



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

February 2010

GREELY GARDENERS 2010 CALENDAR

Please note change of date and location for the March meeting.

Wednesday, March 10 – Topic: **Japanese Flower Arranging**. Guest speaker: Wendy Batson of the Ohara School of Ikebana; at the Metcalfe Client Service Centre Council Chambers, 8243 Victoria St., 7:00 p.m.

Correction to calendar - in April and for the rest of the year, we are back to our usual date, time, and place; the first Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm at the Greely Community Centre.

Wednesday April 7 – Topic: **Edible Weeds**. Guest Speaker: Bob Stanley (Past President GGG). Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 5 – Topic: **Growing and Using Gourds**. Guest Speaker: Claudette Hart. Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 29 – **Annual Spring Plant Sale**, Andrew Shields Park, Old Prescott Road, opens 9:00 a.m.

OTHER GARDENING CLUBS

The **Manotick Horticultural Society** (see event for March below)

The **Osgoode Garden Club** meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Osgoode Library on Osgoode Main Street. For information call Louise Boudreau 826-0385.

The **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.

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

The **Manotick Horticultural Society**, Monday March 8, 7:30pm, at the RCMP Club House off Nicholl's Island Road, Laurie Consaul, Ph.D., Senior Research Assistant Botany, Canadian Museum of Nature, will speak on "Arctic Flora for Your Garden".

Canada Blooms 2010, "Passions" March 17 - 21, Direct Energy Centre, 100 Princes' Blvd., Toronto, Ontario, <http://www.canadablooms.com/>

Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA), "Successful Gardening Show", March 18-21, International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga www.home-show.net/successfulgardening/index.html

"Ottawa is Blooming" 10th Annual Garden and Landscape Show, April 23-25, 2010, Kanata Recreation Complex, 100 Walter Baker Place, Kanata. For details see: <http://www.ottawaisblooming.com/8.html>

Ottawa Botanical Garden Society (OBGS) presents "**From Parking Lot to Paradise; The Making of an Urban Garden**" Monday, April 26, 2010, The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson. The Library and Archives Canada 395 Wellington Street. Cost: \$20 individual members of the OBGS; \$23 group members of the OBGS; \$25 general public. For details see: <http://www.ottawagarden.ca/>

JANUARY GGG MEETING - UPDATE:

Andrew Aitkens (speaker on Vermicomposting) sent the following information.

Buying Worms: If you want to buy a starter bag of worms from Andrew call him at 613-230-4078. He charges a nominal \$20 which goes to the gardening project he manages at the Bronson Centre, a community centre that runs 34 community-based programs helping people in need.

TIP OF THE MONTH ...

BRUGMANSIA



Andrew Aitkens (see above) also grows brugmansias. He takes cuttings that are for sale for \$20 in the spring; they must be pre-ordered. Call Andrew at 613-230-4078.

The beauty and fragrance of these plants can't be described, only experienced. The common name is Angels' Trumpet. These spectacular trees belong to the same family as tomatoes and peppers, but grow much larger and result in a massive profusion of enormous blooms (9 inches across) with intoxicating fragrance.

Vermicomposting Resources:

<http://davesgarden.com/> Alan wrote two articles detailing the preparation of your bin, the bedding, getting worms to start, feeding, problems, and harvesting the compost. The vermicomposting threads are in the "Soils and Composting forum".

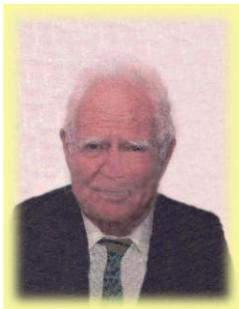
<http://mypeoplepc.com/members/arbra/trinity> features the queen of worms, biologist Kelly Slocum. "Trinity Ranch" is an American commercial site, but is loaded with great "worm" information.

Alan noted: *"I grew my plants from seed obtained from the American Brugmansia and Datura Society. My plants have now evolved into major trees (they are several years old). These plants grow like weeds. I cut off branches to root them, and they grow new branches immediately. They sprout leaves all season long. I put the cuttings in water (with a little hydrogen peroxide to guard against rotting) and they sprout roots in weeks.*

I have started a bucket of cuttings from my three trees, which should be rooted enough for planting in May. You could plant these in the ground, but they are not frost-hardy, and will die. Mine are in large pots, which I bring indoors in the fall to the basement, where they drop their leaves and go dormant. I water them just to keep them alive, and restart them in the spring.

These are hungry and thirsty plants. Once growing actively, feed them with fish emulsion at half-strength twice a week. When they have a good leaf crown, start 15-30-15 at half-strength 3 times a week. They wilt in the afternoon sun (avoid such a location) so keep your finger in the pot soil and water very generously through the summer, sometimes twice a day."

Note: All parts of this plant are poisonous and not advisable to grow if you have small children or animals that eat plants.



Robert (Bob) Varcoe, a long-time member of the Greely Gardeners Group passed away on January 23 at the age of 79. Several members attended a memorial service for Bob held on February 29th. Bob loved and embraced all aspects of our world from the earth to the stars, from gardening to astrophysics; a man interested in all that life could offer. He will be missed by friends in Greely and Ottawa.

Greely Gardeners Group – 2009-10 Executive Committee

President - Shelley Piercey 821-1120; **Vice-President** - Anita Snelgrove 821-0447;

Treasurer - Melissa MacDonald 821-9680; **Past-President** - Shelagh Heatlie 821-0816; **Secretary** – Sue Young 821-9108;
Events Co-ordinator - vacant; **Newsletter** – Heather Clemenson 821-7445; **Website** – Gary Hall 821-7445; Gill Toll 821-6123

www.greelygardeners.org