

September ~ October
2012

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 Christina Brown at 416-755-9077.

Visit us on the web at
www.eygc.ca

President:

Susan Bartlett

Vice President:

Rosalind Regnier
& Barbara Piercey

Newsletter Editor:

Jennifer McDougall



Thursday, September 20th, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Gardening in the Shade Speaker: Anna Leggatt

Anna is currently employed as a Nature Interpreter at the Kortright Centre for Conservation - This includes quite a bit of identification of plants and animals in the field. She teaches occasionally at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Civic Garden Centre) - from general gardening to more specialized courses such as Water and Rock gardening. Anna has written articles in Toronto Life Gardening, Landscape Ontario and The Globe and Mail. Also in Trellis (the Toronto Botanical Garden's publication,) The Journal of the Ontario Rock Garden Society, NARGS and other non-profit organizations.

Anna says; "I am basically a mad gardener, gardening in a comparatively large garden in Toronto with lots of shade and deer and groundhogs. I love shrubs, bulbs, rock gardening, wildflowers, Japanese effects, working with stone and changing my garden design. I want to grow vegetables. However, deer and groundhog would like me to as well."

Join us on September 20th when Anna will be talking to us about learning to garden in the shade—some thing we all struggle with in our own gardens.

Members with surnames beginning with "Q" to "S" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares for the refreshment table.

Thursday, October 18th, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Gesneriads - beyond African Violets Speaker: Vincent Woo

Born to Chinese immigrant parents in Edmonton, Vincent got the gesneriad bug while a teenager, starting first with miniature violets and then graduating to the rest of the gesneriad family. He moved to Toronto for medical school at U of T in 1992 and stayed for Psychiatry training. During that time he joined the Toronto Gesneriad Society and met some wonderful growers, who encouraged him to continue to grow despite a busy schedule. Vincent did take a break from Medicine in 2003 and 2005 to pursue a degree in Botany in New Zealand, to study its only native gesneriad, Rhododamnus. There he learned that almost falling off a waterfall in pursuit of a plant was not a good thing, and that he really missed Canada.

In Toronto, Vincent continues to be involved in plant shows and talks, and enjoys growing new species from seeds. Having recently bought a house, with the opportunity to do outdoor gardening for the first time, Vincent has been indulging in his enjoyment of perennials, collecting as many variegated forms as possible, as well as alpine gesneriads, Ramonda and Haberlea."

Members with surnames beginning with "T" to "Z" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares.

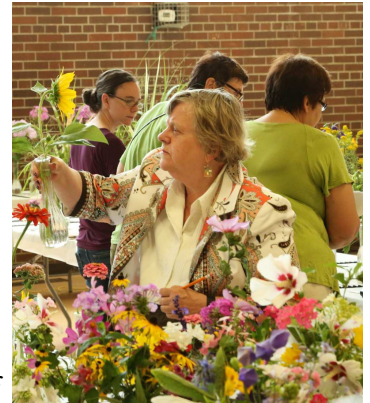
The Annual Flower Show & Tea

Saturday August 25th, 2012

By Susan Bartlett & Barb Piercey



What a great flower show it was, despite a season where everything bloomed early, the judges commented how much they enjoyed the variety and quality of the entries, as well as the food. Dan Cooper had enough interesting tips on low maintenance gardening - who knows, the Club may try to book him as a feature speaker if he is not too



busy traveling. Raffle prizes were won (the Lee Valley tools were really nice) and attractive bouquets of flowers found new homes after being auctioned off.



Best in Show ~ won by Vera Stoyanoff

Thanks to all who assisted in setting up, cleaning up, baking, etc. and thanks to those who entered the flower show and photo contest.

~ Susan



Best Children's Design Winner ~ won by Rebecca Hrist



Vera Stoyanoff took Best in Show for her giant pot of Vancouver begonias and Best Design for her interpretation of The Thames.

Thank you to everyone who put an entry in the show, for bringing a baked good, for helping to set up and clean up, for preparing and pouring the tea and coffee, for organizing the draw table prizes and the guest speaker and sound system, for selling tickets and putting up the banners and for coming out on the day to enjoy the excellent Annual Flower Show and Tea.

~ Barb



Best Rose in show

Prez Patch

by Susan Bartlett



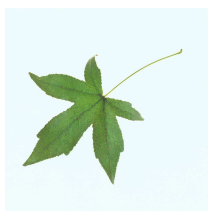
Club Technology

Ever notice during our speakers that the screen is blurred or the sound too loud? Me neither - the fact that we **don't** experience glitches (except for the occasional Greek music piping in) is thanks to the fact that we've been fortunate to have Malcolm Geast taking care of sound and slide show set-up for quite a while. Malcolm has many commitments and might occasionally like to enjoy an evening off. Would anyone like to be a backup to assist with the technology at meetings? I will be trying to learn some basics myself.

Email me at susanfirst@gmail.com if you are interested.

Welcome New Members

Me join me in welcoming the newest members of the East York Garden Club: Anne Bess, Dianne Hotta, Eunice Kadohama, Beverly Neal, Jean Seki, Lily Shigetoni, Elizabeth Yeates, Mary Zecchino. Help me make them feel welcome at the next meeting.



EYGC Seed Exchange & Book Sale

~ Thursday, October 18th, 2012 ~

During our October meeting we will be hosting a Seed Exchange and Book sale. We would love your support in the form of seeds and gently used gardening books.

Seed Exchange: While it may seem like work collecting seeds now, in the spring it definitely pays off! If you are bringing seeds for the seed exchange, please place seeds in labelled envelopes. The more information you know about the plant will help the new owner of those seeds.

Book Sale: Several members have expressed an interest in donating collections of garden-related books. If you have books to contribute, please try to bring your books early so they can be sorted and priced. We will hold the sale after the meeting. If you are unable to attend and need someone to pick up your books, please call Susan at 416-467-4945 and she will arrange to have someone pick them up. Books must be garden-related. Any unsold inventory will be donated to the TBG's book sale.



The Amazing Monkey Orchid

Submitted By *M. Culver*

Nature doesn't need an audience. These wonderful orchids come from the south-eastern Ecuadorian and Peruvian cloud forests from elevations of 1000 to 2000 meters and as such not many people throughout history got to see them. However, thanks to intrepid collectors we do get to see this wonderful Monkey Orchid. Someone didn't need much imagination to name it though, let's face it.



Its scientific name is *Dracula simia*, the last part nodding towards the fact that this remarkable orchid bears more than a passing resemblance to a monkey's face – although we won't go as far as to be species specific on this one. The *Dracula* (genus) part of its name refers to the strange characteristic of the two long spurs of the sepals, reminiscent of the fangs of a certain Transylvanian count of film and fiction fame.

The orchid was only named in 1978 by the botanist Luer but is in a family containing over 120 species mostly found in Ecuador. Up in the cloud mountains the monkey orchid can flower at any time – it is not season specific. Its scent resembles that of a ripe orange.

The examples seen here are all cultivated – though it remains very rare in 'captivity'. For that reason don't make a dash down to your local horticulturist. Yet for those lucky enough to have one, if kept quite cool and in partial shade and it can thrive and flower. Like all orchids, however, it needs a lot of care and patience – so you may want to consider a cactus



Mark your Calendars ~

Some Great Fall Events

- ♦ **September 3** ~ Labour Day
- ♦ **September 16** ~ Not Far From the Tree's 2nd Annual City Cider Festival - 12 to 4 pm at Spadina Museum, Admission is \$5.00
- ♦ **September 26** ~ OHA Diamond Jubilee Tree Planting Event
- ♦ **October 8** ~ Thanksgiving
- ♦ **October 13 & 14** ~ Toronto Garlic Festival at the Evergreen Brick Works, buy early birds tickets today on their website: (<http://www.torontogarlicfestival.ca>)
- ♦ **October 19 - 28** ~ Hamilton's Fall Garden & Mum Show ~ The Jungle
(www.hamiltoninbloom.com)

Fall Photo Contest Categories ~ Are you taking your pictures?

By Malcolm Geast

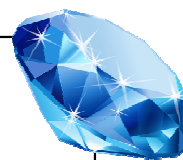
I hope that you're also taking photos for the **Fall Photo Contest**. This year we're giving you an opportunity to show more of your shots that aren't necessarily garden related, with five horticultural and seven "general" categories:

- **Inside a Flower** - A seriously close close-up of a flower. Photos in this category show the inside of the flower and nothing else.
- **Cactuses and other succulents** - We're not going to give you a definition here, but if your subject has to be watered every day, it's probably not one of these.
- **Harvest Time** - The category name says it all.
- **The World of Mycology** - Mushrooms and other funguses.
- **Anything Grows** (Any horticultural subject) This is a children's (6-10 years) and youth (11-17 years) category.
- **Spiderwebs** - With or without the spider, but remember that the focus is the web, not the spider.
- **Rocks** - One or more of these items that so many of us love to have in our gardens.
- **Insects** - Note that these are the six-legged creatures that we see every day - spiders, centipedes, snails, etc., are not included.
- **In the Forest** - A photo that leaves no doubt that it was taken in or of a forest, so obviously it must include trees.
- **Life in the Swamp** - Frogs, turtles, the Creature From the Black Lagoon, or that goopy green stuff that we see floating - if it's alive and in a swamp, it's a suitable subject for this category.
- **Shadows** - We leave this up to your interpretation. Just make sure that the centre of attention is a shadow (or shadows).
- **Black & White** - Any subject, using only black, white, and shades of grey.

Full details on all our photography contests can be found in your yearbook on pages 28 to 30, and on our website at www.eygc.ca/photocontest.

OHA Diamond Jubilee Event: As part of a longstanding tradition of planting by horticultural societies in honour of royal events, all 19 districts of the Ontario Horticultural Association will be planting oak trees for the Diamond Jubilee. District 5 has selected National Tree Day, **Wednesday September 26th** for the tree planting.

Note: while this event is on a weekday in Aurora, if you can't attend you are encouraged you to try to visit the Aurora Arboretum at your own convenience, it features some very nice walking trails and plantings as part of a long-term plan to be a



HELP US GO GREEN

We want YOUR email address!! Yes, it is important that you forward your current email address to the editor as postage costs are going up and it is so much better and green to get your newsletter via email.

That way you get it in colour too!

To get your newsletter the green way, email me, at newsletter@eygc.ca



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS with EYGC

Have something in your garden you'd like to share but not interested in hosting an open garden? Take a photo of the shrub or plant that you're proud of and send it to me at susanfirst@gmail.com for inclusion on the pre-meeting presentation.



Toronto Master Gardener's are Recruiting!!!

It's TMG recruitment time once again and I encourage you to mention this to your passionate gardening friends, along with the wonderful camaraderie we share and the opportunity to encourage, and to offer out horticultural knowledge to the gardening public.

- Our Orientation and basic gardening entrance exam: 7 p.m. September 17th, to be held at TBG, Lawrence Ave. and Leslie St., Toronto.
- 20 –minute interviews: 6 to 9 p.m., Monday September 24th, Tuesday Sept. 25th, and Wednesday Sept. 26, also to be held at the TBG.
- Apprenticeships begin January 2013

To register or for more information please contact: jgarden609@rogers.com

Cheers,

Jean Gardiner

Master Gardener-in-Training Coordinator

A Couple of notes about the Fall Photo Contest by Malcolm Geast



In the July/August newsletter, I described the category Rocks as “One or more of these items that so many of us love to have in our gardens.” This was not meant to imply that the rock or rocks in your photo must be in a garden. The only stipulation is that they (or it) must be detached from the earth's crust – the Rock of Gibraltar doesn't qualify.

A good photo comes about sometimes by good luck. But more often, it's the result of your careful thought about the subject and the lighting, and camera details such as the exposure, shutter speed and aperture. Perhaps you've also cropped the photo to take out distracting or unnecessary material off to the side of the main subject. Now it's time to enter the photo in the contest. Unfortunately, this is also the time that many good photos are unnecessarily spoiled by trying to save a few minutes or a few pennies. The printers that are attached to our computers can do an excellent job of putting those photos on paper. But all too often, we see photos that look not nearly as attractive or striking as they could, the result of using low-quality photo paper or a printer that isn't working perfectly. Take a close look at the photos that you're entering in the contest – if you're not getting the proper quality by printing at home, consider getting your entries printed commercially. Gone are the days when they cost several dollars each; these days, good quality prints are less than a dollar each, usually less than 50¢. You can get them done at many supermarkets, department stores, and of course, at camera stores. And considering the price of paper and ink, this may even be cheaper than printing at home.

Entries for the Fall Photo Contest will be accepted at the October 18 EYGC meeting, with awards presented at the Club's Annual Meeting on November 15. Entry forms will be available at the September meeting and on our website (eygc.ca). If you'd like to enter, but won't be at the October meeting, send me an email at malcolm@east york.net, or give me a call at 416-429-4719.

East York Garden Club

Annual Survey / Questionnaire 2012



Please complete as much or as little as you wish. All comments and suggestions are welcomed and valued. They will be given close and serious consideration. They will help decide the speakers and activities to be planned for your East York Garden Club in 2013 and onwards.

1. IN ORDER – Let us know which were your TOP 3 speakers and/or topics in 2012 Note your First, Second and Third:

- ☐ All about Orchids -Tena Van Andel
- ☐ Bugs: The Good the Bad and the Ugly - Malcolm Geast
- ☐ The Urban Gardener - Lorraine Johnson
- ☐ The Frugal Gardener - James Graham
- ☐ What Treasures are for Waiting to be Snapped Up? Plant Sale
- ☐ All about Lilies – Sally-Pat Willis

2. Which of these types of topics are you interested in?

- ☐ making preserves/pickling
- ☐ water management, rain barrels, etc.
- ☐ tree management and local by-laws
- ☐ species specific – i.e., Orchids, Sedums
- ☐ selecting and growing herbs
- ☐ Other topics: _____

3. What would you like to see more of in the coming year:

- ☐ demonstrations
- ☐ garden tips and tricks
- ☐ social events
- ☐ information/skill sharing among members
- ☐ plant purchasing opportunities

4. Are there any speakers who you would like to recommend?

BE AWARE: Mark Cullen's name always gets suggested. He charges over \$3000. Other well known speakers charge over \$1000. Normally, we pay \$100-\$200.

5. What is your preference for the July meeting?

- ☐ Pot-luck supper in a member's garden
- ☐ Pot-luck supper at the Rockery
- ☐ Regular meeting
- ☐ I'll probably be away in July, and won't attend the July meeting

6. Would you be willing to volunteer to hold the July Pot Luck Dinner meeting in your garden? YES____ NO____

7. If you don't enter the Flower Shows, tell us why not:

- ☐ I find the rules confusing and/or intimidating
- ☐ I don't have the time to prepare/condition the plants
- ☐ I'd like to, but need to learn how.
- ☐ Flower Shows don't really interest me.

Other: _____



EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB

*If you would like to make a submission in be included in the next issue of The East York Garden newsletter the next **deadline is October 23rd!***

Please e-mail you comments regarding our Newsletter or submissions for the next issue to jenn@majam.net

We're on the Web!

<http://www.eygc.ca>

8. Workshops are more hands-on events. If there was a Saturday morning Workshop on some aspect of gardening:

Would you attend yes ____ no ____ If no, why not _____

If yes, how much would you be willing to pay for such a workshop: \$_____

Flower arranging ____ Photography ____ Drying herbs ____

9. Where would you like to visit on a bus tour? Please be specific (ie, Celtic Dream Garden; Pt.Perry; Barrie; Humber Nurseries):

10. The following are some of the groups and activities to be organized for next year. What would you like to help with in 2012?

____ Annual Flower Show and Tea

____ Yearbook

____ Flower Show Committee

____ Environment Day

____ Telephone Committee (i.e., calling other members to remind them of upcoming meetings)

____ Community Projects (i.e., the Rockery in Stan Wadlow Park)

____ Canada Day activities at Stan Wadlow Park

____ East York Blooming Contest

____ Canada Day Parade

____ Joining the Executive

11. Would you support EYGC developing a horticultural education bursary or sponsoring a children's horticultural education trip?

Yes _____ No _____

If you have any other comments or suggestions, or anything else you'd like to let us know, please use the bottom of this page, or attach a separate sheet.

Name _____ Telephone No. _____
(optional) (optional)

Please return the survey at the October or November meetings, or mail it to East York Garden Club, 712 Sammon Ave., East York, M4C 2E4. Alternatively, you can email your comments to eygc@eygc.ca. You can also fill in a downloadable copy found at www.eygc.ca/survey2012.doc, and email it back to us.