



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

June 2013

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday June 5

Topic: “Low Maintenance Gardens”

Guest speaker: Mary Reid, Green Thumb Garden Centre

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

JUNE 15TH GGG FIELD TRIP TO MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

The cost for members is \$25.00 and for guests \$35.00. Tickets include your bus fare (56-passenger tour bus) and entry into the Garden. Departure from the Greely Community Centre at 8:45 a.m. The return will leave the Garden at 4:00 p.m.

Members and guests will be required to sign a waiver as part of the ticket sales process. There are still tickets available. They will be on sale at the June 5th meeting. If you are interested in purchasing tickets but are unable to make the June meeting please contact either Lee Nickerson at 613-574-0214 or Jane Rietze at 613-699-6330.

SATURDAY JUNE 22 – MEMBERS’ GARDEN TOUR

Five member’s gardens are on the tour this year all within fairly close proximity in the Greely area. In addition, Amber Payne (speaker at our May meeting) has invited us to tour her organic farm. The plan is to meet at the Greely Community Centre at 9: 30 a.m. for car pooling and a prompt departure at 9:45 a.m. when we will head out to the first garden.

Maps will be available at the community centre parking lot.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the June Monthly Meeting. If you are planning to come along and are not able to sign the list, could you please call Lee Nickerson at 613-574-0214 so we can have an idea of numbers.

Members and their guests are welcome and the event will take place rain or shine.

If you are interested, please also bring a finger food snack that can be shared. Our last stop on the tour will be at Lee and Phyllis Nickerson's where there is also a local park that we can use for our picnic. Soft drinks will be available.

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

Manotick Horticultural Society: June 10, Members Garden Tour (MHS Members only), followed by Flower show, dessert and coffee at Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island Locks, Manotick.

Kanata March Horticultural Society (guests welcome): June 4, 7:30 p.m. Culinary Herbs in the Garden and on the Table: How to grow, store and use herbs in recipes. Rebecca Last, Master Gardener & Richard Guenette, Old Town Hall 821 March Road, Kanata.

Hosted by the Friends of the Farm: June 16, 1-3 p.m. Rose Workshop given by Edythe Falconer, Master Gardener, Heritage Rose Gardens, Central Experimental Farm (<http://www.friendsofthefarm.ca/events.htm>)

Osgoode Garden Club meets the third Wednesday of the month; from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Osgoode Library on Osgoode Main Street.

Russell and District Horticultural Society meets third Monday of the month 7:00 p.m., Royal Canadian Legion/Lion's Hall at 24 Legion Lane in Russell. Details of upcoming events are posted on their website: <http://www.russellgardeners.ca/>

GREELY GARDENERS LIBRARY BOOKS

Over the past year there were only a handful of books signed out from the Greely Gardeners Library (available at the monthly meetings). A decision was made by the Executive to discontinue the library and to offer the books for sale to the members.

We are very grateful to our long-time member Lester Bradley who donated many of the books that made up our library. The books will be brought to the next monthly meeting. They will not be individually priced. It will be left to the members to decide how much they want to donate for any book that they take. Proceeds from the book sale will be added to the Greely Gardeners account and used for future events.

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT – MAY 1 “VEGETABLE GARDENS: WHAT TO GROW IN OTTAWA”

Amber Payne is an organic grower who spoke with the members about her experiences growing vegetables. She delighted everyone with details of her cultivation techniques and used a white board to draw certain examples of planting and pruning vegetables. For example, she plants her tomatoes by laying much of the stem on the ground to ensure that there will be many strong roots. She pinches off any new growth that is at 45degrees from the main stem and only allows the plant to produce a certain number of sets of leaves. In that way the tomatoes grow along one single stem and the energy is focused on a limited number of fruit.



She discussed companion planting as a good strategy; for example, French marigolds around tomatoes bed help to repel aphids. Grow sage with carrots or plants in the cabbage family (brassicas) to help ward off pests. The book “Carrots

Love Tomatoes” by Louis Riotte provides many good examples of companion planting (see below).

She uses eggshells around plants to deter slugs and snails. She talked about various natural fertilizers, compost tea, chamomile tea, nettle tea (high in nitrogen), Epsom salts. Rhubarb leaf tea is a good fungicide and raw milk is good for eliminating mildew. She uses biodegradable black plastic mulch around many of her crops to deter weeds.

Amber also noted that many plants can be harvested in the winter and noted the work done by Eliot Coleman in this practice. She provided a reference that gives details of crops that can be harvested in unheated greenhouses during the winter (see below).

In addition, she firmly believes that there is a good time in the month and a bad time to sow and harvest. Her reference book for dates is listed below under Maria and Matthius Thun. The 2013 calendar is adapted for North American (EST) dates and times, showing optimum days for sowing, pruning and harvesting.

References:

Alison Beck, “The Canadian Edible Garden: Vegetables, Herbs, Fruits and Seeds”, Lone Pine Publishing, 2008.

Eliot Coleman, “The Winter Harvest Handbook: Year-Round Vegetable Production Using Deep Organic Techniques and Unheated Greenhouses”, Chelsea Green Publishing, 2009.

Louis Riotte, “Carrots Love Tomatoes: Secrets of companion planting for successful gardening”, Storey Publishing, 1998.

Edward C. Smith, “The Vegetable Gardener’s Bible”, Storey Publishing, 2009.

Maria Thun, “Gardening for Life - The Biodynamic Way: A Practical Introduction to a New Art of Gardening, Sowing, Planting, Harvesting”, Hawthorn Press, 2000.

Maria and Matthius Thun, “The North American Biodynamic Sowing and Planting Calendar”, McNally Robinson, 2013.

MAY 25 ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

On Saturday May 25 we held our Annual Spring Plant Sale at Andrew Shields Park in Greely. It was a chilly day but that did not deter folks from coming along and purchasing plants. The event was a great success thanks to the many plants that were donated by our members and thanks to the many people who came to buy plants. Though we advertise that the sale will run from 9:00am to 11:00am, most of the plants had been sold well before 10:00am. It pays to come early!

Many thanks to those members who came to help set up and to sell the plants: Els Albrecht, Scott Becker, Michael Godwin, Melissa MacDonald, Claire Maxwell, Jacquie Livingstone, Melody Tomka, and Jackie Voyce. Thanks also to the Executive of the Greely Gardeners Group: Denyse Becker, Lee and Phyllis Nickerson, Heather Clemenson and Gary Hall, Geoff Voyce, and Sue Young. Special thanks also to Carlie Young.



Photo: Carlie and Sue Young and Scott Becker



Some of the plants offered for sale

Greely Gardeners Group – 2013 Executive Committee

President - Lee Nickerson 613-574-0214

Treasurer - Jane Rietze 613-699-6330

Events Co-ordinator - Geoff Voyce 613-692-5384

Member-at-Large - Sue Young 613-574-0098

Newsletter - Heather Clemenson 613-821-7445

Vice-President - *vacant*

Secretary - Denyse Becker 613-425-1157

Past-President - Gary Hall 613-821-7445

Member-at-Large - Phyllis Nickerson 613-574-0214

Website Updates - Gary Hall 613-821-7445

Website URL

www.greelygardeners.ca