



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

April 2008

GREELY GARDENERS CALENDAR:

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 Dave and Erin 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 HOUSE GARDENS. "Guest" speaker: our very own Heather Clemenson with her personal slide collection from some of England's most glorious gardens to brighten up a November night.

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!

REMEMBER OUR PLANT SALE!

As mentioned above, we'll be holding our annual Spring Plant Sale on May 24. This is a great opportunity to pick up that elusive perennial you've been looking for at a bargain price. It's also an opportunity to unload those extra plants that you're accumulating as you divide your perennials and root out those little volunteers that have popped up in places where they're not wanted. The plant sale is our major fundraiser of the year, and we count on you, the members, to provide the great selection of plants that we've become known for. So as you're working on your flower beds over the next couple of weeks, don't put those unwanted plants in the compost, pot them up and bring them along to our sale. If you need pots, we can provide them. Details at the next meeting.

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

Sunday, May 11 from 9am to 1pm, Annual Rare Plant Sale at the Central Experimental Farm, Parking lot, K.W. Neatby Building, Carling Ave.

Thursdays, 15 and 29 May, 6:30 p.m. Early evening walk at the **Fletcher Wildlife Garden**, off Prince of Wales Drive. This informal walk is offered to expand members' general knowledge of local natural history. Children are most welcome. Bring waterproof footwear and insect repellent.

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.

TIP OF THE MONTH...

Our guest speakers for May are going to talk on the subject of Ontario trees and shrubs. To give you a head start, here are 10 interesting facts about trees that you may not have known:

- ✂ Trees receive an estimated 90 percent of their nutrition from the atmosphere and only 10 percent from the soil.
- ✂ Trees grow from the top, not from the bottom as is commonly believed. A branch's location on a tree will only move up the trunk a few inches in 1000 years.
- ✂ Unlike us, trees do not die of old age. They are generally killed by insects, disease or by people. California Bristlecone Pines and Giant Sequoias are regarded as the oldest trees and live 4,000 to 5,000 years.
- ✂ There are about 20,000 tree species in the world. Guess which country has the largest "tree treasury"? If you guessed Canada, guess again? The answer is India.
- ✂ The largest area of forest in the tropics remains the Amazon Basin, amounting to an estimated 81.5 million acres.
- ✂ America's Arbor Day was first observed in Nebraska in 1872. That state is now home to one of the world's largest forests planted by people - over 200,000 acres of trees.
- ✂ Some trees can "talk" to each other. When willows are attacked by webworms and caterpillars, they emit a chemical that alerts nearby willows of the danger. The neighboring trees then respond by pumping more tannin into their leaves making it difficult for the insects to digest them.
- ✂ Knocking on wood for good luck originated from primitive tree worship when rapping on trees was believed to summon protective spirits in the trees.
- ✂ Trees can induce rainfall by cooling the land and transpiring water into the sky from their leaves. An acre of maple trees can put as much as 20,000 gallons of water into the air each day.
- ✂ The most massive living thing on earth is the Giant Sequoia in the Redwood Forest of California. It stands nearly 30 storeys tall and 82.3 feet in circumference. Its weight is estimated at 2,756 tons.

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