



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

March 2010

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

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.

As we seem to be heading towards an early spring perhaps there will be plenty of time to take cuttings and to divide plants for the Plant Sale. Whether donating or buying we look forward to seeing you there.

SPECIAL NOTICE – GGG WEBSITE

The Greely Gardeners Group website has been re-designed. Take a look at the new site at www.greelygardeners.org and feel free to provide feedback and suggestions about the new look and content. If you attended our February meeting on *Ikebana*, or even if you did not, and want to see all ten arrangements that were created (a taste is provided below), have a look on the website. There are more photos on the website than in this Newsletter. (Click the “Past Events in 2010” link on the home page.)

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

- The **Manotick Horticultural Society**, “Happy Birthday MHS”. This evening celebrates 80 years that the MHS has been in existence. The meeting is open to MHS members only. There will be a surprise guest. The meeting will be at Knox Presbyterian Church, 5533 Dickinson Street Manotick.
- **Russell and District Horticultural Society** meetings are held at 7:00 pm, the third Monday of each month at the Royal Canadian Legion/Lion's Hall at 24 Legion Lane in Russell.
- 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.
- “**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/>

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

FEBRUARY GGG MEETING - UPDATE:

Wendy Batson (on the left) from the Ohara School of Ikebana gave a very enjoyable presentation on the art of Japanese Flower Arranging. She was assisted by Gerry Mooney (right).



The meeting was held in the Metcalfe Client Services Centre. The layout of the room was ideal for the demonstration as Wendy was able to design her arrangements on three long tables slightly elevated from where we were sitting; so everyone had a good view. Wendy's explanations were delightful and amusing at times as she clipped, pruned and put together ten unique arrangements and entertained the small but very enthusiastic group that turned out for the event.



TIP OF THE MONTH ...

There's no denying the signs; spring is right around the corner. If you're like us, you can't wait to get your hands into the soil. While you're holding out for higher temperatures, there's plenty you can do to jumpstart the spring gardening season.

- Give your garden tools a checkup. If you neglected to do so in the fall, clean, oil and sharpen your pruning shears and other cutting tools or take them in to a local hardware store for cleaning, oiling and a good sharpening.
 - On a warm day you may want to assess your lawnmower. Do it yourself or take it in for servicing or a tune up now, while you can. Many lawnmower repair places are swamped shortly after the season starts. It is one piece of equipment you don't want to be without.
 - As soon as the snow has melted and the weather permits, it is a good time to rake and clear your planting areas of dead branches, leaves and debris. Remove any leaves that have collected around trees and shrubs to get rid of overwintering pests. However, do clear everything away too soon ... winter may not be quite over just yet! It is still possible to get a severe cold period in April and if the protective covering of mulch has been enthusiastically removed, your tender plants will suffer. Waiting until the ground has dried until later in the month of April will not put you too far behind.
 - In March and April there are a few local indoor garden, flower and landscaping expos that might be worth a visit to see what new plants varieties are coming out this year, to purchase new tools or just to pick up new ideas. (See page 1 -- Other Gardening Events)
 - If you're planning to use a professional landscaper, make sure to schedule your project as far in advance as possible. When the ground is soft enough for digging, landscapers will be working overtime to keep up with the volume.
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