



# OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

## *East Gwillimbury Gardeners’ Newsletter (“Teaser” Edition)*

February/March 2019

Volume 22

Issue 1

### MEET SOME LOCAL GARDENERS!

East Gwillimbury Gardeners gather on the third Tuesday of each month, Feb. to Nov. at 7:30pm in the Mount Albert Community Centre, Main Street, Mount Albert. There is a flower show, an interesting speaker, goodies to enjoy and wonderful people from your community to get to know.

We also have a youth club that meets at the same location at 7pm, third Tuesday of each month, Feb. to June, Sept. and Oct.

Yearly membership: \$20 single, \$25 couple and \$30 family.

Our amazing website has great info and resource links!

<http://eastgwillimburygardeners.com>

Connect on social media via:



<http://facebook.com/eastgwillimburygardeners>



[Instagram@eastgwillimburygardeners](https://www.instagram.com/eastgwillimburygardeners)



Search East Gwillimbury Gardeners

East Gwillimbury Gardeners is a member of The Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) District 5  
[Gardenontario.org](http://Gardenontario.org)

President: Anne Hill

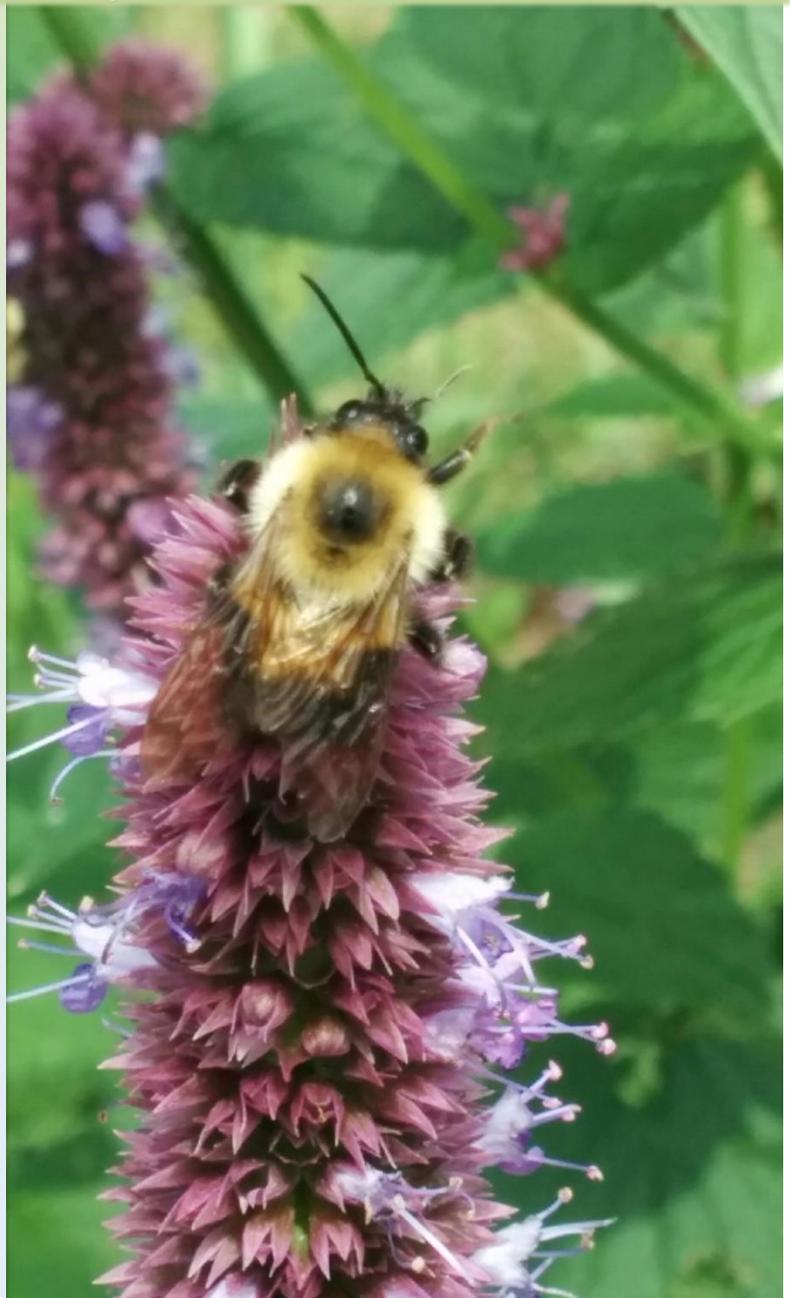
Past president: Valerie Liney



### Wild Bees A summary of our Oct. speaker, Dr. Scott MacIvor, page 7

*Bumble Bee on Anise Hyssop*

*Photo by Brenda Near*



# Hello From East Gwillimbury Gardeners

Hello fellow gardener! Have we caught your attention? You have just picked up our “teaser” mini newsletter. In order to receive the entire newsletter you have to be a member of East Gwillimbury Gardeners! And how do you do that, you ask? Just fill out one of the membership forms in this booklet and come out to one of our meetings (see below). Speak to Ellen at the entrance and she will get you all set up with one of our fabulous membership packages full of great gardening goodies! Or check out our website:

<http://eastgwillimburygardeners.com>

## UPCOMING EG Gardeners’ Meetings & Events:

**February 19<sup>th</sup>: Movie night and Seed Swap!** Wear your best flower power PJs (optional) and enjoy a movie and popcorn!



**Movie: “SEED: The Untold Story.”** “This documentary follows passionate seed keepers who are protecting a 12,000 year-old food legacy. In the last century, 94 seed varieties have disappeared. A cadre of 10 agricultural companies... controls over two-thirds of the global seed market, reaping unprecedented profits. Farmers and others battle to defend the future of our food.” To keep with the theme, bring any of your left over seeds to share. Seed swaps are a great way to try new varieties for free

**March 19<sup>th</sup>:** Our March meeting topic is “Plants you’ve never seen before!” Wing from Kim’s Nature in Markham will explore exotic indoor plants.

**May 25<sup>th</sup>:** Our plant sale! Be sure to be there for all the great plants from our member’s gardens.

## OTHER GARDEN EVENTS:

**Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Get the Jump On Spring and Seedy Saturday,** Toronto Botanical Gardens (TBG); 10am to 3 pm; free / \$2 donation. This is a fun day of speakers, workshops and vendors sure to get your gardener’s heart racing!

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Newmarket Seedy Saturday,** Newmarket Community Centre, 200 Doug Duncan Dr., Newmarket; 10-2.

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**Over The Garden Fence** is published 5 times per year: Feb. /Mar; April/May; June/July; Aug. /Sept.; Oct. /Nov.

The EG Gardeners’ newsletter was first published as “Over the Garden Fence” in August 1997

All articles by Brenda Near unless otherwise noted

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**I welcome your submissions!**



*Bicoloured Agapostemon*

## Wild Bees: Diversity and Pollination in Parks, Roof Gardens & Home Gardens Too

Summary of Dr. Scott MacIvor's Presentation Oct. 15 2018

**Energetic** and full of enthusiasm, Dr. Scott MacIvor held us captivated all evening with his fascinating presentation on Wild Bees. Scott MacIvor is an assistant professor of Urban Ecology at U of T. He is interested in "how to support biodiversity conservation through urban planning and design" ([utsc.utorontobiosci/scottmacivor.ca](http://utsc.utorontobiosci/scottmacivor.ca)). He is on the Toronto Pollinator Advisory Group and as such contributed to the forming of the Toronto Pollinator Protection Strategy and was part of making Toronto the first Bee City in Canada. Scott explained how bees are identified, dispelled some bee myths, explained why our native bees are of vital importance and provided us with lots of other fascinating information including tips on how to keep our gardens bee friendly.

Bees are wasps vegetarian cousins. Wasps have streamlined bodies since they are predators, while most bees have hairs so they can collect pollen. Most wild bees are solitary nesters and because of this, are not naturally aggressive. In fact, the majority of our native bees have such tiny stingers that they cannot even penetrate human skin. In Toronto there are over 360 bee species comprised of 6 bee families (see side bar). The honey bee is not actually a native bee but was introduced by European settlers. Our food production is reliant on pollination by bees, not only the honey bee but our native bees as well. Most crops have higher yields when they are pollinated by many different species; the greater the diversity of pollinators visiting a plant, the higher the yield of fruit or vegetable. In contrast there are other plants that can only be pollinated by a specific type of bee because they will only open for the buzz frequency of that specific bee! Bumble bees and blueberries have this relationship.

The official bee of Toronto is the *Bicoloured Agapostemon* (pictured at top of page). It was chosen because it is one of the most common native bees in our gardens and is easily recognizable. It is also one of the more social solitary bees.

**More of this article available to EG Gardener's membership**

### *There are 6 Families of bees in Canada and 364 species of bees in the GTA alone!*

**Apidae:** (40+ species) Honey (non-native), Bumble and Carpenter bees

**Halictidae:** (80+ species) Sweat and Green bees

**Andrenidae:**



(60+ species) Mining bees

**Colletidae:** (50+species) Cellophane/Polyester and Plasterer bees

**Megachilidae:** (40+ species) Leafcutter, Mason and Wool Carder

**Melittidae:** (1 species)- Macropisnada

## EG Gardeners Annual Membership Form



My name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The best communication method listed to reach me is via \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, I am a New Member and would like to join.
- Yes, I am an Existing Member and would like to renew my membership.
- Yes, I authorize EG Gardeners to send me electronic news and other information of interest.
- Yes, I agree to have my name and information published in the Society's Year Book. We do not share our membership information with any individual or organization.
- Yes, I agree that any photographs taken of me at Society events may be published in Society electronic and hard copy publications.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would love to volunteer, my interests are:  Board  Program  Plant Sales  Community Plantings  Name it--I'm ready to help

Yes, my kids would love the Youth Program: Age of youth member:  6-8 yrs.,  9-11 yrs.,  12-14 yrs.,  15-18 yrs. Please check the appropriate (box) for age group. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth : \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:  Single \$20.00  Couple \$25.00  Family \$30.00  Youth \$5.00

Method of Payment Option: Interac e-transfer payment: email account: [eggardeners@gmail.com](mailto:eggardeners@gmail.com) Security question "What is the Club Flower" Security Answer: cornflower. Make cheque payable to EGGHS and mail to PO Box 576, Mount Albert, LOG 1M0 Attend our General Meeting and pay in person.

Membership Benefits: Members receive Yearbook, bi-monthly Newsletter and special discount offers. Please email us to learn more at [eggardeners@gmail.com](mailto:eggardeners@gmail.com)