

The East York Garden

Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

May & June, 2006

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. Refreshments are available at 7:00 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-President:
Dawn McEachern

Newsletter Editor:
Malcolm Geast

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Speakers: Master Gardeners

Topic: Lawns – A Panel Discussion

Grasses and Alternatives, Lawn care, Pests and Diseases A Master Gardeners panel will help us to care for (or change) our lawns, especially with the new pesticide regulations.

This will be a busy night, as we'll have our first flower show of the year, as well as our Annual Plant Sale at the conclusion of the meeting. See page 3 for information about the Plant Sale.

Members whose surnames begin with M, N, or O are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea. There will not be a draw table at this meeting.

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Speakers: Hazel & Joe Cook

Topic: Delphiniums to Die For

At Blossom Hill Nursery, Hazel & Joe specialize in delphiniums. Currently they are breeding exciting new varieties as hardy and disease resistant as possible, while maintaining semi-double florets in a wide range of colours. They will be bringing some peonies (from a collection of over 180, including heritage varieties) and delphiniums for you to purchase.

This meeting will also feature our second flower show of the year.

Members whose surnames begin with P, Q, or R are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea. There will be a draw table following the meeting.

Don't forget...Our meetings begin at 7:30, but refreshments are available at 7:00. Come early to give yourself time to enjoy some conversation and cookies.

Over the past few months the starting times of our meetings have gradually been slipping, and sometimes haven't really started until almost 7:45. In May, we'll be pushing that time back, and we'll be starting at 7:30 sharp.



Also in June

Sunday June 25: *The Alluring Gardens of East York* – a self-guided tour of 12 inspiring gardens. Full details can be found on page 3

Community Clean-up Day, April 22

Diane Ronan

Strange how it's almost become a tradition that Community Clean-up Day will be wet and cold. However, 23 volunteers braved the elements and helped clean up The Rockery and surrounding area at Stan Wadlow Park. Thanks to the following club members who joined me: Elaine, William and Doreen Penman; Barb Foster; Brenda MacKinnon; Diane Bickers; Judy MacDougall; Susan Bartlett; Wini Stoddart and Cynthia Townshend. Six people from the community came out to lend their support and to say "Thanks" for our efforts at The Rockery. Four skate-boarders (whose strong backs were very welcome) arrived to offer their help as well. After all, we are going to be neighbours. Councillor Janet Davis and her assistant Erin George rounded out the work team. It was a good day!

Canada Day Parade

Margaret McRae

We are looking forward to our participation in the Canada Day Parade. We have 12 walkers signed up and would be happy to have more join us. Members of the Planning Committee will be contacting those who signed up to reconfirm and ask what you would like to carry, push or pull. We will need two people to carry the banner and others can pull a wagon of plants or carry large tools like a fork, spade or loppers. We plan to wear Club t-shirts but could accommodate someone who prefers to dress up in an appropriate costume.

If you would like to join us or if you have any suggestions please contact Margaret McRae at margmc@sympatico.ca or 416-429-7821 or any member of the planning committee.

East York Multicultural Day, May 7

Diane Ronan

The 28th East York Multicultural Day at East York Collegiate was an opportunity to meet our neighbours and other community groups; introduce them to The East York Garden Club and share with them the experience of exciting food, song and dance served up by the multicultural citizens of East York. Thanks to the following Club members who volunteered their time: Veronica Callinan; Dawn McEachern; Malcolm Geast; Darina Quinn; Linda Boyko and Brian Rowe. The

Club executive decided to offer visitors to the event an opportunity to win two free tickets for our garden tour "The Alluring Gardens of East York". This generated interest in the Club and the draw will be made at our next general meeting.



Please keep in mind that our next community event will be Environment Day at Stan Wadlow Park Clubhouse on Saturday June 3, 2006.

*EYGC members at East York Multicultural Day
(Thanks to Linda Boyko for the photo)*

May Plant Sale

It's May, and it's time for our Annual Plant Sale. Most of you know the routine: you bring in your extra perennials, biennials, annuals, bulbs, tubers, and corms, and we sell them. You can even bring in your extra seeds. If you can plant it in the ground, we'll accept it as a donation!

You can help us make the sale easier by bringing in your plants in containers, with their names and colours identified. If your plant is unusual or rare, please suggest a price. This is a great opportunity to purchase East York plants, those that grow well in our district – and at a very reasonable price!

As we've done for the past couple of years, along with the plants, we'll be selling Garden Treasures. All the accessories that go with gardening: garden books, pots & planters, tools, lanterns, candle holders, anything and everything that you would use in the garden. If your shed or garage is becoming a place where you store tools that are useful, but no longer used, we welcome your donations. Whether it's trowels, forks, pruners, books, or garden ornaments, if you have still-usable gardening items that you don't use anymore, bring them along on Thursday evening. These items go on sale at 7:00 p.m, so the earlier you get there, the better the selection.

The plant sale begins when the evening's presentations are finished, likely between 8:30 and 8:45. We'll be cutting the prices near the end of the sale, but to make sure you get the plant you really want, make sure you buy it early. There are usually incredible bargains for the beginning gardener. With a central cashier and colour-coded price stickers on every plant, it should be easy and quick to pick up and pay for your treasures!

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).

2006 Garden Tour

Our 2006 garden tour, **The Alluring Gardens of East York** will be taking place on Sunday, June 25, running from noon to 5:00 p.m. There are 12 gardens on the tour, including an English-style perennial garden, ravine gardens, cottage gardens, shade gardens, and full-sun gardens. As well, you'll see ponds, native perennials, annuals, topiary, and some unusual, whimsical items.

Tickets are \$10 each, and are now available at three locations:

- Bill's Garden Centre at 903 Pape Avenue (on the east side, one block south of Mortimer)
- Peter's Paint & Paper at 1062 Coxwell Avenue (on the west side, near O'Connor)
- Grassroots at 372 Danforth Avenue (on the north side, a few stores west of Chester)

And of course, we'll be selling them at our May and June meetings.

In order to make this tour a success, we need your help. On the day of the tour, we'll require volunteers to assist in the gardens. We need to have a person to welcome visitors in the front of the house, and another in the back to help with questions. This doesn't require extensive horticultural expertise, as the garden owner will usually be available to answer any inquiries about their garden. This means that we need about 25 volunteers. With only about a dozen so far, we'll be asking for more of you to sign up at our May meeting.

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.

Heather Walker	Leila Junaid
Akemi Kobayashi	Beverly Janes
Rod Rennick	Margaret Morris

Bus Tour

This year's bus tour will take place on Saturday, September 9. We'll be leaving from Stan Wadlow at 8:00 a.m., returning about 6:00 p.m. Our destination will be the Acton area, where we'll be visiting two truly exceptional gardens and the equally-exceptional Lost Horizons Nursery. After a hot buffet lunch in Guelph, we'll be headed off to another magnificent garden in Fergus. We had hoped to be able to drop in at Marion Jarvie's garden in Thornhill, but we've decided to forego that visit this year, so that we won't be rushed at the other stops on the tour.

The cost for the tour is \$55, including lunch and the bus driver's tip. There are still a few seats left. If you are interested but haven't signed up already, phone Roz (416-759-6247) or you can sign up at the May meeting.

Spirit Garden at Gledhill Public School

A new project at Gledhill Public School aims to bring gardening and teaching together. Recently after two of our members attended a consultation meeting for the project, we received this invitation:

Please spread the word about an exciting new project at Gledhill Public School – a garden and outdoor classroom for the community! We welcome advice, support, ideas, donations, you name it! Currently, we are involved in the planning phase.

We truly want this to be a beautiful oasis for the community.

Feel free to join our Greening Committee by contacting Mary-Margaret McMahon at 416-693-9276 or spargy@rogers.com.



2006 Photo Contest

Spring – the time for our gardens to be reborn with new growth, as our favourite perennials reappear with wonderful green foliage and colourful flowers. But also appearing are some of our not-so-favourite weeds. This year, you can be happy to see some of those uninvited interlopers. Included in our photography contest in 2006 is a category dedicated to weeds. This is your opportunity to show that, while they too often show up in places we don't want them, weeds sometimes do have some attractive qualities.

Other categories in the contest are Captured Beauty, Water Feature, Wildflowers, Just Maples, Down the Garden Path, and Anything Grows. There are no added explanations with the category names this year – we're leaving it up to you to give them your own interpretation. And, as in 2005, Anything Grows is split in two, one for those aged 6 to 10 and the other for 11 to 17 years old.

As we've mentioned before, this year we'll be presenting a trophy for the most points in the monthly flower shows. We'll also be awarding a new trophy for the most points in the Photography Contest. Points will be awarded in each category on

a 3-2-1 basis (3 for 1st place, 2 for 2nd, 1 for 3rd). We hope to be able to show you the award in September, but at this point, we're still looking for a name. "The EYGC Photo Contest Award" doesn't sound very exciting, and the other names we've thought of haven't been particularly inspiring. Let us know your suggestions for a name. We are quite happy to entertain any ideas.

2006 is the seventh year for the contest. This will also be its last in its current form. In 2007 we expect to make some interesting and exciting changes that we're sure will interest all members of the Club.

And of course, don't forget about the competitions at the OHA Convention in August. There are 11 categories in each of the photo, slide, and art competitions. A complete list can be found on the OHA's website (www.gardenontario.org). We'll also have information available at our May meeting. The closing date for entries is June 1. In 2005, Linda Boyko was first place winner in the category "A Tribute to Ontario". Let's see if we can have another winner this year!

The Front Yard Contest Blooms Again

Malcolm Geast

Many of you will remember the Mayor's Blooming Contest, the competition which saw awards given to the most attractive and beautiful front yards in East York. Begun in the mid-eighties, it underwent a small name change after amalgamation (to the East York Blooming Contest), and then was dropped completely about five years ago. I'm happy to let you know that it looks like the competition will be returning this year.

At the moment the details have not been finalized. The organizing committee, which consists of two members of Janet Davis's office, two members of the City's Parks & Recreation department, and one member of our Club, will be working out the arrangements in the next week or two. But I can fill you in on some of the important aspects.

In the former contest, members of our Club and the Leaside Garden Society looked at every property in the borough, in order to come up with a rather long short-list of attractive front yards. These were then judged, and winners declared. This time, gardens will be nominated and then judged.

Since this is a new competition, and since we're starting at a relatively late date, the committee feels that it's best if we start small, with the hope of growing a little larger in the years to come. The area of eligible properties will include Wards 29 & 31 (i.e., those areas served by Councillors Case Ootes & Janet Davis).

Publicity and an awards presentation will largely be handled by the City of Toronto. Our main role will be to provide judges. Again, because we're still putting together some of the planning details, I'm not yet sure how we'll be handling this. However, it is my expectation that I'll be asking club members to do at least some of the judging. This will become clearer over the next few days, and I expect to be able to discuss it with some degree of certainty at the Club's May meeting.

But, in the meantime, take a look around, and think about which gardens (including your own) that you may wish to see nominated.

Wearing EYGC

Malcolm Geast

New EYGC apparel will soon be available. In honour of our 80th anniversary, a new logo (shown here) has been designed (thanks to Karen Bell). At the May and June meeting we will be taking orders for t-shirts and golf shirts. The price for a t-shirt will be \$15, and for a golf shirt, \$35.



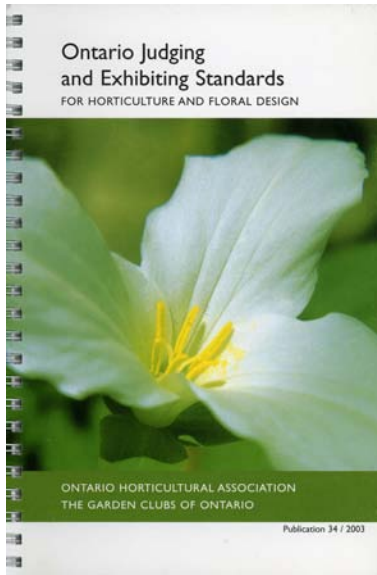
They will be a dark green, similar to the shirt we sold a few years ago, with the logo in the upper-left corner. The

logo will be printed on the t-shirt and embroidered on the golf shirt. At this point we're a little unsure of how much demand there is for each kind of shirt. A minimum order of 10 will be required for each shirt for us to make an order. If there are enough orders at the May meeting, we expect to have them delivered before the beginning of June.



A few notes about flower shows...

- Congratulations to Vera Stoyanoff and Betty Meyers. At the District 5 AGM in Markham on April 22, Vera received a second place for her dish garden and a third for a potted succulent. Betty took second in the Herb (1 cultivar) class.
- The categories, rules, and tips for our flower shows are now all available on our website.
- We still have a few copies of the Ontario Judging & Exhibiting Standards manual (also known as Publication 34). They'll be available for \$6.00 at the May meeting.



Upcoming Events

- May 20 to 22 and 27 & 28 - **Lilac Celebration**, at the Royal Botanical Gardens (Burlington). (Regular Admission applies)
- Wednesday, May 30 - **Trilliums & Woodlanders**, 7:30 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie). (\$15 admission, free for members)
- Saturday, June 3 - **Toronto Region Iris Society Annual Show**, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie). (free admission)
- June 9 to 11 - **The Niagara Flower & Garden Show** at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens. 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. (\$10 admission)
- June 17 & 18 - **Peony Festival** at the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens (155 Arena Street, Oshawa). 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. (Free admission)
- June 21 & 22 - **Solstice** at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie) - Milne House Garden Club's 38th Annual Flower & Garden Show. Opens at 10:00 a.m. each day (\$6 admission)

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

East York Garden Club Membership Form

Name

Address

Postal Code..... Phone #

email

(Note that we will only use your email address to send you EYGC information. **We do not distribute it to anyone else.**)

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees for 2006 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