

September ~ October
2013

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 Piercy

Newsletter Editor:

Jennifer McDougall



Thursday, September 19th, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Garlic **Speaker:** Cathy Bartolic & Gary Johnson

Growing garlic is not hard. Growing great garlic takes skill, good soil and some good luck. Ontario has ideal condition for growing hardneck garlic. Learn about this amazing crop; everything from its history, to drying tips, to using it in your kitchen. Come out for a stinking good time! Garlic and garlic items will be available for purchase.

Gary and Cathy planted their first garlic crop in 1995 and were immediately hooked. Since that time, they have researched and learned firsthand some of the many idiosyncrasies of garlic. They also started the Garlic is Great Festival in 2001 to help the public learn about Ontario garlic and have easier access to this great crop. They are both involved with the Garlic Growers Association of Ontario.

This month is also the last flower show of the year. Entries are due by 7:15 p.m. Members with surnames beginning with "A" to "D" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares for the refreshment table.

Thursday, October 17th, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Sexy & Smart Kitchen Gardens **Speaker:** Cristina da Silva

The presentation will cover two aspects of kitchen gardens. The SMART (the growing practical part) and the SEXY (designing beautiful spaces part).

Smart: Placement, choice of vegetables, how much of each type of vegetable to grow
Growing Sexy: Attractive kitchen gardens, container gardens, how you too can obtain the same sexy look.

Let us give our idea of kitchen gardens a facelift. Smart and Sexy.

It's never been enough for Cristina to know how to do something in the garden. She's always wanted to know why. Cristina da Silva has a deep well of horticultural knowledge and experience to draw upon. She has worked in garden industry for the 30 years, which includes garden maintenance, garden design and garden consultations. She has published 2 scientific papers (Plant Physiology Journal) and over 100 garden/gardening magazine articles. She is a garden columnist (Toronto Star's "Condo Gardener" column). She is a member of the Mississauga Master Gardeners.

Three years ago, Cristina started THE REAL GARDENER blog where she talks about real gardens, gardening and gardeners. It's a great way to share gardening experiences with other gardeners.

This month is also the seed exchange & people's choice pumpkin carving contest. Members with surnames beginning with "E" to "L" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares.

The Annual Flower Show & Tea

Saturday August 24th, 2012

By Barb Piercey

Another great Annual Show. Our competitors came through with flying colours despite a challenging summer, but then again, their entries help us to appreciate what plants and flowers are champions in the garden. The categories with the most entries were for Rose of Sharon, Hydrangea and Sedum..

Vera Stoyanoff won Best in Show for her big bright green planter box full of lovely herbs, Best Rose for her Double Delight rose grown for scent, and Best Collection of Flowers. Betty Meyers won Best Design for her delightful miniature 'Raindrop' and also Best Cut Specimen. Cristine Brown won Best Hanging Planter (great to have her competing again) and Diane Ronan won for Best Potted Plant.



Best Potted Plant ~ won Diane Rona



Best Design Green Roof ~ Betty Meyers



Thank you to everyone who took the time to compete, for giving your time to bake for the tea, for helping to set up and clean up, for preparing and pouring the tea and coffee, for organizing the draw table prizes, for selling tickets and teacups and organizing the photo contest. Thanks to Veronica Callinan for being our speaker.



Best Design ~ won by Betty Meyers

Thanks to all our members and guests for coming out on a lovely summer Saturday afternoon to enjoy a great Annual Flower Show and Tea.

Veronica giving a talk on splitting plants



Barb Piercey
Flower Show Coordinator

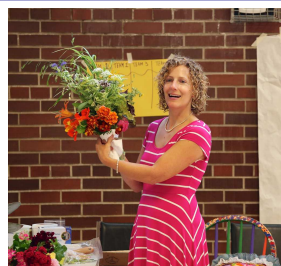


Prez Patch

by Susan Bartlett

What a fun summer it's been, lots of outdoor events, festivals, garden tours.

In July, our pot-luck dinner fell on one of the hottest days of the year but hosts Jackie Ramo and Smith graciously kept their cool, even after a little afternoon storm gave them some unexpected cleanup, they took it all in stride. While it was a hot evening, the soothing sounds of the waterfall, the company of EYGC members, the delicious food made it a lovely evening. Thank you Jackie & Smith!



Garden tours: we had not one but two. In July EYGC member Mary-Lou Burt arranged for three gardens to open for us to view. One was Reggie Morgan's who you may have visited on one of our bus trips. These were all noteworthy gardens and a bit off the beaten path from our usual East end haunts. I wasn't able to attend this but hear that it would have been a good day to call in sick. Thank you Mary Lou!

The August tour was one of the coolest evenings of the summer. But that did not stop many visitors from seeing the gardens of Susan Ellis, Veronica Callinan, Maureen Hulbert and Marie Sharpe. All were fantastic gardens with welcoming hosts. Thanks also to Rosalind Regnier and Diane Ronan for arranging the tour, including putting out the helpful balloons in front.

Our Annual Show & Tea was a success, thanks to all of you who entered the show there were lots of beautiful entries. The photo contest had so many excellent entries in each category, it was difficult to choose a winner. Lots of treats for our tea and some good prizes were given out. Those of us who stayed for the auction are enjoying some prize winning flowers and tasty treats at home.

Coming up, we return to regular meetings in September. There are still some garden related events - our September 21 bus tour has a few seats left. We have an exciting new venture – EYGC will be holding an art show in March 2014 – further information in this newsletter and at the September meeting!

EYGC Seed Exchange

~ Thursday, October 17th, 2012 ~

Our annual seed exchange will take place at the October meeting. If you are contributing seeds please try to provide as much information as possible: plant name, annual/perennial, colour, height/spread, sun/shade, bloom time, etc. All this information is very helpful to the lucky recipients of your seeds. If you don't have time, just put some seeds in a packet and label what they are. All seeds are welcome!



Last year we had a large number of contributions which made for a very successful Seed Exchange. So, please remember to check your gardens this Fall and bring some seeds to the October meeting.

Thanks
Carole Aida

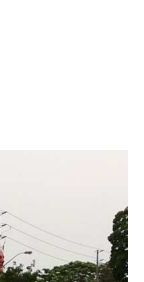


Our EYGC logoware will be available for purchase at the September meeting.

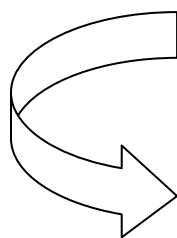
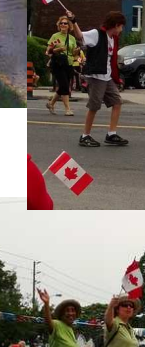
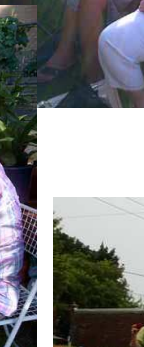
T-shirts are \$12.00, Polo shirts are \$30.00. Meeting tote bags are \$15.00 and Boat Tote bags are \$20.00.



The Canada Day Parade & the Members Potluck Event



Annual July Member
Potluck held in Jackie
Ramo and Smith's
Garden



Last Flower Show of the Year !!!

Our September 19th meeting will have the last flower show of the year. The design category theme is 'Fall Fairs' with Harvest Moon—a design using a single flower, Split Rail—a design using weathered wood and a small design Quilting Bee. Harvest Splendor—a design incorporating fruits and/or vegetables also includes a separate category for novice designers so that you can experiment without the pressure of competing with 'the legends'! We hope this show gives us some fabulous asters, dahlias, roses and the last of the fruits and veg of the year.

Take another look at your garden and a look at pages of your yearbook dedicated to the shows and see if there are any entries you can submit, especially if you are trying for the 'Anna Leggatt Novice of the Year' award!

416-413-9244 x14
www.yourleaf.org



On Marie Sharpe's table
during the Member
Garden Tour in August

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.

The basic gardening knowledge entrance exam will be held at the TBG on September 16, followed by personal interviews September 30 – October 2. Successful candidates will start their courses in January 2014.

To register or get more info, just contact training@mastergardeners.ca.
Thanks for spreading the word!

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

A quick reminder that our annual Fall Photo Contest is coming up soon. Entry forms will be available at the September meeting, or can be downloaded from our website (www.eygc.ca/photocontest). We'll be accepting entries at the October meeting, but if you can't be at that meeting and would like to enter, or if you have any questions, you can contact me at malcolmg@eygc.ca or by phone at 416-429-4719.

In the next two or three months, we'll be deciding on categories for next year's contest. We're always interested in ideas for new categories, or hearing about those that you think we should bring back. Feel free to let me know your thoughts about the 2014 contests.

To help you get an early start, two categories have already been decided for 2014. They're both seasonal subjects, so be sure and get out there and take some early shots.

1. Autumn Leaves
2. The Four Seasons (four photos of the same location, one photo in each season; need not be horticultural)

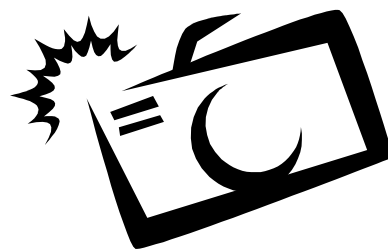
Listed below are the categories for the Fall Photo Contest. Full details about can be found on pages 26 & 27 of your yearbook.

Horticultural

1. Captured Beauty (close-up of a single flower)
2. Garden Art (sculptures and structures in the garden)
3. Symmetry
4. Container Gardening (big or small, indoors or outdoors, anything that's growing in a container)
5. Anything Grows (children's and youth category)

General

1. Still-Life
2. Doors (a photo with one or more doors as the subject)
3. Stairs or Steps (a photo with stairs or steps, indoors or out, as the subject)
4. Windows (a photo with one or more windows as the subject)
5. Green & White
6. Street Scene (a photo including a road or a sidewalk)
7. Birds (a photo with one or more birds as the subject)



Epiphyllum Crenatum ~ an Orchid Cactus

Here is a picture of Roz Regnier's "Epiphyllum Crenatum"—an orchid cactus. It is a rather exotic plant that she has had for two years before it bloomed for the first time this August. One of her friends also has this plant and it took 13 years to flower! Congratulations Roz!

The blooms are quite spectacular--fragrant and nocturnal. After the first bloom, there were 3 blooms altogether, Roz had it timed, so that anyone that was interested could be at her house at 9pm to see the opened flower. This species was shown at an exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Society's Garden in 1844 and won highest medal for a new introduction. It grows from Mexico to Honduras.

(Photo credit: Malcolm Geast)

The Truth About Mulch Volcanoes

By: Malcolm Geast

Another summer is over, and so is another season of watching volcanoes appear on the lawns and other grassed areas of East York (as well as the rest of the city). Of course, these aren't the spectacular lavas pouting variety, but instead are the cones of mulch we too often see around young trees that have been planted in those expanses of grass. Known as "mulch

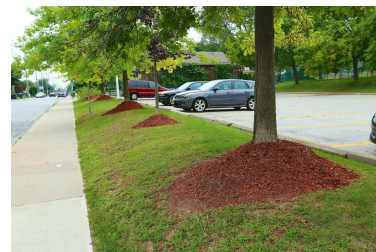
volcanoes", these piles of shredded wood are supposed to help keep newly-planted trees healthy through the summer. But too often, they do more harm than good.



The steep surfaces of mulch volcanoes can often cause rainfall to run off and away from the tree rather than seep into the ground near the roots. This can be made worse by fungus that frequently develops when mulch is applied too deeply (i.e., more than an inch or two), resulting in it becoming a water repelling mass. Young trees with too much mulch can sometimes die because of drought, despite copious amounts of rainfall or watering.

Water that doesn't run off the slope often remains in the mulch and fails to make its way to the soil. As a result, roots will "migrate" into the mulch. But when the mulch dries out, the tree becomes stressed since many of the roots are attempting to draw water from the now-dried mulch. Remember that one of the reasons that mulch is used is to prevent the soil from drying out – it's not to act as a holder of the moisture. On occasion, the excessive mulch found in these volcanoes can result in root girdling – the growth of roots around each other or the main stem of the tree, restricting the movement of water and nutrients within the tree.

Piling up mulch around the base of a tree is sometimes a sure-fire method of promoting fungal diseases that result from the lower part of the trunk experiencing constant moisture. It's also an inviting home for rodents and some of the insects that aren't particularly friendly toward trees.



So, next summer, be a friend to your new trees, and don't make your property an area of volcanic activity. Mulching around the tree is a good practice, but make sure that it's not too deep (a few centimetres are all that's needed), and most definitely not piled up against the trunk.





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

A Gardener's VISION

Art & Photography Show

presented by The East York Garden Club

Location: S. Walter Stewart Library, 170 Memorial Park Ave., East York
Time: Month of March 2014

We encourage participation by all members of the East York Garden Club. This is not a contest. It is a collaborative event to showcase the hidden artistic talents of members of the East York Garden Club, present them to the community and attract new members who share "A Gardener's Vision".

The following are guidelines agreed upon by the organizing committee:

- Subject material must relate to gardening.
- Art work includes painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media and fibre art.
- Photography can be traditional or digital and either colour or black and white. Final print must be of high quality.
- Entries must be created by an active 2014 member of the EYGC.
- If chosen, the artist/photographer will sign a form certifying that they are the originator of the artwork/photograph. While care will be taken with each submission, we require every participant to sign a waiver with the understanding that this is an unmonitored show that releases the East York Garden Club from any theft or damage.
- A member can submit up to 3 items for consideration.
- If an item is chosen it must be framed or mounted and ready to hang in the gallery by March 1st, 2014.
- Maximum size of framed piece should not exceed 16" x 20" and be no smaller than 8" x 8".
- Submissions can be made by sending .jpeg files of your work to the following email address: eygcsubmissions@gmail.com or delivering a quality photographic print of your piece to Diane Ronan. Each piece should be identified and include your name and contact information.
- Pieces will be chosen on their artistic merit and in keeping with the theme of the show: "A Gardener's Vision". The organizing committee will call upon experts from outside the club to evaluate the submissions.
- Submission deadline – Dec. 15th, 2013.