



# Greely Gardeners Group

## *NEWSLETTER*

May 2014

## GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

### MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday May 7

Topic: **“Big, Bold and Beautiful – High-impact annuals & perennials for every garden”**

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.

### ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE - Saturday May 24

**OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

**9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

**Andrew Shields Park, 1455 Old Prescott Road, Greely**

The plants for sale at our Annual Spring Plant Sale have been growing in our members' gardens for at least a year and are divisions or entire plants raised - **and donated** - by our gardeners.

Prices start at 50 cents, and with a few possible exceptions, no plant is priced at more than \$5.00.

### 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.

## OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

### **Barrhaven Garden Club:**

Wednesday May 14, "The Hunt for the Elusive Double Trillium Continues", Brian Carson, 7:30 p.m., 76 Larkin Dr., Ottawa. (Guest fee \$3)

### **Friends of the Farm Lectures:**

Tuesday April 29, "Practical Pruning Techniques (Yes you can easily tackle this gardening task!)", Lee Boltwood, Master Gardener;

Tuesday, May 13, "Trouble in Paradise: Common Garden Pests and Diseases", Caroline Dabrus, Master Gardener.

7:00 pm, Building 72, Arboretum, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Fee: FCEF members \$12, non-members \$15

Register at: 613-230-3276 or by e-mail at [info@friendsofthefarm.ca](mailto:info@friendsofthefarm.ca)

### **"Garden Design Workshop" (ALL DAY):**

Saturday April 26, Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton, Building 469, Canadian Forces Base, Uplands, 10 De Niverville Pvt., Ottawa, Ontario, Fee: \$60. Space limited. Register at [http://mgottawa.mgoi.ca/Garden\\_Design\\_Workshop.php](http://mgottawa.mgoi.ca/Garden_Design_Workshop.php)

### **Gloucester Horticultural Society:**

Monday April 21, "Plant Propagation Workshop", Robert Glendenning, 7:30 p.m., 4373 Generation Court. Pre-register at 613-749-8897. Free admission.

### **Hidden Harvest:**

Saturday May 3, "Urban Fruit Propagation Workshop", (Fee: Morning \$65; All day \$125), Ken Taylor, Greenbarn Nursery, Ecclesiastical Church, 2 Monk St., Ottawa. Register at <http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/urban-fruit-propagation-workshop-tickets-10607570529>

### **Just Food:**

Monday April 28, "Seed Saving for Existing Farmers and Serious Gardeners", 6 p.m., Just Food Farm, 2389 Pepin Court, Ottawa. Fee: \$30. Register at <http://justfood.ca>

### **Kanata March Horticultural Society:**

Tuesday May 6, "Renovating an Older Garden", Mary Shearman Reid, Master Gardener, 7:30 p.m., Old Town Hall, 821 March Road, Kanata. (Guest fee \$5)

### **Manotick Horticultural Society:**

Monday May 12, "Landscape Trends", Richard Rogers, 7:30 p.m., Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island Locks, Manotick. (Guest fee \$5)

Saturday May 24, "Spring Perennial Sale", 9:00 a.m. at Watson's Mill in Manotick.

### **Nepean Horticultural Society:**

Thursday April 24, "Planning and Planting Herbs", Gerry & George, The Herb Garden, 7:30 p.m., City View United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue, Nepean. (Guest fee \$4)

### **Old Ottawa South Garden Club:**

Saturday May 10 "Spring Perennial Exchange - Good Plants, Good Deals", 10 a.m, Brewer Park near Children's playground shelter. Bring potted and labelled perennial plants to exchange.

Tuesday May 13 "Good for your Garden: Birds, Insects, and Wildflowers", Isabelle Nicol, Backyard Garden Manager, Fletcher Wildlife Garden, 7:30 p.m., Ottawa South Community Centre, The Old Firehall, 260 Sunnyside Avenue, Ottawa (Guest fee \$7)

### **Ontario Horticultural Society 2014 Convention:**

Friday July 18 to Sunday July 20, NAV Centre, 1950 Montreal Road, Cornwall. Register by June 1 for reduced price. [http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/con\\_reg.php](http://www.gardenontario.org/sho/con_reg.php)

### **Organic Growers of Canada**

Tuesday April 22, "Designing an urban organic garden to support pollinators, pest eaters and pest deterrents";

Tuesday April 29, "Prolonging and winterizing an organic garden/herbs and edible flowers", 7:00 p.m., Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Ave W., Ottawa. Fee: \$20. <http://cog.ca/ottawa>

### **Ottawa Public Library:**

Monday April 28, "All from a Little Seed", Rebecca Last, Master Gardener, 7:00 pm, City of Ottawa Public Library, Carlingwood Branch, 281 Woodroffe Ave, Ottawa. (Registration required) <http://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en/node/18410>

### **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.

### **Russell and District Horticultural Society:**

Monday April 21, "Square Foot Gardening", Carolyn Klickerman, 7:00 p.m., Royal Canadian Legion/Lion's Hall, 24 Legion Lane in Russell.

### **Stittsville Goulbourn Horticultural Society:**

Tuesday May 20, "Community Harvest", Jason Gray, Community Harvest Coordinator, 7:30 p.m., Pretty Street Community Centre, corner of Pretty St & Orville St., Stittsville (Guest fee \$4).

## Victorian Afternoon Tea and Garden Tour:

<https://www.facebook.com/clairesvictoriant teas>

Saturday June 21, Three Sittings: 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm.

1250 Stevens Road, Morewood. Tickets: \$30. RSVP (613) 448-3087 or (613) 443-5627.

**Note:** A sign-up sheet will be available at the May 7 GGG meeting for this event.

## Greely Gardeners Group - 2014-2015 Calendar

All monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Greely Community Centre, 1448 Meadow Drive in Greely.

**Wednesday, May 7, 2014 - Big, Bold and Beautiful - High-impact Annuals and Perennials for Every Garden**

Guest speaker: **Nancy McDonald**

**Saturday, May 24, 2014 - Annual Spring Plant Sale - Open to the General Public**

9:00 to 11:00 a.m. - Andrew Shields Park

**Wednesday, June 4, 2014 - Dazzling Daylilies**

Guest speaker: **Kelly Noel**

**Saturday, June 21, 2014 - Members Gardens Tour (members and guest only)** A sign-up sheet will be available at the May 7 meeting.

**Saturday, July 19, 2014 - Field Trip to 'Les Jardins d'Emmarocalles' (The Daylily Garden) (members and guest only)**

**Wednesday, September 3, 2014 - You're Not Done Yet! - Fall Tasks to Improve Your Garden for Next Year**

Guest speaker: **Mary Shearman Reid**

**Wednesday, October 1, 2014 - Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden**

Guest speaker: **Marilyn Light**

**Wednesday, November 5, 2014 - Arranging Garden Flowers**

Guest speaker: **Diana Carr** [www.2flowergirls.com](http://www.2flowergirls.com)

**Wednesday, December 3, 2014 - Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner (members and guest only)**

**Thursday, January 8, 2015 - Secrets to Healthy, Beautiful Trees**

Guest speaker: **Marcel Beauchamp**

**Thursday, February 5, 2015 - Garden Pests and Diseases**

Guest speaker: **Diane McClymont Peace**

**Thursday, March 5, 2015 - The Selection and Care of Perennials**

Guest speaker: **Robert Wolodarski**

**Greely Gardeners Group monthly meetings** are open to both members and non-members.

Membership cost to December 2014 is \$10.

Admission fee for non-members is \$2.

Coffee, tea and 'treats' are served to all after the meetings.

### **Do you know the benefits of being a card-carrying GGG Member?**

- Monthly e-Newsletter
- Free access to all monthly meetings **and** our special events
- 10% discount at **Beyond the House Garden and Floral Design Centre** (plants only), **Green Thumb Garden Centre & Landscaping**, and **Rideau Woodland Ramble Display Gardens and Centre**.

## **MEETING REPORT - APRIL 2**

### **"QUESTIONS, ANSWERS AND MORE!" - Ed Lawrence**

Our special guest speaker for the evening was gardening expert Ed Lawrence. Ed retired after three decades as Chief Horticultural Specialist to six Governors General [from Jules Leger to Adrienne Clarkson]. In that role, he was responsible for the 85-acre grounds and the greenhouses of Rideau Hall and six official residences, including that of the Prime Minister.

As a kid in Toronto, Ed loved gardening and would weed his parents' garden and those of elderly neighbours just to be outdoors. He was recruited by the National Capital Commission right out of Humber College and remained with them until retirement. Ed now resides on a farm in the Almonte area where he happily grows wildflowers and hardy native plants.

Ed demonstrated the correct way to use gardening secateurs and emphasized that you should always keep the blade (as opposed to the anvil) "closest to what you are keeping". The blade should cut cleanly without crushing the tissue to ensure wound healing. As well, always cut each stem back to a bud or branch. The node will emit chemicals and close itself off to prevent future infection. By cutting to a bud pointing to the outside of the tree, new stems will not grow toward the tree's interior and cross or rub against other branches.

Ed explained that the five Ds of pruning are dead, damaged, diseased, dangerous and delightful. After outlining the importance of removing parts that are covered by the first 4 D's, Ed indicated that the fifth D covered those elements that relate to the overall design of the shrub and are delightful or desirable - what you want to keep and promote.

Ed emphasized that you should never prune more than 25 per cent from a shrub or tree in any one year. This allows the tree to retain 75 per cent of its branches to photosynthesize. This

generally applies even if the tree is damaged or diseased except if more must be taken for safety reasons. "If you take more than 25 per cent it throws out all kinds of suckers and the following year you'll be pruning the suckers", Ed said.

Ed then responded to numerous questions on a range of gardening topics.

Ed generously brought a copy of his book, '*Gardening Grief & Glory*' as a door prize. He can be heard answering gardening questions every Monday between 12:30 to 1:00 pm. on CBC Radio 1's very popular phone-in garden show on '*Ontario Today*'.



Thanks to Gary Hall (photographs) and Elaine Routledge (write-up) of the April meeting.

## **A VERY SWEET BIRTHDAY SURPRISE!**

At the close of the meeting, Leslie Boomer (GGG member) brought attention to the fact that the present day, April 2nd, also happened to be the actual birth date of both our esteemed GGG President, Lee Nickerson, and of his wonderful wife Phyllis (GGG Member-at-Large). Leslie also brought birthday cake for everyone to share --- on top of all the other wonderful goodies that our "Sweets" volunteers had so generously contributed.

## GGG VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED:

- **GREELY LIBRARY GARDENS CLEAN-UP:**

**THURSDAY, MAY 1 - 10:00 A.M.**

Wear work gloves, and bring your favourite work tools.

We'll greet you with a smile!

- **ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE:**

**SATURDAY, MAY 24 - 8:00 A.M.**

Sign up to volunteer with the sale at the May 7 meeting  
or phone Lee at 613-574-0214.

(Supplies & training will be provided.)

## MAY TO-DO LIST

### DIVISIONS AND CLEAN-UP

If you are dividing perennials or removing healthy ornamental plants and shrubs that you no longer want, please consider giving them to the GGG Annual Spring Plant Sale.

It would be wonderful if you could identify the plants by name and colour. (Note that popsicle sticks make great little plant markers for that purpose.)

If you need popsicle sticks or pots to help you donate to our cause, please call Lee or Phyllis (613-574-0214). Plants should be brought to Andrew Shield Park before 9 a.m. on May 24th.

### VEGETABLE GARDEN

- Prepare the vegetable garden for spring planting of cool season crops. Garden sowing can begin for these as soon as the soil has warmed up. Most seeds germinate when daytime temperatures are above 7°C.
- When the day time temperature rises consistently above 10°C, start hardening off the plants that you started indoors by placing outside in a sheltered location. At first, do so for a couple of hours each day, then slowly increasing the length of time out by an hour every 3 or 4 days to all day.

Taken from "The Edible Garden", [http://mgottawa.mgoi.ca/media/TEG\\_April\\_2014.pdf](http://mgottawa.mgoi.ca/media/TEG_April_2014.pdf)

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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
<b>Website Updates:</b>	Gary Hall	613-821-7445

**Website URL** [www.greelygardeners.ca](http://www.greelygardeners.ca)

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