

March ~ April  
2014

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](http://www.eygc.ca)

President:

Susan Bartlett

Vice President:

Rosalind Regnier  
& Barbara Fairbanks

Newsletter Editor:

Jennifer McDougall



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**Thursday, March 20th, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**

**Topic: Plants that Bugs Die For Speaker: J. Paul Lamarche**

Chemical and disease free gardening is possible through old fashioned remedies using herbs and perennials, as well as the attraction of predator insects. Gardening with extreme minimal use of water? The key is understanding that for every action there is an equal or even greater reaction and that nothing lasts long without a good foundation. Even if you prefer today's modern methods of gardening, you will find the presentation entertaining and in some degree relevant and humorous.

J. Paul Lamarche is an avid gardener, landscape designer, and Horticultural Consultant, who practices a kind of gardening, implemented by humans up to approximately the turn of the century, and has fun with it! He gardens without the use of any type of fertilizer, except his own compost. He has never needed to use either chemicals or organic products to control the pests in the garden. He also gardens with extreme minimal use of water. He is author of "Common \$ense Ecolution", newly released in 2010. His last book, "A Notebook for Gentle Gardeners" a Canadian bestseller, has been retired. He has spoken across North America on this topic as well as lecturing at most major schools of Horticulture & Horticultural Associations.

Paul will be bringing copies of his "Common \$ense Ecolution" book and are available for purchase for \$25.

Members with surnames beginning with "A" through "D" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares for the refreshment table. Don't forget to bring your own mug for coffee or tea.

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**Thursday, April 17th, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**

**Topic: Creating a Beautiful Garden with Native Plants**

**Speaker: Cynthia Brown of TRCA**

Despite the beauty and practicality of native plants, they remain under represented in most Ontario gardens. This colourful presentation will introduce you to native plants and their many benefits, leaving you with the inspiration and know-how to create your own natural garden hideaway.

Cynthia Brown is the coordinator for the Healthy Yards program at Toronto and Region Conservation. This program aims to provide residents with the tools and information to create naturally beautiful yards and gardens, creating habitat for local wildlife and implementing environmentally sustainable landscaping practices. An avid gardener herself, Cynthia has had a lifelong interest in nature and the outdoors and, after studying biology and environmental science at the University of Waterloo, has turned her interests to a career with TRCA.

Members with surnames beginning with "E" through "H" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares for the refreshment table. Don't forget to bring your own mug for coffee or tea.

## *Joyce Crook: A lifetime in East York*

*An On-going Series into the gardening of EYGC Members*

*By Barb Fairbanks*

For the first time ever the East York Garden Club has had a mother and daughter becoming Lifetime Members. At November 2013's AGM, Joyce Crook was awarded her Lifetime Membership, the same award her mother, Lilian, received in 1990. Congratulations Joyce!

Joyce is actually one of our longest running active members since she joined the Club in the 1978. It all started after Joyce's father passed away and she wanted her mother to get involved with a local group. Joyce convinced her mother to join with her. Although her mother died in 1994, Joyce has continued on. She remembers the times gone by:

- a garden club Christmas party with Mrs. Hutchison in a long gown giving the event real style
- meetings where the minutes were read along with the financial report and a head count was completed
- celebrating EYGC's 60th herself and another member dressed as 1920s flappers marching beside the car
- a parade where her mother, as longest serving member, sat in the back of a 1920s Rolls Royce with the President of the Club and Art Drysdale
- the flower shows also included baking—and her mother always won for her bread!



Joyce is a born and bred East Yorker. She was born at home on Dilworth Crescent, before Toronto East General Hospital existed, and then moved as a child with her parents to Memorial Park Ave where she still lives.

Joyce has always liked gardening—it is in her blood. Her mother was born on a farm in Etchingham in Sussex England and came to Canada in the 1920s with a friend's family and subsequently met her husband in Toronto. Joyce's father was in the infantry and then transferred in 1917 to the Engineers in WWI. In the garden he was the master edger—they were absolutely precise and perfect—nothing less from an Engineer! Joyce's mother grew raspberries and tomatoes along with many flowers and plants. As a child her father allotted her a certain patch of garden where she could fiddle and experiment. Joyce doesn't recall much coming out of that garden, but she does remember that her father had made her a swing and grew beautiful morning glories up the posts and over the swing.

Joyce and her mother both loved roses. Joyce won a first prize ribbon more than once with her roses. Her "Peace" rose was featured in the East York newspaper. She currently has 5 climbing roses and a lovely David Austin rose in remembrance of her mother. One of her roses is more than 54 years old!

Soon after joining, Joyce participated and volunteered in many of the club's activities. She entered the flower shows, she called and reminded members of upcoming meetings and events as part of the "Telephone Committee", she organized the speakers for the monthly meetings, and was on the Executive board until work took her to Oshawa in the 1980s. Joyce continues as our Associate Director sending out cards of well wishes, congratulations and sympathy as needed. She pours tea at the Annual Show for the past many years.

Getting older has slowed down her gardening a little, but everything still gets done—it might take a few days—but it still gets done. While she can still do it, she wants to do it. She comes from hearty stock so that is not impossible. Since retiring in 1985, she has spent more time in the garden, but she is also an active member in 13 different societies (!) such as: The East York Historical Society, The Monarchist's League of Canada, The Commonwealth Society of Canada, The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse, The Charles Dickens' Society and the Sherlock Holmes Society to name a few.

Her biggest heartbreak in the garden is: raccoons! They have knocked over her lovely birdbath and mutilated her lawn, so much so that it looks like it has been rototilled!

Most recently she has been very happy to see more young people joining the club as well as more couples than in the past. She enjoys the vibrancy of the club and the bus trips that Roz organizes.

One piece of advice she would give to a new gardener: join the garden club for the fellowship and common interest in gardening—it is where you will get ideas on what grows in your area and you can meet like-minded people.

The East York Garden Club is very fortunate to have Joyce as a member.

## *Thinking Ahead for the April Flower Show*

It's official! Spring starts on March 20th and our first flower show is a month later on April 17th. So, with all our snow and ice this winter it will be interesting to see what comes up in the garden for you to show at the show. The listing is on page 14 of your yearbook—maybe a hyacinth? A narcissus of some kind? A flowering or foliage branch (even if you have to force it)?



Time to take a close look at your houseplants and give them a spruce up and think about starting a cell pack of seedlings. The design theme is “World Pride in Toronto” and we are looking for your interpretive, parallel, crescent, complementary colour and miniature designs. Rules and definitions are on pages 23 to 27 and the “Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticultural and Floral Design” booklet, also known as Publication 34, is a helpful resource to both the experienced and the novice entrant.

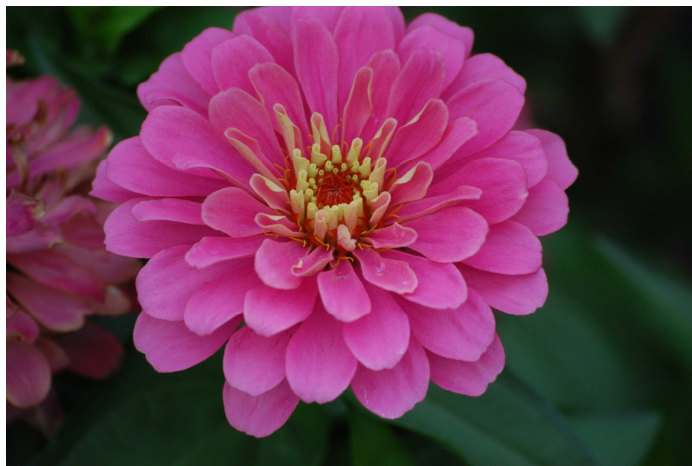
It is also time to check out your supply of your homemade preserves. Of all the ones you made these past 12 months, which will you bring to be tasted and judged in the competition?

If you have any questions leading up to the April show, call me and let me help you get started in competing.

Barbara Fairbanks  
Flower Show Coordinator  
416-755-0278

Welcome to our Newest  
EYGC Members

Ann da Mota and Michael Erdman

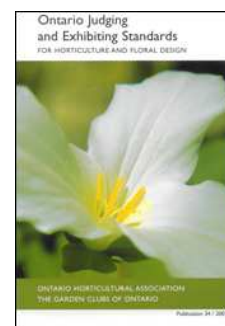


## *OHA Judging and Exhibiting Standards Books*

If you haven't made it to the last two meetings, we still have eight copies of the \$6 books available for sale. It is especially useful if you compete or are thinking of competing in the 2014 flower shows. Valuable information on how to select, groom and present your flowers, plants, fruit & vegetables for show. There are definitions of various forms of design and tips as to what the judges are looking for in both horticultural and design entries.

If you would like me to reserve a copy for you let me know.

Barb Fairbanks  
Flower Show Coordinator  
barbpiercey@bell.net





Dear Susan and EYGC Members,

Thank you and all of EYGC for my Horticultural Service Certificate.

I was surprised and delighted to receive the recognition.

I saw an ad. in the Library for a talk on vegetables by Mrs. Vera (?) Launin at the EYGC - probably in 1975 or 76. There was a phone number. Margaret Watson gave me information and looked out for me when I arrived. I joined immediately.

This emphasizes the importance of good advertisement and looking out for visitors.

I quickly entered competitions, winning the most points silver plate at the first annual show I entered. I grew marigolds and points quickly mounted up with 6 categories. The competition was not that great!

My children joined the junior club. Then I went to England for a year, missing out on taking over the juniors and becoming president of our local Anglican Church Women.

I was elected to the board on my return and was told that I would either have to be the secretary or treasurer. The later was preferable! I had to write a statement every month and read it out at the meetings. The time I spent trying to balance the statements! I think I was the person who suggested we stopped this and the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

I was told when I joined the board that if I suggested something I would get the reply "We have never done it that way before" I tried not to giggle when this happened.

Then a few years doing the handbook.

How long was I program director? It didn't seem long - such fun. It was great talking to potential speakers and learning about others they had heard.

I managed to start the picnic instead of a July speaker and I may have suggested the craft competition in March. We did have competitions almost every month. I also suggested having preserves in March.

The Club has changed over the years. I was one of our youngest members till I was well into my 50s. So good to have more younger people now. I do look back on some of our older members - several men who grew wonderful vegetables and some formidable women. I was terrified of Mrs. Harris, though I learned a lot from her flower arrangement classes. I think I still have a Hosta which she gave me.

Thank you again,

Remember, volunteer and have fun!

Anna Leggatt







*Is this for You .....*

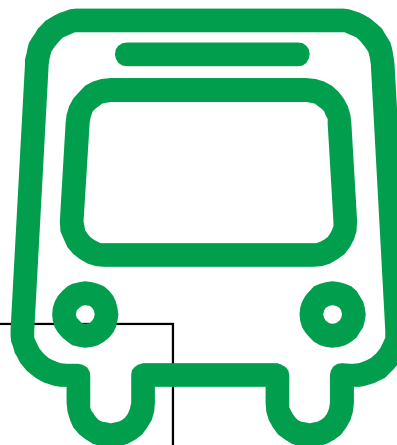


We are planning a **workshop or demonstration** sometime in March or early April **for members who have thought of competing in flower shows**, but were too afraid to start.

Currently, we are gearing this towards the less experienced or novice entrant or the “I’m totally intimidated and can’t possibly imagine competing” individual. We hope to cover such topics as: entering cut specimens and some basic design how-to and ideas. Of course, our experienced entrants are welcome to come too—it may be a good time to match up some mentoring relationships or at least encourage the newbies.

We haven’t worked out the details yet (like when, where or how much), we just need to know who would be interested in participating. If you didn’t get a chance to put your name on the sign up sheet in February, please call me with your name and phone number.

Barbara Fairbanks  
Flower Show Coordinator  
416-755-0278



## Mystery Bus Tour

Sunday, July 6th, 2014

8:00a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Cost \$80.00 (Non-OHA members \$10.00 more)

Includes: a mystery garden, buffet lunch & 2 other stops.  
We'll end up at Lost Horizons Nursery. Their plant list is  
on their website. (<http://www.losthorizons.ca/>)

This will be a fun day. You won't be disappointed!!!!

Tickets on sale at April meeting.

Roz [416.759.6247](tel:416.759.6247)



### 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 [jenn@majam.net](mailto:jenn@majam.net)

*Rewind ....**A Look back at the January & February Meetings*

**January** ~ we listened to Donna Fenice talk about Gardens of Northern Italy. Be sure to check out her Blog: <http://lovingitalysgardens.wordpress.com/>

**February** ~ we listened to Christine Moore talk to us about her passion, Lavender. Be sure to check out her Blogs at <http://www.growing-lavender.com> and <http://mylavendergarden.wordpress.com/>



Images are from the speakers websites.

**IKENOBO IKEBANA SOCIETY of TORONTO**

Presents

**51<sup>st</sup> FLORAL EXHIBITION**

**Sunday, March 30, 2014**

**12:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

at the

**Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre**

6 Garamond Court, Don Mills  
(Wynford Dr. & Don Valley Pkwy)



Demonstration by:

**Professor Yoichi Mizutani**  
Kyoto, Japan

Ikebana Displays By:  
**Members of the Toronto Chapter**

**Tea Room**

**Admission \$5.00 at the door**

For further information, phone: 416-229-9950 or  
416-467-4962 or email: [ikenoboto@sympatico.ca](mailto:ikenoboto@sympatico.ca)

**Friendship Garden**

(submitted by Joyce Crook)

Plant three rows of peas:

Pea-ce of mind

Pea-ce of heart

Pea-ce of soul



Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash grumbling

Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful

Lettuce be kind

Lettuce be happy

Lettuce really love one another



No garden should be without turnips:

Turnip for service when needed

Turnip to help one another

Turnip the music and dance

Water freely with patience and

Cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden

Because you reap what you sow.

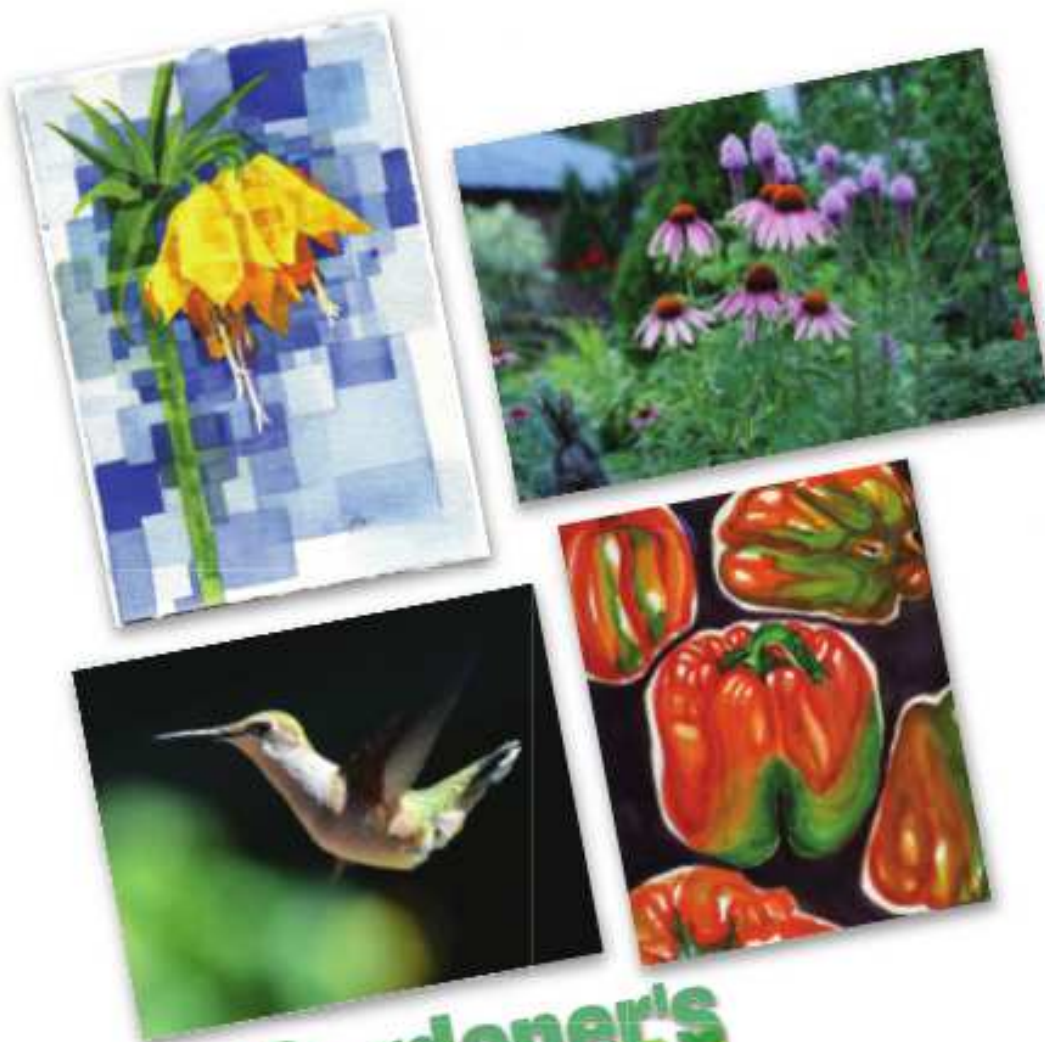
To conclude our garden

We must have thyme:

Thyme for fun

Thyme for rest

Thyme for ourselves!



## A Gardener's VISION

### **Art & Photography Show**

presented by The East York Garden Club  
[www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)

Location: S. Walter Stewart Library Auditorium  
170 Memorial Park Avenue, East York (416) 396-3975  
March 2 to March 28, 2014

Join us to view art and photography pieces created by members of The East York Garden Club. Contact the library for information about presentations by members of the EYGC during the month of March 2014.

Opening reception:  
March 8, 2014 from 1:30 - 4:00 pm  
Everyone Welcome – Refreshments Served



*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 April 26th, 2014***

*Please e-mail you comments regarding our Newsletter or submissions for the next issue to [jenn@majam.net](mailto:jenn@majam.net)*



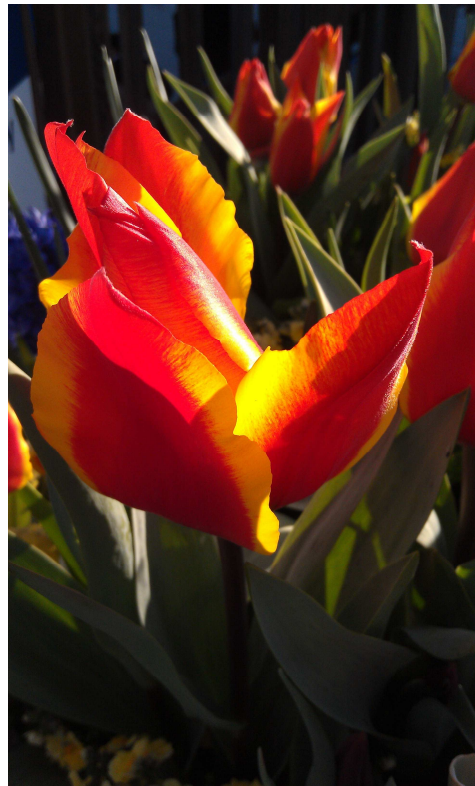
**EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB**

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.eygc.ca>

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**Spring is Coming ...**

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*Mark your Calendars ~  
Some Great Upcoming Events*

- ♦ **March 2nd to 31st** ~ EYGC presents A Gardener's Vision show at S. Walter Stewart Library
- ♦ **March 8th** ~ Opening Reception for A Gardener's Vision, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at S. Walter Stewart Library
- ♦ **March 14th to 23rd** ~ Canada Blooms at the Direct Energy Centre
- ♦ **March 29th** ~ Earth Hour, turn off your lights from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- ♦ **April 22nd** ~ Earth day
- ♦ **April 26th** ~ OHA District 5 AGM hosted by North York Garden Club, Natural Gardening - Back to Basics
- ♦ **May 10th** ~ East Gwillimbury Gardeners/Mt Albert Hort: A GARDENER'S TEA PARTY. A 1920s fashion show and tea to celebrate the 90th anniversary year of Mount Albert Garden and Horticultural society. Tickets \$35 each. For more information and to purchase tickets, call Ellen at 905-473-1322. In Sharon Ontario. [www.gardenontario.org/mount-albert](http://www.gardenontario.org/mount-albert)
- ♦ **July 6th** ~ EYGC Mystery Bus Tour