

The East York Garden

Bi-monthly newsletter of the East York Garden Club

November & December, 2004

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.

To inquire about membership, contact Denise Alexander at 416-759-5736.

Visit us on the web at www.eygc.ca

President:
Malcolm Geast

Vice-Presidents:
Linda Boyko
Dawn McEachern

Newsletter Editor:
Malcolm Geast
416-429-4719

Annual General Meeting and Potluck Supper

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Doors open at 6:30, Dinner begins at 7:00

This is our final meeting of the year. The evening will begin with a potluck supper, followed by the awards for the year's flower shows and the photography contest. We'll finish off with a vote on the by-law changes proposed in September and the election of the 2005 Executive. There will also be door prizes. All of the entries in the photography contest will be on display throughout the evening.

All those attending are asked to bring a dish of food (at least six servings). It would be appreciated if items such as lasagna or desserts could be pre-cut. If possible, an appropriate serving utensil would also be welcome. Don't be afraid to bring "too much" – extra food will be donated to Touchstone. And it's always helpful in the clean-up afterwards if you can put your name on the bowl or plate. The Club will be supplying dishes and cutlery, so you won't need to bring your own. Punch, tea and coffee will also be provided.

New Members

Please extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have recently joined the Club. New members' nametags have a blue star, to make them easier to recognize and be welcomed.

Anca Dragomirescu

Josie Lobo

Violet Jew

Regina Remisch

Betty Mason

Bruce Vidler



Upcoming in the January/February Issue:

- A report on Gardening & the Internet
- Results of the October survey
- The 2004 Program Schedule
- District 5 AGM update

From the President's Desk...

As 2004 comes to a close, and I look back on the events of this past year, I can't help but notice the importance of the efforts of the Club's membership in all of the Club's activities.

The East York Garden would have been a much slimmer publication had it not been for the articles provided by Club members. Thanks go to Diane Ronan for her articles, recipes and illustrations and to Glen Hutzul (Gardening with Glen). Thanks also to Anna Leggatt and Cristina Brown, and to Peter Ronan, for his photographs. It's become something of a family affair, as Dawn can claim credit for the lack of spelling mistakes and grammatical errors, and our daughter Morgan is an invaluable help on the distribution side (folding, inserting, sealing, stamping, etc).

This year we had a new way of conducting our members' garden tour, spreading it over the spring, summer and fall seasons. We're all very appreciative of those who opened their gardens for the tour.

Special events, such as the Canada Day Sale, the May Plant sale, the Seed Exchange and participation at Environment Day could not take place without our volunteers: Lucie Simons, Janet Badali, Glen Hutzul, Linda Boyko, Barb Foster, Betty Meyers, Elizabeth Malone, Diane Ronan, Dawn McEachern, Susan Bartlett, Betty Goldring, Roz Regnier, Vera Stoyanoff, Brian Rowe, Wini Stoddart, Sonia Van Heerden, Jean Quinn, Darina Quinn, Margaret McRae, Colleen McKay, Leslie Steinberg, Grace Masterton, Ruby Brett, and Diane Brockman. My apologies to those I haven't

mentioned – we had so many helpers that it was difficult to keep track. And of course, none of our sales would have been possible without the contributions of white-elephant materials, garden implements, or plants. The many hours spent potting up plants and organizing seeds are very much appreciated.



The main focus of our organization is the monthly meetings. Once again, Anna Leggatt arranged for an especially interesting and informative program. It's a sign of how well-regarded our speakers are that one phrase I'm sure to hear before each meeting is "I think we're going to need more chairs."

Of course, our meetings wouldn't be complete without the coffee, tea, and cookies that follow the speaker. Thanks go to Elizabeth Malone and Brenda Mackinnon for their quiet, but much-appreciated work in organizing the refreshments each month. The draw table that is present at many of the meetings is organized by Leslie Steinberg and Dawn McEachern.

Work that is unseen (but not unheard) is done by members of the telephone committee, who each month call the membership to remind them of the upcoming meeting. The committee consists of Denise Alexander, Janice McCrickard, Irene Derszay, Jean Quinn, Leslie Steinberg, Barb Foster, Elizabeth Malone, Sheila Clarke, Maxine Cashore, Mary Culver, Debbie Reesor, Wini Stoddart, Colleen McKay, and Janet Wilson.

The four flower shows that we held in 2004 were coordinated by Cristina Brown, along with her committee members Betty Meyers, Anna Leggatt, and Bev Woods. Clerking at the shows was done



by Betty Meyers, Jean Quinn, Wini Stoddart, Margaret McRae, Diane Brockman, and Irene Derszay.



Thanks not just from the Club, but also from the community as a whole go to the 30 members who worked on The Rockery this year. Diane Ronan headed the coordinating committee with team leaders, Roz Regnier, Glen Hutzul, and Irene Derszay.

Members who contribute to the club's day-to-day workings are Joyce Crook, for her fellowship work, Karen Bell for volunteering to be the Secretary for the Executive Board, Colleen McKay for work above and beyond that of Treasurer, all 12 voting members of the Board, and Betty Goldring, our Past-President, and someone who I can always count on for advice and information.

Malcolm Geast

The Scents of Christmas

Diane Ronan

We all have a smell that we associate with the Christmas Holidays. Whether it's the turkey cooking or mulled wine or a "real" evergreen tree or gingerbread men baking in the oven.

Today you can buy scented candles and aerosol sprays that are supposed to help you create the holiday mood. They are not as good as the real things. We can't always surround ourselves with the trappings of an old fashioned Christmas but there are short cuts.

If you have an artificial tree (like I do now), then use some evergreen boughs to create an arrangement. Red and white carnations combine well with the greens and last a long time. For something more exotic mix the boughs with eucalyptus, red anthurium, red tropical ginger or Bird-of-Paradise flowers. Keep your arrangement away from a heat source and spritz the boughs with water every few days. The smells will be woody and spicy.

OHA Website

With the help of a grant from The Trillium Foundation, the Ontario Horticultural Association has recently completely revamped its website. All the clubs and societies in Ontario now have updated information, and notices of horticultural meetings and events across the province are posted on a regular basis. You'll find it all at www.gardenontario.org.

And if you are entertaining friends, here's a recipe that will have them thinking that you've been baking all day:

Spice Pot

(from the Dinner Club Newsletter (McCormick Canada Inc)

- 1/4 cup Cinnamon Sticks (Broken)
- 1/4 cup Whole Allspice (Cracked)
- 1/4 cup Whole Dried Ginger (Broken)
- 1/4 cup Whole Cloves

Mix all spices together and store in an airtight glass container. To simmer, place 1 generous tbsp. of mixture in a small pot with 1-cup water and 1/4 tsp. vanilla extract. Simmer over very low heat for 30-40 minutes. The aroma will remain for 2-3 hours following the simmering time. This recipe makes enough for 12-16 simmers.

Think, "Would make a great gift!" and put the spices in a glass container, decorate with a colourful ribbon and add a note with heating directions.

Enjoy the holiday season and have a "smelly" good time.

Emailed Newsletters

If you'd like to have the newsletter emailed to you (instead of, or in addition to the mailed copy), drop us a line at newsletter@eygc.ca. If you're looking for back issues, they're available on the Club's website (www.eygc.ca).

More than Just a Business Meeting...

Anna Leggatt

The 2005 District 5 Annual Meeting will be hosted next April by the East York Garden Club and Leaside Garden Society. You will have heard appeals for volunteers to help and also have read notes in this newsletter. This sounds like business and you may be unsure if it is a worthwhile day out for you.

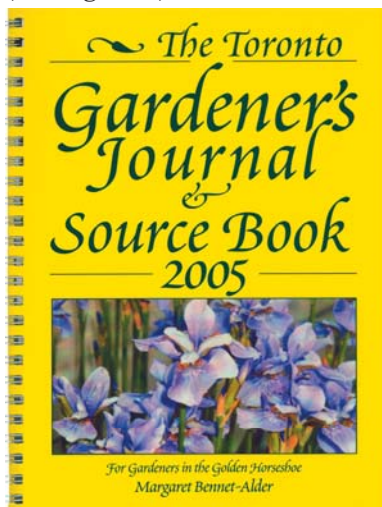
Mark April 9 on your calendars now. You will not regret it. Why should you attend an annual meeting with members of other societies?

You will hear great speakers. Some of the most inspiring talks I have heard have been at annual meetings of some of the societies I attend. Often the speaker is not on the local circuit so you will hear a new slant on old subjects.

The flower shows will demonstrate the differing talents in our fellow societies. You may see new plants and be able to speak to the exhibitor. Often this results in "Would you like a piece?" The design exhibits will give you ideas on how to improve your own flower arrangements or even convince you to try!

Gardener's Journal & Source Book

Every year at this time, *The Toronto Gardener's Journal & Source Book* becomes available. In the 2005 edition, you'll find 210 pages that include a week-at-a-glance diary, suggestions for weekly tasks, information about gardening books, shows, associations, vendors, designers, and educational programs, as well as addresses of gardens to visit. Usually the book sells for \$19.95. But as a member of our Club, you can purchase it for just \$15. We'll have an order form available at the November meeting. Make sure that you bring your payment with you.



Sometimes there is an opportunity for shopping. You might be able to buy alpine troughs, plants, greeting cards with flower themes, etc. There may be draws or door prizes with innovative products. I frequently go home with more than I brought. Early in October I went to a joint Master Gardener meeting and came home with my car full of solid blocks of peat moss!

Above all, you meet fellow gardeners. I try to find a table where I only know a few people. Then I can introduce myself and ask where my neighbours live and do they have a gardening speciality. At first I said "I am new, I don't know anything." I was given great advice and made lifelong friends.

And so, volunteering gives you a great feeling of accomplishment. Even a small job for less than an hour will help us and give you surprising rewards.

See you in the spring on April 9.

Philadelphia Flower Show

The Philadelphia Flower Show, held every year in March, is the world's largest indoor exhibition, and also one of the oldest – the 2004 show was the 175th anniversary edition.

In 2005, the OHA District 5 expects to be organizing a bus trip to the show. Full details and price are still being worked out, but the tentative schedule calls for the trip to take place from March 7 to 10 (the week before March Break and Canada Blooms). The 7th and 10th will be travel days. March 8 will be at the show. On the 9th there will be a visit to Longwood Gardens and another well-known local garden. Included in the price will be accommodation, most meals, transportation, entry fees and tours. We'll let you know the details when they're finalised, but tentatively it looks like the price will be about \$500. If you're interested, please give Malcolm Geast a call at 416-429-4719.

Fall Clean-up & Planting Day at The Rockery

Diane Ronan

October 17th was clean-up and bulb planting day at The Rockery – Stan Wadlow Park. A special thanks to the following club members who volunteered their time and muscles: Darina Quinn, Jean Quinn, Sonia Van Heerden, Linda Boyko, Bev Woods, Diane & Peter Ronan, Irene Derszay, Helen Linzer, Maxine Cashore, Glen Hutzul, Malcolm Geast, Dawn McEachern, Wini Stoddart, Leslie Steinberg, Liz & Bruce Arkwright, Suzanne Bartlett and Doreen Wigglesworth.



Our club volunteers and their team leaders (Irene Derszay, Glen Hutzul, and Rosalind Regnier) can be very proud of the effort they put into The Rockery this year. The results were amazing.

Just in Time for Christmas...

As you may know, the Toronto Botanical Garden will be undergoing major renovations and reconstruction in 2005. As part of this process, the facility will be completely shut down in December and January. In preparation for the closing, the Trellis Shop is having a “Blowout Sale”. After November 21, all giftware, gardening supplies, cards, floral design products and childrens’ toys & books will be 25% off. From the 22nd onward, the discount will be 50% on selected giftware, soils, fertilizers, organic pesticides & fungicides and childrens’ toys & books.

People from the community approached them to extend compliments and say “Thank you!” Bob Ward, Supervisor of Parks for our district said: “The rockery looks great. Your group has done a wonderful job.”

We have been assigned a landscape architect from the City of Toronto to assist with the overall design and future plans for The Rockery. A survey of the site was completed in September and next spring we will have some ideas and drawings to look at. This is an ongoing project. We need the enthusiasm and effort of club members to create a special garden for all to share and enjoy. I am hoping that our current volunteers will return next year and that new ones will join us. Have a great winter and look forward to Spring Clean-up Day.



Bathtime in the Backyard

Perhaps you’ve been thinking of putting in a small pond or bog garden, using an old bathtub as the liner. The only problem is, you don’t have a spare bathtub. Help is at hand. One of Roz Regnier’s neighbours is renovating, and is throwing out a cast iron bathtub. If you’re interested in using it, please contact Roz, at 416-759-6247.

Upcoming Events

Generally it's not much of a problem coming up with lectures, tours, or meetings to mention in this space. In fact, usually events have to be omitted due to a lack of space. Normally, with the approach of winter (and Christmas) the activity calendar becomes a little less crowded. But this year, the Toronto Botanical Garden will be closing down during December and most of January in preparation for the renovations that will be taking place next year. As a result, for the next month or two, we've been left with a somewhat sparse calendar.

Mistletoe Magic, the TBG's annual arts and crafts show will still take place, from November 18 to 21. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. each day, closing at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday, 9:00 p.m. on Friday, and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5.

From December 5 to January 2, it's the **Christmas Flower Show 2004** at Allan Gardens and at the Centennial Park Conservatory. Both locations are open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. As well, you can visit both Conservatories by Candlelight from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. from December 12 to 23 and 26 to 30. Admission to both locations is free.

If you're already thinking about next spring, **Canada Blooms** will be held from March 9 to 13, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. One week later, from March 17 to 20, it's the **Success with Gardening Show**, at the International Centre.

Of course, on April 9 it's the OHA District 5 Annual General Meeting at the St. Bonaventure Parish Centre, just south of the Toronto Botanical Garden. As you are no doubt aware, the 2005 AGM is being hosted jointly by the East York Garden Club and the Leaside Garden Society.

One perennial event that you won't be able to visit in 2005 is the TBG's **Getting the Jump on Spring**. Normally held at the end of February, next year's show will not be held, a victim of the renovations to the facility.

You'll find a complete list of events on our website (www.eygc.ca). The list is usually updated weekly, or as we become aware of new events.

Membership Renewal Form

Name

Address

.....

Postal Code Phone #

email

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Subject to confirmation by the membership at the Club's AGM in November, fees for 2005 will be \$20 for a single, and \$30 for a family membership. Fees can be paid in person at a regular meeting of the club or by mailing this form and a cheque (payable to "the East York Garden Club") to:

East York Garden Club
18 Warvet Crescent
East York, Ontario
M4B 1P3