

The East York Garden

Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

March & April, 2005

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 \$20 for a single, and \$30 for a family. To inquire about membership, contact Denise Alexander at 416-759-5736.

Visit us on the web at www.eygc.ca

President:
Malcolm Geast

Vice-Presidents:
Linda Boyko
Dawn McEachern

Newsletter Editor:
Malcolm Geast
416-429-4719

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Speaker: Mike Maves
Topic: Vegetables in the Garden

Find out the best conditions for various vegetables and when to plant and harvest them. A life-long gardener, Mike Maves gardens and farms in Pickering, where he grows organic vegetables and has a herd of cows. Past-President of the Canadian Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society, he grows a great variety of plants, from cactus to chrysanthemums.

Members whose surnames begin with G or H are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea. There will also be a draw table following this meeting.

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Speaker: Ken Parker
Topic: Native Plant Gardening

Ken Parker and his wife Linda are co-owners of Sweet Grass Gardens, North America's first Native-run native plant nursery. Over the past few years, SGG has made quite a name for itself throughout Canada and the U.S. as a leader in Native plant knowledge. Ken is a writer, consultant and speaker and has appeared on many television shows, including HGTV's *Gardener's Journal*, and W-Network's *Gardening Gamble*.

Members whose surnames begin with J, K, or L are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea. There will also be a draw table following this meeting.

Don't forget...

In March and April, we'll be trying something different with the evening's tea. Instead of having to wait until after the meeting is over, coffee and cookies will be available at 7:00 p.m. Come a little earlier, and meet and talk with other members of the Club!



Upcoming in May:

Watch Out! The Asian Long-horned Beetle and Other Pests, with Howard Stanley of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

We'll also have our first flower show of the year. And of course, this meeting will feature our Annual Plant & Garden Treasures Sale.

District 5 AGM

It's now just a matter of a few weeks until the 2005 OHA District 5 AGM, which as you know, we are co-hosting with the Leaside Garden Society. This year's theme is *The Rain, The Park and Other Things*, and will feature David Phillips from Environment Canada, and the Taylor-Massey Project's Andrew McCammon. If you haven't already done so, you can register at our March meeting. The cost is just \$25 and includes a hot lunch. Those of you who have already signed up, don't forget to bring the registration fee to the March EYGC meeting.

Because of space limitations, the flower show at the meeting allows for only one entry per club in each class. Nevertheless, we expect to have a strong presence in the show. Diane Ronan and Anna Leggatt will be co-ordinating our entries. Please contact Diane or Anna if you would like to enter cut specimens, a plant, or a design. If you won't be attending the event, we can make arrangements to get your entry there and back. Listed below are the classes for this year's show. Complete show information (including rules) can be found on the meeting's website (www.dist5agm.eastyork.net), and will be available at our March meeting.

Section A - Cut Specimens

- Class 1 Crocus - 3 stems
- Class 2 Galanthus (Snowdrop) - 3 stems
- Class 3 Hellebore (e.g. Christmas Rose) - 1 stem
- Class 4 Iris - 3 stems
- Class 5 Narcissus (includes daffodil) - 3 stems
- Class 6 Tulip - 3 stems
- Class 7 Any other spring flowering bulb, corm or tuber - 1 stem
- Class 8 Any other perennial - 1 to 3 stems
- Class 9 Forced branch, foliage - 1 m or under
- Class 10 Flowering tree or shrub, 1 branch - 1 m or under
 - a. Forced into bloom
 - b. Naturally blooming

Section B - Potted Plants

- Class 11 Herb, 1 cultivar, must be named - pot not to exceed 20 cm
- Class 12 Orchid - 1 pot, any size
- Class 13 Pelargonium - grown for bloom
- Class 14 Pelargonium - grown for foliage
- Class 15 Saintpaulia (African Violet) - one crown
- Class 16 Any other Gesneriad, 1 cultivar
- Class 17 Cactus - 1 plant
- Class 18 Cacti, trailing - 1 cultivar
- Class 19 Any other succulent - 1 cultivar
- Class 20 Topiary - any plant trained into a shape or form
- Class 21 Any other plant, not listed above, grown for bloom
- Class 22 Any other plant, not listed above, grown for foliage
- Class 23 Dish Garden with different plants displayed artistically, container not to exceed 45 cm
- Class 24 Weird and Wonderful - any unusual plant
- Class 25 Seedlings in a cell pack (4 or 6 cells)

Section C - Floral Design: "The Rain, the Park and Other Things"

- Class 26 *Down by the Don* - Design incorporating weathered wood (Space available: Width 48cm, Depth 90 cm, Height unlimited)
- Class 27 *The Green City* - Design to include green vegetables, fruits and/or foliage
 - a. Experienced exhibitors
 - b. Novice exhibitors
- Class 28 *Preserved for the Future* - Contemporary design using dried materials
- Class 29 *Spring Showers* - Design with visible use of water
- Class 30 *Penny Pinching* - Miniature design - not to exceed 12.5 cm
 - a. fresh design
 - b. dried design

Section D - Youth

- Class 31 *Playtime* - A design, using a toy in any manner, using fresh and/or dried plant materials
- Class 32 Seedlings in a cell pack (4 or 6 cells)
- Class 33 Fun in the Park - a dish garden, may include accessories

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. If you're looking for back issues, they're available on the Club's website (www.eygc.ca). At the moment, issues are available from January 2003 onward. In another few months, newsletters from earlier years will also become available.

2005 Membership

If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2005, you can do so at any regular Club meeting, or by mailing in the form at the bottom of page 6. A yearbook, six newsletters, and of course, 10 meetings with interesting speakers and the opportunity to meet with other East York gardeners make it one of the best bargains around.

Rockery Update

Diane Ronan

On February 9, a meeting was held at the East York Civic Centre to discuss the ongoing work at *The Rockery*. In attendance were Chris Ronson, City of Toronto Landscape Architect; Janet Davis, City Councillor, Ward 31 Beaches-East York; Bob Ward, Supervisor of Parks, South District, North Region (east); and members of The East York Garden Club including Malcolm Geast, Dawn McEachern, Denise Alexander, Glen Hutzul, Leslie Steinberg and Diane Ronan.

As well as discussing the ongoing work, the purpose of the meeting was to review preliminary drawings prepared by the landscape architect, as to how he envisions the future rockery and surrounding area. Suggestions were taken from those present, and final drawings have been prepared that we can now use as a guideline. These drawings are available to anyone who wants to see them. Just contact Diane Ronan. Glen Hutzul has even offered to work on a 3-D model that will help us visualize *The Rockery* plans.

The Garden Club was praised by both Bob Ward, from Parks and Recreation, and Councillor Janet Davis for the effort we have made to preserve *The Rockery* and the contribution we have made to cleaning up and beautifying the community. We have their full support for our ongoing project. Let's make 2005 another productive year!



Ready for another season of blooms

Spring Clean-up

There's still snow on the ground, and the mercury is having a difficult time climbing above the zero mark, but nevertheless, it's time to start thinking about the spring clean-up. When this snow does eventually disappear, we will, unfortunately, discover the garbage that has been hidden for the past few months. Once again this year we'll be a part of the City of Toronto's Clean-up Day, on April 23. The Rockery and surrounding areas at Stan Wadlow Park will be our target area, as we do our part to make East York a pleasant place to live. We'll be starting at 9:00 a.m., and expect to be done by 11:00 a.m. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the March and April meetings. For more information, call Diane Ronan at 416-421-6631.

Don't forget to wear appropriate clothing for the day, such as gloves and boots. Other items such as bottled water, sunscreen and a pail for sharp objects can also be useful.

On Saturday, June 4, we'll also be participating in one of the City's Environment Days. This is an occasion for us to let the community know about us and what we do. It's also an opportunity for us to do some fund-raising in support of *The Rockery* restoration. We'll likely be selling plants or baked goods. If you have any other suggestions, or would like to volunteer, please contact Diane Ronan.

Word Watch

The proper pronunciation of plant names is something that confounds most of us. Usually it's because it's a string of long Latin words that we're trying to say. But sometimes even when we think we've got it correct, we're wrong. One of the best examples of this is the Fuchsia. Usually pronounced like "few-shia", it's actually more like "Fooks-ia". The name comes, not from the colour, but from Leonard Fuchs, a sixteenth-century German botanist who published a book with unusually beautiful woodcuts of plants. And of course, since the word comes from a name, it should always be capitalized.

Philadelphia Flower Show

Six Club members went on the OHA District 5 trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show, the largest contingent from any single affiliated club. Billed as the world's largest indoor flower show, the Philadelphia show offered display gardens, exhibits, lectures, competitions and a market place. Display gardens ranged from Lucie's favourite, a natural woodland garden devoid of any "contrived" features, to interpretative gardens such as the "Painter's Pallet" with its colour scheme arranged as a painter would arrange paint on his pallet. An outstanding display of National Park photographs was Helen's favourite, while Roz enjoyed the Eagle's Nest in the woods exhibit.



The four-day trip included an outing to Longwood Gardens where the group was taken on a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the production sheds and greenhouses. We were fortunate to be there when the Himalayan blue poppy (*meconopsis betonicifolia*) was in

bloom in the Conservatory, a multi-roomed structure housing many rare and unusual plants and, according to the guide, the hardest plant to grow indoors – a lawn. The Conservatory is arranged according to growing conditions, so that one moves from a Mediterranean garden to a desert to a roomful of orchids. Betty, who has visited Longwood previously, said this is a site worth visiting in summer when the marvelous outdoor beds are in bloom and the fountains flowing.

A second house visited, Winterthur, was a former home of the DuPont family. A tour of the house and an optional tram tour of the gardens added this site as another place to visit in summer when the gardens are at their finest.

A dinner hosted by "Ben Franklin" and a walking tour of Philadelphia led by "William Penn" provided a quick review of American Revolutionary History. A tired-but-happy group returned to Toronto on Tuesday, March 8.



Spending Some Thoughtful Time in the Garden

Your garden may be smarter than you expect. A report in the March 3 issue of The Christian Science Monitor, notes that the strangleweed can make decisions based on the presence of friends, foes, and food. The may apples that many of us grow can plan two years ahead, apparently based on weather patterns. The results of new studies into plant behaviour are increasingly showing that plants' awareness and reactions to their surroundings are signs of intelligence. One Nobel Prize-winning plant geneticist has suggested that plants are "thoughtful", while others have note that plant can

communicate with each other and with insects by exhaling gas in a coded pattern. A few researchers even suggest that some plant motion indicates an ability to perform Euclidean geometry. The apparent capability of some plants to exert power over other species is also seen as evidence that there is more than just a mechanical directive taking place.

The complete article can be found on-line at www.csmonitor.com/2005/0303/p01s03-usgn.html.

Say Cheese.....

Every year since the inception of the Photo Contest in 2000, we've made some minor adjustments to the rules, and we've included a category or two that we feel may provide a challenge. This year is no exception.

A couple of years ago, recognizing that a few of the Club's members had acquired digital cameras, we introduced an "Anything Grows" category for digitals only. There were only a couple of entries that first year; but in 2004, it jumped to nine. With digital cameras becoming a part of mainstream photography (a recent study showed that 45% of Canadians now have access to one), we decided to remove the separate category, so that either film or digital cameras can be used for any of the categories.

Many of the members of the Club have children who we would like to participate in gardening activities. To encourage this, we have added two more categories, both of them "Anything Grows", for children (or grandchildren) of Club members, one for those aged 6 to 10, and another for the 11 to 17-year-olds

We have two categories that are of particular interest this year. Photographs of horticultural subjects often use colour to achieve the desired impact. The challenge for you this year comes in Category 2, in which you have the opportunity to show that colour isn't always needed to make that impact. Category 3 will give you another opportunity, this time to help showcase The Rockery, and the work that the Club is doing to restore it.

New Members

Please extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have recently joined the Club. Please welcome them and take the time to answer any questions that they may have about our Club.

Christina Brassler Leslie Fitzgibbons
Kathy Zaremba Marie Sharp
Sue Francis

Here are the photo contest categories for 2005:

1. Captured Beauty
2. Black & White (anything with a horticultural subject)
3. The Rockery (pictures taken at the Stan Wadlow Rockery)
4. An Arrangement of Flowers
5. Quiet Time in the Garden
6. For the Birds
7. Anything Grows (any horticultural subject) (children's category, ages 6-10)
8. Anything Grows (any horticultural subject) (youth category, ages 11-17)

Complete rules and categories (including those for 2006) can be found on pages 8 & 9 of your yearbook.

Special Offer

Again this year, Humber Nurseries is offering OHA members a 30% savings coupon. This year, it's valid any day of the year, and will save you money on perennials. Humber Nurseries is located on Hwy 50 (Albion Road), just north of Steeles and south of Highway 7. Remember to take along your EYGC membership card.

HUMBER NURSERIES LTD.

2005 Exclusive Offer to Members of Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs

**30% Off Perennials One Day Only,
Any Day of the Year**

(With proof of membership and this coupon)



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Phone: 905-794-0555 or 416-798-8733 Fax: 905-794-1311
www.humbernurseries.com
humber@gardencentre.com

Upcoming Events

March 17 to 20

The Success with Gardening Show and The Home & Garden Show at the International Centre
The second of Toronto's two main spring gardening shows returns for its 12th year. Opens at 10:00 a.m. each day. Admission is \$12.

Saturday, March 19

Seedy Saturday at the Scadding Court Community Centre (southeast corner of Dundas & Bathurst)
Set aside the day for this seed exchange, eco-fair and gardening event. Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 7

Green Roofs and Sustainable Garden Design at the Toronto Botanical Garden – Cornelia Hahn Oberlander, one of Canada's premier landscape architects, will discuss the growing awareness of green roofs, as well as the importance and benefits of designing buildings and gardens that are sustainable and environmentally responsible. Admission is \$12, members free. Begins at 7:30 p.m.

April 7 to 10 (Thursday to Sunday)

Ontario Garden Show at the Royal Botanical Gardens – The 9th annual edition of the RBG's outdoor gardening and design show, featuring garden products, plants and seeds, gazebos, furniture and books. Guest gardening experts will be on hand to give helpful tips.

Tuesday, April 12

The Organic Home Garden at the Toronto Botanical Garden – Patrick Lima, author of the Harrowsmith Perennial Garden, promises to engage both newcomers and seasoned growers with his recipe for a thriving organic garden appropriate for any urban or suburban yard. Admission is \$12, members free. Begins at 7:30 p.m.

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

2005 Membership Form

Name

Address

Postal Code..... Phone #

email

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees for 2005 are \$20 for a single, and \$30 for a family membership. Fees can be paid in person at a regular meeting of the Club or by mailing this form and a cheque (payable to "East York Garden Club") to:

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