



The East York Garden

"The East York Garden" is the Newsletter of the *East York Garden Club*



Issue Date: March-April 2018

Photo: *Striped Crocus* Credit: M. Woods

Next Meetings:

Thursday March 15, 2018, 7:30PM

Topic #1: "Permits & Promise: Make a Garden for People & Wildlife"

Speaker: Rob Norquay

Think twice before putting in new garden on a ravine in Toronto. The city and the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority require a few things from you if you want to do any landscaping. Rob's talk will introduce this complexity and show how this young garden was created. Come find out about a ravine garden where native plants are mixed in with ornamentals and plantings produce food for both humans and the creatures that visit.

Rob Norquay gained his horticultural education & experience in the 70's and 80s. In the early 80's he worked for Frost Greenhouses and earned the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture from the University of Guelph. Since then Rob worked for the Province of Ontario in Human Resources, with a brief stint at the Toronto Botanical Society as their Teaching Garden Coordinator.

Topic #2: "Rain Gardens"

Speakers: Marc Yamaguchi and Ting Wang

The low-maintenance requirements and simple construction of rain gardens make this particular form of LID not only attractive for people on tight budgets, but also those who enjoy DIY projects.

Marc is a College English teacher and raising a young family in East York. In 2015, he headed up the East Danforth Rain Gardens Project, which has grown from an initial 11 to 31 today.

Ting is a part of the urban water cycle and teaches science at a private high school in downtown Toronto. He has been working with Marc at RGU to monitor and ameliorate how Toronto deals with its rainwater.

Members with Surnames beginning with "I" through "L" are asked to bring some cookies or squares for the refreshment table. Thank You!

Theme for the March Peoples Choice Photo Contest: "Ice"
The Preserves Show is this month. Good luck to all entrants!
See rules on page 6.

(Continued on page 2...)



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 pm.

Refreshments are available at 7:00 pm. The Clubhouse is wheelchair accessible. Visitors are always welcome.

Yearly membership fees are \$20.00 for a single, \$30.00 for a family. To inquire about membership, please contact:

Barbara Fairbanks at:
416-755-0278

Visit us on the web:
www.eygc.ca

President:
Barbara Fairbanks

Vice President:
Rosalind Regnier

Newsletter Editor:
Michael Woods



Next Meetings:

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 7:30 PM

Topic: "Succeeding with Magnolias in Southern Ontario"

Speakers: Kevin Kavanaugh

Magnolias are an incredibly diverse group of shrubs and trees and range from small bushes that are only knee high to forest trees that tower over their surrounding neighbours. With many recent introductions of cold hardy varieties there are now many cultivars that can perform well in southern Ontario provided the plants are well sited.

Kevin has been experimenting with more than 70 species and cultivars of magnolias in the gardens surrounding his nursery in Norfolk County. He will present his observations on some of the best performers to date, including those that survived the dreaded 'Polar Vortices' of past winters.

Kevin Kavanaugh is the owner of South Coast Gardens, a small specialty nursery and landscape design business that he launched in 2005 in heart of Ontario's 'Carolinian zone'. Kevin is the author of several book chapters and articles celebrating Canada's wild places and the rich biodiversity of the Carolinian zone.

Members with Surnames beginning with "M" through "O" are asked to bring some cookies or squares for the refreshment table. Thank You!

The April Flower Show is today. Good luck to all those entering, and remember the new rule for the monthly shows, one entry, per competitor, per class.



STRATFORD
garden festival

march 1-4, 2018

BREATHE
the lung association

March - April 2018 EYGC Newsletter Photo

Credits - Various Photos:

Karen Bell, Shauna Brown, Barbara Fairbanks, Monique Gauthier, Malcolm Geast, Austra Gulens, Anna Leggatt, Rick Plume, Diane Ronan, Michael Woods

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch

by Barbara Fairbanks

It has been a long time coming, but the first day of Spring will be Tuesday March 20th! Hooray!

It has been an interesting winter—lots of snow, VERY cold, and a record warm day in February. Soon the snowdrops will be peeking out and then BAM! Heat.

That is when events at EYGC and in the community start picking up—Environment Days, plant sales, Pop-Up garden events, school kids workshop at TBG, flower shows, floral workshops, book sales etc, etc.

Please take a look at page 6 of your yearbook to see a partial list of events and committees for activities EYGC offers. Feel free to be pro-active and call up a Lead/Coordinator and offer some of your time. Not sure how you can help? Call me at **416-755-0278** and I will find you something....!

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings this year and, as always, you can contact me at:

barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net or 416-755-0278

Editor's Letter

What Blooms in Your Garden in May & June?

Have you got any photos of your blooming garden?

We're looking for photos of your garden, photos of your favourite garden, photos of your favourite flowers, photos that inspire you to garden, etc!

Please take a look at your photos past and present, and select some photos that you think would look good on the cover of our newsletter.

They can be photos from your own garden, or from any garden that inspires you, but they should be seasonally appropriate for each issue. Landscape format is best for use on the cover.

Any photo used for the front cover will have your photo credit directly underneath the featured photo.

We're looking for photos for: May-June, July-August, September-October, and November-December. (Gardens can be interesting in winter too!)

I look forward to receiving your photos at:

woods-eygc@bell.net



Michael Woods

Editor,
EYGC Newsletter

Member Advertising

The EYGC Board has formalized some parameters regarding advertising in club newsletters. We will accept one advertisement, free of charge each calendar year

- ◆ The member advertising must be a current member of EYGC
- ◆ The advertisement will appear in only the **May-June newsletter**
- ◆ The advertisement is subject to executive approval

- ◆ The advertisement must be garden-related
- ◆ A print-ready advert would be required, business card sized
- ◆ Submitted as PDF or JPEG or a scanned business card

You may send your advertisement to Barb Fairbanks at barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net no later than March 31, 2018.

Please Note:

All ads to be approved by the EYGC Board.

A New Flower for EYGC...



The votes have been tallied, and the new floral emblem for the EYGC is:

Purple Coneflower
Echinacea Purpurea

Thank you to everyone who voted in the floral emblem survey.



Purple Coneflowers at the Toronto Botanical Garden

In the news...

In the February issue of the **Lee Valley Gardening Newsletter**, they featured an article called "**Eight Pollinator Plants to Grow This Year**", written by Niki Jabbour.

One of the featured plants in this article was the Purple Coneflower. Thank you to Lee Valley, & Niki Jabbour for allowing us to print an excerpt from that article here:



Coneflowers are hardy, long-blooming perennials that are attractive to bees and butterflies.

3. Coneflowers (zones 3 to 9): Native to North America, coneflowers are hardy, long-blooming perennials that flower from mid-summer to mid-autumn. They're resistant to drought, disease and pests and are very attractive to bees and butterflies.

Don't be shy about experimenting with varieties, but for maximum pollinator power, stick to single-flowering types such as 'Magnus', 'White Swan', and 'Cheyenne Spirit'.

Text and photo by Niki Jabbour

Niki Jabbour is the author of *The Year Round Vegetable Gardener*, *Groundbreaking Food Gardens* and the newly released *Veggie Garden Remix* (February 2018). Find her at SavvyGardening.com.

To read the full article, go to Lee Valley's Newsletter Section at: www.leevalley.com

New! Preserves Competition: March 15, 2018



If you make preserves, this is your time to shine!

Formerly a part of the April Flower Show, this year **Preserves** will have a show of their own at the March 15 meeting. Entry time is 6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. Judging commences at 7:30 sharp.

- Full container, made within the previous 12 months
- No more than two entries per class per household.
- **Must be vacuum-sealed.**
- **Ingredients must be listed** (on the entry tag, the jar label or on a piece of paper to accompany your entry tag)

The classes are:

1. Chili Sauce or Salsa, 1 jar
2. Jam, 1 jar
3. Jelly, 1 jar (clear)
4. Marmalade, 1 jar
5. Pickles, 1 jar
6. Vinegar, flavoured, 1 jar
7. Any other kind of preserves, 1 jar

Entries will be tasted by the judge and all points will be part of the Flower Show aggregate totals for the year-end awards.

Questions?

Call Barb Fairbanks 416-755-0278

A reminder: Flower Show Changes for 2018

The Flower Show Committee has made a few significant changes to the 2018 Flower Show schedule:

- Entries for the monthly shows (April, June and September) will be **restricted to only one entry per competitor per class**
- For each of the monthly shows (April, June and September) there will be a **class in the "Cut Specimens" section that is just for first-timers**. These first-timers have NEVER competed in a show prior to 2018. This is to get them/you to dip your toes and compete amongst yourselves. The entries will be judged based on the same criteria as the rest of the classes, but some helpful information from the judge and show chairs may be written on your entry tag. These first-timers may also fully compete in all other classes. The first-timers are considered first-timers for all 2018 shows.

Some classes have been eliminated or consolidated. Please fully read through the Flower Show Schedule in the yearbook to see all the changes.



**District 5 AGM:
Saturday April
28th in Aurora**

This year the District 5 Annual General Meeting will be held in Aurora (it is their 100th anniversary!) and their theme is: Preserve our History, Protect our Future. It will be held at the Northridge Community Church of the Salvation Army on Saturday April 28th from 9am to 3:30pm.

The cost for registration is \$30 and that includes 2 speakers, lunch, door prizes, draw prizes and the flower show competition. This year the speakers will be: David Tomlinson known for his garden Merlin's Hollow, and Mark & Ben Cullen! A great line-up.

The last chance to reserve your seat, we will be at our March meeting. Please sign up and bring your payment in cash or cheque (payable to East York Garden Club).

April Flower Show Update

What's on for the April Flower Show Competition?

The April Flower Show takes place at our monthly meeting held on **Thursday, April 19**. Entry time is 6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. Judging begins at 7:30 p.m. sharp. Listed below are the categories for the show. You can also check out details on how to enter in the yellow pages of your yearbook.

SECTION A – CUT SPECIMENS

1. Hyacinth, any colour, 1 spike
2. Iris, 1 stalk
3. Narcissus, trumpet, 1 stem
4. Narcissus, large cup, 1 stem
5. Narcissus, small cup, 1 stem
6. Narcissus or daffodil, any variety, 1 stem - **First-time exhibitor**
7. Tulip, 1 stem
8. Any flowering bulb, corm or rhizome, 1 stem
9. Collection of rockery flowers and/or small flowering bulbs, 3 or more kinds, must be named
10. Helleborus (i.e. Christmas Rose), 1 stem
11. Branch, flowering or foliage, natural or forced, not to exceed 76 cm
12. Any other flowering perennial, 1 stem

SECTION B – HOUSEPLANTS

1. African violet, 1 crown, 1 pot
2. Cactus or succulent, 1 pot
3. Foliage house plant, 1 pot
4. Orchid, 1 pot
5. Any other house plant, flowering, 1 pot
6. Cell pack of seedlings, grown by exhibitor, must be named

SECTION C – DESIGN CATEGORIES

Show Theme: "Meditation"

1. **A Quiet Walk** - a design using footwear a) Experienced exhibitors b) Novice exhibitors (A person who has not yet won a first-place ribbon in a design category at an EYGC flower show.)
2. **Solitude** – a design incorporating a single bloom
3. **Connectivity** – an interpretive design
4. **Clarity** – a small design (13.9 cm to 25.4 cm)
5. **Yoga** – a dried miniature design (maximum dimensions 12.7 cm)



It's "Pop-Up" Time!

This year we encourage everyone to think about doing a "Pop-Up". Your garden can be large, small or a work in progress. It's an opportunity to socialize with fellow members and to share knowledge.

You can arrange it in advance or give us at least 2 days notice to send out an email blast and make phone calls. If you are able to open your garden more than once during the year – Great! - Because then we see it through the changing seasons. If you can arrange two viewing times on one day, it allows members more flexibility to plan their visit. But it's really whatever works best for you. You are the one sharing!

Access to the gardens is exclusive to EYGC members.

If you want to pop-up your garden, please contact: **Diane Ronan Tel: 416-421-9604** or **Email: barb.fairbanks-eygc@bell.net**



Here are a few photographs of the many gardens that were popped-up during the 2017 season

EYGC 2018 Bus Tour

Saturday Sept. 8th - We'll be visiting:

Whistling Gardens...a must see garden.
We'll have a tour & then time to purchase plants.



Next we'll go to a buffet lunch...



Then we visit the **Bell Homestead** in Brantford



Local produce & baked goods will be available at our last stop.

Cost \$85 for EYGC, OHA members
\$20 extra for non-members
(for membership fee)

All taxes & gratuities are included

Tickets available at the May meeting
Rosalind Regnier: 416-759-6247



Small Space Gardening in Quebec City

By Karen Bell

In Old Quebec City – especially Lower Town – the narrow streets are generally thronged with people and space is tight. But that doesn't stop inhabitants from sprucing up their shops and buildings with plants and flowers. The bright colours look good against the solid old stone walls.



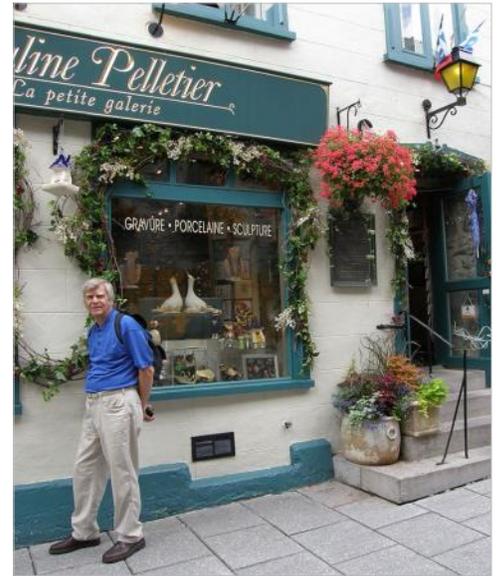
Rabbits cavort between ferns and flower pots.



Hanging baskets of bright flowers adorn a steep stairway



Some people get a little carried away



George Gorrie pauses to enjoy the storefronts

Flower Show Trophies & Awards You Can Win—Yes, you!!

Every year there are award presentations at our end-of-the-year AGM in November. This includes cash prizes for show points as outlined in the Flower Show Rules (the yellow section in your year-book). This is a reminder of our trophies and awards possibilities for competitors:

We have the “**Anna Leggatt Novice Award**” that is awarded to the novice who wins the highest number of points in the monthly and annual shows. To be eligible, a member cannot have won a first prize in an EYGC flower show prior to the current year.

We have the “**Betty Meyers Best Cut Specimen Award**” of \$5, which is awarded to each member who receives the judge's Best Cut Specimen at each of our regular monthly shows: April, June and September.

Finally, we have the “**George S. Henry Trophy**” which is awarded to the member with the highest number of aggregate points in both Horticulture & Design classes in the monthly and annual shows.





50 in 150: A Transformative First Year

By Austra Gulens

The benefits and joys of certifying my garden as a wildlife friendly habitat surpassed anything I could have imagined. I've always been inspired by Monet's garden in Giverny, so it's no surprise that my initial garden plans for my new house echoed his famous words, "More than anything, I must have flowers."

But now I had a new purpose, as the basic requirements of the certification made me think differently about how I would plan my large, relatively blank canvas of a backyard.



Before



After

It's been a remarkable blessing: my garden is definitely full of colourful blossoms, April to November, but now it is also full of life, through every season.



SPRING I was amazed with all the birds that landed in my garden. At last count, 30 different species! The trial and error of finding the right bird feeders and seeds was worth it, as it is clearly attracting a regular crowd. The chipmunks, however, were not impressed when I switched to mess-free sunflower seeds! Of course, there was a short lived (but entertaining!) battle with the squirrels. As Kyo McLearn says in her lovely book *Birds, Art, Life*, "If you listen to birds, every day will

have a song in it." The daily symphony of bird song I hear - all year long, as it turns out - lifts my spirits and makes me smile, every day.



SUMMER Oh, the utter joy of having planted so many native and pollinator friendly plants: butterflies! I just couldn't get enough of the daily visits of the swallowtails, painted ladies and monarchs, especially to the butterfly bushes, coneflowers, and phlox. Catching the monarchs and hummingbirds feasting together was simply mesmerizing. I was even lucky enough to see the monarch "mating dance." Twice! (Yes, I did have to google it when I saw one monarch carrying another up into a tree!) I also saw that my bird bath was no longer just about aesthetics. That day when over a dozen finches and sparrows were splashing about, my adorable niece dubbed it a "feathered friends pool party."

FALL For the first time in my life, no fall clean-up. The knowledge I gained from EYGC meetings inspired me to help protect pollinators by leaving the perennial clean up until spring. Such an amazing proliferation of bees (I'm still learning who's who) were buzzing in the asters and lavender long after the time I had previously assumed the garden was finished for the season. Plus, only a small portion of leaves made it to the curb. I'm hoping this helped all kinds of bees and insects survive the winter.



WINTER I used to think of winter as "dead time" in the garden. This winter, the perennials and grasses looked so lovely with a fresh snowfall, and, more importantly, they provided a feast for the birds. There are days when I can hardly count

how many goldfinches are snacking on the seed heads! As for the birds, I get daily visits from cardinals, chickadees, goldfinches, house finches, juncos, and downy woodpeckers. Amazing.

In this ever-challenging and changing environment, I have to admit that it feels good to make a difference and help the fragile life around us, however small my contribution may be. Full circle to Kyo McLearn: "The birds were saying - Stand up. Look around. Be in the world." And so now I do. I don't just enjoy my beautiful, fragrant flowers; I pay attention to all the sights and sounds around me. There is still so much to learn (the learning never ends for us gardeners) but I can't believe how much my garden and I have transformed in just one year.

When the hub of activity in my garden prompts my neighbour to exclaim, "It's like the National Geographic channel back here," I think I've done something right.



When I sit snuggled up indoors in the middle of winter, watching a flock of cardinals cavorting or the goldfinches nibbling on the coneflowers, I know I've done something right.



Volunteers Needed for Canada Blooms March 9 to 18th!

Every year the OHA has a booth at Canada Blooms and needs 2 volunteers per shift to promote Horticultural Societies all over Ontario. Malcolm Geast and Nancy Serrick organize the volunteers and it is a very enjoyable few hours.

The three shifts are:
10am-1pm; 1-4pm; 4-7pm

It is great meeting other gardeners from all over Ontario, promoting our club and others. You get free admission (but you pay for your own transportation/parking) and can visit both Canada Blooms & the Home Show before or after your shift.

There is a binder of information for all the districts in the OHA and lots of brochures, bookmarks, plant sale flyers from all the different clubs for you to distribute to the public. Plus, there will be the new and beautiful EYGC brochures to hand out to local gardeners and potential new members.

If you haven't done this before, a great opening line to draw people in as they pass is "Do you belong to a garden club?" and it the chat just rolls on from there.

If you would like to be a volunteer contact:
Nancy Serrick of District 5 directly at her email:
nser@rogers.com



NORTH AMERICAN
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Native Plant Sale

Saturday May 5, 2018

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Toronto Botanical Garden,
777 Lawrence Ave. East
Toronto ON, M3C 1P2



How I Lost My Sidewalk Lavender

By Karen Bell

In 2000, I moved from a downtown apartment to the house I now live in (my millennium project), and a lone little balcony plant made the cross-town journey with me: some lavender (I forget what kind).

I planted this little lavender in part sun beside the back patio and smiled as it grew and thrived. I joined the EYGC and began to learn more about plants. Pretty soon I learned that lavender likes hot, dry, sunny conditions. It took a little courage but I moved it to my hard-scrabble front garden



Lavender spills over the old retaining wall.

where it perched next to a low retaining wall overlooking the public sidewalk. The plant not only thrived, but began to self-seed. Maybe it feared sudden death due to neglect? Once I had three of them growing happily out there, I began potting up new volunteers to give away.

One year, a lavender plant grew up from a crack in the city sidewalk, where weeds usually grew. I pulled it right out by the roots and potted it up. It survived. The next year, a couple more grew in those sidewalk cracks and somehow I never got around to pulling them. They went through the winter and lived on, despite applications of rock salt and repeated assaults by the city

sidewalk plough. After that feat, I never had the heart to pull them.

By 2016, the old front retaining wall was leaning and cracking so badly that passers by began to give it a wide berth and pull their dogs away. In 2017 I finally hired a contractor to tear out the retaining walls and planters and build new ones. The old Credit Valley Stone had to go. I was away the day they pulled out my "Sidewalk Lavender" and it vanished with the rubble. I felt bad, they were such valiant plants. But I'll be watching for more sidewalk volunteers, come next summer.

For those 17 members who do not have email:

EYGC tries to include all our members in hearing about the special events or reminders that our email members see. We do that by telephone.

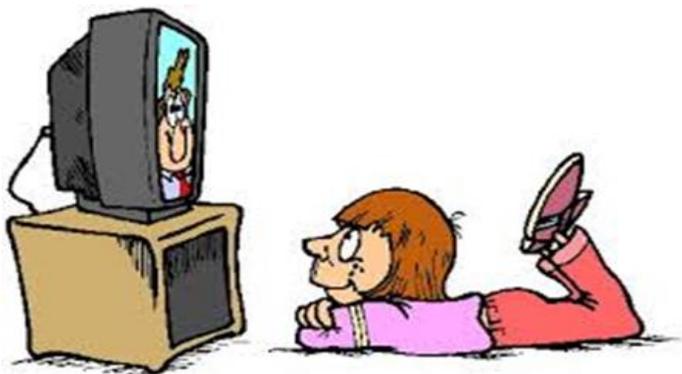
We have a "Telephone Tree" with **Jane Karpenko** as our Lead communicator. This year we have expanded the team to include **Sue Mason** and **Sue Wells**. You may get a phone call or a message from any one of these women to keep you apprised of what is happening at EYGC.

If you have any questions or recommendations regarding the Telephone Tree, please contact:

Jane at 416-406-3141.

At this time, we would like to thank **Darina Quinn** for all the calls she made over the past few years—many at the last minute due to the popularity of our Pop-Up Garden Events. She was always a cheerful and efficient caller and we appreciate all she did for us.





Fitness for Gardeners: Does Netflix Count?

Okay, I have to be honest with you, my ideal exercise is binge watching Netflix. It's true. My biceps get a nice little workout lifting the glass of wine (make sure to alternate arms) and if I watch something scary, boy, does my heart rate increase!

But, my other ideal is to hike the mountains of Peru looking for orchids, dig new gardens, weed, haul cement to make hypertufa, and piggy back grandchildren until someday they scatter my ashes over the perennial garden. I want to do these activities pain free and with grace. So reluctantly, I've had to find a way to supplement my Netflix exercise with one a little more organic.

I discovered that **3-D Workout™ for Gardeners** is ideal for me – in fact, 3-D Workout is ideal for everybody regardless of age, shape, size. It's thoughtful, effective and FUN.

Haven't exercised in years and in despair at where to start? No worries, you can learn 3-D Workout sitting in a chair. With a little effort, you'll soon be getting up and down to weed the garden and chase those bulb-eating squirrels like a sprinter.

Are you one of those energizer gardeners that haul bags of soil then head off to Zumba, play tennis and that's only on Mondays? 3-D can teach you to improve your proprioception and protect how you move your body in space. Yup, proprioception is a real thing and we all have it.

3-D is absolutely the best way to do any activity you want and wake up the next morning without being stiff, sore or worse, injured.

It is a whole body fitness program. I've been doing 3-D for about 10 years and no matter what activity I choose — gardening, hiking,

golfing, mountain biking — I am better, stronger, more flexible and pain free. Okay, I don't really golf and I hate mountain biking, but I'm confident my 3-D body could if it wanted!

3-D is different because it is a functional fitness program appropriate for all ages, although it is particularly beneficial to those of us over the age of 50.

It will improve your strength, balance and flexibility which will help prevent injuries, osteoporosis and falls.

It will restore movement that you've lost through injury or the stiffness from those hours binge exercising on Netflix.

It will make you feel light, graceful and lively. Or, if you prefer, strong and manly with whiplash reflexes.



Each class moves through body integration, stretching and light weight resistance training.

Please join us for 3-D Workout for Gardeners. We meet at the **Toronto Botanical Garden** on Mondays at 10:00am and/or Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Cost ranges from \$18 - \$25 per class. To ensure individual guidance, classes are limited to 10 participants.

Contact Tena van Anandel:

tenavanandel@gmail.com / 416-757-7203

For more information, encouragement and recommendations for the Netflix show that most raises your heart rate!

While going through some past issues of the EYGC newsletter, I came across a lovely drawing by one of our members, Karen Bell, of a Purple Coneflower. Since this is our new floral emblem, I thought it would be great to re-print Karen's drawing, so here it is! Thanks Karen!
MDW, Editor





Experiences of a Novice Violet Grower, or, In an African Violet Nursery

By Shauna Brown

For my birthday, early last May I received from my children, along with some bedding plants, a lovely, lavender coloured African Violet. It was wrapped up in plastic, like cut flowers are, and crowded into the flat of bedding plants. Unfortunately, when I unwrapped it, eight of its leaves were broken off. Now my limited knowledge about violets I got from watching my mother caring for hers. I remembered that she would give friends leaves off of her plants whenever requested, and saw her rooting leaves herself. I decided to try and get at least a few plants out of my 8 leaves, they all looked healthy and had pretty long stems. I can't remember what I rooted them in. I think in a narrow vase that was big enough to hold them all. And I don't remember when they got roots.



I managed to have 6 leaves produce roots and subsequently potted them in African Violet Promix by PremierTech Home & Garden Inc. of Brantford ON. I didn't keep track of how long it took them to make leaves, but by October I had plants which I was ready to give, or trade away. Three I gave away as gifts, I traded one with my friend Nancy for a Tom Thumb Miniature Violet.

I asked Barb Fairbanks if she knew of anyone who would like to trade an African Violet. She arranged for an e-mail blast to be sent out to EYGC members on Oct. 27th, the response was almost immediate from Mary Lou Burt and Cynthia Townshend. On Oct. 28th I traded one of my plants for one of Cynthia's - a lovely one with variegated purple and white flowers and Mary Lou Burt traded me one for

one leaf from each of her violets.

I used empty pill bottles to root them in, the problem with this was the lids were not conducive to making a hole, I managed to drill a hole in one lid, but it was difficult, extremely time consuming and I was afraid of drilling myself! Paper got soggy, likewise cardboard. If I didn't use a lid the water evaporated faster than I could keep up with and some of the leaves stems were too short and they'd fall out.



I ended up making lids cut out of discarded plastic yogurt containers just a tiny bit larger circumferences than the bottle. I cut a hole in the centre of the lid just big enough to take the stem. In retrospect I'm sure there must be something that's already out there made specifically for rooting cuttings. Incidentally the bottle with its own lid worked the best for the rooting because the hole was only slightly bigger than the stem, the lid was a tight fit so it never spilled or lost water by evaporation, so I never had to add water to it. But when the time came to free it from the bottle it was the most difficult to remove the lid without damaging the roots, because I couldn't just snip the hole bigger.

By the time I was finished on October 28th I had 2 violets, one from my kids and one from Cynthia, and 18 or 19 cuttings in various stages of development. I already had started a couple of leaves off my daughter's plant, which has dark purple flowers; they were already rooted and planted with some leaves started. I had the 8 or 9 leaves from Mary Lou, plus several which got knocked off Cynthia's plant in transit from her house to my house. I was no more able to throw those out than I had been able to throw out the ones broken off my birthday present back in May! I lost 2 or 3 leaves that didn't make it to the root stage. The only problem is that now I'm not sure which were the leaves broken in transit and which were from Mary Lou. Some of hers I recognise because they were quite large and/or variegated green and white. The cutting I traded with my friend Nancy was already planted and had a few leaves. It is a Tom Thumb Miniature Violet with very tiny leaves. I can hardly wait for them all to get established and bloom. I'll have some more traders! I'll also have to figure out how to make my window sills wider to hold them when they are larger.

On November 27th I planted the rooted leaves in Violet mix some in the Promix and some in Fafard African Violet Mix (which is produced in Quebec) I kept a note of the fertilizer content in each brand, but since I didn't mark the pots with what type was in them, I won't be able to compare them, so won't take up space with that information here.

I also repotted the plant Cynthia gave me into a larger pot. It has flourished and looks like the side that lost the leaves is filling in and looking more even.

On Friday, January 5th I noticed several leaves had sprouted tiny new leaves. I think these sprouting violets are much thirstier, I've had to water them twice a week (mind you they are in small pots). I wonder if it's because the central heating is going 24-7. It is a colder winter than I've experienced since moving here from Alberta in 2012. I water the sprouting violets by filling a 4 litre jug of water with Schultz's Liquid African Violet Plant Food with the prescribed amount mixed in the water. That I pour in the sink, put in as many plants as the sink will hold, and leave them until the soil is damp on the top, remove them and then I do the same with some more until all of the plants are watered, this takes hours and takes at least 2/3 of the water. 3-4 days later I water them again by filling their saucers with just water until they no longer suck them dry, this doesn't seem to take so long to accomplish, probably because it's not necessary to transport them to the sink and back. But in the sink I don't have to worry about ruining my furniture by spilling water.

I wish I had taken pictures throughout this process, but then I didn't know I would be asked to write of my experiences! Today I will take pictures.



You can see in the photos I just took on January 9th, that the mature plants which lost leaves are still lopsided; I think one would have to remove leaves all around to rectify that. They are fine with me the way they are, but they'd be impossible to water from the top of the plant if they had all their leaves. Therefore, my mother's advice to always water them from the bottom and never get their leaves wet becomes irrelevant. (My question was always, why not? I ask: is it because I'd likely knock off more leaves?)

Also notice in the two pictures, one with the baby leaves nestled under and behind the parent leaf and the next with the parent leaf trimmed down so the

baby leaves can get room to grow and sunlight from the window when it deigns to shine! I read about doing this on one of my fact finding trips on the internet. It appears to be a good thing to do.

It is now January 30th and I am still waiting for 4 leaves to sprout baby leaves. I took pictures tonight of one of the leaves that is growing practically on top of the baby leaves, before and after I trimmed the mature leaf. I find it maybe is not nerve racking, but close, trying to trim the leaf without touching the young sprout, so I took it down in several sections.

February 22, 2018, and all but 1 leaf has produced new leaves. I am wondering how long before they bloom and I can label them and know what I have. I'm sure I'll have more traders eventually, or gifts.

I hope you have all enjoyed reading about my adventures in violet propagation and look forward to perhaps trading violet progeny with you!



Toronto African Violet & Gesneriad Society Presents

"Come Together" - April 8

Toronto Botanical Garden

Floral Hall, 777 Lawrence Ave East,
Toronto, Ontario

Entries (9:00 am to Noon) - April 7,

Judging (2:00 pm) - April 7

Show Open to the Public from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sales will be in the Studios, Admission: A Toonie \$2





Growing from Seed

By Anna Leggatt

Are you going to grow new plants this coming year?
Perhaps shrubs or trees?
Perennials?
Annuals?
Vegetables?

Will you buy mature plants? Young plants? Liners or seedlings? Or will you grow plants from seed yourself?

Growing from seed is fun, usually much cheaper, you can source unusual varieties and you may find a new form if you grow from wild collected seed. You also learn a bit more about a plant and frequently have extras to sell, swop or give away.



Time consideration is important: when will the plant reach flowering size? How long will you continue to garden where you are now living? Many woodies will take from 5 – 30 years before they form a reasonable specimen. Our *Liriodendron tulipifera* was a seed in about 1980 and is now 20+m tall. This is a fast growing tree! Some bulbous perennials are slow – *Trillium* flowers in 7 years from seed. However, most perennials will flower the following year from seeding. Annuals and vegetables will be producing a few weeks or months after seeding.

Space and cost should be considered together. Potatoes need room and it is difficult to find starters in small quantities for a limited growing area. Carrots need less space but are cheap in shops. Buying vegetables may be more economical.

Farmers markets sell a wide range of varieties. However, leeks cost about \$1 each. They store well and you can grow plenty in a couple of square feet. Growing these from seed is cost effective. However, nothing surpasses the taste of freshly picked peas or beans and you know how they have been grown and what, if any, chemicals have been used. Carrots pulled out of the garden and into my mouth is a delightful childhood memory.



Perhaps you want annuals. How many do you want? A cell pack of petunias or marigolds often costs less than a packet of seeds so buy plants unless it is an unusual variety. Sometimes you can even take cuttings from a bought plant – Coleus or expensive 'Silver Falls' *Dicentra* root well.

Seeds are programmed to grow. However, some may have safeguards that prevent them from germinating at the wrong time. Most annuals and vegetables will grow once they have **water, air and warm temperatures**. Only a **few need light** to germinate (after all, it is dark in the soil.)

Some seeds are helped by **scarification** – gentle rubbing seeds with sandpaper to help with water uptake. I also soak these seeds in warm water for 24 hours. This speeds up the germination.

Others need **stratification**. This is alternation of cold and warm temperatures to make the seed behave as if it has been outside in a winter.

Planning: Decide what seeds you want to grow. Read seed catalogues and look in Garden Centres. (Rene's Garden seeds have some of my favourites. The list often has new varieties of flowers and vegetables and, best of all, has many packs containing 2 or 3 colour-coded varieties. www.reneesgarden.com)

Placement and Time: Many plants can be directly sown outside and will produce only a little later than those started inside. **Read** the seed packet label! This will help you to decide when to start seeds. In an average season, peas, lettuce, beets, etc, cool weather crops, can be direct seeded in April.

Tomatoes, bush and climbing beans need warm soil - usually at the end of May. Squash family seeds are best planted outside in early June with okra mid June. These can have a head start indoors. Petunias and snapdragons can withstand cooler temperatures. Marigolds need more warmth.

Have you enough **light** to start seeds indoors? Light is deceptive. A place may appear to be brightly lit but our irises open wider in dim light. Plants can't compensate. A south window may appear to have enough light **but** it will get too hot in direct sun. Use grow lights – florescent tubes or the expensive, but excellent, new LED grow lights - even a high shelf under a fluorescent feature. Seedling leaves are best 10cm below the tubes.

Planting your seeds: you need a lightweight non-soil based mix. Pro-Mix for seedlings is best. Buy new pots or thoroughly clean old ones and sterilize in 10% bleach solution. Make sure your medium is thoroughly wet. Fill the required pots, gently tamping down the “soil”. I stand them in a tray with water below. Make labels and record what you are planting and where the seeds are going. Put a label in a pot, and then gently spread the seeds around on the surface. Do this one pot at a time so you don't get muddled. Put a little bit more of the “soil” on top of large seeds. I like to sprinkle a tiny bit of poultry grit or aquarium gravel over small seeds. Then put the planted pots in a tray, making sure the pots are thoroughly drained. Put the tray in a plastic bag and leave in a warm place till the seedlings appear. Most of my ordinary seeds stay in the furnace room. Others are in a dark warm cupboard and others in a cupboard where the temperature is about 10C. Others are in the greenhouse where the temperature fluctuates but remains above 4C. The garage also has fluctuating temperatures, especially under the car. It also gets below freezing. When you see some green, move them under lights, out of the bag. I have started about 80 different seeds so far, mostly perennials and alpiners.

Go to <http://www.onrockgarden.com/germination-guide/plants> for help with germination times and temperatures, if not listed on the seed packet.

Damping-off may be a problem with non-sterile pots and soil mix, or even household air. Seedlings germinate, grow for a few days, and then suddenly keel over, as if the stems had been almost cut through. Several microscopic fungi cause this. A useful fungicide has been removed from the shelves so we can't use a former cure. Don't let the pots get too wet and keep good ventilation. Try a preventative home mix. Make chamomile tea with one bag to 4 cups of boiling water. Let it steep for 24 hours and transfer the tea to a spray bottle. Spray every 2 or 3 days. The solution will be good for a week. Also try sprinkling cinnamon on the pots.

Transplant you seedlings into larger pots when they have about 4 true leaves. **Remember our Plant Sale** if you have space to grow extra plants.

Don't shock you plants by suddenly taking them outside in May (or April). First put them in a shady place, and then gradually move them into the sun. This is known as **Hardening off**.

May18. Remember this date. Why? It is 3 months before our Annual Show and you must own a plant for 3 months to qualify for entry in the Horticultural classes. Good Luck!

New to Flower Show Competitions?



Do you want to know what all the excitement is about? Do you want to win “big” (ha-ha) money at the end of the year?

If you grow any flowers, fruits or vegetables, grasses, houseplants etc then you could possibly enter any of our shows throughout the year.

The yellow section in your yearbook (pages 13 to 26) give you the basic information as to what you can enter and how to enter.

If you want to know more, or have questions regarding any part of the schedules or rules, please call:

**Cristina Brown 416-755-9077 or
Linda Boyko 416-699-4038 or
Claudette Levesque 416-424-4767**



2018 OHA Convention Competitions

The convention has many ways for you to express your talents.

There are competitions for art, creative writing, photography, and floral design. The deadlines are earlier than the actual convention, so that they may have time to have all the entries in hand and judged prior to the convention the weekend of July 27-29.

Please look at the OHA website: www.gardenontario.org and click on 'convention' and then on 'competitions' for full details of registration.

If you require a printed version of any of the competition details or registration forms, please contact Barb Fairbanks.

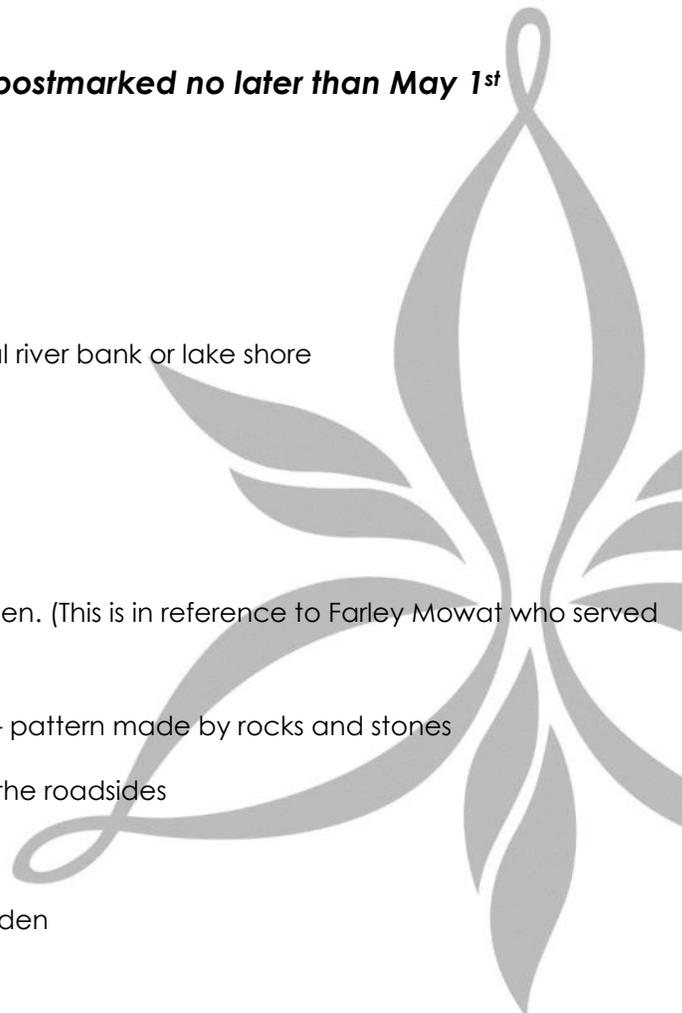
As we did last year, Anita Millar (amillar1961@gmail.com or 647-710-1153) will accept your photographs up to April 21st and send them all to the Coordinator in time for the competition. Since I will be going to the OHA Convention, I will accept your pre-registration of an art piece up to May 21st and register all our club's entries together with the coordinator. In July I will arrange to pick up your pieces and take them to Kingston for judging. For creative writing, you can register and mail directly to the coordinator by June 1st.

Photography: *Entries must be registered & postmarked no later than May 1st*

ADULT CLASSES

- Class 1** **The Old Apple Tree** – An apple tree
- Class 2** **Reach for the Sun** – A sun loving plant
- Class 3** **Along the Shore** – Plant material from local river bank or lake shore
- Class 4** **Rock and Roots** – A rock garden
- Class 5** **Boxed In** – A window box
- Class 6** **Dawn** – Garden early in the morning
- Class 7** **And No Birds Sang** – Songbird (s) in a garden. (This is in reference to Farley Mowat who served in the Prince Edward County militia.)
- Class 8** **Gardening Rocks** – (Black & White Class) – pattern made by rocks and stones
- Class 9** **Wayside Wonders** – Plants growing along the roadsides
- Class 10** **From Shore to Shield** – Serviceberry
- Class 11** **Garden Bones** – A winter photo of the garden

OHA 112th CONVENTION



YOUTH CLASSES: **

a) Ages 6-11 b) Ages 12-17

Class 12 a & b Garden Gems - Your interpretation

Class 13 a & b Curb Appeal - A front garden

**Youth Classes are now part of the Youth Competition Schedule. See schedule on www.gardenontario.org/

Creative Writing: Entries must be registered & postmarked no later than June 1st

Class 1 A Song – “Gardening Rocks”- Name the tune and create

Class 2 Free Verse Poem – Using the Convention Theme: From Shore to Shield. Should be at least 8 lines long.

Class 3 Narrative - Write about “*The Old Apple Tree*”. 500-600 words, double spaced.

Art: Must pre-register by June 1st

Class 1 And No Bird Sang – A song bird in the garden
A pencil drawing using coloured or graphite or a combination. Maximum size 61 cm (24”).

Class 2 Wayside Wonders
A framed watercolour painting. Maximum size 61 cm (24”).

Class 3 From Shore to Shield
Any hand stitchery (embroidery, crewel, cross-stitch, petite point, needlepoint, etc.). Maximum size 61 cm (24”).

Class 4 Rocks and Roots
A carving using artist’s choice of material; mounted or freestanding. Maximum size 61 cm (24”).

Class 5 Along the Shore
Fabric art inspired by the St. Lawrence River. Maximum size 61 cm (24”).

Class 6 Boxed In
Handcrafted basket, hand decorated window box. Maximum size 61 cm (24”).

Class 7 The Old Apple Tree
Mixed media in a frame. Maximum 28 cm x 36 cm (11" x 14").

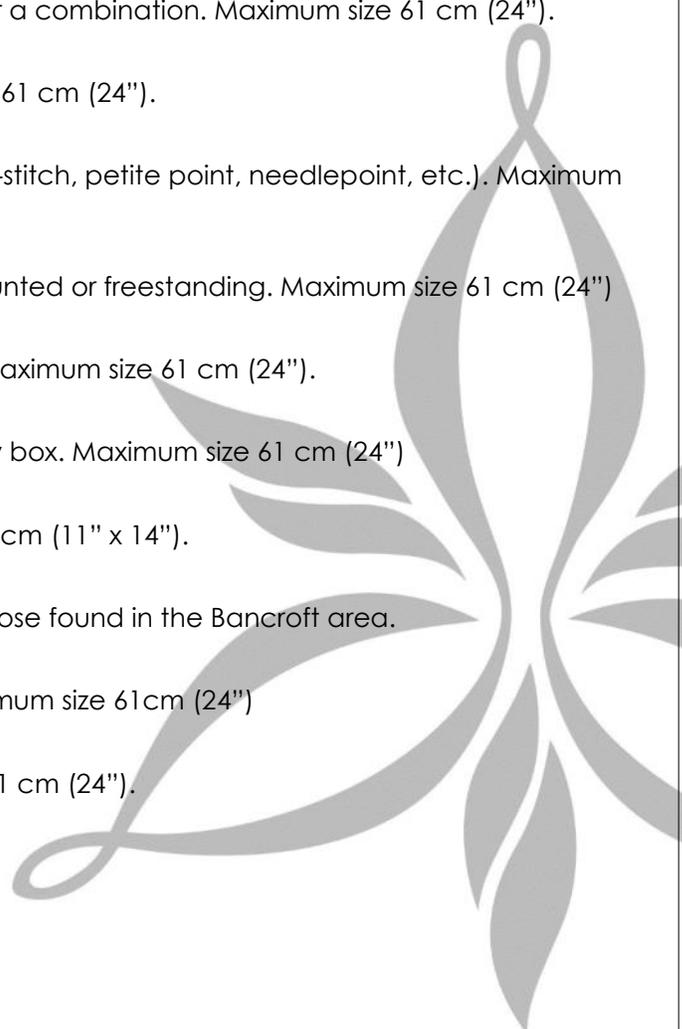
Class 8 Gardening Rocks
A piece of jewellery incorporating gems like those found in the Bancroft area.

Class 9 Garden Bones
Garden art utilizing repurposed material. Maximum size 61cm (24")

Class 10 Reach for the Sun
Stained glass or glass on glass. Maximum size 61 cm (24”).

Class 11 Dawn
A painting. Maximum size 61 cm (24”).

OHA 112th CONVENTION





Hey, What's Going On?

Dates:	Title:	For More Info Contact:
5-Mar-2018	Soils 101, at the TBG. 6:30pm to 8:30pm	Toronto Botanical Garden 416-397-1341
Mar 9-18 2018	Canada Blooms	info@canadablooms.com
10-Mar-2018	Honey Mead Making at TBG. Saturday 10:00am to 1:00pm	Toronto Botanical Garden 416-397-1341
20-Mar-2018	Groundcovers & Mulches to Reduce Maintenance. TBG. Tuesday 7:00pm to 9:00pm	Toronto Botanical Garden 416-397-1341
27-Mar-2018	Bring Back the Birds. TBG Tuesdays 7:00pm to 8:30pm	Toronto Botanical Garden 416-397-1341
Apr 21 2018	Earth Day Family Celebration at the TBG Saturday, 12:00 to 4:00	Toronto Botanical Garden 416-397-1341
On-Going	Certify Your Garden Through The Canadian Wildlife Federation	http://cwf-fcf.org/en/explore-our-work/connecting-with-nature/in-the-garden/get-certified/?src=ws

This list is to alert you to some of what's going horticulturally in Toronto and the surrounding areas. Comprehensive information about each event is not listed here. We don't have the space for that. If you see something that interests you, then explore it further on your own. If you go to one of these events, please let us know about your experience. Thanks!



Don't Miss Canada Blooms! March 9th to March 18th, 2018.



**TORONTO
BOTANICAL
GARDEN**

Annual Spring Plant Sale

May 10, 11, 12 and 13, 2018

Thursday 12:00 to 5:00, Members Only
Friday 10:00 to 8:00, Open to the Public
Saturday/Sunday 10:00 to 5:00, Open to the Public

Choose from top-quality perennials, annuals, natives, herbs and vegetables, succulents, shrubs, vines, and small trees. Friendly gardening advice from the Toronto Master Gardeners.





Do you know a budding gardener or naturalist?

You could win for them a **Canadian Wildlife Federation's "Li'l Green Sprouts Kit"**.

The gardening kit includes:

- Sturdy and gender neutral tote bag
- Garden tools with hardwood handles made especially for small hands
- Notepad on thick environmentally-friendly paper
- Pencil
- Magnifying glass with hole to attach a string if desired
- Activity booklet with 17 activities. The expert-tested directions, tips and variations will help you tailor your experience to different ages, interests, materials at hand and time availability. The mix of exploring, growing and craft activities will lead to new discoveries, creations and good old-fashioned fun.
- Three traditional activity sheets with a fun Canadian twist, teaching about our wildlife and encouraging your child to discover them outside.
- Good bug/Bad bug identification cards and a package of seeds.

All you have to do is enter your name in a draw at our July Pot Luck Dinner and the winner receives the kit.



THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS BUSINESSES

New member, **Dan Heath**, has been busy helping Roz gather prizes for our club to give throughout the year up to and including our big AGM in November. These gifts enhance an already great program for you, our 230+ members. At this time, we would like to acknowledge their support of our club and encourage you to visit their stores:

Canadian Tire on Danforth

Costco at Warden & Ellesmere

Freshco at Victoria Park and Gerrard

Loblaws at Victoria Park & Gerrard

Lowe's on Danforth

Metro at Victoria Park & Danforth

Shoppers Drug Mart on Danforth at Coxwell

And from *Nelson Education Ltd* on Birchmount you can visit their website: www.nelson.com

Thanks Dan!



Here we Grow Again...Welcome New EYGC Members

The following people became members of the East York Garden Club in January-February of 2018. Please join us in welcoming them.

Eric Adler
Brittany Cavanaugh
Diane Dyson
Peggy Kiely
John Rose

Margaret MacLeod
Sue Schultz
Alan Stewart
Linda Stewart
Stanley Zablocki



If you would like to make a submission to be included in the next issue of "The East York Garden" newsletter, the next deadline is:

April 20th, 2018

Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to *Michael Woods* at:

woods-eygc@bell.net

We're on the Web! Find out more information and get back issues of this newsletter at our website:



EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB

www.eygc.ca

"The East York Garden" is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club