

Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

May 2011

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

Wednesday May 4 – Roses of the Central Experimental Farm

Guest speaker: Edythe Falconer, Master Gardener

Greely Community Centre: 7:00 pm

Edythe will also be on hand at the June 11 Field Trip to the Central Experimental Farm.

Saturday May 28 - Annual Spring Plant Sale

Andrew Shields Park, 1145 Old Prescott Road, Greely: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. If you are donating plants and need more pots, please let us know. There will be some pots at the May 4 meeting.

Wednesday June 1 – Vines and Climbers

Guest speaker: Mary Reid

Greely Community Centre: 7:00 pm

Saturday June 11 – Field Trip to the Central Experimental Farm Gardens

Edythe Falconer, Master Gardener will be on hand to answer questions about roses.

Car pool from Greely Community Centre: 9:45 am.

If you are interested in the Field Trip there will be sign-up sheets at the May and June meetings.

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 this month only paid-up members will receive the monthly Newsletter.

OUR WEBSITE

We apologize for the temporary non-functioning status of our website. Thank you for your patience. Our website is back up and running but please note that the end of our web address has changed from ".org" to ".ca", that is, www.greelygardeners.ca.

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

- Manotick Horticultural Society: Monday, May 9, Gardening with Drought in Mind, Guest speaker: Phil Reilly, 7:30 pm, Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island, Manotick.
- Russell and District Horticultural Society, Monday, May 16, Registration of New Plant Varieties, What's Hot!, Guest Speaker: Sandy Marchall, 7pm at the Russell Legion/Lion's Den, 24 Legion Lane, Russell; See: http://www.russellgardeners.ca/
- Rare and Unusual Plant Sale, Sunday May 8, 9:00am to 1:00pm, Central Experimental Farm, Parking Lot of the Tropical Greenhouses on Maple Drive. Admission fee: Donation to the Food Bank or \$5:00. For information call (613)230-3276, or (613)230-3276 or e-mail info@friendsofthefarm.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.
- Trinity United Church Spring Plant Sale: Saturday, May 14, 8:30 to noon, 6656 Rideau Valley Dr. South in Kars. Great selection of quality perennials (over 150 different varieties), shrubs, herbs, annuals, vegetable plants, pond plants and houseplants.

GARDEN ACTIVITIES FOR MAY

Prepared by the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton – 10 suggestions for May:

- Sow annual seeds including vegetables directly into the soil
- Check trees for tent caterpillars and other insects
- Repair any winter damage to lawn and over seed where needed (wait 6 weeks after applying corn gluten meal)
- Plant perennials, shrubs, trees and hedges
- Fertilize lawn and start mowing, if necessary
- Prune summer flowering shrubs
- Plant annual bulbs (dahlias, cannas, gladioli, etc) directly into the soil
- Add compost or well rotted manure while planting
- Mulch new beds or top-up mulch on older beds
- Transplant tender flowers and vegetables after risk of frost has passed

REPORT ON THE APRIL 6 MONTHLY MEETING

At our April meeting, Richard Aubert provided a very entertaining presentation on Magnolias, Japanese Maples and Rare Trees for Eastern Ontario. Richard has been involved in horticulture since completing studies 35 years ago. For the last 20 years he has been a wholesale distributor for several west coast nurseries and growers, supplying trees, shrubs and perennials to nurseries and growers from Ontario to Newfoundland. He is involved with growers to introduce new and hardier varieties of trees and plants to the market, and has been collecting and trialing Japanese maples and other shrubs, proving them hardy in our zone 5.

His last endeavour was the Magnolia Project (a community fundraiser tree sale) in Westboro and Old Ottawa South. In the last couple of years they have planted over 250 hardy Magnolias and have raised over \$8,000 for the community centres. His current project involves a rare tree for the Ottawa area, the hardy offspring of a Redbud - Cercis canadensis found growing in Westboro.

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. His garden is in transition with alpines being replaced with unusual, weeping, and miniature conifers, heathers, magnolias and Japanese maples.

On the last page of this Newsletter, there is a list of the species of maples, magnolias and other trees and shrubs that Richard spoke about. Try 'Googling' these species (using 'Google images') to see great pictures of the plants in all seasons.

As a follow-up to our February meeting; below are the two websites that Peter Knippel talked about at the meeting.

http://www.gardenmaking.com/ and www.gardenscentral.ca

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

Member-at-Large - Gill Toll 613-821-6123 Newsletter - Heather Clemenson 613-821-7445

Website - Gary Hall 613-821-7445 www.greelygardeners.ca