

July ~ August 2012



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 Piercy

Newsletter Editor:

Jennifer McDougall

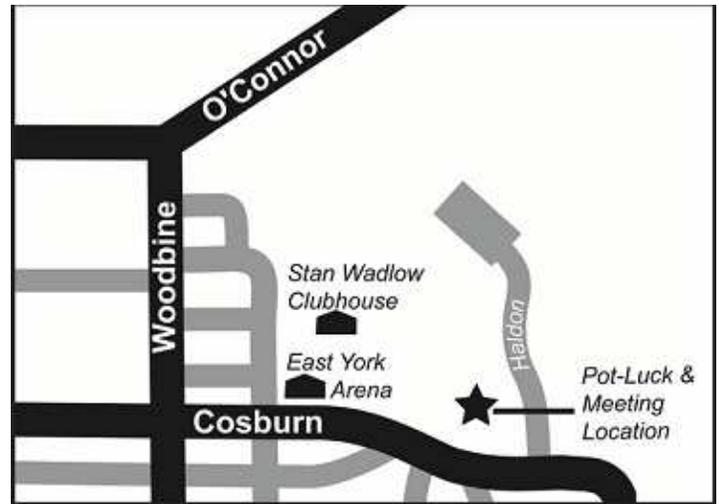


Thursday, July 19th, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

Topic: Annual Member Pot Luck Dinner

Our July pot-luck meeting will be held in the open area above The Rockery, the public garden that the Club has adopted. This will be an opportunity to come out and meet other members, and at the same time take a close look at the recently-planted flower beds.

Please bring a dish of food, with at least six portions*. We also request that you bring your own plate and cutlery, and a folding chair if possible. Beverages will be provided.



*(The law requires us to give notice that the food has not been inspected i.e., eat at your own risk. In keeping with food safety, please follow general food safety practices – wash your hands when cooking, keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot.)

Saturday, August 25, 2012, 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Annual Flower Show & Tea

Entries for the Flower Show will be accepted between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. on Friday evening, and between 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. on Saturday morning. Judging begins at 11:20 a.m. sharp. Viewing time is between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. There will be some nice raffle prizes: tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. (Tickets will be for sale not only the day of the show but at the Potluck dinner.) For the afternoon tea, we would appreciate donations of desserts, cookies, or other goodies. In addition to our flower show and tea, we will have two speakers this year, Celia Rutte and Dan Cooper. At the end of the day, the flowers, preserves and remaining baked goods will be auctioned off.

Regular Meetings resume Thursday, September 20th, 2012!

The Hosta leaves make the June show!

By Barb Piercey

Thank you to all our participants in the June flower show. Sadly, the Iris and the Peonies were long gone this unusual year, but what a show for the hostas! The categories had to be sub-divided and could have been sub-divided even more—and the judge was most impressed by the quality of the specimens.

Hats off to Anna Leggatt for Best Design and Betty Meyers for Best Cut Specimen and Judge's choice and to Joyce Crook for finding a spectacular use for her 60-year old Laura Secord chocolate box!

Thanks to all our volunteers especially our novice clerks—Heather Craig and Jenn McDougall. While clerking doesn't allow you to hear the guest speaker for



the evening, it does give you a chance to get some tips, learn what makes one entry better than another and get some valuable advice for showing in the future. Watch out! They're coming!



The Annual Flower Show & Tea

Saturday August 25th

By Barb Piercey

If you haven't thought about entering a show until now, this is a good one to start! It is a big and fabulous show with 2 judges and a chance to set up your entries the night before and the morning of the show. There are many cut specimen categories, potted and hanging plants, and fruits and vegetables. The design theme is "London 2012" with Kew Gardens, The Thames, Big Ben etc.

A reminder to entrants: Friday entry time: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday entry time 9-11:15 a.m. Judging starts at 11:20 a.m. sharp!

Looking forward to seeing everyone's entries and if there are any questions regarding the show or tea, please call us:

Cristina Brown 416-755-9077

Barbara Piercey 416-755-0278

The Flower Show and Tea opens for viewing and sipping at 2:00 p.m.

Prez Patch

by Susan Bartlett

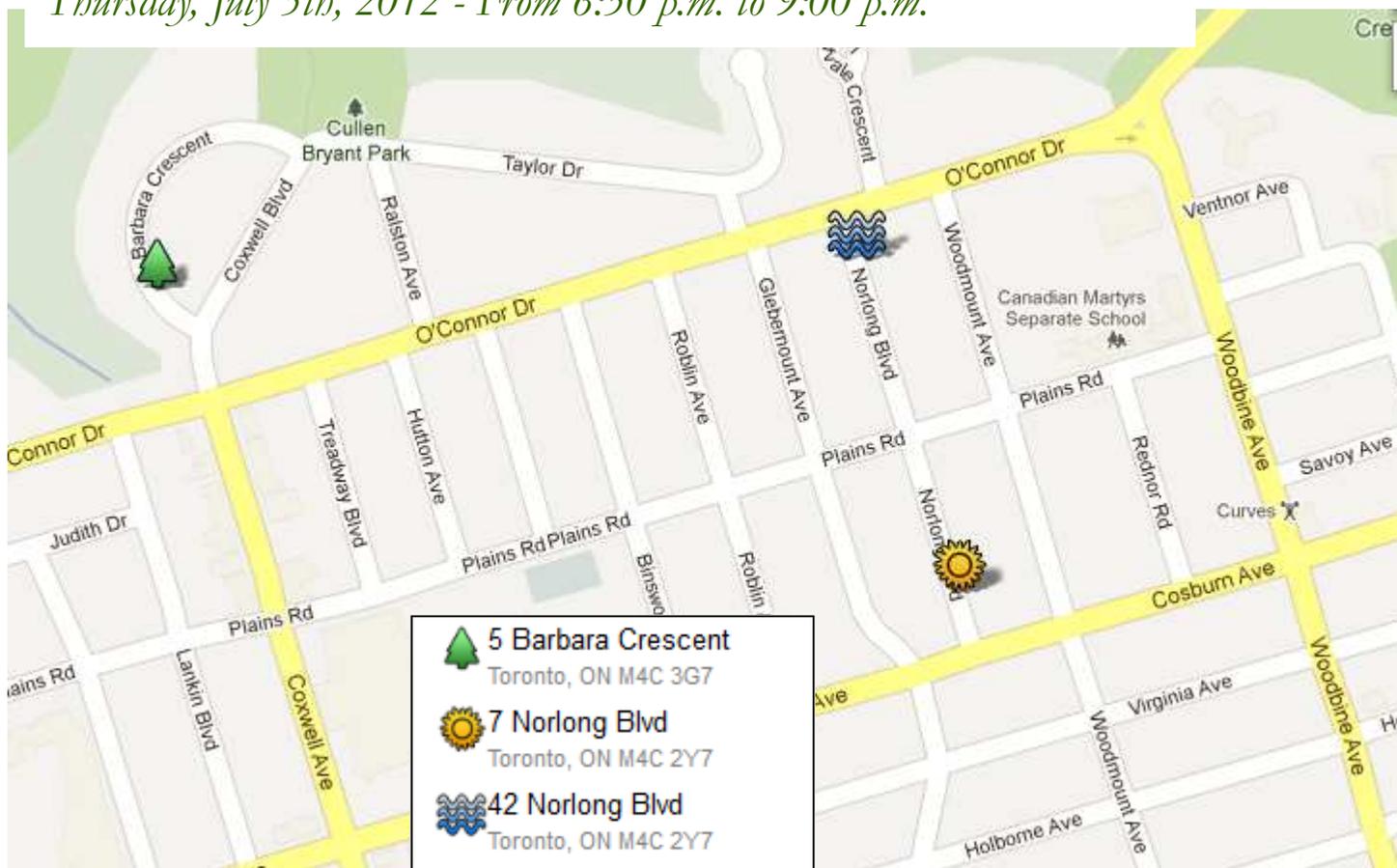
So far this year the Club has been a hive of activity. The first ever People’s Choice Flower Show was a success and so was our May plant sale (see write-up by Lee Pritchard). While Janet Davis’ Environment Day was a little less busy than usual, we still sold a decent amount of plants considering it was so early in the year. Also in April, 30 or so of us from EYGC attended the District 5 AGM in Stouffville, which was a fun and informative day. If you came to the June meeting you got to see (and pick up if you ordered one) the fabulous new club t-shirts that Carole Aida had designed and ordered. If you didn’t order one but like the looks of them, it’s not too late, there are extras available.

The Board decided this year that as the Club coffers are healthy, it was time to give something back to the community. Lee Pritchard coordinated a trip for a class from Victoria Park Public School to participate in one of the learning programs at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Rosalind Regnier and Kim Laudrum assisted on the day of the trip and the grade 3-4 class, with a couple of teachers and parents, enjoyed an educational day learning about nature and horticulture. The class sent a lovely thank-you card to the Club signed by all the children.

Upcoming events include: Canada Day, the Members’ Open Gardens, our pot-luck dinner at the Rockery, and the Annual Flower Show & Tea. With tours such as the TBG Parkdale tour on July 12, and various other garden tours and events, it is turning into a busy summer indeed.

EYGC Members’ Open Gardens ~ Come Join Us!

Thursday, July 5th, 2012 - From 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.





East York Blooming Contest 2012

Calling all gardeners...

Help us to recognize residents, businesses and other property owners of East York (Wards 29 & 31) for making their neighbourhoods beautiful by nominating a garden.

How to nominate a garden:

Nomination forms are available:

- at your local community centre, library and East York Civic Centre
- by e-mailing blooming@eastyorkgarden.ca
- by visiting our website at: www.eygc.ca



Deadline for nominations:

Friday, July 6, 2012

Return your completed form by:

Mail: East York Blooming Contest
c/o Barbara Piercey
50 Merritt Road
East York, ON M4B 3K6

or place in drop-off box in East York Civic Centre

Fax: 416-481-4383

E-mail: blooming@eastyorkgarden.ca

Coordinating committee:

Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation
East York Garden Club



Summer & Fall Photo Contest's ~ Are you taking your pictures?

By Malcolm Geast

Our **summer People's Choice Photography Contest** will be held at this year's Annual Flower Show and Tea on Saturday August 25. There are three categories in the show:

- **The Garden Centre** (nurseries, plant sales also included)
- **Yellow** - One or more yellow flowers
- **Signs** - Billboards, road signs, signs above store windows, etc.

Entries will be accepted between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Friday and between 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. on Saturday. Voting will take place when the show opens at 2 o'clock, and continue until 3:45. Winners will be announced at 3:55. All who attend the show will be eligible to vote.

I hope that you're also taking photos for the **Fall Photo Contest**. This year we're giving you an opportunity to show more of your shots that aren't necessarily garden related, with five horticultural and seven "general" categories:

- **Inside a Flower** - A seriously close close-up of a flower. Photos in this category show the inside of the flower and nothing else.
- **Cactuses and other succulents** - We're not going to give you a definition here, but if your subject has to be watered every day, it's probably not one of these.
- **Harvest Time** - The category name says it all.
- **The World of Mycology** - Mushrooms and other funguses.
- **Anything Grows** (Any horticultural subject) This is a children's (6-10 years) and youth (11-17 years) category.
- **Spiderwebs** - With or without the spider, but remember that the focus is the web, not the spider.
- **Rocks** - One or more of these items that so many of us love to have in our gardens.
- **Insects** - Note that these are the six-legged creatures that we see every day - spiders, centipedes, snails, etc., are not included.
- **In the Forest** - A photo that leaves no doubt that it was taken in or of a forest, so obviously it must include trees.
- **Life in the Swamp** - Frogs, turtles, the Creature From the Black Lagoon, or that goopy green stuff that we see floating - if it's alive and in a swamp, it's a suitable subject for this category.
- **Shadows** - We leave this up to your interpretation. Just make sure that the centre of attention is a shadow (or shadows).
- **Black & White** - Any subject, using only black, white, and shades of grey.

Full details on all our photography contests can be found in your yearbook on pages 28 to 30, and on our website at www.eygc.ca/photocontest.



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 May & June Meetings

June ~ Lilies

This month's meeting was all about Lilies. We had a wonderful guest speaker: Sandra-Pat Willis from S-W Gardens in Thamesville, Ontario. Please visit her website if you are interested in buying any of the various varieties that Sandra-Pat described during her presentation (<http://s-wgardens.com/>) Below is an article from Ontario Regional Lily Society (<http://www.orls.ca/tips.htm>) about caring for your lilies in the post-flowering season. Their website has many useful tips about planting and caring for lilies. If lilies are a new flower for you, please check out their website.

POST-SEASON CARE

“A word about cleanliness in the lily garden. Remove all old flowers as they fade. This prevents the plant going to seed which would reduce flower production in the following season. If seed of certain choice varieties is wanted, allow each plant to mature only a pod or two. This will produce quite sufficient seed for the average gardener to handle. At the end of the growing season and after the stems and foliage have browned cut the stems to the ground and remove all old foliage which may have dropped on the soil previously. An ounce of prevention here will go a great way toward assuring a pest and disease-free lily garden during the ensuing year.”



May ~ The 2012 Plant Sale By Lee Pritchard

Our annual club sale in May this year was a great success!

We may have had fewer donations but overall they were of a higher quality than in past years—from the 11 year old Sargeant Crabapple raised from seed by Stacey Shannon (who bought this?) and the lilies hybridized right here in East York by MaryLou Burt to the well documented delights from Diane Ronan's garden. Perhaps this was a result of our warm and early Spring.

There were enthusiastic new volunteers ready and waiting to help long before the first donations showed up. Thank you to Marg Cooper and MaryLou Burt who worked tirelessly throughout the evening. I know there were many others including board members who helped and I would like to thank you all because without everyone's help this event could not happen.

Imagine what we accomplish in 3 hours. I think of it as a FLASH SALE. We are there as early as possible directing the table set-up, putting up signs and determining the layout just as the plants start to come in. We get a few and put them on the tables and they look rather lost and before you know it the flood begins. It is quite a feat to set this up in some semblance of organization. We look at everything and try to determine what every plant is so that we can price it appropriately. The sticks are flying. (We price by coloured sticks.) Our Master Gardeners (MG's) help tremendously with this aspect.

Anna Leggatt and Veronica Callinan our MG's provided informative and often humorous details about various plants in the sale. The number of questions they fielded shows how important the exchange of information is to gardeners. I happen to think Veronica's hosta division demonstration was one of those highlights that just keeps me coming back to this club every year.

Thank you also to those who donated to the treasure table. With all the contributions and sales we managed to raise \$680 in one evening. You may wonder what happens to the leftover plants: our president Susan Bartlett went home with a trunk-full to nurse them along until Canada Day. Yes Anna, another plant sale!

Grade 3 & 4 Trip to Toronto Botanical Garden on Behalf of EYGC

On June 5th our club hosted a trip for 36 young children from Victoria Park Public School to visit the Toronto Botanical Garden. The TBG has an excellent children's education program designed to enhance the Toronto District School Board curriculum.

Children at high needs schools often do not get to experience nature as much as they should. This program in the Children's Teaching Garden in Edward's Garden took place entirely outdoors. We learned in practical and fun ways what it means to lose green space to urbanization and we planted vegetables and had just a fabulous day amongst the trees and greenery of the park. The creative and talented instructors led by Jasmine Green had us in the palms of their hands as they took us through the Where The Wild Things Roam program in the forest and the edible garden. (They are having a huge problem with deer this year!)



With the help of Kim Laudrum, Roz Regnier and myself along with two teachers and 3 parents we managed to get this large group onto the TTC and over to Lawrence Ave. and Leslie St. without incident. We spent the morning in a learning session and then had a snack break which we provided. Afterwards there was another session and then lunch eaten under the trees, sitting on logs and stumps. All the students were asked what their favourite part of the day was. They were enthusiastic and well behaved and by all reports they absolutely loved it.

Their teacher Yoshie Matsuura was thrilled that we were able to do this for her students and very thankful to our club for sponsoring the day.



OHA District 5 Floral Design Workshop

This fall, on Saturday, September 22, 2012, OHA District 5 will be presenting a Floral Design Workshop with Shirley Binns. A horticultural and design judge, Shirley is known to many of us for her amazing designs in shows at Canada Blooms and the OHA conventions.

The subject of September's workshop will be a **line design using a chicken-wire base**. There will be two identical sessions, one in the morning (9:30 to 11:30), and one in the afternoon (1:00 to 3:00).

Each session includes:

- Short talk about line designs
- Hands-on flower arranging
- Brief critique of each design

The location will be Knox United Church, at the corner of Midland and Sheppard, in Agincourt. Cost is just \$25.00 per session. Plant material, vase and chicken wire will be supplied. There will be a maximum of 30 people per session.

You can sign up for the morning or afternoon session by emailing Ellen Power at epower678@gmail.com or calling 905-473-1322. You must pay by July 31, 2012 ensure your place. Make cheque payable to "OHA District 5" and send to:

Ellen Power
Treasurer, OHA District 5
21603 McCowan Road

Honeybees Take a Vote!

Submitted by Barbara Piercey

"When honeybees outgrow their hive, several thousand workers leave the nest with their mother queen to establish a new colony" LiveScience reports. "A few hundred of the oldest, most experienced bees, called scout bees, fly out to find that new nest. 'They then run a popularity contest with a dance party,' said Thomas Seeley, a biologist at Cornell University and lead author of a new study. When a scout bee finds a potential nest site, it advertises the site with a waggle dance, which points other scouts to the nest's location. The bees carefully adjust how long they dance based on the quality of the site. In 2009, Seeley learned that there might be more to the story. He discovered that a bee could produce a non-stop dancing signal by butting its head against a dancer and making a soft beep sound with a flight muscle. And accumulation of these head butts would eventually cause the bee to stop dancing. The bees collectively chose a nest site when one of the nests accumulated 50 to 100 dancers, so the head-butting could help determine which site got enough wagging support."

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 August 24th!**

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



Mark your Calendars ~

Some Great Summer Events

- ♦ **July 1st** ~ East York Canada Day Parade & Plant & Attic Treasure Sale @ Stan Wadlow Clubhouse.
- ♦ **July 5** ~ EYGC Members' Open Gardens Tour
- ♦ **July 15** ~ Toronto Water Garden Tour (www.onwatergarden.com) - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- ♦ **July 22** ~ SGHS Annual Garden Tour - noon to 4 p.m. Price: \$10.00/ passport (tickets) may be purchased at the Scarborough Village Recreation Centre (3600 Kingston Rd) parking lot on the day of the tour.
- ♦ **August 6** ~ Civic Holiday
- ♦ **August 15** ~ Toronto Botanical Garden ~ HortiCULTURE Salon Series: The Wonderours Willow - 416-397-1341 - Public \$10; Members \$5