



# Greely Gardeners Group

## *Newsletter*

April 2014

### **GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS**

#### **MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday April 2**

Topic: “Questions and Answers with Ed”

Guest speaker: Ed Lawrence

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Ed Lawrence, the former Head Gardener at the Governor General's Residence, Rideau Hall, and current long-time CBC Radio gardening guru on CBC Radio's Monday afternoon call-in show, will be our special guest at the April meeting. Ed will be available to answer your questions on both indoor and outdoor gardening. So, bring along a guest and your questions for Ed. It promises to be a very entertaining and informative evening!

*Please note that for this special event only, the admission fee for non-members will be \$5.00.*

#### **MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday May 7**

Topic: “Big, Bold and Beautiful”

Guest speaker: Nancy McDonald

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Bold, eye-catching plants have a place in every garden. They create a focal point, fill large spaces, quickly block a view and replace bushes. Master Gardener, Nancy McDonald, will show us how to use high impact perennials and annuals to bring drama and excitement to our gardens. Come see plants that will take your breath away.

#### **MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday June 4**

Topic: “Dazzling daylilies”

Guest speaker: Kelly Noel

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Looking for the perfect perennial - drought tolerant, hardy and adaptable, available in a rainbow of colours and a variety of shapes and sizes, and blooms from early summer to autumn? Master Gardener and daylily hybridizer, Kelly Noel, will share her love of daylilies and show us how daylilies are a stunning and versatile addition to any garden. She'll explain how to choose and care for them, where to buy them and how to make daylily babies in our own backyards. She'll even bring some of her little treasures as door prizes.

## 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](http://www.greelygardeners.ca) and filling it in ahead of time.

At only \$10 for the year, we are still the best bargain in town!

## GGG e-Newsletter

The Newsletter is one of the perks of being a member of the GGG. As of the next edition of the GGG e-Newsletter, if you are no longer a paid-up member of the GGG, your name (e-mail) may be removed from the mailing list.

## OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

**Old Ottawa South Garden Club:** Tuesday April 8, “Our Favourite Perennials”, Robert Wolodarski, Manager of the Perennial Department at Artistic Landscape, 7:30 p.m., Ottawa South Community Centre, The Old Firehall, 260 Sunnyside Avenue, Ottawa (Guest fee \$7).

**Friends of the Farm Lecture Series:** Tuesday April 8, “Vegetable growing possibilities in the Urban Landscape”, Judith Cox, Master Gardener; Tuesday April 29, “Practical Pruning Techniques”, Lee Boltwood, Master Gardener, 7:00 pm, Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Individual Lectures: FCEF members \$12, non-members \$15  
Lecture series (5 lectures) FCEF members \$50, non-members \$60  
Register at: 613-230-3276 or by e-mail [info@friendsofthefarm.ca](mailto:info@friendsofthefarm.ca)

**Ottawa Public Library:** Thursday April 10, “Tips for Pruning Shrubs”, Diane McClymont Peace, Master Gardener, 7:00 p.m., Greely Branch, Ottawa Public Library, 1448 Meadow Drive, Greely (Registration required)  
<http://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/program>.

**Ottawa Public Library** has a number of upcoming events listed under “Home and Garden Programs” on their website at: <http://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/program>. Most of these programs require advanced registration through the Ottawa Public Library site. They are held at different locations throughout the city.

**Ottawa Valley Rock Garden & Horticultural Society:** Saturday April 12, “Beyond the Double Trillium”, Brian Carson, 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Westboro Masonic Hall, 430 Churchill Avenue at Byron, Ottawa (Guest fee \$0)

**Manotick Horticultural Society:** Monday April 14, “What’s new in perennials and ornamental shrubs”, Rob Caron and Dave Dunn from the Rideau Woodland Ramble, 7:30 p.m., Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island Locks, Manotick.

**Stittsville Goulbourn Horticultural Society:** Tuesday April 15, “All from a Little Seed (Starting seeds)”, Rebecca Last, Master Gardener, 7:30 p.m., Pretty Street Community Centre, corner of Pretty St & Orville St, Stittsville (Guest fee \$4).

**Russell and District Horticultural Society:** meets the third Monday of the month at 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/>

**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.

**Rare and Unusual Plant Sale:** Sunday, May 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Parking lot beside the Neatby Building, Carling at Maple Drive, Central Experimental Farm.

## MEETING REPORT MARCH

Benjamin Stapper is a landscape designer and horticultural specialist. He is a graduate of Landscape Technology at Humber College and has worked with a local design and landscape company for the past 14 years. Ben's talk to the GGG was on "Pondless Water Features".



Ben began by reviewing why we are so attracted to water in the garden, including the sound it makes and how it draws the eye through the landscape. Water also attracts wildlife including birds and of course, children love to play in water.

While ponds are popular, there are many reasons to have a pondless water feature. Space restriction might rule out a pond and ponds can be expensive to build and time consuming to maintain. In many locations, water more than 18" deep is considered a pool or pond and bylaws require a fence for safety. Pondless means there is no open water and any water that flows is never more than a few inches in depth.

Pondless features can be large or small and can be positioned anywhere on the property including near an entrance. They fit well in small back yards where space is limited. Moving water can be created in a number of ways including spouts, waterfalls and fountains. As well, any watertight, frost proof container can create a small water feature. Ben showed photos of some very imaginative and whimsical containers from which water flowed.

Ben outlined numerous types of pondless features that can be built from materials that we may have already or those that can be easily acquired. Most projects require a reservoir, a submersible pump, a liner, a hose and a power source. Liners should be of very good quality to avoid future problems. Rocks are popular as fountains and rocks with predrilled holes can be purchased locally.

Although you may want to hire professionals for larger jobs, Ben showed a video\* that demonstrated the steps to build a pondless waterfall yourself.

[\*<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ty0acUVBzYE> – 'Aquascape's "NEW" How To Build a Pondless® Waterfall'].

When designing water features, mimicking nature is often useful. For example, when choosing stones and rocks, using only one type creates a more natural look than using an assortment of different types and sizes. Using fewer, larger stones and rocks is often more attractive than many smaller ones.

It is important to design the feature to allow access to the water pump. Pumps must be removed in the fall but the water can remain in the water feature because the feature is designed to handle the expansion and contraction of water/ice in winter.

Most of us will view our water feature from inside the house more often than outside. If possible, it is important to position the feature so that it can be seen and enjoyed from indoors.

We learned that water features can range from elaborate to uncomplicated and can fit within most budgets. Ben's presentation, his beautiful slides and creative ideas really inspired us to consider how we might add water to our own gardens this year.

Thanks to Jane Rietze (photograph) and Elaine Routledge (write-up) of the March meeting.

## **NOTE: MARCH/APRIL TO DO LIST \***

- Check bulbs & tubers that are in cold storage for signs of rot OR if you've used peat moss to store them, check the moisture level of the peat moss and if it is too dry, add a bit of water to moisten it slightly. If they've started to show signs of growth, and if you have space, pot them up for an early start.
- Sow vegetable seeds such as peppers, tomatoes or eggplant indoors and grow under lights.
- As the snow starts to melt, start the spring clean-up of branches and any trash that might have blown in. This assumes the ground is still frozen. Avoid walking on the soil as it defrosts and is water saturated; this can cause soil compaction.
- Fruit trees and grape vines can be pruned now.

\*Taken from Trowel Talk, published by the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton

## PLANT MYTHS AND LEGENDS

The Forget-Me-Not is also called Myosotis, which means mouse's ear in Greek. There are many different species of flowers in this genus. They are found all over the world, from New Zealand to Europe to all over North America. For the most part, the Forget-Me-Not that we find in Ontario is small, with blue, pink, or white flowers. They bloom in the spring and have a yellow centre that also makes them very recognizable.



These flowers are both annuals and perennials.

There are many myths and legends attached to the naming of the Forget-Me-Not flower. In a German legend, after the earth was created, God went to each plant and animal and gave each a name. As God finished and was getting ready to leave, he heard a little voice at his feet saying "*Forget me not, Lord?*" He bent down and picked up the little plant that he had forgotten, and said, "Because I forgot once, I shall never forget you again, and that shall be your name."

Mill's "History of Chivalry," puts forward a medieval legend with a romantic but less than happy ending. A knight was said to be choosing some flowers for his sweetheart, who was walking with him, when he fell into the river and drowned due to the weight of his armor; as he fell the knight is said to have thrown the blue flowers to his sweetheart on the river bank crying, "Forget-Me-Not". In the Victorian language of flowers the Forget-Me-Not flower was interpreted as meaning faithful or true love.

The Forget-Me-Not is the state flower of Alaska and has also been adopted as a symbol for Canada's Alzheimer Society.

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## Greely Gardeners Group – 2014 Executive Committee

<b>President:</b>	Lee Nickerson	613-574-0214
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Geoff Voyce	613-692-5384
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jane Rietze	613-699-6330
<b>Secretary:</b>	Denyse Becker	613-425-1157
<b>Speaker Coordinator:</b>	Elaine Routledge	613-692-9988
<b>Past-President:</b>	Gary Hall	613-821-7445
<b>Member-at-Large:</b>	Sue Young	613-574-0098
<b>Member-at-Large:</b>	Phyllis Nickerson	613-574-0214
<b>Member-at-Large:</b>	Claire Maxwell	613-821-9982
<b>E-Newsletter Editor:</b>	Heather Clemenson	613-821-7445
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