



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

March 2004

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

REMINDER....We're back at the Greely Community Centre for our April, May and June meetings. (For new members, that's at 1448 Meadow Drive.)

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

Tired of fighting a losing battle to maintain a perfect, weed-free green lawn? Maybe it's time for a change. This month's topic is "Alternatives to traditional lawns". Speaker to be announced.

Saturday, May 29

GGG's Annual Plant Sale. Andrew Shields Park, Old Prescott Highway, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All types and sizes of plants. All prices less than \$5.00! Many at 50c!

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.

Free for members. Non-members \$3.00. Car pooling will be arranged.

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: Maryanne 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

Tuesdays April 6 - May 25, 2004 7-9 p.m. Eight Week Master Gardeners Lecture Series hosted by Friends of the Farm. Topics include soil and compost, garden design, insects, tree and shrub pruning, vegetables, container gardening, irises and perennials. FCEF Members \$60, non-members \$80. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register call 230-3276.

April 14, 7-9 p.m. Keeping Colour In Your Garden hosted by Friends of the Farm, presented by Polly McColl Master Gardener and Landscape Consultant. FCEF Members \$10, non-members \$15. Seating is limited. For more information or to register call 230-3276.

April 23-25 Kanata Lawn and Garden Show. Mlacak Centre, 2500 Campeau Drive. Friday 12-9, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4. Over 100 displays. Workshops. Guests include Ed Lawrence and Marjorie Harris. Admission \$6, seniors \$5. Details at www.kanatalawnandgardenshow.com.

TIP OF THE MONTH

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GET BACK OUT IN THE GARDEN. Are you ready? More important, are your tools ready? Good tools in good condition can make your gardening chores a lot easier all season long. Here are a few tool tips that may help...

General

- ❑ Buy the best quality tools you can afford – they will work better and last longer.
- ❑ Good quality hardened steel blades hold an edge better and longer
- ❑ Stainless steel, cast aluminum and some of the newer "space age" materials like Nyglass® (nylon reinforced with fiberglass) don't rust.
- ❑ Maintain and care for tools regularly throughout the growing season and do a final thorough cleanup in the fall before storing tools.
- ❑ Hang tools up rather than resting them on their points.
- ❑ Don't leave tools outside in the elements – always bring them in and wipe them off after use.

Maintenance

- ❑ Regularly remove all dry, caked on dirt from the metal surfaces of tools.
- ❑ Rub with oil (motor, VD-40, vegetable) and wipe with a dry rag – oiling will prevent rust from forming. This is particularly important over the winter when moisture finds its way into the garage or shed
- ❑ An easy way to do this is to keep a bucket of coarse sharp sand mixed with about 1 quart of clean motor oil in a sheltered tool area – after using spades, etc. stab the metal end in the sand mixture a few times and wipe dry. The sand will knock off the dirt and oil will prevent rusting.
- ❑ Tools with wood handles – rubbing a with rag soaked in boiled linseed oil and letting the oil be absorbed into the wood, helps prevent drying and cracking that can shorten the life of the handle and lead to painful slivers.
- ❑ Check and tighten any screws or bolts along the handle. Replace any that are damaged.
- ❑ Sharpen cutting edges with a metal file for most larger tools – spaces, hoes, etc.
- ❑ Check the sharpness of your pruners and loppers regularly as a good edge will do a more efficient job and is easier on both the plant and the gardener. Have them professionally sharpened, or do it yourself with a good quality diamond or ceramic sharpening stone. Remove any sap with soapy water or paint thinner. Add a drop of light oil to pivot points.

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