

# 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](http://www.eygc.ca)

President:

Veronica Callinan

Vice President:

Linda Boyko  
Susan Bartlett

Newsletter Editor:

Susan Bartlett  
[newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)



## Thursday, May 20, 2010

**Topic: Wildflower Stories**

**Speaker: Allan Foster**

Allan Foster recently retired as director of the Kortright Centre for Conservation after 33 years of service. Although he is a trained biologist, his passion is learning about nature through nature stories. He obtained a doctorate from the University of Toronto researching how people learn through stories.

He loves to travel and has visited parks and nature preserves throughout North America including the Canadian Arctic. He studied in England for a year; volunteered in Tanzania for a summer and has visited nature preserves in Europe, China, Japan and Central America. He recently published *The Loon, the Bat and the Raspberry Bush*, illustrated by his wife Lesley.

This will be the first Flower Show of the season. The Members' Plant Sale will be held after the meeting, see p. 2 for details. There will be no draw this month.

Members with surnames beginning with "I" to "J" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares for the refreshment table.

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## Thursday, June 17, 2010

**Topic: Iris: The Rainbow Flower**

**Speakers: Ann and Bob Granatier**

Bob and Ann moved to a country property in the Brantford area to pursue their love of gardening; which eventually led to the development of their small business Trails End Iris Gardens. Bob and Ann have spoken at Canada Blooms, the Royal Botanical Gardens and several horticultural societies. Their iris gardens have been featured in *Canadian Gardening Magazine*.

Ann worked several years as a Landscape Designer for a local Garden Centre and then co-ordinated and taught the Mohawk College Horticultural Apprenticeship Program. She retired after serving ten years as a Project Manager for Landscape Ontario. Bob and Ann now serve as Directors for the Canadian Iris Society and as Co-Presidents of the Brantford Garden Club. They enjoy opening their gardens to the public and bus tours every May and June during the Iris season.

There will be a Flower Show, and following the meeting there will be a 50/50 draw. Members with surnames beginning with "K" to "L" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares.

*Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. with a chance to socialize – remember to "lug your mug".*

*Speakers are at 7:30 p.m..*

*We need your plants! Donations will be gratefully accepted for the May Plant Sale, Environment Day and Canada Day. See inside for details.*

## May Plant Sale

The May Members' Plant Sale is always a busy event. Please try to have your plants at the meeting by 7:00 pm so they can be priced. Have something a little more unusual or expensive? Please give it to Lee Pritchard for separate pricing.

If you have any garden tools in good condition that you'd like to donate, those are welcome too.

Some pointers:

- Decide early what plants will go in the sale.
- A healthy attractive plant will sell faster than a plant that is potted up the day before or the morning of the sale.
- A plant that was potted up and kept watered in a shady spot for more than a few weeks should put up some new growth.
- Clearly label your plant with its proper name. Don't guess. Identify it.
- If you have the nursery label it originally came with mark it on your tag using the botanical name and cultivar. It will give the buyer more information about the plant.
- Does it need sun or shade? That is important information.
- Does it need lots of water or is it a drought tolerant plant that can survive on the dry side?
- Make sure there are no weeds or add ons. A buyer may not appreciate getting a sprig of goutweed or lily of the valley in with the sale plant. They can be aggressive plants once established.

The sale won't start until after the speaker is finished. We are all eager to check out the wares but let's try to be patient, the speaker has feelings too!

## The Rockery



*May 1, 2010 Clean-Up. Photo by Veronica Callinan*

This year the Rockery schedule is very simple: Regular Rockery maintenance will be **every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to noon**. So if you can't make it one Saturday, there's always next Saturday. A team leader will be there each Saturday to coordinate efforts. Special clean-up, planting or weeding days will be announced.

As a thank-you to volunteers, once a month on a random Saturday pizza will be delivered to the Rockery after the work is done.

## Environment Day - Sat. June 5

Janet Davis' Environment Day will be Saturday, June 5 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Hazardous household materials and electronics can be dropped off for proper disposal. Leaf compost from the City is given out (come early if you want any). Items such as rain barrels and composters are available for sale.

The Club will have a table so come by and say hi. If you would like to help out at the table or donate a few plants, details will be at the May meeting.

For a complete list of City Environment days: see

[http://www.toronto.ca/environment\\_days/schedule.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/environment_days/schedule.htm)

## EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB'S **BUS TOUR**



Von de Mer Nurseries, Gary Westlake's Garden: Gary was a speaker last year on "do-it-yourself garden art", Ecology Park: you will be able to buy native plants, Lift Lock Cruise!: lunch on board the boat .....

**SUNDAY AUGUST 8th 2010, 9:00am - 6:00pm**

### TICKETS

will be available  
at the MAY MEETING

Contact

ROZ 416-759-6247

**ONLY**

**\$65.00**

**PER PERSON**  
**SPACE IS LIMITED!**  
**BOOK NOW!**

### **THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE**

**Escape to Toronto's Hidden Lakeside Garden Gems on  
Father's Day Weekend**

**Saturday, June 19th & Sunday, June 20th, 2010 11 a.m. to 4  
p.m.**

*Events in support of the Toronto Botanical Garden*

*Ticket includes:*

- ☼ *Comprehensive Garden Guide;*
- ☼ *Complimentary shuttle service;*
- ☼ *Access to 26 beautiful private gardens, including two front yards;*
- ☼ *Knowledgeable volunteers to help identify plants and points of interest.*

*One-day Pass: Public \$40; TBG members \$35*

*Two-day Pass: Public \$50; TBG members \$45*

*Tickets are limited. Advance purchase recommended*

*Call 416-551-0241 or [www.torontobotanicalgardens.ca](http://www.torontobotanicalgardens.ca)*

### **OHA Convention**

The OHA Convention is being held at Georgian College in Barrie this year – why not attend for a day or the full 2 days? The dates are August 12th – 14th.

Accommodation is offered at a very reasonable rate in hotel-style suites at the Georgian College residence. District 16 has put together an excellent program of speakers, workshops and tours. The flower show will be well worth seeing. If you just want to attend for one day, that's easy to do with it so close to home. All the details and registration forms are available at

<http://www.gardenontario.org/scho/index.php>

## Tree Allergies

by Susan Bartlett (excerpted from the *Toronto Star*)



Allergies driving you crazy with this early spring? The culprit may not just be the weather, but the type of trees that are dominant in the GTA, according to Thomas Ogren, a California-based horticulturalist. Local gardeners tend to plant mostly male trees because they are less “messy” than females. Males don’t shed the flowers, fruit and seed debris that female trees do. However, female trees play a role in attracting and absorbing pollen produced by males. The over-abundance of male trees in the area ensures that there is a lot of pollen in the environment.

Ogren recommends planting flowering females in a separate-sexed species, such as maples or junipers, or a mix of low-producing pollinators such as the tulip tree to offset surrounding males. (The exception to maples is the single sex Norway Maple which is highly allergenic, yet favoured by arborists for its hardiness and quite common in the GTA.)

(*The Toronto Star*, April 15, 2010)

### “Bad” Trees (with allergy rating)

- Juniper/cedar (10)
- Cottonwood (9)
- Russian olive (9)
- Sycamore (9)
- Oak (8)
- Elm (8)
- Walnut (8)
- Birch and alder (7)
- Beech (7)
- Linden (7)

### “Good Trees”

- Autumn Fantasy maple (1)
- Bowhall maple (1)
- Embers maple
- Red Sunset maple (1)
- October Glory Maple (1)
- Larch/tamarack (2)
- Tulip (4)
- Hawthorn (4)
- Redwood flowering dogwood (4)

## Canada Day - Thursday, July 1

This year East York Canada Day celebrations will be back at Stan Wadlow Park. The Club is planning on participating in two ways:

### Plant Sale & Attic Treasures Table

We’ll be back at our usual spot and will need volunteers at the sale, as well as plant donations and gently used items such as books, jewellery or knickknacks. Donations of plants and household items are most welcome. Plants/rummage sale items can be dropped off first thing in the morning or throughout the day but as access by car to the park is limited early in the morning, arrangements can be made for someone to take your donations prior to Canada Day - we will let you know the details.

### Parade

Club members usually gather around 8:45 a.m. at Dieppe Park and the parade winds its way to Stan Wadlow Park, arriving at about 10:30. Some years the pace has been leisurely, other years it’s been a little faster, but it’s always fun to walk and wave at bystanders. If we don’t have at least 12 people, we won’t go. There will be sign-up sheets at the May & June meetings, or contact Susan Bartlett at 416-467-4945 or [newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)

## What That Little Sticker is Telling You

By Linda Boyko



Did you know that the little stickers found on fruit and vegetables can tell you where and how your produce was grown? The number found on these stickers is known as the Price Look-Up number. Originally created to make check-out and inventory control easier for the retailer it now may also be used by the consumer to tell them about the product they are about to purchase.

At present this applies only to loose produce which is defined as fruits, vegetables, dried fruit, herbs and flavourings and nuts. Most items which are packaged either in bags or containers will not have this information available on them (with the exception of grapes which may be sold in plastic bags.) Items such as mushrooms or green beans may have the number posted above (probably in small print) on the price sign. The last four letters of the PLU code indicate the type of vegetable or fruit. An example is that all bananas are labelled with the code of 4011. Where there are different types of fruit in a category, such as apples, each type will have its unique PLU number. Products with four numbers have been conventionally grown using common fertilizers and legally allowed pesticides.

The addition of a fifth number, placed at the front of the number is an indicator of non-standard growth.

If a product is organically grown the number 9 is added to the front of the regular four digit number e.g. an organically grown banana would be 94011.

The number 8 before the four digit number indicates that the product has been genetically engineered e.g. a genetically engineered vine ripe tomato would read 84805.

The International Federation for Produce Standards has a tool available on their website that allows you

## Sticker, cont'd

to plug in the number found on your orange and find out where and how it was grown. To check out your produce go to

[http://www.plucodes.com/search\\_wizard.aspx?s=1](http://www.plucodes.com/search_wizard.aspx?s=1)

For Canadian information go to

[http://www.cpma.ca/prf/IndustryTech?RA\\_MASTER\\_PLU\\_List\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.cpma.ca/prf/IndustryTech?RA_MASTER_PLU_List_ENG.pdf)

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## Blooming Contest

by Malcolm Geast

It's time to start thinking about the 2010 East York Blooming Contest. Now an annual tradition, we're teaming up with the City of Toronto again to find the best front gardens in our community. Over the next couple of months you're encouraged to keep an eye out for particularly attractive gardens, and to nominate them for the competition. Nominations this year will close on July 2, with judging to take place in July. Forms that give you all the details about what to look for, and how to submit a garden for the contest will be on hand at our May and June meetings and will soon be available on our website, [www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca). Entries can be sent to: [blooming@eastyorkgarden.ca](mailto:blooming@eastyorkgarden.ca)

As always, members of our Club will perform the judging. The opportunity to spend a few hours reviewing some of the most attractive gardens in the community is one of the many enjoyable activities of the Club. If you are interested in being a part of this process, please put your name down on the sign-up sheet that we'll have at the May meeting, or contact me at 416-429-4719, or [malcolmg@eygc.ca](mailto:malcolmg@eygc.ca).

Winning gardens will be announced at an awards presentation at the East York Civic Centre in September. The top award winners in each of the categories will be entered in the 2011 city-wide contest.

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## Toronto Master Gardeners

Congratulations to Linda Boyko, Veronica Callinan and Lesli Musicar for graduating from the Toronto Master Gardeners Program in April.

## Master Gardeners' Advice

The following is further advice from Linda Lynott, one of the Master Gardeners who appeared at the February 18, 2010 meeting:

### **General Pruning Rules**

#### *Deciduous shrubs and Trees*

##### **General rule**

- Never cut off more than 1/3 of the branches in one year
- Exceptions are curly willow and Euonymus, in the full sun, which I shape into a hedge in mid-summer

##### **Sanitation pruning**

- Trim dead and crossed branches

##### **Heading back and thinning**

- Heading back; cut up to 1/2 of branch back
- Thinning; cut to the ground

##### **Timing**

- Every tree and shrub has an ideal time for pruning
- Google the name of the tree or shrub and "Care and Maintenance"
- For example, my Austrian Pine is normally 'Sanitation Prune' in March, at the same time it is sprayed with Copper Sulphate; it is susceptible to Diplodia Tip Blight and should not be pruned when it is moist or humid, which cancels out most of the growing season.

### **Evergreens**

#### **General Rule**

Most evergreens, except for boxwood and holly, cannot take a hard pruning

- Never cut off more than 1/3 of the branches in one year

#### **Timing**

- Every tree and shrub has an ideal time for pruning
- Google the name of the tree or shrub and 'Care and Maintenance'

### **Moving Shrubs**

Generally you move a shrub after it flowers. So a lilac in the fall and a Rose of Sharon in the spring. That said, the best time to move a shrub is in the fall in October or November. The soil is warm and pliable and all the nutrients are still active in the soil. You need 10 weeks before the ground is frozen, so I usually move shrubs in the 1st two weeks of October. The benefit of moving at this time as nature does most of the watering for you.

In southern Ontario, you should not fertilize after August 31, in order to help the plant start its dormancy cycle. If you are planning to move a shrub, then you should stop fertilizing 10 weeks before the planned transplant date and expunge the August 31 date. And no fertilizer or transplant solution until the following year.

The number 1 trick is to get the entire root ball. The number 2 trick is to have the new hole prepared beforehand. Then you can put the transplant immediately into its new home, back fill and water in.

### **Moving Clematis**

Clematis does not like to be moved.

I have had about 75% success by moving them in the early spring which usually means early May in our climate. Wait until the earth is not soggy. Otherwise the transplant cannot get oxygen to its roots.

Plant it about 6 inches deeper than originally. This helps if it gets clematis wilt and always covers the roots with mulch, a ground cover or small stones; cool feet warm heads. An application of dolomite lime is also helpful.

Again, it is important to get the entire root ball and to have the new hole prepared beforehand so you can put the transplant immediately into its new home, back fill and water in.

### ***And the last word from Anna Leggatt***

Root prune a large shrub if you know you will move it in a year's time.

Consider how big a root ball you can move. Then cut down vertically with a spade forming a half circle round the shrub. Ideally this is in September. Six months later, complete the circle. The cut roots should produce new feeder roots within the circle.

Next September, cut down the complete circle and the cut under the roots lifting up as much as possible and transfer to the new, predug hole.

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### **Photo Contest** ***by Malcolm Geast***

I hope that you've all enjoyed this year's People's Choice photo contests. Through the four monthly competitions, 13 of the Club's members entered 32 photos, with the subjects ranging from spring blooms to nesting birds to piles of garbage. Who would have thought that abandoned trash could be so photogenic?

The winter and spring People's Choice competitions may be over, but there's still the Fall Photo Contest to come. This year we've increased the number of categories, and introduced three non-horticultural subjects. Additionally, to commemorate moving into the second decade of our photo contest, we have a category for you to enter your best horticulturally-related shots since 2000. You can find the list of all 12 categories on page 31 of your yearbook, and on the Club's website ([www.eygc.ca/photocontest](http://www.eygc.ca/photocontest)). Entry forms will be available in September.

Looking for subject material for those non-horticultural subjects? Did you know that, along with innumerable overpasses, there are over 500 bridges spanning rivers and waterways in Toronto? Among others, we've got Bailey bridges (one on Old Finch Avenue and another at the CNE), wide-spanning viaducts (Bloor Street and the Leaside Bridge, bridges that are tinny and hard to

notice (several of them on the bike paths of the Don Valley), bridges that move (two of them on Cherry Street), bridges designed for beauty as well as function (the Humber River and Mimico bicycle & pedestrian bridges) and bridges that don't look like bridges (the Harbourfront wavedecks). And of course, venturing outside of Toronto will give you an endless supply of material for your photos.

Clouds aren't hard to find either (all you have to do is look up), but the best shots require a combination of luck and preparation. Carrying a camera with you at all times is a good habit to get into, but failing that, you can make a point of looking out for interesting weather – summer thunderstorms and morning fog are just a couple of examples. And if you're looking for some inspiration, you might want to take a look at the web site of The Cloud Appreciation Society

([www.cloudappreciationsociety.org](http://www.cloudappreciationsociety.org)). You'll find over 6,000 photos of clouds from around the world.

### **Further on Photos:**

If you've taken any photos at club events, please consider sending them to the Club archives: [archives@eygc.ca](mailto:archives@eygc.ca). By doing so you are giving permission for your photo to be used in promotional materials for the Club.

#### **NEW DOCTOR**

Dr. Kassam, a female family doctor, has started her practice at 521 Victoria Park Ave., 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4C 5H1 (Victoria Park and Danforth)

She is accepting new patients.

If you are looking for a doctor, please call 416-694-1400

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, May 17, 2010 - Trees for Life: Planting the Global Forest at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie).** Talk by Diana Beresford-Kroeger, author of *The Global Forest*. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. Further information: <http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/programs/edwardslectures.htm>

**Tuesday, May 18, 2010 - April Meeting of the Beach Garden Society** at the Adam Beck Community Centre, 79 Lawlor Avenue. Speaker is Christina Sharma, will be speaking about Project CHIRP ("Creating Habitat In Residential areas and Parkland"), a not-for-profit, urban-focused songbird conservation initiative. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome. Further information: <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/beach/news/details/5171>

**Thursday, May 20, 2010 Wednesday, May 26, 2010 - Perennials: What's New & Exciting and Often Overlooked** at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie) Tony Avent will be speaking the newest perennials available this spring. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free for members, \$20 for non-members, and \$15 for students. Further information: <http://www.torontobotanicalgarden.ca/programs/edwardslectures.htm>

**May 29 & 30, 2010 (Saturday & Sunday) - Marion Jarvie - Open Garden (37 Thornheights Road, Thornhill).** The second of four weekends that Marion Jarvie has her garden open for viewing (the garden is also open on the weekends of July 24 & 25, and September 18 & 19). Select plants for sale, no charge for admittance. Open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine.

**June 12 & 13, 2010 (Saturday & Sunday) - 6th Annual Peony Festival at the Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens** (155 Arena Street, Oshawa) Held in conjunction with the Canadian Peony Society Annual Meeting. Admission to the gardens and the floral design displays is free. Tours of the nearby Parkwood National Historic Site are also available. The tea garden is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Further Information: <http://ovbgoshawa.ca/index.html>

**Saturday, June 26, 2010 - The Gardens of Leaside Garden Tour.** Nine gardens. Passports, which include garden addresses and a tour map, are available for \$10 each from the Garden Society and some local merchants. Tour runs from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Further information: Linda Wickland 416-429-5131 or <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/district5/news/details/5523/5523>

### EYGC Members' Garden Tour: Saturday, July 17, 2010

Join other members for an informal afternoon tour as some of our members open their gardens to EYGC members only.

Details will be announced.

### East York Civic Centre Farmers' Market

Starts: Tuesday, May 18, 10:a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at East York Civic Centre

### East Lynn Farmers' Market

Starts: Thursday, June 3, 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., East Lynne Park, 1949 Danforth Avenue, near Woodbine

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically please email me at [newsletter@eygc.ca](mailto:newsletter@eygc.ca)