



Greely Gardeners Group

Newsletter

March 2015

GREELY GARDENERS EVENTS

Please note that in March we meet on a Thursday night and in April we are back to our Wednesday night schedule.

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday March 5

Topic: “The Selection and Care of Perennials”

Guest speaker: Robert Wolodarski

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

Robert is the Perennials Manager for Artistic Landscape Designs which has over 10 acres of plants. He will take us on a visual tour of perennials for sun and shade and share his extensive knowledge of how to keep our plants healthy and beautiful. Bring all of your questions and receive answers from an expert.

MONTHLY MEETING – Wednesday April 1

Topic: “Growing Roses”

Guest speaker: André Poliquin

Greely Community Centre, 7:00 p.m.

International rose expert, horticulturist, biologist, teacher, author, past president of the Quebec Rose Society and co-founder of the Federation of Canadian Rose Societies. An engaging and informative speaker, André will discuss types of roses, buying, planting, and pruning roses, pests and diseases, and winter protection.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

The Executive Committee is pleased to provide the following Calendar of Events for the upcoming year. On behalf of all of our members, we would like thank Elaine Routledge who has done a fantastic job in contacting all of our guest speakers and researching options for our field trip in July. Additional information for special events will be provided in future newsletters and on the GGG website.

Upcoming Events -- 2015

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 - Growing Roses

Guest speaker: **André Poliquin**

Wednesday, May 6, 2015 - Amazing Annuals

Guest speaker: **Mary Ann Van Berlo**, Master Gardener

Saturday, May 23, 2015 - Annual Spring Plant Sale

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

Wednesday, June 3, 2015 - Best New Perennials and Shrubs

Guest speaker: **Cindy Cluett**, Beyond the House Garden Centre

Saturday, June 20, 2015 - Members' Gardens Tour

(members and guest only)

Saturday, July 18, 2015 - Field Trip to Perth Area Gardens

(members and guest only)

Wednesday, September 2, 2015 - Hydrangeas and Flowering Shrubs

Guest speaker: **Suzanne Patry**

Wednesday, October 7, 2015 - Growing Healthy Hostas

Guest speaker: **Ann Frederking**

Wednesday, November 4, 2015 - Floral Arrangements for the Holidays

Guest speaker: **To be confirmed**

Wednesday, December 2, 2015 - Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner

(members and guest only)

Coming in 2016

Thursday, January 7, 2016 - Lawn Care and Lawn Alternatives

Guest speaker: **Mary Shearman Reid**, Green Thumb Garden Centre

Thursday, February 4, 2016 - Growing Wonderful Plants from Seed

Guest speaker: **Rebecca Last**, Master Gardener

Thursday, March 3, 2016 - Pruning Shrubs and Small Trees

Guest speaker: **Diane McClymont Peace**, Master Gardener

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

Kanata-March Horticultural Society: Tuesday March 3, “Vegetable Growing Possibilities in the Urban Landscape”, Judith Cox, Master Gardener. 7:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 821 March Road, Kanata (Guest fee: \$5).

Manotick Horticultural Society: Monday March 9, “Growing Organic”, Jessica Weatherhead from Roots and Shoots organic vegetable farm at Mitch Owens and Manotick Station Road. 7:30 p.m., Main Hall, RCMP Campground, Long Island Locks, Manotick.

Gatineau Valley Gardeners Club Monday March 23, “Some Newer Perennials and Woodies: How Do They Really Fare?” Mary Shearman Reid, Master Gardener. 7:30p.m. St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, 537 Highway 105 (across from FreshMart).

Ottawa Horticultural Society, Tuesday March 24, “Armchair Garden Travels: France and Belgium gardens – endless options” Maria Flemming will focus on Versailles and Giverny as well as numerous little gems visited along the way. 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tom Brown Arena, 141 Bayview Road, Ottawa. Open to the public, free of charge.

Russell and District Horticultural Society: Saturday, March 28, “March it on Out - Swap Meet” at St-Thomas Aquinas Catholic H.S. Monday, Russell. 10:00 a.m. (or 9:30 a.m. if you have an RDHS 2015 membership). Details of upcoming events are posted on their website: <http://www.russellgardeners.ca/>

Seedy Saturday: Saturday March 7, 10a.m. to 3p.m. Ron Kolbus Centre, 102 Greenview Avenue, Britannia Park, Ottawa.

Ottawa Home & Garden Show: March 26-29, EY Centre, 4899 Uplands Drive, Ottawa. Master Gardeners have a booth and will be there all weekend to answer gardening questions.

Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton: Saturday, April 25th, 2015

One-Day Garden Design Workshop

Intended for gardeners of all skill levels, this workshop will walk you through:

- Assessing your garden site and identifying your landscaping goals and needs.
- Placing the structural bones of your garden: the paths, decks, fences, pergolas, patios, sheds and water features.
- Choosing large and small planting material: trees, shrubs, and perennials.
- Using garden design principles to create a landscape with all-season interest.
- Understanding how your garden matures and how to keep it looking its best.

One-on-one advice will be given from experienced Master Gardeners who will guide you through the practicalities of garden design.

Your \$60 registration fee covers all costs for the day, including refreshments and a lunch of sandwiches, fresh fruit and vegetables. Seating is limited and early registration is recommended.

You can register on-line or by mail. For program and registration information see the Master Gardeners website at <http://mgottawa.on.ca>

FEBRUARY MEETING - DIANE McCLYMONT PEACE

On February 5th, **Diane McClymont** Peace, Master Gardener, spoke to the Greely Gardeners Group on the subject of "**Garden Pests and Diseases**". She began by noting items that she generally uses to deter and eliminate pests from her garden. These include the use of row covers, dormant oil and regular inspection of plants in her garden. She always takes along a soap spray (natural soap only, not dishwashing detergent); baking soda spray (for fungal infections) and some

form of disinfectant (whether hand sanitizer or alcohol). The latter is particularly useful to clean tools if used after cutting diseased plants.



In her talk, Diane walked through the calendar year as a way of presenting insect pests and diseases that occur during the different months. She covered an amazing array of insects, viruses and diseases and that affect trees and plants from spring through to fall, including new pests and diseases that are just arriving in our area.

Diane presented practical ideas for preventing and remediating many common and some less common pests and diseases. She dealt with viburnum leaf beetle, European pine sawfly, gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, spruce budworm, iris borer, diplodia tip blight, cytospora canker, cutworms, flea beetles, stink bugs, spotted and striped cucumber beetles, aphids, cedar apple rust, fire blight, milkweed bug, box-elder bug, squash vine borer and earwigs. She also talked about slugs and snails, Colorado beetles, rose chafers, black spot on roses, powdery mildew, Japanese beetles, tomato hornworm and the sunflower moth. She noted viruses such as the hosta virus, tar spots and black knot, and finished by mentioning moles and voles. The latter, also known as meadow mice, are the culprits that chew grasses and bark and can girdle trees and shrubs under the snow in the winter.

Diane's presentation was so detailed and illustrated that we requested a copy of her notes and she has graciously provided her presentation slides to us. During the 'questions and answers' following her presentation, a question on carpenter bees was asked by one of our members and Diane has provided an information sheet on these insects. Both of these documents have been posted on the GGG website on the "Meeting and Special Events" page.

<http://www.greelygardeners.ca/mtgs%20events.html>

CONTROLLING PLANT DISEASES BEGINS HERE

By Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor,
University of Vermont, Department of Plant and Soil Science (<http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/>)

Whether you have houseplants, flowers, summer vegetables, or fruits, you'll invariably encounter plant diseases. Safe and successful control begins with understanding some important plant disease terms.

First, realize that the term "disease" refers the abnormal functioning of a plant, and can be caused by either some infectious organism ("pathogen"), or by an environmental situation that isn't suited for or doesn't agree with the plant. Many plants that appear diseased are more often subject to an environmental problem, such as too much light (burning leaves), or too wet soil (roots can suffocate with no oxygen). Even if an environmental problem doesn't injure a plant seriously, it may lead to a "secondary" infection by a disease. An example of this is roots, stressed from too much water, being susceptible to root rots.

There are several types of organisms that can cause diseases. Fungi are perhaps the most common. Seen under a microscope they are usually in filaments, have a certain type of cell walls, and reproduce by spores. The white powdery mildew on leaves of phlox, or the gray mold (commonly also known by its scientific name of "botrytis") on old flowers, are examples of fungi. Fungicides, whether they are synthetic or organic, are the chemicals that kill fungi.

There are many types of fungi. One commonly seen in gardens is the rust fungi--fungi that produce sexual spores (reproduce with mating) on an external structure. Their name is descriptive as they are rusty in color. Beginning usually on lower leaves, as on hollyhocks, they move up the plant. When leaves are severely infected they usually shrivel and fall off; while weakening plants and making them unattractive this, similar to powdery mildew, usually can be tolerated by plants from year to year.

Bacteria are microscopic, only have one cell, and reproduce by the cell wall dividing ("fission"). These can affect most plant parts, and move internally throughout the plant ("systemic") before external symptoms are noticed. Some of these disease symptoms they cause include leaf spots, scabs, and wilts. One nice feature of such disease terms is that they are quite descriptive of what you see.

Chemicals used to kill these are called bactericides. Since bacteria are quite mobile and move quickly and easily among objects, it is important to use very clean tools and practices if these are about. Clean tools thoroughly with a sanitizing product after they touch infected plants.

Virus organisms are even smaller—submicroscopic—and not even cells, but rather cell genetic ingredients (RNA or DNA) surrounded by protein. They are parasites, meaning they live in close association with another organism (such as plants), on which they depend for nutrition. They may not even be a “pathogen” or disease-producing organism.

Streaking or patterns in leaves of flowers and foliage is caused by viruses. Tobacco mosaic virus, cucumber mosaic virus, or streaking in flowers such as roses and dahlias are examples of this highly mobile disease. It is really important to use good sanitation to avoid viruses, as there are no chemical treatments, no “viricides”, and the usual products for diseases will not work on them. The only control, if needed, is to destroy the plants.

An even smaller organism than the virus is a “viroid”, consisting just of a single strand of genetic RNA material. Examples of these are the spindle tuber viroid of potatoes, a stunt viroid of chrysanthemums, and others in economic crops such as citrus, coconuts, and avocados.

Sanitation has been mentioned more than once and merely refers to keeping surfaces clean and removing any potentially infected plant material. Related terms usually are used loosely, “disinfecting” referring to cleaning or ridding an already infected plant of an organism.

“Disinfesting” kills organisms that have not yet caused disease, such as on inanimate objects as surfaces and tools. When wiping off tools with a cleansing agent such as diluted bleach water (9 parts bleach to one part water), this is technically disinfesting. If you don’t want to use bleach due to its caustic nature and potentially harmful fumes, a household cleaning product (such as Lysol) can be used, one part of the product to two parts water. Ideally, allow objects (such as pots) or surfaces to soak for at least 10 minutes before rinsing with water. Such cleaning of containers is especially important for starting seeds, as the seedlings can be quite susceptible to diseases such as “damping off” (sudden toppling of stems at the soil surface).

Another sanitation term often used incorrectly with objects or soil is sterilization. This refers to killing all living organisms, good and bad, as is done with extreme heat (180 degrees F or more). Pasteurization (140 degrees F commonly with potting soils) for 30 minutes will kill bad disease organisms, but not the good organisms that a plant needs for growth and that may fight the bad organisms.

Although there are many more terms relating to plant diseases (“phytopathology”), these few will help you to get started on figuring out possible causes of a plant problem, proper remedies, and prevention of future problems. Often an online search, including of images, for problems of your plant or crop may be all you need for identification. But consider other options and environmental conditions too as often a symptom may have several possible causes. Trained professionals at local garden centers, master gardener help lines, are all good for more information and assistance.

SPOTTED IN OUR GARDEN ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20

For those of you who like birds in the garden, we (Heather and Gary) had an unusual visitor who (whoooo) stayed with us all morning, basking in the sunlight just off our deck on the cedar trees.

We believe that it is a Barred Owl. He or she was about 18 inches high and was not all interested in the comings and goings at our nearby birdfeeders. Maybe he or she had already eaten enough!



Greely Gardeners Group – 2014 Executive Committee

President:	Lee Nickerson	613-574-0214
Vice-President:	Denyse Becker	613-425-1157
Treasurer:	Jane Rietze	613-699-6330
Secretary:	Melody Tomka	613-821-1985
Speaker Coordinator:	Elaine Routledge	613-692-9988
Past-President:	Gary Hall	613-821-7445
Member-at-Large:	Leslie Boomer	613-821-0101
Member-at-Large:	Josephine Shourie	613-240-1444
Member-at-Large:	Adele Landmesser	613-469-8964

Other Regular Volunteers

Treats Coordinator	Melody Tomka	613-821-1985
Gifts Coordinator	Phyllis Nickerson	613-574-0214
E-Newsletter Editor:	Heather Clemenson	613-821-7445
Website Updates:	Gary Hall	613-821-7445

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