

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 Bond at 416-423-5857.

Visit us on the web at www.eygc.ca

President:

Veronica Callinan

Vice President:

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Thursday, May 19, 2011

Topic: What Plant, Where? Our own Master Gardeners will tell us about the plants in the Plant Sale

Also on: Plant Sale!!

Please bring the plants between 6:30 and 7:00PM so they can be prepared for sale. Please label the plant with name, colour, annual or perennial, height/width, blooming season, light requirements, anything special a gardener needs to know. Master Gardeners will talk about the donated plants and maybe even bring some from their own gardens. The sale begins at the end of the meeting! If you can remember, try to bring a plastic bag or plastic trays for your own purchases.

We will also have a "garden treasures" table so donations of any gently used garden related tools or items are appreciated.

There will be no draw or Flower Show this meeting, but a special treat will be served at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Topic: The Importance of Bee-ing

Speaker: Cathy Kozma

Also on: Flower Show

Cathy's bees live on the roof of the Royal York Hotel and the Brickworks. She also will be in charge of the new bee programme at the TBG. A lifelong downtown Torontonion, an avid gardener and Toronto Master Gardener in Training Cathy noticed dwindling honeybee and native bee populations in her own Annex area garden, and decided to do something about it.

Following the meeting there will be a draw table. Members with surnames beginning with "E" through "G" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares.

Doors open at 7:00 for coffee (please bring your own mug), refreshments and the opportunity to mingle with other members.



*It's not the Stanley Cup but it will suffice!
See it displayed at the Stan Wadlow Ctr.*



Canada Day – Friday, July 1, 2011

The City's funding arrangements for the East York Canada Day Parade and festivities are in transition, regardless, the Club intends to participate in our annual Plant Sale and Attic Treasures at the Stan Wadlow Park, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We need volunteers to help in setting-up, doing the sale, and closing. A few hardy souls usually stay for the whole day but there will be shifts available so you can still enjoy the displays and activities at the park. We also need plants and items for the Attic Treasures and there will be more details on coming on where/when to drop off your donations. Depending on the participation level, we will also have a group walk in the Parade.

Sign-up sheets will be circulated at the May and June meetings.

Volunteers Needed

Saturday June 4, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Councillor Janet Davis' Environment Day at
Stan Wadlow Rink Parking Lot

Plants for sale are needed. We'll also need people to "man" our table (can I say that without ticking off any of the non-'man' folk?)

Please let me know if you can help out.

Veronica

This picture says it all - East York Garden Club won the Toronto Parks and Recreation Volunteer Group of the Year award!

Our members are present in so many events and aspects of East York life, this is a wonderful recognition from the City.

To commemorate all the work that EYGC members have done (and continue to do!) to earn us this Award, we'll be serving cake prior to the May meeting. Please come at 7:00 p.m. and share in the glory and calories!

Veronica



EYGC Members pose with City Staff & Councillors at City awards ceremony held on April 27, 2011.

Sunday, July 24, 2011, EYGC Bus
Tour to Prince Edward County

Gardens, Winery, Artisans, Cheese Factory,
Lunch!

Cost is \$65 (includes gratuities). **Payment is due at the May meeting, to Roz.**

We're technically sold out, but, there are always folks who can't come in the last minute, hence the "waiting list". If you haven't signed up and want to be put on the waiting list, please reply.

OHA District 5 AGM

On Saturday, April 30, our delegation of 28 from EYGC attended the AGM at Madsen's Garden Centre in Newmarket. The event was hosted by the Newmarket Horticultural Society, appropriately enough, in a greenhouse.

After the business part was concluded, Paul Zammitt talked about creating year round interest in the garden, a delicious lunch was served, and then Aileen Barclay talked about water conservation in the garden. All in all it was an enjoyable day to meet other gardeners, hear some interesting speakers and get in the spirit of spring.

AGM Flower Show Results

- ⊗ No. of specimens entered by EYGC: 18 entries
- ⊗ Members who entered specimens: Betty Meyerss, Vera Stoyanoff, Cristina Brown, Roz Regnier
- ⊗ Total points received by EYGC: 61 points – EYGC placed 2nd overall
- ⊗ Special awards in Horticulture Division – Cut Specimens Section
- ⊗ Best in Show – Hellebore - Betty Meyers
- ⊗ Judge's Choice – Tulip, Multi-flowered - Betty Meyers

In the printed materials category, EYGC took second place for the Yearbook.

Further Volunteer Opportunities

The Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserves has work parties on both Friday and Saturday mornings. Just show up around 9:30 and dress appropriately. If interested, contact Margaret McRae marg.mcrae@gmail.com or Paula Davies.



Shari-Lyn's Recipes

In her February presentation at EYGC, Shari Lyn Safir shared some of her "recipes" for healthy roses.

To prevent blackspot/rust:

- 1 tbsp baking soda
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- a squirt of mild dish soap
- per gallon of water

Spray this mixture on leaves every 5 days

To Combat Aphids:

Combine 7-8 cloves of garlic, with peel, in one gallon of water, let stand 24 hours, shake it occasionally then strain, pour into a spray bottle and spray those aphids.

To help prevent powdery mildew:

- Never water at night. It encourages blackspot and other disease. A good long soaking encourages roots to grow deep
- It's better to water just once a week and well

In the Spring: Add ½ cup of Epsom Salts to each plant at the end of May and the end of June to encourage new canes and increase flower bud set.

Pruning Tip: It is safe to prune rose bushes once the forsythia is blooming.

ROCKERY NEWS



Saturday April 16 – Braving the Elements for the Annual Spring Clean-Up

Regular maintenance starts May 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., noon, beginning May 14.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Need one more Rockery Team Lead

Maintenance will be done weekly, every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., noon. This will begin May 14.

We need a couple more Team Leads so we can divide the weeks up. What is the time commitment? Depending on the number of Team Leads, we're asking for a commitment from you of one Saturday a Month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., noon.

What would do I have to do?

- 1) Be there. Bring muffins for the volunteers (can be expensed)
- 2) Bring the sign that says who we are (sign and instructions will be provided)
- 3) Turn the water on and off (instructions will be provided),
- 4) Let the volunteers know the focus of the day (instructions will be provided),
- 5) Make sure the sign is taken home (or it will be stolen!)

Will you join us?

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 12 - 15, 2011 - Toronto Botanical Gardens Plant Sale, at the TBG (Lawrence & Leslie) open to the public: Thursday, May 12 & Friday, May 13, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

May 14, 2011, 11:00AM to 2:00pm - North Toronto Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, 38 Eglerslie Avenue in the Willowdale Presbyterian Church just south of Finch

Saturday, May 14, 2011 - Merlin's Hollow - Open Garden (181 Centre Crescent, Aurora) 2011 is the 30th year of "open days" at Merlin's Hollows. Featured today will be spring bulbs, wild flowers and alpine screen. The garden is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., rain or shine. There is no charge for admission. Open days will also be held on June 11, July 2, and July 10. Further information: <http://www.eygc.ca/MerlinsHollow.pdf>

May 24 to 31, 2011 - 11th Annual Lilac Festival at the Lilac Gardens of Lindsay (Logie St. Park, Lindsay). More than 500 Lilac shrubs, including over 130 varieties, and the attractive Butterfly Garden are on display. Guided tours will be available.

May 28 & 29, 2011 (Saturday & Sunday) - Doors Open Toronto Across Toronto A weekend celebration of our architectural heritage, 150 of Toronto's most historic and/or architectural significant buildings open their doors free of charge. Further information: <http://www.toronto.ca/doorsopen/>

Saturday, June 18, 2011, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - EYGC Members' Garden Tour. This year, bring a friend! Tour is informal, no tickets or reservations needed, visit one garden or see them all in any order that works for you. A great chance meet & greet with other EYGC members. See attached sheet with map & addresses for details.

Are grubs and slugs ruining your planting beds? Place a few slices of cucumber in a small tin and your garden will be free of pests all season long. The chemicals in the cucumber react with the aluminum to give off a scent undetectable to humans but drive garden pests crazy and make them flee the area.

Thank you Beena Rajendra for this tip!

New Noteworthy products

by Anna Leggatt

Books

My Garden – a five year journal by Mini Luebbermann. This journal can be started any time. It is divided into seasons with tasks listed for each season, hints, places to record weather, colour, successes etc. There is room for sketches and a place to keep photos. I do not have the determination to keep going. *My Garden*, Chronicle Books ISBN: 978-0-8118-7446-5

Sugar snaps and Strawberries by Andrea Bellamy. A useful book with simple solutions for creating your own small-space edible garden. The book covers assessing the space you have to garden, finding space and planning and building your garden with instructions to filling containers, building raised beds and what and where you should grow various vegetables. *Sugar Snaps and Strawberries* Timber Press ISBN-13: 978-1-60469-124-5

Basic gardening techniques are covered including harvesting and seed saving.

Edibles from A-Z lists vegetables and fruits, rating them for the small garden and which are best for containers. This was written for a distributor of specialty fruits and vegetables.

Melissa's Everyday Cooking with Organic Produce – a Guide to Easy to Make Dishes with Fresh Organic Fruits and Vegetables by Cathy Thomas. *Melissa's Everyday Cooking* Wiley ISBN: 978-0-047-37105-3

Other Items

Tommyco Garden vinyl kneeler

Good and thick, bright colour so you don't lose it behind a bush, picking up handle.

I prefer a sturdier kneeler with handles to get up and down – good if I was younger.

Fiskars has many useful products. I particularly like the ratchet sheers. Cutting down the dead grasses in late winter is a cinch.

There are many bypass pruners with hardened steel blades that keep edges longer. New this year are pruners with a carabiner clip that allows you clip them on for easy access. The loop handle is very comfortable.

I find the herb and vegetable scissors very useful. They have remained sharp and are easy to clean as the blades separate easily to allow thorough cleaning in the dish washer.

Our hand push lawn mower is an antique, used by my mother-in-law at least 80 years ago. It is superior to any we have bought in the past. However, we will try the Fiskars reel mower when ours wears out. The Fiskars product looks easy to adjust and run, plus it does not leave unmown strips at the edge of beds.

Fiskars also has a range of axes. I always wanted a small hatchet to chop small branches up for firewood.

Garden Benches



Hayden (the son of EYGC member Laurel Angeloff) is a university student who makes cedar benches for the garden. The benches are 7", very sturdy and beautiful in their simplicity. They are handcrafted to perfection and left so that the total cost including local delivery is under \$100. Buy on Mother's Day or just treat

Call 416-466-9785 or email: hangelof@ryerson.ca

Loblaws Lawn & Garden Insiders Report

by Anna Leggatt

Loblaws Lawn & Garden Insider's Report is out and their garden markets are full of colour. Many products can only be found at Loblaws Garden Centres.

The Red Fox Dragone Sunset Begonias caught everyone's attention at the Loblaws press release event. These begonias were large flowered, with hues of creamy yellow and pink. It took ten years to produce these floriferous plants and they can only be found in Loblaws in the whole of North America.

New petunias appear every year. This year the top colour is a tremendous velvety black – 'Black Velvet'. I think I preferred its sister, 'Phantom' petunia with a lime yellow star in the centre. Both look fantastic with white geraniums.

There are new geraniums which are an interspecific cross - ivy x zonal geraniums. They trail gently and appeared more vigorous than ivy geraniums. The colours were lovely and they are more heat resistant. My favourite colour was a bright orange.

Calibrachoa look like small petunias with less sensitivity to pH. They flower all season, dropping the spent flowers so they look tidy. The new colour this year is Callie Mango. It was lovely. However, I preferred the purple with a light coloured eye.

Monarda 'Grand Parade' has bright lavender flowers, is compact and is mildew resistant. Mildew really spoils the appearance of many Monarda in July. Most new varieties have this improvement.

There are new vegetables and herb planters all ready to go. The PC Salad Bowl is available in Garden Gourmet, Alfresco Mix, and City Garden. Just snip off leaves as you want then and they will grow back again and again. When the weather gets hot, (if it ever does) move the planter to a place where it just gets morning sun.

Now is the time to overseed your lawns if they are looking thin. Perennial rye grass which is endophyte enhanced increases pest control with the aid of a fungus. The grass becomes more tolerant to insect infection. Apply before mid June.

Loblaws...cont'd

I grow too many plants that I have to winter indoors. The orange eye-catching Ixora Maui Bush is now added to those I will have to drag in. However, It will survive in a cool window. It has clusters of starry flowers above lush green foliage.

Loblaws also has PC Moisture Lock Soil for containers. This has an added ingredient, which holds the water in the soil, reducing the frequency of watering. Only use this for ornamentals. Do not use it for edible plants.

Loblaws sources plants at the plant trials in California. However, the plants are grown locally. Tropicals, such as the Ixora, are grown in Florida and they acclimatized locally before sales. This means the leaves do not drop off when you bring them home.

Check out the local Loblaws. Remember you can take any pots back. If you take 25 you will receive a coupon for \$5. Last year 2.1 million tons of plastic pots were recycled, reducing the amount going to landfill sites.

Also remember you have to own a plant for three months before you can enter it in a show.

Local Farmers Markets 2011



East York Civic Centre

Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Starts May 17

East Lynn Park (Danforth Ave w of Woodbine)

Thursdays 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm
Starts June 2

Withrow Park (south of Danforth Ave. between Logan & Carlaw)

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Starts May 21st, 2011

Evergreen Brick Works (550 Bayview Ave)

Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Year round