

# The Watering Can



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

JUNE, 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 – Sharry Featherston – 839-9944  
Newsletter – Denise Burnham – 839-7316  
Program – Cristina Zehaluk – 832-3526  
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 831-0576  
Past President – Anne Gadbois – 256-7161

*Goodies and door-prizes for the June meeting are kindly requested from members with Surnames starting with G to J.*

Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration. ~Lou Erickson

## Elections

It's that time of year again and we, the executive, have all enjoyed working together to plan our year. Each and every person in our club has the potential to bring something unique to the board. Please consider joining our team starting in the fall. We meet only briefly once a month at the Library from 7:00 – 8:30 (usually the fourth Tuesday of the month) Some of the positions that are up for grabs are Secretary, Year Book co-ordinator, and Event Coordinator. We always have openings for Members at Large, if you would like to get involved. Please consider being a part of the team. It is a lot of fun!

*June 8th, 2010*



## Annual Spring Flower Show

*Placement of entries 6:30 – 7:15*

**"Gardening with Drought in Mind: Xeriscaping Principles and Waterwise Gardening Tips" with Phil Reilly**

Until last summer Phil & Carole operated Reilly's Country Gardens - a home-based specialty nursery that started as a hobby which grew to a more-than-full-time business employing 4-5 seasonal employees. In the early years of residing at their Diamondview Road property, as 1970's back-to-the-landers, (they've been there for 36 years) they established extensive vegetable and berry gardens, raised chickens, geese and rabbits, tended three hives of bees (until Phil became allergic to bee stings) and shared with a neighbour for three years, a beef cow which Phil hand-milked every second day. Phil and Carole's original lifestyle aim was food self-sufficiency on one acre of land (the aim never became a reality!). Fledgling ornamental gardens were installed the spring following their move from down town Ottawa to the country. Phil became the primary parent-at-home for 16 years while Carole, a high school teacher, was the family's primary wage earner. Phil's gardening interests were the practical - propagating and growing as many plant varieties as he could.

Twenty five years ago, on a May 24 weekend, Phil & Carole had their first plant sale (off a bridge table) and, having sold a couple of hundred dollars worth of surplus perennials that weekend, foresaw the 'possibilities' that lay ahead for starting a specialty perennial plant nursery. Phil's Carleton University training in plant biochemistry and ecology provided the technical background to grow plants as well provided an understanding of plants' specific environmental preferences to grow successfully. Carole dove into the world of garden design and developed her skills in combining perennials to give all-season colour in the gardens. To provide family harmony, there were (and still are) 'his' and 'her' gardens allowing each to experiment with plants and designs.

In the past few weeks we've all gone through a rainfall shortage and struggled with keeping plants alive through irrigation. 'Gardening with Drought in Mind: Xeriscape Principles & Waterwise Gardening Tips', is certainly timely.

## Coming Events

*September 14, 2010*

### Judging Plant Shows

with Helen Hallpenny

*October 12, 2010*

### The Gardens of France ... Touring with Linda Thorne and Marjorie Harris

with Linda Thorne

## Plant of the Month



### ***Drought tolerant Lavender***

The lifespan of an established lavender plant is at least ten years. This hardy plant attracts bees and butterflies. Lavender grows in mounds or clumps, making them great for hedges and borders. Some lavenders are dwarfs and only get 10 inches high, while others can reach 3 feet. The shorter lavender makes a lovely lavender border, while the taller plants make a wonderful lavender hedge.

When growing lavender, think sunshine. If a plant becomes shaded by a tree or larger plants it will become stunted and only throw out sparse blooms. One of the nice things about growing lavender is they don't take much care.

Lavenders can stand brief droughts if they are established. As a matter of fact they do poorly in wet soil and may get root rot. If the drought is prolonged you may need to water. If you do need to water, do so in the morning so the plant has time to dry out by night. It is better if you water outside of the diameter of the plant to help prevent leaf fungus. The root line is wider than the leaf line.

Sandy soil is a must for growing lavender. If your soil is clay, heavy, or rich just add sand or round stones to the soil to lighten it. Don't use crushed stones because they will compact over time. Drainage is very important to them. They also grow well in mounds, raised beds, rock gardens or even on slopes. Lavender grows wild on mountains. This really is a hardy little plant!



### **The Reading Garden Celebrating Volunteers**

**Volunteer Picnic - Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**2:00 – 4:00 pm. – Rain or Shine**  
**RSVP by June 10**  
**Lori or Mary (613) 839-5412**  
**BYOC(Bring your own chair)**

It would be great to have the gardens looking in tip top shape for the event. We will be having our **Annual Spring Cleanup on Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please consider joining the work team for a few hours. Many hands make light work!

## **Annual WCGC Plant Sale**

Carp Farmers Market  
Saturday June 5, 2010

Our plant sale is our most important fund raiser. Please donate and come out and support the club. Drop off for plants will start at 7:30 a.m., outside at the back of the barn. Please include as much information as possible on your labels ie. plant name, colour, and bloom time. Happy Shopping!

## **Summer Events**

It's not too late to sign up for some of our exciting summer programs.

**The Mer Bleue Conservation Area**  
June 26<sup>th</sup> – 1:30 p.m

Cost \$10 per OHA member

**Bird walk with Bruce Di Labio**  
Saturday in mid to late July  
Cost \$15/OHA

**Blueberry Mountain and Pike's Peak**

early October 2010

Cost \$10/OHA member

**Montreal Botanical Gardens Trip**

Date July 14, 2010  
Bus to depart from Stittsville at 8 a.m. return approx. 7 p.m.  
Please contact Catherine Disley-Engler by email or phone  
613-836-3588.



## **Photo Op**

Don't forget to take pictures of your garden over the summer months. At our December meeting during our Potluck Dinner, we will be featuring a slide show of our members gardens.