



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

August/September 2013

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday September 4

Topic: “Ornamental Grasses”

Guest speaker: Edythe Falconer, Master Gardener

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday October 2

Topic: “Seasonal Planters”

Guest speaker: Joanne Plummer, Mill Street Florist, Manotick

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Please note that for this event guests will be charged \$5.00

(The usual charge for guests is \$2.00)

MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday November 6

Topic: “Composting and Soil Conditioning”

Guest speaker: Marcel Beauchamp

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

Manotick Horticultural Society: Monday September 9, “Garden Design Workshop: Lessons From the Ramble”, speaker Dave Dunn, Rideau Woodland Ramble, 7:30 pm , Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island Locks, Manotick.

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/>

West Carleton Horticultural Society, Tuesday September 10, 7:30 pm, “Design to Attract Birds to our Gardens”, David Hinks, Master Gardener
Carp Memorial Hall, 3739 Carp Road, Carp (guests welcome).

Friends of the Farm, Tuesday September 10, 7:00 pm, “You’re Not Done Yet – Tasks to do now to improve your garden next year”, Mary Shearman Reid, Master Gardener, Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa
Individual lectures: FCEF Members \$12, Non-Members \$15.

Old Ottawa South Garden Club, Tuesday September 10, 7:00 pm, “Spring Bulbs – A Must for Every Garden”, Mary Ann Van Berlo, Master Gardener
Ottawa South Community Centre, 260 Sunnyside Ave., Ottawa, (guests welcome – fee charged to non-members).

The Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carleton and Lanark Master Gardeners are putting on a one-day event called “The Modern Victory Garden”. It will be held on Saturday October 26 at St James Church, 225 Edmund St, Carleton Place. It is billed as “a technical update on breaking ground to grow a small space sustainable garden”. A lunch and snacks will be provided.

Register at: http://mgottawa.mgoi.ca/Home_Page.php

For more information please contact either: Lanark Master Gardener Dale Odorizzi at 613 264-8135 or email, lanarkmg@gmail.com or Ottawa Carleton Master Gardener Edythe Falconer at 613 828-7493 or email, elou@bell.net.

Background Information on Victory Gardens

During World Wars I & II, vegetable, fruit and herb gardens were planted in private residences and public parks in Canada, the United States and United Kingdom to reduce the pressure on the public food supply that was brought on by the war effort. In addition to indirectly aiding the war effort, these gardens were also considered a morale booster as gardeners felt empowered by their contribution of labor and were rewarded by the produce grown. This made Victory Gardens a part of daily life on the home front.

Today, the desire to grow our own food is gaining in popularity for many different reasons. We are becoming more concerned about the environment and more and more people are aware of the need for a sustainable food culture. Community gardens are springing up all across Ontario and across the country. Modern Victory Gardens are growing as fast as the soil can be prepared. Vegetable plants are being combined with flowers. Where space is limited, vegetables can be grown in containers on porches, patios or balconies. Some plants can even be grown indoors on sunny window sills.

*Gardening is good for the Soul. It is a wonderful way to reconnect with what is important in life. It is also better for the planet. And the greatest benefit of all is—
IT TASTES SO GOOD!*

SUNDAY JULY 14 - VICTORIAN TEA ORGANIZED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM

A small group of twelve Greely Gardeners Group members and friends met at the Friends of the Farm classic Victorian tea served under the trees of the Central Experimental Farm (CEF) Arboretum in the afternoon of Sunday July 14. It was a beautiful sunny day and a very well attended event, exceeding the expectations of the organizers who had to make more sandwiches and teas than they had anticipated.

We were entertained by various musicians and we had a lovely relaxing afternoon in the shade of the trees at the Arboretum. If you have a chance to go next year, it is a highly recommended event. We did not dress in Victorian costumes, though many folks did which added to the atmosphere of the event.

COMMUNITY CENTRE GARDENS

Again this year, volunteers from the Greely Gardeners Group have given several hours of their time to maintain the flower beds at the Greely Community Centre and the Greely Library. These volunteers know who they are and the Executive Committee would like to thank them for their help.

In early June our volunteers focussed their attention on the Library plantings. We cleaned out the dormant leaves of the *Miscanthus* grasses, pulled weeds from the

beds, pruned the *Spirea* shrubs near the Library entrance and spread additional mulch on most of the beds. With the number of the large *Miscanthus*, it did not take too long to fill six garden bags of recyclable material.

The main 'flagpole' garden came through the winter very well and we only lost one or two of the perennials planted last summer. Most of the plants were showing good growth and a promise of a good looking garden to reward our major redesign and planting efforts in 2012.

On the same visit, the small border surrounding the community centre sign on Meadow Drive was tidied up in preparation for the planting of annual flowers to replace the spring daffodils. A grouping of *Pelargoniums* was planted later in June.



In early July our volunteers returned to weed all of the beds and to replace the two *Echinacea* and the *Delosperma* that did not survive the winter. We also spread additional mulch around the beds near the Library entrance. This mulch was generously provided by our friends at Greely Sand and Gravel (www.greelysand.com).

If you have not seen the gardens around the Community Centre and Library, check them out. They may not be huge and overly diverse, but they are "ours" and we are very proud of the work of the Greely Gardeners Group volunteers.

MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDENS AND MEMBERS' GARDENS TOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

As a special request to all GGG members who participated in the Montreal Botanical Gardens tour and/or the Members' Gardens Tour, we are asking you to review any photographs that you may have taken at the gardens and send us a selection of your favourite pictures of each event. Please send your photos to greelygardenersgroup@gmail.com to be included in a future photo slide show. Sharing your photos with the rest of our members will be a lot of fun, especially if your pictures include some of our members along with the flowers and scenery.

Greely Gardeners Group – 2013 Executive Committee

President - Lee Nickerson 613-574-0214

Vice-President - *vacant*

Treasurer - Jane Rietze 613-699-6330

Secretary - Denyse Becker 613-425-1157

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

Past-President - Gary Hall 613-821-7445

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

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

Newsletter - Heather Clemenson 613-821-7445

Website Updates - Gary Hall 613-821-7445

Website URL

www.greelygardeners.ca