts for:

- *At the Market* (scene from a farmer's market)
- *Fruit of the Vine* (anything that grew or is growing on a vine)
- *I should have had a V8* (a vegetable garden)

Second for

- *It's up to you* (any subject done in sepia)

The competition schedule for the 2011 OHA convention is up for photography, creative writing and art and may be accessed at http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/future_conf.php

There were very few entries in the creative writing and art competitions for 2010 so if anyone is a writer or artist they may want to consider entering. Although there were a lot of photography entries our club has some very good photographers who should think about entering in 2011. Complete rules are available on the competition schedule page.

September Gardening Tips

(from Leaside Garden Club Sept. 2010 newsletter)

- Continue to water annuals, perennials, grass, and shrubs as needed.
- Stop fertilizing your trees and shrubs to allow this year's growth to harden off before winter.
- Continue to fertilize your annuals.
- Fertilize your lawn (the most important application of the year).
- Refresh summer planters with fall plants.
- Fall is a good time to select and plant trees and shrubs. Fall planting encourages good root development, allowing the plants to get established before spring. If weather is dry, provide water up until the ground freezes. Remember to choose some evergreens and grasses for winter interest.
- Bring houseplants back indoors.

- Top dress and over-seed bare spots in the lawn.
- Harvest tomatoes before frost.
- One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter.
- Dig out your compost pile to prepare for leaves which will soon be added.
- Put stakes beside perennials which you wish to divide in the spring.
- Make a map, indicating location of plants, to help your planning in the spring.
- Look forward to next month for planting bulbs!

Tips & Tricks

by Susan Bartlett

This summer someone very kindly nominated my garden for the Blooming Contest. While flattered, I felt it didn't really deserve the nomination unless I fixed up a neglected, weedy section. While tackling this long put-off project I was pleasantly surprised to find I already had a lot of what I needed, right in my back yard, so to speak.

The hardest part was the major weeding. Amazingly, I rescued a hosta that was completely engulfed by the common daylilies. This almost made all that hard work worthwhile. Lesson: there still might be a plant you actually want underneath all those invaders.

Once the day lilies and grass were vanquished, I needed to replace plants before the weeds came back but I didn't feel up to doing a full scale soil revitalization that most perennials or annuals would require. Cuttings from my large autumn joy sedum and some loose hens & chicks were moved. This cost me nothing and the plants are doing pretty well in the unamended soil.

To finish off I wanted some rocks for decor. I found a large number of rocks and stepping stones that groundcovers and herbs had grown over. I was able to reuse these rocks and it was nice to make them visible again.

From year to year gardens change and some shrubs, plants or even groundcovers can grow out of proportion to the rest. So my tip is that it's worth it to take a really thorough look underneath and all around. You probably have things you've forgotten about, and you may have just the right space for them elsewhere. Best of all you don't have to spend any money when you "find" things.

Featured Recipes from the Annual Show & Tea

**Lemon Yogurt Loaf***submitted by Maxine Cashore*

- 1+ ½ cups (375 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1+ ¾ tsp (9 ml) baking powder
- ½ tsp (2 ml) baking soda
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) salt
- ¾ cup (175 ml) granulated sugar
- 1 + ¾ tsp (9 ml) finely grated lemon rind
- 2/3 cup (150 ml) Balkan-style plain yogurt
- 3 eggs
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) vegetable oil

Syrup

- ¾ cup (175 ml) icing sugar
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) lemon juice

In bowl whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt together.

In large bowl rub sugar and lemon rind. Whisk in yogurt and eggs; whisk in oil. Stir in flour mixture in two additions. Scrape in lined (or greased) 8 x 4 inch (1.5 L) loaf pan.

Bake in 350 degree F oven until cake tester inserted in centre come out clean, about 40 to 45 minutes. Let cool in pan on rack for 5 minutes. Remove from pan and place on small tray.

Syrup: Whisk juice and sugar together until dissolved. Brush over top and sides. Let cool on rack.

Cheese Biscuits*submitted by Janet Carrington*

- 4 cups flour
- 8 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- ¾ cup butter, or margarine
- 2 cups old cheddar cheese, grated
- cold water

Mix together flour, baking powder and salt.

Cut in butter with pastry blender, or two knives.

Stir in cheese. Add enough water to hold together.

Roll out to about ¾ inch thick.

Cut with cutter, or a glass tumbler and place on a greased pan (I used parchment paper).

Bake at 400F for about 20 minutes or until done.

More recipes will follow in future editions. If you would like to share your recipe, please send it to newsletter@eygc.ca.

Not Far From the Tree

Not Far From the Tree is a non-profit organization that picks and distributes residential fruit in Toronto. They work with homeowners, volunteers and local community organizations to share free, local, virtually organic fruit, all of it delivered using sustainable transportation. They are currently looking for new trees. Please check out www.notfarfromthetree.org to register your tree or sign up to volunteer and see upcoming events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 18 & 19, 2010 (Saturday & Sunday) - Marion Jarvie - Open Garden (37 Thornheights Road, Thornhill) The last of four weekends that Marion Jarvie has her garden open for viewing in 2010. There are always many select plants for sale, and there is no charge for admittance. Open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine.

Wednesday, September 22, 2010 - Dig It Up! at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie) Helen Dillon, an acclaimed Irish garden writer and broadcaster will speak about the challenges involved in making changes to the garden. Begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Floral Hall. Admission is free for members, \$20 for non-members, \$15 for students. Further information: <http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/programs/edwardslectures.htm>

October 29 to November 7, 2010 - Fall Garden & Chrysanthemum Show at Gage Park (Hamilton) This year's annual chrysanthemum show features over 75,000 blooms and 200 varieties of mums. Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. Admission is just \$5.00. Further information: <http://www.hamilton.ca/mumshow>

September 18 and 19 DECA's 2nd Annual Danforth East Arts Fair at the East Lynn Park (Danforth & Woodbine) This is a high-quality fair with a range of arts and crafts to suit a variety of tastes and budgets. For more information visit <http://decadiaries.wordpress.com/>

Blooming Contest

East York Blooming Contest awards will be presented at the East York Civic Centre at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 22.

Results will be posted on the East York Garden Club website (www.eygc.ca) later the same evening.



"Cut it Out Toronto!" at Canadian Tire this Fall

The City of Toronto and Canadian Tire are encouraging all Torontonians to help cut the emissions responsible for climate change by recycling their old, gas-powered lawn and garden equipment at Canadian Tire this fall.

Older, gas-powered leaf and snow blowers, lawnmowers and trimmers emit a high level of pollutants into the air compared to newer equipment built to more stringent emission standards. In fact, according to Environment Canada, running a 10-year-old old, gas-powered lawnmower for one hour is equivalent to driving a new car between 320 and 480 kilometres. That's like driving from Toronto to Ottawa! Significant emissions savings can be achieved by upgrading to a newer model or by replacing your old equipment with other environmentally-preferable products such as push mowers.

You can help build a cleaner, greener Toronto by retiring your old lawn and garden equipment at the four Canadian Tire stores listed below on September 18 and 19 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. All items will be sent for responsible recycling, and you will be rewarded with a \$25 Bonus Card redeemable at any of the 21 Canadian Tire stores in Toronto*.

- Leslie & Lakeshore
1015 Lakeshore Blvd. East
- The Queensway
1608 The Queensway
- Willowdale
1019 Sheppard Ave. East
- Warden & Eglinton
1901 Eglinton Ave. East

**maximum five Bonus Cards distributed per household*

Experts from Toronto Hydro and Toronto Water will also be on-site to provide tips, tools and resources to help you reduce your electricity and water use. Sign up for Peaksaver, learn about the City's residential washer and toilet programs, plus more!

Visit livegreentoronto.ca for all of the event details.

EYGC Bus Tour

by Janet Carrington

Sunday August 8th promised to be a beautiful summer day, after all, it was our annual bus tour to destinations carefully chosen by Roz Regnier, our tour arranger. We boarded our coach promptly at the specified time and proceeded to our first stop which happened to be the Vandermeer nursery in Ajax. What a spectacular array of varied and healthy looking plants! There were gardeners and gardener wannabes like myself, going in all directions, oohing and aahing and giving consideration as to which plant(s) we were favouring to take home with us. Let's face it plant purchasing is an addiction. My friend Lee, who swore that she couldn't buy anything because of a renovation job in her backyard, was seen heading to the cashier with a beautiful rose bush. I think that she was totally captivated by the beautiful scent which emanated from said bush.

We made our usual stop at Timmy's to get our caffeine fix and whatever else we needed to tide us over until lunch.

An invitation from Mr. & Mrs. Westlake to view their property in Peterborough was our next stop. Here we saw an expansive, well laid out garden and a beautiful home which was not built on level ground. We were bowled over by the artistry of the design and the varied plant specimens. They have a good representation of hostas which dotted the property.



Photo courtesy of Malcolm Geast

Lunchtime was fast approaching and we headed towards our next destination, which was a guided boat tour of two lift locks on the Trent Canal which is part of the Trent Severn Waterway. As we boarded the Island Princess III at the Peterborough Marina, the rain came down in torrents. Fortunately everyone seemed prepared and was able to produce rain gear, however there was evidence of a few soggy feet, as most people were wearing open toed

shoes. Not to be daunted, we took the inclement weather in stride and looked forward to our boat ride on the locks.

I had never traversed any locks before, so this was an entirely new experience for me. It was with trepidation and awe that I listened to the description of how locks operate. We went through the famous Peterborough Hydraulic Lift lock and I really had to sit up and take notice when it was stated that the boat would be lifted up 65 feet to reach the upper level of the canal. The history of this lock dates back to 1896, the year in which it was designed. It was completed in 1904 and was and still is considered an engineering feat in that it was the first and largest lock to be built out of unreinforced concrete up until that date. During lunch the camaraderie aboard the boat was very evident from the talk and laughter between everyone. This part of the tour lasted approximately 2 ½ hour



Photo courtesy of Malcolm Geast

Our next stop was a visit to an ecological park where the focus is to draw awareness to the environment by promoting the use of natural soil amendments such as compost, mulch and manure thus eliminating the use of chemicals to promote growth. Notwithstanding the rain, we were able to see a native tree nursery, native plants and different types of flowers which attract butterflies & bees. There were plants here which are not seen in most nurseries and some in our group took the opportunity to purchase some of them.

Our trip back to Toronto followed this visit and I need not say that we arrived back to sunshine and dry streets. It was a most delightful day and the sentiment I am sure, was unanimous.

Thank you Roz.