

# The Watering Can



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

SEPTEMBER, 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 September meeting are kindly requested from members with Surnames starting with K to M.*

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



## Photo Op

Since you have all been taking pictures of your gardens over the summer months, we would like to use them to display on screen in the Carp Fair Booth as well as at our December meeting during our Potluck Dinner. Please send them to Ted Barnicoat as an attachment [ASAP\\_barnicoatt@rogers.com](mailto:ASAP_barnicoatt@rogers.com)  
If you do not have a digital camera, please bring them to the Tuesday meeting and they can be scanned for the presentation.

*Tuesday, September 14*

## *Exhibiting and Judging Flowers*



*with Helen Halpenny*

Helen Halpenny has been a member with the Master Gardeners of Lanark County for the past 25 years and has enjoyed growing gardens since she was a little girl. About fifteen years ago, she took the OHA judging school and ten years ago she studied at the Garden Clubs of Ontario Judging School at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton.

Helen enjoys exhibiting at local shows and fairs and looks forward to sharing her 'growing and showing' tips to the members of the West Carleton Garden Club. She'll be sharing tips on when to pick flowers and how to condition them for judging, as well as how to prepare vegetables for show. She'll also interpret a show schedule for us, provide tips for transporting floral exhibits, discuss the scale of points in judging (form, colour, substance, stem and foliage, condition, etc.) and explain some other show terms.

Helen will be bringing some show examples with her and will give us some specific tips on how to prepare our flower exhibits for the upcoming Carp Fair. There will be a handout of the requirements for the flower division.

## Coming Events

*October 12, 2010*

### The Gardens of France.... Touring

with Linda Thorne  
And  
Marjorie Harris

*November 9, 2010*

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

with Judy Wall

## WCGC at the Carp Fair

Our club is having a booth at the Carp Fair. This will give our club great exposure to the public and will help to recruit new members. As mentioned, we will have a slide show of our members gardens during the three day period. We need more volunteers to man the display. Feel free to pair up or bring a friend. The following is a list of time slots that are needed to be filled:

Friday – 12:00 – 3:00  
- 3:00 – 6:00  
- 6:00 – 9:00  
Saturday – 3:00 – 6:00  
6:00 – 9:00

**There will be a draw for Entrance Tickets for all of those members who are participating.**

(Don't forget your name tags)

## Plant of the Month



### Bittersweet Vine by Debbie Kwiatoski

The story of bittersweet is truly a tale of two species – three, technically. Its cast of characters is also aptly named, for as beautiful as all three of the bittersweet vines are in bloom, two of the three species known as bittersweet are as deadly as they are beautiful.

*Celastrus scandens*. *Celastrus scandens* (or “False Bittersweet”) is a showy and “well-behaved” vine, indigenous to the eastern and Midwestern portions of North America. Its leaves are ovate in form, with twirling, twiggy vines that are relatively smooth to the touch. Its orangey-red berries appear only at the tips of their vines. Once abundant in the United States from Maine, not quite south to Florida and throughout the northern and central regions, *C. scandens* is now so rare that it is on many states’ endangered species list. So, while it may be tempting to snip branches of the colorful vine when it’s at its showiest in the fall, *Celastrus scandens* needs to be left alone.

*Celastrus orbiculatus*, an Asian cousin imported to this country in 1860, according to the U.S. Park Service, is now far more common in these same regions. Today, it is as successful as Purple Loosestrife, taking over territory once the domain of *C. scandens*. Oriental Bittersweet, its common name, has thorny vines, and is so prolific that it eventually strangles whatever support structure it rests upon—making it a plant “pest,” actually. Oriental bittersweet’s leaves are more rounded than False Bittersweet’s and its orangey-red berries grow all along its vine. Aside from its faster growth habit than False Bittersweet, its berries also seem to be more attractive to birds, who spread them far and wide and Oriental Bittersweet’s seeds germinate than False Bittersweet’s - two characteristics which keep it on the march through the woodlands, keeping its more well-behaved cousin at a significant disadvantage in the “Survival of the Fittest” game.

*Solanum dulcamara* (or “True Bittersweet”) is another import to North America. *S. dulcamara* is actually a member of the nightshade family and is also commonly known as Nightshade Bittersweet. Since it had already claimed the “bittersweet” appellation in its native Europe long before plants indigenous to the New World were actually classified and named, it managed to keep the “True Bittersweet” tag on this continent. True or Nightshade Bittersweet is every bit as showy as the other two species. Nightshade Bittersweet’s berries begin green, then turn to orange and, finally, to red over the course of a season – minus the flirty little seed casings that give the other two species so much of their charm. It’s also not unusual to see a Nightshade Bittersweet vine with red, orange and green berries – all at the same time - making them very attractive to birds and much desired as a natural holiday decoration, indoors or out.

### Blueberry Mountain and Pike’s Peak

- early October 2010

- still to be determined (when colours are at the best)

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.

We will be carpooling. Drivers will have some of their gas expenses covered.

Cost \$10/OHA member

### Recap of Summer Walking Tours

#### Mer Bleue – June

It was a beautiful day at the Mer Bleue Bog and best of all, there were no bugs. Our guide, Eleanor Thomson was very knowledgeable and also had a great repertoire of bird calls. The ecosystem of the sphagnum bog was explained and many unusual plants were identified, including the carnivorous plant, Drosera, commonly known as Sundew.

#### Bird Walk – July

Another gorgeous day was had by all who attended the Bird Walk at the Bill Mason Trail. Bruce Di Labio and his son Ben were very knowledgeable and even employed some modern audio technology to help identify some of the bird calls.

Bruce also told us about the Albatross which was found near Kingston and was being nurtured back to health by volunteers.

"Leaves fall, the days grow cold.  
The Goddess pulls her mantle of Earth around  
Her  
as You, O Great Sun God, sail toward the West  
to the land of eternal enchantment,  
wrapped in the coolness of night.  
Fruits ripen,  
seeds drip,  
the hours of day and night are balanced

Mabon Sabbat and Lore