

March ~ April 2012
Volume 9 ~ Issue 2



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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 Bond at 416-423-5857.

Visit us on the web at www.eygc.ca

President: Susan Bartlett

Vice President: Rosalind Regnier
Barbara Piercey

Newsletter Editor:
Jennifer McDougall

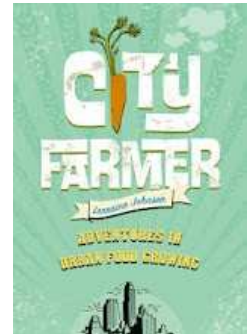


Thursday, March 15, 2012, 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:00)

Topic: The Urban Gardener
Speaker: Lorraine Johnson

Lorraine Johnson is a writer and editor based in Toronto. Her published works cover a broad range of subjects, from gardening with native plants to censorship and the visual arts to travel. She is the author of eight books (including *Grow Wild*; *Green Future*; *A Gardener's Manifesto*; and *The New Ontario Naturalized Garden*) and the editor of two essay collections.

In the more than fifteen years that Lorraine has been writing books and articles, she has become known for her unconventional outlook on the world of gardening. Advocating for organics in the days when synthetic chemicals ruled, writing about native plants before most people had heard the term, promoting community gardening when politicians were wary of involving people in parks, profiling guerrilla gardens when the idea still sounded vaguely dangerous, Lorraine has always written about marginal subjects on their way to becoming mainstream. **Check out Lorraine's blog - ediblecity.ca - for all kinds of tips and hints and more adventures in urban food growing!**



The People's Choice photo contest category this month is March Break (something broken) - entries must be in by 7:15 please. Complete rules are in your yearbook and on the EYGC website (eygc.ca). Members with surnames beginning with "A" and "B" are asked to bring in some cookies or squares for the refreshment table.

Thursday, April 19, 2012, 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:00)

Topic: The Frugal Gardener
Speaker: James Graham

Our speaker this month, James Graham, is Past-President of the Waterloo Horticultural Society, and Second Vice-President of the Ontario Horticultural Association and has been gardening since he was five years old. As "The Frugal Gardener", James will be sharing some inexpensive ideas, one of them being the 99¢ planter. He'll also be touching on vegetable gardening, hostas, annuals, native plantings, his favourite shrub, alleopathic plants, and "anything that comes to mind".

This month will also see our first flower show of 2012. You'll find the full schedule in your yearbook, and on our website (eygc.ca). Don't forget the new item for this year - Novice Corner (any cut specimen), a "People's Choice" category, for anyone who hasn't yet won a first-place ribbon in an EYGC flower show. Voting will take place between 7:15 and 7:30, with all those in attendance eligible to vote.

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

An Exciting Design Year Ahead for EYGC

By Barb Piercey

The Flower Show Committee has come up with a great theme for this year's design categories. Hopefully this will get your creative ideas flowing and inspire veterans and novices alike to try their hand at design and have some fun. The overall theme for 2012 is "Notable Events and Anniversaries." There were a lot of events and anniversaries to choose from, but we could only choose four.

Here are your themes for 2012:

April 19 theme: "The Year of the Dragon". White Knight – a design incorporating white flowers; Golden Dragon – an Asian design; Paper Bag Princess – a design using a paper bag; Free Spirit – an interpretive design; Puff – a miniature design.

**"Ladies and Gents—
Wipe away those
winter cobwebs and
plan to be part of a
great design year at
EYGC!"**

June 21 theme: "The War of 1812".

Laura Secord – a design incorporating any chocolate box; The Brock Monument – a vertical design; Fort George – a design incorporating weathered wood; The Battle of Lake Erie – a design with visible use of water; The Burning of the White House – a miniature design using flame- coloured flowers.

August 25 theme: "London 2012".

Kew Gardens – a foliage design; The Thames – a design with a visible use of water; Big Ben – a vertical design; Greenwich – a line design; Covent Garden Market – a design incorporating fruits and/or vegetables; Changing of the Guard – an interpretive design; crown Jewels – a small design. And for ages 6-17: London Zoo – a design incorporating a toy animal.

September 20 theme: "Charles Dickens' 200th Birthday". The Old Curiosity Shop – a design in a tea cup; Oliver Twist – a design using movement; A Tale of Two Cities – a parallel design; Great Expectations – a mass design; Little Dorrit – a miniature design.

So, if you always enter the Design Category in the flower shows or if you have never even tried, make this year the year you take a chance and be creative with this artistic venture. This gives you a head start to find your chocolate box, tea cup, piece of weathered wood, etc. Also, check out our own EYGC library or the Toronto Public Library for books on the basics of floral arranging to advanced, professional design ideas.

Ladies and Gents—Wipe away those winter cobwebs, both literally and figuratively, and plan to be part of a great design year at EYGC!

49th Annual Ikenobo Ikebana Floral Exhibition



**49th Annual Ikenobo
Ikebana**

**Floral Exhibition &
Demonstration**

Sunday, March 25, 2012

The Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Toronto invites you to our Annual Floral Exhibition and Demonstration. This year's exhibition will be held on Sunday March 25 at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC). The year 2012 marks the 550th year of recorded history of Ikenobo Ikebana. The Ikenobo Ikebana Society invites you to join us as we celebrate this milestone with our annual flower show. We look forward to sharing our floral arrangements with you.

Following the opening ceremonies at 2:00 PM, Professor Nagura from Ikenobo Headquarters in Kyoto, Japan will be giving a demonstration. Come and see how these stunning floral arrangements are created.

Interested in learning more about Ikenobo Ikebana? Check out the classes offered at the JCCC. The tearoom will once again serve delightful snacks. Enjoy sushi, sandwiches and sweets.

Admission is \$5.00. The doors are open from noon to 5:00 pm. For more information, call 416- 229-9950 or 416-467-4962 or email ikenoboto@sympatico.ca.

For Ikenobo students, there will be a workshop. Contact your teacher for more details and to sign up for the workshop.

Come and take in the beauty of Ikenobo Ikebana arrangements!

Prez Patch

by Susan Bartlett

Greetings as your new president. Veronica Callinan is now past-president and she left some big shoes to fill! I hope I can match her dedication, commitment and overall enthusiasm she gave to the Club. She also left me an email distribution list to send out those local and garden related events that can't make it into the newsletter. If you would like to be on this list let me know at susanhirst@gmail.com

We are well underway to the start of another gardening season. All of a sudden it seems there are more events than can be kept track of! Canada Blooms is the obvious one, some of our members will be volunteering at the OHA booth this year so stop by and say hello when you are there. There are also plant sales, workshops, seed exchanges in March and April and I'll try to keep you updated by the email list or this newsletter. You can always check the Club's website <http://eygc.ca/>

Our first flower show will be in April and the Flower Show Committee will be trying something new this year – the first Novice Corner, People's Choice Award. Details are in the Yearbook and Barbara Piercey will talk about it at our March meeting.

Hope to see you there!



East York Garden Club Board for 2012

Membership Renewal Reminder

If you haven't done so, please renew your membership. In addition to our monthly talks and plant sales, your EYGC membership card gives you a discount at many of the local independent garden centres such as Sheridan Nurseries, Mason House, Bill's, well as one time coupon at Humber

Nurseries (which will be coming in the May newsletter).

Fees for 2012 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, c/o
Cristina Brown,
7 Knightsbridge Road,
Scarborough, ON M1L 2A8.



Renew Today!!

Up Coming Events ...



**Heron Park Recreation Centre 292 Manse Rd
Saturday March 17, 2012 12-4 p.m.**

Scarborough's Third Annual Seedy Saturday!

Come and exchange or purchase heirloom and home grown seeds! Learn more about gardening from the Toronto Master Gardeners and workshops on seed starting, Container Gardening for Apartment Dwellers and Season Extension.

Contact: Katie Fullerton k_fullerton@sympatico.ca 416-691-5173

Ask An Expert About Low Maintenance Gardening

Sat Apr 14, 2012

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

120 mins

S. Walter Stewart Library

A presentation by **Veronica Callinan** about low maintenance gardening, including no-fuss plants vs. prima donnas, watering wisely, lawn care, groundcovers, etc.

Toronto Rhododendron Society PLANT SALE Sunday, April 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 P.M. at Toronto Botanic Gardens

Sales start at 9:30a.m. in the Garden Hall and Patio. The source of the plants is the Rhodo Land Nursery of Jack and Jackie Looye. Also will be a selection of companion plants from the Chalk Lake Greenhouse which is owned and operated by Martin Galloway.



SUCCESSFUL GARDENING SHOW

\$ 15.00 Adults

\$ 12.00 Seniors

\$ 12.00 Youths 9-18

\$ 1.00 Children 8 & Under

2 Shows for the Price of 1: ticket price includes admission to the International Home & Garden Show

NEW FOR 2012 1 TICKET, 2 GREAT EVENTS!

When you visit Canada Blooms, you also receive same-day admission to the National Home Show, for all your renovation, décor & gardening projects!



PRESENTED BY **RS/VRK**

Rockery Maintenance, 2012

It's never too early to start preparing! The Stan Wadlow Rockery is a jewel garden in East York. Back in the 50's, it was THE place for wedding photos. After quite a few years of neglect, EYGC committed to keeping it beautiful. And, we have! Last year, there were lots of family pictures taken at the Rockery. We've won the City's Clean and Beautiful award, and a major reason we won the Volunteer Group of the Year was because of our success with the garden. The Rocker is located on the East side of the baseball diamonds, between the Skatepark and Lumsden Avenue.

As the Coordinator, I look after organizing the delivery of mulch, compost, plants, bulb, getting the water turned on in spring and turned off in fall, mowing, etc., etc. What we need are people to help maintain its beauty.

Our regular maintenance time is Saturday mornings, 10:00AM to 12:00PM, except long weekends. Apart from a couple of heavy cleanup dates (spring and fall) and one major annual planting, the usual tasks are deadheading, weeding and watering. If you know how to do that, come and help us. If you don't know how to deadhead, weed or water, come out and LEARN!

First, we need people who to be Rockery Team Leads. Team Leads work in 2's and commit to working on the Rockery for their scheduled Saturday morning. The goal is that each team only needs to come out 4 or 5 times throughout the summer season. To do that, we need a minimum of 8 Team Leads, we only have 4 so far. Responsibilities include turning the water on for watering (hoses, nozles sprinklers are provided) and turning it off (that's important!). We also store the Club sign, buckets and tools - so get them out and put them back. That's it for "extra" tasks. The rest is the usual deadheading/weeding/watering. Can you commit to 4 or 5 Saturday mornings from May to October?



We also need volunteers on Saturday mornings - people who are willing to come out and help deadhead, weed or water. The more people that COME OUT on Saturday mornings, the better the Rockery looks. The yardwaste is stacked up against the big rock by the path (you can't miss it). Waste Maintenance picks up from there. Will you help make the Rockery a thing of beauty this year?

Feel free to come out on weeknights or earlier/later on Saturday, don't let the organized time stop you! One person said she'd go during the week if/when she could, but, only if she knew someone else would be there, too. Coordinating "some time during the week if I can make it" is a lot of effort, and I'm fully tapped out. If you want to organize weeknights, please let me know. Otherwise, send me your email address, and I'll send it out to anyone else who's interested, and you can contact each other if/when you have time.

The more people, the merrier! More hands make light work! We can't do it without you! (You get it!) If you haven't put your name on the signup sheet that went around at the last meeting, please email me at veronica@eygc.ca or call [416.801.9659](tel:416.801.9659). Thank you! ...vc



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS with EYGC

Have something in your garden you'd like to share but not interested in hosting an open garden? Take a photo of the shrub or plant that you're proud of and send it to me at susanhirst@gmail.com for inclusion on the pre-meeting presentation.



HELP US GO GREEN

We want YOUR email address!!Yes, it is important that you forward your current email address to the editor as postage costs are going up and it is so much better and green to get your newsletter via email.

That way you get it in colour too!

To get your newsletter the green way, email me, at newsletter@eygc.ca

Rewind

A Look back at the January & February Meetings



Do you know that on our website we have all the back issues of The East York Garden newsletters? Visit www.eygc.ca/Newsletters/Newsletter.html and check out the March-April Issue from 2011 to see a wonderful fact sheet about Growing Orchids.

January by Allison Pierecy

Our first meeting of the year had new President Susan Bartlett welcoming new and returning members as well as our speaker, Tena van Andel. January's discussion had Tena taking us to new heights about orchids. Tena presented a fun and informative presentation on the long history of orchid mania and the particulars of orchid growing. A few tips from this Toronto Master Gardener were not to be afraid of putting our orchids in hot western windows in the winter, making sure they always have good drainage and that orchids can really grow on anything as they are air-breathers. They also need cooler temps in the evenings in order to make blooms and enjoy frequent weak fertilization. She then provided a repotting demonstration for those interested. The photo contest topic this month was "Frost" and there were some very strong contenders!

February ~ A few pointers for taking "BUG Photos" by Malcolm Geast

Here are a few pointers for taking "bug photos". This applies to not just insects and spiders, but also to slugs & snails (yes, sometimes even they are photogenic), worms, centipedes, and all the other tiny creatures with whom you share your garden.

- **Focus!** There's nothing more annoying than a photo with a subject that lacks the proper sharpness. Most cameras have an autofocus that can do the job for you reasonably well. But it's important to make sure that the camera is focusing on the correct location. Autofocus doesn't always select the subject that you're interested in. If in doubt, use the manual focus.
- You don't know how your autofocus works, or how to use manual focus? **Get to know your camera.** You'll never know what all those buttons and settings do unless you read the manual and try out the different settings. One of the advantages of a digital camera is that it lets you test its features without wasting film.
- If you've got a moving subject, **use as fast a shutter speed as possible.** Of course, a fast shutter also means that you'll have a wider aperture setting, which reduces the depth of field and the sharpness of the picture. It's a trade-off, one which you'll master with experience.





- With only a few exceptions, insects and spiders are rather small creatures. Good shots of them will require getting close up to them – you want a photo of a ladybug, not a leaf with a red spot on it. If you’re using a point-and-shoot camera, make sure that you **use the macro setting**.

- **Be comfortable with getting dirty.** Many insects are either down on the ground or very close to it. Often, getting up close and personal with them requires that you spend some time lying on the ground. One of the advantages of this is that it often enables you to use the ground to steady your hand and to have a firmer grip on the camera.

- If you’re shooting a stationary or slow-moving subject, **consider using a tripod**. This will keep the camera from moving as you snap the photo, and allow you to shoot with a slower shutter speed.

- Isn’t it great when the subjects of photos decide to sit on a leaf in a nice sunny location? No problem with finding enough light in that situation. Well, sometimes it’s not so great. Too much light, such as you’ll find in mid-day sunshine, can be too bright, especially if you’re taking a picture of a dark bug on light background. You’ll often find that the **best lighting is in the early morning and during the late afternoon or evening**.

- Many insects like to stay out of sight, hiding under leaves or in the shelter of the plants in the garden. To get good photos in these situations, it’s often necessary to use a flash. But this is a situation in which it’s usually not just a matter of using the camera’s auto-settings. Too often those settings will result in a picture that’s too bright in some areas and too dark in others. **Learn to use the manual settings** and gain experience with them by experimenting with different apertures.



- **Take lots of pictures.** Don’t just shoot one picture of that spider on your Hosta. There are different camera angles, different settings, and an insect that may be moving. Sure, you’ll take some photos that are destined for the trash can. But you’ll also take that “wow” shot that you’ve been looking for.

- **Crop!** You just took the best insect photo you’ve ever seen. But there’s some extraneous background material or part of a dead flower on one side of the photo. Whether it’s Photoshop or just the software that came with your computer that you’re using, you can cut out those unwanted parts of the photo that are diverting the viewer’s attention.

- **Buy good lenses. I’ve a good camera** and often told people that expensive camera equipment doesn’t always result in great photos. It’s the eye of the photographer that’s most important. We’ve had photo contest winners who have used relatively cheap point-and-shoots, and a few years ago had a winning entry that was shot with a disposable camera. But when it comes to macro photography (i.e., close-ups of small subjects), the best photos usually require a camera that’s fully controllable by the photographer, and has a variety of lenses to fit each situation. For those extreme close-ups, a good-quality macro lens is a must.



Above all, the most important item is the photographer. It’s your eye that will find the best subjects, and your experience that will give you the best shots.

If you would like to make a submission in be included in the next issue of *The East York Garden newsletter* the next **deadline is April 20th!**

Please e-mail your comments regarding our Newsletter or submissions for the next issue to newsletter@eygc.ca

We're on the Web!

<http://www.eygc.ca>



EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB

Dreaming of Summer Freshness!



Mark your Calendars ~ Some Great Spring Events



- ◆ April 5 to 7 ~ Peterborough Garden Show
- ◆ April 27 to 29 ~ Spring Awakenings at the Gardiner Museum
For one weekend only, spectacular floral installations by some of Toronto's top designers will anticipate the arrival of spring in Toronto! Don't miss this new spring affair!
- ◆ April 8 ~ Toronto Beaches Lions Annual Easter Parade
- ◆ May 2nd ~ Ladies in Landscape at the Toronto Botanical Garden
- ◆ May 13th ~ Mother's Day
- ◆ May 26 & 27 ~ Doors Open Toronto
- ◆ June 17 ~ Gardens of the Beach Tour
- ◆ June 17 ~ Father's Day