



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

February 2004

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

REMINDER....Because of the Greely Players' rehearsals, the March 3 meeting will be at the Anglican Church Hall on Parkway Road.. We'll be back in the Community Centre in April.

Wednesday March 3, 7:15 p.m. Anglican Church Hall

If you've tried it, you know it's not easy growing roses in our climate. Back by popular request, Tony Williams, of Peter Knippel Nursery, will give us tips for success and describe some new varieties when he talks on the topic of "Roses for the Ottawa garden".

Wednesday April 7, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre

Whether you're looking at a bare half-acre lot surrounding your new home, or an established garden that needs professional help, Dave Dunn's talk on "Planning and Revitalizing Your Garden" is for you. Dave helped create the Rideau Woodland Ramble, a remarkable garden centre near Burritts Rapids, that's well worth a visit.

Wednesday May 5, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre

Organic Lawn Care. Speaker to be announced.

Saturday, May 29

GGG's Annual Plant Sale. Details to be announced.

Wednesday June 2, Greely Community Centre

Neil Ritchie of Ritchie's Feed & Seed will be our guest speaker. He'll talk about old and new vegetable beds, what to plant, nutrients, pests, and new vegetable varieties.

Saturday, June 26, Annual members' garden tour.

Open to members and guests. Leaves the Greely Community Centre at 10:00 a.m. (the tour takes approximately 3 hours).

Sunday, August 15, Conducted tour of Gardens North in North Gower.

Non-members \$3.00. Car pooling will be arranged, details to be announced.

Wednesday, September 8, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre

Monthly meeting and Annual General Meeting. Topic: "Selecting Trees and Shrubs." Guest speaker: Peter from Richmond Nurseries

Wednesday, October 6, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre

Topic: "Rock Gardens". Speaker: to be announced.

Wednesday, Nov. 3, Greely Community Centre, 7:15 p.m.

Hardscaping – Arbours, pergolas and other garden structures. Speaker: Ava Schmidt, from Artistic Landscaping.

Wednesday, December 1, Greely Community Centre, 7:15 p.m.

Christmas Pot-luck Supper. Members and guests. Details to be announced.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m. Friends of the Farm. “First Aid for Plants and Trees, Do’s and Don’ts,” presented by Lee Boltwood, Master Gardener. FCEF Members \$10, non-members \$15. Seating is limited. For more information or to register call 230-3276.

Thursday, March 11 7:30 p.m. Manotick Horticultural Society. Note that the monthly meetings are now held at the Legion Hall on Ann Street in Manotick.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Our guest speaker this month is the inimitable Tony Williams, who will talk about roses suitable for the Canadian garden. For a little background, here’s something on the long history of roses.

THE ROSE HAS CAPTURED humankind’s imagination for thousands of years, and has taken a place of honour in gardens around the world. Roses were first cultivated in the garden in China, but their use was soon worldwide. The Roman and Greek cultures placed both religious, medical and mythical significance on what the poet Sappho called “the Queen of Flowers”.

The Roman passion for roses knew no bounds; the scented blooms found their way into food, medicine, and perfume. The returning hero found himself showered with thousands of petals, and an ostentatious host would carpet his floors with them so the scent would rise with every footstep. The Romans even invented the greenhouse for the very purpose of growing roses. The rose slipped from favour with the fall of the empire, kept alive only in the monastery medic garden. It wasn’t until the Crusades when returning knights brought back new species roses that the rose began its return to prominence in the gardens of Europe.

The fourteenth and fifteenth centuries saw the first work in hybridizing roses in the West (the Chinese had been at it for 2000 years already). Two hundred new strains of roses were developed between 1580 and 1710. Then in 1781 the Dutch East India Company brought back a China rose named ‘Old Blush’ and the race was on. Over the next decade the Dutch and British East India Companies brought back dozens of new China roses, leading to the development of Teas, Bourbons, and Portlands. These were crossed into the existing pool of species and Old Garden roses, leading to an explosion of both rose hybrids and interest in them.

Over the years even more rose types were concocted with each new cross providing the stepping stone for the next. Species roses from all over the world became available to the breeders and there were soon new crosses. But in 1867, the first Hybrid Tea rose was introduced starting the Modern Rose era. All roses after that point are known as Modern roses, all those from before are Old Garden roses.

This brief article comes from the [Helpful Gardener](http://www.helpfulgardener.com) web site. In addition to the history of the rose you can also find information on choosing, planting and care of roses – and a lot of other helpful gardening information besides. Visit the site at www.helpfulgardener.com. In addition to the section on rose gardening you’ll find topics such as flower gardening, container gardening, Japanese gardens, and vegetable gardening. Just one of the great gardening sites on the web.

REMINDER: Have you paid your 2004 membership dues yet? If not, please see Shelagh soon.

Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee

President ~ Bob Stanley 821-1847

Events Director ~ Gill Toll 821-6123

Secretary/Treasurer ~ Heather Clemenson/Gary Hall 821-7445

Membership ~ Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816