



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

December 2013

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING -- Wednesday December 4

Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner

An event not to be missed!

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday January 9

Topic: “Renovating a Garden”

Guest speaker: TBA

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner

If you have not already signed up for this event and wish to do so, please contact Sue Young at 613-574-0098 to indicate what favourite food you would like to bring and whether you are bringing a guest. Please phone Sue before Monday November 25 so we know how many to plan for in seating, soft drinks and prizes.

Hope you will be joining us!

OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

Manotick Horticultural Society: Monday December 9, Christmas Supper, 7:30 p.m., Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island Locks, Manotick. This event is for members and their guests only.

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/>

Hosted by Earthship Ottawa, Wednesday December 11, 6:00 pm, "10 metre diet", speaker Tom Marcantonio, Master Gardener, Ottawa Public Library, Carlingwood Branch, 281 Woodroffe Ave., Ottawa (\$2.50 admission fee).

MEETING REPORT NOVEMBER

At our November meeting Marcel Beauchamp spoke on the topic of "Soil Conditioning and Composting". Marcel is a member of the Russell and District Horticultural Society where he speaks frequently on various topics of horticultural interest. During the 1970s, he was responsible for tropicals, annuals, and the Chrysanthemum Exhibition in the greenhouses at the Central Experimental Farm and from 1981 to 1988 he was foreman of the Dominion Arboretum where he introduced large scale composting to produce quality compost for use in the shrub and flower beds. He lives on a five acre property near Morewood where he has extensive gardens specializing in trees and hostas.



Marcel talked about soil as a living organism and the importance of compost to maintain the "life" in soil and as an additive to feed plants. He addressed soil texture, soil structure and the importance of a healthy soil. Soil texture relates to whether your soil has more sand, silt or clay which can be determined by a simple "shake-in-a-jar-test" (see <http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/evaluating-soil-texture>) and soil structure refers to the arrangement of soil particles into larger aggregates. Marcel brought a sample of a good soil structure for us to see and to feel.

The key to having a healthy soil and good soil structure is an adequate supply of organic matter. Marcel talked about how to amend the soil with compost and other organic matter and discussed the various types of mulches and their

application. Although 'soil and compost' could be difficult subject to make entertaining, Marcel did an excellent job and presented a very informative talk interspersed with questions from the members.

You might want to make a note in your 2014 calendar: each summer Marcel's wife and her friend host a wonderful Victorian Tea to support breast cancer awareness and Marcel kindly opens his gardens and provides tours. The 2014 Tea will be on Saturday, the 21st of June. Further details will be given closer to the event.

Greely Gardeners Group – 2014 Executive Committee

President:	Lee Nickerson	613-574-0214
Vice-President:	Geoff Voyce	613-692-5384
Treasurer:	Jane Rietze	613-699-6330
Secretary:	Denyse Becker	613-425-1157
Speaker Coordinator:	Elaine Routledge	613-692-9988
Past-President:	Gary Hall	613-821-7445
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Member-at-Large:	Phyllis Nickerson	613-574-0214
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