

The East York Garden

Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

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, please contact Suzanne Bond at 416-423-5857.

Visit us on the web at www.eygc.ca

President:

Veronica Callinan

Vice President:

Linda Boyko

Susan Bartlett

Newsletter Editor:

Susan Bartlett

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Arthur Beauregard – Mosaiculture

Arthur Beauregard is the Executive Director of the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation which works to raise funding to preserve and enhance Toronto green spaces. He has decades of horticultural experience including managing displays in Toronto's conservatories, at Canada Blooms and at international Mosaiculture competitions in Montreal and in Shanghai.

Mosaiculture is the art of creating two dimensional carpet beds and three dimensional living plant sculptures and is most often used to share artistic vision and culture. This presentation will provide spectacular images from the 2003 (Montreal) and 2006 (Shanghai) International Mosaiculture expositions where the collective imagination of close to 70 cities from 32 countries were on display.

Practical means of implementing mosaiculture on a modest scale will be provided, as part of the "how-to-do" portion of the presentation. Members whose surnames begin with A and B are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea. There be a draw following the talk.

Thursday, February 21, 2008

Jeff Mason – Xeriscaping

Jeff Mason of Mason Hogue Gardens, a specialty plant nursery, is a self-confessed plant nerd. With over 20 years in the horticultural field, Jeff has acquired extensive knowledge of plants and their growth habits, an essential element for successful garden design. His lectures are filled with useful information and practical gardening tips.

Members whose surnames begin with C and D are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea. There will also be a 50/50 draw.



Don't forget at our regular meetings the doors open at 7:00 p.m. Coffee and treats will be available as well as an opportunity to mingle with other club members.

From the President's Patch

by *Veronica Callinan*

Happy New Year! Another year gone already! How fast time flies.

Yet, how much we accomplished in 12 months. What with bus trips, the summer pot luck, garden tours, regular flower shows, seed exchanges, regular meetings, the November pot luck, the Annual Flower Show & Tea - it's hard to believe we still participated in the East York Blooming Contest, Canada Day Parade and Booth and Environment Day. But wait! There's more (as the saying goes)...the list is so long. And 2008 will be no different – there will be lots to do, share and enjoy.

Enjoyment! Isn't that what gardening is all about? Hopefully the plants, information and tips you gain from the EYGC, will help you enjoy your garden even more. This year's line-up of speakers is bound to increase your gardening knowledge. As will tips and tricks you pick up from fellow Club members, and the Newsletter. Speaking of enjoyment, I'm looking forward to the social events, too. There will be plenty of food, stories, and laughter.

Winter brings several gardening forums, to help take us over to spring. The first one is "Get the Jump on Spring" at the Toronto Botanical Garden, February 16. Next comes "The Successful Gardening Show" at the International Centre, March 6 to 9. And finally, "Canada Blooms" at the Metro Convention Centre, March 12 to 16. The OHA will be looking for volunteers to help out at their table at these shows – always an enjoyable experience, so please consider donating some time. Please contact Malcolm Geast (416-429-4719), if you'd like to volunteer.

If I have any goals as the incoming President, it's to "increase". (Not my girth, I've already done that over the Holidays, and enjoyed every bite). I'm hoping we can increase membership, increase East York's awareness of our Club, and increase opportunities for our members to learn from each other. I admit, these goals aren't "sexy". But, each goal either contributes to, or benefits from, the others. So, achieving these goals will be evidence that you, our members, are getting out of the Club what you want, and giving it what you can.

Here's to the New Year – may it bring you health, happiness, and a garden full of dreams. As always, feel free to contact me, veronica@eygc.ca, or 416.750.9758



In Memoriam

We are saddened to report that long-time member Janet Badali passed away in December. A member of our Club since 1985, Janet was always willing to lend a hand, to provide plants from her garden for plant sales, and to share her bountiful gardening knowledge with us.

Janet grew everything from fruit and vegetables to perennials, but she developed a real passion for peonies, hostas and daylilies. She was a Charter Member of the Daylily Society and eventually became a daylily hybridizer. She was also a major garden show exhibitor, even showing some of her own creations. While frugal in her own life, she was extraordinarily generous in sharing her time and knowledge with anyone who wanted to learn. Her garden was always open to anyone who wanted to tour it.

She was kind and generous yet feisty, eagerly hunting down and squishing every nasty bug that she found. She donated thousands of plants for both our spring and Canada Day plant sales. She always had enough plants left that she could give one to the novice garden club member. She was generous with her time too, showing me how to root rose cuttings, ground layer a honeysuckle vine or transplant her beloved daylilies and iris. She was a consummate volunteer.

I was privileged to know her. She will be fondly remembered for many years.

Glen Hutzul

"I liked Janet and I will miss her. She was blunt and honest with her opinions. She'd tell you if you were digging up a plant the wrong way or if you had put on a couple of extra pounds. But if she felt that you shared her love of gardening, she was more than generous with her knowledge and her extensive plant collection. I am pleased to have off-springs of Janet's plants in my garden and I'm sure that she'll remind me if I'm not treating them properly. Janet, may you garden forever. With love, Diane"

Diane Ronan

With thanks to Betty Myers, Diane Ronan and Glen Hutzul

Photo Contest

by *Malcolm Geast*

Don't forget that we'll be having our People's Choice Photography Contests in January and February. This is an opportunity for all members to participate, as all members who attend the meetings will be able to vote to decide the winners.

The category for January is "Christmas Flowers", and for February it's "Red Hot". Both of these categories are open to your interpretation, so feel free to be imaginative and creative.

The procedures will be the same as last year: Bring your photo to the meeting by 7:15 p.m., with your name on the back (please don't put any identifying marks on the front). Your photos (one per member) should be no larger than 5 by 7 inches (approximately 13 by 18 cm)

We'll have all the photos laid out on a table, and will ask the membership to vote for the best picture. Ballots will be available for all members. It will be done on the honour system, so please take only one ballot.

First, Second, and Third Prize winners will receive ribbons and points to be counted toward the awarding of the annual trophy.

Hosta Virus X ("HVX")

WHAT IS HVX? Hosta Virus X is a relatively new virus that infects Hostas.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW: Because it can take years before an infected plant shows symptoms, HVX has been spreading around the world since it was first identified in 1996.

The virus is permanent and will be with the plant until it dies. HVX is now the most common Hosta virus. So far it has only infected Hostas. No Hostas should be considered immune at this time.

HOW IS THE VIRUS TRANSMITTED? This virus is transmitted primarily when infected sap comes in contact with a healthy plant such as can happen if a cutting tool is not disinfected between plants. In nurseries, some propagation methods can cause infections in thousands of plants.

At home, dividing Hostas, removing bloom scapes, removing leaves, stepping on them, even accidentally running the lawnmower over them can spread this virus. An infected plant without symptoms is still infectious.

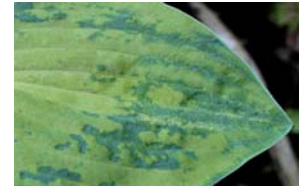
HOW HARMFUL IS THE VIRUS TO THE PLANTS? Eventually, some deterioration in the health of the plant may occur, but a plant can survive for many years after being infected.

The expression of virus symptoms can disappear, but this does not mean the plant is cured. The virus is still present in the plant and still able to infect other plants.

If we ignore the presence of Hosta Virus X in our gardens or nurseries, it will continue to spread to the point that the number of infected plants could increase beyond any hope of eliminating the virus.



Hosta June with Inkbleed



Hosta Gold Edger

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY HOSTAS ARE

INFECTED WITH HVX? If a plant does not show symptoms only scientific testing can determine if it is infected with the virus - there is no way for the gardener to tell.

If you have not added new Hostas to your garden over the last few years, yours are more likely to be virus free, providing your tools were not used in other gardens.

Symptoms can vary considerably with the same virus, and different strains of a virus may cause different symptoms. They include mottling, darker coloured lines along veins ("inkbleed"), sunken green areas, thin and wrinkled leaf tissue, leaf distortion. The virus can also make the infected plant more compact.

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO MAKE SURE I DON'T HAVE THE VIRUS IN MY GARDEN? Thousands of virus-infected Hostas have already been sold at the retail level, so many gardens could now harbour this disease. All gardeners should be aware of HVX and be careful to avoid spreading it to other plants and to other gardens.

Hosta Virus X ... cont'd

If you suspect one of your plants is infected, you should remove the whole plant.

Plants should be dug carefully to get as many roots as possible, and the spot should not be replanted with Hostas until any remaining roots have died and rotted away. Plants that have been dug out should be left to dry in the sun before disposing of them. HVX survives only in living plant tissue.

When you cut Hostas, do it safely by cleaning your tools thoroughly with bleach or ammonia after each plant. Get in the habit of also washing your hands after getting Hosta sap on them and before touching other Hostas. Wearing garden gloves might make it more difficult to avoid transferring Hosta sap between plants.

Keep string trimmers and lawn mowers away from Hosta leaves.



Hosta Striptease



Hosta Sum and Substance

Some Hosta cultivars have natural colouring or striping, so it is important to know what is “normal” for a given cultivar. Do not buy plants from batches that show even the slightest suspicious markings on even one plant. If you have these plants from such batches, dispose of them immediately.

It is best that you buy Hostas only at nurseries and only after asking the owners how confident they are that their stock is virus-free.

Some varieties may have actually been named for the virus symptoms they display.

Before this virus was widely known, some infected plants were thought to be new varieties of Hosta and were given names. All plants with the following cultivar names are thought to be infected and purchase of these is not recommended: Breakdance, Eternal Father, Leopard Frog, and Lunacy.

Each of the following cultivars is also thought to be an expression of HVX symptoms and best left out of your garden for now: Blue Freckles, Dotted Fantasy, Kiwi

Dreadlocks, Kiwi Watercolours, Pamela Ann, Parkish Gold, Strip Show, and Tye Dye.

Cultivars that have a high percentage of infected plants in the marketplace and that should be closely inspected and investigated before purchase:

Birchwood Parkyís Gold, Blue Cadet, Corona, Gold Edger, Gold Standard, Golden Tiara, Goldrush, Honeybells, Royal Standard, So Sweet, Stiletto, Striptease, Sweet Susan, Sum and Substance, Undulata Albomarginata, *H. ventricosa* (species), and *Venucosa*.

Cultivars for which there have been some infected batches in the marketplace: Abby, Diamond Tiara, El Niño, Ground Master, Guacamole, Janet, June, Katherine Lewis, Krossa Regal, Minuteman, Night Before Christmas, Pacific Blue Edger, Patriot, Paradise Joyce, Regal Splendor, Revolution, Sagae, Sun Power, Sugar and Cream, *H. tardiva*, Yellow Splash Rim.

YOU CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF HVX.

Inform friends and neighbours if you see plants with HVX symptoms in their gardens. Point them to more information and photos if they are not convinced.

HVX is still new and some nursery people may still be unaware of it. If you notice any plants on their premises that are possibly infected, you could advise the owner or manager on duty. Inform them about the virus and point them to places where they can receive more information about it.

The preceding article was reprinted from the Winter issue of the Ontario Horticultural Association newsletter *Trillium*. The complete issue can be viewed at www.gardenontario.org/gar/news1.php?news=173

Researched and written by Monique Pare, Ottawa-Carleton Master Gardeners

Reviewed by the Ottawa-Carleton MG Editorial Committee

Photos : courtesy of the Hosta Library at <http://www.Hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HVX.htm>

By-Law Change by Malcolm Geast

Every year we like to sit down and take a look at our by-laws to see if there are any changes that we should make to improve the way that the Club is run. After a complete rewriting of the by-laws in 2003, there have been a few items related to dates and fees that have been amended.

By-law Change ... cont'd

These changes have generally taken place as the result of a vote at the November Annual Meeting. This year however, we'd like to make a change at an earlier meeting, in order to facilitate our end-of-year financial report in November.

Several years ago, the fiscal year was moved from December 31 to October 31, so that a financial report could be presented at the Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately, even this earlier date has frequently not been sufficiently early. The usual late arrival of bank statements can make it all but impossible to have all the records completed and reviewed in time for the meeting. As a result we're proposing that our financial year be moved one month forward, to the end of September. This will have no significant effect on any other of the Club's operations (our membership year will still run from January to December), but it will make life a little easier for our treasurer and the financial reviewers.

At the January meeting, I will be making the following motion:

“Amend subsection 3(d) of the bylaws to read “The fiscal year of the club is October 1 to September 30. The change is to take effect with the current fiscal year.”

A vote will take place at the March meeting.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 30, 2008

The Plant Collector's Spring Garden at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie)

Glenis Dyer, expert on spring perennials that are hardy and different, will speak about planning an unusual spring garden. Begins at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$35, \$20 for members.

Further information:

<http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/programs/edwardslectures.htm>

February 9 & 10, 2008 (Saturday & Sunday)

2008 Orchid Show at the Toronto Botanical Garden

Open to the general public 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00, children 12 & under free. Further information and a discount coupon: <http://www.soos.ca/Show08/index.htm>

Saturday, February 16, 2008

Get the Jump on Spring - Toronto Botanical Garden

Spend the day at the Toronto Botanical Garden and soak up all of the information you'll need to prepare for the coming spring. From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free admission and parking. Further information:

<http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/events/gtjos.htm>

February 28 - March 2, 2008 (Thursday - Sunday)

Stratford Garden Festival at the Stratford Coliseum in Stratford

Special theme gardens, a marketplace and four days of interesting presentations on various gardening topics.

Admission is only \$8.00 per person. Further information:

<http://www.stratfordgardenfestival.com/>

March 6 to 9, 2008 (Thursday to Sunday)

The International Home & Garden Show and The Successful Gardening Show at the

International Centre (Airport Road & Derry

Road) The first of Toronto's two main spring gardening shows returns for its 16th year. Further

Information: <http://www.home->

[show.net/successwithgardening/index.html](http://www.home-show.net/successwithgardening/index.html)

March 12 to 16, 2008 (Wednesday to Sunday)

Canada Blooms at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building

The largest flower and garden show in the country returns for another year. Further information:

<http://www.canadablooms.com/>

Sunday, February 24, 2008

Ontario Hosta Society Meeting at the Toronto Botanical Garden

Guest speaker will be Mark Zillis, author of *The Hosta Handbook*. Special theme gardens, marketplace and four days of presentations on various gardening topics. Admission \$8.00 per person. Further

information: <http://www.ontariohostasociety.com/>

Green Products

Some of you wanted the name of the company which made the biodegradable cutlery and cups for the November AGM. The company is Green Shift and their website is www.GreenShift.ca, Telephone: 416-925-9665, or email info@GreenShift.ca.

EYGC 2008 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

January 17	Speaker: Arthur Beauregard <i>Mosaiculture at Home and Abroad</i>
February 21	Speaker: Jeff Mason <i>Xeriscaping How to garden in a drier climate</i>
March 20	Speaker: Anna Leggatt <i>The Hedge and Beyond. A look at hedge choice, maintenance and alternatives</i>
April 17	Speaker: Lorelei Hepburn <i>Environmentally Friendly Gardening without Chemicals</i>
May 15	Speaker: Des Kennedy <i>Ten Commandments of Gardening</i> First Flower Show
June 19	Speaker: Reggie Morgan <i>Daylilies to Die for</i> Flower Show
July 17	Pot luck
August 16	Annual Flower Show and Tea
Sept. 18	Toronto Master Gardeners <i>Gardening Questions Answered from Members & Audience</i> Final Flower Show
October 16	Speaker: Rosemary Dobson <i>Seasonal Wreaths: a demonstration</i>
Nov. 20	Annual General Meeting & Pot Luck Dinner

Membership Renewal

On your 2008 membership renewal form, you'll notice that there are a couple of new items to fill in. The first is straight-forward: to help out in the registration process we've added check boxes for renewals and new memberships.

But the other item requires a short explanation. We're asking you to let us know something about your age. Why are we doing this? The rental rate of the meeting space at Stan Wadlow is governed by the ages of the members of the groups who are using the facility, with a lower rate for those that have a high number of seniors (those over 60) and youth (18 and under). To facilitate this, we're not asking for your exact age, but instead we'd like to know the age group in which you fit. And of course, providing this information is completely voluntary.

District 5 AGM

The 2008 District 5 AGM will take place on April 19 in Holland Landing. Hosted by the Lake Simcoe Gardeners, this year's meeting will have as its theme "Living Green Country Style". Featured speakers will be Martin Galloway and Marjorie Mason. Martin's topic will be "Wildflowers and Their Hybridized Cousins", and Marjorie will be speaking about "Country-Style Gardens in the City & Small Spaces".

As well, there'll be a flower show, a design competition, and door prizes. As always, this is a great opportunity to meet other gardeners from around the GTA. And of course, lunch is included.

Admission will be \$25. There will be a signup sheet at our January and February meetings.

You'll also be able to find out more information at our January meeting, when we'll have a short presentation from Mount Albert's Paul Smith.