



Greely Gardeners Group Newsletter

April 2006

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

Wednesday, May 3, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Topic: "DAY LILIES". Guest speaker Suzanne Patry of Whiteside Gardens in Almonte.

Saturday, May 27, 9:00 a.m. to noon Annual Spring Plant Sale, Andrew Shields Park. If you haven't already started, now is the time to start potting up those extra perennials and self-seeding annuals so they'll be ready for the plant sale. Be sure to label them clearly! For more information about the sale talk to any member of the executive.

Wednesday, June 7, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Topic: "GROWING, HARVESTING AND STORING HERBS". Guest speakers Gerry Bedard and Denise George from the Herb Garden in Almonte.

Saturday June 17, ANNUAL MEMBERS' GARDENS TOUR. Open to members and guests. Leaves the Greely Community Centre at 10:00 a.m. The tour takes approximately three hours. Refreshments will be provided.

Saturday, July 15 GGG's ANNUAL FIELD TRIP. Details to be announced.

Wednesday, September 6, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Monthly meeting and AGM. Topic: "BULBS AND FALL PLANTING". Guest speaker: Neill Ritchie of Ritchie's Feed and Seed.

Wednesday, October 4, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Topic: "IMPROVING YOUR GARDEN WITH COMPOST AND MULCH". Guest speaker: Lindley McPhail, Master Gardener.

Wednesday, November 1, 7:15 p.m. Greely Community Centre. Topic: "KEEPING YOUR INDOOR PLANTS HAPPY AND HEALTHY THROUGH THE WINTER". Guest speaker: houseplant expert Roger Gunthorpe.

Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m. Greely Community Centre. GARDENERS' CHRISTMAS SUPPER. Members and their guests. Details to be announced.

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, 7:00 p.m. at the Legion Hall, corner of First Street and Legion Lane.

Manotick Horticultural Society meets on the second Monday of the month in the RCMP Club House off Nicholl's Island Road. For information contact Mary Kealey at 823-1658.

Friends of the Farm, guided tour down Lilac Walk - May 28, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Discover the many varieties of lilac that the Central Experimental Farm has to offer. The tour is free and begins at the Macoun Ornamental Garden. Donations gratefully accepted. Information 230-3276.

TIP OF THE MONTH

DO YOU PLANT TOO MUCH IN YOUR VEGGIE GARDEN? It's a common mistake (I do it just about every year). Then you're faced with disposing of the extras, and there's only so much you can freeze or give to neighbours. Well here's an idea: a program that actually encourages you to grow an extra row of vegetables to donate those in need. The annual "Plant a Row ~ Grow a Row" program is now in its seventh gardening season. It's a volunteer-based program that builds on the long-standing tradition of gardeners loving to share their harvest with others.

The program was originally launched nationally through the combined efforts of the Canadian Association of Food Banks, the Garden Writers Association, and the Composting Council of Canada. Almost 1.5 million pounds of fresh produce have been donated since the national program began in the year 2000.

"Once the harvest comes in, there are always extras," says Susan Antler, of the Composting Council of Canada. "In addition to family, neighbours and friends, it would be great if you would also consider sharing your garden's bounty with neighbourhood food agencies."

All kinds of fresh produce are needed and appreciated by food banks. Root vegetables such as carrots, potatoes, onions, beets and parsnips are best, but any produce that can be easily handled and stored is welcome — including broccoli, cabbage, peas, beans, tomatoes, radishes, sweet peppers, eggplants, and zucchini (and who *doesn't* have extra zucchini?!), as well as firm fruits such as apples and pears.

Plant a Row ~ Grow a Row has benefited tremendously from the generosity of many, many gardeners and organizations connected with the garden. To get involved visit their website at www.growarow.org or call 1-877-571-GROW. You can connect with the Ottawa Food Bank at 745-7001, or visit their website at www.theottawafoodbank.ca.

ARE YOU A GARDEN ARTIST?

Have you ever wished you could capture some of your favourite flowers on canvas? Well here's your chance to learn how. The Friends of the Farm are offering two four-day courses for would-be garden artists to learn how to draw and paint plants. Botanical art combines scientific observation with artistic expression to create true portraits of flowers, fruits and vegetables, according to award-winning illustrator, writer and teacher Celia Godkin, who will conduct both courses. Here are the details:

BOTANICAL DRAWING (for beginners to intermediate) will be held May 27 and 28, and June 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in building 72, at the Central Experimental Farm. The focus is on drawing plants in a realistic, three-dimensional manner. Cost: \$250 plus materials.

BOTANICAL PAINTING in watercolours (for intermediate to advanced) will be held June 17, 18, 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., also in building 72. This course requires botanical drawing skills. Cost: \$250 plus materials.

For more information, and to pre-register, call 230-3276.

Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee:

President ~ Gill Toll 821-6123; Vice-President ~ Anita Snelgrove 821-0447; Secretary ~ Heather Clemenson 821-7445; Treasurer ~ Gary Hall 821-7445; Social ~ Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816; Past President/Newsletter ~ Bob Stanley 821-1847