



The Watering Can



Newsletter of the West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society

MAY 2017

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday May 9, 2017
7:30 p.m.
Carp Memorial Hall
3739 Carp Road

PROGRAM

*“Perennial Pleasure: New Varieties,
Favourites and How to Choose
and Care For Them”*

with guest speaker Robert Wolodarski

Plus... Mini Spring Flower Show

Entries to be placed between
6:45 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

GOODIES & DOOR PRIZES

Goodies: If your last name begins with...

C, D, E, F

you are asked to bring baking or other treats to share during the coffee break. These will be available along with coffee and tea for all to enjoy.

Your turn to bring goodies comes up about once each year. If you are unable to bring baking/treats, please exchange your turn with another member.

Door Prizes: Your contribution of a garden-related item for the door prize draw is also welcomed.

GREETER FOR THIS MEETING

Lorraine Jeffrey

THANKER FOR THIS MEETING

Donna Caldwell



MAY MEETING - GUEST SPEAKER

PERENNIAL PLEASURE: NEW VARIETIES, FAVOURITES AND HOW TO CHOOSE AND CARE FOR THEM with Robert Wolodarski of Artistic Landscape Designs



There's an appeal to perennials that makes them hard to resist.

They come back year after year, like an old friend you can always count on, presenting their blooms and foliage in spectacular displays, some propagating to give you new plants for a different spot in the garden, and offering an ever-changing landscape for your beds as one variety fades and another takes its place in the flowering cycle.

Perennials are something that horticulturalist Robert Wolodarski has come to love. As the manager of perennials at Artistic Landscape Designs, he has developed an intimate knowledge of them over the past 30 years and he will share some of that expertise at our meeting on May 9.

“I don't think people realize how many varieties we have of perennials,” he says. “And every year, growers bring new varieties ... every year there is something new.” There are more than 3,000 varieties carried at Artistic alone.

Learning about new ones and testing their hardiness certainly keeps things interesting for Robert, who notes that any recommendations he makes in his talk and slideshow are perennials that are hardy for our area.

"I am not going much for beauty that lasts only one summer," he says, preferring instead ones that, through testing at the nursery, prove they can withstand our harsh winters.

Of course, he'll mention new perennials coming out as well, but when asked about his favourites, he admits that picking just a few is too hard. "There are so many of them," he laughs.

His talk will include both sun-loving and shade-loving varieties, as well as how to maintain them.

"It's spring, so certain things have to be done in the garden," such as fertilizing and using mushroom compost and organic matter to improve your soil conditions, he notes.

And he welcomes lots of questions, urging those attending to think about what's causing them problems or things they're not happy with so he can advise on what to change or improve.

[Contributed by Anita Murray, Program Coordinator]

PLUS ...

MINI SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Our first flower show of the year will also take place at the May meeting. Classes are listed below and are also available along with the rules in the Resources section of our website. **Entries are to be placed between 6:45 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.** Please come early to place your entries and use the entry tags provided on the website, pre-filled to save time.

Cut Flowers *(all cut specimens to be shown in clear glass)*

- 1 - Narcissus/daffodil - Trumpet, single colour or multi-colour - 2 stalks
- 2 - Narcissus/daffodil - large cup - 2 stalks
- 3 - Narcissus/daffodil - small cup - 2 stalks
- 4 - Narcissus/daffodil - multiflora - 2 stalks
- 5 - Narcissus/daffodil - double, single colour or multi-colour - 2 stalks
- 6 - Narcissus/daffodil - miniature - 2 stalks
- 7 - Other small spring bulbs - 3 of 1 kind
- 8 - Iris - yellow - 1 stem
- 9 - Iris - blue - 1 stem
- 10 - Iris - white - 1 stem
- 11 - Iris - purple - 1 stem
- 12 - Siberian iris - any colour - 1 stem
- 13 - Flowering branch - must be named; not to exceed 24" (61 cm) above rim of container - 1 branch
- 14 - Tulips - orange - 2 blooms
- 15 - Tulips - yellow - 2 blooms
- 16 - Tulips - red - 2 blooms
- 17 - Tulips - pink - 2 blooms
- 18 - Tulips - purple/mauve - 2 blooms
- 19 - Tulips - bi-colour - 2 blooms
- 20 - Any other spring flower not mentioned above; must be named - 1 stalk
- 21 - Bleeding heart - any colour - 1 stem + has foliage



Decorative Class

- 22 - "Spring Forth" - arrangement using flowering branch and spring flowers; to be viewed from one side
- 23 - "Floral Explosion" - bouquet of spring flowers in a jug; to be viewed from all sides
- 24 - "Mini-May" - miniature arrangement, not to exceed 5" in any direction
- 25 - "Quiet Celebration" - arrangement in which a linear pattern is dominant

SOLITARY-POLLEN BEE NESTS FOR SALE AT MAY MEETING



For Canada's 150th, the Ontario Horticultural Association is promoting pollinator habitats. As part of this initiative, the West Carleton Garden Club is planning to install five wooden pollinator boxes throughout community gardens in West Carleton. More to come on this once plans are finalized.

In addition, the club has purchased a quantity of plastic pollinator bee nests for sale to WCGC members and the general public.

No amount of fertilizer or water will produce abundant flowers and vegetables without pollination. For pollination, you need bees. With the recent huge losses of bees worldwide, harvests have suffered.

Solitary-pollen bees will not sting. They are non-aggressive. Most pollen bees can pollinate flowers 15 times faster than honey bees. They are a valuable and necessary part of a lush, healthy garden.

These scientifically designed solitary-pollen bee nests will bring your garden to life. We encourage you to provide a home for solitary-pollen bees and help save the planet. Purchase a nest (or two) at the May meeting for ...

**ONLY
\$18 ea**

LAST MONTH'S MEETING



We had a great turnout at our April meeting with 65 members and guests in attendance to hear guest speaker **Catherine Disley's** presentation "Keep It Contained: Get Inspired to Create Dazzling Containers".



Phil Reily was seen eyeing the Solitary-Pollen Bee Nests the club is selling as part of its participation in the OHA's pollinator initiative for Canada's 150th. Did he buy one, Donna?



In appreciation of their many years of service to the club, President **Brenda Baird** presented long-time members and Hospitality organizers **Mary & Roy Reynolds** with a lovely hummingbird teapot and matching mugs as a departing gift. The Reynolds have sold their home in Dunrobin and will be moving into the city after doing a bit of travelling. They will be sorely missed by all! We wish Mary and Roy all the very best and hope they will come back to visit us from time to time.

OTHER NEWS

OHA DISTRICT 2 AGM - APRIL 22, 2017

POLLINATORS AND PANSIES

On the cusp of spring planting season, 11 members of our society attended the OHA District 2 AGM hosted by the Eganville Horticultural Society. They, along with about 150 other gardeners from each of the 19 societies in our district, spent a full day immersed in a celebration of Earth Day and the joys of the awakening season.

Who knew that compost could be just directly buried in the garden; that green looks grey to bees; that urea is good for hostas; that gladioli bulbettes can remain over winter in the ground?

The tips and tidbits of interesting information were gleaned from presentations by both Michael Runtz and James Graham and laughter was abounding. The beautiful slides shown by these speakers were a visual treat, as were the submissions to the photography competition.

All societies shared what they were doing for the Canada 150 Pollinator Project and we received our \$100 grant.

There were gift bags and door prizes, muffins and coffee, information tables, two rooms of vendors, a tasty lunch and, of course, the AGM meeting as well.

Our outgoing District 2 executive were duly thanked and we elected Sharlene Desjardin of Deep River as our new D2 Director along with four assistant directors and two financial reviewers. There were awards and memorial and installation of officers ceremonies.

Upcoming dates to remember are the District 2 Flower and Vegetable Show to be held August 12 in Almonte and the OHA Provincial Convention July 21 - 23 in Richmond Hill.

Everyone left with a potted pansy in hand, a smile on their face and an invigorated urge to get gardening.

[Contributed by Donna Christie, Secretary]



Some of the members who attended the AGM included **Margaret Storey, Donna Caldwell, Pat Buchanan, Karen Buckley and Adeline Colley.**



Volunteers Needed

With the departure of Mary and Roy Reynolds, we are in need of volunteers to step up and take over the **Hospitality** role. We currently have four members willing to help on a rotation basis.

Two more volunteers are needed. With six on board, and working in pairs, your turn would come up every third month.

Won't you consider helping out? For more information, or to sign up, contact **Brenda Baird** at **613-839-3094** or see her at the May meeting.



Believe it or not ... this inexpensive (i.e. cheap) poinsettia, purchased on November 25 at Home Depot by **Lorraine Jeffrey** for a measly \$3.33 (they were 3 for \$10) is still alive and thriving — much to her amazement! Photo taken April 28.



Leislie Alvarenga
and her family on the recent passing
of her father in Honduras.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOSAICANADA 150/GATINEAU 2017

The date has been set, the bus has been booked, and all that's required now is for members to sign up for this field trip.

What: Mosaiculture exhibit with some 40 different arrangements

When: Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Where: Jacques-Cartier Park, Gatineau

Departure Time: 9 a.m. from the Carp arena by chartered bus

Tickets: \$25 per person



The exhibit route extends over almost one kilometre and will take approximately 90 minutes to complete. Following the visit, we'll board the bus and head somewhere for lunch (cost of which is not included in the ticket price). Once our bellies are full, we set out for Rideau Hall where we will be given a tour of some their gardens. Then it's back to the Carp arena, returning there about 4 p.m.

Organizer **Brenda Baird** will be selling tickets at the May meeting. So bring cash or cheque and sign up then. You don't want to miss this event!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - JUNE



At our AGM in June, we will hold our annual election of officers for the executive committee. Several members of the current board, who have served tirelessly for many years, are going to step down. So there will be vacant positions to fill and **President Brenda Baird** will be mentioning this at our May meeting.

The executive is an energetic, efficient, and congenial group that runs the garden club. We meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Carp branch of the Ottawa Public Library from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Please consider putting your name forward, be it for a specific position or as a member at large. We need you and would love to welcome you to our team.

ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

A reminder that our annual plant sale will be held at the Carp Fairgrounds on **Saturday, May 13** — opening day at the Carp Farmers' Market. This is our main fundraiser of the year.

It's important that all members participate as much as possible, either by donating plants from your garden, or by helping out at the sale... or both!

Bring your plant donations to the Fairgrounds **before 8 a.m.** the morning of the sale. Our canopy will be located at the back behind the Exhibit Hall.

Be sure to identify what plants you are donating: type of plant; if it blooms, what colour is the flower; is it a sun or shade plant; is it drought tolerant; how tall will it get. Any information you can provide about your plants will be most helpful.

Volunteers are needed to help during the sale. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the May meeting. Please consider lending a hand, even if it's just for a half hour or so.

Anyone needing assistance or having questions, contact organizer **Brenda Baird** at **613-839-3094**.



Saturday, May 13
Carp Farmers Market
Carp Fairgrounds, 3790 Carp Rd
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2016 / 2017

September 13

The Power of Pollinators

– with Dr James Coupland of FarmForest Research

Plus... Fall Vegetable, Fruit & Flower Show

September 22-25

WCGC Booth at Annual Carp Fair

October 11

It Starts With a Seed: How to collect, save and use seeds from your garden

– with Kate Green of USC Canada

Plus... Flower Seed Exchange

November 8

Taking Companion Planting to the Next Level – with Master Gardener Rebecca Last

Plus... WCGC Annual General Meeting
Plus... Seed Exchange

December 10

Float in Carp's Christmas Parade

December 13

Holiday Potluck and Social (no speaker)

Plus... Silent Auction

January 10

Creating an Edible Garden – with

Telsing Anderson, Master Lane Edibles

February 14

Designing a Landscape for Large Lots

– with Welwyn Wong of Welwyn Wong Landscape Design

March 14

Child's Play: Gardening with children, fairies and more with Master Gardener Judith Cox

April 11

Keep It Contained: Get inspired to create dazzling containers – with

Master Gardener Catherine Disley

May 9

Perennial Pleasure: New varieties, favourites and how to choose and care for them – with Robert Wolodarski of Artistic Landscape Design

Plus... Mini Spring Flower Show

May 13

WCGC Plant Sale – Carp Farmers' Market

June 13

Spring Social (no speaker)

Plus... Plant & Vegetable Show

Plus... Election of 2017/2018 Executive

July & August

Summer Break - no planned events

2016 / 2017 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT & PLANT SALE - Brenda Baird

613-839-3094

president@wgcg.ca

VICE-PRESIDENT - Kathleen Teahen

613-850-1853

vicepresident@wgcg.ca

SECRETARY - Donna Christie

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TREASURER - Sheila Stumpf

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PAST PRESIDENT - David Hinks

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PROGRAM - Anita Murray

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MEMBERSHIP -

Karen Buckley & Nancy Argue

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HOSPITALITY - Mary & Roy Reynolds

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YEARBOOK - Wendy Good

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FLOWER SHOWS -

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CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER - Dan Stumpf

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FACEBOOK - Anne Gadbois

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NEWSLETTER - Lorraine Jeffrey

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MEMBERS AT LARGE - Leislle Alvarenga,

Donna Caldwell, Susan Dowler

ABOUT WCGC



The West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association, District 2. The club was established in 1989 and joined the OHA in December 1990.



Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August) in the Carp Memorial Hall, 3739 Carp Road at 7:30 p.m. where featured speakers share their knowledge.

Guests are always welcome to our meetings. The \$5 admission fee for guests can be applied toward an annual membership. Yearly membership fees are \$15 for an individual, and \$20 for a family and are due in September. Our membership year runs from September 1 through August 31. To inquire about membership, contact **Karen Buckley** at 613-832-2668 or **Nancy Argue** at 613-622-1122 or membership@wgcg.ca.

Visit us at WCGC.ca | Join us on Facebook

The Watering Can newsletter is published every month except in July and August.

Send your information, submissions and articles to Lorraine Jeffrey by email at newsletter@wgcg.ca.

Submission deadline for the June issue is May 31.