

The East York Garden

Bi-monthly newsletter of the East York Garden Club

September & October, 2003

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

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month (except August and December) in the Stan Wadlow Clubhouse, 373 Cedarvale Avenue at 7:30 p.m. The Clubhouse is wheelchair-accessible. Visitors are always welcome.

Yearly membership fees are \$10 for a single, and \$15 for a family. To inquire about membership, contact Rosalind Regnier at 416-759-6247.

Visit us on the web at www.eygc.ca

President:
Betty Goldring

Second Vice-President:
Bev Woods

Newsletter Editor:
Malcolm Geast
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Thursday, September 18, 2003

Speaker: Marion Jarvie
Topic: Woody Plant Cuttings

Marion Jarvie is a horticulturist who has been teaching and lecturing for the past 25 years at the University of Toronto, the Civic Garden Centre, and gatherings of gardeners in the Toronto area and around the world. At this meeting she will be showing us how to take fall cuttings of conifers and deciduous shrubs.

This meeting will also feature our final flower show of the year.

Members whose surnames begin with S are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Round Table Discussions

The topics for this year's round-table meeting are Ornamental grasses, Fall plants, Christmas flower arrangements, and Club talk (club events in 2004).

This meeting will also feature our annual seed exchange. We ask that you label seed packets with the name and colour of the plant and any other useful information, such as height and sun/shade preference.

Members whose surnames begin with T, U, V, or W are asked to bring some cookies or sweets for the evening's tea.

Upcoming in November: Our Annual General Meeting, including awards, elections, and a pot-luck supper.



From the Editor's desk...

A few months ago, I decided that it might be time for a new name for the newsletter, something a little more interesting than *The East York Garden Club Bi-Monthly Newsletter*. After some deliberation, *The East York Garden* has been chosen as the new name.

Initially, the favoured name was *The Trillium* (the Club's emblem). However, after I put out a call for suggestions, it soon became apparent that this would not be the first choice. Of course it's essential that the name have a gardening orientation. However, I was in complete agreement when it was pointed out to me that our community connection is also important, and that "East York" should be included in the name.

One of the earliest names proposed was *The East York Dirt*. It was a little unusual, but had a definite appeal for some of us. After all, we may each have different planting choices, but it's the ground we put them in that we have in common. From those with whom I discussed it, responses

ranged from disappointment to relief when sober second thought prevailed, and I decided not to use it.

There were several other names suggested, but I was able to narrow it down to two: *The Green Thumb* and *The East York Gardener*. *The Green Thumb* would likely have been the first choice, but it became too lengthy when recast as *The East York Green Thumb*. *The East York Gardener* rolled off the tongue easier, but it also sounded like just another gardening magazine.

The East York Garden satisfies, in obvious fashion, the need to address the connections to gardening and to the community. Most importantly, I hope that it will share many of the same characteristics as our gardens: an enjoyable place to be, with just the right mix of the familiar and the interesting along with the occasional pleasurable surprise.

Malcolm Geast

Club Business

In November, the Club holds its Annual General Meeting. At this meeting we will have a pot-luck supper and give out the annual awards for the flower shows and the photography contest. We will also elect our new Executive Board for the coming year. If you have been interested in getting more involved in the activities of the Club, this is the perfect opportunity. This year there are a number of vacancies. Ready and waiting for new faces are three Director positions, as well as the posts of President and Vice-President. We are also looking for volunteers to handle publicity, the yearbook, and the photography contest. To find out more, please speak to Lucie Simons, or any current member of the board.

For the past few years one of our "round-table discussions" at our October meeting has centred

on the activities of the club in the year to come. This has included a questionnaire about those activities. Recognizing that it can be difficult to complete all of the questions by the end of the meeting, this year we're giving you a copy ahead of time. You'll find it attached to the back of this newsletter.

Emailed Newsletters

If you're interested in an emailed copy of the newsletter emailed to you (instead of, or in addition to the mailed copy), drop me a line at newsletter@eygc.ca Back issues are also available on the Club's website.

Gardening with Glen

By Glen Hutzul

Do you secretly yearn to be the talk of the street but doubt your abilities? Do you have a limited budget? Here's one solution. A friend had a new, bare garden. That first year, his experience nil and his budget limited, he planted his favourite spring blooming bulbs. Sixty tall, bright purple alliums made his garden a show stopper. It didn't matter that it only lasted three weeks. By then he had met and spoke to his new neighbours and inspired many of them.

Stop deadheading the roses! The presence of rose hips signals the rose bush to prepare for the winter. New growth slows or stops and the existing growth

hardens off, becoming tougher and better able to survive the cold weather.

Keep fertilizing planters, and pots of annuals, as they may flower well into October or even November. The higher off the ground they are (a front or back porch, for instance) the less likely they are to be killed by an early frost.

Buy a solar lamp! They can be pretty in the garden but how many people thought to bring them indoors during the recent blackout? They won't start a fire, won't burn the family pet, don't require batteries, and should last through the evening.

Toronto Botanical Garden

The name on the sign below will soon be just a memory. At its annual meeting in April, the membership of the Civic Garden Centre voted to change the name to the Toronto Botanical Garden. The name change is just a small part of a much bigger vision. New gardens and a renovated building are in the works, with construction slated to begin next year. By the year 2020, the TBG hopes to be a landmark destination for residents and visitors to Toronto says Executive Director, Margo Welch. "We will have superior facilities for floral, plant and gardening exhibitions as well as a café/restaurant, a garden shop and a botanical library of national importance."



Flower Show Judging Standards

As we mentioned in July, the *Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticultural and Floral Design* (Publication 34) has been extensively revised. In August, after we received 20 copies of it, we finally had a chance to have a look for ourselves. We can tell you that it's an essential item if you're planning on exhibiting, or if you're part of the team that organizes the flower shows. Included in it are explanations of terminology, tips for exhibitors, judging criteria, and explanations of responsibilities of judges and flower show organizers. At 108 pages, it's double the size of the previous version, but costs only \$6.00 (sorry, in July we incorrectly quoted a price of \$5.00). If you are interested in getting a copy for yourself, please contact Dawn McEachern (416-429-4719). You can also email us at pub34.eygc.ca

Something you won't see at one of our flower shows: According to the Guinness Book of Records, the largest bouquet of flowers ever put together was a 23.4 metre (77 feet) monster assembled on August 26, 2001, in Jamaica, New York.

What's Bugging You?

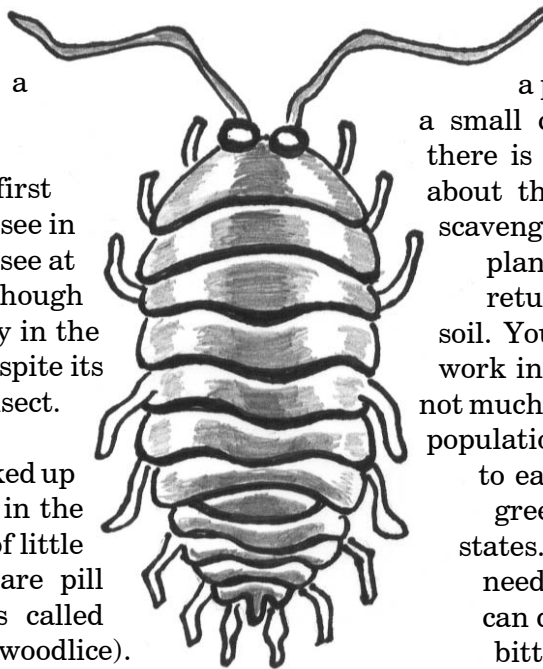
With the knowledge and experience that most of us have with plants, we usually refer to our selves as gardeners, or horticulturists. However, many of us find that it helps our gardening if we also dabble in entomology – the study of insects. To help you in that area, we'll be using this space to help you become more familiar with some of those tiny creatures that are seen frequently in your garden. Think of it as a "Bug of the Month" club.

We'll start off with one of the first of these little creatures that we see in the spring. It's one that we can see at almost any time of year, although wintertime viewings are usually in the basement. It's also one that, despite its size and appearance, isn't an insect.

All of us, at some time, have picked up a piece of wood or a flower pot in the garden and seen the scurrying of little oval-shaped animals. These are pill bugs or sow bugs (sometimes called mealy bugs, potato bugs, or woodlice). Occasionally they're referred to as "land crustaceans", since they are actually distant relatives of lobsters and crayfish. Because they breathe with gills, you'll always find them in moist locations. In fact, finding these guys in your home is one of the first indications of dampness. Although they can grow as long as 15 mm (a little over half an inch), they're usually only about half that size.

Unlike insects, which have clearly jointed bodies, pill bugs and sow bugs have what appears at first glance to be a rigid body. Closer inspection however reveals that they're actually highly segmented, and are covered with up to 13 armour-like plates. With locomotion coming from seven pairs of legs and two abdominal appendages, they have no trouble making a quick getaway when their hiding place is uncovered.

Young versions of these creatures look like miniature adults. As they grow, molting takes place, and they may shed their outer skin as many as five times. The molting procedure is a little unusual, since the front half is shed two to three days after the back half.



Although people are often distressed when they pick up a pot or turn over a rock and see a small colony of pill and sow bugs, there is little reason to be concerned about their presence. Since they are scavengers, mostly living on dead plants and animals, they help in returning decaying material to the soil. You'll often find them doing their work in your compost bin. Although not much of a worry for most of us, large populations of them have been known to eat and damage living plants in greenhouses and in the southern states. And if you should feel the need to pick one of them up, you can do so without any fear of being bitten.

So, how can you tell a pill bug from a sow bug? Although there are some minor differences in physical appearance (which seem to be only detectable to the trained eye), it's the pill bug's ability to protect itself by rolling up into a tiny ball that sets it apart (and also gives it another one of its nicknames: a roly-poly).

Did you know that the best material to seal the underwater surface of a bird bath is the paint used in swimming pools? Joyce Crook has used this for several years with great success. Unfortunately, when she needed to repaint the bath recently, she discovered that it was only available in large cans of a gallon or more, somewhat more than the small amount that she needs (probably a cup or less). If you have a pool, or know someone who does, and can spare a small bit of paint, please contact Joyce at 416-421-6440.

Strange, but true....

A somewhat uncommon flower is expected to make its commercial debut next year in England. Rougham Hall Nurseries, in Suffolk, will be selling a black delphinium (not dark purple, but absolutely black). Although first developed in Germany in the mid-nineties, it is only now that enough refinements have been made to make it available for purchase.

A frequent winner of awards at British gardening exhibitions, Rougham Hall uses a somewhat unusual method of breeding. Cross-pollination of delphiniums can be difficult because the release of pollen is somewhat intermittent. The solution has been to keep the delphiniums in a greenhouse along with a dead rabbit. After the rabbit has been in there for a few days, blow flies will lay eggs in the decomposing carcass. The greenhouse is then sealed, and when the next generation of blow flies emerges they begin a job that they are quite good at: cross-pollinating the delphiniums. The method is effective, but lengthy. A new variety can take four or five years to develop.

A reminder...

In October and November, yard waste can be put out every week, on the regular garbage day. The last week of November also sees the final yard waste collection until the beginning of April.



Thanks to the members who participated in a cleanup day on July 12th at the Rockery Garden in Stan Wadlow Park: Darina Quinn, Jean Quinn, Diane Bickers, Denise Alexander, Helen Linzer, Irene Derzay, Liz & Bruce Arkwright, Sonia van Heerden, Maxine Cashore, Dawn McEachern, Gail Gregory, Diane & Peter Ronan. The area was looking very good when our Pot-Luck Picnic was held there on July 17th.

2003 Photography Contest

Entry forms for the Photography Contest will be available at the September meeting, and on the club's website (www.eygc.ca). Entries will be accepted at any time up until the end of the meeting on October 16. If you cannot make it to either of the next two meetings, please call Dawn McEachern at 416-429-4719, or send an email to photocontest@eygc.ca.

The categories for this year's contest are:

- Captured Beauty (flower close ups)
- Plants that Live in Your House
- On the Rocks
- Vertical Gardening – Vines & Climbers
- Insects in the Garden (includes spiders and other arthropods)
- Anything Grows (open only to photos taken with a digital camera)

Complete rules for the contest can be found on pages 16 & 17 of the yearbook.

New EYGC By-laws

On page 38 of the 2003 EYGC Yearbook, you'll find the bylaws under which the Club operates. Unfortunately, the 10 paragraphs on that page are in serious need of revision. Important subject areas are omitted, and many of those that are included are confusing, incorrect, or out of date. This year the Executive Board decided to rewrite the bylaws to make them clearer and more usable. The new bylaws that we have proposed are found on this and the following page. A formal motion to accept them will be made at the Club's September meeting. A vote by the membership will take place at the November meeting.

Malcolm Geast
Chair, By-Law Committee

1. The name of the organization shall be "The East York Garden Club"
2. The goals of the Club shall be:
 - to promote gardening in the community
 - to encourage sharing of horticultural knowledge
 - to beautify the community
 - to conserve our natural resources
3. Membership
 - a. Membership is open at anytime to any person paying the annual membership fee. In accordance with provincial regulations, no person under the age of eighteen years is eligible to vote at Club meetings.
 - b. Annual membership fees are ten dollars (\$10) for a single, and fifteen dollars (\$15) for a family. Family membership shall consist of one (1) or two (2) adults and any related children under eighteen (18) years of age.
 - c. Membership renewals are due by the January general meeting. Anyone becoming a first-time member between September and December will be a paid-up member for the following year.
4. Executive Board
 - a. The Club shall be administered by an Executive Board. Executive Board members must be Club members in good standing.
 - b. The voting members of the Executive Board shall be a President (in tie-breaking situations only), two Vice-Presidents, and ten (10) directors.
 - c. The immediate past-president of the Club shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Board.
 - d. A Treasurer and a Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Board, and shall be considered to be non-voting members of the board.
 - e. The President and the two Vice-Presidents shall each be elected for a term of two (2) years. Election shall take place at the Club's Annual General Meeting, and shall take effect at the commencement of the first meeting of the Executive Board following the Annual General Meeting. The maximum number of consecutive terms for each of President or Vice-President is two (2).
 - f. The term of office for each of the directors shall be two (2) years. Five (5) directors shall be elected at the Club's Annual General Meeting, and shall take office at the commencement of the first meeting of the Executive Board following the Annual General Meeting.
 - g. Duties of the President are to preside at all meetings of the Club; conduct the affairs of the Club; sign all cheques jointly with the treasurer; have general supervision over all officers and committees; to see that the by-laws, rules of order and provincial acts and regulations are dutifully adhered to. The President shall vote only to act as a tie-breaker.
 - h. Duties of the Vice-Presidents are to assist the President in conducting the affairs of the Club, attend OHA District and Provincial meetings, and to assume all the powers of the President in the absence or in the case of the disability of the President.

- i. Duties of the directors are to meet when called upon to transact the business of the Club in a properly conducted manner. Directors are also expected to serve on one or more committees of the Club, or to be an activity co-ordinator.
 - j. Duties of the treasurer are to maintain accurate financial records, receive all monies; to give receipts for the same; to deposit monies in the name of the Club in a chartered bank approved by the executive; to pay all accounts by cheque co-signed by the president; to report all financial standings of the Club at the meetings; and to prepare a financial statement at the end of the year for the auditors and government departments.
 - k. Duties of the secretary are to take and deliver the minutes of the regular and executive meetings.
 - l. In the absence of a reason deemed to be acceptable by the Executive Board, any voting member absent for more than two (2) consecutive meetings of the Executive Board shall be considered to have resigned.
 - m. A member of the Executive Board may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote at a meeting of the Executive Board. The member shall be given at least seven (7) days notice of such a vote. Notice shall be given by one or more representatives of the Executive Board upon a motion of the Board.
 - n. Vacant positions on the Executive Board may be filled by action of the remaining members of the Executive Board.
 - o. Non-Executive Board members may attend Board meetings as guests and to make presentations. Requests to make a presentation to the meeting must be made to the President. At the discretion of the President, up to fourteen (14) days notice of such a presentation may be required.
5. Committees and Co-ordinators
- a. Standing committees of the Club shall be Flower Show and Community Projects.
 - b. Ad-hoc committees may be created as required by the Executive Board.
 - c. Membership on committees shall be open to all members of the Club. Each committee shall have at least one member who is a member of the Executive Board. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
 - d. For the purpose of finding and recruiting members to stand for election to the Executive Board at the Annual General Meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee on or before July 1. Voting members of the Executive Board are not eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee.
 - e. Activity co-ordinators shall be appointed by the Executive Board to manage membership, programs, meeting reminders, publicity, newsletters, the yearbook, the Club library, and other activities as required. Such co-ordinators need not be members of the Executive Board.
 - f. Committee membership and activity co-ordinators shall be decided at either of the first or second meeting of the Executive Board following the Annual General Meeting.
 - g. Two auditors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. Members of the Executive Board are not eligible to be auditors.
 - h. Duties of the auditors are to audit the annual financial statement prepared by the Treasurer.
6. Meetings
- a. Excepting August and December, general meetings of the Club are to be held each month, on the third Thursday of the month. The Executive Board may decide to hold additional general meetings.
 - b. In exceptional circumstances, the Executive Board may choose to cancel a general meeting, or to hold it on a day other than that specified in subsection (a).
 - c. The November meeting of the Club shall be the Annual General Meeting, during which the election of members of the Executive Board, presentation of the annual financial statement, reports of the year's activities, and the presentation of awards shall take place. The quorum for such a meeting shall be the membership in attendance.
 - d. Meetings of the Executive Board are to be held at least once a month. The agenda of the December meeting shall include planning of events for the following year.
 - e. Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called at any time by the President, or, upon written request by four (4) board members, by the Secretary. Such meetings shall require seven (7) days notice or unanimous consent of the voting members.
 - f. At meetings of the Executive Board, fifty per-cent (50%) of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.
7. These by-laws may be amended at a general meeting of the Club by a majority vote of all members present. The motion to amend shall be prepared by the Executive Board and presented to the membership at least sixty days prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 20

Early Show of Chrysanthemums, Dahlias and Design Classes at Agincourt Mall (Kennedy & Sheppard)

Tuesday, September 23

Clematis with Class at the Toronto Botanical Garden. – In the first of the 2003 Great Gardening Lecture Series, Glenis Dyer, a well-known speaker and plant propagator from the UK, will discuss the new and unique varieties of clematis that are now available, highlighting the varieties that are suitable for Canada's climate. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5, free for members.

September 24 to 28 (Wednesday to Sunday)

Fall Mum & Perennials Sale at the Toronto Botanical Garden – Colourful mums, asters, fall and late-flowering hardy perennials and ornamental grasses. Runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday, and noon to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

September 27 & 28 (Saturday & Sunday)

Central Ontario Orchid Show and Sale at the University Centre Building, University of Guelph As well as educational displays, talks and demonstrations, the show will feature thousands of beautiful, exotic flowers in full bloom displayed in more than 20 exhibits. Runs from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$6 (children free).

Sunday, October 26

Ontario Master Gardeners Annual Seminar at the Toronto Botanical Garden – Featuring speakers Henry Kock, John Valleau, and Martin Galloway. Runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 for the general public, \$10 for Master Gardeners.
For more information, call 416-445-3550

You'll find a complete list of events on our website (www.eygc.ca). The list is updated as we hear about new events.

2004 Membership Form

Name

Address

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Postal Code Phone #

Fees: Single \$10.00 Family \$15.00

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees can be paid in person at the next monthly meeting, or by mailing this form and a cheque to

Rosalind Regnier
82 Presley Avenue
Scarborough, Ontario
M1L 3P8