

# THE WATERING CAN



WEST CARLETON GARDEN CLUB

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

DECEMBER, 2009

West Carleton Garden Club on Line - <http://sites.google.com/site/westcarletongardenclub/>

## Executive Committee

**President** - Donna Caldwell - 839-2079

**Vice President** - David Hinks - 839-2248

**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 - 470-0079

**Membership** - Adeline Alkan = 839-0611  
- Anne Crosley

**Yearbook** - Christina Zehaluk  
- Sharry Featherston

**Members at Large** - Nancy Argue - 831-0576

**Past President** - Anne Gadbois - 256-7161

December 8, 2009



## Pot Luck & Social

### Silent Auction

Come and enjoy great food and a fun social evening. A slide show of Monets' Garden as well as some members slides will be shown throughout the evening. Members are asked to bring garden related items, (new or used) which will be auctioned off during the "**Silent Auction**". As is our custom, the floral arrangements for the tables will be generously supplied by our members and will also be auctioned off during the evening. . What a great opportunity to get a beautifully designed piece for your Christmas Table.

**In order for this to be a success, members should bring either an auction item or a table arrangement.**

**Partners and potential new members are welcome .**

## Coming Events

January 12, 2010

### "Couriers and Sex Slaves" Various Roles Wildflowers Make Animals Play

Michael Runtz

A dynamic communicator, Michael Runtz is equally at home in the television or radio studio, lecture hall or classroom. He hosted *Wild by Nature*, an international nature series that is currently being rebroadcast on some networks. As well, Michael is a popular guest on numerous television and radio shows, and has regularly co-hosted phone-ins on CBC Radio Noon. Professionally, Michael has worked as a naturalist in both national and provincial parks, and currently is faculty at Carleton University where he teaches natural history and ornithology.



February 9, 2010

### The 100 Kilometer Diet

David Hinks  
Master Gardener

**All members are asked to bring in a pot luck dish. Either an appetizer, main course or dessert. These always seem to magically work out in the right quantity. You are also reminded to bring serving utensils for your dish.**

**Food to be set out at 6:00 - 6:30  
Meeting to start at 6:30**

### West Carleton Food Bank

We will have a basket ready to receive donations for the WC Food Bank. In these troubled times, it is nice to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate. Please bring a non-perishable food item.



### Fall Garden Mums - Fundraiser

The OHS District 2 is holding a Fall Garden Mums Fundraiser. They will be available for all members of the club for \$1.00 per bare root. We will have order forms at the December meeting. The deadline for orders is January 4. Delivery will be in May.

## Plant of the Month



### Tips for Poinsettias in December

- Your new holiday poinsettia will last into January if cared for properly. Place it in a warm, sunny window and keep it out of drafts. Sudden chills will cause the poinsettia to drop its leaves. If the soil surface is dry, water, but don't allow the poinsettia to stand in water. Don't water again until the soil becomes dry. If you find mealy bugs, pick them off with a toothpick dipped in alcohol.
- In late winter or early spring, when the leaves begin to fall off, place the poinsettia in partial darkness and about once a week give it just enough water to prevent complete dryness. Leave this way until May.

If you have set out a blooming poinsettia that you kept from **last year**, you must still keep moving it into a dark closet each night (see poinsettia notes in November and October) for at least 14 hours per night, and then back into sunlight each day. Continue this until about **mid-December**, when it should begin showing colored leaves and you may leave it in normal household conditions



“On the first day of winter,  
the earth awakens to the cold touch of itself.  
Snow knows no other recourse except  
this falling, this sudden letting go  
over the small gnomed bushes, all the emptying  
trees.  
Snow puts beauty back into the withered and  
malnourished,  
into the death-wish of nature and the deliberate  
way  
winter insists on nothing less than deference.  
waiting all its life, snow says, "Let me cover  
you.”

- Laura Lush, *The First Day of Winter*



## Gardening Activities for December

As the weather changes, watch for **snow and ice damage** on trees and shrubs. Don't allow broken or damaged limbs to remain, and make sure to seal wounds.

In the meantime, if you haven't done so already, consider setting up an indoor greenhouse. Or use the basic design of the greenhouse to create an indoor “garden center,” where you can put ailing houseplants or flowering plants, such as **geraniums** and **African violets**, to help them to bloom.

Take some time to care for houseplants in December. Wipe dust from their leaves, repot them if needed and put them in sunny windows. This is especially important for any outdoor pots plants you brought indoors to over-winter. Also, remember to watch for signs of bugs and disease on all indoor plants.

Bulbs planted in containers in September and October for forcing indoors **should be blooming**. Paperwhites, especially, are gorgeous for the holidays. Keep an eye on other container bulbs, which may still be developing.

Additional bulbs can be planted indoors from December until February, but remember that some, like tulips, need extended periods of cold and darkness before they will bloom successfully indoors.

It's not too soon to sit down in a cozy chair and make plans for next year's garden. Some ideas from last summer may still be fresh in your mind, and December's the time to put them down on paper. In January, you will be creating a 12-month gardening calendar, creating a long-range gardening plan and thinking about a yearly gardening budget.



### MUGS

We now have 40 mugs with the West Carleton Logo. These would make wonderful gifts for only \$10.00. Membership and a mug would be a lovely gift for any potential gardener for \$25.00. These can be purchased at the December meeting



## Come and Join the Parade

The club will be participating in the West Carleton Santa Clause Parade. It is being held on Saturday afternoon on, December 12. We have designed a Woodland Garden Theme featuring club members as Gnomes. This will be a great advertisement for our group. If you would like to join in the fun, please contact Nancy Argue.

A thank you note from the recipient of the West Carleton Bursary was received.

“Thank you very much for the bursary. This coming school year I will be attending Memorial University. I will be working on my Bachelor of Science with a major in Environmental Science. The Bursary is greatly appreciated and will help with the cost of my studies. Thank you”  
*Alexander Elliot*