

# The Watering Can



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

NOVEMBER, 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 – Denise Burnham  
Newsletter – Denise Burnham – 839-7316  
Program – Kristen Rothschild – 622-5543  
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 – 622-1122  
Laurie Lord – 839-6596  
Past President – Anne Gadbois – 256-7161

*Goodies and door-prizes for the November meeting are kindly requested from members with Surnames starting with R and S.*

*We still have some mugs available for sale at \$10.00 each  
Note: Don't put your mugs in the dishwasher as the picture will fade.*

*"Autumn is a season followed immediately by looking forward to Spring."  
– Anonymous*

## Members Tip of the Month

Don't forget to put tree guards on your newly planted trees to protect them from animals. For shrubs that are hard to access, several moth balls around the base will also keep pests away. Don't do this if you have pets or small children

*Ruth Schultz*

*November 9, 2010*

## Landscaping with alpiners and unique rockery plants"



*A few small treasures from my gardens, which do well locally.*

Judy Wall trained in Horticulture at the University of Guelph and has many distinguished credits to her name. She is a Master Gardener with the Lanark County Master Gardener group as well as President of the Ottawa Valley Rock Garden and Horticultural Society (OVRGHS).

She is also a member in good standing of the North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS), Ontario Rock Garden Society (ORGS), Scottish Rock Garden society and the Alpine Garden Society in Great Britain.

Her home-based nursery, *Rock Wall Gardens*, was conceived in 1998 when Judy was looking for a new challenge after thirty years in the high tech business. She turned to the activity that gave her the greatest satisfaction – gardening – and decided to start a business doing something that she really enjoyed. In 1999, she purchased the property that is now *Rock Wall Gardens* and in 2000 opened a nursery specializing in long-blooming, drought tolerant, hardy and unusual plants not normally found in other local garden centers.

Since that time, she and her husband have gone on to develop an established and returning customer base as well as many lasting friendships.

## Coming Events

*December 14, 2010*

## Christmas Pot-Luck and Social

## Fundraising Flower Arrangements

## Coming in 2011

*January 11, 2011*

## Indoor Plants

with

Mary Anne Jackson Hughes

*February 8, 2011*

## Vegetable Gardening

with Carol Onion

## Fall Garden Mums



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

## Plant of the Month



### The Sempervivum

*Sempervivum* = Latin: always living  
Common names: Houseleeks, Hens and Chicks

Hens and chicks—also affectionately known as semps—are delightful plants. These low-growing perennials range from less than one centimetre in diameter to more than 10 centimetres, and clumps can spread up to 76 centimetres wide, making them ideal groundcovers. There are well over 60 species, some with white hairs covering their leaves, resembling a dense spider's web. Semps form compact clumps of rosettes in shades of green, red, purple, pink, yellow or grey. They are usually available in the alpine section of your local garden centre from spring until autumn.

Originating in the wilds of southern Europe, North Africa and western Asia, where they live under harsh conditions at high altitudes, semps can withstand temperature extremes. Many are hardy to Zone 4.

Hens and chicks can be grown singly or in mixed groups of different colours and will thrive in rockeries, raised beds and even narrow beds beside the house. They can also flourish when planted in terracotta pots, troughs, old logs, bricks or even the hollow pockets of concrete building blocks. Another good place to grow them is on a low roof, such as a shed.

Well-drained soil is essential and can be attained by adding grit (sand or small particles of stone) and gravel to your desired potting mix. To deter slugs, top-dress containers or the soil around outdoor semps with sharp grit gently pushed under the rosettes. Semps benefit from a light feeding of fertilizer, such as pelleted chicken manure, once or twice a year, but don't put the pellets on the rosettes, as they can be damaged.

Though semps will grow in shade, they require full sun to bring out the rich colour of their rosettes. Make sure they are not overshadowed by other plants, as this may also prevent full colour development. Whether they are growing indoors or out, winter is their dormant period, so keep semps quite dry during this period. In spring and summer, water when dry.

Semps have a profound ability to survive drought and display dazzling progressive colour changes throughout the year. Hues will fade in winter, but their brilliance will return in sunnier spring and summer weather. Rosette sizes and shapes will also vary. Even individual leaf shapes are different; some are fat and globular, others short and pointed, or long and tapered

Master Gardeners of Ottawa Carleton

### Rain Barrel Sale



**\$55.00**

The members of MGOC encourage all homeowners to use rain barrels to collect rainwater for use in the garden – this is a good gardening practice with both environmental and financial benefits. Orders are now being taken for an April 17, 2011, pickup date.

For an excellent deal on rain barrels, **order and pay on-line** by going to <http://www.rainbarrel.ca/ottawacarlton>

**To order and prepay by cheque**, download the order form and follow the instructions <http://mgottawamgoi.ca/mgocrainbarrelorderform>

### Memorial Hall Commemorative Garden

The planning committee has met with the city to discuss the project. We are in the process of getting quotes from landscapers to do the hardscape.

We will present the design to the membership when the final design has been approved. We are going to apply for a grant from the city to match our funds.