



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

October 2014

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday October 1

Topic: **“Attracting Pollinators to Your Garden”**

Guest speaker: Marilyn Light

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Pollinators come in all kinds, shapes and sizes and can include flies, bees, wasps, beetles, butterflies and moths. Pollinators provide a service in return for a reward of pollen and/or nectar. Some use flowers for shelter and others to seek mates. A gardener wanting to attract the greatest diversity of insect pollinators will plan a spring through fall buffet to include bulbs, shrubs, annuals and perennials, small fruits and vegetables. We will learn what flowers attract which insects and how we can develop the best possible environment for pollinators.

MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday September 3

Topic: **“Arranging Garden Flowers”**

Guest speaker: Diana Carr (www.2flowergirls.com)

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to learn how to make simple but elegant flower arrangements for your home, you must come to internationally trained florist Diana Carr’s presentation – “Arranging Garden Flowers”.

Diana will cover all of the basics - cutting, arranging, fillers and grasses, keeping plant stalks upright, and using floral foam. She will make several arrangements that you can easily replicate at home. You’ll love Diana’s ideas for unique, affordable arrangements and you will have a chance to win an arrangement.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

The Annual General Meeting of the GGG will be held during our October monthly meeting. All positions are up for election or re-election.

Some members of the current Executive Committee are willing to serve the GGG for another year, though in some cases in a different capacity. Nominations for any position are currently being taken. The Secretary position is vacant. The composition of the current Executive Committee is listed at the end of this Newsletter.

There is always room for 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 Executive Officers move on.

Though not an Executive Committee position, we are also looking for someone interested in taking on the Newsletter. If anyone is interested in helping out with a view to eventually taking over the responsibility, please let us know.

If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact
Lee Nickerson (613-594-2014) or Gary Hall (613-821-7445).

GGG 2015 MEMBERSHIP FEES

If you are intending to renew your annual membership at our next meeting, 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 October 6, "Pollinators in the Garden" (specifically butterflies and bees), Colleen O'Connell and David Cybulski from the

Maitland Garden of Hope, 7:30 p.m., Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island Locks, Manotick. <http://www.gardenontario.org/site.php/manotick>

Kanata March Horticultural Society: Tuesday October 7, “Spring Bulbs – A must for every garden”, Mary Ann Van Berlo, Master Gardener, 7:30 p.m., Old Town Hall, 821 March Rd, Kanata (Guests \$5)

Gloucester Horticultural Society: Monday October 20, “What’s New in Perennials and Woodies”, Mary Shearman Reid, Master Gardener, 7:30 p.m. Top Generation Hall, 4373 Generation Court, Ramsayville (Guests welcome)

Ottawa Valley Rock Garden & Horticultural Society: Saturday 25 October, “Arctic Plant Phenology”, Zoe Panchen, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Westboro Masonic Hall, 430 Churchill Avenue, Ottawa (Guests welcome)
<http://www.ovrghs.ca/meetings/meetings.html>

Ottawa Horticultural Society: Tuesday 28 October, “Wildlife-Friendly Gardening 101”, Melissa Lefebvre, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayview Road.
<http://ottawahort.org/events/wildlife-friendly-gardening-101/>

GGG 15TH ANNIVERSARY

In recognition of the 15th Anniversary of the Greely Gardeners Group, an oak tree has been planted near the main entrance of the Greely Community Centre to the



right of the sign. In due course we will arrange for a small sign to be put next to the tree.

To acknowledge our 15th birthday, two cakes were purchased to share with the GGG members at the September meeting. Doug Thompson our local councillor was present to cut the cake at the beginning of the meeting; though

we waited until after the evening’s presentation to eat the cake and celebrate our 15 years.

Lee Nickerson and Councillor Doug Thompson, poised to cut the GGG 15th Anniversary Cake

MEETING REPORT SEPTEMBER

Mary Shearman Reid grew up in Montreal in a family of gardeners and worked as a gardener during her summers at university. In 1996, she purchased a share of Green Thumb Garden Centre and by 1998 she was the sole owner. Mary has made Green Thumb a garden centre that serves both new and experienced gardeners. It is customer focused, there is always someone to answer questions and the plants are organized so that you know where they will be happiest in your garden. Mary is a member of Landscape Ontario, a Certified Landscape Professional and a Master Gardener.



At our September meeting Mary gave an illustrated talk packed with useful information about tasks we can undertake in the fall to make our gardening less arduous in the spring and to give us a head start on the next season. Below are just some of the points made during her presentation.

She noted that many perennials and shrubs can be divided and transplanted in the fall; though she did emphasize the need to water daily for two weeks and weekly to the end of the season. Most grasses are best divided in the spring.

Mary spent some time talking about pruning. Many shrubs can be pruned in the fall, though it is essential to know when shrubs flower. Those that flower in the spring are best left to be pruned following flowering; they have already set their buds for the spring flowering and if pruned in the fall will not flower in the spring. For hydrangeas and clematis, it is important to know which type you have as some can be pruned in the fall and others are best left till spring. Roses as well are best left until the spring to prune. For other perennials it is a question of taste; most can be pruned in the fall but some can be left to go to seed for the birds (e.g. cone flowers). Some evergreen perennials such as candytuft and Japanese spurge do not need any pruning.

Certain summer and fall flowering bulbs should be dug up and stored for the winter; these include cannas, gladioli and dahlias. Most should be dug up before the first frost though dahlias can tolerate some frost before they are dug up. Mary

noted that the bulbs can be stored for the winter in various mediums including vermiculite or newspaper.

Planting bulbs for spring flowering should be done before mid-October. A good way to recall how deep to plant bulbs is three times their height. This is less important for tulips that can be planted even deeper and planted even later. It is even possible to plant tulips after the ground has begun to freeze. Dig through the top of the frozen soil and below it is still soft. By planting this late the soil immediately freezes over again and the squirrels are unable to get to the bulbs. If you are unsure which way is up on the bulb, then plant them on their side. Bulbs can also be put in pots in the fall. The pots should be buried and dug up in the spring for use in planters. All bulbs that are planted need to be well watered before the ground freezes.

Mary also spent time talking about the importance of mulching, especially for shallow rooted and newly transplanted plants. Tree trunks should also be wrapped to prevent rodent and animal damage in the winter and “Scoot” could be applied on tree trunks that are particularly vulnerable, especially to deer and rabbit damage.

Finally, it was noted that fertilizers should not really be applied to plants after the middle of August. In addition, all plants need water throughout the winter and it is a good idea to give them a good soak before the ground freezes; it will make their spring awakening a less stressful process.

Mary answered many questions from members following her presentation and was still answering individual questions for quite some time after the formal close of the meeting.

NOTE OF INTEREST

On the weekend of September 6 and 7 Gary and Heather were in Kingston. While sitting having lunch at Fort Henry we counted over 50 monarch butterflies heading south. It was good to see so many. Since then we have seen one or two flying over our garden. Hopefully, this is a good year for the monarchs.



SEPTEMBER TO DO LIST (TAKEN FROM TROWEL TALK)

- Take advantage of a period of rainy or overcast days in the forecast to divide and move any plants that need it. Make sure you don't wait too late into the fall as you want the roots to re-establish before freeze-up.
- Remove the seed-heads from plants that you don't want to self-seed. This will save you from weeding seedlings out next season.
- Fall is a good time to pull up weeds so that you're off to a fresh start next spring.

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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