

The Watering Can



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

OCTOBER, 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 October meeting are kindly requested from members with Surnames starting with N to P.

Garden Quote

Last night, there came a frost, which has done great damage to my garden.... It is sad that Nature will play such tricks on us poor mortals, inviting us with sunny smiles to confide in her, and then, when we are entirely within her power, striking us to the heart.

~Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The American Notebooks*

Don't forget to renew your membership. Fees are:
Single membership- **\$15.00**
Family - **\$20.00**

October 12, 2010

Touring the Gardens France...



with

*Linda Thorne and
Marjorie Harris*

Linda Thorne will be presenting a slideshow of the tour to France that she organized in September 2008. Garden Writer Marjorie Harris was the host and the tour was based in Paris, the Loire Valley (where the group stayed in a private chateau) and Nice. Highlights of the tour included visits to Monet's Garden at Giverny, the beautiful gardens of Chateau Versailles and Chenonceaux, and the International Garden Festival which is held at Chateau-sur-Loire. In the South of France the group visited several gardens including Renoir's house and garden and the private gardens of Clos du Peyronnet and Les Cedres

Coming Events

November 9, 2010

Rock Wall Gardens "Landscaping with Alpines and Unique Rockery Plants"

with Judy Wall

December 14, 2010

Christmas Pot-Luck and Social

Coming in 2011

Vegetable Gardening

with Carol Onion

Carp Fair Recap

Thanks to all of the members who volunteered at the Carp Fair. The booth looked fantastic and there was a great deal of interest in our club. Thank you to Laurie and Ted and Nancy for setting things up.

We gave Linda (the one who donated the use of the arbor) a free pass to the fair and a post card about our meetings.

Nancy Argue did a beautiful job on the basket. The draw was won by Bonnie Robinson from Kemptville and has been delivered to her.



Memorial Hall Commemorative Garden

We are still in the design and approval stage of this project. However, after consulting an arborist, the decision has been made that the Ash tree in front of the Memorial Hall will be removed by the City. This is great news to all of the West Carleton Garden Club members who planted and nurtured the Blue Spruce tree many years ago. We will keep you updated as things progress.

Fall Pruning

The fall of autumn leaves and the first snow may mean the end of the gardening season for most, but once the snow has melted, smart folks will latch onto the pruning shears and use this time to correct some shrub and tree problems. Mid-to-late fall is a great time to prune. With leaves gone, you can see what you are doing and determine where corrective pruning is needed.

Corrective pruning means removing parts of the plant that aren't growing as we'd like. These may be branches that interfere with other branches, those that rub against the house or branches that overhang a walkway or roof. You can decide which ones to remove, but examine the plant carefully first to visualize how it will look after you've finished.

You'll also want to prune to remove dead or broken branches or those with heavy disease or insect infestations. Oystershell scale in lilac, for example, can be diminished by pruning. Scale often is heaviest on the older canes, so by removing them in the fall or winter, you go a long way in controlling scale buildup the following season. By pruning, you may reduce the need to apply pesticides, and you'll be thinning the shrub to allow more light penetration. The result will be a healthier plant.

You also can prune large, overgrown shrubs during fall and winter. Thin them, however, rather than shearing them at the top. Thinning will reduce the plant's size without affecting its overall shape.

Thinning is especially important for flowering shrubs. You can remove some stalks or branches without significantly reducing spring flowering. Plants such as lilac and forsythia, as well as flowering trees, already have formed their flowers for next year. These flowers are tightly encased in buds that, often, are near the tip of the plant. Shearing such plants will reduce, if not destroy, next year's bloom. That's why you should remove only dead, dying or interfering branches at this time of year. To reduce height, cut some major canes completely without pruning the remainder of the plant. You can prune trees now to make them structurally more sound and less prone to future storm damage. Branches that form narrow "V" crotches are weaker than those with wide-angle crotches. Where possible these narrow "V" branches should be removed. Make the cut just outside the natural "collar." This "collar" usually is marked by wrinkles or a series of ridges in the bark near the branch union. **Do not** cut flush with the trunk.

If removal of a "V" crotch will destroy the shape of the tree, you can leave it in and add artificial support, using cables and hooks. This is a permanent installation. The cables are attached to screw-eye hooks placed directly through the bark of the tree at a point at least two-thirds the distance between the crotch and the top of the branch that needs support. A similar hook is placed on the main trunk at such a point that will provide a strong support when a cable is stretch between the two hooks. The hooks will not harm the tree. Rather the tree, eventually, will grow around the hooks and they will become buried in the bark. If yours is a major pruning and cabling job, however, it may be a good idea to consult a commercial arborist.

This is a good time to prune back the tops of your perennials and summer-flowering shrubs and roses. Don't prune the latter too severely. You can remove dead flowers and the upper one-third of the canes, just enough to make them look better during winter and prevent them from breaking under the weight of a heavy snow.

By Dr. James R. Feucht,