

# THE WATERING CAN



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

SEPTEMBER, 2009

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

## Welcome back everyone!

Another fun, instructive and social season is upon us.

I would especially like to welcome in our new President, Donna Caldwell, and our executive for this year, all voted in at our June meeting.

The topic and activities planned for this season are very attractive...and we are all looking forward to seeing you often, starting with this upcoming September meeting.

Anne Gadbois  
Past President

## 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  
**Garden Tours** - Janet Lavern - 832-8920

**Goodies and door-prizes for the Sept. meeting are kindly requested from members with names starting A to G**

## Falling Head over Heels

### Workshop

*September 8, 2009*



...Autumn designs you'll love to make for your home by club members and award winning design enthusiasts Donna Christie and Christina Zehaluk.

Carp Fair will be here before you know it, so come and hone up your floral design skills and you'll be sure to enter some prize winning arrangements.

If you would like to participate, please bring a container for your arrangement as well as a selection of flowers and foliage. If you are interested in incorporating any other seasonal material, you could also bring that, for example, small gourds. We will have some plant material to share for those who may not have enough."

## Words of Wisdom

My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view.  
~H. Fred Ale

## Future Events

*October 13, 2009*

### Lost Gardens of Heligan

John Soar

The Lost Gardens of Heligan in Cornwall, Britain are arguably the most famous and extensive garden restoration of our time. Begun in the 1700s, abandoned after WWI in the 1920s, the gardens were rediscovered in the early 1990s and restored over the next few years to their early 20th century opulence.

*November 10, 2009*

### "Winter Birds"

Tony Beck "The Bird Man"

*December 8, 2009*

### Pot Luck Member Slide Show

*January 12, 2010*

### "Couriers and Sex Slaves"

- the Various Roles Wildflowers  
Make Animals Play"

Michael Runtz

*February 9, 2010*

### The 100 Kilometer Diet

David Hinks  
Master Gardener

## Plant of the Month



### *Amorphophallus titanum*

This magnificent structure is the inflorescence of the Titan arum, or *Amorphophallus titanum*. This structure was just over six feet when it bloomed at Fairchild Tropical Garden (Coral Gables, Florida). The seeds for this plant were originally collected on an expedition to Sumatra (Indonesia) by Dr. Jim Symon. There have been three bloomings of *A. titanum* in recent years at Fairchild Tropical Garden.

These flowers (inflorescence) are interesting because they emit a foul odor. The odor is designed to attract carrion beetles, or other pollinators. The smell is usually that of rotting flesh. However, different species emit different odors. Some odors have a distinct urine smell, while others smell of rotting fruit, and yet one species smells like butyric acid.



#### The Reading Garden

Thanks to all of the volunteers who participated in the Spring Clean-up. A special thanks goes to Adeline Alcan, who continued to weed throughout the summer. Also to Ted Barnicoat, David Hinks, Geof Colley, Roy Reynolds and Martha Fraser who worked on the expansion of the patio area under the picnic table. It looks great!

The City donated mulch which was distributed around the peony bed.

Two trees are generously being donated by the former owner of the Herb Garden, Sharon Channer in memory of her husband Gerry and son Mike.

The City is donating a life size sculpture to the library. More information on these two items will follow.

## A Summary of the Guided Walking Tours

The Walking Tours were extremely interesting and a worthwhile venture to promote the club during summer months. All of the tours were well attended by members and non-members alike. Several new members were recruited. Due to the resounding success of the tours we anticipate that we will repeat a similar program in the future.

### Almonte Alvar - with Joost Harwig

Our first walk, the "Burnt Lands Alvar" was very well attended by about 15 people.

Joost Harwig was a fantastic guide: he is very knowledgeable of the history of the Burnt Lands area, having lived there for close to 20 years, and of the origin, history and ecology of alvars. We had a great 2 hours discovering the flora and fauna of the Burnt Lands Alvar.

What would have been an exciting ending to the walk, a black bear, turned out in fact to be male wild turkey showing off its feathers!

### The Arboretum - with Ken Farr

It was a beautiful clear day for our walk with Ken Farr. We learned about the habit and culture of various tree species, both rare and common in our area. He us told many stories about the early days at the Experimental Farm and the Ottawa region in general. It was a very informative session, which ended with a group picnic on the grounds.

### Edible Wilds - with Martha Webber

The sky cleared just in time for us to embark on our walk through the wilderness of the Carp Ridge. Martha distributed Tansy leaves which were used as a bug deterrent. We spent several hours exploring the area and learning about all the wild edible plants in our midst. After our walk, Martha treated us to herbal tea, rhubarb lemonade and some of her great "dandelion jam".

### Wild Medicinal Plants - with Katherine Willow.

We met at the Carp Ridge Eco Wellness Centre and were greeted with a soothing cup of Herbal Tea. It was a lovely day and although the mosquitoes were brutal, we managed to collect many specimens and we returned to the Centre to learn about their medicinal uses. St. Johns Wort seemed to win out as a cure-all with very few side effects. It is useful for depression, anxiety and sleep disorders, bedwetting and will boost your immunities and is helpful in treating wounds, burns and insect bites. A powerful healing infusion can be made by steeping the flowers in olive oil and leaving it in the sun until it turns red.

It was a very informative session and was a great introduction to the amazing healing powers of the native plants in our area.

The results of the June Garden Show will be posted in the October newsletter.