

Issue Date: 2023  
May June

# *The East York Garden*



**Photo Credit: Maureen Ballentine**

## The Cherry Trees bloomed early this year

Instead of navigating the High Park crowds this year, I took a short drive to the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre on Garamond Court in North York. While there are fewer trees than High Park, there were no crowds.

Walking around the entire Cultural Centre, I noticed a number of trees newly planted. In a few years time this site will be spectacular.

With the cool weather, you may still find some trees in bloom.

Maureen Ballentine



The **East York Garden Club** is  
a member of:  
The Ontario Horticultural  
Association, District 5.

Meetings are held on the third  
Monday of each month (except  
July, August and December) in  
the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373  
Cedarvale Avenue, at 7:30 pm.

The Clubhouse is wheelchair  
accessible. Visitors are always  
welcome.

To inquire about membership,  
please contact:

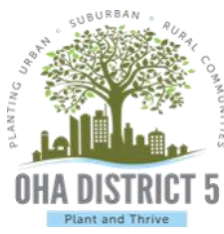
**Cristina Brown at:**  
**416-755-9077**

Visit us on the web:  
**[www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)**

**President:**  
*Diane Dyson*

**Vice President:**  
*Rosalind Regnier*

**Newsletter Editor/Art Director:**  
*Jennifer Smith*  
*and Maureen Ballentine*



## Speaker Schedule for 2023

Date	Speaker	Subject
Mon. May 15	Andrew Gelmar	Grocery Store Orchid Rescues
Mon. June 19	Anna Leggatt	All About Weeds (bring one to ID)

## People's Choice Photo Contest

**Deadline—May 22, 2023**

***"Tools of the Trade"***

**Submit to [photocontest@eygc.ca](mailto:photocontest@eygc.ca)**

**Watch your email for voting**

## Newsletter Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:

***"This is July/August in  
East York"?***

Send it in to the newsletter for a chance to be on the  
cover of the next Newsletter!

**(Landscape format please)**

**[newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)**

## May/June 2023 EYGC Newsletter Photo

### Credits Various Photos:

*Maureen Ballentine, Michelle Barraclough, Beth Binnington,  
John Howes, Anna Leggatt, Debra Lewis, Margaret McRae,  
Wendy Plume, Sue Schultz, Marilyn Scott, Jennifer Smith,  
Caroline Moyer, Nina Sparks, Anne Stanley,  
Sonia van Heerden*



# Message from EYGC's President



**Prez Patch**  
by Diane Dyson

Like new growth in the garden, EYGC activities are popping up all around us!

In-person meetings fill the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse. Heather is sharing Flower Show schedules for May and June. Roz has been busy planning our annual bus trip around southern Ontario to explore gardens further afield. Alan will be hosting our plant sale, scheduled for the last Saturday of May (weather dependent). And Beth organized our first Pop-Up Garden of the season with a record number of Club members visiting Anna Leggatt's magnolia trees.

Jennifer and Maureen have produced this newsletter and Kim continues to run the monthly Photo Contests online. Our Facebook page and YouTube Channel are growing, as is our membership again with new and returning members! Soon Jacqueline will lead the return to our community gardening at the Legion on Pape. Cristina and Malcolm got our membership cards printed and ready for pick-up. Rosemary wrestles our permits with the City. On our Nominations Committee, Barb Fairbanks is already hunting for volunteers to keep this good work going.

If you're interested in new growth and gardening, you're in the right place.

For all this activity to happen, we need space. So, as you know, due to a conflict in Recreation program scheduling, our monthly members' meetings and lectures have landed on Mondays. In our survey of members this spring, you told us (mainly) that a switch of nights was preferable to a switch in location. So for the foreseeable future, we meet on the third Monday of the month, except where it conflicts with a holiday.

However, for those who cannot attend on the new weeknight, newly installed public Wi-Fi at the Club House also means hybrid in-person/on-line meetings are part of our new reality, and that we will often be able to share a recording of the meeting for those who may miss attending.

So, on we go. Some of you have also been asking when we will return to snacks at the monthly meetings; if you would be willing to volunteer to help with organizing that, please let us know! This new certainty also means that we can now publish the 2023 Yearbook – put on hold until we were able to determine when and where we were meeting.

Change has been continual, so thank you everyone for your patience. But I also think you'll agree, many good things are popping up again.

Grow on!

*Diane, [gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca) 416 786-6765*



# Our March talk by Veronica Callinan

## “Garden Love with Less Labour”

### *Summary by Jennifer Smith*

Master Gardener Veronica Callinan treated about 52 members (40 in-person, 12 on Zoom) to a humorous, informative and inspiring talk about how to plan a garden that you can love without overdoing the work. She asked us to describe our idea of a low maintenance garden. The audience mentioned perennials popping up and providing colours that blend well; little need to water or weed; foliage supplying colour when blooms die off; and—this got a big laugh—trees and shrubs that grow to the desired height and stop there. Ha! We wish!



Photo Credit: Beth Binnington

### *Veronica posed some questions to consider:*

What do you want from your garden: to putter? receive therapy? a play space for children? a safe space for a pet? a specimen garden?

How much effort do you expect to put in? These items need to be thought of in advance: planning; money; planting; maintenance; seasonal clean-up (autumn? spring?). Veronica encourages us to put a limit on the amount of money we will spend on buying plants (and then expect to go a little above this amount).

Acknowledge and honour your physical challenges. Design the garden that suits your abilities. Consider your fitness level, too; if you plunge into gardening too quickly, you may injure yourself.

Acknowledge your time constraints: are you still working; do you have family, children, aging parents, a cottage that may limit the amount of time you have to devote to your garden.

She talked about tools that help us with our gardening tasks. She mentioned that heavy duty rubber gloves can be very useful in wet weather to weed without creating sopping, muddy cloth gloves.

Buy the best tools that you can afford. One member mentioned the brand “Fiskers” that is certified by the Arthritis Society. Don’t buy loppers that have an extension; this may break too easily. A \$30 root knife from Lee Valley will be invaluable. Watering cans come in various sizes and materials. Be sure to acquire one that you can lift when it is full without injuring yourself. Mention of “hoses that kink” brought a groan of commiseration from the group. The man that drives around in a little truck, ringing his bell, can sharpen a wide variety of garden tools.

Of course, know what your garden can give to plants: type of soil; sun conditions; the amount of space available for spreading; watering requirements (how many faucets do you have; how many hoses do you want to acquire). Taking photographs in different seasons can help you identify how the location of the sun changes; how large certain plants grow; where you might want to fill a hole next season.

Veronica loves to create lists; they keep her organized and inform her next task. She suggests a list of Must Do activities in the garden; should do; and would be nice to do. And overall she encourages us to stop, rest, and enjoy our gardens! Appreciating what you have created will more than compensate for the work involved.



# My trip to Centennial Park Conservatory

*Photo Credit: Sonia van Heerden—March 19, 2023*





# It's time to plan your Garden Pop-Up

*By Jennifer Smith and Beth Binnington*



In case you aren't familiar with these EYGC open-garden events, here is a brief explanation. You are invited to "pop-up" or show something in your garden that you would like to share with fellow club members. (Pop-ups are open ONLY to members.) This may be one small item; for example, one member has occasionally opened her garden so that we may view her gorgeous trilliums. Or it could be your whole garden. It could be that your garden is under transition;

perhaps you want to show it now, as you start to change it; in the middle, and/or at the end of its transition (although is there ever an "end" to the changes we make in our gardens?). Pop-ups are casual events. Your garden does NOT have to be "perfect". Do not be thinking about Through the Garden Gate or any other garden tours where tickets are sold!

If you are interested but a little hesitant, you could write to pop-up co-ordinator Beth Binnington ([verotoxin2@hotmail.com](mailto:verotoxin2@hotmail.com)) to ask for more information and/or to be put in touch with someone who has popped up their garden.

If you decide to open up, email both Beth and Diane Dyson ([verotoxin2@hotmail.com](mailto:verotoxin2@hotmail.com) and [gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)) with your time windows and date(s), and a brief description of your garden, what's in bloom, interesting features, etc.

Try to give a minimum of 4 days' notice so they can notify members by email. Some people choose a 2-3hr time window during the day and another few hours in the evening for example but it's completely up to you. Beth or Diane will send you 2 club signs which need to be displayed on your property and a sign-in sheet to record all visitors .

Pop-ups average about 15 viewers. Some hosts make a few garden plants available for purchase with proceeds going to the club.

These pop-up events are a lot of fun. Gardeners admire one another's gardens; share concerns, frustrations, and tricks; and get to know more members of our marvellous club.



# Our May Flower Show

## May Flower Show - May 15, 2023

2023 Design Theme is Alice in Wonderland

Entry time 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Judging commences at 7:20 sharp! Maximum of one entry per class per entrant

### Section A - Cut Specimens

ENTERED RESULT

- |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | 1 Bleeding heart, 1 stem   |
| _____ | _____ | 2 Helleborus, 1 stem   |
| _____ | _____ | 3 Hyacinth, any colour, 1 spike  |
| _____ | _____ | 4 Iris, dwarf, 1 stalk   |
| _____ | _____ | 5 Lily of the valley, 5 stems  |
| _____ | _____ | 6 Muscari (Grape Hyacinth), 1 stem                                       |
| _____ | _____ | 7 Narcissus trumpet, 1 stem  |
| _____ | _____ | 8 Narcissus, large cup, 1 stem   |
| _____ | _____ | 9 Narcissus, small cup, 1 stem   |
| _____ | _____ | 10 Narcissus, any other variety, 1 stem                                  |
| _____ | _____ | 11 Polygonatum (Solomon's seal) 1 stem                                   |
| _____ | _____ | 12 Tulip, single, red, 1 stem  |
| _____ | _____ | 13 Tulip, single, any other colour, 1 stem                               |
| _____ | _____ | 14 Tulip, double, any colour, 1 stem                                     |
| _____ | _____ | 15 Tulip, any other variety  |
| _____ | _____ | 16 Any other flowering bulb, corm or rhizome, under 15 cm, 1 stem        |
| _____ | _____ | 17 Any other flowering bulb, corm or rhizome, 15 cm and over, 1 stem     |
| _____ | _____ | 18 Violas, (Pansies, Johnny jump-ups), 5 blooms                          |
| _____ | _____ | 19 Collection of flowers, under 15 cm, 3 or more kinds, must be named    |
| _____ | _____ | 20 Collection of flowers, 15 cm and over, 3 or more kinds, must be named |
| _____ | _____ | 21 Any other flowering perennial, 1 stem                                 |

### Section B - House Plants

- |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 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                   |
| _____ | _____ | 6 Cell pack of seedlings, grown by exhibitor, must be named |

### Section C - Design

May Design Theme: Queen of Hearts

- |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | 1 <b>Playing Cards</b> – a line design   |
|       |       | a) Experienced exhibitors  |
|       |       | b) Novice designers (A person who has not yet won a first-place ribbon in a design category at any OHA society flower show.) |
| _____ | _____ | 2 <b>Red Queen</b> – a design using red flowers  |
| _____ | _____ | 3 <b>Cheshire Cat</b> – a crescent design  |
| _____ | _____ | 4 <b>Flamingoes &amp; Hedgehogs</b> – an interpretive design   |
| _____ | _____ | 5 <b>The Gryphon</b> – a fresh miniature design (maximum dimensions 12.7 cm)   |

# Our June Flower Show

## June Flower Show – June 19, 2023

Entry time 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Judging commences at 7:20 sharp! Maximum of one entry per class per entrant

### Section A - Cut Specimens

ENTERED RESULT

- |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | 1 Allium, 1 stem   |
| _____ | _____ | 2 Aquilegia (Columbine), 1 stem                                      |
| _____ | _____ | 3 Clematis, with leaves, 1 stem                                      |
| _____ | _____ | 4 Hosta, 1 cultivar, large, 3 leaves                                 |
| _____ | _____ | 5 Hosta, 1 cultivar, medium, 3 leaves                                |
| _____ | _____ | 6 Hosta, small or miniature, 1 leaf                                  |
| _____ | _____ | 7 Hosta, 3 cultivars variegated, 1 leaf each cultivar                |
| _____ | _____ | 8 Dianthus (Pinks), 3 stems  |
| _____ | _____ | 9 Hemerocallis (Daylily), 1 stalk                                    |
| _____ | _____ | 10 Iris, 1 stalk   |
| _____ | _____ | 11 Peony, single, 1 bloom  |
| _____ | _____ | 12 Peony, double or semi-double, 1 bloom                             |
| _____ | _____ | 13 Rose, hybrid tea, 1 bloom   |
| _____ | _____ | 14 Rose, floribunda, 1 stem  |
| _____ | _____ | 15 Rose, polyanthus, 1 spray   |
| _____ | _____ | 16 Rose, climber, or rambler, 1 stem                                 |
| _____ | _____ | 17 Rose, any kind not listed, 1 stem                                 |
| _____ | _____ | 18 Rose, full blown, 1 bloom   |
| _____ | _____ | 19 Any other perennial or biennial, 1 stem                           |
| _____ | _____ | 20 Any other perennial or biennial, 3 stems of the same kind         |
| _____ | _____ | 21 Any other flowering bulb, corm or rhizome, 1 stem, spike or spray |
| _____ | _____ | 22 Container of flowers, 1 kind only                                 |
| _____ | _____ | 23 Collection of flowers, 3 or more kinds                            |
| _____ | _____ | 24 Flowering tree/shrub/vine, 1 branch, not to exceed 1 meter        |

### Section B - House Plants

- |       |       |                                 |
|-------|-------|---------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | 1 Cactus or succulent, 1 pot    |
| _____ | _____ | 2 House plant, foliage 1 pot    |
| _____ | _____ | 3 House plant, flowering, 1 pot |

### Section C – Fruits & Vegetables

- |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1 Rhubarb, 3 stalks, on a plate (trim stalks to a 2.5 cm fan)   |
| _____ | _____ | 2 Herbs, 3 or more varieties, displayed in water, must be named |
| _____ | _____ | 3 Any other fruit or vegetable, 1 to 3                          |

### Section D - Design

June Design Theme: Alice

- |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | 1 <b>White Rabbit</b> – a design using white flowers   |
|       |       | a) Experienced exhibitors  |
|       |       | b) Novice designers (A person who has not yet won a first-place ribbon in a design category at any OHA society flower show.) |
| _____ | _____ | 2 <b>Looking Glass</b> – a design incorporating a reflective surface   |
| _____ | _____ | 3 <b>Falling Down the Rabbit Hole</b> – a cascade design   |
| _____ | _____ | 4 <b>Pool of Tears</b> – a design with visible use of water  |
| _____ | _____ | 5 <b>Drink Me</b> – a small design (dimensions 14cm – 25.4cm)  |

### EYGC Flower Show Novice Award

Have you **never** been awarded a first prize?

If so, you are a **NOVICE** and can qualify for our Novice Award. This goes to the person who has the most points in entries in our flower shows (not arrangements).

Look in your garden, read the descriptions listed on the May and June Flower Show descriptions, and enter!



# March Photo Contest Winners – “Shades of Green”



1st place—Anna Leggatt



Tie 2nd place —Michelle Barraclough



Tie 2nd place —Nina Sparks



3rd place—John Howes

# Meet a Member

*Susan Bartlett — September 17, 2022. By Jennifer Smith*



Susan joined our club in 2000 in order to meet people and to learn more about gardening, particularly how to combat weeds. As a new homeowner, she found a grass lawn to be a lot of work for very little reward. Her mother grew tomatoes and flowers but it was her aunt in Windsor who was an avid gardener. She grew delicious tomatoes in this excellent, tomato-friendly soil.

Susan was editor of the newsletter in 2011. She served as president of our club from 2012 to 2015 inclusive. She has been our Secretary since 2020. This is a challenging role as it involves maintaining careful notes about discussions and decisions and writing these notes according to established rules.

Susan is facing a familiar challenge: a change in sun on a section of the garden. A neighbour's old maple lost a large limb and crushed an arbor that had taken Susan and her partner considerable effort to acquire. Vines that used to be easily controlled are now growing more freely with the increased sun.

This leads to Susan's advice for new gardeners: Be careful when planting vines; they can easily take over your garden. Susan struggles to control trumpet vine, morning glory and Virginia creeper. A silver lace vine almost took over her front porch. Luckily, a harsh winter killed off the vine.

Susan's favourite flowers are those that are self-sufficient, such as sedums, and those that attract pollinators, like blazing star liatris. She tends not to water her pretty front garden and wonders if this is why her black-eyed Susans are shorter than some. She is puzzled by the sudden disappearance of her lavender. She likes the height that foxgloves add to her garden and the colour from her red roses.

Susan learned from member Margaret McRae how to raise Monarch butterfly caterpillars and has successfully released a few dozen butterflies over 7 years. In addition to her gardening and club activities, she enjoys hiking, canoeing and reading.



# April Photo Contest Winners – “WATER”



1st place—Anna Leggatt



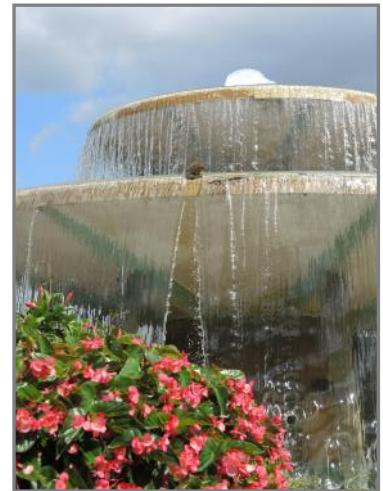
Tie 2nd place—Marilyn Scott



Tie 2nd place—Debra Lewis



Tie 2nd place—Beth Binnington



Tie 2nd place—Wendy Plume



Tie 3rd place—Caroline Smoyer



Tie 3rd place—Anne Stanley

# Our April Talk by Diana Fleming

## “Queensdale Flowers: a homegrown experiment”

*Summary by Jennifer Smith*

On April 17, Diana Fleming described her urban flower farm, located on Queensdale Avenue in East York, to 45 people in person and about 6 members on Zoom.

Diana’s grandparents were farmers, so she spent many happy hours as a child running around their fields. She studied graphic design at university. Last year Diana made the switch from working on screen in her graphic design business to working in soil to provide fresh, local, seasonal, sustainably grown flowers to the local community. She is at the beginning of a giant learning experiment and is excited to see how her business progresses.

She described the three main components of her business.

1. “Regenerative agriculture” uses what grows naturally on your land with some inexpensive improvements to the soil’s microbiology. She wants to learn more about growing native plants and specifically what will provide flowers suitable for her business. She has several small spaces around the Queensdale Avenue neighbourhood.
2. “Urban/micro growing” involves sharing small plots of land. She establishes informal agreements with neighbours who don’t want to work their land themselves. No money is exchanged; Diana uses the land to grow flowers and the neighbours benefit from a beautiful garden and enhanced soil quality.
3. “Farmer/florist business”: One of the challenges is that many flowers are harvested while they are still closed, so Diana may not know what the flowers will look like in a bouquet once they open. She likes growing dahlias because they are harvested when open and thus they are also rewarding for the neighbour who enjoys the pleasure of the blooms.
4. She finds self-promotion challenging. She sells bouquets at farmers’ markets and also through online subscriptions. Subscribers receive bouquets of whatever flowers are in bloom each month. She also creates everlasting arrangements of dried flowers and is very excited about other projects including growing hydroponic tulips.

<https://queensdalefarm.ca/>

She mentioned that some flowers, such as daffodils, are described as “dirty” because they release toxins into water which can be harmful to other flowers. This type of flower needs to be separated from other flowers until the toxins dissipate. She explained that in order to limit the size of sunflowers so that they are suitable for bouquets, you can plant them very close together (2 -3” spacing); this inhibits their growth.

Diana appreciates that the pace of growth is beyond her control. This business forces her to slow down and to reflect on how the various flowers grow. She thoroughly enjoys using her artistic eye to arrange the flowers into bouquets.





# Spring in Toronto —Member Photos



Photo by Maureen Ballentine



I am a weed  
Photo by Anna Leggatt

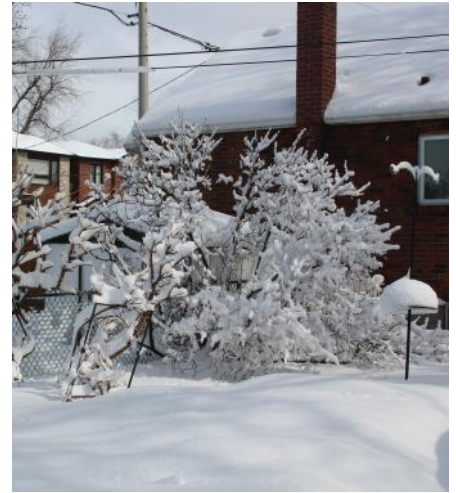


Photo by Margaret McRae



Photo by Barbara Fairbanks



Guerrilla Gardening  
Credit: Maureen Ballentine



From my garden  
Credit: Jennifer Smith

## Bumble Bee Watch—Queens—March 2023

Spring has started to arrive in parts of the continent and with the first flowers come the first bumble bees! The gynes—mated queens—are emerging from hibernation, foraging on early-blooming plants, and beginning to search for nest locations to start their colonies.

Then submit your photos to [bumblebeewatch.org](https://bumblebeewatch.org), along with the date and location of your sighting.

If possible, include the scientific or common name of the plant it was feeding on (both wild and cultivars are accepted). This will help us build a database of information about when queens first emerge from hibernation, what they feed on, and how emergence and foraging varies by species or habitats—urban, suburban, rural, etc.— across the United States and Canada.

*By Victoria MacPhail, York University. Submitted by Sonia van Heerden*

# 2023 Toronto Master Gardeners Tech Update: Ecological Gardening, January 14, 2023...

*Summary by Jennifer Smith, notes by Veronica Callinan, retired Master Gardener*

*Jennifer Grenz, PhD—Department of Forest Resources management, UBC*

## **“Applying an Indigenous Ecology to the Garden”**

Indigenous culture and knowledge have only recently been welcomed in discussions about ecological restoration. We need to talk about "why" we are helping the environment, for each project and landscape. A cookie cutter approach born of desperation is not productive. What do Indigenous knowledge holders think about invasive species? How does one define “invasive” or “non-native”? Some plants are invasive but have benefits, e.g. Scotch broom, so it needs to be grown and contained.

Indigenous Worldview is about ALL the relationships. It includes the question: What is the role of humans in the Ecosystem? Europeans tended to view forests as commodities that did not "do" anything. Only agriculture "did" something. Indigenous history sees the landscape as changing over time, there is no static "supposed to be" way. Indigenous people changed and managed the lands and waters to feed themselves.

Dr. Grenz proposes a new concept: 'Relationally Preferred Species' rather than 'native' or 'non-native' plants. How has historic agriculture changed the soil and how does this change impact current plantings? What plant relationships need to be strengthened or diminished? Dr. Grenz includes the forest and weeds on her property as part of her farm, not items to be removed. Practise reciprocity with the land, rather than ownership. Ecology is very site-specific.

*Karen Christensen-Dalsgaard, PhD—Assistant Professor at MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta*

## **“Humans as Keystone Species in the urban Ecosystem - A new Approach to Sustainability”**

Humans are valuable members of the ecosystem. We need to recognize and applaud beneficial actions taken by humans and not just talk about our negative impact on the environment. For example, the habitat in Canada that has the highest diversity of plants is found in botanical gardens. The second highest diversity is found in civic and private gardens. Cities are ecosystems with humans as the keystone species. About 80% of Canadians live in cities; how can we make urban settings more functional for all life: animals (including people); plants; fungi? “Urban areas can be beautiful functional ecosystems if we stop minimizing the human footprint and find ways to optimize it instead.” Factors not typical to other ecosystems include socio-political drivers; architecture—the impact of the built environment on the life around them; biotic and abiotic



# 2023 Toronto Master Gardeners Tech Update: Ecological Gardening, January 14, 2023

ecosystem processes. (Biotic and abiotic factors are what make up ecosystems. Biotic factors are living things within an ecosystem such as plants, animals, and bacteria, while abiotic are non-living components such as water, soil and atmosphere. The way these components interact is critical in an ecosystem.)

*Benjamin Futa- Horticulture communicator, designer, and business owner.*

**Host of Let's Grow Stuff** on PBS Wisconsin.

@botanyorbust, hello@Botanyorbust.com

We need to decide for whom and what purpose we are gardening. For example, plants do not evolve in bark mulch, but rather in decaying leaves. Plants are social and relate to their neighbours. Bark mulch isolates them. Also, our ecosystem has evolved to have four seasons. Our plants like these seasons. There is nothing in nature that says "It's time to clean up the garden because it is autumn." Listen, coach, observe your garden to learn what makes its contents grow best. Find the plant that likes the soil you have. There is no such thing as "terrible soil". Remember that some pollinators overwinter in our "dead" plants. They need regular temperatures in spring of 50°F/10°C to wake up and move on.

When you are designing your garden, think about creating blocks of patterns. Repeating these is easier on the eyes than having lots of different plants. Pick a few plants that can be "on stage". Know 20 - 30 plants very well and they will become the backbone of the garden. Maintain balance and unity in your garden by thinning and removing plants when they threaten to take over, even if they are native. Create frames to demonstrate management and intentionality; you are not letting your garden run wild. This could be a low retaining wall; temporary and well-maintained spring bulbs; a strip of mown lawn. Gardeners need a "killer instinct". Even if a plant is native or grows very well, you may still need to thin or even remove it so that it doesn't take over. Brown is a colour; a plant should look good even when outside of its active season. Brown plants present with a variety of shades, textures and shapes to enhance the winter garden.

## **Books mentioned by the 3 speakers:**

*New naturalism : designing and planting a resilient, ecologically vibrant home garden* by Kelly D. Norris. 2021

*Planting in a post-wild world : designing plant communities for resilient landscapes* by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West. 2015

*Where do camels belong: the story and science of invasive species* by Ken Thompson. 2014

# Upcoming Speakers

## *"Grocery Store Orchid Rescues"*

Presented by Andrew Gelmar- Monday May 15, 2023

Close your eyes and picture an orchid. What you see is a tall slender stem with a cascade of blooms. We're here to broaden that definition.



Roehampton Orchids is a tropical nursery located in the heart of Toronto. We've opened our doors intent on rejuvenating the outdated image of the orchid, and hope to share a new vision of these remarkable plants with our customers. We source rare and unique varieties from countries around the world, cultivated by our team here in the city. Our extensive collection of orchids, from Goodyera (Jewels) to various Vandeae including Phalaenopsis, is yours to learn and discover.

We've developed innovative growing techniques, which allow us to bring healthy tropical plants to the Canadian market. Each plant is grown with the highest degree of attention and care. To ensure these beautiful orchids will continue to flourish in your home, we promise to help every step of the way - this is our commitment to you

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## *"All about weeds"*

Presented by Anna Leggatt - Monday June 19, 2023

What is a weed? How do they spread? How can we identify weeds at various stages of their life?

One weed may be another gardener's delight!

Bring an unknown specimen to the meeting for help in identification.

Anna Leggatt is a Life Member of our garden club. She was the president of our club at one time and has frequently shared her considerable horticultural knowledge and talents with us. She earned a B.Sc. in Botany from London University as a young person. She taught high school chemistry for many years. She has received several horticultural diplomas and achieved Master Gardener status. She is a member of many international horticultural and nature groups. She is the author of many articles and winner of several horticultural awards.

"I love shrubs, bulbs, rock gardening, wildflowers, Japanese effects, working with stone and changing my garden design. I want to grow vegetables. However, deer, rabbits and groundhogs would like me to as well."

You can learn more about Life Member status and about Anna herself by reading her interview published on pages 10 - 11 in the Sept-Oct. 2021 newsletter.





## *Spring Plant Sale*

Saturday May 27, 2023—10am-3pm

72 Binswood Ave. (Alan Barber's driveway)

**Donations needed: Perennials, houseplants, flower & vegetable seedlings.**

**Stay tuned for more information about when to drop off items and time of plant sale.**

**OHA 115th Convention will be held July 21-23 in Ottawa**

**For more Information - <https://gardenontario.org/convention/>**

### LOOKING FOR NEW EYGC BOARD MEMBERS

As Past-President of the Club, one of my roles is to seek members who can give some time to lead the Club for the next 2 years.

We are **currently in need of 4 to 5 new Directors** to ensure we have a full Board to help lead the Club forward. The time commitment is approximately 2-3 hours a month at Board and Club meetings plus additional time on leading or assisting in on-going or new Club activities.

We know that every community group is struggling to find volunteers nowadays. We want you to know that any skills you can bring to us will be appreciated, valued and will not be wasted. We do have "job" descriptions for the Director position and all the other activities we do to give you scope and time commitment guidelines.

If you are interested, or want more information about the board or volunteering in general, please call or email me at

416-755-0278 [barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net](mailto:barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net)

Thank you.

*Barb Fairbanks*

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH GARDENING AT THE LEGION

It is time for members of EYGC to resume our Community Outreach commitment to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10 at 1083 Pape Ave. The garden there is lovely with many pollinating plants, several stunning roses and many perennials.

Helping out at the Legion usually involves weeding, deadheading, caring for the roses and planting red and white annuals at the beginning of the season. It is not hard work and it is very satisfying to make the garden look as beautiful as it does. The Legion members are very grateful and passersby often comment on the loveliness of the garden.

It is a requirement of each OHA affiliated garden club to take on at least one community project. At this point the Legion is our only project, though we would like to take on more. Our ability to branch out is hindered by the lack of volunteers that come out to help. It is very disheartening that in a club with approximately 135 members only two or three come out to help at the Legion.

Those who do show up are friendly and would be very welcoming to any member who wants to spend an hour in the nice weather doing what we all love - gardening. We share knowledge and if anyone is unsure what to do another member will help them out. No judgement, just fun and satisfying work.

We will meet at 1083 Pape every second Thursday at 5:30 starting on May 4th. There is lots of parking nearby. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact me at 647-214-3337 or [jdtgardening@gmail.com](mailto:jdtgardening@gmail.com).

Hope to see you at the Legion!

*Jacqueline Tanner*

# Notices to Members

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE ONLINE PHOTO CONTESTS FOR 2023

May — “Tools of the Trade”

June — “Garden Helpers”

July— “Bursting with Colour”

August— “Elements”

September— “Trees”

October— “Black and White”

November— “Year Book Cover”

December “Joy”

[photocontest@eygc.ca](mailto:photocontest@eygc.ca) or

**416-469-5593**

*Entries accepted until of the 22nd month.*

## EYGC Memberships 2023

### Memberships:

Individual—\$20/year, Family - \$30/year.

Send cheques payable to  
“East York Garden Club” to:  
East York Garden Club,  
c/o Cristina Brown,  
7 Knightsbridge Rd,  
Scarborough, M1L 2A8

Our membership form can be found online at  
<http://www.eygc.ca/ClubInfo/HowToJoin.html>

NOTE: If paying by e-transfer NO  
PASSWORD is required. Please add your full  
name and address in Notes section of the  
e-transfer .

## Niagara Bus Trip

**SUNDAY September 17**

EYGC Vice-President Roz Regnier has lined up a wonderful, full-day itinerary to the Niagara Butterfly Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

Lunch at a local restaurant (Betty's, est. 1967).

With additional stops at Stephenville Garden Gallery and Magnotta Winery.

All Included Cost: \$100 for garden club members.

This trip will include Master Gardeners, Leaside Garden Club and Riverdale Garden Club Members.  
Reserve your spot early!

For more information or to confirm  
Call Roz at (416) 759-6247

## EYGC Code of Conduct

In keeping with the City of Toronto's Anti-harassment policy when using any City of Toronto properties, East York Garden Club, with the kind assistance of the Leaside Garden Club, has designed an

**EYGC Code of Conduct** to adhere to the City's regulations.

In short it says: ***A guiding principle of the East York Garden Club is that everyone is entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times. Although EYGC promotes freedom of expression and open communication, we expect all members to adhere to this principle as outlined in the full “Code of Conduct”.***



# 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:

[newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)

*Here's a picture I love of Oma's rose. My grandparents moved to a farm in Vineland in 1940 and I think this rose was already rambling on the garage when they arrived. In 2003 my grandparents were gone, my uncle was moving off the farm and everything was going to be demolished. I rescued this rose from under some boards that had fallen off the garage and planted it by my shed.*

*By Sue Schultz*



## Here we Grow Again... Welcome New EYGC Members

**Linda Barton, Dina Carvska, Judy Douglas, Johanne Forbes, Angeli Hopper, Bryan Kaszap, Mike Kiely, Barbara Warren, Loo (Yuet)Wong**



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:

**June 22, 2023**

Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to  
**[newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)**

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

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



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