



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

February 2014

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

Please note February and March meetings are the first Thursday of the month.

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday February 6

Topic: “Gardening with Children”
Guest speaker: Judith Cox
Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

(NOTE: The meeting is designed for adults and not intended for children.)

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday March 6

Topic: “Pondless Water Features”
Guest speaker: Benjamin Stapper
Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday April 2

Topic: “Questions and Answers with Ed”
Guest speaker: Ed Lawrence
Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Reminder GGG 2014 Membership Fees Are Now Due

If you joined the GGG after September 2013, or have renewed your membership since September 2013, your membership takes you to the end of December 2014.

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2014, this is a subtle reminder. If you intend 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 10, “A Tour of the South Pacific: the Culture, Flora and Fauna of Tahiti, Bora Bora, Samoa, Fiji, and Other Islands”, Joan Wyatt a MHS member, 7:30 p.m., Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island Locks, Manotick.

Kanata-March Horticultural Society Tuesday February 4, “Introduction to Organic Vegetable Gardening”, David Hinks, Master Gardener, 7:30 p.m., Old Town Hall, 821 March Road, Kanata (Guest fee \$5).

Barrhaven Garden Club, Wednesday February 12, “Making Scents of your Garden”, Judith Cox, Master Gardener, 7:30 p.m., Larkin House, 76 Larkin Drive, Barrhaven (Guest fee \$3).

Russell and District Horticultural Society Monday February 17, “Natural Pest Control for your Garden”, Marcel Beauchamp, 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/>

Ottawa Public Library: Tuesday February 18, “10 Must Grow Culinary Herbs” Fran Dennett, Master Gardener, 6:30 p.m., Orleans Branch, Ottawa Public Library, 1705 Orleans Blvd, Ottawa (one must register for this event at the Ottawa Public Library website: <http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca/en/program>

Nepean Horticultural Society: Thursday February 20, “Lawn Maintenance for the Traditional Lawn plus Some Alternatives”, Mary Shearman Reid, Master Gardener, 7:30 p.m. City View United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue, Ottawa (Guest fee \$4).

Rockcliffe Park Garden Club: Thursday February 27, “Renovating an Older Garden” Mary Shearman Reid, Master Gardener, 7:30 p.m., Rockcliffe Park, Community Centre, 380 Springfield Road, Ottawa (Guest fee \$7).

Peterborough Garden Show, 11-13 April
<http://peterboroughgardens.ca/Showhome.html>

The 2013 show was a great success with nearly 8000 visitors and 175 booths of vendors and exhibitors all with gardening-related products and services spread over two arenas.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK DINNER

There were a few unclaimed items from the Christmas pot-luck; a knife, potholders and oven mitts. They will be on a table at our net meeting for pick-up.

MEETING REPORT JANUARY

Rebecca Last, Master Gardener intrigued us with the title of her talk “My Big Fat Garden Reno”. Rebecca (centre) is pictured with Elaine Routledge (GGG Speaker Coordinator) and Lee Nickerson (GGG President). In fact, her garden is not big compared with many of the gardens of our GGG members but the work that Rebecca has put into her garden over the years has been astounding. Her talk was very informative, especially for anyone contemplating a make-over of their own garden or even for those planning a garden from scratch.



Her presentation began with a step by step series of questions and decisions to be made before any renovation is begun. Questions such as how do you want to use the space (entertaining, family space, or refuge), how much do you want to spend and how much time do you want to devote to gardening? These and many other questions were posed to help the process of deciding what to do.

Knowing the garden as it currently exists in terms of soil type, shade and sun, existing features, micro-climates, and prevailing winds are examples of environmental factors that should be know as well.

Taking stock of what you already have what you want to keep and what really has to go is another step. Scoping out and designing what you would like to see and whether it is a quick fix or a long term project is also important and has implications for cost. Finally, whether you want to do it all yourself or have some or all of the renovation done by a professional landscaper is another choice that might have longer term implications for ongoing maintenance.

Rebecca led us through many of the decision steps using the example of her own garden, what she kept, what she added and what she has subsequently changed again in later years. It is an ongoing process and a garden is never really finished but moves towards an image that one has in mind.

During the course of her presentation Rebecca noted that her garden is certified under the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Backyard Habitat Certification Program. If you are interested in acquiring this certification for your own garden the following website provides the details: <http://cwf-fcf.org/en/do-something/challenges-projects/get-certified/>. Also, Rebecca noted that if you are building something permanent in your garden or adding to your home, be sure to check the necessary licences and permits needed. Details can be found at City of Ottawa website: <http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/laws-licenses-and-permits/building-and-renovating>

NOTE: FEEDING BIRDS IN THE WINTER

Many of us like to feed birds in the winter but a recent article that was on CBC news drew attention to the need to keep bird feeders clean.

Ottawa's Wild Bird Care Centre says dirty bird feeders are spreading a disease among local finches, so it is asking residents to clean their feeders. *Mycoplasmal conjunctivitis* causes swollen eyes and plugged nostrils. The disease only affects house finches. The species first started showing symptoms twenty years ago in the U.S.A. and since then the bacterium has spread across the continent. In mid January, several finches suffering from *mycoplasmal conjunctivitis* were brought into the Wild Bird Care Centre. Most will fully recover.



The staff at the Wild Bird Care Centre noted that the disease is often spread through bird feeders, especially those that aren't cleaned regularly. They suggest using a 10 per cent bleach solution to clean feeders.

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
Member-at-Large:	Sue Young	613-574-0098
Member-at-Large:	Phyllis Nickerson	613-574-0214
Member-at-Large:	Claire Maxwell	613-821-9982
Newsletter Editor:	Heather Clemenson	613-821-7445
Website Updates:	Gary Hall	613-821-7445

Website URL www.greelygardeners.ca
E-mail: greelygardenersgroup@gmail.com