

The East York Garden



Photo Credit: Orchid by Maureen Ballentine, brought into bloom by Rosemary Vanderindonk

Garden Club meetings will continue to be held online through Zoom until the situation is resolved with the Corona Virus, COVID-19.

MEMBER PHOTO CHALLENGE: *Easter! Passover! St Patty's and more!*

Many special events will occur in March and April.

Do you plan to prepare a special meal to celebrate the occasion? Will you create a centrepiece to grace your table?

We invite you to send a photograph of your homemade centrepiece to the newsletter. Show off your artistic side!

We'll feature all the entries in the May June Newsletter. newsletter@eygc.ca



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 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.

To inquire about membership, please contact:

Cristina Brown at:
416-755-9077

Visit us on the web:
www.eygc.ca

President:
Diane Dyson

Vice President:
Rosalind Regnier

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



Speaker Schedule for 2022

Date	Speaker	Subject
March 17	Ellen Schwartzel	Ravines of Toronto
April 21	Chris Cormack	TRCA—The Meadoway
May 19	Michael McTavish	Jumping Worms
June 16	Helen Battersby	Garden of Regrets

People's Choice Photo Contest

Theme—Black and White

Deadline—March 14, 2022

Submit to photocontest@eygc.ca

Watch your email for voting

Newsletter Cover Photo

Have you got a photo that says to you:

*"This is May June 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)

newsletter@eygc.ca

March April 2022 EYGC Newsletter Photo

Credits Various Photos:

*Maureen Ballentine, Michelle Barraclough, Beth Binnington,
Veronica Callinan, Dianne Cavanaugh, Anna Leggatt, Wendy
Plume, Jennifer Smith, Nina Sparks, Sonia van Heerdan*

Message from EYGC's President



Prez Patch
by Diane Dyson

The long winter days drag on, warm weather calming us just before another blustery day. The branches on the trees are still bare. The snow is crusted, rimmed with dirt and earth. And gardeners are planning their gardens!

Once again this year, EYGC is offering a choice of ten seed packets as a Premium with your renewal of your membership. 117 of us have already sent in our \$20/\$30 renewal for 2022. If you haven't renewed, EYGC's Membership Coordinator Cristina will be giving you a call to see what you say.

We don't know what this coming year will bring for EYGC members, but we do know it includes regular newsletters, the Yearbook, monthly meetings, plant sales, membership card/code for discounts at greenhouses, and as much fun as we can figure out how to have together!

We have held off on the Yearbook because we had hopes we could plan out the year, as we used to do, but even with the opening of the province in March, we are uncertain how our return to "normal" will look. So I encourage you keep reading the newsletter, and check out the webpage, our Facebook page and regular emails, if you are on-line, for any changes and announcements.

We are beginning to plan for a Spring Plant Sale again and discussing what other outdoor activities or trips might interest members. The sale will probably be at the end of May. There may have to be some changes though. Master Gardeners are advising new protocols, such as selling plants bare-rooted or in sterile soil, because of the threat of jumping worms. This new invasive species will be the topic of our monthly lecture in May. So stay tuned!

Another bright spot from our activities last year? The City has now been able to purchase the home where the old Red Oak stands. EYGC members gave a donation to the City to help preserve one of the oldest trees in the GTA.

Stay safe all – and grow on!

Diane, gardenclub@eygc.ca

416 786-6765



Member Photos

Send us some photos of your garden or your neighbourhood gardens and we'll put them in the next newsletter.

Please send photos to: newsletter@eygc.ca



Fairy Roses pushing through the snow—
by Sonia van Heerden



Winter Colour—by Dianne Cavanaugh



Early Snow Glories, April 2, 2020
—by Jennifer Smith



My festive yard—by Dianne
Cavanaugh



My first Crocus, March 25,
2021 —by Jennifer Smith

Meet Some EYGC Executives



Diane Dyson—President

I joined the East York Garden Club in 2018.

Gardening gives me a moment to breathe in the solitude and a moment to connect with neighbours.

When I'm not gardening, I'm probably tweeting about the inadequacy of social assistance rates, housing affordability or the latest census data. (My day job is at the Daily Bread Food Bank.)

Roz Regnier—Vice-Prez

I joined the East York Garden Club around 1988. The club members were so friendly and positive that I joined the executive in 1991 at the November dinner meeting.

At first I was the membership chairman when we had 80-90 members. I had a young person ask if the cost was \$20 *per meeting!*

When I'm not gardening, I can be found lawn bowling, cross-country skiing, curling or visiting far off places. I organize our bus tours every year and visit gardens I have seen during OHA conventions or open gardens through the Ontario Rock Garden Society.



Beth Binnington

My first meeting was the August Tea in 2018.

Gardening gives me memories of my grandparents and a feeling that all is well in the world.

When I'm not gardening, I'm making the skating rink in East Lynn Park.

Heather Whetstone

I joined in 2018 after the Annual Flower Show and Tea.

Gardening gives me peace and joy. It is amazing to see the beautiful flowers or vegetables that comes from a small seed. Gardening allows me to be hopeful.

When I'm not gardening, I'm thinking and reading about gardening to understand how to start plants from seed. In addition to gardening, I do like to cook and preserve all the garden produce and fruit that we grow. Beyond gardening I am a knitter and enjoy camping.



January Photo Contest Winners

“January in Toronto”



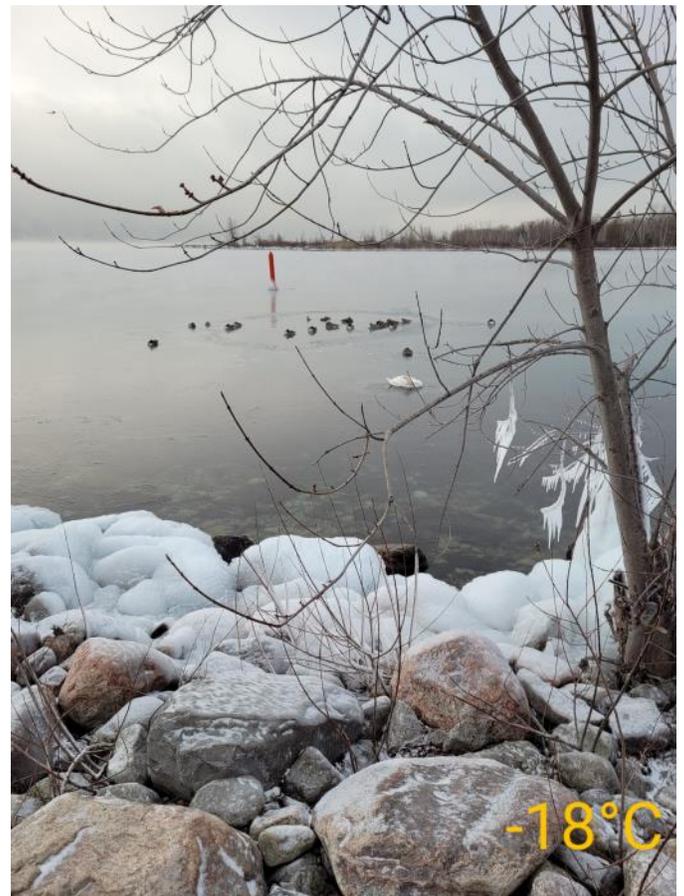
1st Place— Maureen Ballentine



Rick Plume and Hugh working at running our photo contests. Thank you!



2nd Place—Wendy Plume



3rd Place— Nina Sparks

Plan your Garden Pop-Up

by Jennifer Smith

In the recent Jan-Feb '22 issue of our newsletter, page 9 showed photographs from last summer's pop-up garden events. In case you aren't familiar with these, here is a brief explanation.

You are invited to "pop-up" or show something in your garden that you would like to share with fellow club members. (Pop-ups are open **ONLY** to members.) This may be one small item; for example, one member has occasionally opened her garden so that we may view her gorgeous trilliums. Or it could be your whole garden. It could be that your garden is under transition; perhaps you want to show it *now*, as you start to change it; in the *middle*, and/or at the *end* of its transition (although is there ever an "end" to the changes we make in our gardens?). Pop-ups are casual events. Your garden does **NOT** have to be "perfect". Do not be thinking about Through the Garden Gate or any other garden tours where tickets are sold!

If you are interested but a little hesitant, you could write to Diane Dyson (gardenclub@eygc.ca) to ask for more information and/or to ask to be put in touch with someone who has popped up their garden.

If you decide to open up, let Diane know your times and dates. Some people choose a few hours during the day and another few hours in the evening. It's completely up to you. Diane will send you 3 papers which need to be displayed on your property. Pop-ups average about 15 viewers. If we still need to ensure social distancing, you could set out 2 or 3 sticks or plastic hangers or something that the current viewers would carry with them while other members await their turn.

These pop-up events are a lot of fun. Gardeners admire one another's gardens; share concerns, frustrations, and tricks; and get to know more members of our marvellous club.

Summary—Master Gardeners Tech Update...

by Veronica Callinan

Despite the lack of togetherness and tasty treats (COVID forbid), the TMG TU (Toronto Master Gardeners Technical Update) planning committee executed another well planned, educational event. 420 people attended including MGs from all over Ontario, Manitoba, the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia, as well as many very welcome and interested members of the public. The day included random draw prizes, a Kahoots challenge, and a consideration of phototropism (a fancy title that disguised a ten-minute stretch!).

This year's topic was Ecological Gardening, a theme that has been growing in interest over the last several decades. The lineup of exceptionally knowledgeable speakers did not disappoint.

The principles of ecological gardening are simple: work with, not against, nature to achieve a beautiful, sustainable garden. The speakers presented research proving what happens when nature is not part of gardening. We were presented with the benefits that result when these principles are applied, and how to achieve them.

The first speaker was **Dr. Sheila Colla**, from the *Native Pollinator Research Lab* at York University. Dr. Colla presented "The Role of Grassroots Movements in Pollinator Conservation" with particular emphasis on the decline of Bumble Bees. There are over 300 native bee varieties in Toronto, a significant number. One good number is that 60% of native bees are stable; however, 40% are decreasing in numbers and that is a large number.

The Rusty Patch Bumblebee is the focus of current research as it is now classified as Critically Endangered. Its habitat range has decreased by 45%. The main source of its decline is pathogens such as herbicides and insecticides. Disease from managed bee populations is also a large cause. Apiarists introduce foreign honeybees that carry pathogens which spread disease to the native bees which forage the same flowers for nectar and pollen. There is a major disconnect regarding honeybees and native species around the world. Simple solutions? There are none.



ACTION:

- Beware of #BeeWashing which takes resources away from native bee conservation.
- Focus on flowers early and late in the season, when most flowers are not out.*
- Protect old growth forests and native grasslands.
- Think about community and food gardens as pollinator friendly, not just flower gardens.

The second speaker was **Cole Burrell**, an acclaimed lecturer, garden designer, award winning author and photographer. Cole presented "A Gardener's Primer to Understanding Nature's Cycles and Flows". Ecology is a science, from the Greek "oikos" meaning House. Ecology studies the relationships of organisms

Summary—Master Gardeners Tech Update...

to their environments. Ecology is multidisciplinary: Physiology, Genetics, Hydrology, Evolution, Behavioral Science, and Biochemistry. What do gardeners need to know to be more in tune with nature in their gardens? "In all your gardening, but particularly when dealing with our native plants, you should become an amateur ecologist", Bebe Miles.



Most gardeners love birds and butterflies but we must realize to have the adults, the eggs/young need habitats and sustenance, which might not be so pretty. What is a habitat? "An ecological or environmental area that is inhabited by a particular species which is made up of physical factors such as soil, moisture, range of temperature, and availability of light as well as biotic factors such as the availability of food and the presence of predators".

In the garden, resilience is essential, which is the ability to recover from disturbance, to accommodate change, and to function in a state of health.

Gardeners can get hung up on the term "native plant". Native plants have a region where they are naturally found, but can be dispersed by animals and people. It is a plant that has been part of a community, biome or ecosystem long enough to develop positive complex relationships within other organisms within that community.

ACTION:

- Establish realistic goals
- Provide diverse vegetative cover
- Provide nectar sources
- Provide larval food sources
- Include plants for feeding, breeding, resting, nesting.
- Integrate landscape structure: Layer lower levels, mid layers, tall trees.
- Allow benign neglect.
- Plant lot line to lot line

"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which WE belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect", Aldo Leopold.

The third speaker was **Rebecca McMackin** from Brooklyn Bridge Park who presented "Lessons (so far) in Built Ecology". For those who do not know Brooklyn Bridge Park, it is a park built on the foundations of old ferry landings. It is now 85 acres, the largest public works project in Brooklyn. All the soils and plant material was brought in. Fill came from subway tunnels, Granite was a bridge from Queens. The gardens are based on a disturbance

Summary—Master Gardeners Tech Update

regime; they have to be **resilient**. The park contains bio swales, giant berms and goats. Beds are architectural to define views, block wind, etc. There are plenty of ornamental thickets to encourage nesting birds. The goal is to become another large patch of green, as it is on the path for migratory birds. North American birds have declined by 30%. More than 1/2 of humanity lives in cities. It is imperative to fit animals and migrations into urban areas.



In the park, natural cycles of plants are helped to regenerate on their own. Over 20 different types of soils are engineered, created with recipes. "Leave the leaves" to make a better mulch and new soil. Leaves provide starches and complex carbohydrates. A "clean edge" makes an area look manicured even if the inner portion is less managed. Winter duff litter protects hibernating insects/pollinators. Ecological gardening does not include raking at all, but leaves stems and other materials to create homes for insects which attract birds.

Scientific studies:

Urban areas vs Wilderness have the same varieties of birds, but much less abundance in Urban areas. Agricultural areas vs Wilderness: Same abundance of birds, but much less variety in Agricultural areas. This is good news and shows the value of all the scientific work that is being done. Ecological plantings need maintenance, and the birds and pollinators to keep it going.

ACTION:

- Cut back when it does not interfere with birds or insects, that is before nesting or after migration OR just let them disintegrate in place.
- Asteraceae family, which consists of over 32,000 known species of flowering plants in over 1,900 genera, is the most valuable plants for birds and pollinators.
- In a garden, add spots of minimum disturbance.
- Leave up milkweed stems, which birds use for nesting.

*****If you want the butterflies, you need the larvae. To get the larvae you need the native plants.*****

While winter winds continue to blow, hopefully the knowledge from these sessions will be part of your own garden planning.

District 5 AGM—April 9, 2022

YOU ARE INVITED!

District 5 2022 AGM



Gardening...in a changing World Hosted by Stouffville Horticultural Society

DATE: Saturday April 30

TIME: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

WHERE: The comfort of your own home via your computer

Join us for a judged flower show, AGM business and Speaker

Paul Zammit "Climate change and how it affects us as gardeners"

Registration: Contact Nancy at StouffvilleHort2022@gmail.com

Register by Saturday April 23 2022



GardenOntario

2022 DISTRICT 5 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 30, 2022

Flower show and Rules



This will be an online show using digital photographs with all entries to be emailed to reihtlaw59@gmail.com no later than April 9, 2022.
Please ensure that your entries include your society name and class number

1. This competition is open to all members of Societies in District 5.
2. Each Society is allowed a maximum of two entries in each class.
3. All entries will be judged by two OHA-Certified judges from different districts, other than the one hosting the AGM. In accordance of the Ontario Judging and Exhibition Standards, 2019 (OJES). Please refer to this guide for further information.
4. In design classes, any type of fresh or dried material may be used. Painted and/or artificially coloured material may be used unless otherwise specified in the schedule. No artificial plant material may be used.
5. Accessories are permitted with all designs. Wiring and taping flowers is permitted if it does not show, otherwise points will be deducted.
6. "Virtual" ribbons will be awarded for all classes
7. High points in Design, Horticultural, and Overall will be recognized with a "virtual" trophy and a certificate
8. Results of the competition will be shown at the meeting on April 30th. 2022.

Any questions should be addressed to Pamela Stierhof at reihtlaw59@gmail.com

2022 DISTRICT 5 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 30, 2021

HORTICULTURAL

Class 1 Early Spring

A horticultural specimen showing the first signs of Spring (Can be a cut specimen or something growing in your garden)

Class 2 Seed Story

A horticultural specimen started from seed this year (One or multiple plants)

Class 3 "Home Grown" A house plant grown for foliage. (must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least three months and must be well-established)

DESIGN

Class 4

"Heat Wave" A design of your interpretation

Class 5

"Smoke Stacks" A design of your interpretation

Class 6

"Rain forest" A design of your interpretation



GardenOntario
KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL™

February Photo Contest Winners

“The Colour Red”



1st Place— Anna Leggatt



2nd Place— Michelle Barraclough



3rd Place— Beth Binnington

Facebook News!

Our **East York Garden Club** Facebook group has grown to **107** members. If you haven't had a chance yet, come and check us out. We are a private group open to anyone who wants to join, EYGC member or non-member. Everyone must answer the three questions and agree to our rules before joining. Invite your fellow gardener friends to join. We look forward to seeing you on Facebook!

Cheers, Kim
Kim Hewitt



Veronica Callinan
February 20 at 8:08 AM · 🌐

Family Day (confused) Cactus!



👍 🤔 🤔 You and 10 others 2 Comments Seen by 75

👍 Like 💬 Comment

All comments ▾

Wendy Latham
Call it "Holiday Cactus", and it can pick it's holidays Lol!
Like Reply 6d 👍 🤔 2

Nola McConnan
My white one too suddenly popped three buds this week.
March Break Cactus?
Like Reply 5d 😄 1

Rachel Jones shared a photo.
February 14 at 5:14 PM · 🌐



Propeller Coffee Co.
February 14 at 12:02 PM · 🌐

We've got lots of burlap and don't want it going to landfill.

If anyone out there can use some bags, swing by our cafe and pick up a bundle of these used but s... [See more](#)

1 Comment Seen by 50

Group Rules from the Admins

- 1 Be Kind and Courteous** ...
We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but kindness is required.
- 2 No Hate Speech or Bullying** ...
Make sure everyone feels safe. Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things like race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.
- 3 No Promotions or Spam** ...
Give more than you take to this group. Self-promotion, spam and irrelevant links aren't allowed.
- 4 Respect Everyone's Privacy** ...
Being part of this group requires mutual trust. Authentic, expressive discussions make groups great, but may also be sensitive and private. What's shared in the group should stay in the group.

Our January Talk by Claudia & Duncan Wood

“Community & Allotment Gardens”

Summary by Jennifer Smith

Claudia and Duncan are engaging speakers with a clear passion for gardening both at home and in their allotment space. They explained that “community gardens” are on city-owned land and there are about 72 of these around Toronto. For example, about 15 people work in the Ashbridge’s Bay Community Garden located on Dundas St. To the west of Rosetta McLain Park, there is a community garden of the same name. Within Ashbridge’s Bay Park itself is the Beaches Community Edible Garden. The vegetables grown here are donated to the food bank at Glen Rhodes Church and to children’s programs. For more information or to start your own community garden, contact the Supervisor of Community Garden. There is no fee to have a community garden. <https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/parks-gardens-beaches/gardens-and-horticulture/urban-agriculture/community-gardens/>

An allotment garden is run a little differently. There is a fee: in 2021, it was \$97 for the May 1 to Oct. 31 period. Phone (416) 396-7378 on Feb. 1 to register your wish for an allotment garden. The availability of a garden in your preferred area is very unpredictable. Among the 19 rules for having an allotment garden is the stipulation that “untended plots may be canceled after June 15”, but this is not always enforced.



Although Claudia & Duncan enjoy the gardens at their house in the Beach area, they wanted a full-sun area, so acquired an allotment garden on Leslie St. near Tommy Thompson Park. The city has installed water taps; you just need to bring your own hose. The city provides compost (warning: it’s full of weeds!) and a spot to leave garbage and compostable items to be picked up. As well, extra produce can be placed on a special table to be donated to the Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre’s Emergency Foodbank. And—very important—there is a portable washroom.

The city maintains grass walkways between gardens to allow for easy walking. Gardeners are not supposed to install any structures, but despite this rule there are scarecrows, chairs and sculptures which beautify the gardens. Claudia and Duncan first followed the organizational structure outlined in Mel Bartholomew’s book *All New Square Foot Gardening: grow more in less space* (2006), but have slowly transitioned to using raised beds for ease of planting and harvesting. They enjoy learning from the variety of fellow gardeners’ methods and cultures. And as we hear so often from gardeners, there is often no rhyme or reason why a plant is successful in one spot one year but not the next. It’s an ongoing, exciting challenge!

Our wild neighbours

By Dianne Cavanaugh

On January 17, about 55 cm of snow fell in the city of Toronto; this was a record-breaking snow-storm.

Tranquility settled in throughout neighbourhoods, as the city asked residents to stay indoors and off the roads so they could clear the snow.

To my surprise and wonderment, a few days later, I had an encounter with a red fox who appeared in my next door neighbour's backyard.

According to the City, wildlife appearances are common in the urban landscape and that we must learn to co-exist with them. However, for everyone's safety, including wildlife, they recommend that you do not watch, feed or interact with wild animals.

Remember these tips:

- Do not approach wild animals or their nesting areas and dens
- Do not touch wild animals, even if they appear tame, sick or injured
- Never feed wild animals
- Keep dogs on leash and away from wild animals



Why you shouldn't interact with wild animals?

- Wild animals can bite, scratch or injure people and pets
- Wild animals may transmit diseases, such as rabies, to people and pets
- Feeding wild animals increases their presence and causes them to lose their fear of people
- Feeding and disturbing wild animals is prohibited under City bylaws



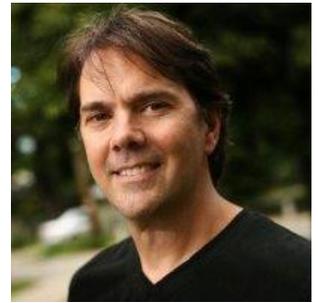
If you see injured, sick or very young wildlife, call 311.

Editors' note: You may also contact the Toronto Wildlife Centre for assistance: (416) 631-0662

Another excellent source is <https://www.coyotewatchcanada.com/site/home>

Our February Talk by Rob Grand at Zooshare

Summary by Jennifer Smith



On Feb. 17, 2022, about 30 members listened to Rob Grand, General Manager at ZooShare, explain how this company converts waste into electricity.

In 2010, when the Green Energy Act was created, many groups became involved in offering clean renewable energy, which is sold to Ontario Hydro at a premium price.

Daniel Bida saw an opportunity to use food waste and animal waste instead of just sending it to landfill and in 2011 he created ZooShare, Canada's first privately-owned zoo-based biogas plant (like a "factory" where the process of waste digestion occurs). Community bonds were sold to people who wanted an "impact investment" with a social and environmental return. About 800 members have invested in this company.

It took many years of discussion and planning but finally an "anaerobic digester", aka biogas plant, was constructed on the east side of Meadowvale Road opposite the Toronto Zoo. This process is a circular model: food waste, animal waste and used bedding materials are put into a large tank where they are eaten and digested by bacteria; the methane efflux is then turned into electricity and digested matter into fertilizer; the fertilizer helps to grow food, which eventually results in food waste; which is again combined with animal waste and the process is repeated. There is some odour at times from the bacterial action.

Rotting food creates methane gas, which is far more damaging to the environment than carbon dioxide. ZooShare diverts 15,000 tonnes of inedible food waste annually as well as 2,000 tonnes of animal waste. This results in enough electricity to power 250 homes/year.



ZooShare is very committed to teaching about how biogas is created and used. Programs are available for students of different ages. In-person tours of the ZooShare plant may resume at some point. See the website for further information. <https://zooshare.ca/>

ZooShare may begin to bottle their fertilizer for sale in one litre bottles. Rob described this product as a concentrated compost tea, with an NPK composition of 4-1-1.

You may email Zooshare Director Daniel Bida at daniel@zooshare.ca to get on a waitlist to purchase this "Zoo ReNew" product and to enquire about guided tours.

Get your seeds growing—Order by March 5

By Roz Regnier

Where are all the seed growers? About 2 weeks ago Diane sent out a blurb which included a list of extra donated seeds from the Ontario Rock Garden Society & one person replied for seeds--- my sister.

If you have a sunny window, you can grow seeds. This year I'll include how to germinate each seed. Most will be in the 20 degree Celsius category, but if not I'll describe how to germinate these seeds. OK the names are in Latin but a computer will solve this problem.

Once the seeds have germinated I like to water from the bottom to promote root growth. Why not give it a try, all you need is potting soil, a pot & water. I cover the pot with a clear but not air tight lid to promote germination .

To order plants just give me the number preceding the name & I'll deliver the seeds. Pick up to 10 different seeds from the list below. rosalindr13@gmail.com or 416-759-6247

1. agapanthus species bulb, blue, 100cm. tender, african blue lily
2. agastache foeniculum, per, purple. 100 cm. anise hyssop
3. allium oreophilum, bulb, pink, 20 cm. pink lily leek. vivid magenta
4. anemone multifida per, red 10 cm., performs well in shade
5. aquilegia pyrenaica per black & white 15 cm. deadhead, cut back to rejuvenate
6. asclepias curassavica annual, yell/or 60 cm. flowers till frost
7. atriplex hortensis annual, red, 80 cm. self-seeding orach, foliage & stems are red too
8. baptisia australis per, blue 90 cm. false indigo
9. calendula officinalis indian prince annual, or, 50 cm. red-backed petals
10. campanula armena, per. pink 30 cm.
11. chasmanthium latifolium grass, green, 60 cm. northern sea oats, seed heads winter interest
12. clematis crispa, vine, lavender, 300 cm. useful as ground cover also
13. clematis integrifolia, per, blue, 30 cm. upright plant
14. coreopsis red satin, per, red 45cm. butterflies
15. eccremocarpus scaber vine, or/re 150 cm. or & red tubes on lacy foliage
16. echinacea purpurea per, purp, 80 cm. purple coneflower, native
17. echinops ritro per blue 100 cm. globe thistle
18. eryngium giganteum silver, per 90 cm. thistle foliage with prickly flower bracts
19. gaillardia pulchella annual, red/ye 60 cm. blanket flower, blooms all summer
20. hibiscus trionum burgundy, annual 55 cm. burgundy centers close in afternoon
21. kniphofia tknibp per yellow, 70 cm. banana popsicle series, repeat blooms
22. perilla frutescens mauve, annual 50 cm.
23. silene chalcedonica per maroon 40 cm.
24. silene coronaria per magenta 45cm. rose campion, sun
25. verbena hasta per blue 90 cm.

Member Interviews...

Anne Stanley

By Jennifer Smith, August 2021



Anne Stanley's garden is a gorgeous riot of colour. I had difficulty concentrating on the actual interview because everywhere I looked I saw lovely plants and artworks! Anne joined the garden club in 2016 and immediately participated in a variety of activities. She won the Anna Leggatt Novice Award for entering flower shows. Some of us may recall Anne's beautiful contributions to flower shows, especially in the Design category. For several years she walked with other garden club members in the Canada Day parades. She popped-up her garden as soon as she joined, in part because she sought answers from the expert gardeners who attend these collegial events. She participated in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program and has several water bowls at different heights and locations. She joined the committee to design and sell EYGC items (T-shirt; coffee mug; others) and contributed 3 logos to be voted on. (Hers was not the winning design.)

Anne says that although her mother gardened, her own interest only began as an adult living in houses that needed some colourful landscaping. She bought tulip bulbs because she loves their colours and asked a neighbour "Which end points down into the soil?" Then she added annuals, many from her mother and grandmother's gardens. She is happy that she can remember her grandmother through her passion for gardening. She doesn't specialize in particular plants, but adds new ones as she discovers them. Thus her garden abounds with a



Member Interviews...

Anne Stanley

By Jennifer Smith, August 2021

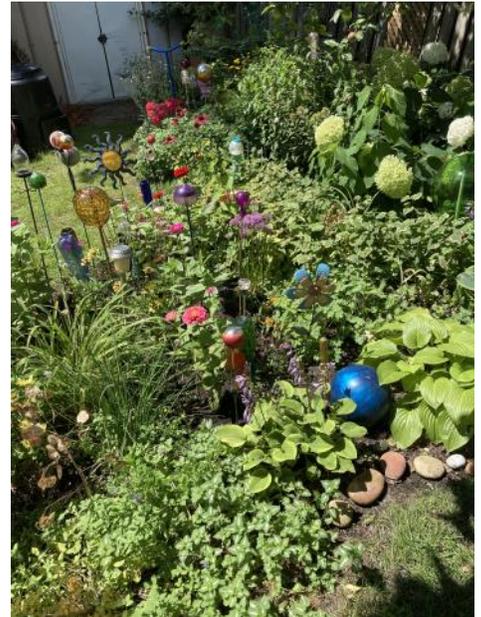
wide variety of plants, many received from our own club's garden sales, the local church around the corner, and as gifts from fellow gardeners.

Twelve years ago when she moved into her current East York bungalow, the landscaping consisted of grass and three old catalpa trees. The city replaced these old trees with two new catalpas. A friend gave Anne a shoot from a dogwood pagoda. She also has a pear tree which—poor thing—had an electric cord embedded in its trunk. Anne gently removed this unwanted item. She created walkways by laying bricks and other found objects left on curbs and carried home in her bike basket. She even pulled out a chain link fence from around the property. Just this spring she enlarged the garden by changing a grass path into a flower garden.

Anne is an artist who works in a variety of media. Currently she enjoys working “like a scientist” to mix resin to form colourful baubles to hang inside the house and out in the garden. She has created many colourful medallions from pop bottles of different sizes and colours.

She sews most of her own clothes. Some of us will recall how she transformed the neckline of the new EYGC T-shirt; she did away with the standard crew neck and made a slightly lower, very attractive new neckline.

Anne enjoys learning from our knowledgeable speakers and club members. She adds that everyone is so kind and generous with their knowledge. She encourages new gardeners to recognize that gardening is an experiment. Accept that it's all trial and error and a work in progress. Just have fun!



Member Interviews...

Sue Wells & Stacey Shannon

By Jennifer Smith, September 2021



Sue Wells and Stacey Shannon have been members of the garden club since 2008. In 2007 their garden won Best Residential Environmental garden in the East York Blooming Contest thanks to a nomination from a club member. And then they went on to win Best Residential Environmental in Toronto. Heady days! They enjoy meeting new people and learning from the range of topics presented in our monthly talks. They like volunteering for club activities such as stewardship activities at the Rockery and the Legion and assisting with plant sales and Environment Days. Sue delivers the printed newsletter to computer-free members and Stacey served on the board briefly in 2016. Stacey appreciated the opportunity to observe the scope of the club and its involvement in horticulture throughout the province. Sue and Stacey specialize in growing native plants and have been members of the North American Native Plant Society for several decades. Also, they make room in their garden for vegetables.



White baneberry/doll's eyes

Sue explained that although her parents weren't gardeners, the family's house backed on to a ravine. Sue and her friends spent many enjoyable hours exploring this green space and developing a love of nature. Her parents sometimes drove the family to the country to enjoy open air barbecues. She grew a variety of houseplants in her various apartments until acquiring a house garden. Stacey's mother grew vegetables and a few flowers and bulbs.



Plant stems for insect shelters

When Stacey & Sue bought their house, the garden was an untended mass of weeds with self-seeded marigolds and, strangely, 2 Parrot tulips. With considerable effort, they have created a very interesting and attractive garden, which they have popped up a couple of times.

Member Interviews...

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On the corner of their property they have built an attractive berm from limestone and granite. Influence from the North American Native Plant Society caused them to favour planting native plants over non-natives. They enjoy growing heritage tomatoes and start their vegetables under grow-lights in the basement. They strive to grow vegetables for 12 months and make good use of their greenhouse and cold frames. However, sometimes the seedlings don't survive. One May about a decade ago, Sue had germinated a number of heritage tomato seedlings, but they all wilted. She drove to Terra Edibles, north of Belleville, to obtain new heritage seedlings and they advised her to use chamomile spray to avoid a repeat of this unfortunate occurrence. Stacey recounted losing a crop of butterfly milkweeds, which had germinated but found their move to the garden too shocking. She is determined to master the art of properly and safely hardening off delicate seedlings. They raise worms in their basement. In the summer, the worms are put outside into one of the three composters.



Greenhouse built by Sue



Raccoon hazard

They list a number of easy plants to grow: self-seeded brown-eyed Susans, many asters, and members of the penstemon family. Also, rigid goldenrod grows easily and is not invasive. Their property is decorated with a number of bird cages, which they use as very attractive covers over sensitive plants. What a good idea!

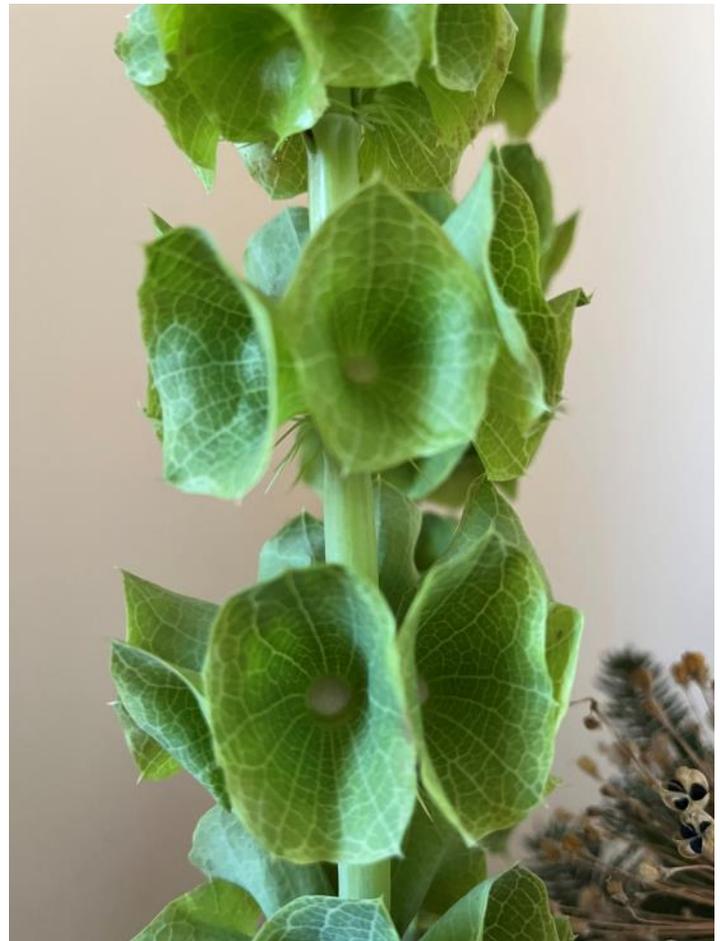
Sue and Stacey enjoy riding their motorcycles on long road trips. They believe that the wind keeps their memory intact and the "wind therapy" clears out the cobwebs and freshens their thinking. Their garden provides their carbon offset (they hope).

They are very annoyed by squirrels' tendency to take one bite of a tomato and then to discard it. I have heard this complaint from many tomato growers!

Mystery Plants

"Jennifer Smith's sister received these flowers in a bouquet in Halifax. Do you know what the green ones are?"

Email us—newsletter@eygc.ca,
Subject- "Jennifer's sister"



Upcoming Speakers

Discover Toronto's Ravines

Presented by Ellen Schwartzel —
Thursday March 17, 2022



Ellen Schwartzel is President of the Toronto Field Naturalists. Ellen's career in environmental policy included 23 years with the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, and she was Ontario's Deputy Environmental Commissioner from 2014 until retiring in 2018. Ellen received her BSc and MSc in Botany at the University of Toronto.

Life in a big city can be stressful. Luckily in Toronto, we have ravines that offer nature at our doorsteps. Learn how you can get to know and love Toronto's ravines, thanks to a Zoom talk that features ravine wildlife, the role of ravines in flood protection, and how our ravines have changed over thousands of years. The talk will also sketch out the 21st century challenges facing the ravines and their biodiversity, and the ways Toronto Field Naturalists are lending a hand.

The Meadoway: Meadow Restoration within Hydro Corridors

Presented by Chris Cormack—Thursday April 21, 2022



Chris Cormack has an Masters of Science Degree from Bangor University in Wales, UK. He is an ecologist with a diverse professional experience including ecological restoration of coastal and terrestrial habitats, whole-ecosystem monitoring, and field data collection techniques. Chris has 20 years of professional experience including work in North America, UK, Caribbean, and Middle East. He has been with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for 4 years, and is the Site Supervisor for the Meadoway project.

This talk and will look at the process involved in transforming a hydro corridor in Scarborough into a vibrant 16-kilometre stretch of urban greenspace and meadowlands that will become one of Canada's largest linear urban parks. Cyclists and pedestrians will soon be able to travel from the heart of downtown Toronto to [Rouge National Urban Park](#) without ever leaving nature. Over the next few years, this site will become a place filled with butterflies, birds and wildflowers – a rich meadow landscape realized on a scale never before seen in Toronto.

Notices to Members

PEOPLE'S CHOICE ONLINE PHOTO CONTESTS FOR 2022

March *Black and White*
April *TBA*

Entries accepted from 1st to 14th of the month.

*Please note, if we are able to resume regular in-person club activities, we will return to our regular format for photo contests including a judged show in November 2022.

photocontest@eygc.ca or
416-469-5593

EYGC Memberships 2022

Memberships:
Individual—\$20/year, Family - \$30/year.

Send cheques payable to
“East York Garden Club” to:
East York Garden Club,
c/o Cristina Brown,
7 Knightsbridge Rd,
Scarborough, M1L 2A8

Our membership form can be found online at
<http://www.eygc.ca/ClubInfo/HowToJoin.html>

NOTE: If paying by e-transfer **NO
PASSWORD** is required. Please add your full
name and address in Notes section of the e-
transfer .

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”.***

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."

Membership Form 2022



Website: www.eygc.ca

MEMBERSHIP FORM Year: 2022

Personal Information

Name (s) _____
Address _____
City _____ Postal Code _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Note: Your privacy is respected. We will only use your email address to send you EYGC information. We do not distribute your email address to anyone else.

Membership Information

- New Renewal
 Single (\$20) Family (\$30)
 Cash Cheque
 Receive newsletter and club events via email

E-transfer Payment

- ** E-Transfer to treasurer@eygc.ca
 Single (\$21) Family (\$31)
(Bank surcharge of \$1 included)

If new membership: how did you hear about us, e.g. a local paper, a neighbour, our brochure?

Age Group Under 18 18 - 60 Over 60

Note: It is voluntary if you choose to check one of these boxes. The rental rate at Stan Wadlow Clubhouse is lower for organizations with a high number of seniors (over 60) and youth (under 18). It is helpful, but not necessary, for us to have this information.

I would like to volunteer in some capacity with the Club _____

Membership fees due by January of each year. Fees can be paid in person at a regular Club meeting or by mail.

- Mail this form and a cheque (payable to "East York Garden Club") to:
East York Garden Club, c/o Cristina Brown, 7 Knightsbridge Road, Scarborough, ON MIL 2A8
- ****E-transfer:** membership fee including bank surcharge to treasurer@eygc.ca. Please indicate **EYGC Membership and your name** in the message. Email the completed membership form as well.

Personal Information & Privacy Act Disclaimer

The information provided on this form is for the exclusive and confidential use of EYGC. Personal information of members, such as your name, address and telephone number is published in the EYGC Yearbook to identify a contact person for a specific event. This will be maintained in accordance with Canada's Personal Information and Electronic Document Act.

Do you want your name in the yearbook's members list? Yes No

The East York Garden Club is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association, District 5

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:

newsletter@eygc.ca



Submitted by Jennifer Smith

Let's Welcome New EYGC Members

As spring brings joy to our gardens
we look forward to meeting new members.



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 25, 2022

Please email your comments regarding our newsletter, or your submissions for the next issue, to
newsletter@eygc.ca

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

www.eygc.ca



“The East York Garden” is the Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

