

# The East York Garden

Issue Date: 2020  
September/October



Photo Credit: Autumn Stonecrop by Jennifer Smith

*Please Note: All of our Garden Club meetings are being held online through Zoom until the situation is resolved with the Corona Virus, COVID-19.*

*We hope you've been enjoying the People's Choice Photo Contest and the Pop-up Garden videos on our new Facebook page. Thank you so much to all those individuals who sent in their photos and have posted videos for us all to enjoy.*

*We will continue to reach out to all of you online and to publish the EYGC newsletter. It's an opportune time to write that article for the newsletter that you never seemed to have enough time for before. We also want to hear from our members letting us know what sort of things they have been doing to help get them through this very difficult time. If you have any inspiring or comforting words, please send them along for the newsletter. Also, we would love to see your fall photos. So send a couple of photos of what's blooming in your garden, for all of us to enjoy. Please rename your photo files with the plant name. What are you doing to prepare your gardens for the fall?*



The **East York Garden Club** is a member of:

The Ontario Horticultural Association, District 5.

Meetings on the third Thursday of each month (except July, 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:

**Cristina Brown at:**  
**416-755-9077**

Visit us on the web:  
**[www.eygc.ca](http://www.eygc.ca)**

**President:**  
*Diane Dyson*

**Vice President:**  
*Rosalind Regnier*

**Newsletter Editor/Art Director:**  
*Maureen Ballentine, Nola McConnan and Jennifer Smith*



## *Annual Photography Contest Cancelled*

Attention all photographers - another EYGC event is impacted by the Covid-19 virus.

After discussing the logistics involved in judging the club's annual photography contest the organizing committee has decided to cancel this event for 2020.

We did not make this decision lightly. The deciding and most important consideration was the health and safety of the judges. We realize many of you will be disappointed but will, hopefully, understand why we made this decision and agree with it.

Save any pictures you may have taken and/or printed as some (or all) of the subjects may be used for the 2021 contest.

In the meantime please continue to enter the monthly People's Choice contests.

Thank you for your understanding.

The EYGC Photography Committee

Anita Millar, Linda Boyko and Rick Plume

## *Newsletter Cover Photo*

Have you got a photo that says to you:  
*"This is November/December in East York"?*

Send it in to the newsletter for a chance to be on the cover of the next Newsletter!

(Landscape format is best)

**[gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)**

## September October 2020 EYGC Newsletter

### Photo Credits Various Photos:

*Maureen Ballentine, Alan Barber, Michelle Barroclough, Mary Lou Burt, Paula Davies, Diane Dyson, Anna Leggatt, Nola McConnan, Wendy Plume, Roz Regnier, Jennifer Smith, Caroline Smoyer*

# Message from EYGC's President



**Prez Patch**  
by Diane Dyson

I enjoy going to the East York Farmers' Market, because even though we walk one-way between ropes wearing masks, quarts of blueberries and peaches tempt me. Cauliflower and lettuce heads care not a fig for COVID, while honey still gleams pure and golden within its bottles.

When we meet, whether online at Zoom lectures or spaced out on a sidewalk, I still see the energy and good humour of EYGC members. While 2020 has brought some of the worst for us all, it has also brought so much good among the change.

Our monthly meetings have been a success (with a bonus members' lecture in July). Those members who successfully answered the Facebook screening questions have found a way to share their gardens, trade plants and get advice. Our first ever socially-distanced pop-up garden tour saw over two dozen members reserve a time slot to visit. Volunteers continue to submit and vote on photos. Others join each other to tend the gardens at the Pape Legion. Membership continues to grow,

It's a demonstration of strength, resilience and adaptation, which are lessons from our gardens. Like the resilient green spaces we tend, club members are creating new life out of the piles of dirt and manure 2020 has given us.

I invite you to spend some time enjoying these pages.

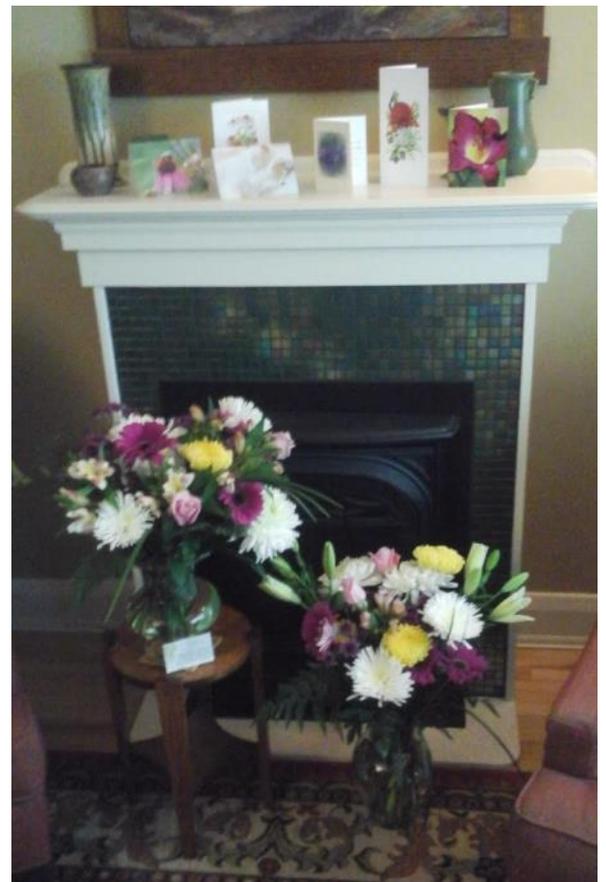
Grow on!

*Diane*, [gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)

*" I would like to express my deepest thanks to all the members of the East York Garden Club for their condolences and kind support which they have given me in the weeks after Michael's death. I have taken great solace in the many cards and memries shared, as well as the beautiful flowers sent by the Board, which, as can be seen, needed to be accommodated in 2 vases. Michael and I enjoyed our involvement in the Club enormously, as I hope to continue to do, and my only regret is that we didn't join sooner.*

*I look forward to being with you in better times for us all, and again, thank you greatly."*

**Alan Barber**



# The Elusive Blue Colour—part 2...



## Garden Blues by Anna Leggatt

### Pantone's 2020 colour of the year is Classic Blue.

#### Clematis and other climbers

Are clematis really blue? Some are. Many are deep indigo-blue, others are more mauve, lilac or have a hint of purple. They may change colour as they age while others react to the amount of sun they receive or the soil conditions. If you can, check on the Internet and buy plants which are in flower.

In the wild, *Clematis alpina*, one of the species *Clematis*, has 4-petalled nodding blue bells. There are many cultivars. Look for 'Blue Lagoon', 'Frances Rivis', or the semi-double 'Blue Bird'. The latter may belong to the next group.

*Clematis macropetala* is similar; it may be hardier but with multi petals. 'Wesselton' is a lovely paler shade.

Both these groups flower in the early spring on old wood. Minimum pruning is needed. Just remove dead stems and cut back a little, if necessary, to keep the plant in shape.

*Clematis integrifolia* 'Lake Baikal' is a herbaceous species with good blue twisted petals. Cut back to the ground in the spring.

Another herbaceous group, *Clematis heracleifolia*, has more woody stems. 'Wyevale' is a mid blue, 'Mrs Robert Brydon' paler, 'Cassandra' and 'New Love' are a deep blue and scented. In early spring, cut stems back to the lowest pair of buds.

*Clematis viticella* 'Betty Corning' is often listed as blue but is pale lilac.

See July/August Newsletter for Part 1

'Prince Charles' is lilac blue with semi nodding flowers.

Double 'Multi Blue' is bright blue. 'Crystal Fountain' varies with age and situation. It has big lilac blue flowers with a central boss of multi petaloid stamens.

'Zara' is one of Raymond Evison's Boulevard clematis. It is a good blue, long-flowering, and can be grown in a pot.



*Clematis*

**Wisteria** are vigorous vines, with purple, violet, pink or white flowers. They are wonderful in full bloom. Even cultivars such as 'Blue Moon' are lavender purple. This North American cultivar is hardier than the Chinese and Japanese species.

Some **tropical** climbers with blue flowers are occasionally available to use as house plants. *Plumbago auriculata*, or Cape leadwort, has pleasant clusters of light blue flowers.

# The *Elusive* Blue Colour—part 2...



*Wisteria*

## Shrubs

**Hydrangeas** are the first blue shrubs that come to mind, such as those with big *macrophylla* mop-heads! They have many wonderful shades of blue with differing petal sizes. I am looking for *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Ayesha' with smaller, waxy petals. However, the soil must be acid as the blue flowers open to pink in alkaline soil. You can control the acidity better in a planter.

*Hydrangea serrata* are known as lace-caps. The flower heads are nearly flat, with many small fertile florets in the centre. The outer, showy florets have large petals and are sterile. Look for 'Blue Wave' or 'Tiny Tuff Stuff'.

*Hydrangea paniculata* and *H. quercifolia* do not have blue flowers.

**Buddleia** is rightly called "Butterfly Bush" and may attract swarms of butterflies. However, the nectar on native plants is more suitable. Look for short blue cultivars. Buddleia may drop seeds excessively and is an invasive weed in some areas. We are lucky that it is borderline hardy here and usually dies down to the ground over winter.

**Caryopteris**, Bluebeards or Blue Mist comprise a group of small shrubs in the mint family. They usually die back in our winters. I prune mine back in the spring. They do not spread around. Clusters of blue flowers appear in the late summer above pleasant-smelling foliage. Some varieties have variegated or yellow leaves. As

well as blue, flower colour can be purple or white. They are easy, preferring full sun in a well drained sandy soil.

**Hibiscus syriacus**, or Rose of Sharron, is a somewhat gangly shrub that flowers from midsummer to frost. Flowers can be pure white, pink or blue. Most have a central purplish spot. Good blues include semi-double 'Blue Chiffon', 'Blue Bird' and 'Azzuni Blue Satin'. They all have a purplish tinge to the blue, though it is less in the latter. Most *Hibiscus* self-seed, but the latter less so. My unknown blue has pink-flowered offspring.

**Lilacs - *Syringa vulgaris*** are wonderful in the late spring when they produce billowing clusters of strongly scented blossoms. The flower colour is more "lilac" than blue. 'Wonder Blue' has pink buds opening to blue. 'Big Blue' is a lavender blue. California lilacs are great blues. However, these are *Ceanothus* and are not hardy here.

Do not forget that you can add blue to your garden by using blue **leaves**. These are mostly bluish grey or silvery blue, not true blues.

Many **Hosta** have good blue leaves, caused by a waxy coating on the leaf surface. The leaves may become green if this coating wears off due to environmental conditions. Be careful you don't rub the blue off when you take a leaf to a flower show! There are many to choose from in a variety of sizes, shapes and variegations.



*Hosta*

'Blue Moon' is less than 25 cm wide. 'Blue Mouse Ears' is also small.

# The Elusive Blue Colour—part 2...

'Abiqua Drinking Gourd' has crinkled cup-shaped leaves and grows up to 60 cm wide.

'Azure Snow' is over 1 m wide with long, more tapering leaves. This is one of my favourites.

'Blue Ivory' has cream margins which mature to white 75 cm long leaves. 'El Nino' has crisp white margins.

The best blue-leaved are **Grasses**. *Festuca glauca*, 'Elijah's Blue', is one of the bluest.

Look for blue oat grass, *Helictotrichon sempervirens*, which is taller. Do not cut these back in the spring - just comb out the dead leaves.

The lacy blue foliage of woodlander (baneberry), *Actaea pachypoda* 'Misty Blue', becomes blue-green later in the summer. Other perennials with bluish-leaved cultivars include *Artemisia*, *Dianthus*, *Eryngium*, *Euphorbia*, *Lavendula*, *Salvia* and *Sedum*.



There are many conifers with blue (well, silvery-blue) foliage. These include firs, cedars, junipers, pines, and various spruces including blue spruce, *Picea pungens*, and its cultivars, of course. Other easy ones include *Juniper squamata* "Blue Star" and *Chamaecyparis pisifera* "Boulevard". *Cupressus arizonica* 'Blue Ice' is one of my all time favourites with lacy, year round, silver blue foliage. It is border-line hardy in Toronto.

Look for the small shrub, *Fothergilla x intermedia* 'Blue Shadow'. Grow it in semi-shade and it will reward you with bottle-brush flowers in

the spring, followed by powder-blue foliage for the summer. Then it fires up in the fall with brilliant oranges and reds.

## Companion Plantings

A garden that is all blues and greens might be calming and give you a feeling of security. You could create a corner with blues and greens with silvery and white highlights. This would be a place to relax after work, with the silvers taking over in the fading light.

According to colour theory, blues and yellow-oranges are complementary colours and can be used together with great effect. True orange and yellow are split complementary colours, so adding these colours to a border or a container would look well.



Analogous colours in the violets and blue greens might detract from any pure blue flowers, as would pinks and reds.

Remember, too, to add textures and shapes to any planting. Soft silvery leaves of an *Artemisia*, big *Hosta* leaves and uprights such as *Iris* leaves will enhance your design.

Take a picture of your garden and then print it in Black and White. Do you have enough contrast? Does it give you satisfaction?

Use this difficult time to refine your plantings.

*Anna*

# Member Photos

Send us some photos of what helped you cope and get through this situation and we'll put them in the next newsletter.

Please send photos to: [gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)

*Jennifer Smith's beautiful red Gladiola  
from corms provided by Joyce Crook and kindly shared with the Club*



*Roz Regnier's Surprise Garden*



# Member Photos

"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food, and medicine for the soul."

Luther Burbank, (1849-1926)



**Mary Lou Burt's Garden**

# Member Photos

"The work of a garden bears visible fruits--in a world where most of our labours seem suspiciously meaningless. "

Pam Brown, b. 1928



***Maureen Ballentine's Balcony Garden(er)***



***Lantana with berries—photo credit: Jennifer Smith***

# My Sick Tree



## My Sick Tree by Roz Regnier

Before I start into this, I just want to refer to the passing of our late newsletter editor, Michael Woods. What a special person he was. I phoned him earlier this year to ask if he or Alan could use some face masks. He responded that he was making them and asked me about what pattern I used. Wow! Michael could sew.

Back to the tree. About 5 years ago I purchased a *Cornus Kousa*, 'China Girl' or 'Japanese dogwood'. The first 2 years it was gorgeous with lots of flowers and leaves. The next 3 years it was looking pretty sad and had small flowers and small sparse leaves. I consulted Master Gardeners website and they replied that the problem was due to soil compaction or to the wrong pH level.

DING! DING! DING! Bells went off in my head. A week before I had replaced the liner in my above-ground pool, which is about 6 ft. from this sick tree. As I was pumping the standing water out of my pool, I realized I could just cut a hole in the pool bottom and the water would drain out. NO WAY! The water just sat in my pool with the big hole. Yes, I have soil compaction.

Back to the tree. I tried drilling with a 1 inch bit around the drip line, filling the hole with perlite and pouring fertilized water into the holes. I didn't think this was solving the problem so I opted to double dig the soil around the drip line, i.e. removing the first spade of soil and then the second spade underneath the first spade. The second spade of soil broke apart in chunks, not loose soil. I placed this soil in my 2 composters. Into the deep hole around my tree I placed lots of leaves that I had collected from last year and on top I added the soil from my first shovel load and tramped it down. I watered this soil but didn't know if it got down to the bottom of the hole so I hammered a metal rod around the drip line. I then



**Japanese Dogwood**

poured fertilized water down this hole and the water disappeared. HOORAY!!!!

I live on the north side of the Woodbine Bridge and have clay soil. People on the south side of the bridge have sandy soil and probably can plant this fussy tree.

If you notice a house going through some major renovations and a temporary fence is surrounding a tree on the front lawn, the renovator is trying to save the tree. Soil compaction caused by heavy equipment will kill the tree.

Next spring I hope to submit a photo of a happy blooming tree.

"Back to men and sewing. My son is the only other man I know that can sew. In junior high my son helped a classmate by sewing jogging pants for him. My son's payment was in bubblegum. (He is now a police officer.)"

# My Other Sick Tree



## My Other Sick Tree by Roz Regnier

OK, it's not sick just too tall. About 20 years ago my good friend who teaches ikebana gave me a pussy willow cutting that had rooted in her flower arrangement.

I planted it and it's now 20 ft. tall and all the fuzzy plumes are 20 ft. up in the air. My friend said I need major pruning or coppicing to produce branches lower down. "*Coppicing*" means cutting the tree down to ground level to allow shoots to spring up from the base." Toronto Master Gardeners said to prune lightly because of the age of the tree. Google said prune in late winter or early spring when the sap is not running.

I decided to prune in late November and remove half of the major limbs about waist high. If the tree doesn't make it, oh well. I tried.

If you're thinking of trying this, google first to see if your tree will sprout like this. Not all trees will do this.

I'm including a picture of my whole tree and another picture where I pruned a few years ago and small branches grew from the pruning site.

Next year I'll submit another picture with new fuzzy flowers low down, I hope.

### **Addendum about Michael Woods and his sewing talents:**

Alan Barber told me that after completing his university studies, Michael took a tailoring course. He sewed many sports jackets, waist coats and vests. He worked for an interior design firm in Markham, and while he did not need to wear a suit, he chose to wear his jackets and vests when meeting clients. He was very talented with a needle and even sewed a wedding dress for a friend. He also made curtains, upholstered chairs, finished off pillows after Alan completed the needle-work, hemmed tablecloths, and generally applied his sewing skills where they were needed. As a child of the '70s, he had a full-size loom and for awhile wove his own cloth. He made a few tweed jackets from this fabric. He also loved to visit fabric stores and to order remnants of fabric off e-Bay. As a result, there was a lot of fabric stored in various cupboards in the Woods-Barber household! Fortunately, Alan has passed on this fabric collection to a wonderful place where it will be appreciated and used. — *Jennifer Smith*



**Pussy Willow Tree**

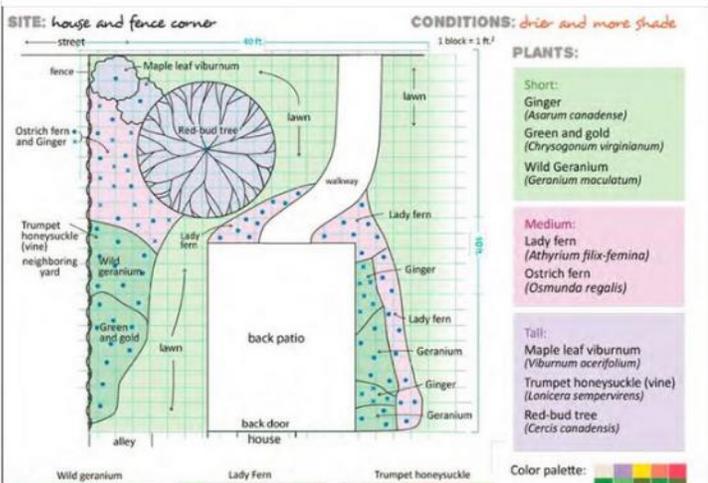
# Facebook News!

Our Facebook group has grown to 58 members. If you haven't had a chance to join, come and check us out. Until recently, we were a private East York Garden Club members-only group, but have had requests from non-members to join the group.

*After some consideration, the Board decided to open up our Facebook membership to non-members. We hope to encourage non-club members to join. Everyone must answer the three questions and agree to our rules before joining. We will make this change starting October 1st. Look forward to seeing you on Facebook!*

*Cheers, Kim*  
Kim Hewitt

**Linda Boyko** shared a post.  
Visual Storyteller · August 19  
Another interesting resource.



**PLANT ALTERNATIVES:**

drier and more shade	walkway and more shade	walkway and more sun
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short: Green and gold (<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>)</li> <li>Medium: Wild geranium (<i>Geranium maculatum</i>)</li> <li>Tall: Red-bud tree (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short: Lady fern (<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>)</li> <li>Medium: Ostrich fern (<i>Osmunda regalis</i>)</li> <li>Tall: Trumpet honeysuckle (vine) (<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short: Wild geranium (<i>Geranium maculatum</i>)</li> <li>Medium: Lady fern (<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>)</li> <li>Tall: Trumpet honeysuckle (vine) (<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>)</li> </ul>

**Janet Mackey** Master Gardeners of Ontario Facebook Group  
August 19

Many of you are adding native plants to your existing gardens or creating new bedding areas to add biodiversity. I came across an excellent resource which I've...  
[See More](#)

**Mary Lou Burt**  
Visual Storyteller · August 17  
Would anyone like one? I have four. Need to make room for 6 new lilies.



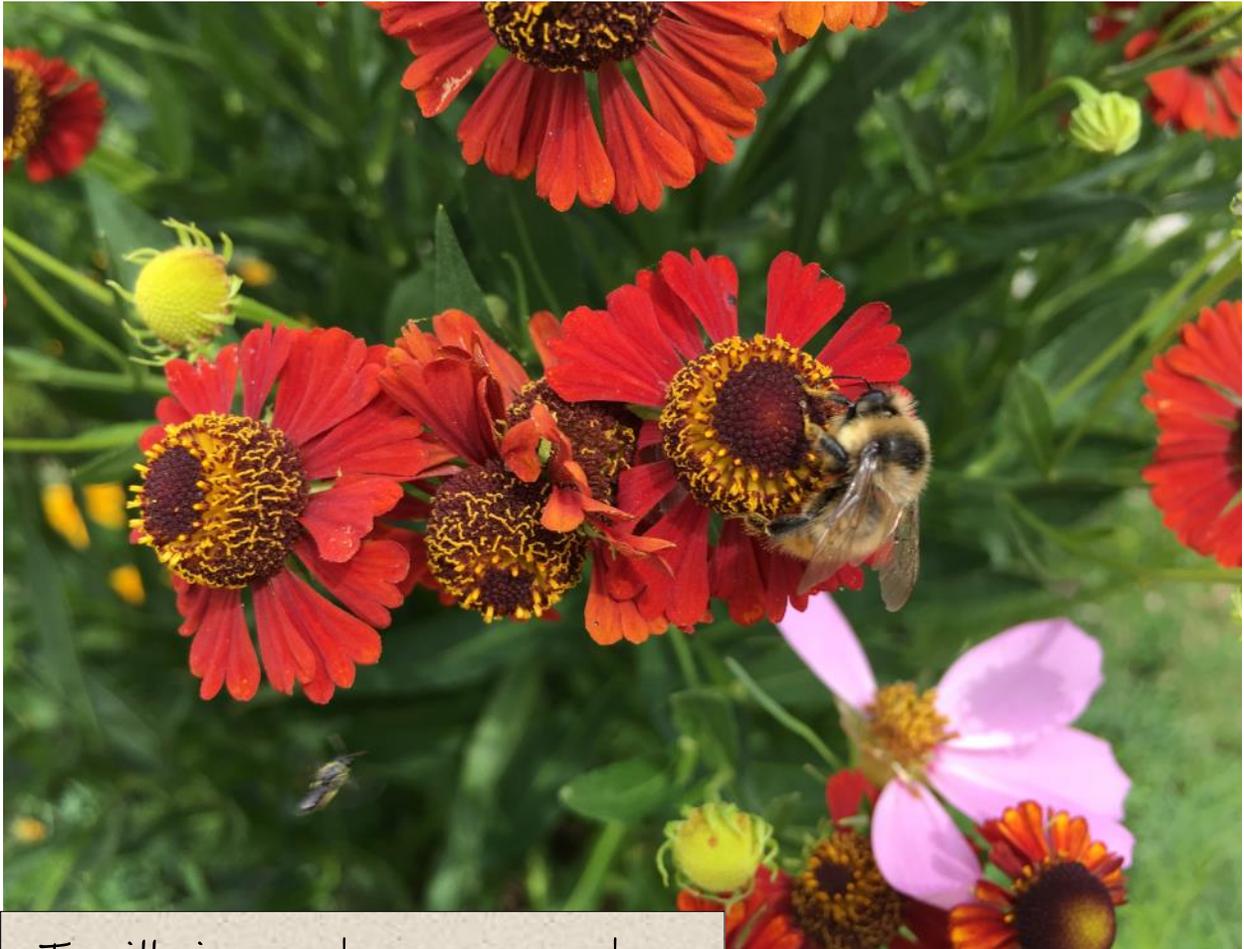
Seen by 44

**Carolyn Lee**  
July 14

Raspberries from my garden. I bought two small plants from the plant sale a few years ago and they have exploded since then, surrounding my bathtub planter. Sooo many raspberries this year and they are crazy flavouful!



# Inspiring Words, Thoughts & Garden Photos



**Photo credit: Bee on Helenium  
by Jennifer Smith**

I will rise and go now, and go  
to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there,  
of clay and wattles made:  
Nine bean-rows will I have  
there,  
A hive for the honey-bee,  
And live alone in the bee-loud  
glade.

*W.B. Yeats*



**Photo credit: Bee on Monarda  
by Jennifer Smith**

# EYGC Climate C.H.A.N.G.E. Ideas

What can we as **gardeners** do to help mitigate climate change? There are lots of things we can do, from small to large, to help. To assist with developing our idea list we have put together the **EYGC CHANGE Concept**:

**C** - Creative  
**H** - Horticultural  
**A** - Activities  
**N** - Now, for  
**G** - Gardeners  
**E** - Everywhere

Climate Change is very real, and we should all do everything we can to assist in mitigating this global concern. Sometimes it can be very overwhelming to think about what needs to be done to change this situation, but what we as **gardeners** can be concentrating on is what we

can do everyday, however small, to assist in changing the course of events.

We know that some of you are already taking steps to make a difference, and we would like all our members to think about how we as **individual gardeners**, and as a **garden club**, can effect change.

We anticipate this will be an on-going feature in the newsletter where we share ideas that we can all consider adopting to help make a difference.

Please tell us what you are doing already. Send to: [gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)

On September 24th Celebrate National Tree Day.  
Plant trees in backyards and public green spaces.

## **Some reasons to NOT clean up the garden this fall** — by Jessica Walliser

(summary by Jennifer Smith)

1. The native bees, butterflies (both adult and chrysalis forms), ladybugs and other insects need a place to over-winter. Old plant stems, leaf piles, and ornamental grasses may provide a perfect safe, protected spot.
2. Birds that stay around during winter need protein-rich food such as the insects, above, that are also present. As well, seeds and berries that are left on old stems provide important food during these lean months.
3. Jessica Walliser finishes by reminding us of how beautiful the winter garden can be with snow on dried seed pods, berries on bare branches, juncos and cardinals finding bits of food, and ice shining from blades of ornamental grasses.
4. In other words, save yourself the time and trouble in the autumn. Don't empty your garden of its valuable food and shelter sources! (And delay cleaning up the garden in the spring, but that's for another article in a few months.)

You can read the entire article at: <https://savvygardening.com/6-reasons-not-to-clean-up-your-garden-this-fall/>

# Victory Garden 2.0—The Harvest

The concept of a Victory Garden came about during World War II, when access to fresh fruits and vegetables was compromised, and food in general was hard to get.

## *My summer harvest*



This summer was a challenge for all of our gardens with the sudden transition from winter to full summer. The squash went in "after frost" in the sunny corner. They started to grow, quite nicely. Suddenly they stopped. I imagine everyone had similar experiences. Finally one small lonely spaghetti squash sat on the rapidly drying vines.

The tomatoes are encouraged to grow on a grid against the south wall. The new plant went into the old reliable recycling bin filled with compost. It is scraggly and is not yielding many tomatoes.

As usual a couple of tomatoes had fallen to the ground last fall. This started several years ago. At first it was a surprise. Now it is not. Those fallen fruits are allowed to grow in place from those seeds. Over the years those plants have gotten stronger, more resilient and productive. If you have a suitable site, give it a whirl. This evening the baked squash with tomatoes and herbs will be a wonderful meal.

***Nola McConnan***

## **WHAT TO DO WITH MY BOUNTIFUL HARVEST**

With Thanksgiving approaching may we suggest the following:

Roasted Turnips and Pears with Rosemary—Honey Drizzle (Martha Stewart)

Deep fried goat cheese squash flowers

Chilled cantaloupe soup

Blueberry salad—arugula, spinach. Blueberries, toasted pecans, feta or parmesan cheese

Blueberry Grunt—an east coast favourite

Canning fruit for a taste of summer all winter

Dry your herbs, or freeze them

Make a chutney with your family

*"A garden with vegetables, fruits, and flowers feeds body and soul. Grow all of them."*

*Andrew Weil (1942 - )*

# Through the seasons...



## Raised Vegetables Beds and Garden Visitors

By Diane Dyson

When she was young, my aunt and her sisters and brothers worked their father's large market garden plots and orchards, producing fruits and vegetables to be sold in the store the family ran. So, when I can, I have taken advantage of learning from her generational knowledge, discussing the varieties of radicchio, the merits of pole beans over bush beans, and how soil helps fight pests.

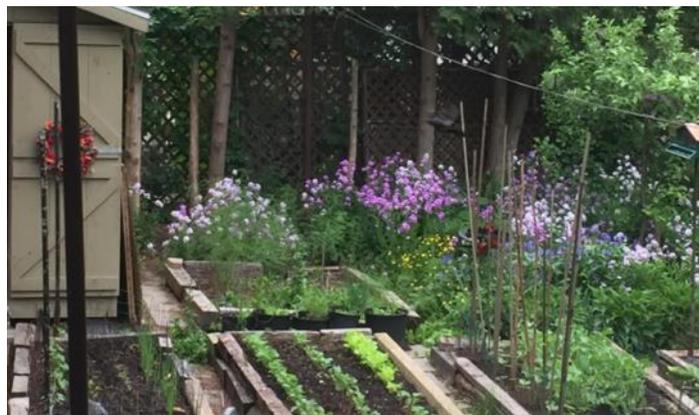
Over the shoulder seasons, I normally head to my aunt and uncle's to provide some extra muscle for their garden work. This year, COVID caught me on one of my visits, so I had the chance for a much longer apprenticeship.

The winter winds were still blowing in April when we headed out to work on the raised beds. Some of the sides needed repairing, and we patched them with bricks and lumber as we had in other years. Our next step was to spread at least a dozen bags of 3-in-1 mix.



Then, strings pulled taut, the cold crop seeds were sprinkled in. Beets, onions, radishes, radicchio (at least two kinds), kale (at least three kinds) and lettuce all were planted in their rows. (Some of the plants from last year still grew.)

By June we could see the fruits of our labour - and we were beginning to enjoy some of the early bounty. The kale from last year was exploding. It was the asparagus I was most excited about seeing, spotting new ones every other day. Another early crop which filled our plate was the Radicchio (chicoree by another name, but it tastes better with the Italian name).



Throughout the summer, flowers attracted pollinators, while two bird feeders, filled with black sunflower seeds, and a bird bath ensured birdsong every evening. Cardinals and chickadees, migrating song sparrows and warblers stopped by among the crowds of grackles and house sparrows. Seagulls from the nearby river soared overhead. A family of red-



# Through the seasons...

winged blackbirds and some robins took up residence nearby. Squirrels grew fat and we got to recognize each one.

As the summer heat came, Lupines, Daylilies and Rudbeckia replaced the Ladies' Rockets, Irises and Tulips. Tomato plants, tucked into every corner, bent as the fruit grew heavy. The beans reached high, creating green walls. Herbs, mainly basil, spilled out of their pots. And even the lemon trees which winter indoors had moved out into the heat.



My aunt and I took turns, watering regularly and carefully, avoiding the heat of the day and aiming below the leaves of the plants.

Nightly, our salads came from the garden. When the radicchio was finished, the kale was soft and young. When the Italian broad beans (blanco; ordered from a supplier in Toronto's west end) were ready, we had the first handful picked and parsed out for each of us who had worked in the garden. But within weeks, we had piles of them, the larger ones steamed, chopped and frozen. By



the end, the largest pods were left to go to seed. Some would be saved for next year's crop, and some dried for winter eating.

There's promise of more from the garden in the months ahead, including tomatoes and basil pesto aplenty. The root vegetables also lie ready, beets showing off their shoulders already, and carrots still hidden.

My aunt's garden provided food, entertainment and purpose over the course of the five months of my confinement there. On long quiet evenings, I counted over a dozen species of birds and more than three dozen trees (mostly cedars which creaked in the summer storms). On summer days I sat out there, working remotely among the intermingled flowers and vegetables.

I arrived back at the end of August to my own home to find the raspberry canes and grapevines had taken over our backyard. Not one potted herb had been planted. But among the thistles, borage and creeping morning glories, bees buzzed the goldenrod. My garden was wild and untended. It's going to be a busy fall!



## Daylily Fritters

A favourite and short-lived treat!

Rinse daylilies and allow to dry as you heat oil in a frying pan. To start, dredge in eggs with a splash of milk. Next, roll them in cornmeal, flour and a bit of baking powder. Fry until brown, drain on a paper towel. Salt and serve warm.

# The illusive Jack in the Pulpit



## Jack in the Pulpit

By Nola McConnan

At the back of my grandfather's garden in the 1950's there was a mysterious plant. It came up every spring. It lived near his compost box by the back fence. It was called Jack-in-the-Pulpit. It seemed to be very special to the grown ups. To my youthful eyes it was just plain weird. It didn't even seem to have a flower.

Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) is a perennial. It lives all over Ontario in damp deciduous shady areas. Its flowers are tiny on the Jack itself. The striped spathe overhangs the Jack's flower spike to keep the pollen dry on those tiny flowers. This is what many think of as the flower. Depending on growing conditions the Jack can be male, female or non sexed in any given year. In a good year the Jack is big, female and covered with red berries at this time of year.

When I was trying for a more natural space in my East York garden, this weird special plant was on my list. I wasn't sure where to get it. You didn't seem to be able to buy a specimen. There were none in my usual hunting grounds in Muskoka. There did seem to be a few down by the Don at the bottom of the hill. It would not do to steal one from TRCA, so I didn't. However I was given some Ostrich Fern by a neighbour. Lo and behold there was a Jack in the fern clump. It settled in near the OMG Trillium patch and the Joe Pye Weed in the shade and damp undisturbed soil next to the Silver Maple stump.



This year the red berries on the spathe have not appeared, likely due to the heat. I will closely observe my Jack patch in 2021. Hopefully it will have recovered from this year's challenges.

Artist **Georgia O'Keeffe** did a series of Jack in the Pulpit images. Six of them are in the National Gallery in Washington DC.



Photo Credits: Google Images

# Member Achievements

## Paula Davies recognized for her leadership of the Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve, by Diane Dyson

EYGC member Paula Davies has been pulling out weeds and invasive plants in East York for over 25 years. Todmorden Mills, located at the base of Pottery Road in East York, has been changed because of the restoration work she leads.



Paula regularly leads a team of volunteers into the 9 hectare (22 acre) preserve to remove non-native and invasive species such as Manitoba Maple, Garlic Mustard, Pale Swallow-wort (also known as dog strangling vine), Himalayan Balsam, Black Alder, Common Reed and Japanese Knotweed. Over 200 species of native wildflowers now grow around the Don River bend across the meadow and woodland habitats.



So, in February, Paula was one of two recipients of East York's 2020 Agnes Macphail Award, which each year recognizes an East York resident who exemplifies Macphail's standards of community service and advocacy for social justice.

Then in the summer, the provincial nonprofit, Ontario Nature, recently recognized Paula with the W.W.H. Gunn award for her work as Chair and Director of the local charity, the Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve. EYGC congratulates Paula and the many volunteers who have dedicated their time to this work!



**Photo Credits: Google Images**

Sadly COVID has temporarily halted the regular weekly work and wider volunteer efforts this season. There will be lots to do when restrictions are lifted so volunteers will be welcome.

# Winners of our July Photo Contest

If you won any award, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or HM, or are particularly proud of your photo, please send a digital copy to the newsletter so we can publish it in a future issue.

*Thank you.*



**2nd place: Wendy Plume**



**1st place: Michelle Barraclough**



**3rd place: Caroline Smoyer**

# Pop-Up Gardens

## VIRTUAL pop-ups.

Reminder, if you want to share your garden at its best, why not video your garden and post it on Facebook? Not into videos...you can post photos of your garden too.

### Mark Robertson's Pop-Up garden, by Paula Davies

With restrictions easing somewhat, we were delighted that Mark Robertson, a member new to the EYGC, hosted a pop-up garden. Each guest was asked to book a specific time slot to view the garden. As well, everyone wore a mask and maintained the requisite 2 m distance.

On August 6 and 7, from 4 to 7 each evening, Mark opened his garden. He had had the old concrete retaining wall removed and the grade behind it lowered. As he desired to do little maintenance, he decided to go for a natural garden.

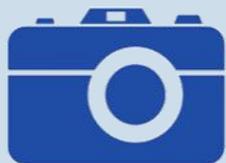
The garden was installed in the spring of 2017 and has been maturing for 3 years. Everyone liked the bright red accent of the *Crocosmia* (*Crocosmia* 'lucifer') with its spiky textured leaves. They contrasted well with the mostly native plants that clearly were being appreciated by many pollinators. Visitors noted the scary-looking golden digger wasp feeding at the white flowering *Clethra alnifolia* ('Summersweet') and pink flower heads of Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnate*). (The golden digger wasp is actually a very mild-mannered insect.) Cabbage white butterflies and monarchs have found the garden and were feeding on nectar from the plants in flower, as were many other bees and flies. There were small white monarch eggs on some of the Swamp Milkweed leaves. Just before the garden meets the sidewalk, a swale about 10 inches deep was filled with stones to intercept runoff from the garden.

Other notable plants that members asked about were little bluestem grass (*Schizachrium scoparium*), the lilac-coloured flowers of hoary vervain (*Verbena strata*) and silverweed (*Argentina anserina*, formerly *Potentilla anserina*—the botanists are always changing names of plants!), which has pretty yellow flowers and is a ground-level spreader. Prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*) was finished flowering but clearly spreading, and blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*) had flowered in June. On this August evening it just looked like tufts of grass, but it isn't actually a grass at all; it's in the iris family.

Although it was hot out, it was a very enjoyable event and good to see people and have a nice chat in a lovely garden.



# Notices to Members



Photographs will be taken at many East York Garden Club (EYGC) meetings and events.

It is assumed that by attending an EYGC meeting or event you are giving tacit approval for your image to be used in EYGC publications (e.g. yearbook and newsletter) that will subsequently appear on our website, or to be used for publicity for future events.

If you have any questions about this please approach a member of the Executive Board or contact us at:

**[gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca) or  
416-469-5593**

## EYGC Code of Conduct

In keeping with the City of Toronto's Anti-harassment policy when using any City of Toronto properties, East York Garden Club, with the kind assistance of the Leaside Garden Club, has designed an **EYGC Code of Conduct** to adhere to the City's regulations.

In short it says: ***A guiding principle of the East York Garden Club is that everyone is entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect at all times. Although EYGC promotes freedom of expression and open communication, we expect all members to adhere to this principle as outlined in the full "Code of Conduct".*** The full document will be published in an up-coming newsletter.

### EYGC MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

"CANNABIS, IN ANY FORM, IS NOT TO BE AT ANY EAST YORK GARDEN CLUB MEETING, ACTIVITY OR EVENT, SUCH AS, BUT NOT RESTRICTED TO, OUR REFRESHMENTS, FLOWER SHOWS, PLANT SALES, SEED EXCHANGE."

## Help Wanted on the East York Garden Club Executive

*Please consider joining us to help to keep the Garden Club thriving!  
Board meetings are monthly (2 hours in the evening).*

Members work together to get the newsletter out, run the photo contests, arrange speakers, set up meetings, monitor our Facebook page, and organize flower shows.

*Contact any Board member now if you might be interested.*

# Puzzle Page

We are all spending a lot more time at home - and discovering some of the simpler pleasures.

## Plant Names and their Legends

*Credit: [Perry's Perennial Pages](#), [Perennial Arcade](#)*

Match the plant name to its fascinating origin or history. answers below.

1. The plant celebrated in architecture, used by the Greeks to adorn the caps of Corinthian columns	a. Dodecatheon
2. Ancient herb found in a 60,000 year old Neanderthal burial site in Iraq	b. Acanthus
3. Plant said to cure the plague, as revealed to a monk by an angel	c. Hypericum
4. From the Greek for hand and flower, referring to these carried in the hand as a bouquet	d. Achillea
5. From the Greek for twelve, Pliny relating this to the twelve Olympian gods perhaps because the flowers sometimes appear in twelves	e. Cheiranthus
6. Said to be named by Linnaeus after Helen of Troy, whose tears upon touching the ground gave rise to these flowers	f. Angelica
7. Placed above an image in a house to ward off evil spirits, when flowers were in bloom in late June during the festival of St. John	g. Paeonia
8. One of the oldest plant names, Latin for the name of a Greek nymph who was turned into this herb	h. Passiflora
9. Named after the physician to the Gods in Homer's Iliad, who used this plant to heal the wound that Hercules inflicted on Pluto	i. Mentha
10. Parts of this flower are said to represent various aspects of the life and crucifixion of Christ, as the corona the crown of thorns, the ten petal-like parts the 10 faithful apostles	j. Helenium

### Answers:

3. F, angelica  
6. J  
9. G, peony

2. D, yarrow  
5. A, shooting star  
8. I, Helen's flower

1. B, bear's breeches  
4. E, wallflower  
7. C (St. John's wort)  
10. H, passionflower

# The Back Page Garden

Show us your backyard! (or front yard, or balcony...)

Send a photo of your garden at its best, or at your favourite time of year. Show your whole yard, a cozy corner, or any "vignette" that you love & want to share with EYGC members.

Be selective and send only one or two photos, preferably in jpeg format - fairly high resolution is best for clarity. Send to the newsletter at:

[gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)

*Shown to the right is Jennifer Smith's Tree Trunk garden.*



At the end of March of this year, the city cut down the dead maple in my front yard. (It was probably about 90 years old, as my house was built in 1926.) The stump remains. In early May it was surrounded by a pretty array of perennials.

## *Here we Grow Again... Welcome New EYGC Members*

Please join us in welcoming our most recent members:

June McNamee, Mark Robertson, Bob and Kathi Davies, Mary Tierney



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:

**October 22nd, 2020**

Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to

[gardenclub@eygc.ca](mailto:gardenclub@eygc.ca)

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

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



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