

# The East York Garden

Bi-monthly newsletter of the East York Garden Club

August & September, 2004

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 Denise Alexander at 416-759-5736.

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

President:  
Malcolm Geast

Vice-Presidents:  
Linda Boyko  
Dawn McEachern

Newsletter Editor:  
Malcolm Geast  
416-429-4719

## Saturday, August 28, 2004

### Annual Flower Show & Tea, 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m

It's been a bit of a strange summer – not much heat, and for East York, rainfall that has varied wildly from very dry to very wet. But one thing you can always count on is our Annual Flower Show and Tea. This year there are 105 categories in which to exhibit. Complete details can be found on pages 23 to 27 of your yearbook.

There will also be a demonstration of flower arranging. We'll show you how to do small and single arrangements for your home, using a few garden flowers and foliage. The demonstration will be at the beginner level, and will start at 3:00 p.m.

We would appreciate any donations of desserts, cookies or other goodies for the afternoon tea.

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## Thursday, September 16, 2004

Speaker: David Naylor

Topic: Cacti Inside and Out

The founder of the Toronto Cactus and Succulent Club (and still the Past-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and newsletter editor) will be with us to speak about not just cacti, but also the "other" succulent plants out there. David started growing cactus and other succulents while still a teenager in England in the fifties. A member of numerous societies around the world specializing in these plants, he's also an accredited judge of succulents, and the owner-operator of Naylor's Desert Plants, near Georgetown.

This meeting will also feature our final flower show of the year, as well as our draw table. As well, entry forms will be available for this year's Photography Contest.

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



## Upcoming in October

October is our Round Table meeting, this year featuring speakers from the Toronto Master Gardeners. It's also the time for our annual seed exchange, and the closing date for the photography contest.

## From the President's Desk

After lengthy discussions over three meetings, the Club's Executive Board has voted to recommend an increase in fees to \$20 for a single and \$30 for a family. As explained in the May-June issue, operating costs have steadily risen over the past few years, so that they are now in excess of \$30 per member. Fundraising makes up some of the gap between fees and expenses, but it is unreliable, and still leaves us with a shortfall. The Board feels that the fee increase is a necessity if we are to maintain financial stability and program quality. At the September meeting the following motion to amend the by-laws will be presented:

Change the first sentence in section 3b to read "Annual membership fees are twenty dollars(\$20) for a single, and thirty dollars (\$30) for a family."

As well, a "housekeeping" amendment will be presented, to include the Club's annual financial year in the by-laws. Voting on both motions will take place at the November AGM.

If you have any comments or questions feel free to call me at 416-429-4719, or send an email to malcolm@eastyork.net.

*Malcolm Geast*

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## Interested in Becoming a Master Gardener?

If you're a dedicated gardener who would like increase your knowledge of gardening and plants in Ontario as well as work with other gardeners, and share ideas, you may be interested in becoming a Master Gardener.

The Toronto Master Gardeners are holding an information meeting and entrance test in Studios One and Two at the Toronto Botanical Garden at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 20. Those who are successful in the test will be invited for an interview that takes place the following week. For further information, contact Nicole Leaper at 416-486-7307.



## East York Garden Club

If you've attended any of the community events that we've participated in this year (such as Canada Day at Stan Wadlow Park), you may have noticed that we now have two banners to help make our presence more noticeable. Thanks go to Peter Ronan for designing the banners, and to Bev Woods for printing them, at her own expense.

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## Gardening with Glen – Show & Tell

*Glen Hutzul*

It was at my first Annual show, 1988 that I saw pink Lavatera. I was really surprised that such a showy bouquet was actually a garden-grown annual. Since that I've been introduced to so many new plants, Siberian Iris, bergamot, zebra grass, tree peonies, obedience plant, gloriosa daises, Hall's honeysuckle, goatsbeard. This list is a really extensive one. Not only did I see them for the first time, but I got a chance to talk to the grower. I learned which were fussy plants, which ones were disease-prone or needed a lot of water. I especially remembered the ones that required little care or water: my kind of plant.

I'm writing this because it's important to not only attend the show, but to participate by entering the competition. If your entry wins a first price, you receive a whole dollar! Wow! Much more important is the educational value showing our members the kinds of plants and flowers that can be grown in our area (and grown well).

I was surprised and pleased that autumn of 1988 when Teresa, the grower of that pink Lavatera, handed me a pill container of seeds. It was then that I realized that I had joined the right organization.

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## New Member

Please extend a warm welcome to a new member, Irena Koschuk, who recently joined the Club. New members' nametags have a blue star, to make them easier to recognize and be welcomed.

## **It's Show Time .....**

*Cristina Brown*

Do you have flowers blooming in your garden? Have you ever thought of entering your plants and flowers in the show? Share your love of gardening, show the fruits of your labour this summer and show what's growing well in our area to fellow gardening enthusiasts.

Exhibiting in the show can be intimidating for some. However, it does not require great expertise or special knowledge. There are hints on exhibiting in the yearbook. Simply bring in your plants and flowers to the show. If you're not sure which class your flowers belong to, the show committee will be available to assist you in exhibiting your entries.

We need more members to exhibit their creative designs in the show. Many of us have done flower arrangements at home. Maybe they are good enough to exhibit in the show. Why not try entering in the Design Novice class? We all have to start somewhere! The intent of the Novice classification is to encourage participation of new and unseasoned exhibitors and show their creative and artistic talents.

We have admired the creativity of some members in their arrangements in the past flower shows and sometimes wondered where and how they came up with the design. Here are some hints when entering a floral arrangement in the show.

Plan ahead. Read and study the show rules and schedule in the yearbook. The schedule sets the theme title and the design requirements. If there is something in the schedule that you find confusing or don't understand, don't hesitate to ask the flower show chairperson.

Select the theme title that interests you and create a design interpreting that theme. To interpret a theme, you can look up the meaning of each word of the title in the dictionary, use colors and meanings of flowers, use the shape or form of plant materials or accessories.

Create the design according to the style specified in the schedule (e.g. water-viewing, parallel, miniature or small arrangement). Arrangement definitions are in the yearbook. Become familiar with principles of floral design and certain basic mechanics used in the flower arranging styles. The library has lots of books on flower arranging. If you have internet access, there are lots of websites on this subject matter as well. Study the pictures and modify some of the designs by putting your touch to it.

Pay attention to the good use of design principles details (such as balance, scale, color, line, space, contrast, texture and rhythm) contributing to the total harmony of the design. The materials placed in the design should achieve visual balance. The design should not appear to tip forward, backward or to either side.

Incorporate the required material or container in the design such as use of basket, teacup, branch, candle or recycled material.

Condition the flowers and foliage used in the design to look fresh, free of insects and disease and lack evidence of bruising. You can use plant materials from the garden such as clematis, Hosta, euonymus, evergreens and grasses in the arrangement.

This year, the Annual Flower Show is on Saturday, August 28. All exhibits in the show go towards making the Flower Show a success so bring in your entries, keep on showing and have fun in exhibiting!!!

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### **Emailed Newsletters**

If you'd like to have the newsletter emailed to you (instead of, or in addition to the mailed copy), drop us a line at [newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca). If you're looking for back issues, they're available on the Club's website ([www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)).

# How to rid your garden of those pesky vampires

Diane Ronan

Grow garlic! And besides the garlic is good for you and adds flavour to your food.

Have you tried growing garlic that is available from garden centres in the spring and been disappointed with the results? It's because in our northern climate, the best time to plant garlic is late September or early October. This gives the cloves a chance to activate and start growing roots before the frost comes. Next spring your garlic will begin to sprout and you'll see the green shoots coming through the ground. It will take all summer for the garlic to form bulbs.

I like to buy my garlic to plant from a local farmers' market. Avoid supermarket garlic because it was probably grown in a very different climate. Choose the biggest heads of garlic with the biggest cloves. Plant only the largest outside and middle cloves. Use the smaller ones for cooking. There are two types of garlic – softneck and hardneck. Hardneck types tend to have a fuller flavour. Along with leafy stalks, hardnecks develop a stiff stem at their core. The central stem ends in a pigtail curlicue, topped by a false seed head called a scape. Snap off the scapes and use them for cooking. They also look great in flower arrangements.

Garlic likes a rich, well-drained soil and sunshine. Prepare a bed with compost dug into it, and then smooth out a planting area. Just before planting, take the bulbs apart. Do not peel them. Plant them pointy side up, about two inches deep. To save space, plant a wide bed with cloves spaced on an 8-inch grid. Water well and cover with mulch such as grass clippings. Continue to mulch the following summer to prevent weeds and keep the soil moist and cool.

You can harvest your garlic in late July or early August. Watch for the tops to turn yellow and fall over. Dig out the plants (being careful not to damage the bulbs) and hang to dry in a cool, dry,

well-ventilated area. After drying you can either cut the tops off or braid them together to make a garlic braid for your kitchen.

Garlic is an ancient plant worshipped by the Egyptians and chewed by Greek Olympian athletes. Today it is being considered as an alternative treatment for high blood pressure, high cholesterol and hardening of the arteries. It also has proven antibacterial and anti-fungal properties.

To learn more about garlic it's fun to attend a garlic festival. *The Garlic is Great Festival* takes place at the Newmarket Farmers' Market this month. It's on Saturday Aug.21 (call 905-726-3356 or visit [www.garlicisgreat.com](http://www.garlicisgreat.com))

And from me to you, here is the recipe that took first prize for pickles at last year's EYGC Annual Flower Show:

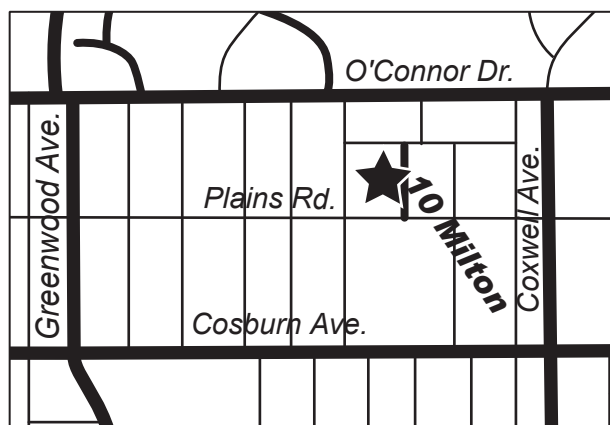
## **Pickled Garlic – Homemaker's Magazine, March 1992**

- 2 cups (500 ml) garlic cloves (about 6 heads)
- 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) white vinegar
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) granulated sugar
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) coarse pickling salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) each whole black peppercorns and mustard seeds
- 1 bay leaf

Peel garlic cloves: cut any extra-thick cloves in half lengthwise. In medium saucepan, combine vinegar, sugar, salt, peppercorns, mustard seeds and bay leaf. Bring to boil over high heat, stirring until sugar dissolves. Add garlic. Return to boil; cook, uncovered, 1 minute, stirring occasionally. Remove saucepan from heat; let cool. Transfer garlic and liquid to 2-cup (500 mL) sterilized jar. Refrigerate, covered, for at least 24 hours or up to 2 months.

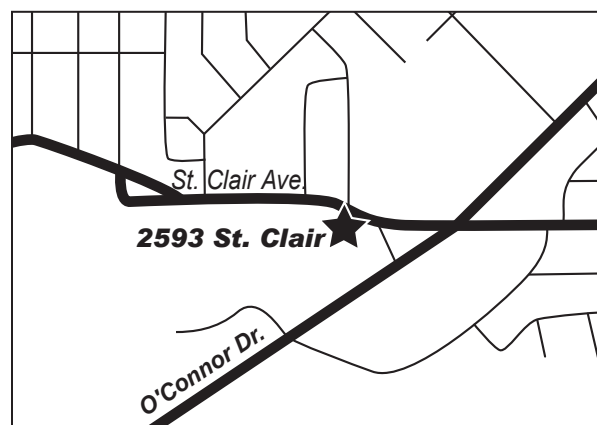
## Members' Garden Tour

Our Members' Garden tour concludes with two offerings, one in the late-summer, and the other in the fall. This is an opportunity for you to take a leisurely look at these gardens, and to meet other members of the Club.



**Sunday, August 29**  
1:30 to 4:00 p.m

**Susan Ellis**  
10 Milton Road



**Sunday, October 3**  
1:00 to 4:00 p.m

**Anna Leggatt**  
2593 St. Clair Ave. E.

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## District 5 Annual General Meeting

As you may recall from past newsletters, the East York Garden Club and the Leaside Garden Society are co-hosts of the 2005 Annual General Meeting of District 5 of the Ontario Horticultural Association. Planning is well underway for the event, which will be held next April. The location has been chosen (St. Bonaventure's Church, next to the Toronto Botanical Garden), speakers have been lined up, the caterer has been selected, and we expect to have the final wording of our theme in the next couple of weeks. Sounds like there's nothing left to do but sit back and wait for the meeting, doesn't it? Unfortunately not... There are still registration kits to be designed and mailed out, flower show categories to be determined, publicity to be arranged, and details to be worked out. Up to this point, the Organizing Committee (consisting of nine

members from the two clubs) has been able to handle all the planning. But now we need your help. In September, we'll be asking for you to join one of our sub-committees that look after individual areas of the preparations. We've broken down the arrangements into eight sub-committees: Flower Show, Communications, Facilities, Finance, Registration, Programs, Volunteers, and Fundraising. With the participation of our members, the Meeting promises to be an enjoyable and exciting affair. In September please consider signing up for what promises to be a rewarding and interesting experience.

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It will never rain roses. When we want to have more roses, we must plant more roses.

*George Eliot*

# Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 22

**Geranium and Pelargonium Society Show & Sale** at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Leslie & Lawrence)

Sunday, September 5

**Wine and Roses Garden Tour** presented by the Greater Toronto Rose and Garden Society. Four beautiful gardens, including one with 300 organically-grown roses. Starts at 496 Scarborough Golf Club Road. Runs from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$10.

Thursday, September 9

**Toronto Botanical Garden Design Preview for Community Residents** at the Toronto Botanical Garden. View architectural drawings of the building renovations and conceptual drawings of the new gardens. In the Floral Hall. Open from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 9

**September meeting of the Leaside Garden Society** at Leaside Library, 165 McRae Drive. Nikola Warnock will be speaking about Gardening in China. Begins at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, September 11 & 12

**Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society Show** at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington. Runs from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday

Wednesday, September 22

**The Healing Garden** at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Leslie & Lawrence). The full title of renowned British gardening personality Gay Search's talk is **The Healing Garden: Gardening for the Mind, Body and Soul**. She will be explaining in practical terms how to create or incorporate a healing garden into your own backyard. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$12.00, free for TBG members.

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

## 2004 Membership Form

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postal Code ..... Phone # .....

email .....

Fees: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees can be paid in person or by mailing this form and a cheque (payable to "the East York Garden Club") to:

East York Garden Club  
18 Warvet Crescent  
East York, Ontario  
M4B 1P3