



# Greely Gardeners Group

## *Newsletter*

December 2014

## GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

### MONTHLY MEETING -- Wednesday December 3

#### **Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner**

An event not to be missed!

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 contact Sue before Monday November 24 so we know how many to plan for in seating, soft drinks and prizes. Hope you will be joining us!

**Please note that for the first three months in the New Year we will be meeting on a Thursday night.**

### MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday January 8

Topic: “Secrets to Healthy Beautiful Trees”

Guest speaker: Marcel Beauchamp

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Marcel has a wide range of horticultural interests. 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. He lives on a five acre property near Morewood where he has extensive gardens specializing in trees and hostas.

## 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](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!

*The special draw prize at the November meeting for those who had joined or renewed their membership for 2015 was won by Ghislaine Camiré. Congratulations Ghislaine.*

## OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

Most gardening clubs are hosting their Christmas pot luck dinners during the month of December; upcoming events for January 2015 will be listed in the January Newsletter.

## MEETING REPORT NOVEMBER

Diana and her sister, PJ, share a passion for all things floral. They grew up surrounded by gardens, and their love and appreciation of flowers evolved naturally. After designing flowers for family weddings, they were often asked to do the arrangements for others. In 2007, they



created their business - "Flower Girls" and offer services in Ottawa, Montreal and Bermuda ([www.2flowergirls.com](http://www.2flowergirls.com)). Together they create a fresh blend of simple, or

simply over-the-top, arrangements. They studied at the famous Jane Packer Flower School in London known for its focus on elegant yet modern styles. Jane Packer Flowers was selected to create the 4,800 "Victory Bouquets" for the medal winners at the London 2012 Olympics.

For those of us who do not list creativity among our talents and who do not know very much about arranging flowers, we asked Diana to include tips and hints to get us started. For our November meeting Diana brought along many flowers and foliage types available at this time of year and through demonstration and practical knowledge taught us how to arrange garden flowers.

Her basic tools include secateurs, scissors and a sharp knife. She also usually has a supply of kebab sticks, green twist ties and wire on hand for supporting different types of arrangements. She does use floral foam (oasis) and noted that it must be soaked thoroughly well ahead of preparing any arrangement.

Among the ideas that she shared was to use hosta leaves or other large, strong leaves such as lily grass or aspidistra that will bend to wrap around the inside (or the outside) of a glass vase if you want to hide the flower stems. She also noted that a tin can may be used to hold a flower arrangement and the can could be nicely hidden in a gift bag.



A note for flower arrangements on a dinner table should be no higher than the distance from your elbow to your hand; also two thirds should be pot and one third flower arrangement.

Other hints included putting the greens in first before arranging the flowers. Diana also showed us how to fold and tie a large leaf with wire to create a different look; such as with aspidistra leaves shown left.

Diana's demonstration was very well received and one of her creations was raffled off following her presentation; we all wanted to win it!

## TIPS - HOW TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR POINSETTIA

For those of you not too familiar with the "TIPS" section on the website [www.greelygardeners.ca](http://www.greelygardeners.ca), I have copied one of the previous tips to share again.

The *poinsettia* is often called the Christmas Plant because it displays its vivid red colour over the Christmas season. But your poinsettia can continue to brighten up your home for many months. Here are some tips for choosing and caring for poinsettias.

Today's poinsettias are available in a wide range of reds, pinks, whites and numerous combinations of these. Choose a plant that has rich green leaves and be sure that the little yellow flower cluster is present at the very centre of the plant. (The colourful red bracts are not flowers, but leaves.) Be sure the plant is well wrapped before taking it outside; poinsettias are easily damaged by cold.



Once you get your poinsettia home, remove the wrapping. You can leave the decorative cellophane wrapper if you wish. Some leaves on the lower branches may yellow and even drop, but this will not affect the plant's overall health. Make some cuts in the bottom of the wrapper to allow water to drain. Alternatively, remove all wrapping and place the plant in a decorative container.

With proper care, your poinsettia will continue to look attractive for months to come. Follow these guidelines to keep your plant fresh and healthy:

**Light:** Place the poinsettia in a spot with bright natural light but not in direct sunlight. It can tolerate up to two hours of sun a day, but more than that will shorten the life of your plant.

**Water:** Do not let the soil dry out. The soil should always be moist, but not wet, so good drainage is very important. Place the container in a saucer or other waterproof container to catch any overflow.

**Temperature:** Your poinsettia will last longer in a cool location not more than 24° C (75° F) during the day, and 18° C (65° F) at night. Never expose the plant to drafts from an open door, heating duct or fireplace.

## NOVEMBER TO DO LIST (TAKEN FROM TROWEL TALK)

- It's time to wrap trees or shrubs with burlap or a perennial blanket (white felt-like cloth) after the ground has frozen and rodents have already found their winter home.
- Clean and oil your tools before putting them away for the winter to prevent rust.
- Houseplants will be going into dormancy or a period of very slow growth because of the lower amounts of light. Reduce their watering and feeding during this time.
- Start planning next year's garden by reviewing the past year's successes and failures. Do some research to find new plants to try in your garden in the coming year.

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### Greely Gardeners Group – 2014 Executive Committee

<b>President:</b>	Lee Nickerson	613-574-0214
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Denyse Becker	613-425-1157
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jane Rietze	613-699-6330
<b>Secretary:</b>	vacant	
<b>Speaker Coordinator:</b>	Elaine Routledge	613-692-9988
<b>Past-President:</b>	Gary Hall	613-821-7445
<b>Member-at-Large:</b>	Leslie Boomer	613-821-0101
<b>Member-at-Large:</b>	Jan Brown	613-821-1366
<b>Member-at-Large:</b>	Adele Landmesser	613-469-8964

### Other Regular Volunteers

<b>Treats Coordinator</b>	Melody Tomka	613-821-1985
<b>Gifts Coordinator</b>	Phyllis Nickerson	613-574-0214
<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)  
**E-mail:** [greelygardenersgroup@gmail.com](mailto:greelygardenersgroup@gmail.com)