

The East York Garden

Newsletter of the East York Garden Club

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 President:

Linda Boyko

Veronica Callinan

Newsletter Editor:

Susan Bartlett

Thursday, September 20, 2007 – Master Gardeners Question Time

Confused about when to prune that rosebush? Wondering why your trumpet vine refuses to bloom? This is an excellent opportunity to get advice from the experts on your most perplexing gardening questions and conundrums. Four Master Gardeners will be answering your questions and dispensing their wisdom and experience. This will also be our final flower show of the year.

If you are ordering Vesey's autumn bulbs, please remember to hand your completed form and cheque to Paula Cameron-Meaney. There will be a draw table following the meeting and a special item will be auctioned off (see below).

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

Thursday October 18, 2007 – Trees and Shrubs for a Small Garden – Marion Jarvie

Marion Jarvie is an internationally known horticulturist with an award winning garden which is open several times each year. She has spent over twenty-five years teaching at the Civic Garden Centre and the University of Toronto, She is passionate teacher, horticulturist and designer and a founder member of ORGS.

There will be a 50/50 draw following the meeting.

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

For Auction at Sept. 20 meeting:

by Veronica Callinan

Collapsible greenhouse folds into a box for easy storage. This zippered, clear plastic frame structure is ideal for starting seedlings or hardening-off plants prior to planting. It can also be used to extend the growing year for potted herbs or veggies, or keeping houseplants out longer. Hardly used.

Offering this greenhouse for auction – starting at \$15



East York Blooming Contest 2007

By Malcolm Geast

On September 12, at the East York Civic Centre, awards were presented to the winners of the East York Blooming Contest. There were 119 entries this year, a 50% increase from 2006. In July, eight teams of judges, consisting of 14 EYGC members and two members of the Maple Cottage Garden Club judged and selected the eight finalists in each of the Traditional and Environmental categories. August 1, the mid-point of a week in which temperatures reached the low to mid thirties each day, saw the organizing committee accompany Nikola Warnock, Past OHA District 5 Director and a long-time Master Gardener, as she made the determination of the winners.

This year's winners are:

Traditional Gardens

Best Garden: 227 Glebeholme Blvd.

First Runner-Up: 43 Stag Hill Crescent

Second Runner-Up: 58 Barker Avenue

Honourable Mention: 69 Wiley Avenue

Judge's Choice: 459 Strathmore Blvd.

Environmental & Alternative Gardens

Best Garden: 79 Oak Park Avenue

First Runner-Up: 20 Lankin Blvd.

Second Runner-Up: 1 Westview Blvd.

Honourable Mention: 18 Lankin Blvd.

Judge's Choice: 28 Ferris Road

Gardens in Commercial Locations

Best Garden: A1 Label, 32 Cranfield Avenue

Gardens in Community Locations

Best Garden: Kingdom Hall, 64 Tiago Avenue

First Runner-Up: Jackman Avenue Junior Public School, 79 Jackman Avenue

Second Runner-Up: Toronto East 7th Day Adventist Church, 170 Westwood

Two days after the presentation of our awards, it was time for the results of the city-wide competition among last year's winners in Scarborough, East York, and western Toronto. This was the first time that East York had competed for almost a decade, and quickly made up for lost time, winning in all four categories.

Now that this year's competition is complete, we're already looking forward to next year, with some improvements in mind. I'd like to thank the members of the committee who organized the contest: Brian Green and Patricia Landry, from the City's Parks Forestry & Recreation, and Suzanne Bond from our Club.

And of course, I'd also like to thank our judges, without whom none of this could happen: From EYGC, June Davidson, Suzanne Bond, Roz Regnier, Mary Furlong, Joey Thernesz, Beena Rajendra, Laurel Angeloff, Heather Walker, Irene Derzay, Diane Ronan, Veronica Callinan, Lee Pritchard, and Dawn McEachern. And from the Maple Cottage Garden Club, Linda Torney and Judith Ferguson.



43 Stag Hill Crescent, garden of EYGC member Vera Stoyanoff, First Runner-up in the Residential Traditional category

Gardening with Physical Challenges – Gardening from a Wheelchair

by Veronica Callinan

Concluding the series of Gardening with Physical Challenges, this one focuses on gardening from a Wheelchair. The following information was posted by Diane Relf, Extension Specialist, Environmental Horticulture, Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Gardening is the number one outdoor, leisure time activity of America, with 84 percent of households involved in at least one form of gardening activity. Gardening is a source of personal satisfaction and pride providing esthetic pleasure and opportunity for relief from daily stress. Gardening is an ideal preventative therapy to maintain personal well being. With a little planning and creativity, it can be available to everyone. Disabled and elderly who have never gardened can acquire a new and rewarding hobby. With proper modification to the site, gardeners who have lost physical ability can continue this valuable activity.

While most gardening is considered part of the traditional landscape or ground-level planting, an increasing number of gardeners are discovering the advantages of gardening in planters, containers, and raised beds. These gardening styles can be readily adapted to make gardening easier for disabled and elderly gardeners. They are equally adaptable for gardening in a small backyard, a third floor apartment patio, on top of a hospital, or on the grounds of a retirement home.

Planning the Garden

The first step in planning a raised garden is understanding the needs and abilities of the gardeners. The garden area should be as small as possible to adequately meet these needs. As the garden size increases, the fun of gardening tends to change to drudgery. All the raised beds or planters should be easily accessible and arranged in a fashion to fit together as an

attractive landscape unit. Avoid the tendency to line up little garden plots in rows resembling grave yards. Trees and shrubs can be used to enclose one or more sides of the raised garden site, providing both privacy and a pleasing backdrop, but avoid shading the garden with excessive plantings. Beds and planters can be designed to fit individual needs; however, standard dimensions for raised beds are given in Table 1.

Table 1

Standard Dimensions for Raised Beds
Wheelchair Semi-Ambulatory Ground

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Height 2-2.5 feet	2.5-3 feet	1/2-1feet
Width 2 feet	2 feet	2 feet (one-sided)
Width 3-4 feet	4 feet	4 feet (two-sided)
Diameter 3-4 feet 4 feet 4 feet (circle). Raised beds generally are 3 to 4 feet wide and as long as desired.		
However, depending on the individual's strength and endurance, it would be wise to limit the length of the bed to 10 or 20 feet to prevent overexertion in circling the bed.		

Did you find this series useful? Please let us know if you have any suggestions for other how-to topics.

vcallinan@sympatico.ca

References:

- http://www.wheelchairnet.org/WCN_Living/homemod.html
- <http://www.ext.vt.edu/departments/envirohort/factsheets2/landsnurs/aug93pr5.html>

2008 Yearbook

It will soon be time for us to start working on the 2008 yearbook. Please check the current yearbook to make sure that we have your correct contact information. We know of a couple of items that are incorrect, but there may be some for which we haven't been informed.

You can let us know by email at info@eygc.ca or by phone at 416-429-4719.

Photography Contest

By Malcolm Geast

Summer's almost over and it'll soon be time to think about putting the garden to bed for the winter. It's also time to pick out your best photos from this year and last for our Annual Photography Contest. Entry forms will be available at the September meeting, and on our website (www.eygc.ca), with entries accepted until October 18.

Here's the 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's Category)

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

A couple of important notes about the "Black & White" category: First, 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. And a reminder that in the photography contest section of your yearbook, 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.

Clematis 101

By Dave Brooks

The recent club tour of Betty Meyers' garden and the visit to Peter Keeping's garden, along with the lecture by Peter, has increased interest in clematis among club members. However, various questions during the tours and at the lecture show that there is room for some introductory clematis information. So this is intended to be a non-comprehensive, basic introduction to clematis. Experienced clematis fans can skip to the next article.

The first thing to realize is that clematis come in groups and the growing conditions, ease of growing and maintenance for each group can be quite different. Therefore, the question to be asked when purchasing new clematis is what kind is it (not what colour).

Most clematis that you see for sale in a typical garden centre are from a group called the early large flowered hybrids (derived mostly from the *patens* species). These tend to bloom mainly on old wood and also tend to be fussier and harder to maintain. This group should be avoided until some experience has been gained. To complicate things a bit, some large flowered types (sometimes called the *jackmanii* group) actually bloom in mid summer on new wood. These are easier for beginners. Examples are *Jackmanii*, *Hagley Hybrid* and *Inspiration* (Zoin).

The *vitacella* group bloom on new wood and usually have mid sized flowers. These tend to be tough and vigorous plants which bloom early to mid summer. They should be cut back to about a foot or two from the ground in the spring. In my opinion, clematis from this group are the best for the novice clematis grower. Some names are *Emilia Plater*, *Etoile Violet*, *Minuet* and *Venosa Violacea*.

The *texensis* species originated in Texas as the name implies. Most available are actually *texensis* hybrids and tend to be large and aggressive plants that like lots of sunshine. They also tend to have medium sized bell like flowers. Good examples from this group are *Princess Diana*, *Duchess of Albany* and *Sir Trevor Lawrence*.

Clematis 101 cont'd

The atrogene group are usually represented by the macropetala and alpina species. These have small bell-like flowers and bloom profusely in the early spring. They are also quite winter hardy and are generally quite easy to grow. Some examples are Constance, Jan Lindmark and Columbine. Since these plants bloom on old wood, don't cut them back.

Then there are the shrubby clematis – derived from the integrifolia and heracleifolia species. The heracleifolias are shrub like but die back to the ground each winter. Examples are New Love and China Purple. New Love grows three or four feet tall and has small, scented, blue flowers in early August. China Purple grows about one foot tall also with small blue flowers. The integrifolias are very perennial like with fairly stiff, non-clinging stems with small bell like flowers. Some of these have been crossed with other clematis resulting in plants that are part vine and part shrub. An example is Alionushka, a mid-sized perennial like plant with fairly large pinkish blooms. Another example is Fascination, a small perennial like plant with bi-coloured blooms. These two, like most integrifolias, will need some support such as tomato cages or strong neighbours. The previously mentioned Inspiration is actually part integrifolia.

Some groups have not been mentioned such as the montanas, viornas and tangucitas since this is intended to be an introduction.

As mentioned, clematis generally bloom on either new or old wood. For clematis that bloom on old wood it is important to take care of the old wood minimized. Pruning usually consists of trimming above a couple of strong buds.

Here are some good general rules for clematis cultivation:

- Plant a new plant two inches deeper than in the pot.
- Fertilize in spring just before growth starts.
- Avoid early large flowered types until some experience has been gained.
- Don't buy really tiny plants as these may need special care.

- Finally, read the label or check a reference re plant placement as many clematis don't really need continuous sunshine and do very well in a north or east position.

Clematis take two or three years to get established so don't expect great results the first or second year. For example, my Emilia Plater viticella did not bloom for two years, the third year it had about 20 blooms and this year it had over 50 blooms and is about eight feet.

Some good written references on clematis are Linda Beulter's book *Gardening with Clematis* and either of Mary Toomey's Timber Press books. However, clematis breeders are always coming out with new clematis so any book is quickly out of date. As usual, the Web is a great source with the site called "Clematis on the Web" (www.clematis.hull.ac.uk) being one of the best.

There are also very good clematis forums on various garden sites. In the downtown area, the best place to find a good selection from each clematis group is Fiesta Gardens. It is located on Christie a few blocks below Dupont.

CNE 2007

By Malcolm Geast

This year as District 5 Director, it was my task to organize the OHA's information booth at the CNE. With such a lengthy period to cover (more than 130 hours spread over 18 days), support from GTA garden clubs and horticultural societies was essential if the booth was not going to be empty for several hours a day. I'm happy to say that finding volunteers was not the problem that I had initially feared. Over 66 members from 14 clubs and societies helped out, 47 of them from District 5. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the 18 EYGC members who participated. I hope that you enjoyed the experience at the booth, and that you took time to experience the activities at the Ex. And whether it's the Midway, the shows, or the Tiny Tom donuts that draw you there, I'm hoping as well that you'll volunteer again for next year's CNE.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 23, 2007

Walking Tour of the Guild Inn Gardens on Guildwood Parkway. The Guild Inn, originally a private residence with extensive gardens, and then a hotel are now part of a public park. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at the north garden.

Further Information: [Heritage Toronto](#) [City of Toronto](#)

Sunday, September 30, 2007

Toronto African Violet Society Open House and Plant Sale at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie). Plant sales for those wishing to add to their collections. Also available will be a supplies table with pots, soil, fertilizers and starting mix. Runs from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Further information: [Toronto African Violet Society](#)

Sunday, September 30, 2007

Southern Ontario Orchid Society Meeting at the Toronto Botanical Garden (Lawrence & Leslie). Marilyn Light will be speaking on protecting our native flora. Begins at 1:00 p.m.

Further information: [Southern Ontario Orchid Society](#)

Sunday, October 14, 2007

Ontario Regional Lily Society Annual Bulb Show at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington. This annual event starts at 1:00 p.m., and offers hard-to-get lily bulbs, as well as common varieties.

Further information: [Ontario Regional Lily Society](#)

October 19–28, 2007

The Art of Mums at Gage Park (Hamilton). This year's annual chrysanthemum show features over 75,000 blooms and 100 varieties of mums. Runs from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. Admission is just \$4.00.

Further information: [A Walk in the Woods](#)

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 2008 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, ON M4J 4W4