



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

February 2008

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

2008 PROGRAMME

NOTE: *March is our last meeting this year to be held on Thursday night to avoid clashing with rehearsals of the Greely Players. We return to Wednesday nights in April.*

Thursday, March 6, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: PREPARING YOUR BODY FOR SPRING. Guest speaker: Dr Victoria Clarke, Chiropractor.

Wednesday, April 2, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: STARTING A NEW GARDEN IN GREELY. Guest speaker: back by popular demand -- Darrell Kekanovich from Ritchie's Feed & Seed.

Wednesday, May 7, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: FORESTRY – SHAPES, BARKS AND LEAVES: A PRIMER ON EASTERN ONTARIO TREES AND SHRUBS. Guest speakers: Dave and Erin Neave. Got a tree or shrub that you can't put a name to? Bring a twig or leaf for Erin and Neave to identify.

Saturday, May 24, Andrew Shields Park, Old Prescott Road, 9:00 a.m. GGG's ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE. When you're dividing your perennials or thinning out seedlings this Spring, be sure to pot up some of the extras for the plant sale.

Wednesday, June 4, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: WHAT'S BUGGING YOU? HOW TO CONTROL LAWN AND GARDEN INSECTS NATURALLY. Guest speaker: entomologist Penny MacDonald.

Saturday, June 14, 10th ANNIVERSARY BARBECUE. That's right, it's been 10 years since the GGG got started, and we're celebrating. More details to come in future newsletters and at monthly meetings.

Saturday, August 9, ANNUAL MEMBERS GARDENS TOUR. The tour starts at 9:00 a.m. from the Community Centre parking lot and lasts about four hours. There will be refreshments and eats at the last garden on the tour. More details to follow.

Wednesday, September 3, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: HOSTAS FOR YOUR SHADE GARDEN. Guest speaker: Maureen Mark.

Wednesday, October 1, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: MULCHING AND EASY CARE GARDENING. Guest speaker: the ever-popular Patti Pokorchuck from Down-to-Earth Gardens.

Wednesday, November 5, Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDENS. "Guest" speaker: our very own Heather Clemenson with her personal slide collection from some of England's most glorious gardens.

Wednesday, December 3: Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK DINNER, where our members show that they are not just great gardeners but great cooks too. Don't miss it!

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

Manotick Horticultural Society usually meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 in the RCMP Club House off Nichols Island Road. For more information call Margot Belanger at (613) 692-1575 or email rbelan1575@rogers.com.

Osgoode Garden Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. in the Fred Alexander room of the Osgoode Community Centre.

Russell & District Horticultural Society meets on the third Monday of the month, 7:00 at the Russell Legion. For information call Lindsey McPhail at 613-445-0754.

For rose lovers: Saturday, April 5 - Lecture by Dr. Neville Arnold and Catherine Arnold on their research programme breeding disease-resistant roses that are winter hardy in Canada. The lecture, with slides, will include information on where, when, and how to obtain selected lines for your home garden. There will also be a silent auction of root-stocks from selected lines. Presented by the United Counties Master Gardeners at the Morrisburg Meeting Centre, 12580 County Road 2, at 1:00 p.m. Admission \$12. Reservations required. For information or to reserve call 613-774-3996.

TIP OF THE MONTH...



Moonflower - *Ipomoea alba*

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AT THE WHITE STUFF OUTSIDE OUR WINDOWS for more than three months now, so we can hardly wait to see some colours out there? the brighter the better. But here's an argument in favour of more white, flowers that is. There are many plants that flower only at night. Many more wait until evening to release their wonderful scents. White flowers, and plants with variegated foliage, glow softly as they reflect the light of the moon and stars. If you work all day (or even if you don't) an evening garden can be a peaceful refuge.

There are so many plants that add not only fragrance but colour and texture for nighttime enjoyment that if you have never tried this you are limiting the time you can be out and using your garden. With so many unique colors and hybrids to tempt us at the garden centre, we gardeners can often skip over the classic white varieties. Although other colours than white are great for sunny summer days, remember that white flowers show off their classic beauty both in the sunlight and the moonlight. To add this new dimension to your garden, try incorporating plants that show off their beauty at night. Some basic elements of planting a moonlight garden, include using:

- ? White flowering varieties
- ? Night flowering varieties
- ? Plants with fragrant nighttime flowers
- ? Plants with bright patterns on foliage
- ? Plants with silver leaves

Adding some or all of these elements will produce a beautiful garden any time of the day, but especially at night. The idea is to reflect the glow of the night sky, and to create a special area that really offers its best qualities at night. This way, instead of just sitting in front of the television, you now have a new refuge you can go out and enjoy, even if it's only for a few minutes when it's cool

and quiet. And go easy on the Deep Woods Off or you won't be able to enjoy the fragrance!

Here are some night-flowering and/or night-fragrant plants you might want to try:

Evening Primrose (*Oenothera*) are perennials with sweetly scented blossoms of soft white, pink and bright yellow that open each evening.

Moonflower (*Ipomoea alba*) is a night-blooming relative of the Morning Glory with a powerful scent that perfumes the garden with 6-inch white flowers. Often grown from seed, it provides a quick annual cover for an arbour, trellis, or fence.

Angel's Trumpet (*Brugmansia* /*Datura innoxia*) another vine that produces fragrant, 6-inch white flowers from midsummer until frost. Note that this plant is poisonous and should be kept away from children.

Night Phlox (*Zaluzianskya capensis* 'Midnight Candy'). At dusk, flowers open to release a fragrance that combines honey, almond and vanilla.

Evening Stock (*Matthiola incana*) has small pink or purplish flowers that are not showy, but emit an intoxicating fragrance at night.

Four O'Clock (*Mirabilis jalapa*) is a sweetly fragrant annual with colourful trumpet-shaped flowers that open in late afternoon and release a jasmine-like perfume.

Nottingham Catchfly (*Silene nutans*) offers a scent reminiscent of hyacinths. The flowers open on three successive nights before fading.

Daylilies (*Hemerocallis*) include some night blooming varieties such as 'Moon Frolic' and 'Toltec Sundial'.

Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*) bears creamy white flowers that are open both day and night.

Flowering Tobacco (*Nicotiana*) has long, trumpet-like blooms valued for their intense evening fragrance.

Night Gladiolus (*Gladiolus tristis*) features creamy yellow blossoms with an intensely spicy night fragrance.

Fragrant Columbine (*Aquilegia fragrans*) offers creamy white flowers with a rich honeysuckle scent.

Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee:

President - Gill Toll 821-6123; Vice-President - Anita Snelgrove 821-0447;
Treasurer – Melissa MacDonald 821-9680; Secretary – Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816;
Melody Tomka 821-1985; Shelley Piercey 821-1120; June MacDonell 821-1949;
Past-President/Newsletter Bob Stanley 821-1847