

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 Boyd 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



Saturday, September 6, 2008 (noon to 5:00 p.m.) The Wild & Wonderful Gardens of East York

Included in this year's tour are perennial gardens, ravine gardens, and shade to full sun gardens. As well, you'll see ponds, native perennials, annuals and some unusual whimsical items. Tickets are \$10 each, and available at three locations: Bill's Garden Centre (Pape near Mortimer), Peter's Paint & Paper (Coxwell near O'Connor), and Grassroots (Danforth near Chester). Further information: <http://www.eygc.ca/gardentour.html>

Thursday, September 18, 2008 Toronto Master Gardeners Answer Your Questions

Back by popular demand, a team of Master Gardeners will share their experience and knowledge. You may submit your question ahead of time by email to: veronica@eygc.ca

Don't forget to bring in your Vesey's form and money/cheque if you are ordering. (Or submit your order directly to Paula Cameron by Oct. 3.)

There will be a draw table with attic treasures following the question and answer session. Members whose surnames begin with S are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

Thursday, October 16, 2008 Topic: Seasonal Wreaths, a Demonstration Speaker: Rosemary Dobson Also on: Seed Exchange

Rosemary Dobson has been a Master Gardener for 15 years and is a well known judge in both design and horticultural categories. Get a start on the holidays with Rosemary's demonstration on seasonal wreaths.

Following the meeting will be the seed exchange. If participating, please bring your seeds in an envelopes indicating basic information (i.e., annual or perennial). Members whose surnames begin with T through Z are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

We are back to regularly scheduled meetings in September—doors open at 7:00 p.m. for coffee or tea (please bring your own cup), refreshments and a chance to mingle with other members.

2009 Executive

The Executive has two vacant positions to fill - please consider taking this opportunity to get involved with your club. If you are thinking about it, you may attend one of our meetings before you make a commitment, there is no pressure.

If you are interested, please speak to any member of the Board.

Annual Flower Show & Tea

Thanks to all the volunteers and entries, this was once again a successful event. We enjoyed some delicious goodies and the Flower Show received the most entries since 2004.

In the preserves category there appeared to be some confusion as to entry requirements, which resulted in some disqualifications. The Flower Show Committee will be updating the rules and requirements for next year and this will appear in the yearbook.

Blooming Contest 2008

The final judging is over and the winners will be announced on September 10 at the Civic Centre. Just as important as the awarding of prizes is the recognition of the efforts of all East York gardeners to beautify their community with a diverse range of garden styles. Keep up the good work!

Airplanes, drawings, and needlework...

Flowers, designs, vegetables, preserves – all items that we expect to see at our annual show every August. But we haven't always limited ourselves to this list. I recently came across a report on our 20th annual show in the August 27, 1945 edition of the Toronto Star from August 27, 1945. As you'll see, there were numerous non-horticultural items that were included in the show:

Juvenile Exhibits Predominant At 20th East York Flower Show

More than 750 entries attracted wide interest in the 20th annual flower and vegetable show of East York Horticultural society in R. H. McGregor school Saturday. Of this number 400 were in the juvenile section. A display of model airplanes and drawings was held in connection with the show.

James Gottschalk had the best model plane for entrants from 6 to 10 years. David Cullingworth had the best plane for those from 11 to 14 years and also received a prize for the best Union Jack drawing.

Lorraine McClure's drawing of a white trillium was adjudged best in the show.

Needlework prize-winners were: For six to 10 years, Joan Morley; 11 to 14 years, Helen Cullingworth.

Jean Jackson had the best-kept garden in juvenile plots. Jacqueline Carter and Jack Stoneburgh attain-

ed highest points in the juvenile vegetable section. In the juvenile flower section, high points went Jean Burton and Jim Gottschalk. Hobby exhibit prizes went to J. Stoneburgh and Helen Cullingworth.

Winners in the adult section were: Highest aggregate points for flowers, G. Paleman; best snapshot member's own garden, C. Wooda; best-kept front lawn, Mrs. G. Robson; cut flowers in quart sealer, Paleman; high aggregate points snow Mrs G Robinson; best collection of vegetables, W. Barth; best vase of cut flowers, Mrs. W. Gottschalk; best basket of mixed flowers, A. Mackay; nursery stock for vases of perennial phlox, M. E. Cullingworth; best individual spike, spray or bloom, J. Crawford.

Photo Contest

by *Malcolm Geast*

The summer is almost over, and it's time to look back at all of those garden pictures that we've taken. This year, we can guarantee that there will be categories in our Annual Photography Contest for all of the pictures that you're particularly proud of. This year we're repeating **Black & White**, and introducing **Anything Goes**. In each of these categories you'll be able to submit a photo that doesn't seem to fit into the suggested areas of **Captured Beauty**, **Garden Baskets**, **A Bench in the Garden**, or **Mellow Yellow**. So take a good look through the garden photos that you've taken this year or last, select the best, and submit them. Entry forms will be available at the September meeting, and on our website (www.eygc.ca), with entries accepted until October 16. You'll find the rules on page 30 of your yearbook.

Here's the list of categories for 2008:

- Captured Beauty (Flower close-ups)
- Black & White (any horticultural subject, in black and white)
- Garden Baskets
- A Bench in the Garden
- Mellow Yellow (Yellow in the garden)
- Anything Grows (Any horticultural subject) (Adult category)
- Anything Grows (Any horticultural subject) (Children's category)
- Anything Grows (Any horticultural subject) (Youth's category)

Note: Age groups for Categories 7 & 8 are 6 to 10 years (children) and 11 to 17 (youth).

And don't forget that in the "Black & White" category, the stipulation that the picture should be black and white doesn't mean that the subject matter must be black and white (such as a white flower against a black background), but instead that it's the photo that you would get by using black and white film.



VESEYS FALL BULB CAMPAIGN

Included with your latest newsletter mailing is a BROCHURE and ORDER FORM for the VESEYS FALL 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 at good prices, and at the same time helps out the Club.

PRODUCTS
 MID SEASON TULIPS
 ASIATIC LILIES
 150 BULB GARDEN ASSORTMENT
 THE SUMMER SAVORY COOKBOOK
Don't forget Veseys Bulbs make great gifts for family and friends.

ORDERING
 Orders should be brought to the **SEPTEMBER 18** meeting.
 Final deadline for ordering is **OCTOBER 03, 2008**.
 Orders will be collected by Paula Cameron.

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
 309 Woodmount Avenue
 Toronto, Ontario M4C4A4
 Telephone: 416-467-9553 Email: witanhaunts@rogers.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

OHA District 5's Trip to the Reford Gardens

by *Linda Boyko*

A sea of Meconopsis, the Himalayan “Blue Poppy” was the sight that greeted 16 club members as we passed through the barrier marked “ Private – Staff Only” at the Reford Gardens. For most this was the main purpose of the trip to Grand Metis, QC. In all 46 members from clubs making up District 5 of the OHA were privileged to see this sight.

The gardens, originally a fishing camp, are the result of a remarkable woman, Elsie Reford. After a bout of appendicitis she followed the doctor's advice to give up the strenuous sport of fishing and try something more genteel – gardening. The result now covers 40 acres and houses over 3,000 species of native and exotic plants in 18 gardens. All this in an area that last year received over 6 meters of snow.

<http://www.jardinsmetis.com/english/index.ht>



EYGC Members at Reford Gardens

Along the way we encountered other unexpected garden delights such as the Domaine Joly-De-Lotbiniere near St Croix. This garden, located on what was the last privately held seigneurie in Quebec, also began as a summer resort. Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbiniere inherited the estate in 1860. A forester, he established a tree collection from which this marvellous garden began. The garden currently is home to over 2,400 varieties of plants, most of which are labelled. www.gardensvisit.com/garden/lotbini_garden

We were fortunate to stay overnight in historic old Quebec City at the Hotel Manoir Victoria. Those who wished

attended the “Sight and Sound” a spectacular celebrating Quebec City's 400th Anniversary. A free morning allowed individuals to wander through the historic city, visit the Plains of Abraham or just spend time wandering through the shops.

Heading back west we had a guided tour of the Jardins Daniel A. Sequin near Sainte Hyacinthe. A series of teaching gardens covering 12 acres and divided into themes, the gardens are the associated with the local horticultural collage.

We started the last day of our trip with a short visit to the Paradis des Orchidees located outside Laval. The greenhouses are home to over 500 varieties of orchids. Some of our members gave in to temptation and purchased orchids – which actually survived the heat of the bus and made it home safely. www.leparadisdesorchidees.com

The last visit was a stop at the Montreal Botanical Gardens. Home to over 22,000 plant species and cultivars, 10 exhibition greenhouses and 30 theme gardens the half day we spent there definitely was not long enough.

<http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/en/menu.htm>

In all we covered 2,600 kilometers in 5 days and saw many interesting plants but for me the first glimpse of that sea of blue poppies will remain my most memorable moment.

Rain Barrels

For those interested in the attractive rain barrels featured in the July newsletter, you can see them up close and in person on our Garden Tour at one of the gardens.

If you are interested in purchasing one, Garden SuperMart in Cambridge is offering EYGC members a discount. Tel: 1-866-476-6311 or see their online catalogue:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 7, 2008 **Gardens by the Bluffs**

View some of the unique gardens of the Scarborough Bluffs area, followed by an afternoon social at the Cornell-Campbell house. Located not far from the Scarborough Village Community Centre (Markham & Kingston roads) where Passports may be purchased in the parking lot for \$ 10 each. The cost includes refreshments at the Historic Cornell/Campbell Estate. The tour runs from noon to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. Further information: http://www.gardenontario.org/eve/event_details.php?id=3725

Thursday, September 11, 2008 **September Meeting of the Leaside Garden Society at the Leaside Library (165 McRae Drive)**

Guest speaker osteopath Susannah Gray will discuss holistic health and gardening. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Further information: <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/leaside>

September 12-14, 2008 (Saturday & Sunday) **Triffids plants - Open Garden (10612 Sixth Line, Georgetown)**

Belinda Gallagher's nursery sells unusual, rare and rarely grown perennials, and is usually open only by appointment. This is the last of four weekends with an open garden this year. Further information: <http://www.haltonhills.com/triffids/index.html>

Tuesday, September 16, 2008 **September Meeting of the Beach Garden Society (Adam Beck Community Centre, 79 Lawlor Ave)**

There will two speakers this month: Shari Lyn Safir will be speaking about roses and Ursula Eley will present a slide show of Irish gardens. Flower Show to follow with refreshments. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome. Further information: <http://beachgs.ca/>

September 20, 2008 **North York Horticultural Society Flower Show, Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Upper Level Studios**

Floral arrangements, roses, flowering branches, hanging baskets, African violets, cacti, and more. Free admission & free parking. Tea Room \$3. Runs from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Further information: <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/northyork>

September 20 & 21, 2008 (Saturday & Sunday) **Giant Gardening and Nature Used Book Sale at the Toronto Botanical Garden**

The sale is on from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. With readings and appearances by Lorraine Johnson (Sat. 1 p.m.) Marjorie Harris (Sun. 1 p.m.) Proceeds go to the Weston Family Library at the TBG. Donations of books are also gladly accepted. Further information: <http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/events/booksale.htm> or call Rob Caldwell at 416-397-1357

September 20 & 21, 2008 (Saturday & Sunday) **Marion Jarvie - Open Garden (37 Thornheights Road, Thornhill)**

The last of four weekends that Marion Jarvie has her garden open for viewing. 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.

Shrubs from A to Z

by *Veronica Callinan*

This is the season for nursery sales...so what to buy? Most East York gardeners need shrubs that will “fit”, so where to start? Below is a list of shrubs blatantly plagiarized from the Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District website: <http://www.kcsxcd.org/Buffer%20Plants/Small%20Shrubs.htm> They've done a wonderful job of putting this list together. All the shrubs listed are between one and six feet in height, and they all will grow in our zone, 6a. If you find this kind of information useful, let me know. ...vc

DECIDUOUS

Annabelle Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) Grows 3 to 5 feet. A spreading shrub with numerous upright stems. Large, rounded, white flower heads in late summer. Sun to part-sun. Moist soil. An excellent shrub with best performance if treated as a perennial and cut to the ground in late fall or early spring. Zone 4

Bristly Locust (*Robinia fertilis*) Grows to 6 feet and forms thickets. Has light-green, pea-like foliage with attractive pink flowers in late spring, followed by bristly seedpods. Full sun. Dry, sandy, poor soil. Drought tolerant. Excellent for stabilizing steep, gravelly areas. Zone 4

Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster apiculatus, divaricata, horizontalis, microphylla*) Numerous forms available. Grow 2 to 3 feet high spreading to 6 feet in some cases. Small, often shiny, green leaves and small, pink flowers in spring followed by red fruits. Red fall color. Sun to part-sun. Adaptable to many soils. Some varieties are salt tolerant. Used as ground or bank covers. May require extra attention the first year but do well once established. Zone 4

Cutleaf Stephanandra (*Stephanandra incisa* var. ‘Crispa’) Grows to 2 feet high with a 3 to 6 foot spread. A low, spreading, mounded shrub with small, white flowers in summer. Sun to part-sun. Does best in moist, acid, well-drained soil but tolerates wetter soils. Good on banks and as a ground cover. Zone 3

Dwarf Arctic Willow (*Salix purpurea* var. ‘Nana’) Grows 3 to 6 feet with equal spread. (Non-dwarf variety grows to 18 feet.) Dense, low shrub with arching branches and fine, powdery, blue-green foliage. Sun to part-sun. Wet soil. Flood tolerant. Good for streambanks and pond edges and for low hedges. Not salt tolerant. Good for birds and wildlife. Zone 3

Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*) Grows 1 to 4 feet with a mounded habit. Yellow trumpet-shaped flowers and insignificant fruit. Part-sun to shade. Dry soil. Drought tolerant. Found in open, rocky woods and field edges. Zone 3 N

Dwarf Fothergilla (*Fothergilla gardenii*) Grows 2 to 3 feet with similar spread. Attractive, small shrub with deep-green leaves and early, white, fragrant, ‘bottle-brush’ flowers. Excellent red to yellow fall color. Sun to part-sun. Moist, well-drained, acid soil best. Good in groups. Zone 4

Dwarf Honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*) Also called American Fly Honeysuckle. (Do not confuse with European Fly Honeysuckle which can be invasive.). Grows 2 to 5 feet high. A straggling shrub with handsome red berries. Sun to part-sun. Sandy, dry soil. Drought tolerant. Found in cool, rocky woods. Zone 3 N

Flowering Almond (*Prunus glandulosa*) Grows 4 to 5 feet high with a 3 to 4 foot spread. Small, spreading shrub with showy, pink flowers in early spring. Used ornamentally. Full sun. Moist, fertile soil. Check local hardiness. Some varieties are not long-lived. Zone 4

Flowering Quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*) Several varieties available. Grows from 2 to 6 feet high, depending on variety, with a similar spread. Attractive, upright or spreading shrub with spiny branches (most varieties). Spring blossoms range from white to peach to pink to red. Irregular, apple-shaped fruit is used in preserves. Sun to part-sun. Moist soil. Occasional pruning keeps plant vigorous. Many uses. Zones 4 to 5

Shrubs from A to Z cont'd

Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) Available in standard and dwarf (Gro-Low) varieties. Standard form grows 2 to 6 feet with a 6 to 10 foot spread and the dwarf grows 2 to 3 feet with a 6 to 8 foot spread. A low, upright or straggling shrub with compound leaves and small, fragrant, yellow flowers in spring, followed by red fruit. Good orange to red fall color. Leaves are aromatic

when crushed. Full sun. Dry, sandy or rocky soil. Good as bank covers and in mass plantings. Dwarf variety used as a ground cover. Found in dry, rocky, open woods. Zone 4 N

Hancock Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos X Chenaultii*) Grows 2 to 4 feet with a 6 foot spread. A small, open shrub with graceful arching branches. May spread by suckering. Pink spring flowers, followed by pink to red fruits in fall. Sun to part-sun. Tolerates a variety of soils. Good bank cover. Zone 4

Indiancurrant Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) Similar to above. Grows 3 to 6 feet and spreads to form thickets. Has white to pink flowers and red fruits. Shade. Dry soil. Zone 3

Mapleleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) Grows 3 to 6 feet. A slender, branched shrub with clusters of white flowers in late spring; blue-black fruit and large, downy, 3-lobed leaves that turn purple in the fall. Sun to shade. Moist soil. Found as an understory shrub in dry woods. Good for birds. Zone 3 N

Potentilla (*Potentilla fruticosa*) Also called Bush Cinquefoil. Native and cultivated. Many varieties available. Grows 2 to 4 feet with equal spread. Compact to spreading habits. Small leaves from silver-green to light-green to blue-green to dark-green. Flowers occur in shades of white, yellow, pink and orange that bloom from early summer through to frost. Full sun best. Moist soil, although several varieties are very drought tolerant once established. Naturally found in wet to dry meadows, along lake shores and in open areas. Zone 3 N

Rhodora (*Rhododendron canadense*) A deciduous rhododendron growing from 1 to 3 feet tall with many branches and showy, rose to purple flowers in spring. Full sun. Wet, cold, peaty soil. Often seen in large colonies in bogs and cold, wet pastures. Zone 3 N

Rose (*Rosa* sp.) Many species and varieties available in all forms and shapes. Some native and many cultivated or introduced. Most grow from 2 to 6 feet, although some arching and climbing types grow to 10 feet. All require full sun. Soil requirements range from moist to dry and most need fertile, well-drained soil. Check with local nurseries for hardy varieties and low-maintenance roses. Zones 3 to 5 N

St. Johnswort (*Hypericum* sp.) Naturally-occurring and cultivated species and varieties available. Most grow 2 to 3 feet high with similar spread. Compact plants with blue-green foliage and bright-yellow flowers with different bloom times and lengths. Sun to part-sun. Check specific variety for soil preferences; some grow in wet areas, some in dry, sandy soil. Found along shores, in wet meadows, old fields and pastures. Zones 3 to 5 N

Silver Creeping Willow (*Salix repens* var. *nitida*) Grows to 2 feet high and spreads. Silvery foliage, insignificant flowers and fruits. Rapid growth. Sun. Moist to wet soil. Zone 4

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) Grows 3 to 6 feet high with similar spread. Spreads by suckering so will form thickets, if allowed. Good for erosion control. Blue-green foliage, pink spring flowers and ornamental, white berries in fall. Rapid growth. Sun to part-sun. Moist to wet soil. Adaptable to a variety of soil conditions. Good for birds. Zone 3 N

Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*) Also called Hummingbird Clethra or Sweet Pepperbush. Grows 3 to 8 feet high with a 4 to 6 foot spread. Attractive, deep-green foliage and very fragrant, white or pink flowers in summer. Sun to shade. Moist to wet soil. Salt tolerant. Zone 3 N

Shrubs A to Z cont'd

Sweet Fern (*Comptonia peregrina*) Grows 2 to 4 feet high with similar spread. Not a true fern but has somewhat leathery fern-like foliage which has a nice, pungent, spicy smell. Brown catkins in early spring and a bur-like nut in the fall. Full sun. Moist to dry soil. Grows well on poor, sandy, rocky soil. Deep, good root system. Good for roadbanks and steep, dry areas. Zone 3 N

Sweet Gale (*Myrica gale*) Grows 2 to 4 feet high and spreads 4 to 8 feet. A many-branched shrub with dark-green, aromatic foliage. Insignificant brown flowers and fruits. Sun to part-sun. Moist to wet soil. Found along lake and stream edges. Good for shore-dwelling birds and wildlife. Zone 3 N

Weigela (*Weigela* sp.) Many species and varieties have been cultivated. Grows 2 to 6 feet high with equal spread. Growth varies from compact to open, depending on variety. Many-branched shrubs with pink to red, showy, tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds. Easy to grow. Full sun. Moist soil. Zone 4

Spreading Yew (*Taxus X media* var *Densiformis*) Grows to 4 feet with an 8 foot spread. Compact shrub with dark-green needles. Slow growth. Sun to part-sun. Moist to dry soil. Good for hedges and mass plantings. Zone 3

This series will continue with Evergreens in the next newsletter.

World Rose Convention

June 18-24, 2009

This is a highly recommended convention featuring the American Rose Society Spring National Convention and Rose Show. It takes place in Vancouver, British Columbia. Several members of the Greater Toronto Rose Society will be attending.

For more information:

<http://www.worldrose-vancouver2009.com/>

Farmers' Markets

Even though autumn is fast approaching you can still enjoy the following markets:

Tuesdays 9 am – 2 pm

East York Civic Centre

- Note: many vendors are selling as early as 8:00 am
- runs until Oct. 30

Farmers' Markets cont'd

Thursdays 3 pm – 7 pm

East Lynn Park (Danforth south side & Woodmount)

- Certified Local Market
- This is a great market for children, with activities and a playground
- runs until Oct. 30

Saturdays 8am – 1 pm

Evergreen Brickworks

- Bayview Extension (550 Bayview Ave), and Pottery Rd.
- Shuttle available from Broadview Subway
- runs until Dec. 13

Saturdays 9 am - 1 pm.

Withrow Park

- in Withrow Park (Danforth & Carlaw, south side)
- runs until Oct. 25