



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

April 2011

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

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

Guest speaker: Richard Aubert

Greely Community Centre: 7:00 pm

Richard's talks are based on 30 years of experimenting with new plant material in Ottawa's climate, networking with other plant growers, and monitoring nursery sales in our area. For the last 20 years he has been a wholesale distributor for several west coast nurseries and growers. He supplies trees, shrubs and perennials to nurseries and growers from Ontario to Newfoundland and is involved with growers to introduce new and hardier varieties of trees and plants to the market. He has been collecting and trialing Japanese maples and other shrubs, proving them hardy in our zone 5.

REMINDER GGG MEMBERSHIP:

If you are intending to renew your annual membership at our next meeting, to save time please consider printing and completing the membership form sent with this Newsletter. At only \$10 for the year, we are still the best bargain in town!

Please note: After May 2011 only paid-up members will receive the monthly Newsletter.

OUR WEBSITE

We apologise for the temporary non-functioning status of our website. The reasons for this are twofold: difficulties were encountered in renewing our domain name, and we are in the process of moving the website to another hosting company. We hope to have the issues resolved and the website up and running as soon as possible. In the meantime, any time-sensitive information will be provided to members by e-mail. Thank you for your patience.

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

- **Manotick Horticultural Society: Monday, April 11**, Greely Sand and Gravel presents "The Dirt on Dirt". 7:30 pm, Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island, Manotick.
- **Russell and District Horticultural Society:** Building a Rain Barrel, Monday, April 18, 2011 Guest Speaker Chris Samuel of Green Home Wellness, 7pm at the Russell Legion/Lion's Den, 24 Legion Lane, Russell; See: <http://www.russellgardeners.ca/>
- **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 613-826-0385.

GARDEN ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL

Prepared by the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton - suggestions for April:

- Start summer flowering bulbs (dahlias, cannas etc. Indoors)
- Apply dormant oil spray to fruit trees and shrubs
- Remove heavily matted leaves from garden beds, shred and use as mulch
- Clean away debris from perennial beds
- Watch for lily beetles emerging on warm days – hand pick and destroy
- Turn over the compost pile and mix in some shredded leaves
- As an organic pre-emergent weed control, apply corn-gluten meal to lawns to control crab-grass (when forsythia is in bloom).

REPORT ON THE MARCH 3 MONTHLY MEETING

Mary-Anne Schmitz, of Gardening By Design talked about "Landscape Design - Starting from Scratch." She began by providing an outline of some of the main items to consider in planning a new garden and showed many examples of gardens before and after hardscaping and landscaping. A selection of points to consider is noted below:

Assess your personal and family needs for a garden and the functional environment

How much time and energy do you want to spend in gardening and how much will the garden be used by others in the family (especially children and pets)?

Assess your property

What direction does your garden area face; how much sunlight does each part of your property get and at what times during the day; what existing features do you want to keep and which do you want to remove?

Hardscape preferences

Do you see your area as formal or informal; what types of building materials do you like; do you have a particular garden style that you prefer; what utility structures do you want such as footpaths, fences, gates, sheds.

Landscape structures

What features do you want as part of your design including a deck, patio, a swimming pool or other water feature, sculptures and outdoor lighting?

Plantings – soft landscape

What goals do you have for your garden; do you want to grow vegetables, attract wildlife, reduce wind or noise, or grow cut flowers? Do you want a lawn? Do you have favourite plants or shrubs and even a favourite season?

Time and Maintenance

How much time do you want to spend in creating and maintaining your garden space; will you do it yourself or do you want to employ a gardening service for part of the development and maintenance?

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