

The Watering Can



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

MAY, 2010

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 – Cristina 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 – Sharry Featherston
– Christina Zehaluk
Members at Large – Nancy Argue 831-0576
Past President – Anne Gadbois – 256-7161

Goodies and door-prizes for the May meeting are kindly requested from members with Surnames starting with D, E and F.

Words of Wisdom

"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies."
Gertrude Jekyll

Congratulations to the draw winner at Ottawa is Blooming last month. Lisa Bronkhorst of Carp won a membership and mug. Welcome to the Club!

The Stittsville-Goulbourn Horticultural Society is holding their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 29, in the parking lot of Bradley Insurance on Main Street from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

May 11, 2010



Annual Bulb Show and Tips/Tricks and Techniques for Gardeners

with
Mary Ann Van Berlo

Mary Ann has been a member of the Gloucester Horticultural Society for 16 years and is a past-president. She is also a member of the Ottawa Horticultural Society. Currently, she is an Assistant Director for OHA District 2. She is an avid gardener (she said it was okay to describe her as "obsessed"). Her large and beautiful rural garden is mostly in the shade. She very much enjoys the challenge of trying new plants, often growing them from seed. Zone limits are only suggestions for her. For the past 5 years Mary Ann has volunteered with the Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton. She lectures, writes gardening articles and participates in many of the advice clinics around town.

In her talk Mary Ann will cover some of the most Frequently Asked Questions that Master Gardeners receive at their advice clinics. She has put together some "Tips, tricks and techniques" to help gardeners with common problems.

FUTURE EVENTS

June 8th, 2010

Annual Spring Flower Show

And

"Gardening with Drought in Mind: Xeriscaping Principles and Waterwise Gardening Tips".

with
Phil Reilly

Annual WCGC Plant Sale

Carp Farmers Market
Saturday June 5, 2010

Our plant sale is fast approaching! While you're cleaning up your beds why not do your perennial divisions now. The earlier you pot them up, the better they will look come sale day. Please include as much info as possible on your labels ie. plant name, colour, and bloom time.

WCGC at the Carp Fair

The executive is exploring the possibility of our club having a booth at the fair. This would give our club great exposure to the public provided that there are enough volunteers willing to man the display.

Plant of the Month



Caladium

Caladiums are tropical plants which come in a variety of colors and combinations. They are native to the banks of the Amazon River in South America. The main colors are red, pink and white, and each different type of *Caladium* has its own unique and exciting color combination of two or more of the above colors.

Where to plant

Caladiums thrive outdoors during the warmer months and add a lush, exotic touch to your yard or garden. Most *Caladiums* are at home in the shade or partial shade, but some varieties are more sun tolerant and can be planted in areas with little shade. They are a great way to add color to shady areas. They are often used as border plants, alongside homes, or in beds. They may also be used in window boxes and make stunning patio container plants.

How to plant

Planting *Caladiums* is very easy. Plant the top of the bulb 1 1/2 to 2 inches below the surface with the eyes up. If the soil is sandy, mix in some peat moss to improve moisture retention. Mulch around the planting and keep moist throughout the season. Fertilize every six weeks with a 6-6-6 type fertilizer or slow release type fertilizer. Use about a teaspoon per bulb.

Storing Bulbs

As foliage begins to die down in the fall, reduce water, dig up and air dry bulbs for a week. Store in a dry location at 55 degrees or above.

Local Summer Garden Tours

Due to the great success of our tours last summer, we have decided to plan some more adventures for you to enjoy.

Some of the tours planned are as follows:

The Mer Bleue Conservation Area - June 26th – 1:30 p.m

The Mer Bleue Conservation Area is a 12.9 sq. mile protected area east of Ottawa. Its main feature is a sphagnum bog which is situated in an ancient channel of the Ottawa River and is a remarkable boreal-like ecosystem normally not found this far south. Stunted black spruce, tamarack, bog rosemary, blueberry, sundew, pitcher plant, at **least 9 species of orchids, Labrador tea, several species of cotton grass**, and a variety of low heath shrubs, are some of the unusual species that have adapted to the acidic waters of the bog. .

Cost \$10 per OHA member

Bird walk with Bruce Di Labio - Saturday in mid to late July

Bruce Di Labio, the well-known Ottawa 'birder' will take us on a 2 hour tour of the Bill Mason Trail in Dunrobin. He will point out the birds and talk about the type of habitat that they prefer. The Bill Mason Trail offers many different types of habitat and wildlife species. Lunch will be at the Heart and Soul Cafe, Dunrobin for those that are interested.

To keep groups small (12 or less) there will be 2 tours, one early in the morning and one later in the morning.

Cost \$15/OHA

Blueberry Mountain and Pike's Peak - early October 2010

Blueberry Mountain and Pike's Peak lie within the 500 hectares of wilderness owned and tended by the Clifford family. The natural forest and wetland support countless species of flora and fauna, many of them rare.

On this tour, Howard Clifford will take us on a guided tour to Blueberry Mountain (2 hours). Those that wish, can then follow Howard to Pike's Peak (another 2 hours). Those that are tired and want a drink can repair to the Blackbird Café in Burnstown for lunch

Cost \$10/OHA member

Montreal Botanical Gardens Trip

The Stittsville-Goulbourn Horticultural Society is organizing a bus trip to the Montreal Botanical Gardens. We are looking for other interested people to fill up a bus. Please pass this information on to your members. We would be pleased if they chose to accompany us.

The approximate cost is \$50.00 or less and will include bus and entrance to the gardens.

Date July 14, 2010

Bus to depart from Stittsville at 8 a.m. return approx. 7 p.m.

Please contact Catherine Disley-Engler by email or phone

613-836-3588.