



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

December 2008

GREELY GARDENERS 2009 CALENDAR:

Thursday, January 8: Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: A POND FOR YOUR GARDEN. Guest speaker: Nicholas Butt of the Pond Clinic.

Thursday, February 5: Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Back by popular demand... GARDENING Q&A WITH PETER AND JOAN KNIPPEL, of Knippel's Nursery on Bank Street.

Thursday, March 5: Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: EASY CARE ANNUALS. Guest speaker: Mary-Anne Jackson-Hughes.

Thursday, April 2: Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: SUMMER BULBS, CORMS AND TUBERS. Guest speaker: the ever popular Darrell Kekanovich of Ritchie Feed and Seed.

Wednesday, May 6: Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: PEONIES AND ORCHIDS. Guest speaker: Author, Marilyn Light.

Saturday, May 23: 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 3: Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: EVERYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BEES. Guest speaker: Greely beekeeper Brent Halsall.

Saturday, June 23: ANNUAL MEMBERS GARDENS TOUR. The tour starts at 9:00 a.m. from the Community Centre parking lot and lasts about four hours. Details to be announced.

Wednesday, September 2: Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: MUSHROOMS. Guest speaker: Michel Corbeil.

Wednesday, October 7: Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. Topic: A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE. Guest speaker: John McKenzie.

Wednesday, November 3: Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. NEW AND UNDERUSED PERENNIALS. Guest speaker Suzanne Patry of Whitehouse Perennials.

OTHER GARDENING 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



I KNOW WE'VE COVERED THIS TOPIC BEFORE, but I'm pretty sure someone will ask the question at the January meeting... "What do I do with my poinsettia once Christmas is over?" The poinsettia is often called the Christmas Plant because it displays its vivid red colours over the Christmas season. But with a little care, your poinsettia will thrive for months, and you can even grow them on for next year. Here are some tips...

Hopefully you chose a healthy plant that has rich green leaves and you made sure that the plant was well wrapped before taking it out to your car ? poinsettias are tropical plants and may be damaged by temperatures below 10 degrees C. If you haven't already done so, remove all the wrapping, including the cellophane wrap. If some leaves on the lower branches yellow and drop, don't worry, this will not affect the plant's overall health so long as you follow these guidelines:

LIGHT ? Place the poinsettia in a spot with bright natural light but NOT in direct sunlight. It can tolerate up to two hours of sun a day, but more than that will shorten the life of your plant.

WATER ? Don't let the soil dry out. The soil should always be moist, but not wet, so good drainage is very important. Place the container in a saucer or other waterproof container to catch any overflow.

TEMPERATURE ? Your poinsettia will last longer in a cool location ? not more than 24C (75F) during the day, and 18C (65F) at night. Protect the plant from drafts from an open door, heating duct or fireplace.

With proper care, your poinsettia will continue to look attractive for several months. However, persuading a poinsettia to reflower next winter is not easy, but it can be done. Once the weather warms up you can put the plant outside in a shady spot over the summer, but be sure to bring it in before the weather turn too cool (remember, 10 degrees!) The plant requires a period of uninterrupted long, dark nights for around two months in autumn in order to develop flowers. Incidental light at night during this time will hamper flower production. To achieve complete darkness cover the plant with a plastic garbage bag and place it in a closet overnight. Bring it out during the day but be sure to give it 12 hours of complete darkness each night until about mid-November. Now bring the plant out and follow the instructions above. If you've done it right, your poinsettia will (probably) produce bright red blooms for you again just in time for Christmas. Good luck – **and Merry Christmas everyone!**

CANADA BLOOMS BUS TOUR

The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm invite you to join them on March 20th and 21st on a trip to visit Canada's largest gardening show in Toronto. Early departure from Ottawa on March 20th, arrive Toronto mid-day, free afternoon or go to the Show. Our hotel, the Holiday Inn on King is located right in the heart of the theatre district. Next day go back to the Show until 2:00 p.m. and then board the bus to return to Ottawa, stop at the Glen House Resort in Gananoque for dinner en route. Arrive Ottawa about 9:00 p.m. on the 21st. Cost to FCEF members: \$255.00 based on double occupancy. Non members \$275.00. Single occupancy add \$80.00 to either category. For information, 613-230-3276, info@friendsofthefarm.ca, or www.friendsofthefarm.ca.

Greely Gardeners Group, Executive Committee:

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

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