

# 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.

Visit us on the web at [www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)

President:

Veronica Callinan

Vice President:

Linda Boyko  
Susan Bartlett

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**Thursday, November 17, 2011**

**Annual General Meeting and Pot-Luck Dinner (Members Only)**

**Doors open at 6:30, Dinner begins at 7:00**

*Dinner:* Plates, cups and cutlery are provided by the Club, as well as coffee/tea and non-alcoholic punch. Please bring a dish of food of at least six servings and a serving utensil (if possible put your name on your dish & utensil). Any leftovers at the end of the evening will be donated to Touchstone youth shelter.

*Draw Prizes:* Tickets will given out at the door. You can then view the prizes and put in one-half of your ticket for the item you want to win.

*Club Business:* The election of officials and awarding of flower show winners will be held, as well as the final "People's Choice" photo contest of the year, with the winning picture to be featured on the cover of the EYGC 2012 yearbook. Bring in either one or two of your best garden-related photos from 2011 or 2010. You should select photos that you think would look particularly good on the front of the yearbook. The only stipulation is that the photo must be in portrait orientation (i.e., taller than it is wide). And for this contest, photos can be entered even if they've already appeared in one of our previous contests. The winner will be selected by a vote by those in attendance at the meeting. Entries must be received by 6:50, with voting taking place through the evening. We'll also be announcing the winners of the Fall Photo contest, with all photos entered on display.

Please call Dawn McEachern 416-429-4719 if you can help with the set-up or clean-up of the AGM.

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**Thursday, January 19, 2012, 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:00)**

**Speaker: Tena Van Andel**

**Topic: Orchids**

Tena will show us how to re-pot an orchid and then help you! Bring your own orchid in to re-pot, plus some orchid mix (soak it first) and a larger pot if necessary.

Tena is delighted to have been a Toronto Master Gardener since 2003 and she also currently serves on the Master Gardeners of Ontario Board. She enjoys talking to anyone about anything horticultural, although orchids, large trees and the exotic bring a special gleam to her eye.

***Reminders:***

- *No meeting in December. Regular meetings resume in January.*
- *2012 Membership is due – renewal form is on back of this newsletter.*
- *Annual survey is enclosed if you didn't fill one out yet.*

## Prez Patch

by Veronica Callinan

*“The foolish man seeks happiness in the distance, the wise grows it under his feet.”*

- James Oppenheim

After four years of representing the Club as your President, it's time to hand the position on. Space in this newsletter isn't enough to say all the things I want about all the wonderful people, challenges and successes that stuck in my mind. So, I'll be brief.

### Victories:

Winning the Volunteer Group of the Year award was truly tremendous. This couldn't have been accomplished without the efforts of all our members - YOU. Thank you so much for making us be recognized by our community. We also won an OHA District 5 award as the society with the greatest increase in Membership in one year. Pretty good! Also, we finally got space to store our tools and sign for the Rockery. A tiny victory perhaps, but one that makes life so much easier for our Rockery volunteers.

### Challenges:

Having Canada Day celebrations pulled out from under us at pretty much the last minute; yes, you could call that a challenge. Thanks to our Members, we still had our plant sale (and a profitable one at that!) but, boy, were the emails flying! Dealing with the City around the Rockery has its challenges, but, even that works itself out (eventually). We just have to scream loudly enough to enough people. Constantly.

### Sadness:

Spending time at bedsides and funerals, and knowing our members have lost loved ones and are still grieving, breaks my heart. Knowing some of our members are suffering with critical and painful health problems, sometimes critical, makes me very sad that there isn't a darn thing I can do about it.

### Joy:

Yes, our club is about gardening, the earth, botany, etc. But, for me, it's the people who make this Club such an

endearing place. Seeing everyone laughing and chatting before the meetings is such a joy. The bus tours are a warm and wonderful day of fellowship and laughter. Our Club has life, and vigour. While I might add humour from time to time, that vigour comes from the membership. “Joie de vivre”. Be wise, keep growing that happiness under your feet!

I hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting. There'll be lots of prizes and awards and food! If I don't see you, here's wishing you a fantastic Christmas and New Year!

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## People's Choice Photo Contests

By Malcolm Geast

It's still only November, and so far we've seen no sign of snow, but it's already time to be thinking about the 2012 Photo Contests. We're still working on next year's contests at the August Flower Show and in the fall, but to get you ready for the new year, here are the categories for the People's Choice Contests that start the year out:

- January – Frosty
- February – Blue
- March – March Break (Something Broken)

As always with the People's Choice contests, you're encouraged to be creative with your interpretation of the category.

And of course, don't forget that we still have one more People's Choice this year. The November People's Choice contest will decide which photo is on the front of our 2012 yearbook. Full details are found on page 1.

## OHA District 5 Nature Walk

by Susan Bartlett

On September 24, a few EYGC members attended the nature walk sponsored by OHA District 5 at the Aurora Arboretum. The Arboretum is located west of Bayview Avenue, north of Wellington Road, in Aurora. At first glance, the area is a subdivision with various recreational facilities spread throughout, however in the midst of this all is the Arboretum. The Arboretum is larger than it looks from first glance, comprising over 100 acres of land along the East Holland River. Part of the area is reserved for semi-formal planting of specimen trees and the remainder is devoted to naturalized forest, meadow and wetland zones.

The Arboretum contains over 100 varieties of trees and shrubs, as well as a stormwater retention pond. While the trails are recreational and apparently can be quite busy, there is a surprising amount of wildlife; trumpeter swans live in the pond and this year a snapping turtle laid eggs close to the path. Some human history remains, such as remnants of an old well from when the land was a farm.

Volunteers were very helpful in showing us around and very proud of their efforts. The volunteer-run Board have a master plan endorsed by the Town of Aurora. Some of this is still in the planning stage, the next phase is an area of flowering trees that will be planted in 2012. The volunteers are aware that they will not see their long-term project to completion, as it will take another generation to reach the goal of a mature forested area.

All in all it was a very pleasant day, the weather was warm and sunny and we ate our lunch outside on the veranda.

As a bonus, some of us were able to view David and Deirdre Tomlinson's garden, Merlin's Hollow. (David is active with the Arboretum master plan and met our group for part of the walk). Merlin's Hollow is a series of interconnected spaces and my daughter commented "I get seriously lost in this garden" as she wandered through the arbours to the next garden. While most of the perennials were done for the year (the garden is open to the public in the spring), there was enough whimsy, i.e. sculptures, stained glass, that it was still a worthwhile visit.



*One of interesting specimens that caught our eye - a Spindleberry bush*

*Photo by Paul Hirst*

To get to the Arboretum take the 404 north to the Wellington Rd. exit, then drive west past Bayview and the Arboretum is on the north side. There are several entrance locations, the brochure recommends coming in on Industrial Drive North and parking at the Leisure Centre, however we parked at the Seniors Centre directly off of Wellington Rd. E). <http://www.auroraarboretum.ca/>

The arboretum is free of charge and so is parking.

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## October's Seed Exchange

For the past couple of years, the Executive wondered if the seed exchange generated enough interest to hold it anymore. We were pleased that this year's was such a success, with a nice variety of contributions, many members took the extra step to include detailed instructions. So a big thanks to those who participated and a special thank you to Carol Bouley who collected and so nicely packaged a variety of seeds from the Rockery. Happy growing everybody!

**Recipe: Christmas pudding (without the pudding)***Ingredients*

- 6 oz (175 g) dried apricots, quartered
- 6 oz (175 g) dried figs, chopped the same size as the apricots
- 6 oz (175 g) dried Agen prunes, pitted and chopped the same size as the apricots
- 6 oz (175 g) large raisins
- 1 oz (25 g) whole candied peel, finely chopped
- ¼ level teaspoon mixed spice
- few good gratings nutmeg
- 1 small Cox's apple, chopped (peel left on)
- grated zest and juice ½ orange
- grated zest and juice ½ lemon
- 1 pint (570 ml) Marsala
- 1 oz (25 g) whole blanched almonds

*For the Marsala Syllabub:*

- 3 fl oz (75 ml) Marsala
- 1 level dessertspoon molasses sugar
- 5 fl oz (150 ml) double cream
- whole nutmeg

All you do to start off with is place all the Christmas pudding ingredients (except the almonds) in a bowl, cover with a cloth and leave in a cool place overnight.

The next day, preheat the oven to gas mark ½, 250°F (120°C), and pour everything from the bowl into the casserole. Place it over direct heat and bring it up to a gentle simmer. After that, cover with a lid and place the casserole in the oven to cook very slowly for 3 hours (be careful you don't overcook it). Leave the compote to cool, then cover and chill in the fridge until needed. (This will keep for up to 10 days in the fridge.)

Meanwhile toast the almonds: to do this, cut them finely into thin slivers and place them on a piece of foil, then pop them under a hot grill. Don't leave them, but watch them like a hawk until they're nice and golden brown. Then cool and wrap them in foil until needed.

To make the syllabub, pour the Marsala into a bowl, add the sugar and leave aside for about 10 minutes to allow the sugar to dissolve. Then pour in the cream and whisk with an electric hand whisk until it stands in soft peaks. Cover and chill until needed.

To serve, stir the nuts into the fruit, then spoon the compote into stemmed glasses. After that, re-whisk the syllabub and spoon it on top of the fruits and lastly grate a little nutmeg over the top.

*Thanks to Anna Leggatt for this recipe*

## How to Move Roses

By Judith Adams

There's no denying it, the cold wind is blowing and dormancy is creeping into perennial and woody plants. Somehow the roses continue to defy the season, with September's flush of buds and flowers still hanging on. Should I leave blossoms and buds on the plants, so that a frost will tell these plants to shut down, or should I take the opportunity to cut what's left for a vase? Usually I do a bit of both. My favourite climber, 'Clair Matin', has a ginkgo tree for support, and they've been great pals for several years. I've taken some of the last shell-pink blossoms indoors, along with a sprig of still-green ginkgo foliage. They won't last long in a heated house, but I couldn't resist.

Now is not the time to prune roses, although shortening overly long canes that might whip around in winter wind is a good idea. However, autumn is a good time to move a rose bush, should you be so inclined. The first weeks of November are best, after foliage has dropped and several nights of hard frost have brought it into partial dormancy. (Full dormancy won't occur until mid to late December.) No one likes the idea of moving a rose, fearing the upheaval will do irreparable damage. But in its docile, partially dormant state, a gentle move to a new and better location won't phase it at all.

Gently dig the rose shrub out, using a spade to loosen the root ball in a circle around the plant. Lift the root ball and put it into a wheelbarrow or on a tarp for transport to the new hole. Soil from the new hole should be amended with organic materials like leaves, composted manure and garden compost. Fertilizers aren't necessary at this time, but if you have them on hand, you can incorporate bloodmeal, bonemeal or alfalfa pellets into the soil. Don't worry if the root ball shatters and the roots are exposed, they're inured to brief exposure at this time. Just quickly cover them with plastic for the journey to the new location.

## How to Move Roses ... cont'd

Plant the rose shrub in its new hole, with the bulbous graft two to four inches (5 to 10 cm) below soil level. Backfill halfway with the amended soil, and fill the hole with water. After it drains, fill the hole with the remaining soil, and hill up around the rose crown with 12 inches (30 cm) of fresh soil, and add a thick layer of leaf mulch. I use a generous 12 inches (30 cm) of leaves piled over the hilled soil. Now, wasn't that easy?

Reprinted from Garden Making Newsletter October 26, 2011 [www.gardenmaking.com/](http://www.gardenmaking.com/)

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## Upcoming Events at the TBG

### **Thursday, December 8, Holiday Open House 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

Before the last Edwards Lecture of the year, join us for cider, shortbread and chat with TBG educational staff and instructors. Get your fresh outdoor greens, winter container arrangements and free gift wrapping at TBG Shop. TBG members receive a special 20 per cent discount during this event. Light dinner available for purchase. FREE, no registration required. (Edwards Lecture Public \$20 / Students \$15 / TBG members free)

**Thursday, December 8, 7:30 p.m. - 25 Top Plants for All-Season Splash with Dan Benarcik** Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Lectures are held in the Floral Hall at Admission: Public \$20/Students \$15/ TBG members free. Door sales only. Limited seating.

### **Note on Toronto Botanical Gardens Parking.**

The TBG is resurfacing the parking lot to make it more environmentally-friendly. Many of you have probably already noticed that the result is that parking is extremely limited at the TBG these days. If you were not aware, consider this a heads up. While there is some alternate parking at the adjacent church, apparently that is not always available depending on events at the church. The parking situation may continue until spring, so you might want to consider car pooling and leaving yourself some extra time.

More info at:

<http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/about/parking-lot.html>

### QSP Fundraiser

EYGC is participating in a fundraiser that won't require volunteers or clipboards, planting bulbs in the cold or remembering to plant anything at all. QSP is a fundraising group mainly geared toward schools (hence references to "your child" and schools), but we can also participate and so we're giving it a try.

You can renew existing subscriptions or order a brand new one. Some of the familiar magazines available are: Bird Watcher's Digest, Better Homes and Gardens, Canadian Gardening, The English Garden, Fine Gardening, Garden Design, Gardens Illustrated, Gardenwise, Ontario Gardener Living, Urban Farm, etc etc..You can chose from a plethora of other genres like Cooking and Food, Health and Fitness, Science/History/Travel!

You can even buy a subscription as a gift - what a great Christmas present!

Go to <http://www.qsp.ca/profile/saho>

You can register if you wish, or just click on "Shop Now". A long list of magazines come up, like "Home and Garden". After purchasing, print and read your receipt. Online orders are processed immediately for quick delivery time. Order 7 days a week 24 hrs a day!

Thanks for your support!

### City of Toronto Front Garden Awards 2011

By Malcolm Geast

In 2011, we took a pause from the East York Blooming Contest. But that doesn't mean that there were no awards presented for East York front gardens this year. The winners of the three 2010 contests – Etobicoke/York, East York, and Scarborough – were entered in the city-wide competition, judged in early August, and were recognized at an awards presentation on October 11. We're happy to let you know that, at that presentation, the garden at 62 Tiago Avenue was awarded a second place in the Residential-Traditional category, and the garden at 14 Wiley Avenue received a third place award in the Residential-Environmental category.

### 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 2012 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  
c/o Cristina Brown  
7 Knightsbridge Road  
Scarborough, ON MIL 2A8