

East York Garden Club

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

May & June, 2003

Thursday, May 15, 2003

Speaker: Sonia Day
Topic: Balcony Gardening

Sonia Day is one of Canada's leading garden writers. She is a columnist for Canadian Gardening, writes the "Condo Gardens" column for the Toronto Star, and has just released her second book, *The Urban Gardener*. She recently won the Garden Globe award from the Garden Writers Association of America for her book *Tulips, Facts and Folklore About the World's Most Planted Flower*.

This meeting will also feature our first flower show of the year. Show details can be found on pages 18 & 19 of your yearbook.

Members whose surnames begin with M are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Speaker: Joel Schraven
Topic: Tough Modern Roses

When it comes to roses, there are few who are more knowledgeable than Pickering Nursery's Joel Schraven. With a catalogue listing over 800 roses, Joel's roses are known across North America (guess where Martha Stewart gets her roses). His topic will be especially apropos after last year's hot summer and this year's hard winter.

This meeting will also feature our second flower show of the year. Show details can be found on pages 20-22 of your yearbook.

Members whose surnames begin with N, O, P, Q, or R are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

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

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except August and December) in the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Avenue at 7:30 p.m. The Clubhouse is wheelchair-accessible. Visitors are always welcome.

Yearly membership fees are \$10 for a single, and \$15 for a family. To inquire about membership, contact Rosalind Regnier at 416-759-6247.

Visit us on the web at www.eygc.ca

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Community Activities

Saturday, April 26 was a busy day for the East York Garden Club. While four members attended the OHA's District 5 General Meeting in Aurora, several others were promoting the Club at Bill's Garden Centre or participating in a clean-up operation in Stan Wadlow park.

On the morning of the 26th, members of the Club, together with friends and family, cleaned up the rockery garden located in Stan Wadlow Park at the corner of Cosburn and Oak Park Avenue. Garbage at the site was removed, dead plant material was cut back, the grounds raked, and the flower beds were uncovered. Thanks to the following club members who volunteered their time and energy: Karen Bell, Gail Gregory, Dawn McEachern, Sheila Clarke, Bruce & Liz Arkwright, Diane & Peter Ronan, Diane Bickers, Heather Landon and Wini Stoddart. A special thanks to Diane & Peter for the post-clean-up pizza. Take a look elsewhere on this page for more about our "Adopt-a-Garden" project.

The same day, the Club took part in the activities at Bill's Garden Centre, 903 Pape Avenue. Thanks so much to the following club members who volunteered their time and knowledge to promote the Club and answer gardening questions: Glen Hutzul, Joan de Grey, Dianne Dietrich and Irene Derzay.



The clean-up crew at work



...after a hard-day's work

Adopt-a-Garden

Following the request in the March/April newsletter for proposals for community projects, the suggestion was made that the rockery garden at the southeast corner of Stan Wadlow would be a perfect garden for the Club to adopt. It's a wonderful site for gardening, but over the past few years has been somewhat neglected, and nearly forgotten. As well, it's home to the Club's 60th Anniversary Commemorative Bench, and a tree dedicated to the memory of past members of the Club.

On April 11, Diane Ronan, who is heading up the Public Planting Committee, met with Councillor Michael Tziretas, where there was a favourable reception to a proposal that the Club adopt the garden, and take an active part in the future plans and maintenance of the rockery. Two weeks later, Diane had a discussion with Bob Ward (Ward 31 Parks Supervisor), in which he stated that Toronto Parks and Recreation would be happy to work out a co-operative restoration and maintenance program. As the first step in that process, rakes, work gloves and garbage bags were made available to the Club for the April 26 Community Clean-Up Day. We'll let you know what's new with the garden as it happens over the next few weeks.

East York Garden Club at the Riverdale Home & Garden Show

Once again, the Club will be participating in the Riverdale Home and Garden Show at the East York Civic Centre (Mortimer and Coxwell) on May 10. There will be over 40 exhibitors, as well as local retailers, contractors, designers, and guest speakers.

We've probably all been to home and garden shows at the Metro Convention Centre or at Exhibition Place. Of course they're great places to look at the products from the large companies. But if you're interested in talking to contractors that are based right here in East York, this is the place to go. There are few things more frustrating than listening to growers who seem to forget that we're not in the Niagara Peninsula, or speaking to contractors who have no idea where O'Connor Drive is.

In past years, our participation has mostly been limited to giving out information about the Club. This year, in response to popular demand, we'll be holding a plant sale as well. We've come up with a selection that ranges from artemisia to zebra grass, and from the everyday to the out-of-the-ordinary.

The show takes place on Saturday, May 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free.



EYGC in Print...

Once again, East York Garden Club members and their gardens are turning up in print.

The gardens of five members (Dianne Dietrich, Janet Badali, Laura Grant, Anna Leggatt and Lucie Simons) appear in Patricia Singer's newly-released *Great Gardens to Visit*, a guidebook to over 300 of the best private gardens across Ontario. There's a description of each garden, as well as its history, size, and contact information. Over 100 photographs accompany the text. Some of the most attractive nurseries and public gardens are also included. No matter where you are in Ontario this summer, with this book you'll be able to find gardens to view (think of it as a customized garden tour).

You'll also find Dianne Dietrich's garden in two other books. Mark Cullen's recently-released *Ontario Gardening* contains 24 pictures of the garden. Pick up Liz Primeau's *Front Yard Gardens: Growing More Than Grass*, and you'll find six pages devoted to Dianne's "exuberant garden."

If there's one thing that we like to do as much as gardening, it's reading about gardening. This summer, we hope to be able to make that a little less-expensive for you. Fitzhenry and Whiteside, the publishers of *Great Gardens to Visit*, has given us the opportunity to purchase their books at 40% off the list price. Their catalogue will be available for viewing at the Club's meetings in May and June.

Canada Day

After a one-year absence the Canada Day festivities return to Stan Wadlow Park this July 1. Following the parade through the heart of East York (leaving Dieppe Park at 9:00 a.m.), activities will start at the park at 11:00 a.m. and run until the fireworks display in the evening.

Gardening with Glen

By Glen Hutzul

Not all roses are beautiful, fragrant nor able to tolerate growing in city gardens. I want roses in my small, shady garden, but I no longer want to guess which are the best for me. After waiting three or four years for a climbing rose to reach full size, I want it to be a great rose: fragrant, repeat-blooming, disease-resistant, and able to withstand our unpredictable winters. I also want it to be the right-sized plant. This is why I now use a rose guide before purchasing

My *500 Popular Roses for Canadian Gardeners* lists 26 characteristics of 500 roses, including old garden, modern, miniature, and species roses, and contains several hundred photos. I can now avoid such disappointments as purchasing a scentless rose. Unfortunately, although this book was updated in 2000, it appears that the publisher has run out of stock. All is not lost however, as there is now a copy of the book in the EYGC library.

We get mail...

At the Club's April meeting several of us commented on the low-cost but attractive floral containers used by our speaker, Rosemary Dobson..

Rosemary recently sent us this note:

"Inexpensive containers, IKEA have some that are under \$5.00 each that I have found very useful. Also, I like to keep an eye out at Winners for containers and sometimes have been lucky. At garage sales, one never knows what one may find for floral design. At both the CNE and the Royal Winter Fair there was a stand with glass containers from Poland, and many of us purchased some. Pin Holders (Kenzans) from Japan at Lee Valley Tools are good ones and prices are good. One needs to grow plants that are good for designs and hold up well, look what others are using at shows."

I also use *The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Roses*. If you can't find a rose book that you're happy with, but are considering a rose purchase (and are unsure of its suitability), give me a call. If you leave me a message, include your name, phone number, and the name of the roses(s) that you're considering. I will look up the listing and give you a call back.

Good luck and good gardening.

Did you know?

You can eat fuschia seeds...

One of our members, Laura, recently returned from New Zealand. Fuschia plants, which grow very large there, produce seeds shaped like tiny kiwi fruit. Seeds are eaten when they turn purple. Her opinion? They taste good, and unlike anything else. Anyone for a snack before dinner?

We also recently received this offer:

I am past president Mary Allison's daughter and am about to begin a relandscape of my backyard. I have about 10 very established, healthy gooseberry bushes that I would love to donate to anyone willing to have them. They produce plenty of fruit and are in excellent condition.

Anyone wanting one (or all!) will have to provide transportation as I do not have a car. Interested gardeners can e-mail or call me directly for further arrangements. E-mail and phone number below.

Thanks so much for your help!!

*Kim Allison
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A "loofah" ? No... a "tufa" Workshop

By Diane Ronan

"Hey Babe! Want to celebrate our anniversary by drilling holes in rocks and playing with little plants?" Luckily for me, Peter said: "Sure. Sounds like fun." So, I signed us up for a Tufa Planting Workshop with Harvey Wrightman at Wrightman Alpines Nursery in Kerwood, Ontario.

We recently joined the Ontario Rock Garden Society and that's how I found out about the workshop. It sounded interesting.

For some reason I thought that tufa was a volcanic rock. But it's not. Tufa rock is lightweight limestone formed when spring water enriched with calcium carbonate bubbles to the surface and covers the surrounding vegetation. Calcium deposits solidify on the plants and when the foliage decays it leaves a porous rock that is rich with nutrients and able to support plant growth. Rock garden enthusiasts have discovered that alpine plants grow well in tufa. Hence the reason for a tufa planting workshop at an alpines nursery.

The day of the workshop, Harvey and his wife Irene welcomed us with a guided tour of their gardens and greenhouses. I really like their plants. I'm a novice when it comes to rock gardening but the quality and

diversity of their nursery stock impressed me. Some seedlings and cuttings were happily getting started in small chunks of tufa. Others were already established in larger rocks and blooming profusely.

Our task was to choose a tufa rock from the selection offered and decide which plants we wanted to grow. Then we took our material to the workshop where Harvey showed us how to drill holes in the rock to accommodate the seedlings and explained the proper planting procedures and the necessary follow-up care. After some "hands-on" fun, we had created miniature, portable gardens. We'll probably place our rocks in a trough but you could add them to your garden.

This outing was a nice way to treat ourselves; meet new people; learn about rock gardening and enjoy the Wrightmans' hospitality. Did I mention the delicious homemade pies that we had at lunchtime?

For more information about Tufa Planting Workshops contact Wrightman Alpines Nursery at (519) 247-3751 or visit their website at:

www.wrightmanalpines.com

Emailed Newsletters

If you're interested in an emailed copy of the newsletter emailed to you (instead of, or in addition to the mailed copy), drop me a line at newsletter@eygc.ca

Back issues are now available on the Club's website (www.eygc.ca).

Newsletter Name

We've had some suggestions for a new name for the newsletter, but we'd like a few more before we make a final decision. No name is too wild or too conservative for us to consider. Give me a call a 416-429-4719, or email your suggestions to me at newsletter@eygc.ca.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 18

Wildflower Garden Tour – Enjoy the Canadian wilderness spring without leaving Toronto. See dozens of native flowers, trees and shrubs as you visit nine wildflower gardens around the city. This is the ninth year for one of Toronto's most popular tours. Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 for Toronto Wildflower Society members, \$15 for non-members. For further information or tickets, contact Carolyn King at 416-222-5736, or by email at cking@yorku.ca

Wednesday, May 21

Toronto's New Pesticide Bylaw, Organic Gardening, & Integrated Pest Management – Hear and comment on presentations from the City of Toronto, Pesticide Free Ontario, and the IPM Council of Ontario. The meeting takes place downstairs at the Walter S Stewart Library (corner of Memorial Park and Durant), and starts at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, June 7 & 8

Marion Jarvie Open Garden – Every year Marion Jarvie (our speaker in September) opens her garden for viewing. Located at 37 Thornheights Road in Thornhill (east of Yonge St, and south of Highway 7). Open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m both days.

Saturday, June 21

The Gardens of Leaside – The Leaside Garden Society presents a self-guided tour of special gardens in the Leaside community. Meet the gardeners, ask questions, exchange horticultural notes, and discover new ideas. Runs from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Passports are \$10 each, and will be available after June 1. Further information at 416-423-8542 or <http://members.rogers.com/burke422/lgs/leaside.htm>

Sunday, July 13

Secret Gardens of Riverdale – Returning for its 10th and final year, this will be a "best of" tour, featuring 16 of the Riverdale area's best private gardens. The self-guided tour will run from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tickets will be available at Bill's Garden Centre (903 Pape Ave., near Mortimer) at the end of May. Further information at 416-469-5211 x1173 or by email at gardentour@woodgreen.org.

You'll find a complete list of events on our website (www.eygc.ca). The list is updated at least once a week.

2003 Membership Form

Name

Address

.....

Postal Code Phone #

Fees: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees can be paid in person at the next monthly meeting, or by mailing this form and a cheque to

Rosalind Regnier
82 Presley Avenue
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