

The East York Garden

Issue Date: 2019
March and April



Photo: Chinodoxa in the Spring Credit: Janet Zablocki

Next Meetings:

Thursday March 21st, 2019, 7:30PM

Topic: "Little Known Garden Gems for The Landscape"

Speaker: Jim Lounsbery

Learn about ornamental and native deciduous plants and conifers that are not often found in the landscape trade. Jim will talk about many smaller type trees and shrubs that would be good for use in small urban landscape but not usually found there.

Jim is a Certified Arborist and co-owner, with wife Simone, of Vineland Nurseries, which specializes in unusual plants.

He has over 35 years experience, is an instructor of Horticulture Landscape and Design Certificates at Mohawk College – Hamilton and a lecturer on garden topics throughout Ontario and the USA. Past Supervisor of Arboretum and Trails Systems Royal Botanical Gardens, Jim has made guest appearances on TV in the Gardeners Journal and Calling All Gardeners

Members with Surnames beginning with "E" through "H" are asked to bring some cookies or squares for the refreshment table.

Thank You!

Theme for the March Peoples Choice Photo Contest: "Going South"

Thursday April 18th, 2019, 7:30PM

Topic: "Weeds that are Common in Toronto"

Speaker: Miles Hearn

This presentation will focus on "What is a weed?" It will cover weeds that are trees, shrubs, vines, wildflowers, grasses and more. The origin of common Toronto weedy species, and the 25 most common weedy species in Toronto highlighted.

Miles works as an adult nature walk leader for the TDSB & leads over 150 walks a year. He does surveys for the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority on birds, wildflowers, trees, shrubs, amphibians & lichen; he leads walks for the Toronto Field Naturalists & is a cruise ship naturalist & lecturer in Canada, northern United States, & Antarctic region. A birder and wildflower enthusiast, his interests include all areas of natural history, particularly the variety of non-native plants and birds that have become naturalized in North American urban centers.

Members with Surnames beginning with "I" through "L" are asked to bring some cookies or squares for the refreshment table.

Thank You!

The April Flower Show is today. Good luck to all those entering, and remember to have your entries in between 6:30 & 7:15pm.



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 July, August and December) in the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Avenue, at 7:30 pm.

Refreshments are available at 7:00 pm. The Clubhouse is wheelchair accessible. Visitors are always welcome.

Yearly membership fees are \$20.00 for a single, \$30.00 for a family. To inquire about membership, please contact:

Cristina Brown at:
416-755-9077

Visit us on the web:
www.eygc.ca

President:
Barbara Fairbanks

Vice President:
Rosalind Regnier

Newsletter Editor/Art Director:
Michael Woods



Volunteers Needed for Canada Blooms March 8 to 17th!

Every year the OHA has a booth at Canada Blooms and needs 2 volunteers per shift to promote Horticultural Societies all over Ontario. Nancy Serrick organizes the volunteers and it is a very enjoyable few hours.

The three shifts are: 10am-1pm; 1-4pm; 4-7pm

It is great meeting other gardeners from all over Ontario, promoting our club and others. You get free admission (but you pay for your own transportation/parking) and can visit both Canada Blooms & the Home Show before or after your shift.

There is a binder of information for all the districts in the OHA and lots of brochures, bookmarks, plant sale flyers from all the different clubs for you to distribute to the public. Plus, there will be EYGC brochures to hand out to local gardeners and potential new members.

If you haven't done this before, a great opening line to draw people in as they pass is "Do you belong to a garden club?" and the chat just rolls on from there.

If you would like to volunteer please contact **Nancy Serrick** of District 5 directly at her email: nser@rogers.com or phone: **1-905-476-3750**

Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:
"This is May-June in East York"

Send it in to the newsletter for a chance to be on the cover of the May - June Newsletter!

woods-eygc@bell.net

Jan - Feb 2019 EYGC Newsletter Photo Credits

Various Photos:

Alan Barber, Linda Boyko, Barbara Fairbanks, Monique Gauthier, Malcolm Geast, Austra Gulens, Anna Leggatt, Anita Millar, Wendy Plume, Jennifer Smith, Lynn Smith, Anne Stanley, Lynda Tanner, Michael Woods, Janet Zablocki

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch by Barbara Fairbanks

I am constantly inspired by our members - how much plant knowledge they have and how willing they are to give advice, suggestions and inspiration.

Back in our November 2017 newsletter, Betty Meyers wrote about her 30+ amaryllis bulbs that bloom in her living room every winter. What a breath of garden delight to see those blooms at the coldest time of the year. Well, that inspired me to keep my bulbs and boy did they really bloom this year, much to the delight of my 4-year old grandson Hugh. He could not believe a plant was almost as tall as him and such a big flower!

Working with the Executive Board, I am sometimes at their homes to drop off or pick up items. Back in January, Michael Woods had an amaryllis with 8 flower buds on one stalk! Incredible! (*Alas, only 6 buds fully opened - Ed.*) Rosemary Vandierendonck had an orchid with 3 stems (that also had other stems shooting off those) all loaded with buds. Incredible! They were both impressed too.

Any member may submit an article or a photo to the Editor. Please keep inspiring us with articles and photos of your gardening experiences, gardening history, personal feats of gardening triumph. You never know who you will inspire.

Oh yes, and please spare some of your valuable time and volunteer to keep EYGC vibrant!

Spring really is coming!

Barb



One of Betty's plants



Hugh measuring up



Hugh getting inspired!

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings this year and, as always, you can contact me at: barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net or 416-755-0278

The Wonderful World of Witch Hazel



Witch Hazel - *Hamamelis*:

An essential shrub for the short days

By
Anna Leggatt

There are four main species of witch hazel with a disjunct distribution in Eastern North America and Eastern Asia,

Hamamelis virginiana can be found in eastern North America from Ontario to Nova Scotia and south to Florida and Oklahoma and even into Mexico. It grows in woodland edges in dry or moist soil. Flowering is in the fall, as the leaves change colour and drop.

Hamamelis vernalis grows in the Ozarks in the United States. It suckers, often forming dense clumps on gravelly, moist stream sides. It flowers from early winter to early spring.

Hamamelis japonica is native to Japan, growing in temperate to warm temperate mountainous regions. It will grow in more sunny places, with moist soil.

Hamamelis mollis is scattered over a large area, covering seven provinces in SE and SW China. Both these Asian species flower from early to late spring.



Hamamelis virginiana

Most witch hazels on sale or growing in specialized gardens are hybrids-*Hamamelis* x *intermedia*. They flower mainly from December to May.

All witch hazels look much the same — spreading-branched shrubs with somewhat pendulous twigs, growing to about 6m. Some are more upright, others almost weeping. The leaves are oval, with a short petiole (stem), rough on the underside, turning golden yellow to flaming reds and oranges in the fall.

The flowers have a spicy scent. They are found usually in groups of 3 or 4 clustered along the twigs. Four thin strap-like petals can be 10-20mm long and 1 cm wide. They may be twisted, crimped or curled. Colour varies — pale primrose yellow, bright orange, copper, fiery oranges or deep reds. Sometimes the colour is mixed - *H. x intermedia* 'Strawberries and Cream' is palest yellow with soft red at the petal bases.



Seed capsule w/small flower buds in early fall

The fruit is a tough capsule containing two black shiny spindle-shaped seeds. These ripen in the fall, with the capsule walls drying unevenly. The resulting pressure shoots the seeds out, hurtling them up to five metres from the shrub. Collect the capsules when they have tiny splits at the top. Bring into the house where it is warm and dry. Put in a container with a perforated lid. The perforations must be smaller than the seeds, otherwise they will be shot all over the room!

Seed germination is very slow. Place pots in repeated cycles of 20°C, then 4°C for 3 months each.

The Wonderful World of Witch Hazel

Hamamelis virginiana grows locally on the slopes of our wooded East York ravines. It is a treat to follow wooded paths and to notice a slight spiciness in the air. Then look up to see a yellow-gold canopy between you and the treetops. Gold sprigs gleaming between leaves, all back-lit by the sun.



***Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Pallida'**

I nearly purchased a plant but realized they were in our ravine. I bought *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Arnold Promise' over 20 years ago. It probably needs a more hummus soil. However, it is now about 3m tall, vase shaped, with good flowering from February to March and April. The petals are yellow, somewhat curled and crimped 18mm long x 1.5mm wide. It has a strong scent and good autumn colour if there is enough sun. I am keeping it tall.



***Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena'**

Issue Date: March April 2019

Hamamelis x intermedia 'Jelena' is my present favourite. It is about 1 m tall and a little wider as I prune it each year. The petals are 24mm long and 1.5mm wide. These are red at the base fading to more of an orange-yellow at the tip. The bush looks as if it is on fire! Many years the colour is showing in December. Unfortunately, there is no scent. Place your plant so you can see it from the house with the sun behind it. It will look like a fire on a cold sunny day! The leaves can be yellow, orange and red in the fall.



Hamamelis x intermedia 'Primavera' flowers later for me, into March. This is because it is on the North side of the house. I can see it lit up in the morning and evening sun as I go in and out. The bright yellow petals are 21mm x 1.8mm in size. They are curled at the tip and a bit crimped. They are more down facing so it would be better to allow the shrub to grow taller or to place it on a bank. However, it holds the snow very well.



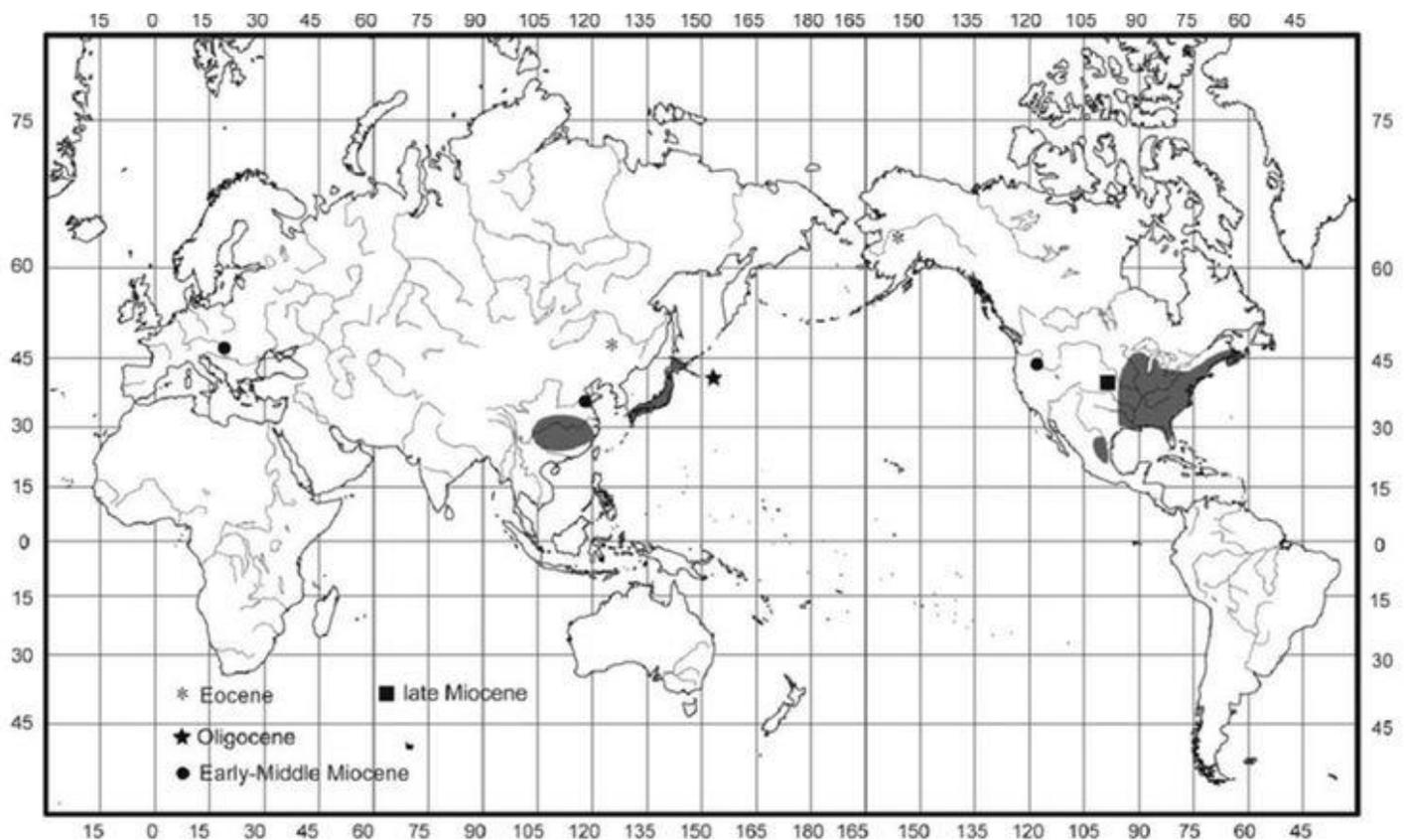
Buds starting to open in early February

I severely prune the two later witch hazels to keep them small. Then I can buy more plants. The old year's growth is cut back to one to two buds, just after flowering. You could even do this as flowering starts if you have a mild spell.

Increase your winter colour palate by adding at least one of these splendid shrubs.

Reference: *Witch Hazels: Lane, Chris. Timber Press, Oregon. 2005*

The Wonderful World of Witch Hazel



World Distribution Map Showing the Growing Locations for Species of Hamamelis

A Reminder of the Flower Show Changes for 2019

The Flower Show Committee has made a few changes to the 2019 Flower Show schedule and a few reminders:

- For each of the monthly shows (April, June and September) we continue to have a **class in the “Cut Specimens” section that is just for first-timers.** These first-timers have NEVER competed in a show prior to 2019. This is to get them/you to dip your toes and compete amongst yourselves. The entries will be judged based on the same criteria as the rest of the classes, but some helpful information from the judge and show chairs may be written on your entry tag. These first-timers may also fully compete in all other classes. The first-timers are considered first-timers for all 2019 shows.

- **Entry times change:** You may bring your entries starting at 6:30pm to 7:15pm (was 7:20pm last year) in April, June and September. Judging will start at 7:20pm sharp! (was 7:30 last year)

- **New this year! Removing your entries at the end of the show:** You may remove your entries no earlier than 15 minutes after the end of the meeting, **and** only with the Flower Show Chair’s approval. This ensures that all members are able to view the full show before competitors start removing their entries

The 2019 Flower Show Chairs are: April 18: Claudette Levesque, June 20: Claudette Levesque, August 17: Cristina Brown, September 19: Linda Boyko



Horticultural News

*Congratulations to EYGC member **Lynda Tanner**, who is also a member of the Riverdale Horticultural Society, and their volunteer team for winning first prize in the "Community Gardens" category of the Toronto Garden Contest in 2018.*

"Riverdale Horticultural Society meets at Frankland Community School on Logan Avenue, just south of the Danforth. A few members of the EYGC are also members of RHS.

The club designed, planted, and maintains a garden in Withrow Park located directly south of the tennis courts. It has a rose of sharon, a lilac, a black lace elderberry, a blue arrow juniper, a purple-leafed smokebush, a rose bush (gifted during Leaside's hosting of the District 5 AGM), over 200 small spring-flowering bulbs, and a wide variety of native plants.

This year, the garden has never looked lovelier, and so it was entered in the City of Toronto Garden Contest under the category of "Community Gardens." On October 23, the awards were given out at the Toronto Botanical Garden, and Riverdale Horticultural Society won first prize!

A group of about 7 members weekly spend time dead-heading, pruning, planting, weeding (oh, the dreaded bindweed), and whatever else needs to be done in the garden. Congratulations to all involved on winning this award!"

Lynda Tanner



Above: Withrow Park Garden. Below: Lynda Tanner far right.



Heads Up regarding this year's Bus Trip...

The bus tour will be Sunday June 9th, starting at 8.00 a.m. returning approx. 6.00 p.m. We'll be visiting Meadowview Gardens near Rice Lake. Garry Edwards, the owner, created a Victorian garden & last year created a large pond with mature trees. Lunch will be overlooking Rice Lake. We'll also go to a nursery, visit Peter Keeping's clematis garden, the Peony Festival in Oshawa & time for shopping. Tickets available at the March meeting.



Bus Trip Cost: \$80 per person for OHA members. Guests \$20 more. Please stay tuned, more info to follow...

Container Gardening



This container grouping at Great Dixter in England always looks good as plants can be changed out as necessary to keep the blooms looking great. The pots at the back are raised up on inverted pots.



Container Gardening By Michael Woods

What is container gardening? It's really just plants in pots. Very simple and basic, and something most of us have been familiar with for years.

My first container garden was a disposable aluminum pie plate with some potting soil sprinkled with grass seed. I was six years old and was given the job of keeping the grass seed watered so my mom could eventually use this "plate of sod" to fill a bare patch in our yard. Not very glamorous but it did the trick, and it got me hooked.

Container planting is so versatile and effective, it is used by all gardeners from novices to very experienced master gardeners. While it is great for those of us with balconies and patios, as you can see in the following photographs, containers are used with great effect in some of the most prestigious gardens around the world.



Sometimes they are used for a pop of colour, as with the lobelia shown here. This might be placed in a spot of the garden where there is mostly foliage and little colour. It might also be used in an area where there is no possibility of soil, such as on a balcony or patio. Raised off the ground, containers often have their own mini micro-climate, and can be a benefit for more tender plants. They can also be easily moved indoors for the winter if necessary.

Containers are frequently used to accent an



Groupings of pots on either side of the arched entrance to the main house at Great Dixter, author and gardener Christopher Lloyd's family home.

Container Gardening



This paved courtyard needed to reinforce where the entrance was located for the visitors.



A decorative bench at the end of a garden path accented by two large containers.

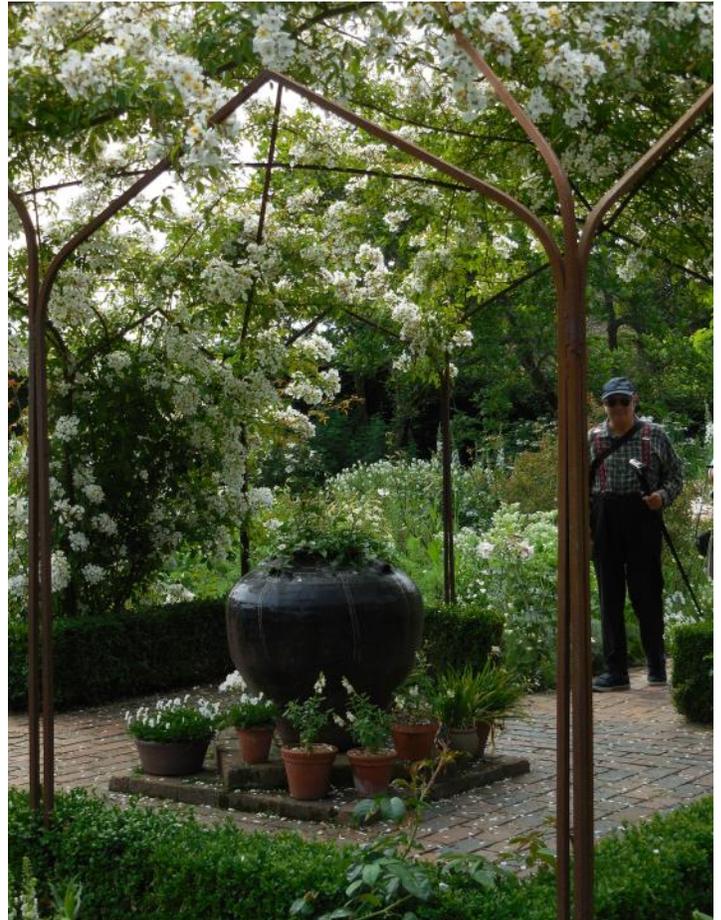
entrance, and in addition to providing colour and texture, they signal visually that you have arrived.

Containers can be used to signal a change of use, such as an area for contemplation or merely sitting down and having a rest. They can also be effective for indicating a change of direction in the garden, and also slowing you down or making you stop and look at a particular feature.

Sometimes the container itself is of great interest, showing off a beautiful shape, finish or patina, accented by the plants chosen to be planted in it. Other times an unusual container is planted with unexpected plants, like using a strawberry pot to showcase a collection of thyme plants, positioned on a sundial-like round patio of bricks.



Sometimes the feature may be the pot itself, or maybe the garden adjacent to the pot. Even in the famous "White Garden" at Vita Sackville-West's Sissinghurst, under the pergola covered with white roses, they have a beautiful urn and a grouping of container plants.



The white rose pergola at Sissinghurst showing a grouping of containers under the pergola.

Containers are also used by a lot of us for planting vegetables, allowing us to move those vegetables to the best light, or providing the best soil in which those vegetable can grow. (Or both!) Keep them well watered and enjoy your harvest!.

Whatever you plant in them, enjoy your containers!

Michael Woods



Container Gardening from EYGC Members...



Container Gardening from EYGC Members...



Thanks to Anna Leggatt, Mary Lou Burt, Barb Fairbanks and Michael Woods for sending in and sharing these container photos.

Pop-Up Gardens in 2019

Start thinking about popping-up your garden...

There's still snow on the ground, but it's never too early to start thinking about popping up your garden. It doesn't have to be the whole garden, as sometimes there are single plants that are worth seeing on their own, or a time of year when you've got some special treasures that should be seen. We love seeing gardens in May, June and July, but what about other times of the year?

Maybe your spring garden has some of the Ontario wildflowers, known as ephemerals. These short term, perennial plants quickly emerge in the spring and die back to their underground parts after managing to leaf out, bloom, go to seed and generally delight everyone who sees them.

Or maybe you've got a lovely witch hazel shrub that is blooming nicely through the snow and would be of interest to our members? (Anna Leggatt...?) Or maybe you can surprise everyone with an unusual specimen?



Witch hazel is one of the earliest bloomers



Early Crocus



Trout Lily



Epimedium blooms are tiny but really spectacular close up



Fothergilla, an early bloomer



Whatever their colour, Trilliums are a real delight



Mertensia (Virginia Blue Bells)

More Pop-Up Garden Information...

It's "Pop-Up" Time!

This will be our 4th year of our version of a garden tour. Pop-Ups are at ***your*** convenience and they are open to EYGC members only. Your garden can be large, small or a work in progress. It's an opportunity to share knowledge and socialize with fellow members. When your garden is looking particularly lovely or is in an interesting transition, or, you have a prized plant or group of plants in bloom—it is Pop-Up time!



How to Pop-Up:

- When you and your garden/plant are ready, with at least 2 days notice, contact Barb by email or phone to have your garden Pop-Up publicized to our members. It is usually on a “rain or shine” basis
- We need a bit of a description as to what members can expect to see or garden highlights
- Then decide on the hours, the number of times in a day, or series of days for viewing. It is all up to you, but to allow more flexibility for members to come, different times of day/evening are beneficial
- Barb can give you some helpful information based on past experiences, but whatever works best for you—after all you are the one sharing!
- We send out an email blast and make phone calls to those members not on email to notify them of the Pop-Up
- Once confirmed, you will be asked to post a small sign at your garden entrance, have a ‘sign-in’ sheet and pen available and to keep any pets indoors for the duration of your Pop-Up
- If you wish, you may offer water or light refreshments

We would love to see both new and return gardens. Don't be surprised if Barb contacts you to make this ask! We encourage everyone to think about doing a “Pop-Up”—you don't have to have a “perfect” garden just a real one! We also want to see more members attend the Pop-Ups this year. If you are able to open your garden more than once during the year it can really show members how a garden changes through the seasons.

Access to the gardens is exclusive to EYGC members.

If you want to pop-up your garden, please contact:

Barb Fairbanks at: barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net or **416-755-0278**

Question & Answer Page

We had a couple of questions come in after the November December issue, and since we have a number of Master Gardeners in our membership, we became aware of the Q&A services offered by the Toronto Master Gardeners. So here are the responses that we received back, courtesy of the **Toronto Master Gardeners**.

Question:

"I have two pear trees that look nice in spring, but suffer every summer and fall from trellis rust, an ugly fungus that apparently overwinters in junipers. The city's ornamental "Chanticleer" pear first showed it, and later my dwarf fruiting pear also got infected.

Would removing all my junipers help eliminate the trellis rust, when my neighbour also has a juniper only 6 meters away? Is there any way to stop the fungus?"

I've already checked the city of Toronto website but it offered me no solutions to this problem. Thanks for considering my question.

Cynthia Townsend

Answer:

Pear Trellis Rust is becoming more and more common. It is a relatively new fungal disease in Ontario, first recorded in 2007. Unfortunately, it can be difficult to treat in urban settings, simply due to population density.

It's caused by the fungus *Gymnosporangium sabinae* that hosts in winter on junipers (although some junipers are resistant). In spring, the orange, gelatinous fruiting bodies (telia) emerge – usually after a rain – and mature to spread wind-borne spores over many kilometers. Some sources suggest the spores can carry for as much as 2-6 km. The spores alight on pear leaves, including those of ornamental pears, and then complete their spring and summer lifecycle – in their turn infecting or reinfesting junipers. And the cycle begins anew.

Advice is often to remove either the pear or the juniper, if they are spaced closer than 150 m (450 feet). In fact, the recommendation is to keep the two alternate hosts at least 1 km apart within a 1-km radius.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has an excellent fact sheet on Pear Trellis Rust.



Pear Trellis Rust (Courtesy City of Toronto)

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/IPM/english/tender/diseases-and-disorders/trellisrust.html>

On the pear trees, it's the leaves rather than the wood that play a role in the lifecycle of this fungus. However, do try to gather up and dispose of any fallen pear foliage and fruit; do not add them to your compost. One suggestion is to pluck them off the tree before they fall, but this is impractical for widespread infection.

While there are no fungicides specifically approved for Pear Trellis Rust, OMAFRA suggests that other fungicides might help minimize the impact on your trees. Look for those used to treat other *Gymnosporangium* rusts, such as cedar-apple rust.

If ever in doubt about a tree problem, it's always wise to seek out a certified arborist for an on-site consultation. Try the Landscape Ontario website to locate an arborist near you.

Wishing you the very best of luck with your pear trees.

TMG

Question & Answer Page



Basil with Yellowing Leaves

Question:

“My question is about compost tea. I used compost tea to water my basil plants this summer. The leaves turned yellow and then fell off. What did I do wrong? Was the tea too strong? Is there a recipe I should be following for making compost tea? How is it best used? Thanks in advance for considering my question for the newsletter.”

Janet Zablocki

Answer:

Oh dear! What a disappointment! It is so lovely to be able to snip fresh basil and add it to our food. One of the easiest and most popular culinary herbs to grow is the common or sweet basil, *Ocimum basilicum*. A member of the mint family (Lamiaceae), it is native to southern Asia and islands of the south Pacific. This tender annual is popular for its aromatic leaves, used fresh or dried. Basil seeds are common in Thai foods.

Like most herbs, basil requires a sunny location that receives at least six to eight hours of bright light per day, and well drained soil conditions.

Depending on the amount of regular rainfall, you should water deeply every seven to ten days to insure the roots are receiving enough moisture.

Improper watering – root rot, a result of too much water, is one of the most common reasons for yellow leaves on basil plants. You might consider watering basil only when the top 1 to 2 inches of soil is dry. Please remember that slightly dry soil is healthier than soggy soil.

Plants grown in containers will dry out faster than those in garden beds. Water them more frequently. Choose a container with holes in the bottom for proper drainage. A soil pH range of 6.0 to 7.5 is optimal. Fertilizing sparingly is best.

I do hope that you try growing basil again this summer. Good luck.

TMG

PS: Here is a link to a website which will provide additional information.

<http://extension.illinois.edu/herbs/basil.cfm>

Editor's Note: The advice from TMG didn't really answer Janet's question. In my experience with compost tea, it can sometimes be too strong used full strength. Mixing it with equal parts rain water could help. Do any EYGC members have experience with compost tea? Any advice?

Thank you to Cynthia and Janet for their questions.

If you have questions that you would like to share with our membership and see answered here, you can send them to the EYGC newsletter, and we will forward to TMG.

If you would like to send your question directly to the **Toronto Master Gardeners**, you can do so at: www.torontomastergardeners.ca

*Now 'tis spring, and weeds are shallow-rooted,
Suffer them now, and they'll outgrow
the garden,
And choke the herbs for want of
husbandry.*

*William Shakespeare
Henry VI*

Ask a Master Gardener...

Do you have a gardening question that you are having difficulty finding an answer for? Have you researched something on the internet only to find conflicting information? Perhaps you are a new gardener with some basic questions. Regardless of your level of gardening expertise the Toronto Master Gardeners are here to help you.

With 115 active members the Toronto Master Gardeners are the largest of the 31 Master Gardener (MG) groups in Ontario. Master Gardeners come from various backgrounds – some work in horticultural trades while others are drawn to the group by their love of gardening. Each MG IS required to take 3 university level courses, either through Guelph or Dalhousie or pass an equivalency exam during their first two years when they are Master Gardeners in Training after which, providing they meet the other requirements they become a full MG. Each MG is required to volunteer a minimum of 30 hours and have 6 educational hours per year to maintain their MG status.

You may submit your gardening question through the Toronto Master Gardener website www.torontomastergardeners.ca. Click on the “Ask a Master Gardener” link on the homepage. In the upper right corner you will see a search box. You may enter a search term to see whether your question has already been answered. With over 4,075 questions in the database there may be an answer waiting for you. If not you may type in your question. A MG will research your query. Once an answer is written up it will be reviewed by a member of the Best Practices Committee for accuracy. Once approved it will be posted on in the database and an e-mail will be sent to you with the link to answer included. If you wish you may include a photo with your question. If doing so please try to include both the flower and a leaf and make sure your photo is in focus.

If you do not have a computer or prefer to hear a human voice, you may call our Infoline 416-397-1345 and leave a message and your telephone number. A MG will research the question and call you back within a few days.

You may also send your question to the East York Garden Club newsletter editor. He will pass it on to the TMGs. Your question and answer will appear in the next issue of the newsletter, space permitting.

If anyone is interested in becoming a MG there will be an information session held sometime in June. Please check the website closer to June for details. A basic gardening knowledge test will be held in September. Those who pass will be invited to come for an interview. Don't be put off by the idea of a test – it covers very basic gardening knowledge. We would love to have you join us.

Toronto Master Gardeners

Thank you so much to EYGC Master Gardener **Linda Boyko**, for preparing the above article telling us how to get in touch with the Toronto Master Gardeners, and also how we can get more information about becoming Master Gardeners ourselves.
Anyone up for the challenge?



Book Review

Escape to Reality by Mark and Ben Cullen

Book review by Laurel Angeloff

I have read a lot of gardening books. A lot. This newest book by Mark Cullen and his son Ben is very different. Mark has written many standard format books on gardening but this one is made up of essays and personal reflections.

The chapters on biodiversity, pollinator gardens and the importance of bees are well written and informative. The themes of a healthy environment and our responsibility to maintaining a greener world comes out loud and clear. But what intrigued me more were Mark's personal writings revealing his appreciation for the wildlife in his garden and the inner peace that his garden provides.

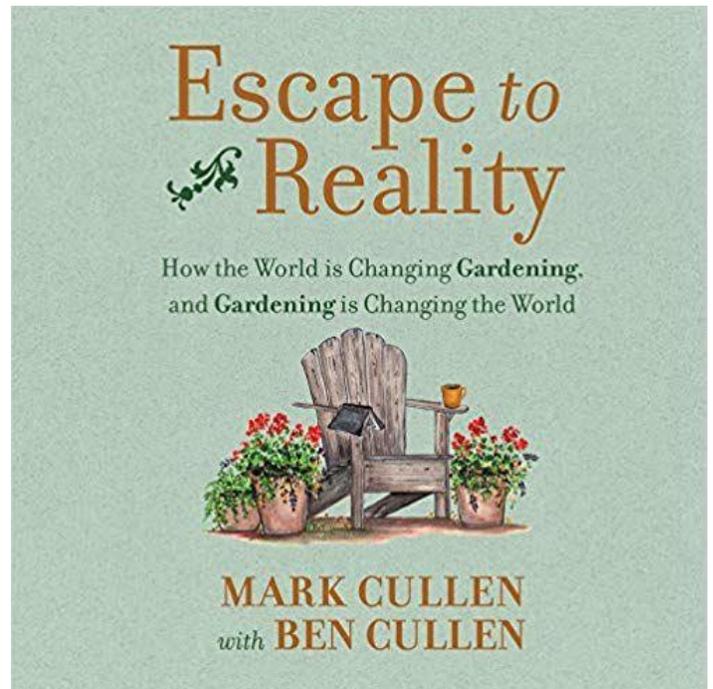
In the book Mark opens up about his dealings with cancer, his surgery at Michael Garron Hospital and the post-operative recovery period that forced him to sit on his porch for most of that summer. This appears to be somewhat of a watershed period for him as he could not perform his normal summer garden chores but simply observe the wonders of his garden from afar. I found this chapter brought to life Mark's feelings of awe and respect for mother nature. It was moving.

Ben wrote a very refreshing essay on the planting of vegetables according to the arrival of specific spring flowers. It was well documented and made an intriguing read. I enjoyed his style of writing and his enthusiasm for vegetable gardens.

"Escape to Reality" is a lovely looking book, delightfully illustrated and most importantly, written from the heart. All royalties from the sales of the book go to the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute tree planting program whose founding chairperson is Mark Cullen.

Get the book and escape to a new and wonderful reality.

Laurel Angeloff



Mark Cullen and his son Ben Cullen



Book Artwork by Sarah Duggan

Members Photo Gallery



Anita Millar's Very Friendly Chickadee



Rosemary Vandierendonck's Orchid



Michael Woods's Melting Icicles

Members Photo Gallery



Anita Millar - A Blustery Winter Day at the Beach



Anna Leggatt - from the Fall Photo show



Janet Zablocki - Early Spring Bloom



Janet Zablocki - More Spring Bloom



Linda Boyko - Icy Winter Formations

Do you have an interesting photo that you would like to share with other garden club members? Send it in to the newsletter so we can feature it in our Member's Photo Gallery!

Book Presentation



Presentation to Lynn Short

By Barb Fairbanks

As many of you know, our member Dan Heath goes around to local businesses to get items or gift cards donated to our Club for draws and prizes. He is tenacious and many of these businesses have learned just to give Dan something when he asks the first time. If they say 'not right now'—he does not forget and will go back again and again! We love him for it!

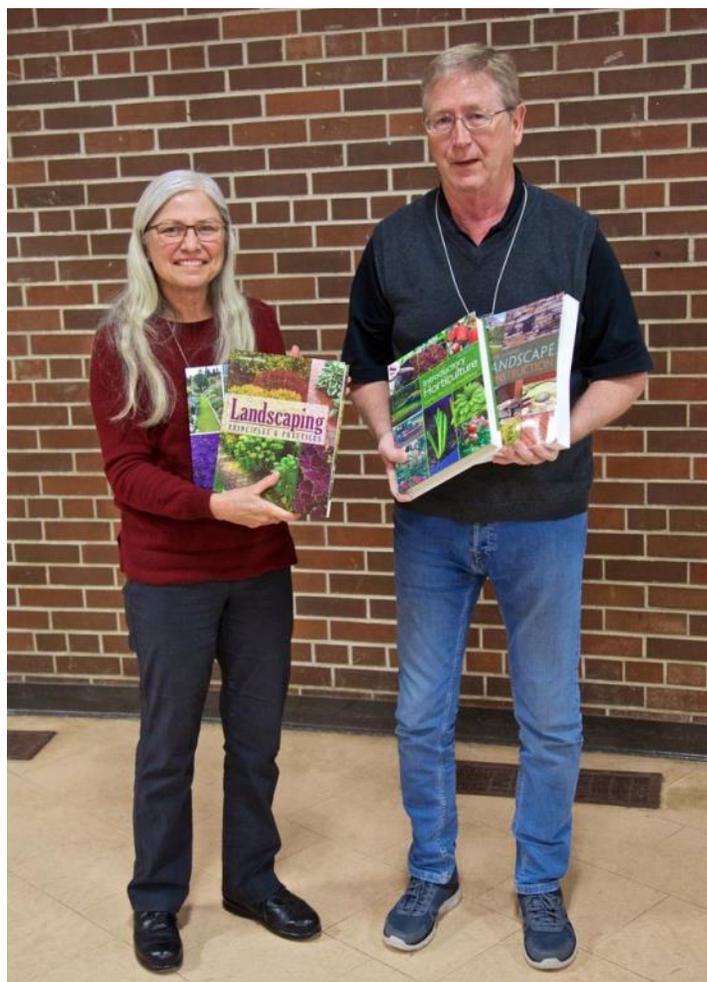
Well, Dan approached Nelson Education Ltd on Birchmount Av. They publish and distribute educational books of all different subjects for all different ages from toddlers to higher education and professional learning. Last year, they gave us 4 really terrific books related to gardening, but more like text books for professional landscapers.

The Board discussed how to best use the books and we didn't feel they should be part of our draws as the books were more valuable to someone learning the garden/landscaping trade.

Roz Regnier, who is one of our Vice Presidents loves a challenge. In the fall, she was at a Toronto Field Naturalist outing when she met Lynn Short as she led the group in a walk through the Humber Arboretum. Roz was greatly impressed with the abundance of flowers blooming and the landscaping around the 2 ponds on top of the hill. As Lynn led the group down into the valley she spoke about the courses she taught at Humber College. Roz immediately knew she had a solution as to where the books should go and the Board agreed.

Lynn is an Instructor with the School of Applied Technology and has worked at the Centre for Urban Ecology in the Humber Arboretum as the Senior Nature Interpreter for many years before becoming a part-time Faculty member. She has been teaching in Horticulture for the past 7 years.

Roz couldn't be here tonight as she is having a new knee installed—her word (I had thought it was cataract surgery—so I hope the surgeon is better informed than I was!) So, Dan Heath is here to now make the official presentation to Lynn.



Barb Fairbanks



Sue Wells accepting a 2018 President's Award

JAPANESE FLORAL EXHIBITION

Presented by
Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Toronto



Sunday, March 24, 2019
12:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Japanese Canadian
Cultural Centre
6 Garamond Court, Don Mills
(Wynford Dr. & Don Valley Pkwy)

Demonstrations

Tea Room

Ikebana Displays

Admission \$5.00 at the door

For further information, phone: 416-467-4962 or email: ikenoboto@sympatico.ca



To a Butterfly

By William Wordsworth

*"I've watched you now a full half hour,
Self-poised upon that yellow flower,
And, little butterfly! Indeed!
I know not if you sleep or feed.
How motionless! - not frozen seas
More motionless; and then
What joy awaits you, when the breeze
Hath found you out among the trees,
And calls you forth again!
This plot of orchard ground is our;
My trees they are, my sister's flowers;
Here rest you wings when they are weary,
Here lodge as in a sanctuary!
Come often to us, fear no wrong;
Sit near us on the bough!
We'll talk of sunshine and of song:
And summer days, when we were young;
Sweet childish days, that were as long
As twenty days are now.*



Member News

Member Advertising

The EYGC Board has formalized some parameters regarding advertising in club newsletters. We will accept one advertisement, free of charge each calendar year

- ◆ The member advertising must be a current member of EYGC
- ◆ The advertisement will appear in only the **March-April newsletter or May/June newsletter**
- ◆ The advertisement is subject to executive approval
- ◆ The advertisement must be garden-related
- ◆ A print-ready advert would be required, business card sized
- ◆ Submitted as PDF or JPEG or a scanned business card

You may send your advertisement to Barb Fairbanks:

barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net

no later than April 15th. All ads to be approved by the EYGC Board.

Garden Related Member's Business Notices:



The Garden Sitter

Anita Millar
Garden Maintenance,
House sitting, etc.
Special rate for EYGC
Members

Phone: 416-690-1775

Email:

gardensitter1@gmail.com

Garden Related Business Notices are for members only. Notices are published once a year in one of the EYGC newsletters, typically spring or early summer. All notices must be submitted to, and approved by, the EYGC Board of Directors.

"GARDENING REQUIRES LOTS OF WATER - MOST OF IT IN THE FORM OF PERSPIRATION."

LOU ERICKSON (1840 - 1921)

Member Recommendations: Books, Films, Etc...

Item	Description	Recommended by
"Dare to Be Wild" - Film	Irishwoman Mary Reynold's journey from rank outsider to winner of a Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show. It's available on Netflix. https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2989350/	J. Smith
"The Adventurous Gardener"	A gardening book by Christopher Lloyd. An enthusiastic discussion on the principles of gardening.	M. Woods
"The Well - Tempered Garden"	A gardening book by Christopher Lloyd. A great gardening Classic.	M. Woods

EYGC Logowear 2018 - Buy it Now

EYGC Logowear - Price List

2018

Item	Description	Price (each)
 <p>T-Shirt</p>	<p>100% Cotton preshrunk jersey, 10 oz. Ultra Cotton® Classic Fit Adult T-Shirt Seamless double needle 7/8" collar Double needle topstitched neckline Double stitched sleeve and waist hems Seamless collar - taped neck/shoulders Quarter turned body—no center crease Comes in 8 sizes Printed logo, large, centre chest</p>	\$10.00
 <p>Embroidered Patch</p>	<p>Full colour embroidered patch Add to your favourite existing shirt, hat, bag, backpack, etc.</p>	\$5.00
 <p>Apron</p>	<p>Short bib apron 27" Wide x 21" Long Three 9" Wide x 9" Long Pockets Adjustable neck strap 65/35 Poly/Cotton 7.25 oz. Fabric</p>	\$30.00
 <p>Tote Bag</p>	<p>Metro look & modern functional design Spacious main compartment with 14" laptop compartment & padded tablet pocket Side and front slash pockets give you immediate access to your phone, water bottle, etc. Wide cotton shoulder strap 16-oz cotton canvas with vinyl accents. Size: (14-1/2" x 13" x 3-1/4") Embroidered logo on front pocket</p>	\$45.00
 <p>Mug</p>	<p>Double-walled construction insulates your drink, keeping it the desired temperature longer, while also making it comfortable to hold. Chip-proof, crack-proof, great to bring to meetings, and eliminate plastic cups Size: 266 mL (9-oz). (Won't empty the coffee urn with one fill...) One-colour logo imprint opposite the handle.</p>	\$10.00



T-shirts, Mugs and Patches are on sale at EYGC meetings!



Answers to the quizzes in the January/February issue:

Thanks again to Joan Tilt for compiling the puzzles, and sending them along.

"VIOLETS" Quiz

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Stove/Tile | 9. Evil |
| 2. Soil | 10. Toe |
| 3. Lot | 11. Tie |
| 4. Stole/Veil | 12. Toil |
| 5. Olive | 13. Isle |
| 6. Viol | 14. Lot/Site |
| 7. Love/Live | 15. Lie |
| 8. Vile | 16. Solve |

"Letter Jumble" Quiz

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Radish | 9. Cauliflower | 16. Wax Beans |
| 2. Lettuce* | 10. Artichoke | 17. Squash |
| 3. Spinach | 11. Cabbage | 18. Beets |
| 4. Tomato | 12. Celery | |
| 5. Parsnip | 13. Brussel Sprouts | |
| 6. Onions | 14. Green Peas | |
| 7. Potatoes | 15. Corn | |
| 8. Turnips | | |
- *Error Note:
Clue 2. had an "I" instead of a "U"

The April Flower Show

What's on for the April Flower Show Competition?

The April Flower Show takes place at our monthly meeting held on **Thursday, April 18**. Entry time is 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. Judging begins at 7:20 p.m. sharp. Listed below are the categories for the show. You can also check out details on how to enter in the yellow pages of your yearbook.

SECTION A – CUT SPECIMENS

1. Hyacinth, any colour, 1 spike
2. Iris, 1 stalk
3. Narcissus, trumpet, 1 stem
4. Narcissus, large cup, 1 stem
5. Narcissus, small cup, 1 stem
6. Narcissus or daffodil, any variety, 1 stem - **First-time exhibitor**
7. Tulip, 1 stem
8. Tulip. Double, 1 stem
9. Any flowering bulb, corm or rhizome, 1 stem
10. Collection of rockery flowers and/or small flowering bulbs, 3 or more kinds, must be named
11. Helleborus (i.e. Christmas Rose), 1 stem
12. Branch, flowering or foliage, natural or forced, not to exceed 76 cm
13. Any other flowering perennial, 1 stem

SECTION B – HOUSEPLANTS

1. African violet, 1 crown, 1 pot
 2. Cactus or succulent, 1 pot
 3. Foliage house plant, 1 pot
 4. Orchid, 1 pot
 5. Any other house plant, flowering, 1 pot
- Cell pack of seedlings, grown by exhibitor, must be named

SECTION C – DESIGN CATEGORIES - Show Theme: "A Change in the Weather"

1. **London Fog** – an interpretive design a) Experienced exhibitors b) Novice exhibitors (A person who has not yet won a first-place ribbon in a design category at any OHA flower show.)
2. **Icicles** – a parallel design
3. **Singing in the Rain** – an design with a visible use of water
4. **Tornado Warning** – a design showing movement
5. **Sunny Days** – a small design using analogous colours (13.9cm to 25.4cm)



Flower Show Information

Flower Show Trophy & Awards You Can Win in 2019

Every year there are award presentations at our end-of-the-year AGM in November. This includes cash prizes for show points as outlined in the Flower Show Rules (the yellow section in your yearbook). This is a reminder of our trophies and awards possibilities for competitors:



We have the **“Anna Leggatt Novice Award”** that is awarded to the novice who received the highest aggregate amount of points in both horticulture and decorative classes in both the monthly and the annual shows. A novice is a person who has not been awarded a first prize in previous years in any OHA society shows.

We have the **“George S. Henry Trophy”** that is awarded to the member with the highest number of aggregate points in both Horticulture and Design classes in the monthly and annual shows.

New to Flower Show Competitions?

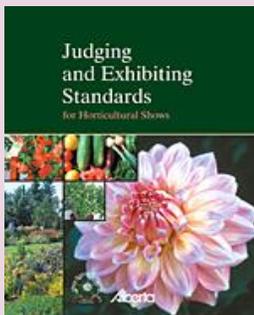
Do you want to know what all the excitement is about? Do you want to win “big” (ha-ha) money at the end of the year?

If you grow any flowers, fruits or vegetables, grasses, houseplants etc then you could possibly enter any of our shows throughout the year. Or if you are interested only in the Design classes, you don't have to grow anything yourself - you can purchase flowers and foliage and get creative! The yellow section in your yearbook (pages 11 to 24) gives you the basic information as to what you can enter and how to enter. If you want to know more, or have questions regarding any part of the schedules or rules, please call:

Cristina Brown 416-755-9077 or Linda Boyko 416-699-4038 or Claudette Levesque 416-424-4767



New OJES Available!



The Ontario Horticultural Society & The Garden Clubs of Ontario have updated the "Ontario Judges & Exhibiting Standards for Horticulture and Floral Design" (OJES) book. This soft-cover book is a publication to assist exhibitors, show organizers and judges in all aspects of a flower show. It details how to prepare entries for a show, what judges look for, design basics, definitions, etc. It is a useful book to have if you do compete or are thinking of competing. I believe the last update of this book was 15 years ago--so it should be relevant for years to come!

If you did not pre-order a book, we will have some for extras for sale at the March meeting at the price of \$10 cash.

EYGC Members Please Note:

"Cannabis, in any form, is not to be at any East York Garden Club meeting, activity or event, such as, but not restricted to, our refreshments, flower shows, plant sales, seed exchange."

The 2019 OHA Convention

2019 OHA Convention Competitions

The convention has many ways for you to express your talents.

There are competitions for art, creative writing, photography, and floral design. The deadlines are earlier than the actual convention, so that they may have time to have all the entries in hand and judged prior to the convention the weekend of July 19-21.

Please look at the OHA website: www.gardenontario.org and click on 'convention' and then on 'competitions' for full details of registration.

If you require a printed version of any of the competition details or registration forms, please contact Barb Fairbanks.

As we did last year, Anita Millar (amillar1961@gmail.com or 647-710-1153) will accept your photographs up to April 21st and send them all to the Coordinator in time for the competition.

This year, Barb Fairbanks is unable to attend the OHA Convention, so cannot take your art to Windsor. For creative writing, you can register and mail directly to the coordinator by June 1st.

Creative Writing: Entries must be registered and postmarked no later than June 1st

Class 1 A Song – Create a song using the tune of another song and your own wording.
Please name the tune and create lyrics related to the theme "*Field of Dreams*".

Class 2 Free Verse Poem – Write a poem related to the convention theme "*Come to the Deep South Where Everything Grows*" Should be at least 8 lines long.

Class 3 Narrative - Write about "*Pollinators in your garden*". 500-600 words, double spaced.

Photography: Entries must be registered and postmarked no later than May 1st or arranged with Anita Millar as noted above.

ADULT CLASSES

Class 1: Pick Your Own.

Class 2: Heard it Thru the Grape Vine

Class 3: Gentle Waves.

Class 4: Tranquility.

Class 5: Out of Place – plant material that normally would not be seen in Ontario.

Class 6: Prickly.

Class 7: Tomatoes.

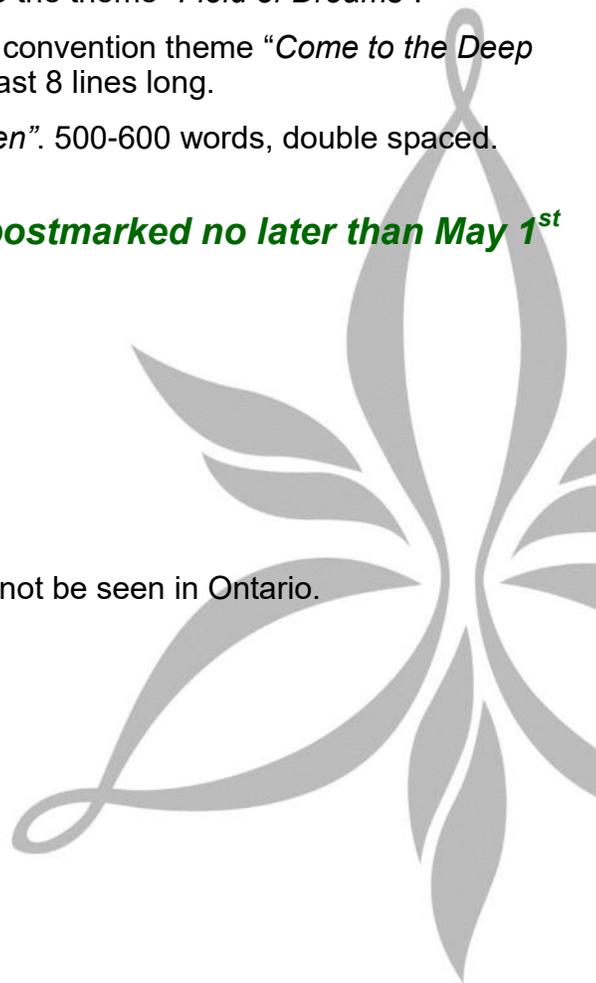
Class 8: Landscape - rural vistas.

Class 9: Going South

Class 10: Farm Implements.

Class 11: Pollinators in the garden.

Class 12: Field of Dreams



The 2019 OHA Convention

Please Provide the Following Information With Your Entry Package:

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Email:	
Society:	
District:	
Method of Return: Pick Up by...	
Mail: Stamped Envelope Included	
Number of Entries:	
Circle Classes Entered: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	



Members Comments on Our AGM...

Did you make it to our annual AGM in November?

See what some of our members who attended had to say about it...



Members Tell Us What They Think:

It was a very good evening; a great year and I think you really took Gord by surprise. A very well-deserved award, we all agreed.

Wini Stoddart

Thanks to everyone who organized this wonderful evening! I am always impressed by the breadth and number of activities that occur at our meetings and dinners. I appreciated the information tags that many people included with their food.

Jennifer Smith

It was an enjoyable and wonderful evening.

Paula Davies

I'm so grateful I came out on Friday evening to the Annual Meeting. I had a lovely time seeing/speaking to members who took the bus trip to Whispering Gardens this past summer. The bonus was winning one of the prizes how amazing and unexpected was that. As I live in a condo, I will share my treasures with Mary Lou and Terry. Again, thank you for a lovely time, and I please thank all the wonderful cooks - the food was terrific.

Gloria Van Geilswyk

District 5 AGM - 2019

District 5 AGM: Saturday April 27th in Markham

This year the District 5 Annual General Meeting will be held in Markham and their theme is: Building a Greener Tomorrow. It will be held at the St. Maurice & St. Verena Coptic Orthodox Church at 3300 Highway 7 at Rodick Rd in Markham on Saturday April 27th from 9am to 3:30pm.

The cost for registration is \$35 and that includes 2 speakers, lunch, door prizes, draw prizes and the flower show competition. This year the speakers will be: David Leeman "Preserving Bio-diversity for the Future" and Lorraine Johnson "Tending the Earth".



Please Note:

The last chance to reserve your seat, will be at our March meeting. Please sign up and bring your payment in cash or cheque (payable to East York Garden Club)

Hey, What's Going On?

Dates:	Title:	For More Info Contact:
09Mar2019	Intro to Nature Drawing—Course at TBG, March 2 to April 6th, 1-4 PM, Saturdays. \$180.00 public, \$144.00 members.	https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/
14Mar2019	Grow without a Garden - Growing in containers, on balconies, etc. TBG. Course - \$96.00 for non-members, \$76.00 for members	https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/
20Mar2019	Habitats for pollinators and beneficial insects, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Toronto Botanical Garden' \$30.00/\$24.00.	https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/
04Apr2019	Southern Ontario Butterflies - TBG Course - One evening, 7:30-9:30 PM. Free to TBG members, \$10.00 as a guest	https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/
11Apr2019	Triumphs of Growing Tomatoes, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, TBG. \$30.00/\$24.00	https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/
18Apr2019	Spring Wreath Workshop - Brighten your home with a Spring Wreath - Cost includes Materials - 6:30-9:30 PM, \$90.00/\$72.00, TBG	https://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/

This list is to alert you to some of what's going on horticulturally in Toronto and the surrounding areas. Comprehensive information about each event is not listed here. We don't have the space for that, but if you see something that interests you, then please explore it further on your own.

If you go to any of these events, please let us know all about your experience. Thanks!

The Back Page Garden...

Show us your backyard! (or front yard, or balcony...)

Send a photo of your garden at its best, or at your favourite time of year. Show your whole yard, a cozy corner, or any "vignette" that you love & want to share with EYGC members.

Be selective and send only one or two photos, preferably in jpeg format - fairly high resolution is best for clarity. Send to the newsletter at:

woods-eygc@bell.net

Shown to the right is a tiny back yard garden, only 10'x15', courtesy of EYGC member Mary Lou Burt. This is the garden of Teresa Slusarchuk.



Here we Grow Again...Welcome New EYGC Members

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

Christine Oddy



If you would like to make a submission to be included in the next issue of "The East York Garden" newsletter, the next deadline is:

April 19th, 2019

Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to **Michael Woods** at:

woods-eygc@bell.net

We're on the Web! Find out more information and get back issues of this newsletter at our website:

www.eygc.ca



"The East York Garden" is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club