



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

(late) April 2004

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

It was wonderful to see so many new faces at our April meeting. Hope to see you all again for the May meeting next week. Here's what's on the GGG schedule for the rest of the year...

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". Guest speaker is Gloria Young, who will talk about different plants you can use in various parts of the garden in place of grass. She will include plants that are good in a shady areas, dry shade, sunny areas, as well as some plants that you can walk on. Gloria's presentation will be illustrated with slides taken in Ottawa gardens.

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! More about the plant sale at the May meeting — meanwhile if you're dividing perennials already, please don't throw them out: pot them up and put them aside for the plant sale.

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, when to plant it, what to feed it, and how to combat pests. He'll also talk about some of the new vegetable varieties this season.

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). We need about six gardens for this event. If you'd be willing to show your garden on the tour, or would like more information, please call any member of the executive (phone numbers on the back).

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 Schmitz, 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

Looking for fabulous ideas for your garden? Visit the **Rare and Unusual Plant Sale**, presented by Friends of the Farm and specialty growers and nurseries. A perfect Mother's Day outing! May 9, from 9 am to 1 pm in the parking lot of the Neatby Building, Carling and Maple Drive, Central Experimental Farm. Admission is a donation to the Food Bank. For information, call 230-3276. Tip: This is a *really* popular event so get there early for the best selection!

Lilac Tour. The Friends of the Farm invite you to walk along the lilac rows in the Ornamental Gardens with the Friends of the Farm lilac team Sunday May 23 with tours at 1 and 2 p.m. The tours will begin at the Macoun Garden just east of the red museum barn on the CEF. For more information call 230-3276. Rain date is May 30. Admission is free.

Manotick Horticultural Society meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 at the Legion Hall on Ann Street in Manotick.

TIP OF THE MONTH



THE WEATHER'S GETTING WARMER, AND ANY DAY NOW THE BUTTERFLIES WILL BE BACK. Here are a few tips on how you can attract more of these beautiful insects to your garden, compliments of the Canadian Wildlife Federation:

Butterflies are most attracted to sunny spots that are sheltered from prevailing winds. By planting a diversity of native plants that are abundant in nectar you'll attract the greatest variety of butterflies.

Spring: cherry, crab apple, flowering currant, hawthorn, lilac and violet.

Late Spring and early Summer: bleeding heart, columbine, coreopsis, dogwood, lupine, phlox and virburnum.

Mid-summer: bee balm, blue flax, butterfly bush (surprise!), cone flower, evening primrose, fireweed, hyssop, lavender, milkweed, roses, potentilla, sedum.

Late Summer – Fall: aster, blazing star, black-eyed Susan, clematis, blue vervain, ironweed, jewelweed, Joe-pye weed, everlasting phlox, sunflower, thistle, yarrow.

On hot summer days, thirsty butterflies will come to shallow water in a dish or birdbath, with half-submerged stones as perches. A wet, muddy spot will attract mud-puddling species such as yellow and black swallowtails. And a few flat stones placed in a sheltered corner will attract butterfly sunbathers.

At the end of the season, be careful as you clean up your garden to avoid destroying the pupae of butterflies that overwinter on plant stems. Some leaf litter or a brush pile in a sheltered corner of your garden can provide a safe place to hibernate.

And finally, perhaps most important, remember that *pesticides are a butterfly's worst enemy*. If you must use pesticides (must you, really?) then choose organic ones, use them sparingly and selectively after sundown, when most butterflies are inactive.

□ *The Canadian Wildlife Federation website at www.cwf-fcf.org is well worth a visit.*

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

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