



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

October 2005

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 2, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting. Topic: "Container Gardening." Guest speaker: Helen Halpenny

Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Members' Christmas Dinner. Details to be announced at the November meeting.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Osgoode Garden Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Osgoode Library on Main Street. For information call Louise Boudreau 826-0385.

Russell and District Horticultural Society meets on the third Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall, corner of First Street and Legion Lane.

Manotick Horticultural Society is back in business. When the old Legion Hall in Manotick burned down this summer the MHS lost their home. However, they have now found a new home in the RCMP Club House off Nicholl's Island Road. To get there take River Road towards the city, turn left onto Nicholl's Island Road as if you were going to the locks, and then take the first right. The society's next meeting will be on **Monday, November 14 at 7:30**. For information contact Mary Kealey at 823-1658.

YOUR NEW GGG EXECUTIVE

At the October meeting Gill Toll was elected as the new President of the GGG, replacing Bob Stanley (that's me) who stepped down after six years, but will remain on the executive as Past President and will continue to produce this newsletter. There are two new faces on the executive – Anita Snelgrove was elected Vice President, and Natasha Robb-Burrows takes on Gill's former position as Events Director. Heather Clemenson, Gary Hall and Shelagh Heatlie (the longest serving member of the executive) were all re-elected.

Congratulations to all, and please give them your continued support in the year ahead as the GGG continues to grow and take on new challenges. Talking of which...

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE GARDEN

If you've been to the Community Centre in daylight recently you may have noticed the new flower bed around the sign at the entrance. Six faithful members turned out on a damp Saturday morning to do the digging and planting. They were Heather Clemenson, Alison Whitlock, Gary Hall, Lester Bradley, Geoff Voyce and Bob Stanley. Special thanks to Alison who brought her truck and a trailer load of topsoil as well as some donated plants.

After removing the sod and shovelling and raking the topsoil into place, we planted some ornamental grasses, a number of perennials and four dozen daffodil bulbs. We'll plant some annuals in early summer to follow the daffodils. It would be nice to see more members turn out for activities like this – we'll be calling for volunteers to help spruce up the big bed in front of the Community Centre as well next spring. Perhaps you could spare a couple of hours away from your own garden to help out.

MORE FREE SEEDS!

Lester “Brad” Bradley will be bringing more seeds from his garden to the November meeting. They include Scotch thistle, primula japonica, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Hungarian poppy, columbine (aquilegia) alpine blue, malope (malvaceae), and teasel. If you’d like some they’re free, but please **remember to bring your own containers** (small envelopes will do). Brad warns that there are limited quantities of some seeds, and it’s first come, first served, but please just take a few of each kind you want, not the whole lot!

Tip of the Month

IF YOU THINK THAT THE SCIENTIFIC NAMES of plants are really tough to remember, you're quite right. But they are also technical, precise, and once you get the hang of them, really quite helpful when you are trying to identify a new plant as they give you place to start.

Many of those long jawbreakers have Latin roots but there is some Greek in there as well. To add to the confusion, some horticulturists refer to them as botanical names, and still others call them epithets. Call them what you want, the important part is that these names are internationally recognized. So while many plants may have several common names, each has only one scientific name. For example, consider the familiar blueweed that grows in poor soil and along roadsides. In the New England states it is more commonly known as viper's bugloss. However, on both sides of the border it is immediately recognized by its scientific name, *Echium vulgare*.

Most often, the scientific name of the plant, in spite of its fancy sound, refers to a specific characteristic or trait. *Echinops*, the globe thistle, means "like a hedgehog". *Campanula*, the bell flower, derives from *campana* or bell. It is as simple as that... or not, depending on the plant. Take lambsquarters for example. It's easy to see how this plant picked up its common name. When in bloom, the combination of white flowers twitching in a light breeze can easily bring to mind the switching of a lamb's tail, hence lambsquarters. But, what looks like the back end of a sheep to some appeared quite differently to a Greek farmer. He looked at the leaves and saw a goose foot. So here we go: goose = *cheno*, foot = *podium*, and white = *album*. The scientific name is *Chenopodium album*.

If that's all Greek to you, take heart. Once you have learned some of the more common terms, especially the colours, it becomes easier to associate the scientific name with the plant. For example *purpurea* is Latin for purple (you could have guessed it). How about the Latin word *giganteum*, meaning giant of course. Or *compositae*, meaning composite. This refers to a flower having two types of petals – daisies, blanket flowers, asters, and the like. Knowing a few of the more commonly used terms can help you to identify plants – and it will impress your gardening friends!

The best way to get started is to get yourself a good plant identification book that lists plants by both their common names and their scientific name, such as *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening* (published by Houghton Mifflin) or *The Gardener's Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers* (published by Dorling-Kindersley) and before you know it you'll be able to recognize those scientific names like an expert.

Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee:

President ~ Gill Toll 821-6123; Vice-President ~ Anita Snelgrove 821-0447; Events Director ~ Natasha Robb-Burrows 821-1037; Secretary/Treasurer ~ Heather Clemenson/Gary Hall 821-7445; Membership ~ Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816; Past President/Newsletter ~ Bob Stanley 821-1847