



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

February 2011

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Our meetings in February and March will be on the first **Thursday** of the month and as of April our meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month.

Thursday February 3 - Topic: **Gardening Questions and Answers**

Guest Speakers: Joan and Peter Knippel, Knippel's Nursery
Greely Community Centre, at 7:00 pm

Thursday March 3 - Topic: **Landscape Design: Starting from Scratch**

Guest Speaker: Marianne Schmitz, Beyond the House Landscape Design
Greely Community Centre, at 7:00 pm

Wednesday April 6 - **Magnolias, Japanese Maples and Rare Trees for Eastern Ontario**

Guest speaker: Richard Aubert
Greely Community Centre, at 7:00 pm

Reminder GGG Membership: If you are intending to renew your annual membership at our next meeting, to save time please consider printing a membership form from our website www.greelygardeners.org and filling it in ahead of time. At only \$10 for the year, we are still the best bargain in town!

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

- **Manotick Horticultural Society: Monday, February 14**, Holland Tulip Festival, Keukenhof, presentation by Linda Thorn, 7:30 pm, Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island, Manotick.
- **Russell and District Horticultural Society: Monday, February 21**, Making soap with Marie Louise Soapery. 7pm at the Russell Legion/Lion's Den ([map](#)) For more detail see: <http://www.russellgardeners.ca/events.html>
- **Osgoode Garden Club** meets on the third Wednesday of the month; 7:00 pm at the Osgoode Library on Osgoode Main Street. For information call Louise Boudreau 826-0385.

Report of the January 6 Meeting

Our guest speaker Bill Bitz, formerly an organic market gardener and now a landscaper, gave a presentation on growing vegetables from seed. His talk was very informative and entertaining dealing with the entire spectrum of growing vegetables; from establishing and maintaining outdoor beds, including useful tips and tools, as well as preparing a soil mix for seeds and how to start seeds indoors under lights, particularly using large and small soil-maker blocks (small shown). Bill also provided many handouts including a list of vegetables for shady places and companion planting with vegetables and herbs.



Here Bill is seen demonstrating the use of a broadfork or U-bar digger. Such a tool is used to loosen garden beds particularly at the beginning of the season. Rather than turning the soil, it loosens and aerates the soil to a depth of 10" or more without disturbing the soil strata.

Bill also recommended four books: **“Vegetables from a Country Garden”** by Anstace and Larry Esmonde-White (Published by Lee Valley, 1993); **“How to Grow More Vegetables”** by John Jeavons (Published by 10-Speed Press, California, 1991); **“Four Season Harvest”** by Eliot Coleman (Published by Old Bridge Press, Camden East, 1992); **“Gardening Without Work”** by Ruth Stout (Published by The Lyons Press, 1998). Bill kindly donated a copy of **“Gardening Without Work”** to our new GGG Library.

Greely Gardeners Group – 2010-11 Executive Committee

President - Gary Hall 613-821-7445

Vice-President - Lee Nickerson 613-574-0214

Treasurer - Melissa MacDonald 613 821-9680

Past-President - Shelley Piercey 613-821-1120

Secretary - Sue Young 613-574-0098

Events Co-ordinator - Phyllis Nickerson 613-574-0214

Members-at-Large - Jackie Livingstone 613-821-3542; Gill Toll 613-821-6123

Newsletter - Heather Clemenson 613-821-7445 **Website** - Gary Hall 613-821-7445

www.greelygardeners.org