



Greely Gardeners Group Newsletter

May 2006

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

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".

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

HELP! Gardens Wanted

If you are one of those who volunteered to have your garden included on the members' garden tour, please call or email Bob Stanley (821-1847, stanleyb@rogers.com). Heather and Gary have the information, but sadly they are in the U.K. right now as a result of a death in the family. Bob will organize the tour this year. Details at the meeting next week.

A Big THANK YOU

to all those who contributed plants and helped out at another successful plant sale on Saturday! There are a few plants left over, however, some of which will go into the community garden, and the rest will be included in the prizes at next week's 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, 7:00 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.

TIP OF THE MONTH

YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO START GARDENING. Through gardening, children learn about nature and their role in it. Gardening helps them realize how they fit in the world and that carrots and potatoes don't originate in a store. Another big lesson, especially if rain washes away seedlings, or birds and other critters upend tender shoots, is that nature is not totally under human control. Gardening also teaches patience. It takes time for sprouts to break through the ground and children have to learn to wait -- a valuable lesson in this age of instant gratification.

In addition, gardening reaches across several disciplines, including science and math, making activities in the garden a perfect way to teach your child (or grandchild) a variety of skills...

- Hone math skills by calculating the number of rows times the number of plants.
- Or keep a running total of how much money you've invested in seeds, plants, fertilizer and so on..
- Read to older children about germination, pollination and photosynthesis.
- Make a calendar and record your garden's progress, and to chart watering and weeding responsibilities.
- For younger kids, explore the shape and colour of different leaves and flowers, make leaf prints, and look for bugs.

Above all, gardening teaches children one of life's biggest lessons: to be responsible. They soon learn that forgetting to water plants and pull weeds has consequences. Neglected plants won't do very well, yet a well-tended garden can be a source of pride for children of all ages.

TRIP TO 'INTERNATIONAL FLORA MONTREAL 2006'

The Ottawa Botanical Garden Society and the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm are organizing a bus trip to this event, which is a \$9 million outdoor garden show featuring more than 50 gardens by top Canadian and international designers. You can get more information about the show at www.floramontreal.ca. The trip will be on Thursday, July 6, and the cost is \$55 for members of the two organizations, or \$65 for the rest of us, and includes bus fare, entry to the show and refreshments on the bus.

If you'd like to go, here are the details:

Thursday, July 6, bus leaves the parking lot at the Canada Agriculture Museum on the Central Experimental Farm west of Prince of Wales Drive at 8:00 a.m., returns 5:30 p.m. To reserve a seat on the bus call Friends of the Farm at 230-3276 or the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society at 745-5945.

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