

THE WATERING CAN



WEST CARLETON GARDEN CLUB

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

NOVEMBER, 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

November 10, 2009

"Winter Birds"



Tony Beck "The Bird Man"

Tony Beck is a freelance naturalist based in Ottawa. His award winning photography appears in many books, websites, magazines & calendars. He teaches Birdwatching and Nature Photography courses both independently and through a variety of institutions. As a Freelance Tour Guide, he leads groups to many exciting destinations, including: All Corners of Canada, Tropical Pacific, American Southwest, and Neotropical America.

Tony will be presenting a slide show and sharing his knowledge of winter birds in our area.

Future Events

December 8, 2009



Pot Luck **Member Slide Show** **Silent Auction**

Members are asked to bring garden related items, (new or used)to be auctioned off during the evening. As is our custom, the floral arrangements for the tables will be generously supplied by members and will also be auctioned off during the evening.



January 12, 2010

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

Michael Runtz



February 9, 2010

The 100 Kilometer Diet

David Hinks
Master Gardener

Goodies and door-prizes for the November meeting are kindly requested from members with names starting N, O and P.

In keeping with environmental concerns, we are looking at purchasing mugs with our logo as a fundraiser. **Sharry Featherston will be presenting a sample mug to the membership at the November meeting.** In the meantime, please consider bringing your own mug to the next meeting

Gardening Quote

To me, the garden is a doorway to other worlds; one of them, of course, is the world of birds. The garden is their dinner table, bursting with bugs and worms and succulent berries.

Anne Raver



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 November meeting. The deadline for orders is January 4. For those members that have e-mail, if you would like to download the pictures and the order form before the meeting please find the attached file with your newsletter.

Plant of the Month



Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*)

Winterberry holly is native to eastern Canada. Other common names are "black alder," "false alder" and "fever bush". In nature winterberry shrubs typically call wetland areas home, although they can be successfully cultivated elsewhere as well by landscapers. However, homeowners who have areas that are plagued by wetness can take advantage of this shrub's native predisposition and plant it in such areas where little else would survive. Winterberry holly prefers acidic soils. It can be grown in partial shade or full sun and can grow from 3' to 15' tall. Their width also varies. Nurseries carry a number of cultivars, each with its own height/width specs.

Although the plant is common in the wild, a good reason to purchase it from a nursery is the fact that it is dioecious. Buy at least one male plant (it will be labeled as such by the nursery), and surround it with the females that will bear the plant's beautiful red berries. Unlike the hollies with which we are most familiar, winterberry holly is deciduous. One might think of this at first as a drawback, but it's actually a benefit for it's exciting display of red berries is enhanced as this shrub sheds its leaves.

Winterberry holly will attract songbirds to your property, the fruit serving as an emergency food source. For the native people of eastern North America it is known as the fever bush as it was used to reduce fever, among other medicinal uses that they had for the plant.

If your passion is arts and crafts, cut winterberry holly stems in November before the birds get them.



The Reading Garden

Two trees were generously donated by the former owner of the Herb Garden, Sharon Channer in memory of her husband Gerry and son Mike. A dedication ceremony took place and a Pin Oak and Crab Apple were planted.



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



Gardening Activities for November

If you haven't finished pruning out this year's fruiting canes on your raspberry bushes, do it now. If you wait until spring, the dead canes will serve as reservoirs for disease, increasing the possibility of spur, cane blight, and other diseases. For blueberries, however, wait until late winter to prune when winter injury can be more easily determined.

For perennials, it is okay to wait until spring to cut them back as long as they are not diseased or have poor foliage. In fact, you may want to wait, even if you have time to prune them now, as many provide a nice winter effect.

This is also a good time to check labels on perennials to make sure they will last through the winter. Redo them if necessary. Edge beds to get ready for spring. Make sure clay pots and garden statuary are covered or out of the weather for winter. Otherwise, moisture and freezing may crack them.

Protect evergreens from harsh winter winds by building a simple windscreen. Position the posts on the sides most prone to winds (generally the west and north) and wrap with burlap. Don't use plastic as this will heat up, causing the plants to fry on sunny days. Continue to water evergreens until the ground freezes.

When cleaning out underbrush and unwanted vegetation around your home, think of the wildlife. Brambles, especially blackberries and raspberries, provide both food and shelter for small animals and birds.

This is a good time to stock up on birdseed for the winter. Black oil sunflower seed is preferred by most species although you might want to provide niger or thistle seed for finches and suet for woodpeckers and chickadees. Blue jays (and squirrels, too) like corn--shelled, cracked, or dried on the cob. Provide a source of water, if possible, preferably a heated bird bath with covered heating element and an automatic shut-off valve or heat cycling on-off switch. The first protects the birds from injury to their feet, the second will prevent damage to the birdbath if it goes dry. Use a grounded, three pronged outlet to prevent the possibility of electrocution. Place a flat piece of shale over the heating element to will provide a warm rock for birds to perch on to rest or drink.

Calling all Camera Buffs!

There is an OHA District 2 Photo Competition 2010

The rules are basic:

- color print from film or digital to be 4x6
- un matted
- write your name and society on the back
- only one entry per competitor per class

Display and prize giving will be at the District AGM

Prizes for each class (if warranted) 1st:\$3.00, 2nd: \$2.00, 3rd: \$1.00

Classes 2010

Class 1: Tulips--A cluster of your favorite variety.

Class 2: Dawning of A New Day (Lily)--A close-up of your favorite flower or flowers

Class 3: Annuals-A shot of your favorite annual

Class 4: It Grew Again! - Your favorite perennial. Show the whole plant.

Class 5: Food For the Table-A picture of your vegetable garden

Class 6: Winter Joy-Any House plant.

Class 7: I Want a Shrubbery- A flowering shrub in bloom.

Class 8: Don't Mow This! - A display of ornamental grass.

Class 9: Show Me the Money- Your society's plant sale.

Class 10: Now You Sedum, Now You Don't-Your favorite sedum in bloom.

Entires to Owen Munn
9 Thorncliff Place
Nepean, ON
K2H 6L4