

# 20th Anniversary



## THE WATERING CAN



WEST CARLETON GARDEN CLUB  
P.O. BOX 326, CARP, ONT. K0A 1L0

DECEMBER 2008

West Carleton Garden Club On line

<http://sites.google.com/site/westcarletongardenclub/>

### WCGC Executive Committee

President - Anne Gadbois  
256-7161  
Vice President - Vacant  
Treasurer - Ted Barnicoat  
839-0615  
Secretary - Sharry Featherston  
839-9944  
Newsletter - Denise Burnham  
839-7316  
Program - Christina Zehulak  
832-3526  
Plant Sale - Mary Reynolds  
832-0408  
Hospitality - Mary and Roy  
Reynolds  
Flower Show - Ann Crosley  
832-2696  
Membership - Adaline Alkan  
839-0611  
Ann Crosley  
832-2696  
Yearbook - Christina Zehulak  
Sharry Featherston  
Members at  
Large - Nancy Argue  
831-0576

### 20th Anniversary Reunion



#### Christmas Pot-Luck & Social December 9, 2008

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our old and new members to join us for this fun and social evening. Come and enjoy great food, mingling with friends and 20 years worth of memorabilia and photos. If you know of anyone who was a previous WCGC member, please invite them to join our celebration. Food to be set out at 6:00 - 6:30. Meeting to start at 6:30.

### Future Events

January 13, 2009

#### Magnolias, Japanese Maples & Rare Trees for Ottawa with Richard Aubert

Richard Aubert has been involved in horticulture since studying at Algonquin 35 years ago. For the last 15 years he has been supplying trees, shrubs and perennials to nurseries and growers from Ontario to Newfoundland. He is involved with growers to introduce new and hardier varieties of trees and plants to the market.

February 10 2009

#### Growing Your Garden From Seeds with Kevin Didsbury

#### Judging School - Opportunity

The OHA has given District 2 permission to hold a Judging School during 2009 and 2010.

This is a rare opportunity for anyone who is interested in taking advantage of this learning experience. Please let Ann Gadbois know if you would like to be a committee member or a student. There are 35 to 40 places available in the school.

Preliminary timing for the first two sessions to be held in 2009 will be the end of July and the end of September. Three more will be held in 2010. Each session will be held on a weekend with a full Saturday including dinner and evening.

### West Carleton Food Bank

At our December meeting, we will have a basket ready to receive donations for the WC food bank. In these troubled times, it's nice to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate. Please bring a non-perishable food item.

### *Holiday table centerpieces (Optional)*

*As in past years, if you would like to participate, please bring in a home-made floral centerpiece for our tables. They will be raffled off to participants the end of the evening.*

*As some of the tables are narrow, please keep them on a smaller scale.*

*Info 613-839-0611*

## Plant of the Month



Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera*)

Christmas Cactus are easy to look after and will live for many years. They like a cool east or west facing window, out of direct sunlight. Allow the soil to dry out between waterings and do not let the plant sit in water.

One of the most common problems is bud fall. When you see new buds forming, leave the plant alone and do not move it, they dislike sudden changes in light quality or direction.

After the cactus blooms, let it rest ... cut back on watering, do not fertilize, and keep it cool. To get them to rebloom, the plant must have total darkness every night for at least three weeks.

Christmas cactus propagates quite readily from cuttings or from root divisions.

It's best to divide in the spring, or take cuttings in the summer, when the plant has finished its resting period and is growing well. To propagate, carefully remove plant from pot and divide the root mass into several sections.

Repot each section in moistened potting soil. To take stem cuttings, remove the leaf from the stem and allow the exposed ends to dry over for a few days, then place them dry side down, in moistened potting soil, in individual pots.

Bury only the bottom 1/3 of each leaf pad in the soil. Roots will develop and new growth will appear on the top surface of the leaf in a few weeks. Rooting the cuttings in water doesn't work ... they just get slimy and mushy.



### Reading Garden

Just some info on the Hackberry Tree which replaced the Ash Grove after they succumbed to the Ash Borer insect.

Although resembling elms (*Ulmus* spp.) in general appearance, the hackberry is diverse in form and smaller in size. These traits are favourable for ornamental planting. Fruit are consumed intensively by birds and for this reason, the tree retains the nick-name "bird cherry". Commercially the wood has little value however the bark when separated into its component fibers can yield thread suitable for use in rope and matting.

## VooDoo in the Garden

At our last meeting many of you acquired some VooDoo Bulbs. Here is some information about them.

### **Arum Dracunculus**

Voodoo Lily, Dragon Lily, Black Arum



Arum Dracunculus, also known as the Voodoo Lily, Dragon Lily or Black Arum is characterized by its striking maroon purple blooms that are shaped like a fiery dragon's tongue. Easy to grow in well-draining soil, blooms last long and have a pungent odor during the first few days opening. A real exotic addition to the garden and a sure conversation piece!

Alert! Smell is not pleasant and it can be quite a vigorous grower!!

### **OHA Conservation & Environment**

For over 100 years, the members of the Ontario Horticultural Association have been keeping Ontario beautiful. Imagine the impact when those 35,000 members put their minds to conserving rainwater!

The Conservation and Environment Committee of the Association has adopted, as its 2008 project, the revival of rain barrels. To promote the project, the Committee compiled a booklet of rain barrel hints and information entitled *Roll Out The Barrel*.

*Roll Out The Barrel* romances the idea of bringing back the rain barrel. The booklet outlines the benefits of using a rain barrel.

