

The East York Garden

Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

March & April, 2007

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

Yearly membership fees are \$20 for a single, and \$30 for a family. To inquire about membership, please contact Karen Bell at 416-429-3032.

Visit us on the web at www.eygc.ca

President:
Malcolm Geast

Vice-Presidents:
Linda Boyko
Veronica Callinan

Newsletter Editor:
Malcolm Geast
416-429-4719

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Speaker: Ashok Grover
Topic: Photographing Your Garden

Ashok Grover is a member of the Toronto and Don Mills camera clubs, where his pictures have won several awards. With a major interest in nature photography, Ashok will show us how to take winning pictures of gardens. There will be a short flower arranging demonstration at the end of this meeting.

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

There will also be a draw table following the meeting. As well, we will be giving away three pairs of tickets to the Spring Garden Show, which takes place at the Royal Botanical Gardens April 12-15.

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Speaker: Sean James
Topic: Renovating A Garden

A graduate of the Niagara Parks School of Horticulture, Sean James runs Fern Ridge Landscaping in Milton and is a Past-President of the Milton and District Horticultural Society. He designed the Milton Millenium Garden and writes a monthly gardening column in the Halton Compass.

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

At this meeting we'll have our second *People's Choice Photography Contest* (more information on page 6), and we'll make another attempt at having a 50/50 draw.

Don't forget...Our meetings begin at 7:30, but refreshments are available at 7:00. Come early to give yourself time to enjoy some conversation and cookies.



Yearbooks

With this month's newsletter, we're distributing the 2007 yearbook to paid-up members. If you didn't receive a yearbook, you haven't renewed your membership. You can renew it at the next meeting (and receive a yearbook). To speed things up, bring in a filled-in membership form (there's one on the back page of the newsletter), and a cheque or cash.

2007 District 5 AGM

If you'd like to attend the District 5 Annual Meeting in Keswick on April 21, but haven't yet signed up, you can still do so at our March meeting, or by calling Malcolm Geast at 416-429-4719. Tickets are \$25. If you're interested in entering the flower show, please speak to Malcolm. Information about the meeting, and the flower shows can be found at www.gardenontario.org/site.php/district5/news/online/170



2007 Community Clean-up Day

Community Clean-Up Day is Saturday, April 21. As in the past, there will be a removal of the accumulated winter debris at the Rockery. Unfortunately, the OHA District 5 Annual General Meeting will be on the same day, and several of our members will be unavailable to coordinate the clean-up. It is important that the Club has a presence at the AGM, but it is also important that we tidy up the Rockery. At the present time we're uncertain whether we'll be doing the cleanup on the 21st or another day. We'll be discussing this with you at the March meeting.

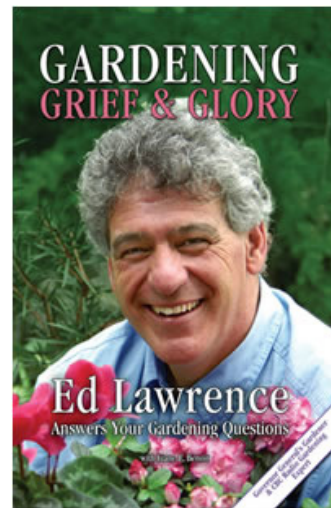
Gardening Grief & Glory

Ed Lawrence, retired chief horticultural specialist at Rideau Hall for 30 years and CBC's popular radio phone-in gardening expert, has joined with the Ontario Horticultural Association to raise money in support of OHA society and club programs and activities. The vehicle is Ed's newly-released book, *Gardening Grief and Glory – Ed Lawrence Answers Your Gardening Questions*, a compendium of the many stories of horticultural peril and redemption that he has encountered over more than two decades as the "gardening guru" on CBC Radio Noon's Monday gardening phone-in. The book is an anecdotal, voyeuristic journey of green-thumb discovery, sure to be of interest to both the nervous novice and trowel-worn expert alike.

Ed, along with co-author and former Government House Attaché, Liane Benoit, has opted to self-publish the book in an effort to retain greater control over its distribution and allow for its use as a vehicle to raise money for a select number of charities and organizations. The Ontario Horticultural Association was his first choice for support. As a longstanding society member and recipient of the OHA's prestigious "Award of Merit", he saw this as an opportunity to give something tangible back to an organization he feels has done so much to promote horticultural interests in the province. "The OHA was an obvious choice for me" said Ed, "it's been a privilege to have the wonderful career I have had at both Rideau Hall and with the CBC and now that I am retired from Government House, I'd like to

do what I can to help the OHA support and encourage other gardeners."

The books will be available for the retail price of \$26.00 (plus GST). A donation of \$4.00 for every book sold will go back to the Club. In addition, all the books purchased through this fundraiser will be signed by Ed and will come with a handy bookmark inscribed with Ed's famous "40 to 1" water and soap solutions for eliminating common garden pests. The three clubs or societies that sell the most books per capita based on paid membership will have the opportunity to have Ed make a presentation or participate, all expenses paid, at an event or meeting of their choice over the next year.



To find out more about the book, to see the Table of Contents or to view some sample pages, go to Ed's web site at www.gardeningwithed.com.

We'll be giving you the opportunity to order the book at each of our meetings until June.

Gardening with Back Problems

Warm up before starting to garden by gently stretching your muscles. If it is cold, wait until later in the day when it's warmer.

Avoid repetitive garden work. Alter your position regularly as you work, take regular breaks and drink plenty of liquid. Don't lift heavy objects. If you must lift something, remember to bend your knees and keep your back straight. Use a wheelbarrow to move objects where possible. Wear belts that support your back if necessary.

Gardening with a bad back

Use these simple tips to help you make the most of your garden and to prevent back injuries while gardening.

Garden layout

- Avoid leaving bare patches of soil. They encourage weeds to grow. Mulch the surface of the soil using chipped bark or well-rotted manure. This helps to retain the soil's moisture, saving on watering.
- Reduce the need to bend down by raising flowerbeds from the ground. Grow trailing plants over the side to hide or soften their edges.
- Keep flowerbeds narrow so you don't have to stretch over plants.
- If you have a small garden, avoid having a lawn. It will need mowing once or twice a week during summer. A patio requires less maintenance.

Tools

- Use tools with long handles, such as forks and trowels. Some tools have extensions or telescopic arms which reduce your need to stretch.
- Use pruners and loppers that have a ratchet system. This makes cutting easier and saves putting pressure on the back and shoulder. Keep the blades sharp to avoid extra strain.
- Put secateurs in a holster attached to your belt. This saves having to constantly bend down to pick them up.
- Use hoses on reels or an automated irrigation system in your garden. Don't use heavy watering cans. If you do have one, only fill it halfway.

Plants

- Use ground cover plants to help suppress weeds.
- Plant slow-growing shrubs. They are easier to maintain than annuals and herbaceous perennials.
- Grow some plants in containers, because they are easier to reach. Even vegetables such as zucchini, potatoes and lettuce will grow successfully in pots. When moving containers, use a trolley or wheelbarrow.
- If you are a fan of fruit, choose fruit trees grown on dwarf rootstocks so you can pick the fruit at a comfortable height. Or train fruit trees as espaliers against a wall or as stepovers.

No-dig method

- The no-dig method of gardening involves spreading manure or compost and fertiliser over the surface of a flowerbed. It is ideal for gardeners with bad backs or those who want to grow vegetables but can't face the thought of all that double digging (digging to twice the depth of a spade). Many gardeners argue that the no-dig method is better for the soil because it doesn't disturb the soil structure. Although it initially involves digging over the soil to remove perennial weeds and levelling the soil, the following years are much easier.
- If you want to try this method, the best time to spread the manure is in late autumn. This gives the soil a chance to settle down before planting in spring. Another layer of mulch can be applied during the growing season. Then, sit back and allow worms to take the organic material down into the soil for you. Repeat this process each year to build soil fertility.

This article is taken from the BBC website in the UK. It addresses physical preparations, warnings or things to watch out for, and tips and tricks to take the "ouch" out of gardening.

www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/advice/problems_backcare.shtml

Beetlemania Continues

Two years ago, our speaker in May was Howard Stanley, from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Howard was speaking about a topic that was much in the news at the time, the Asian Long-horned Beetle (ALHB). However, since the summer of 2005, the ALHB has moved out of the limelight, so much so, that many people have assumed that the problem has disappeared. However, in the past couple of weeks, some of you may have seen Howard on the evening news, as another infestation of the beetle has been found.



About 800 trees in the Weston Road and Finch area will have to be cut down and chipped in the next few weeks, the result of a discovery of 16 trees with the beetle. To prevent the spread of the problem, whenever an infestation is found, susceptible trees within 400 metres are removed. Included are all maples, elms, willows, poplars and birches. This latest culling of trees mostly involves industrial and residential properties. Financial compensation of \$300 per tree is provided to the landowners. Still to be determined is how many trees that will need to be removed from a nearby ravine.

The ALHB was first discovered in Canada in 1993, when a live beetle was found in a parking lot in Woodbridge. It's likely that it arrived in wood used as packing material. By now most of us have seen pictures of it, with its distinctive 4-centimetre glossy black body with up to 20 irregular white spots on each wing and a striped antennae that is as much as twice its body length. None have been seen in our part of the city, thanks in part to restrictions on the movement of wood out of the infected area. But if your trees were to become infected, how would you know? The obvious signs will be the presence of holes in the tree. Females will chew oval-shaped holes through the bark to lay their eggs. More noticeable will be the dime-sized holes that are chewed from the interior of the tree by the newly emerging adults. There may also be large amounts of coarse sawdust at the base of the tree, or where branches connect to each other. This is the result of feeding of the larvae.

The loss of trees within an urban community has an obvious harmful effect on its appearance. But there are also economic consequences to the spread of a pest such as this. It was recently reported that over \$30 million has been spent on eradication efforts in New York City. If it should escape into the hardwood forests of eastern Canada, it could devastate the maple sugar and hardwood lumber industries, and seriously damage tourism in the affected areas.

To learn more about the Asian Long-horned Beetle, and to read the latest news on its presence in southern Ontario, visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's website:

www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/pestrava/anogla/asialonge.shtml

Membership Changes

Please extend a warm welcome to Donna Reist and Nicki Brazier Hagerty, two new members who have joined the Club in the past couple of months. Please welcome them and take the time to answer any questions that they may have about our Club.

We're sorry to be saying good bye to Anca Dragomirescu, who will be moving to Montreal at the end of March. Anca joined the club in 2004, and since then has been a member of our Executive Board, a regular contributor to our flower shows, and always a happy face at our meetings.

Spring – The Time for Garden Shows

Snow, freezing rain, cold temperatures – they’re all part of a normal southern Ontario winter, and thankfully, soon to be just a memory. Helping everyone to get back into “gardening mode”, there are a host of spring gardening shows. First off the mark was ***Get the Jump on Spring*** at the Toronto Botanical Garden in February, followed in the first week of March by ***Canada Blooms***, the country’s largest horticultural show.



Mid-March is the time for ***Successful Gardening***. Running from March 15 to 18, at the International Centre, the show has seminars with speakers such as Mark Cullen, Denis Flanagan, and

Frank Ferragine (from CITY-TV), a large flower show, and numerous horticultural vendors. The theme for this year’s flower show is “Global Warming”. Classes and entry information can be found on the OHA’s website. The ticket price (\$12) includes admission to the Home and Garden Show, which runs at the same time. The International Centre is located at Airport Road & Derry Road. Parking is free. Doors open at 10 a.m.

www.home-show.net/successwithgardening

Flower show information can be found at:

www.gardenontario.org/gar/newsletter.php?news=155

Heading into the middle of April, there are two shows to choose from, one east of Toronto, and the other to the west.

On the 14th and 15th of April, you can visit ***for the love of Gardening*** at the Evinrude Centre in Peterborough. A joint effort of horticultural societies in the Peterborough area, the show features over 150 vendors & exhibitors, workshops, garden displays, floral arrangements, and four speakers a day (including Paul Zammit, David Hobson, and our own Anna Leggatt). Admission is just \$5, and the doors open at 10 a.m. The Evinrude Centre is located at 911 Monaghan Road in Peterborough. Full directions can be found on the show’s website.

www.fortheloveofgardening.ca/



From the 12th to the 15th of April you can visit the ***Ontario Garden Show*** at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. You’ll be able to view feature gardens, eye-catching exhibits, and an array of floral arrangements, and attend educational seminars. The Gardener’s Marketplace will feature more than 100 displays and “The EcoZone” will showcase ecologically friendly gardening products and services. There will also be a Floral Competition, and free sessions on the Garden Stage, featuring horticultural specialists, authors and gardening personalities. Admission is only \$8. Doors open at 10 a.m. on Thursday & Friday, and 9 a.m. on the weekend. Free parking and a shuttle service are available.

www.ontariogardenshow.ca

The following weekend, the 21st and 22nd of April, the ***4th Annual Scugog Spring Garden Show*** will take place at the Scugog Community Centre in Port Perry. Local vendors and exhibitors, a floral competition, demonstrations, and guest speakers will be available throughout the day. Admission is just \$5, and the doors open at 10 a.m. The Scugog Community Centre is located on 1655 Reach Street, in the north side of Port Perry. Proceeds from this show are used for community horticultural projects.

www.township.scugog.on.ca/viewnews.php?news=659

Emailed Newsletters

If you’d like to have the newsletter emailed to you (instead of, or in addition to the mailed copy), just 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).

2007 Photography Contests

The first EYGC People's Choice Photography Contest is now in the books. With the category "Evergreen" leading off, there were four entries in the January competition. Congratulations go to the winners: First place went to Brian Rowe, second to Margaret Evans, and third to Roz Regnier. They each receive a prize ribbon, points toward the annual award, and of course, the glory of victory. In April, we'll be holding our second competition, and with Easter still fresh in everyone's memory, our category will be "Egg" (Remember that we're classifying the categories in these monthly contests as "interpretive").

The annual portion of this year's photography competitions will have a couple of returning categories, and several new ones. Captured Beauty (close-ups of flowers) has been a part of the contest since its inception. Two years ago we introduced a new category, "Black & White", for monochrome photos. Fears that there would be few, if any entries were soon put to rest, and as judges, it was difficult for us to choose among several marvelous pictures. What's more, it became the most-requested candidate to be a repeat category. As a result, we're offering it again this year. But there's one thing we'd like to stress: The stipulation that the picture should be black and white doesn't mean that the subject matter must be black and white (such as a white flower against a black background), but instead that it's the photo that you would get by using black and white film.

Here's the complete list of categories for 2007:

1. Captured Beauty (Flower close-ups)
2. Eccentric Gardens
3. Three (Things in threes)
4. Spring Break (Flowers coming through the snow)
5. Garden Tools (A still life)
6. Black & White (any horticultural subject, in black and white)
7. Branching Out (One or more trees) (Children's Category)
8. Branching Out (One or more trees) (Youth Category)

Note: Age groups for Categories 7 & 8 (Branching Out) are 6 to 10 years (children) and 11 to 17 (youth).

Entry forms will be available at the September meeting, with entries accepted until October 18.

And one final note: Accompanying this issue of the newsletter is your 2007 yearbook. In the photography contest section, the Black & White category incorrectly indicates that the picture must be of a winter subject. The description that you see in the list above is correct.

Spring Edition of The Trillium

The Spring edition of the OHA's newsletter, the *Trillium*, is now available. Included in this issue are items about the 2007 OHA convention in Owen Sound, a night-blooming cactus in Scarborough, garden tour etiquette, and the OHA's history book project. There'll be a copy of it available for you to peruse at our March and April meetings. Or, you can get your own copy from the OHA's *gardenontario* website. You'll find it at www.gardenontario.org/gar/news.php?news=163. To make it easier, you'll find a link on the home page of our own site (www.eygc.ca).



Upcoming Events

In addition to the spring garden shows that are described on page 5, there are a number of other upcoming events of a horticultural interest:

Seedy Saturday – Saturday, March 17 at the Scadding Court Community Centre (southeast corner of Dundas & Bathurst). Set aside the day for this seed exchange, eco-fair and gardening event. Runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Gardening with Wildlife – Wednesday, March 21, at the Toronto Botanical Garden. A joint venture of the TBG and the Friends of the Don East. Learn to attract birds, bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects, to naturally reduce unwanted garden pests. The class will be led by Anna Leggatt. Runs from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$35.00, \$30 for TBG and FODE members. Advance registration (416-397-1341) is required.

Plant Architecture & Design, with Lisa Rapoport – Tuesday, March 27, at the Toronto Botanical Garden. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15.00, free for TBG members.

Spring Tide at Gage Park– April 13 to 22, Spring Bulb Show at the Gage Park Tropical Greenhouse in Hamilton. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m Monday to Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m Saturday & Sunday. Free admission.

More than Just a Pretty Face – Wednesday, April 25, at the Toronto Botanical Garden. The Director of Memorial University Botanical Garden in St. John's describes some of the research projects taking place at the Garden. Starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15.00, free for TBG members.

You'll find a complete list of events on our website (www.eygc.ca). The list is updated at least once a week.

Garden Centre Discounts

Don't forget that your EYGC membership card will get you a 10% discount at Bill's Garden Centre, Sheridan Nurseries, Fiesta Farms Garden Centre, Plant World, and Sweetgrass Gardens, and a 5% discount at Humber Nurseries. As well, Humber Nurseries is offering a 30% discount off herbaceous perennials with the coupon on this page.



HUMBER NURSERIES LTD.
2007 Exclusive Offer to Members of Horticultural Societies and Garden Clubs

**30% Off Herbaceous Perennials
Any Day of the Year, One Day Only**
(With proof of membership and this coupon. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other discounts.)

Cashiers use Coupon Code: \$10146

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Phone: 905-794-0551 or 416-791-8733 Fax: 905-791-1311
www.humbernurseries.com
humber@aldacentre.com

East York Garden Club
Society/Club Name

[Signature]
President's Authorization

This coupon for use by East York Garden Club members only



VESEYS SPRING BULB CAMPAIGN

Included with your latest newsletter mailing is a BROCHURE and ORDER FORM for the VESEYS SPRING BULB CAMPAIGN.

The ever popular bulbs are back. Take a look through the available packages for beautifying your garden. Remember that this is a fundraising effort that gives you quality bulbs and seeds at good prices, and at the same time helps out the Club.

PRODUCTS

New this spring is the Tango Lily Collection. You will also find:
 ASSORTED BULB VARIETIES
 PERENNIAL GARDEN MIX
 SEED COLLECTIONS (can be directly sown in the garden without starting indoors)
 THE SUMMER SAVORY COOKBOOK
Don't forget Veseys Bulbs and Seeds make great gifts for family and friends.

ORDERING

Orders should be brought to the **MARCH 15** and **APRIL 19** meetings.
 Final deadline for ordering is April 19, 2007.
 Orders will be collected by Paula Cameron.

PAYMENT

Cheques should be made payable to **The East York Garden Club.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information or if you have an order but are unable to attend the meetings contact:
Paula Cameron
 309 Woodmount Avenue
 Toronto, Ontario M4C4A4
 Telephone: 416-467-9553 Email: witanhaunts@rogers.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

East York Garden Club Membership Renewal Form

Name.....

Address.....

Postal Code Phone #

email

(Note that we will only use your email address to send you EYGC information. **We do not distribute it to anyone else.**)

Membership fees are due by January of each year. Fees for 2007 are \$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 "East York Garden Club") to:

East York Garden Club
 153 Durant Avenue
 East York, Ontario
 M4J 4W4