



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

January 2012

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING -- Thursday February 2

Topic: **"Birds and Bird Feeders"**

Guest speaker: **Jim Tutton**, Ritchie Feed and Seed
Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING -- Thursday March 1

Topic: **"Trees for Your Garden"**

Guest speaker: **Crispin Wood**, Central Experimental Farm Arboretum
Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING -- Wednesday April 4

Topic: **"2012's Best New Perennials"**

Guest speaker: **Richard Aubert**
Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Reminder GGG 2012 Membership Fees Are Now Due:

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.ca 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 13, Mary-Anne-Schmitz will speak on the topic of grass-less gardens (no lawns), 7:30 pm, Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island, Manotick.
- **Russell and District Horticultural Society**, Monday February 20 "Tips, Tricks & Techniques" Guest Speaker Mary Ann Van Berlo, Master Gardener. 7pm, 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.
- **Canada Blooms**, March 16-25, Direct Energy Centre, Halls A & Heritage Court, 100 Princes' Blvd., Toronto <http://www.canadablooms.com/>

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

On Thursday, January 5th we were once again pleased to have Dave Dunn and Rob Caron



from Rideau Woodland Ramble, the garden centre near Burritt's Rapids to start off the new year with a superb presentation titled "*Shrubs in the Garden: Diversity and Drama*".

The presentation clarified what they considered to be a shrub, i.e., a woody single or multiple stemmed plant up to 5 metres tall at maturity and reintroduced us to the uses and applications of shrubs as

structural 'bones', as screening material, as wildlife habitat and shelters, and as points of interest and contrast in our gardens.

Our guests reminded us that considerations for choosing a particular shrub for our garden can include leaf or flower colour, fragrance, fruiting habit, structural form and seasonal interest -- whether spring, summer, autumn or winter.

The Greely Gardeners Group wish to thank Dave and Rob for driving to Greely in the dead of winter to speak to us, and we all look forward to the relative warmth of April when we will be able to see the evolving Labyrinth and the Franklin Tree being trialed at RWR, and where we will be able to enjoy a nice cup of coffee in their new 'Art and Coffee' pavilion.

Among Dave and Rob's recommendations for shrubs in our backyard gardens are:

- **Amur Maple** - great screen, colour, tolerant
- **Ninebarks** - tolerant, great backdrop and screening
- **Japanese Barberry** - many new introductions for colour and impact
- **Sweet Spire (Clethra)** - tolerates shade, late blooming

- **Japanese and Korean Maples** - undeniable impact, part shade, fall colour
- **Hydrangeas** - huge selection, shade and fall impact
- **Dwarf Ginkgo** - new introductions available
- **Hemlock** - dwarf and weeping
- **Balsam and Spruce** - dwarf introductions
- **Rhododendrons** - Finnish (big-leaf variety)

Recommended Reading:

Conifers for Gardens: An Illustrated Encyclopedia, by Richard L. Bitner.

Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs (English) - An Illustrated Encyclopedia, by Michael A. Dirr.

Plants That Merit Attention, Volume II: Shrubs, by Janet Meakin Poor and Nancy Peterson Brewster.

Re-design of the 'flagpole' garden at the Greely Community Centre

For some time now, the members of the GGG Executive Committee have been considering the possibility of undertaking a complete redesign of the main flower bed at the Community Centre. Our aim is to invite members to give us their ideas and thoughts on this project. To date, three members have expressed interest in this project, and we hope that more of you will get involved. It is sure to be a lot of fun!

As you know, the bed is approximately the shape of a rounded triangle, 25 feet long on two sides and 14 feet wide at the 'fat' end. The only item that we suggest keeping from the existing scheme is the purple sand-cherry bush that would remain in a trimmed-back form. The selection of the remainder of the garden design is up for discussion. If you have any suggestion for plants (perennials or shrubs) that could be considered in the re-design, or if you wish to participate directly in this project, please contact Gary or Heather at 613-821-7445 or **come along to our first meeting on the garden re-design at 7:00pm Monday February 6th in the meeting room of the Greely Library.**

Greely Gardeners Group – 2010-11 Executive Committee

President - Gary Hall 613-821-7445

Treasurer - Jane Rietze 613-699-6330

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