

The Watering Can

May 2013

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



Emerald Ash Borer News

by Phil Reilly

Attending a few recent public events this spring, I've been reminded of the looming decimation of local ash tree populations by the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). One implication of the continuing death of ash trees is a quarantine order prohibiting the movement



of wood out of areas where the insect has been found. Moving firewood from places where this rapidly spreading insect is found is a violation of the *Plant Protection Act*, with penalties up to \$50,000 and/or prosecution. The entire Ottawa region has

been placed under a quarantine order banning movement of firewood beyond the boundaries shown on the map available at this link ([Map of Areas Regulated for the Emerald Ash Borer](#)). Please regularly monitor news updates about where the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been detected. Information current to the fall of 2012 is found [here](#). In September 2012, it was announced that EAB has now been found in areas of the Municipality of Gatineau and the Gatineau Park.

It behooves all property owners to be able to identify ash trees and the Emerald Ash Borer. The following links lead to detailed descriptive and pictorial online identification aids.

[Ash tree species.](#)

[Emerald Ash Borer.](#)

[Signs and Symptoms of the Emerald Ash Borer.](#)

The City of Ottawa's website has extensive EAB information. [This link](#) takes you to a page titled *Rural residents and EAB* where you'll find many FAQs including typical treatment options and tree removal costs. Another fact sheet details the [ash tree injection program](#): what the City is doing for trees on City property, what private landowners can do, and qualified arboriculture companies the City has pre-approved to undertake the injection of TreeAzine into ash trees.

A useful cost/benefit aid to help decide whether to have trees injected with TreeAzine or have them removed is available from the Canadian Forest Service. By using [this link](#), and clicking on the 'Go to Model Calculator' button, you can enter various parameters unique to the tree and its physical settings and see a report comparing the choice: treat or cut down and remove. Also downloadable, from the International Society of Arboriculture's journal *Arboriculture & Urban Forestry* (38(4): July 2012), is "[To Treat or Remove: An Economic Model to Assist in Deciding the Fate of Ash Trees Threatened by Emerald Ash Borer](#)." This report, by Daniel W. McKenney and John H. Pedlar of Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service, more fully describes the parameters used in their just-mentioned online calculator.

May Meeting:

Tuesday, May 14, 2013
7:30 pm

Phil Reilly speaks on:

***Gardens of The Netherlands
and Floriade 2012***



Please Note: Refreshments by M to S

Members whose surnames begin with letters **M to S** are requested to provide refreshments and door prize articles for this meeting.

Celebrating our Gardening Friends - Phil Reilly

by Val Collins

Since it is Phil Reilly who usually writes these columns, I offered to write a profile to help him out/to save him the awkwardness/to celebrate all that he has done for me.

When I met Phil, his commercial nursery days were over and his plant focus had become one of food production and sustainable lifestyles. The grueling sunrise to sunset schedules of the nursery business has lessened, but his days are no less busy. Still on an early day cycle, Phil is enthusiastically working on enough new and innovative projects to keep at least two people fully occupied.

If we are lucky, we find our passion early on and never work another day in our lives. Phil is one of those fortunate souls who found his passion early but that hasn't stopped him from looking further, seeing more and being perennially curious.

His first love of gardening evolved into a full-blown affair with science. Phil's parents and grandparents were keen gardeners. At Carleton University, Phil's studies of plant physiology and biochemistry, of plants' cellular workings, and ecology, gave him the scientific basis for the vital inter-relations and interdependencies of plants, animals, and humans. As an intelligent and inquiry-based young man, university also awakened his activist nature, giving him a lifelong commitment to doing right for the planet.

Phil's university studies and early work history with public interest groups led to commendations and awards from his peers. His soulmate in this journey, coming on 40 years, is the steadfast Carole. As inspired as Phil is, one requires an equally open-minded, understanding and supportive partner. From the first reading of [*One Acre & Security*](#) by Bradford Angier, the vision of a self-sufficient lifestyle has been maintained. Phil's skills in woodworking enabled renovating an old house and building a new life in the country. While raising two children and undertaking renovations for others under the banner of *Plane Country Craftsmen*, Phil and family grew some of the household's food staples. When a burst blood vessel took the sight in one eye, he still had a good eye for gardening. Phil regrouped his efforts and developed their commercial nursery business—a 25-year run—another natural progression in Phil's journey.

Operating the nursery gave Phil the stimulus to join two professional organizations; the Perennial Plant Association (principal members are nurseries, garden centres and horticultural researchers) and the Garden Writers Association (primarily garden writers, book authors, and scientists writing about horticultural research). With these groups, he was able to tour the

most progressive nurseries in North America, attend lectures by horticultural researchers and authors, as well as visit regional botanical gardens, trial gardens and spectacular private gardens not widely open to the public.



Over the years Phil and Carole often shared their gardening knowledge with area horticultural clubs, provided seminars and workshops at their nursery, led adult education programs for The Ottawa-Carleton Board of Education, and conducted gardening seminars for Lee Valley Tools. Phil has published in trade journals and local newspapers and maintains his writings on his website's [Fact Sheets page](#). Access them still through [E-letters Archive page](#).

Phil's activist nature has always been at his core and has drawn him to various causes over the years. In his university days, he undertook the position of Coordinator of Pollution Probe-Ottawa at Carleton University. In the early 1990s he participated, as a member of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club's Conservation Committee, on campaigns to protect the [Leitrim Wetlands](#) and Stittsville's Poole Creek (one of the last streams in Ottawa with a trout species). He helped found Ecovision, a regional coalition of environmental organizations to increase the strength of citizens' voices before regional government and was coordinator of The Wetlands Preservation Group of West Carleton (WPG), a group of local citizens successfully campaigning against incursions into the provincially significant Constance Creek Wetlands. In this phase of his life, he also undertook contract employment research and writing background papers for the Federal Government departments—one of which was the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry (a.k.a. "The Berger Inquiry").

One would think that a passion for environmentalism would wear a body out. But for Phil, working the earth gave him strength. The family nursery provided an outlet for both the Reillys to use their substantial teaching talents. Reilly's Country Gardens was known for its unique varieties and customized,

Cont'd on page 3

individual attention to gardeners' needs. Phil shared his love of plants to a broad local public.



Reilly's pond garden, one of 23 beds on their one-acre property, provides many of the ecological functions required by nature's many visitors to their gardens. Their gardens are certified under the Canadian Wildlife Federation's "Backyard Habitat" program and as a Monarch Waystation by the Monarch Watch program.

Post-nursery days sees a continued expression of living with an environmental conscience. Phil and Carole's home has been retrofitted with triple-glazed energy-efficient windows, fitted with a heat pump to reduce electrical consumption for home heating and cooling and, thanks to a strategically positioned 10-kilowatt solar panel array, contributes electricity to the grid. A greenhouse has recently been erected over a portion of the garden to allow a March start to vegetable gardening and to extend the harvest of root vegetables well into January. A 30-minute [You-Tube video](#) profiles the Reillys' gardens and their solar system. And most recently, of course, Phil has taken on the writing and distributing of this newsletter—*The Watering Can*.

Phil enthusiastically enjoys talking to people about plants and his nursery experience to inspire one person at a time to become a better gardener. He believes environmental stewardship is an obligation to humanity. Hope for a better world is his legacy wish.

Meeting Reminder

May 14th meeting is also our Mini Spring Flower Show

Please come early to place your entries. Guidelines are in the 2014 WCGC yearbook, which was distributed at the April meeting.

"Clickables"

by Phil Reilly

The U.S. National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service has an extensive series of downloadable publications and videos and webinars for organically-minded home gardeners and small-scale farmers. [Thirty eight video and webinar topics](#) are available. The publication series spans six principal topic areas (clickable below):

- [Fruits](#)
- [Vegetables](#)
- [Herbs and Flowers](#)
- [Greenhouse Production](#)
- [Agroforestry](#)
- [Other Horticultural Topics](#)

Nematodes and other biologicals. Cornell University has an excellent website guide, including [a good profile of nematodes](#). The entire site is an excellent tutorial on the concept and practice of biological control and integrated [pest management](#) (IPM). The guide currently includes individual pages of approximately 100 natural enemies of pest species. On each of these pages you'll see photographs, descriptions of the life cycles and habits, and other useful information about each natural enemy.

[Insect Management on Organic Farms](#) is not just for farmers! It is a 37-page document succinctly describing:

- Biological information on what insects need to survive to determine if pest insects can be deprived of some vital resource they depend upon.
- Ecological information on how the insect interacts with the environment and other species to shape a pest-resistant environment.
- Behavioural information about both pest and beneficial insects to understand how they go about collecting the necessities of their lives so that farmers/gardeners can manipulate practices to protect crops.

Trees, Shrubs, and Groundcovers Tolerant of Wet Sites

There are not a lot of West Carleton Garden Club members who have gardens on overly wet soils, but for those who do, there is a good source of information on what trees, shrubs and groundcovers to consider for your property. The [Pennsylvania State College of Agricultural Science's website](#) has a good list of plant selections to consider—just keep in mind our growing zone differences. In our Kinburn-area gardens, we are growing many of the suggestions found on their site. The less-hardy suggestions are grown in areas of our garden where snow cover is exceptional so we get a chance to stretch the conventional growing zone considerations!

(Cont'd on page 4)

[“Get Those Seedlings in the Ground”](#), an article in *Kitchen Garden Magazine*, provides excellent information on transplanting young potted plants. [“How to Harden Off Seedlings”](#) is another super article. It reminds us of the proper sequencing of movements of tender plants to the rigors of sun, wind, and temperatures that can easily kill non-hardened-off plants. There is also an amazing number of archived articles on their website—a Fine Gardening website. [Click here](#) to go to the first of 1544 articles!

Pressure-Treated Wood for Raised Beds and Hoop Tunnels?

I am always hopeful that gardeners have the correct information at hand as they embark upon new projects. The proper choice of materials for constructing raised beds, especially for vegetable gardens, is essential. Wood is such an easy material to work with that it is often the material of choice when constructing smaller raised beds. Using 2” x 6” Eastern White Cedar, I’ve created a couple of 48” x 96” frames that are used for vegetable growing. With our heavy clay soil, these raised beds filled with compost-enriched soil give the extra drainage needed for earlier soil warm-up in the spring and allow me to transplant cool-season vegetables out a couple of weeks



earlier than in the main garden. With the wooded frames, I’ve also been able to create a simple hoop tunnel using bent 1/2 inch electrical conduit which supports plastic or light-weight row covers to give frost protection as needed. [Here is a link](#) to an article on constructing small hoop tunnels. If anyone wishes to bend some conduit for a hoop tunnel project, I (Phil R.) do have a bender that I’m willing to lend to club members.

In preparing this product-choice reminder, I once again reviewed Linda Chalker-Scott’s website to see if she had any wise words about why to avoid pressure treated wood when building raised beds. I was glad to see that she has a [good article](#) documenting the reasons to avoid it.

Upcoming Meeting Reminders

June 1, 2013 Annual Plant Sale

The annual plant sale, our prime fundraiser, will be held on Saturday, June 1st at the Carp Farmers' Market, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

April and May are great times to pot up divisions of plants overgrowing their spaces. The more time in pots, the stronger the root growth in their pots. Please come between 7:00 and 8:00 am to place your plant donations in the sale.

June 11, 2013

This monthly meeting is our Spring Social:
a potluck dinner of sweet and savoury with a spring theme

This meeting also features our Annual Plant and Vegetable Show and first annual Photography Competition, guidelines for which are also in the new yearbook.

West Carleton Garden Club Contacts (2012–2013)

President - Donna Caldwell (839-2079)
Vice President - David Hinks (839-2248)
Treasurer - Pam Leeks (839-1928)
Secretary - Denise Burnham (839-7316)
Newsletter - Phil Reilly (832-2965) (email: reilly@magma.ca)
Program, Website & Facebook - Anne Gadbois (256-7161)
Plant Sale - Mary Reynolds (832-0408)
Hospitality - Mary and Roy Reynolds (832-0408)
Flower Show - Nancy Argue (622-1122)
Membership - Brenda Baird (839-3094) and Anne Crosley
Yearbook - Lorraine Jeffrey (839-7355)
Members at Large - Laurie Lord (839-6596)
Past President - Anne Gadbois (256-7161)

West Carleton Garden Club

Monthly Meetings

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

Website:

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

Facebook: Search: 'West Carleton Garden Club'

Reminder for the May 14 Garden Club meeting.

Our greeter is to be Anne Gadbois and speaker-thanker is to be Lorraine Jeffrey.