

The Watering Can

October 2013

Newsletter of The West Carleton Garden Club and Horticultural Society
P.O. Box 326, Carp ON K0A 1L0



THE PASSING OF THE TORCH

This newsletter is now being shepherded by me, Val Collins. Hello everyone. I haven't had the opportunity to meet you all in person but I hope to in the future. The big news is the process of bringing you *The WATERING CAN* is changing.

The monthly newsletter will now be a bulletin used to post timely information on coming events, speaker information and short bits of gardening advice. The longer more informative format you've become accustomed to will be produced as a quarterly (that's the plan) include more in-depth articles and gardener profiles and stories from you, our membership. Please consider this another call for your stories and gardening advice and interesting ideas we can copyright here and share with more interested parties out there.

We will be building on our existing Facebook page for our garden club where I'll post interesting articles and videos and links to blogs that I find or you send me. For those who aren't on Facebook, you can ask your friends or family who are and hopefully get them excited about what we are doing in our club. The more members the merrier - right Brenda?

By now you probably have read my bio and know that I promote peer learning. Every meeting I learn something new or reinforce past knowledge and make it more current. I would like the quarterly newsletter to continue Phil's philosophy of knowledge exchange and continue sharing our stories with one another to engage a wider interest and audience in something we love. Stay tuned.

West Carleton Garden Club October Meeting:

Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 7:30 pm
Speaker: Kylah Dobson & Zach Loeks from
Rainbow Heritage Farm
Topic: Heirloom Garlic
See Speaker Profile on last page

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings of the West Carleton Garden Club begin at 7:30 pm the second Tuesday of the month (September to June) at the Carp Memorial Hall, 3739 Carp Road, Carp.

Mosaïcultures Internationales at Montréal's Botanical Gardens



WCGC's June field trip to Montreal's Botanical Gardens was my first outing with this group and I was impressed by the organization and group dynamics. Timed perfectly the bus arrived just as the gates opened for visitors. We had our own knowledgeable tour guide whom I lost immediately but found my way around the gardens naturally, bumping into our group from time to time as we discovered the exquisite grounds of this well-kept secret in the middle of busy Montréal. The exhibition's theme was LAND OF HOPE with entrants listed from around the world. <http://www.mosaiculturesinternationales.ca/en/pressroom/> The international jury was on site September 3rd to evaluate the horticultural sculptures according to pre-established criteria and according to the sculptures' compatibility with the exhibition's main theme. The winners will be revealed during the closing ceremony in September. For all those who attended the show in June, secretly cast your ballot for your favourite display and see how your results match the judges' picks.

2013 Vegetable & Fruit Show September 10th

Results:

Lorraine Jeffrey - 6 First-Place Ribbons
David Hinks - 5 First-Place Ribbons
Nancy Argue - 2 First-and 2 Second Place Ribbons
Brenda Baird - 1 First-and 2 Second Place Ribbons

*Best of Show - David Hinks for his 5 Yellow Onions

16 essential fall garden tasks

By Judith Adam of Canadian Gardening
<http://www.canadiangardening.com>

As autumn leaves drift by your window, it may be tempting to look outside and think idle thoughts about nature taking care of itself. But like the rest of us, Mother Nature needs a good kick in the pants once in a while. Here are some fall dos and don'ts, plus tips to help your garden get a jump-start on spring.

[1] When available, pop 'Icicle' pansies into spots where summer annuals have been cleared out. They will bloom until December, then lie down for the winter. Cover them with evergreen cuttings until earliest spring, when they'll be ready to sprout new flower buds. [2] Leaves are garden gold. Spread small leaves of trees, such as honeylocust, birch, beech, ginkgo and silver maple (or shredded large Norway maple leaves), under shrubs and over all exposed soil. They will degrade into mineral nutrients; worms will turn them into fertilizer. [3] Take a gamble and throw seeds of hardy annuals where you want them to bloom next year. Larkspur, poppies, cleome and cosmos will frequently take root from seeds sown in autumn and conditioned under winter snow. [4] Plant bulbous Asiatic and Oriental lilies in late fall to ensure flower bud set. When planting is delayed until spring they may not get enough chilling and come up blind, with no flowers. [5] Wait until the soil has frozen before [mulching](#) autumn-installed plants. After freeze-up, a thick mulch of leaves and evergreen cuttings will keep their root balls safe from the heaving action of frost. [6] Lift big, fibrous clumps of summer phlox, hostas and Siberian irises and [divide](#) with a sharp spade or knife; tease apart fleshy roots of daylilies. Obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), purchased in bloom, can go directly into garden beds (see #5). [7] Plant [garlic](#) in October, in a sunny spot with lots of manure dug in. Set individual cloves eight centimetres deep and 15 centimetres apart, and mulch with five to eight centimetres of leaves. Hard-neck Rocambole garlics such as 'Music' are the hardiest strains, and, when planted in October, can be harvested in July. [8] Autumn is a good time for planting evergreen trees and shrubs. The evergreens' root systems pump water all winter, so be sure to water them well before the ground freezes. And don't hesitate to purchase deciduous flowering shrubs at discounted prices. Even after a summer in containers, they'll adapt and make strong root growth in cool autumn soil. [9] Autumn is the only time to move clematis or honeysuckle vine to prevent shock to growth: both vines begin extending leaves and shoots while frost is still in the spring ground. If the vines are large, cut them back by half, and they'll leap forward next spring.

[10] Use generous amounts of anti-transpirant sprays (available at garden centres) on needle evergreens and broadleaf evergreens, such as euonymus, Japanese pieris and rhododendrons. The waxy coating helps to preserve tissue moisture and prevent winter windburn and sunscald. And lavish it on your Christmas tree to help keep it fresh through the holidays. [11] Root vegetables such as [carrots](#) and [parsnips](#) are sweeter after hard frost and can be harvested all winter. Remove top foliage from the plants and cover them with a 15-centimetre-thick mulch of leaves or straw (available from garden centres) spread to similar thickness. Throw an old piece of carpeting on top and let it snow. Lift the coverings to dig out veggies as needed. [12] Tender hybrid teas, floribunda and grandiflora roses need hilling up about 25 centimetres above their crowns with fresh soil or triple mix. A simple trick that reaps armloads of rose blooms is to tie the flexible new canes of climbing roses in a horizontal arc along fences or trellises. This will trigger the breaking and blooming of many more buds next summer. [13] As for garden hygiene, pick up or rake diseased leaves from under roses (blackspot) and crabapples (scab) and dispose of them in the garbage, not the compost pile. Left on the soil all winter, they'll reinoculate the plants with disease spores the following spring. [14] Squirrels "read" the disturbed soil and marks you leave when planting their favourite tulips and crocuses. Outwit them by concentrating spring [bulb plantings](#) in large groups and disguising your marks by flooding the soil surface with water. Then cover them with five centimetres of leaves topped with some shrubby branches. [15] Remove the debris of summer annuals, then be honest with yourself: will you really go out in early spring to remove remaining perennials? Clean up as much as possible now, leaving strategic clumps for attractive winter display and food for birds. Sedums, hostas, astilbes and ornamental grasses are beautiful in snow. [16] Unless you really are Snow White, try not to create a garden of little winter dwarfs all wrapped up in burlap coats. Tightly wrapped burlap does plants more harm than good by potentially holding ice against their tissues. To protect them from wind or household dryer vent emissions, set up stake-and-burlap barriers, fastened with diaper pins, to break air currents.

Posting Events Information

Please send your posts by the third Thursday to Newsletter Editor collinsprojectmanagement@rogers.com

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/westcarletongardenclub/>

Facebook: Search: 'West Carleton Garden Club'

Executive Committee

President	Donna Caldwell - 839-2079
Vice President	David Hinks - 461-2248
Treasurer	Lorraine Jeffery - 839-7355
Secretary	Denise Burnham - 839-7316
Program	Anita Murray - 894-7321
Plant Sale	Mary Reynolds - 832-0408
Flower Show	VACANT
Hospitality	Mary and Roy Reynolds
Membership	Brenda Baird - 839-3094
Yearbook	Patricia Buchanan - 435-7419
Newsletter	Val Collins - 435-5154
Website	Ken Sala - 470-6137

Members at Large	Laurie Lord Sharry featherstone Pam Leeks Anne Crosley
Past President	Anne Gadbois - 256-7161

GOODIES & DOOR PRIZES

October meeting:
Members with surnames starting with

A - C

Greeter is Lorraine Jeffery
Thanker is Donna Christie

Membership dues past due.
Please pay at October meeting.



Rainbow Heritage Garden

“Focus on Heirloom Garlic”

Often called the stinky rose and known for its nutritional and health benefits, garlic has been the center of controversy for thousands of years. Kylah Dobson & Zach Loeks from Rainbow Heritage Farm have learned to tame this plant and will share their secrets with you.

“We’ve really seen an expansion in awareness in the varieties of garlic that have become available in North America,” says Zach Loeks of Rainbow Heritage Garden.

Loeks and his wife, Kylah Dobson, are regulars at the Carp Farmer’s Market and have been growing garlic and other organic produce at the Dobson family farm in Cobden since they graduated from university seven years ago.

Loeks will talk about the medicinal and culinary aspects of garlic, how they use it on the farm and grow it, from prepping, planting and mulching through harvesting and curing.

“I like to give a talk that opens up a discussion about garlic in a way that looks at it holistically,” he says. He draws on his sustainable approach to farming first learned from his father, a permaculture designer, in New Mexico.

