

THE WATERING CAN



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

JANUARY, 2010

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

The West Carleton Garden Club welcomes old and new members to its 2010 Season.

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

Goodies and door-prizes for the January meeting are kindly requested from members with names starting R and S.

"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues."
- Hal Borland

January 12, 2010

"Couriers and Sex Slaves"



The Various Roles Wildflowers

Make Animals Play

with 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.

Michael Runtz has lived and breathed nature all his life. He is well-known for his educational and conservation efforts, for which he has received numerous awards, including an Outstanding Service Award from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Nowhere else is Michael more in his element than in the natural world itself. His intimate familiarity with this world makes Michael the perfect ambassador for nature.

Coming Events

February 9, 2010

The 100 Kilometer Diet and How to Grow It

David Hinks
Master Gardener



March 9, 2010

Local and Wild Edible Mushrooms

with Naturalist
Bob Graham



April 13, 2010

"Soils, Composting and Microbes"

with Horticulturalist
Mary Anne Jackson Hughes



May 11, 2010

Tips/Tricks and Techniques for Gardeners

with Mary Anne Van Berlo



Forced Branches for Winter Colour



A simple bouquet of forsythia hints at the spring ahead as it glows in the low January sun Photo/Jennifer Brown

Many ornamental trees and shrubs set their flower buds during the previous growing season. These buds must experience a period of dormancy before they will open. After six weeks of cold temperatures, buds will usually come out of dormancy after two to three weeks of being exposed to warmth and moisture. Usually by the time Jan/Feb. arrives, most species suitable for forcing have experienced the required period of dormancy.

For more detailed information on Forcing Branches connect to the link below:

<http://www.finegardening.com/how-to/articles/forcing-branches.aspx?nterms=74930>

Earliest cutting time

January

Cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*)
Filberts – for catkins (*Corylus* spp. and cvs.)
Forsythias (*Forsythia* spp. and cvs.)
Fothergillas (*Fothergilla* spp. and cvs.)
Witch hazels (*Hamamelis* spp. and cvs.)

Late January/early February

Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford')
Cherries (*Prunus* spp. and cvs.)

Mid- to late February

Beeches – for catkins (*Fagus* spp. and cvs.)
Birches – for catkins (*Betula* spp. and cvs.)
Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
Lilacs (*Syringa* spp. and cvs.)
Magnolias (*Magnolia* spp. and cvs.)
PJM rhododendron (*Rhododendron* 'PJM')
Quinces (*Chaenomeles* spp. and cvs.)
Red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
Serviceberries (*Amelanchier* spp. and cvs.)
Willows – for catkins (*Salix* spp. and cvs.)

Gardening Activities for January

- Shake off heavy snow and ice from evergreen branches
- Use kitty litter instead of salt on ice patches. It is a much safer alternative and won't affect lawns or flower borders.
- **Amaryllis:** Once it's finished, cut off the flower head, leave the bare stem, keep in a bright light as possible. Fertilize with 1 tsp for 3 litres per water, then cut in half. Use every ten days. In April, reduce water, let leaves die back and leave it in a sunny spot to go dormant.
- **Look at your garden.** Are you satisfied with the basic structure? Is there a pleasing mix of evergreens, shrubs and trees? Now is the time to figure out what's in the wrong spot and where you'd like it to be next year.
- House plants love a tepid shower. Set pots in the tub and let a fine spray hit them for at least twenty minutes. This will leach out any salt build-up



The Winter 2009 edition is now available

This issue contains articles on:

- New District Banners
- Trees for Tornado-Stricken Area
- 2010 Convention News
- New Youth Club Grant
- No Mow-No Blow-No H2O
- Orchid Society
- Communities in Bloom
- Holiday Eco-Ideas
- Society Milestones from Across the Province

West Carleton Garden Club Parade Float



A wonderful time was had by all of our members who were involved in the Carp Santa Clause Parade. A huge thank you goes to Lorne Montgomery for the use of his heated barn and for pulling our float in the parade as well as his hospitality afterwards. Also thanks to John Caldwell who made sure our spiked coffee was topped up.