

May ~ June 2015

East York Garden Club

East York Garden Club

Thursday, May 21, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: What Treasures are for Waiting to be Snapped Up? Plant Sale

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 21, when we'll be holding our annual plant sale, from the donated plants from your own gardens.

Members are asked to bring their plants between **6:30 and 7:00 p.m.** so they can be prepared for sale. Please label the plant with name, colour, annual or perennial, height/width, blooming season, light requirements, and anything special the new gardener needs to know. We will also have a "garden treasures" table so donations of any gently used garden related tools or items are appreciated. The sale will begin after the speakers are done.

Members with surnames beginning with **"T" to "Z"** are asked to bring in some cookies or squares for the refreshment table.

"Our beautiful bright green club T shirts will be on sale at the next meeting. Limited sizes are available from \$12. Make sure you grab one to sport at Environment Day, round the neighborhood, or marching on Canada Day in the parade."

Thursday, June 18, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Pollinator Gardens Speaker: Cathy Kozma

Come and listen to the latest buzz! The who, what, where and whys of creating a haven for pollinators in our gardens will be answered by Cathy Kozma, a Toronto Master Gardener. She will recommend specific plants, how to care for the garden and advise us of winning ways to help pollinators thrive.

Cathy Kozma is a lifelong downtown Torontonians. Holding a Bachelor of Commerce degree from U of T, she has been a Realtor by profession for the past 28 years and is a Member of the Re/Max Hall of Fame. She is an avid gardener with a passion for teaching and she found the perfect way to combine those loves by becoming certified as a Master Gardener. When Cathy noticed dwindling honey-bee populations in her own Annex area garden she began urban beekeeping in 2004, and is currently Co-Chair of the Toronto Beekeepers Co-operative, managing beehives in the City at the Evergreen BrickWorks, Downsview Park, on the 14th floor rooftop of the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, and at the Toronto Botanical Garden.

Members with surnames beginning with **"A" to "B"** are asked to bring in some cookies or squares for the refreshment table.



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 Ave. 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 Cristina Brown.

Visit us on the web at www.eygc.ca

President: Susan Bartlett

Vice President:
Rosalind Regnier
Barbara Fairbanks

Newsletter Editor:
Jennifer McDougall



May Plant Sale ~ How to prepare your Plants for Sale!



The May Members' Plant Sale is always a busy event. Please try to have your plants at the meeting by 7:00 pm so they can be priced. If you have any garden tools in good condition that you'd like to donate, those are welcome too.

Some pointers:

- Decide early what plants will go in the sale.
- A healthy attractive plant will sell faster than a plant that is potted up the day before or the morning of the sale. A plant that was potted up and kept watered in a shady spot for more than a few weeks should put up some new growth.
- Clearly label your plant with its proper name. Don't guess. Identify it.
- If you have the nursery label it originally came with mark it on your tag using the botanical name and cultivar. It will give the buyer more information about the plant.
- Does it need sun or shade? That is important information.
- Does it need lots of water or is it a drought tolerant plant that can survive on the dry side?
- Make sure there are no weeds or add on's. A buyer may not appreciate getting a sprig of goutweed or lily of the valley in with the sale plant. They can be aggressive plants once established.

Results from the April Flower Show

Once again this year, there were few blooms for the cut specimen section of the April flower show due to our long, cold winter. We had 22 designs including 8 Shrinking Violet Miniature designs. Congratulations to Dawn McEachern for her 1st place for her very first miniature design. Well done to all the designers!

We had a tremendous selection of preserves—30 in all. Congratulations to Gail Brodeur for her 2nd place pickled beets--a first ever entry in a show! The Judge and Judge-in-training were impressed by the enthusiasm of the club members to compete with such a variety. Thanks to all the competitors for taking the time and effort to enter.

Congratulations go out to the following for the Judge's "Best of" awards:

Best Cut Specimen: Anna Leggatt for her Adonis flower

Best Potted Plant: Jean Quinn for her spectacular flowering pink cyclamen

Best Design: Carole Aida for her interpretation of "Todmorden Mills"

Best Preserve: Wilfred Haufe for his tasty pink grapefruit marmalade

Judge's Choice: Wilfred Haufe for his preserve: zesty yellow pickles



Barb Fairbanks
Flower Show Coordinator

LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

East York Civic Centre
Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Starts May 12

East Lynn Park
(Danforth Ave w of Woodbine)
Thursdays 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm
Starts June 4

Withrow Park
(south of Danforth Ave.
between Logan & Carlaw)
Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Starts May 16th

Evergreen Brick Works
(550 Bayview Ave)
Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Year round

In Memoriam: Elizabeth Malone *By: Susan Bartlett*



In April we received the sad news that we lost one of our members, Elizabeth Malone. Elizabeth joined the club in 1997 and quickly made herself indispensable. She arrived extra early at Thursday meetings to start the coffee so it could be ready when the doors open at 7:00. Some evenings a surplus of cookies and treats would be brought in – no problem for Elizabeth, she would just take them home and freeze them until the next meeting. She assisted with the kitchen duties at the August Flower Show and Tea for many years too.

She was a very vivacious and energetic personality and we will miss her very much. There is a nice interview with her in the November-December 2013 club newsletter (see excerpt below, written by Barb Fairbanks) where she talks about her life and how she came to be a gardener.

At this time her family hasn't planned a service. I will let you know when I hear of it.

Elizabeth Malone: Coffee, Tea or Me?

Elizabeth came by her lovely accent honestly, by being born in Edinburgh Scotland and having a family tree firmly rooted in Scotland. Her father, practically 'a born gardener', was a tremendous gardener with a hot-house for his tomatoes—quite the thing to enhance the growing season in Scotland. Her earliest gardening memory was of her father showing her how to dig in the carrots and other vegetables when she was about 10 years old.

When her father joined the army, Elizabeth had to take over the gardening and with some help, grew, maintained and harvested all the vegetables for the family. This was a big help during wartime rationing.

She was the secretary at Thomson Newspapers working for Ken Thomson for about 9 years. Her next job was working for ACTRA (The Association of Canadian Television and Radio Artists) in its very early days and remained there for over 27 years. Elizabeth says she had a terrific working life with ACTRA. It was full of travel, meeting actors, writers and personalities, preparing the award shows, etc.

She moved to East York in 1979 and her father came to the rescue to help with a completely neglected garden and happily proclaimed that her soil was "black gold". He promptly planned and planted her garden.

Shortly after retiring, she visited one of our August Annual Flower Show and Teas and then she joined the East York Garden Club in 2000. She decided to give the club some of her time and volunteered to organize the coffee and treats which she continued to do with the help of Barbara Foster, Brenda MacKinnon and George Gorrie. In all these years, she says our members are very good at baking (even when it is not their turn) and bringing in their treats and putting their coins in the honour cup. She loved how the club has become so vibrant and a nice mix of ages—and more men too.

She loved her pink roses and she preferred to garden in the cool seasons of spring and fall. Recently she has had to replace an large, old tree in her front yard with a young Tulip tree which is growing beautifully and was glowing red, gold and green on the day we met to talk.

When asked what advice she would give to someone just beginning to garden: following her father's advice: compost for your own black gold and, as her father would say: "Always keep a clean bed—nobody likes a dirty bed, not you, me or the plants!" When asked why it is important to belong to a garden club, Elizabeth replied, "Well, you learn a lot from other people—better than learning from a book or the internet—and gardeners are some of the nicest people you will find."

Barb Fairbanks

416-755-0278

Miniature Design Workshop Day

On Sunday March 8th, 17 members, came out to the Clubhouse for a special afternoon of learning about creating miniature designs. Ursula Eley, an accredited Floral Design Judge, led the afternoon with a slide show of examples of the designs along with creating 2 designs using techniques that she explained as she worked on the designs. Then it was the hands-on portion and each participant, some experience and



some first-timers, created at least 2 designs using their new knowledge. Ursula gave lots of hints, tips and encouragement. The afternoon ended with a full display of everyone's efforts with an overall critique by Ursula. It was an impressive display! Everyone left with their designs and some fresh plant material to try another design at home.

A special thank you goes to Diane Ronan for sourcing the mini pottery pots that Sheila Pattison of The Potter's Studio Inc consigned to us to sell. Thank you to Karen Bell and Diane for assisting with the preparation for the workshop.



Diane Ronan's ~ Design from the Workshop

Saturday Sept. 12 8:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. including Peter Keeping's garden, Rekker's nursery, Watson's farms for produce, buffet lunch at Chemong lodge, Curve lake Indian Reserve, kKwartha country winery.
Cost \$75.00 (non OHA members \$85.00)
Pick up at Stan Wadlow club house.
Contact Roz r. 416-759-6247

Bus Tour

District 5 AGM Wrap Up

By: Susan Bartlett

On April 18, 28 members of the East York Garden Club attended the District 5 AGM at the Toronto Botanical Garden. The day was pleasant and sunny and we enjoyed coffee and treats before the business portion of the meeting. There was a tribute to departing District 5 Director, Nancy Serrick, and Cindy Scythes was voted in as the new director.



A short break and then the first presentation: Frank Kershaw talked about the early history of Edwards Gardens. By then it was time for a very tasty lunch, and an opportunity to view the flower show. The late spring made for a relatively small show, but there were lots of design entries. We then had a presentation by Lizzie Matheson, who made some stunning floral arrangements while amusing us with stories. A short presentation by the Toronto Rhododendron Society summed up the day. The Rhododendron Society maintains the rhododendrons in Edwards Gardens and from the pictures it's definitely worth a visit to see them blooming in the spring.



For the first time I have seen at an AGM, there were no prize baskets, just a 50/50. Three lucky attendees walked away with \$211! Flower Show prizes were announced (see separate article by Barbara Fairbanks). For some reason, the enterers and people who organize

the show always get camera shy - it should really be them in the photo posing with the trophies! After photos I made a quick announcement that East York will be hosting the 2016 AGM on Sunday, April 25, 2016 at the Latvian Centre. We also distributed bookmarks reminding people to "save the date".

All in all it was a fun day, especially enjoyable as next year our club will be in the hot seat. The logistics of pulling off such a large event seamlessly require a lot of planning and organization. A big thank you to the host societies Toronto Rhododendron Society and North Toronto Horticultural Society. And East York is off to plan its hosting of the 2016 AGM.



Upcoming June Flower Show

The June show is usually a show with lots of entries, so hopefully this year all our regular competitors, and some new ones, will come through for us. The design theme is the "50th Anniversary of Our Flag".

For those who have never entered a show, please take a look at the June Flower Show section in the yellow pages of your yearbook. There are a lot of possible flowers that you may happen to have growing in your garden. Bring something in and complete an entry tag—volunteers will be there to help you. It is also time for rhubarb, herbs and fruits & vegetables to make an appearance. Just remember to get your entry in no later than 7:10pm.

If you have any questions about how to compete or prepare your entry, please call Barb at 416-755-0278.

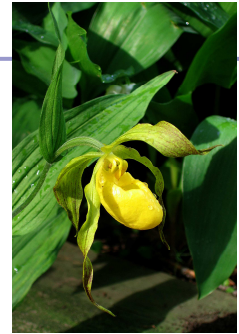
Meet the Ladies: The Slipper Orchids

by: Diane Ronan



Pink Lady's Slipper –
Ernie Thorne

Pink Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*)
White Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule* var *alba*)
Showy Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*)
Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var *pubescens*)



Yellow Lady's Slipper
Diane Ronan

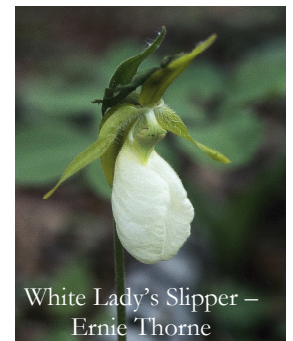
Ontario is home to a number of native orchids. I'm introducing you to these four ladies because I have personally met them. As a child, I was fortunate to grow up in a part of Ontario where looking for Pink Lady Slippers was a family spring ritual – a drive down back roads looking for them growing in ditches or near the edge of the pine forests. We also knew them as pink moccasin flowers because of their shape.

Native People once harvested the roots of the plant for medicinal purposes to relieve nervousness, headaches, spasms and cramps. Although Pink Lady Slippers are no longer harvested for medicine, their existence is in danger because of poaching and loss of habitat. If you find any orchid plant in the woods, do not pick the flower, do not disturb it and NEVER transplant it. The plant will die.



Showy Lady's Slipper
– Peter Ronan

Interest: The orchid lives in a special relationship with soil fungi (Rhizoctonia), which helps the seeds germinate and grow. The fungus nourishes the seedling for 2 or 3 years before the plant has leaves large enough to sustain itself by photosynthesis. Because of this special relationship, it is virtually impossible to transplant this wildflower into your garden. Please leave it in the wild. Lady's Slipper plants can take years to mature, and their average life span is about 20 years. That is a good reason NOT to pick the flowers. (This information is taken from: <http://www.ontariowildflower.com>)



White Lady's Slipper –
Ernie Thorne

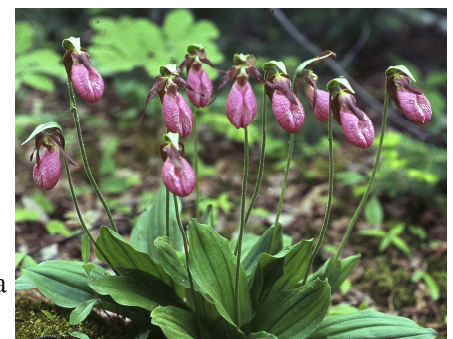
Better to take a photograph that you can enjoy forever. My father (Ernie Thorne) took many pictures of Pink Lady Slippers and he found one colony that included the white variation. He shared this adventure with me and I've included his photograph.

The Showy Lady's Slipper is harder to find in the woods but the photo you see was taken in an East York garden. The owner obtained the plant from a commercial grower. The Purdon Conservation Area near Lanark, ON has an exceptional large native colony of Showy Lady Slippers. You can find more information at the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority website: <http://mvc.on.ca/places-to-see/purdon/>

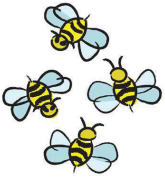
The Yellow Lady's Slipper grows in my garden - a gift from a former club member. It is slowly forming a small clump.

You can buy native lady slipper orchids from Canadian nurseries but make sure they are nursery propagated and not taken from the wild. It might require some time searching on the Internet for suppliers or you could try contacting the Southern Ontario Orchid Society: <http://www.soos.ca>

Now that you've met the ladies, I want to tell you that I am donating two watercolour paintings of Lady's Slippers and one of my father's photographs for a fund raising silent auction at our June meeting. The proceeds will go towards hosting the District 5 AGM 2016.



Colony of Pink Lady Slippers – Ernie Thorne



Buyer Beware

By: Carol Dunk

re-printed from the OHA Trillium-Spring edition, with the kind permission of the author

Most of us concerned about the plight of bees are now conscientiously choosing plants for our gardens that are good for bees. What we may not be aware of is that the very plants we are purchasing to help bees may have been treated with the same pesticides that have been killing or sickening bees worldwide – neonicotinoids.

Neonicotinoids or neonics are a group of systemic pesticides that are used on crops to control insects. When they are used as a seed coating or a drench, the insecticide enters the system of the plant and can be found in all parts of the plant – leaves, stem, flowers, fruit. Insects feeding on any part of treated plants are affected.

The neonicotinoids widely used to prevent insect damage on crops have been recognized as dangerous to bees. Although bees are not the targets, they are attracted to the flowers of crops that have been treated. The bees ingest the neonics through nectar and take the pollen of the treated plants back to their hives to feed their young. Large doses of the pesticide will kill bees outright, but even very small doses of neonics, can cause bees to become disoriented, to experience memory loss or to lose their foraging ability. Honey bees are often unable to find their way back to the hive.

Those very same neonics that harm bees on crop plants may be present in the ornamental plants we purchase at nurseries and big box stores. Studies of plant material from a variety of retail sources have revealed the presence of neonics in plants offered for sale. Some growers use the pesticides on their ornamental stock as a control for insects just as farmers do on crops. And we purchase those plants for our bee gardens!

To reduce the danger to bees, many countries have banned the use of neonicotinoids, but there is no legislation banning the use of neonics on garden plants in Canada or the USA. The nurseries and plant producers, the sources of our plants, are free to use neonics on the plants they produce. Of course, we wouldn't choose plants for our bee gardens that contained harmful pesticides, but there is no way of knowing whether the plants

we purchase have been treated with neonics or not.

Here's where you and I come into the picture.

The Ontario Horticultural Association has acted. OHA has written a letter to the main large box stores asking them to choose plants for sale that have not been treated with neonics and to label plants that have been treated.

You and I can act, too. We can ask our plant sources whether neonics have been used on the plants, and we can choose not to buy plants that have been treated with neonics. We can regulate the use of neonics with our purchasing decisions. Buy only bee-friendly plants this spring.

Here are some sites you may want to visit for more information:

<http://www.wired.com/2014/06/garden-center-neonicotinoids/>

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/Krischik-UofMN-PowerPoint.pdf>

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/business/farming/scotish-study-claims-to-prove-pesticides-are-harming-bees-1.822577>

<http://www.xerces.org/neonicotinoids-and-bees/>

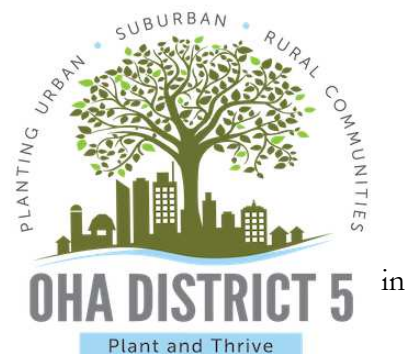
<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2013/05/07/neonicotinoids-affect-bees.aspx>

<http://www.planetexperts.com/study-confirms-neonicotinoid-insecticides-impair-bee-brains/#sthash.00JDwuH9.dpuf>



District 5 AGM Floral Competition Results

The East York Garden Club won 2 major prizes at the District 5 AGM held on Saturday April 18th at the Toronto Botanical Gardens. The District 5 Horticultural Trophy and the Dave & Bev Money Award were presented to our President, Susan Bartlett. These awards are for the highest number of points both Horticultural entries and a combination of Horticultural & Design entries.



We contributed a great number of excellent quality cut specimens, potted plants and designs for the show in order to win those two trophies. Out of 30 entries, we came away with 11 firsts, 7 seconds, 5 thirds, 2 honourable mentions!

Congratulations Anna Leggatt for her Judge's Choice award for her potted plant "Variegated Clivia" and Best in Show for her pot of forced "Golden Bells" and Betty Meyers for her Best in Show tulip.

Thank you to all our members for competing: Carole Aida, Carol Bouley, Wilfred Haufe, Anna Leggatt, Betty Meyers, Jean Quinn, Diane Ronan and Vera Stoyanoff.

A very special thank you to Cristina Brown for organizing and gathering the team and doing lots of leg work to prepare the entries for the competition. She is a wonderful leader at this competition and we wouldn't do this well without her guidance.

Barbara Fairbanks
Flower Show Coordinator



**Please Call Susan
Today if you can help or
if you would like more
Information.**

Stay tuned for our
Pop Up garden tours!

Join us throughout the
year, with art and good-
ies in the garden! If you
have something special
in your garden and want
to share. Please contact
be in touch with
Diane Ronan to ar-
range a Pop Up in your
garden!

Vitacellas: My Favourite Type of Clematis

by: Betty Meyers

Peter Keeping gave us a full menu of Clematis at our meeting on March 19th. A large turn out of members and guests can certainly attest to the interest in the “Queen of the Climbers”.

It was nice to see the hybridizers have been hard at work, giving us lots of large-flowered, double-blooming plants.

Many people only admire the large-flowered hybrids whereas I personally like the smaller-flowered, very florific vitacellas. They are interesting and they flower for longer periods and are usually loaded with flowers.

These are a few of my favourite viticellas:

- **Huldine** – **This is my #1 favourite!** It is a late bloomer, very floriferous with pearl white flowers and purple bars on the outside
- **Betty Corning** – This is my #2 favourite. It is very vigorous and needs room to grow! It has lovely violet blue bell-shaped blooms
- **Alba Luxurians** – This is my number #3 favourite. It is a true vitacella with little green markings on white flowers
- **Emilia Plater** - is very vigorous and is a lovely light mauve with rounded tepals which curl under
- **Margot Koster** – this is an old vitacella and is one of the larger flowered ones with lovely mauve pink to deep pink flowers
- **Venosa Violacea** – This is my #1 one favourite. It is an old vitacella with very beautiful purple and cream flowers
- **Polish Spirit** – this is one of the few vitacellas that you can find at most garden centers. It is very vigorous and free flowering with purple flowers



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

Many of the crosses from crespa, viorna and texensis are interesting. The integrefolia and non-climbers are very nice in a perennial garden. I love **Aljonushka** which is a large integrefolia (5') with bigger, rose pink nodding, twisting flowers.

The late-flowering **Sweet Autumn** terniflora is very fragrant and a very strong climber.

Picking just one hybrid: **Omoshiro**. Large 5" white flowers with magenta pink edges and purple stamens.

I find most garden centres have limited or no small-flowered clematis available. Check out clematis on the internet to see details of each kind and you can always check with Peter who usually has a variety of plants he has imported. Susan sent out a list of what he has and you can contact him at peterkeeping@hotmail.com or call him at 905-697-7842. Also refer to www.clematisinternational.com for lots of information and photos.



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 June 24th!***

*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>



EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB

Mark your Calendars ~ Some Great Spring Events

- ♦ May 3, 2015 - 12 pm - 4 pm ONTARIO ROCK GARDEN & HARDY PLANT SOCIETY Super Plant Sale
- ♦ May 9, Leaside Plant Sale 9am to Noon at Trace Manes Community Centre
- ♦ May 16, Beach Garden Society Plant Sale, 9am to 11:30am at Adam Beck Community Centre
- ♦ May 16, North York Garden Club Plant Sale, 11:00 am., Willowdale Presbyterian Church
- ♦ May 10th ~ Mother's Day
- ♦ May 23 & 24 ~ Doors Open Toronto
- ♦ May 24 ~ Greater Toronto Water Garden & Horticultural Society Plant sale, 10 am to 1 pm, Banbury Community Centre
- ♦ June 20 ~ Magical Gardens of Leaside Tour
- ♦ June 21 ~ Gardens of the Beach Tour, 1-5 pm
- ♦ June 21 ~ Father's Day