

# THE WATERING CAN



WEST CARLETON GARDEN CLUB - 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

P.O. BOX 326, CARP, ONT. K0A 1L0

MARCH, 2009

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 Zehaluk  
832-3526

Plant Sale - Mary Reynolds  
832-0408

Hospitality - Mary and Roy  
Reynolds

Flower Show - Anne Crosley  
832-2696

Membership - Adeline Alkan  
839-0611

Anne Crosley  
832-2696

Yearbook - Christina Zehaluk  
Sharry Featherston

Members at

Large - Nancy Argue  
831-0576

## Message from the President

As our season is winding down to summer, we are looking for help on the executive, as some of our current members are stepping down for a well deserved rest. Please consider joining our team, starting in the fall. We are a fun bunch, meet only briefly once a month (usually fourth Tuesday of the month at the Library from 7 to 8:30) and get all our work and organization done at that time! If you are interested in any of the roles listed above, please contact me or any member of the executive for more information.

*Anne Gadbois*

## Knowing and Growing

### Native Ferns



March 10, 2009

Lis Allison

Pine Ridge Studio

Like many gardeners, Lis did not pay much attention to ferns until she moved to her current garden on the Carp Road. One day in early spring when she was out exploring a far corner of her property she was surprised to find bright green plants growing out of a rock face. This led her to doing some research to find out what they were and the happy discovery that there are many interesting ferns indigenous to the Ottawa area. Most of these are easy to grow and great additions to the garden. She reports that she now has almost 30 native ferns in her garden and is growing more from spores. After years of thinking of ferns as 'those green things at the back', she now finds them fascinating!

## Local Summer Garden Tours

Monthly tours that can be enjoyed locally are being planned by several members. So far we have confirmed the following:

June 13 - Ken Far - **The Arboritum**

This collection of trees and shrubs covers about 35 hectares (86 acres) of rolling land. More than 2,000 varieties have been adapted to the region, some dating back to the first plantings in 1889. The northeast corner of the Arboretum has its own microclimate. Here, you will see magnolias, rhododendrons, a wisteria and others. The lookout on the south-east side offers a panoramic view of the Rideau Canal and Carleton University, while the north-east overlooks Dow's Lake and the surrounding city.

## Future Events

April 14, 2009

### Designer Summer Outdoor Containers

with

Anne Lamb

Come out to see expert outdoor planter designer Anne Lamb of the Garden Gate Greenhouse in Kinburn demonstrate her talents and share tips and ideas on putting together unique floral designs for your outdoor summer planters.

**Two planters will be raffled off. Guests welcome!**



May 12, 2009

### Annual Bulb Show and South African Cape Floral Kingdom

with

Christina Zehaluk

It has been suggested that any other members who would like to share some of their travel discoveries would be welcome to join in on the slide show.



June 9, 2009

### Annual Spring Flower Show and Vines of All Kinds

With

Mary Shearman Reid, CLP  
Green Thumb Garden Centre

Goodies and door-prizes for the February meeting are kindly requested from members with names starting A to H.

## Plant of the Month



### **AUTUMN FERN** *Dryopteris erythrosora*

**Bold and beautiful choice for shady borders and woodland gardens. Dwarf-growing fern, young papery fronds display coppery-red color maturing deep green and deeply cut. Spreads by underground stems to 15 inches wide. Herbaceous. Shade. Grows to 1 1/2 to 2 feet tall. Spore grown. Hardy.**

**Soil:** Ferns prefer well drained sandy or humus rich soil. Elevated beds work well, providing good aeration and drainage.

**Light:** Indirect light is best for healthy growth of ferns. Avoid direct afternoon sunlight. Filtered sun or early morning and late afternoon sunlight will produce a healthier, stronger plant.

**Fertilizing:** Ferns that are growing in humus rich soil, will require very little fertilizer.

**Watering:** Good watering practices are crucial for healthy ferns. During the growing season, you may have to water often. Depending on the weather, this may mean watering every few days. Most ferns prefer a moist, humid environment. Good drainage is also necessary to prevent drowning the plant.

**Mulching:** Mulching will reduce weeding, keep the soil from drying out, reduce watering, and, if an organic mulch is used, it will improve the soil over time. Mulch after planting and continue to add new mulch as it decomposes. Decaying hardwood mulch, or chopped leaves are also good humus builders.

**Tip:** The leaf of a fern is called the frond. Remove dead fronds periodically to maintain appearance and health.



#### The Reading Garden

Ted Barnicoat has offered to head up a work bee to expand the patio area to go under the picnic table. Please consider joining the work team for an afternoon. Many hands make light work!



### 10th Annual Kanata Garden & Landscape Show

### Eastern Ontario's Biggest and Best Garden Show

**May 1-3, 2000** at the Kanata Recreation Complex

#### Exhibitors will include:

Lee Valley Tools, Artistic Landscape Designs, Whitehouse Perennials, The Outdoor Room, Rideau Woodland Ramble, Richmond Nursery, Yards Unlimited, Ratchet Pruner, Tropical Expressions, Lalonde Awnings, Ontario Horticultural Society Zone 2, Yard Works, Canadian Wildlife Federation, AeroGarden, Curb Ease, Deer Fence Canada, Jans Awnings and Rollshutters, Florabunda Seeds, BVG Landscaping, Eastern Ontario Garden Guide, Hickory Dickory Decks, Ontario Botanical Garden Society, Family First Chiropractic, Ferguson Forest Centre ... and more!

**We are hoping to participate in this event along with the Kanata and Stittsville clubs . If you would be interested in helping to man the booth for an hour or two, please contact one Anne Gadbois.**



## Visit Canada Blooms

Exerience the first Breath of Spring at **Canada Blooms: The Toronto Flower & Garden Festival, March 18-22, 2009!**

Explore over 6 acres of stunning creative gardens in a dazzling display of colour, texture and fragrance designed by Canada's best landscaping talents. Choose from and enjoy over 200 hours of gardening demonstrations and talks where local, national and international experts share their wealth of knowledge and passion for horticulture.

#### Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Building Show Hours:

- Wednesday, March 18, 2009 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
- Thursday, March 19, 2009 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
- Friday, March 20, 2009 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
- Saturday, March 21, 2009 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
- Sunday, March 22, 2009 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Canada Blooms Tickets can be purchased for a reduced rate of \$16.00 in advance online or at any Sobeys Stores in Ontario. Regular priced adult admission tickets can be purchased daily at the Canada Blooms Ticket Booth located on the 600 Level of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre,

#### Share Driving

If anyone is interested in attending Canada Blooms on Thursday and Friday and would like to share the driving expenses please call Denise Burnham 613 839-7316

