



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

November 2011

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING -- Wednesday December 7

Annual Christmas Pot-luck Dinner for members and their guests will be held at the Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. If you missed the November meeting and are interested in attending the Pot-Luck Dinner and bringing an appetizer, a main course or a dessert, please call Sue Young at 613- 574- 0098.

The food is always great, there will be prizes and surprises and plenty of additional fun. Don't miss it!

MONTHLY MEETING -- Thursday January 5

Topic and Guest speaker to be determined. The Executive Committee are planning our schedule of speakers for 2012 and will let everyone know about the January Monthly Meeting in the December Newsletter. Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

NOTE:

As usual, the first three meetings of the new year will be on a Thursday night at the Greely Community Centre. Why... Wednesday nights for the months of January, February and March are major rehearsal nights for the Greely Players and we don't want our speakers to compete with the singing!

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

- **Russell and District Horticultural Society**, Monday January 16, 2012 “**More on Trees**” Marcel Beauchamp will give advice on trees, 7:00 pm, Royal Canadian Legion/Lion's Hall at 24 Legion Lane in Russell. Details posted on website: <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 please, call Linda Laframboise at 613-826-0906.
- **Rockcliffe Park Garden Club**; Thursday November 24, “**Create Your Own Christmas Wreaths**” demonstration by Tim Dyer of Kingscreek Farms; wreaths, urn inserts and table centerpieces. Held at Rockcliffe Park Community Hall, 380 Springfield Road.

TIP OF THE MONTH –EXTENDING THE LIFE OF YOUR POINSETTIA

The poinsettia is often called the Christmas Plant because it displays its vivid red colours over the Christmas season and it can continue to brighten up your home for many months. Here are some tips for choosing and caring for poinsettias.



Poinsettias are available in a wide range of colours from reds, pinks, whites and numerous shades and combination of these colours. Choose a plant that has rich green leaves and be sure that the little yellow flower cluster is present at the very centre of the plant. (The colourful red bracts are not flowers, but leaves.) Make sure that the plant is well wrapped before taking it outside in the winter as poinsettias are easily damaged by cold.

Once you get your poinsettia home; you can leave the decorative cellophane wrapper around the pot if you wish but make some cuts in the bottom of the wrapper to allow water to drain. Alternatively, remove all wrapping and place the plant in a decorative container. Some leaves on the lower branches may yellow and even drop, but this will not affect the plant’s overall health.

Follow the guidelines below to keep your plant fresh and healthy:

- Place the poinsettia in a spot with bright natural light but not in direct sunlight. It can tolerate up to two hours of sun a day, but more than that will shorten the life of your plant.
- Don’t let the soil dry out. The soil should always be moist, but not wet, so good drainage is very important. Place the container in a saucer or other waterproof container to catch any overflow.
- Your poinsettia will last longer in a cool location; not more than 24C (75F) during the day, and 18C (65F) at night. Never expose the plant to drafts from an open door, heating duct or fireplace.

A poinsettia can be a delightful houseplant to enjoy; but remember, poinsettias are poisonous to house pets like dogs and cats, so make sure they have no access to them.

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

Though the scheduled event for our November meeting was a demonstration of making winter planters, our proposed speaker was laid low by laryngitis and had to cancel at the last minute.



Picture: Mary Reid with Gary Hall

Our savior for the evening was Mary Reid from “Green Thumb Nurseries” who gave us a presentation on “Renovating Gardens”. Mary gave a very well prepared talk on the subject with good information for all. Her presentation included suggestions and techniques on mulching, changing old flower beds and preparing new ones, pruning or taking out old and tired plants and shrubs and dividing perennials, and many of her points were illustrated with before and after photographs. Mary fielded many questions and the entire evening was very well received by all. Many thanks to Mary for stepping in on very short notice.

NOTE: If you know of any upcoming gardening related events in our area that you think might interest other GGG members or if you have contributions or suggestions for articles for the Newsletter, let me know and I’ll try to include them.

Heather (613) 821-7445 or haclemenson@sympatico.ca

Greely Gardeners Group – 2010-11 Executive Committee

President - Gary Hall 613-821-7445

Treasurer - Jane Rietze 613-574-0447

Secretary - Sue Young 613-574-0098

Member-at-Large - Melissa MacDonald 613-821-9680

Newsletter - Heather Clemenson 613-821-7445

Vice-President - Lee Nickerson 613-574-0214

Past-President - vacant

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

Member-at-Large - Gill Toll 613-821-6123

Website Updates - Gary Hall 613-821-7445

Website URL www.greelygardeners.ca