



# Greely Gardeners Group

## *Newsletter*

January 2015

### GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

**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. Marcel will give us advice on how to maintain the trees in our garden and ideas on new varieties for our enjoyment.

#### **MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday February 5**

Topic: “Garden Pests and Diseases”

Guest speaker: Diane McClymont Peace

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

#### **MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday March 5**

Topic: “The Selection and Care of Perennials”

Guest speaker: Robert Wolodarski

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

## 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 a ahead of time.

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

## OTHER GARDENING EVENTS

**Manotick Horticultural Society:** Monday January 12th, “Nurturing your house plants through the winter months ... the basic care and feeding, the cures for common pests and diseases”, Diane McClymont Peace. The AGM will also be held at this meeting. 7:30 p.m., Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island Locks, Manotick.

**Monarch Teacher Network (MTN) of Canada, Ottawa Chapter:** January 15 “Monarch Butterfly Gardening”, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Bldg 72, Central Experimental Farm (CEF) Arboretum, Friends of the CEF members \$12, non-members \$15

Turn your garden into a monarch butterfly oasis. MTN members will present everything you need to know from choosing a garden site and making a plan, to planting suitable nectar and host plants. They will include the monarch’s amazing migration to Mexico, reasons for its recent decline, current improved status and why planting a monarch garden can help this species at risk survive and thrive in any Ottawa garden.

[info@friendsofthefarm.ca](mailto:info@friendsofthefarm.ca)



**Russell and District Horticultural Society** Monday January 19 “Herbs, Herbs, Herbs”, guest presenter, 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/>

**Ottawa Horticultural Society**, Tuesday January 27, “Monarchs in Mexico”, Dr. Jean Lauriault will discuss the biology and conservation of the monarch and its migration, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayview Road, Ottawa. Open to the public, free of charge.

**Organic Master Gardener Course** is being offered in Ottawa for the first time this winter (2015).

Examining the connection between soil health, plant health, human health and environmental health, this course will address sustainable land management practices to maintain plants in the urban landscape. The Organic Master Gardener Certificate is designed for urban growers, community gardeners, landscapers, municipal parks personnel, environmental advocates, naturalists and conservationists. Please note you will need weekly access to a computer and the internet for some course materials.

Topics include: botany and adaptations within ecosystems, soil ecosystem, soil testing, mulches and compost teas/brews, garden bed installation, soil fertility management, water-wise gardening, pruning, turf, landscape health, Permaculture design, organic standards. For more details, check out the full course syllabus at

<http://www.cog.ca/uploads/Course%20Outline%20OMG-2014-January.pdf>

Learn to create healthy food and ornamental gardens without pesticides and harmful chemicals.

Dates: Three full weekends - Feb. 14-15, March 14-15, April 11-12, 2015

Time: from 10am to 4pm, both Saturday and Sunday

Location: Hintonburg Community Centre, 1064 Wellington W, Ottawa

Host: Canadian Organic Growers

Register by January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 to take advantage of our early bird discount!

Early bird price is \$670+HST / Regular price is \$720 + HST

For more details and to register visit COG's Ottawa website at:

<http://cog.ca/ottawa/>

## DECEMBER CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK DINNER

For many of the Executive Members, preparations for the Christmas Pot-Luck dinner began long before the event. This was especially true for Lee and Phyllis Nickerson who designed and constructed the table centre pieces. The photo (right) is Lee with the herd of reindeer that he made; each of the reindeer was used for a table decoration. Many of the Executive members and other helpers also came together at the Nickerson home the weekend before the dinner to assemble the individual place settings. It has become somewhat of a traditional get-together.



Everything came together really well on the evening of the dinner when the community centre room was transformed by many willing hands into a Christmas setting.

Thanks to everyone who brought food and thanks to all who helped set up before the event and clean up after the event. Many of the 73 members and guests who attended went home with draw prizes or won one of the games that were played. At minimum everyone was able to take home their place setting and judging from the e-mails that were received after the event, a really good time was had by all. We are not only gardeners, but we know how to cook and have a good time as well! (Photos by Leslie Boomer and Heather Clemenson)



## TIPS - UNDERSTANDING SEED CATALOGUES (MODIFIED FROM TIPS SECTION ON THE GGG WEBSITE)

Now is the time to start thinking about the coming year's garden and to dig out those seed catalogues that arrived in the mail or to send away for those that might be of interest. If you haven't received enough catalogues, there are dozens listed in January gardening magazines and on websites (just search for seed catalogues Ontario and many pop up). But note that, while most catalogues are free, some do charge a minimal price.

Warning: treat a catalogue the same as you would a sales person. Read it carefully and understand that the wonderful pictures and descriptions are chosen for a reason – to sell the product! Besides looking for the obvious, plant size, flower colour, scan the descriptions for details such as:

- *Days to maturity* – Knowing how many days a plant takes to mature after germination is important when choosing seeds. Long-season crops need to be started indoors to mature in our short growing season. Harvest can be extended over a number of weeks by planting seeds with different maturity dates.
- Seeds per package – A package of seed can range from 5 seeds to several 100. And the price of the package of seed is not always directly related to the amount of seeds it contains.
- Germination instructions – While the commonly grown annuals will germinate easily, others require specific temperatures and light conditions. Perennial seeds often have a deeper dormancy and need special conditions to germinate. Knowing the conditions in advance helps you decide what seeds to buy. It's also good to know the outdoor growing conditions the plants require. Placing plants in their ideal spot usually ensures a good display.
- Latin and common names – Common names guide most gardeners through the catalogue. Unfortunately, many plants have more than one common name and a Latin name is needed to be sure of the right plant variety. Latin names are used throughout the world thus enabling anyone to identify the specific plant by referencing it in any gardening book.
- Some words to watch out for: "New" can mean that this is the plant's debut year, but it usually means that it is the first year that it's being offered in

this catalogue. “Exclusive” refers to the fact that this variety is only sold through this seed house. Often these seeds have been developed in their own trial plots. “Heirloom” refers to seed varieties that can be traced back to early settlers. Heirloom flowers are often smaller with a stronger scent than new hybrids. Likewise heirloom vegetables will often be smaller, and less uniform while being more flavorful. Many of the older varieties will also be more susceptible to diseases. It’s important to preserve heritage seeds as they contain a wide range of genetic diversification. Compare the ratings of plants in different catalogues and books. If in doubt, check with other gardeners and reputable garden centres. They will be happy to tell you of their experiences with a particular plant.

- Finally, factor in the cost of shipping and handling. It is often enough to double the cost of orders if you want only one or two packets of seeds! You can save money here by getting together with other gardeners to place a single order.

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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)