



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

October 2013

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

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)

Annual General Meeting and Executive Elections

The Annual General Meeting of the GGG will be held during our October monthly meeting. Many on the current Executive Committee are willing to serve the GGG for another year, but there is always room for eager new blood, and we are looking for people to get involved in the administration of the GGG with a longer-term view of having experience volunteers ready to step in when the current Executive Officers move on. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact Lee Nickerson (613-594-2014) or Gary Hall (613-821-7445).

Speakers for 2014 – Ideas Welcome

The Executive will soon be planning the calendar of speakers for 2014. If you have any suggestion for topics and speakers, please let Lee Nickerson know as soon as possible. Lee can be reached at (613-594-2014) or by email at:

landpnick@gmail.com

MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday November 6

Topic: “Composting and Soil Conditioning”

Guest speaker: Marcel Beauchamp
Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING -- Wednesday December 4

Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Diner

Mark your calendar an event not to be missed!

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

Manotick Horticultural Society: Monday October 7, "Bonnie Gardens of Scotland", Linda Thorne, 7:30 p.m., 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 October 8, "Rainbow Heritage Farms and a focus on Heirloom Garlic", with Kyla Dobson & Zach Loeks, 7:30pm, Carp Memorial Hall, 3739 Carp Road, Carp (guests welcome).
<https://sites.google.com/site/westcarletongardenclub/2013-14-speaker-schedule>

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!

MEETING REPORT SEPTEMBER

On September 4, Edythe Falconer Master Gardener presented an illustrated talk on the topic of ornamental grasses which she titled “Whispers in the Wind”. Edythe began by telling us that she was in fact new to the subject but had spent some time researching the topic. Her talk was very informative starting with a brief history and





background on grasses and acknowledgement of their desirable characteristics; including that they are hardy, relatively disease resistant and require little maintenance.

She made the distinction between grasses, sedges and rushes and talked about invasive and non-invasive grasses as well as native grasses. Her talk also dealt with the principles and elements of design and the value of grasses in practically all elements of garden design.

Her presentation was well illustrated with examples of grasses and use of grasses in different garden designs. At the end of her talk she handed out a copy of her presentation as well as a list of ornamental grasses. A general overview of the three different sizes of grasses can be found at:

<http://www.landscapeontario.com/ornamental-grasses>

Edythe also brought along a few grasses that were given as draw prizes to GGG members.

PHOTOGRAPHS REQUESTED

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 (or bring a copy of your photographs to download at our next meeting).

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.

THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN / AU JARDIN DES PAPILLONS

Did you know that CHEO had a Butterfly Garden? The garden is just beyond an arch inscribed with the words “For the Love of our Children” that is located on the grounds of the Children’s Hospital Of Eastern Ontario.



This garden has been in existence since 2006 and is dedicated to honour the lives and memory of children. CHEO staff and families visit the garden anytime that they wish “to reflect and remember loved ones.”

The donor of the person who provides funding for this garden has done so in memory of a gentleman who loved butterflies. Thus, the garden is shaped in the form of a butterfly and has plants designed to attract butterflies to the garden. Each wing of the garden is approximately 100 square feet.

For the past 7 years, this garden has been tended by a group called the Compassionate Friends of Ottawa. Unfortunately, they are unable to continue servicing this wonderful initiative and CHEO is looking for volunteers to take over their duties.

Who is needed?

(1) A lead volunteer who will:

- a) organize volunteer gardeners – this could range from students of the Algonquin horticultural program, to volunteer high school students to people who just love to garden
- b) assist with design and plant selection
- c) manage the plant and material budget of \$500.00
- d) canvass plant suppliers, families, or organizations for donations. In the past, Home Depot and Cody Party Rental provided some support
- e) liaison with Christine Kouri, BscN, MHA – Coordinator for Patient/Family Centre Care at CHEO

This lead volunteer will receive an honorarium.

(2) Volunteers who:

- a) love to garden,
- b) need volunteer hours to be counted towards their volunteer hours needed to graduated from high school
- c) perhaps belong to a horticultural society and would like to devote some time to this venture as a Community Project
- d) will bring along their own shovels, rakes etc
- e) will donate perennials suitable for this garden

What time commitment is involved?

Volunteers are needed to do one or more of the following:

- a) in the spring to do garden prep, clean-up and planting. Planting would involve replacing dead perennials and adding colourful annuals to bloom during the summer for various special events and for families/ patients and staff to visit to when needed
- b) during the summer months to do some weeding and watering
- c) in the fall to put the garden to bed

Is the garden used for any special events?

The garden each year is the venue for the Balloon Release.

This event is held on the 3rd Saturday of June and is for any family who has lost a child regardless of age or if the child was a patient at CHEO. This event is time for families, friends and loved ones to come together to honour the life of a child. They tie notes of love to balloons that are launched in memory of children who have died. The event is held rain or shine and usually has several hundred people in attendance.



Who do I contact if I want to help?

If you would like to volunteer or help out in any way, please contact Christine Kouri at ckouri@cheo.on.ca or 613-737-7600 X 2203.

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