

# The East York Garden

Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

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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 Boyd at 416-423-5857.

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

President:

Veronica Callinan

Vice President:

Linda Boyko

Susan Bartlett

Newsletter Editor:

Susan Bartlett



**Thursday, March 20, 2008**

## **Anna Leggatt- The Hedge and Beyond - A look at Hedge Choice, Maintenance and Alternatives**

Anna Leggatt is a Master Gardener and life member of the East York Garden Club. Anna is a nature interpreter at the Kortright Centre for Conservation near Kleinburg. She is also a botanist and an instructor at the Toronto Botanical Gardens, and a regular contributor to several horticultural and gardening magazines. She was recently awarded the OHA's Service Award for her many years of contribution as a volunteer.

Anna will speak on creating garden rooms and micro-climates in the garden with the use of hedges and natural materials rather than hard structures. Hedges provide frameworks for any landscape, add mass, colour, lines and textures. Whether for a windbreak or a knot garden, we will explore the range of hedging plants and how to maintain and shape them.

Members whose surnames begin with E and F are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea. There will be a draw table after the meeting.

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**Thursday, April 17, 2008**

## **Lorelei Hepburn - Environmentally Friendly Gardening without Chemicals**

Lorelei Hepburn is president of The Environmental Factor Inc., an Oshawa-based natural lawn care company. As more and more municipalities are banning pesticides, Lorelei's knowledge and expertise have been greatly in demand. She lectures and writes for a variety of publications about weaning lawns off of chemical dependency, dealing with pests in a non-toxic manner, while still maintaining a healthy and attractive lawn.

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

*Remember that our doors open at 7:00 p.m. for coffee and treats – please help us lessen our environmental footprint by bringing your own coffee mug.*

*Spring is on its way (really!) - inside you will find your Humber Nurseries discount coupon and Vesey's spring brochure.*

## Spring Reminder....



Don't forget that leaf and yard waste pickup resumes the week of April 7. The pickup day is the same as your regular garbage day. It's a weekly schedule until the end of May. Every-other-week collection begins in June, and carries on through the summer.

## OHA Convention

This year, members of garden clubs in the GTA will have an easier opportunity to attend the Ontario Horticultural Association convention. Taking place from **August 22 to 24** (Friday to Sunday morning), the venue for this year's event is a relatively short drive away, at the Sheridan College campus in Brampton. With the theme of "Sharing our Diversity", participants will have the opportunity to meet gardeners from across the province, from those who garden on large country estates to those who garden on small urban lots and balconies.

The program for the convention includes interesting speakers, competitions, seminars, bus trips and workshops. Garden design, pesticide alternatives, unusual perennials, water gardens, front yard gardening, and green roofs are just a few of the speakers' topics. Bus trips include the Humber Arboretum, Gardens in the Sky (green roofs), and a tour of Brampton gardens. Competitions include photography, poetry, art, and of course, horticulture & design. All OHA members are encouraged to enter in any or all of the competitions.

You can attend for all three days, or just one or two days. The early bird rate (register before July 19) is \$75.00 for all three days, or \$45 for a single day. Registration is now open. See [www.ohaconvention.info](http://www.ohaconvention.info)

## 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). The emailed version will get to you a little quicker (Canada Post is fast, but, unlike email, it doesn't provide instant delivery), you'll be able to see the pictures in colour, and you won't accidentally throw it out with the newspapers. And if you're looking for back issues, they're available on our website ([www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)).

## Bus Trip – Sunday, June 8, 2008

There are still spots available for this year's bus tour. The bus will depart Stan Wadlow at 8:00 a.m. First on the itinerary is a visit to Marion Jarvie's garden, then we will visit Mason Hogue for an opportunity to buy plants. Lunch at Parkwood Estates is included in the price (choice of Atlantic salmon or quiche, salad & dessert included). The day will end with a visit to the Oshawa Botanical Gardens, and the bus will drop people off at Stan Wadlow at approximately 5:00 p.m.

The cost is \$60 per person, non-Club members are welcome if you wish to bring a friend. Please speak to Rosalind Regnier, tel. 416-759-6247.

## Community Clean-Up Day

The City will be holding this on Saturday, April 19. The Club usually participates in a Rockery clean-up on Community Clean-Up Day, however for the second year in a row the date coincides with the District 5 AGM. Therefore, a Rockery clean-up will be held **either Sunday April 20 or Saturday April 26**, depending on when people are available. We will be requesting volunteers at the next meeting.

If you wish to participate in the City's official clean-up, watch for Janet Davis' newsletter, as she usually organizes a park clean-up in tandem with other community groups.

## Plants of the Year

by *Malcolm Geast*

It's that time again. Longer days, disappearing snow (we hope!), our favourite perennials emerging from the unfrozen ground. And various "plant of the year" announcements.

This year the Perennial Plant Association has bestowed the "Perennial of the Year" moniker on Geranium 'Rozanne'.

Standing 50 to 60 cm tall, and up to 70 cm wide, this plant sports a multitude of large iridescent violet-blue flowers that have white centres and pronounced purple veins. It grows best in full sun to partial shade, and prefers a moist, well-drained soil.



First discovered growing in the garden of Donald & Rozanne Waterer in Somerset, England in 1989, it doesn't grow from seed or from cuttings. Instead, the process known as "tissue culture" is used. Essentially, this means that propagation takes place by growing new plants from fragments of old plants.

Geranium Rozanne is hardy to zone 5, and is often used in the front of beds or borders. As an energetic grower it's also a good choice for containers and hanging baskets. You'll also find that it has full season appeal, flowering from late spring to late fall.

It's also one of a growing number of plants that has its own website: [www.geraniumrozanne.com](http://www.geraniumrozanne.com)

For Hosta lovers, the American Hosta Growers Association has announced that Blue Mouse Ears will be the 2008 Hosta of the Year. A miniature, it grows 10 to 15 cm tall, has a medium blue-green leaves that are described as "mouse-like", and lavender flowers on

short stems in mid-summer. It also has its own website, which, is a little short on information, but has some very good photos: [www.bluemouseears.com](http://www.bluemouseears.com)

*Calendula officinalis* has been named as Herb of the Year by the International Herb Association. Better known as the pot marigold or English marigold, it's a plant that most of us have grown at some time, usually for its attractive yellow or orange flowers. But as an herb, it has leaves and petals that are edible, and can be used a garnish or in salads. It's also been used as food colouring and as a dye for fabrics. Medicinal uses that are often suggested include the treatment of skin problems. More information can be found in most books on herbs and on the Herb Society of America's website: [www.herbsociety.org/calendula/index.php](http://www.herbsociety.org/calendula/index.php)

## East York Environment Days

**Sat. April 26** - Councillor Case Ootes,  
Dieppe Park, 455 Cosburn  
Ave. (east of Greenwood  
Ave.)

**Sat. June 7** – Councillor Janet Davis,  
Stan Wadlow Clubhouse

Not only are these events a great opportunity to recycle household items, including toxics and old phones, computer parts, etc., you can pick up some free leaf compost from the City. Events run from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. but it's best to arrive first thing if you want compost.

The Club will have a booth at Janet Davis's Environment Day (June 7), and we will be looking for volunteers, as well as donations for the plant sale. There will be a sign-up sheet circulated at the meeting in the spring, or you can speak to any member of the Executive if you can donate plants or time.

## **Weeds: They really are outsmarting us** *From the New Scientist*

Surrounded mostly by concrete rather than fertile soil, urban weeds have evolved - in just a dozen generations - to keep their seeds close to home, which could amplify the genetic isolation produced by habitat fragmentation.

Population geneticist Pierre-Olivier Cheptou and his colleagues at the Centre for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology in Montpellier, France, studied a population of *Crepis sancta*, a small, chicory-like weed that grows in the tiny patches of soil around city trees. *Crepis* can produce two types of seeds: one with a tuft like a dandelion seed, which helps it blow in the wind, and one which lacks the tuft and so falls near the parent plant.

Using artificial soil patches, the team showed that fluffy seeds were only 45 per cent as likely as fluffless seeds to remain within the parent patch. Since seeds that leave the patch are unlikely to find another home, being fluffy is a dead end. Sure enough, urban populations of *Crepis* produce a higher proportion of fluffless seeds than nearby rural populations.

Reprinted from: issue 2646 of *New Scientist* magazine, 08 March 2008, page 17,

<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=mg19726465.400&print=true>

## **OHA District 5 – Gardens of Quebec Tour** **Monday July 7 to Friday July 11, 2008**

The highlight of this trip is a tour of Reford Gardens at Grand Metis. Other days will feature trips to Domaine Joly-DeLotbiniere in Ste. Croix, the Montreal Botanical Gardens/Biodome/Insectarium and Laval Floral trail.

The cost is \$899 per person which includes motor coach transportation, 4 nights accommodation (double occupancy), meals (4 dinners, 2 lunches, 4 breakfasts), gst is included.

For further information contact Margaret Dailey-Plouffe, Group Tour Consultant, DKM Travel Services Limited, 416-410-4680. **Deadline for reserving is March 31, 2008.**

## **January's Meeting** *by Susan Bartlett*

Our January speaker, Jeffrey Mason, gave a very timely and interesting talk on xeriscaping. After buying a large rural property with a limited supply of well water, Jeff and his wife were forced to adopt strict water conservation measures.

However they ended up being very happy with some of their low-maintenance, low-water plots and his slides proved that an attractive, colourful garden can be maintained with very little water.

He gave many examples of plants which are hardy enough to require little watering. He also stressed the importance of grouping plants that require little water together. What really stood out was that we may already have many drought resistant plants in our garden and are guilty of over-watering them, lavender being one example.

Sometimes we don't realize what we have: Jeff's enthusiastic recommendation of barberry gave me a new-found more respect for the barberry bushes that came with my house (probably pre-ban), which have thrived year after year despite being neglected.



## **Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests**

LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) is a local non-profit group dedicated to improving Toronto's urban forest. LEAF offers subsidized native tree plantings in the backyards of Toronto homes. By planting native trees and shrubs, we improve our air quality, reduce our household energy consumption, and create much-needed urban wildlife habitat. Cost to homeowners ranges from \$95 to \$170 per tree, and includes an on-site consultation and planting service. Trees are 5-10 feet when planted. Native shrubs are also available for delivery. Call 416-413-9244 or visit [www.leaftoronto.org](http://www.leaftoronto.org) for information on how you can get native trees and shrubs for your yard.

## Upcoming Events

**April 11, 12 & 13, 2008 (Friday, Saturday & Sunday)**

**For the Love of Gardening, the Evinrude Centre, Peterborough**

Over 180 vendors & exhibitors and, for the first time, a floral design competition. Admission is \$5 per day.

Further Information: [For the Love of Gardening](#)

**April 17-20, 2008 (Thurs. & Fri. 10am-7pm; Sat. Apr. 19, 9am-7 pm, Sun. Apr. 20, 9am-6 pm)**

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ontario Garden Show, Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington**

Displays, marketplace and free seminars. Admission \$8 (RBG members \$4), children under 12 free. Thurs. & Fri. are Seniors' Days, \$4. Free parking and shuttle service available. For more information call (905) 634-8003, x. 341 or visit <http://www.ontariogardenshow.com/sitepages/>

**April 19 & 20 (Sat. 11 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm)**

**2008 Orchid Show, Chinese Cultural Centre of Toronto, 5183 Sheppard Ave. East, Toronto**

Presented by Toronto Artistic Orchid Society, admission \$6.00 (free under 8 yrs), for more information:

<http://taoa.ca/>

**April 26 & 27, 2008 (Saturday & Sunday)**

**Marion Jarvie - Open Garden, 37 Thornheights Road, Thornhill**

The first of four weekends that Marion Jarvie has her garden open for viewing (the garden is also open on the weekends of June 7 & 8, July 12 & 13, and September 20 & 21). There are always many select plants for sale, and there is no charge for admittance. Open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine.

**May 10, 2008, 10 am - 3 pm - North American Native Plant Society Wildflower Sale, 101 Town Centre Boulevard, Hwy 7 at Warden, Markham**

Hundreds of native plant species for sale including flowers, shrubs, trees, ferns, vines, grasses and sedges, all from ethical growers approved by NANPS. Also there will be books, free speakers and a green expo. Species list available to view at [nanps.org](http://nanps.org), members may order in advance. For more information please call 416.631-4438 or e-mail [nanps@nanps.org](mailto:nanps@nanps.org)

### **Awakening**

*Never yet was a springtime,  
Late though lingered the snow,  
That the sap stirred not at the whisper  
Of the south wind, sweet and low,  
Never yet was a springtime  
When the buds forgot to blow.  
Ever the wings of the summer  
Are folded under the mould  
Life, that has known no dying,  
Is love's to have and hold,  
Till sudden, the burgeoning Easter!  
The song! The green and the gold!*

*Poem by Margaret Sangster (contributed by Lee Pritchard)*



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## VESEYS SPRING BULB CAMPAIGN

Included with your latest newsletter mailing is a BROCHURE and ORDER FORM for the VESEYS SPRING BULB CAMPAIGN.

The ever popular bulbs are back. Take a look through the available packages for beautifying your garden. Remember that this is a fundraising effort that gives you quality bulbs and seeds at good prices, and at the same time helps out the Club.

### PRODUCTS

This spring you will find:

ASSORTED BULB VARIETIES

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THE SUMMER SAVORY COOKBOOK

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### ORDERING

Orders should be brought to the **MARCH 20** and **APRIL 17** meetings.

Final deadline for ordering is April 17, 2008.

Orders will be collected by Paula Cameron-Meaney.

### PAYMENT

Cheques should be made payable to **The East York Garden Club.**

### CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information or

if you have an order but are unable to attend the meetings contact:

**Paula Cameron-Meaney**

309 Woodmount Avenue

Toronto, Ontario M4C4A4

Telephone: 416-467-9553 Email: [witanhaunts@rogers.com](mailto:witanhaunts@rogers.com)

## People's Choice Photo Contest

Don't forget that we'll be continuing with our People's Choice Photography Contest in March and April. All members can participate, and all members who attend the meetings will be able to vote to decide the winners.

If you wish to enter, the categories are "March Madness" (for March), and "Frozen" (for April). As in the past, these categories are open to your interpretation.

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.