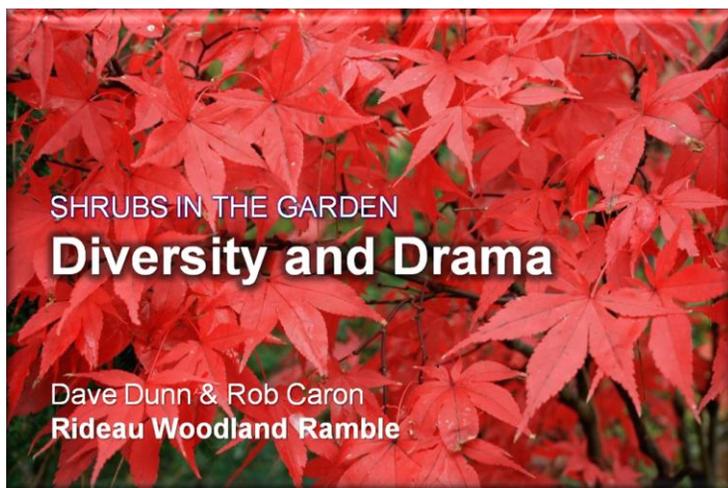


Shrubs in the Garden: Diversity and Drama – January 5, 2012

On Thursday, January 5th, 2012, the Greely Gardeners Group were once again pleased to have **Dave Dunn and Rob Caron** from Rideau Woodland Ramble, the garden centre near Burritt's Rapids to start off the new year with a superb presentation on '*Shrubs in the Garden: Diversity and Drama*'.

The presentation by Dave and Rob clarified what they considered to be a shrub, i.e., a woody single or multiple stemmed plant up to 5 metres tall at maturity (which to some of us may seem more like a small or medium sized tree), and reintroduced us to the uses and applications of shrubs as structural 'bones', as screening material, as wildlife habitat and shelters, and as points of interest and contrast in our gardens.

Our guests reminded us that considerations in choosing a particular shrub for our garden can include leaf or flower colour, fragrance, fruiting habit, structural form and seasonal interest -- whether spring, summer, autumn or winter.



The Greely Gardeners Group wish to thank Dave and Rob for driving to Greely in the dead of winter to speak to us, and we all look forward to the relative warmth of April when we will be able to see the evolving Labyrinth and the Franklin Tree being trialed at RWR, and where we will be able to enjoy a nice cup of coffee in their new 'Art and Coffee' pavilion.

Among Dave and Rob's recommendations for shrubs in our backyard gardens are:

- **Amur Maple** - great screen, colour, tolerant
- **Ninebarks** - tolerant, great backdrop and screening
- **Japanese Barberry** - many new introductions for colour and impact
- **Sweet Spire** (*Clethra*) - tolerates shade, late blooming
- **Japanese and Korean Maples** - undeniable impact, part shade, fall colour
- **Hydrangeas** - huge selection, shade and fall impact
- **Dwarf Ginkgo** - new introductions available
- **Hemlock** - dwarf and weeping
- **Balsam and Spruce** - dwarf introductions
- **Rhododendrons** - Finnish (big-leaf variety)

Recommended Reading

Conifers for Gardens: An Illustrated Encyclopedia, by Richard L. Bitner

Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs (English) - An Illustrated Encyclopedia, by Michael A. Dirr

Plants That Merit Attention Volume II: Shrubs, by Janet Meakin Poor and Nancy Peterson Brewster