



# The Watering Can



Newsletter of the West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society

APRIL 2017

## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday April 11, 2017  
7:30 p.m.  
Carp Memorial Hall  
3739 Carp Road

## PROGRAM

***"Keep It Contained: Get Inspired  
to Create Dazzling Containers"***

with guest speaker and  
master gardener Catherine Disley

## GOODIES & DOOR PRIZES

**Goodies:** If your last name begins with...

**V, W, A, B**

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 or  
contact Mary Reynolds at 613-832-0408.

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

## GREETER FOR THIS MEETING

Susan Dowler

## THANKER FOR THIS MEETING

Wendy Good



**Happy Easter!**

## APRIL MEETING - GUEST SPEAKER

**KEEP IT CONTAINED: GET INSPIRED  
TO CREATE DAZZLING CONTAINERS**  
*with master gardener Catherine Disley*

Baskets, urns, pots, window boxes. In  
whatever form, containers of plants are  
like miniature gardens that can be placed  
anywhere and add an instant spark to your  
yard for a fraction of the time, effort and  
cost of a full garden.

"It's a contained environment that you  
have a lot of control over," says floral  
arranger and gardener Catherine Disley,  
who is a huge fan of container gardening.  
"It's a little bit more manageable, it doesn't  
take the same amount of effort in time or  
finances."



For a fraction of the time and price of what it would take to get the same  
effect from a landscaped bed, "you can get a really stunning looking  
container that accents your whole house."

As a graduate of Algonquin College's horticulture and landscaping program  
and having been a senior designer at some of Ottawa's premier floral  
shops, Catherine knows of what she speaks. She'll bring that knowledge to  
a talk she'll be giving at our next meeting on April 11.

From the basics – like the type of soil you should use, selecting plants,  
planting techniques and watering – to tips on the importance of mulch,  
creating containers for curb appeal and how to decide what suits your  
house the best, Catherine will share what's required to get optimum  
growth out of the containers and offer lots of plant combinations that will  
work in settings ranging from full shade to full sun.

"If you're limited for time or energy, then containers are a great way to go,"  
she says. And with some of the self-watering systems you can get on timers  
(yes, she'll talk about those, too), you don't even have to remember to  
water them.

Catherine will also cover the importance of watering properly – often one  
good watering is better than several smaller ones – and using something

organic in the bottom, like leftover fall leaves, moss or pine needles, to help hold moisture in the pot.

Size is important: “If you’re having difficulty getting good results from a container, chances are you’re using either a container that’s not large enough or soil that’s not meant for containers.”

And the type of pot counts, too. Concrete or cast iron containers in full sun are not a great idea, for instance. “If they’re in full sun, basically you’re baking your plants.”

While there are basic guidelines to creating containers, which she’ll point out, she’s also a fan of breaking those rules, and will share some of her favourite creations that from a designer’s point of view are all wrong. “But when you look at it, it’s gorgeous. You can have rules as guidelines, but as with anything it’s personal taste.”

Her final advice: “Don’t be intimidated to try something different, because it’s only by doing that and experimenting with it that you realize, ‘Well, gee, I really like that and it really does suit my house and make everything work.’”

*[Contributed by Anita Murray, Program Coordinator]*



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### OOPS... CORRECTION

In last month’s newsletter I erred in saying that three new members joined us in “September”, when in fact it was **February**. My excuse: I did a cut-and-paste of text from a previous issue and despite proofing the newsletter several times, I still missed seeing the mistake!

Apologies to **Renée Kay**, **Janice Lardner** and **Jack Cornett**.



**Renée Kay**



**Jack Cornett & Janice Lardner**

### LONG-TIME MEMBERS LEAVING



It is with regret we announce the departure of two long-time members who have served on the Executive for many years. **Mary and Roy Reynolds** have sold their home in Dunrobin and will be moving into the city. The April meeting will be their last in the role of Hospitality. So this means we have a vacancy that needs to be filled.

If you’d like to become more involved in the club and help to keep it running, we encourage you to consider taking on this role. We really need someone (or two) to come forward and take this on. Won’t you help us out please?

### OHA / LOBLAWS HORTICULTURAL SPECIALIST OPPORTUNITIES



It may not seem like it now, but the crocuses will soon be popping through the snow, and Loblaws has already started their plans for this year's garden centres. For more than 20 years they have exclusively hired OHA society members to act as customer consultants for all of Loblaws' Ontario locations and currently require candidates for some Ottawa area garden centres. Participants can earn **between \$1,700 and \$3,500** for a commitment of 16 or 32 days over this 8-week contract.

As a customer consultant, this position requires **hobby gardeners** who enjoy sharing their knowledge and experience with customers seeking advice on plant selection (sun or shade, wet site or dry), care (deadheading, pruning), and cultivation (soil type, fertilizer). Primary responsibilities are sales and service — absolutely **no heavy lifting nor cashier work**. Plant maintenance (watering, deadheading, mildew control) is optional if time allows, but may be best referred to management for staff attention.

Candidates need not be experts, but simply possess some practical experience with some of the following: annuals and perennials, fruits and berries, vegetables and herbs, lawn care, soil amendments, natural pest and weed controls. You will not necessarily have the answer to every question asked, but you may be able to refer the customer to other resources — your reference books are welcome on the job.

If you'd rather **refer a qualified friend** who is not currently a member of an OHA society, now is the opportunity to enlist their membership!

This 8-week seasonal contract runs **Thursdays through Sundays, May 4th through June 25th, 2017**. Starting wages are **\$15.50 per hour, job-sharing is available** (i.e. two people each covering two days at a single location) and all participants earn their OHA society a cash donation from Loblaws.

Interested candidates should contact **Steve Rahm at 613-591-1268** for additional details as soon as possible.

*[Source: District 2 News Bulletin]*

#### Editor's Note:

We have been informed by Steve Rahm of the Nepean Horticultural Society that he has referred a member of the West Carleton Garden Club — **Beatrice O'Connell** — to share one of these positions at the Kanata-Centrum Loblaws. As a result of this shared position, the WCGC will receive a \$25 cheque from Loblaws at the end of this year. Thank you Beatrice for your participation!

### SPRING PLANT SALE

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 most important and main fundraiser. We will need lots of plant donations and volunteers to help on the day. President **Brenda Baird** will again be organizing the event.

What can you do over the next month before potting up? Check your garden to see what plants you could donate.

When you are preparing the pots for planting be sure to fill the whole pot with soil to ensure healthy roots. Plants with a good-sized root ball are preferable as that will allow the plant to grow bigger for the May sale.

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.

If you have surplus pots to donate for potting, they can be dropped off at Brenda's — please phone first at **613-839-3094**. And if you are in need of pots, contact her as well.



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



## VOTE FOR CANADA'S NATIONAL FLOWER

What's the national flower of Canada? We have an official tree — the maple, but we do not have an official flower! Master Gardeners of Ontario thinks Canada's 150th birthday is the perfect time to launch a campaign to get one!

Toronto Master Gardeners with help from Todd Boland, Research Horticulturist at Memorial University of Newfoundland, came up with the following three choices for a pan-Canadian flower, one that appears in every province and territory but is not already a provincial or territorial emblem:



### **Hooded Ladies Tresses** (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*)

- Unique spiraling flower spike marks this genus
- Found in open wet areas – meadows, bogs, marshes
- Fragrant flowers from July to Sept on 10 to 50 cm stems
- Food source for native bumblebees all through summer



### **Twinflower** (*Linnaea borealis*)

- Delicate but tough! “borealis” – of the north
- Found in forests, wetlands all over Canada
- Reproduces mainly by spreading stolons
- Fragrant flowers on 15 cm stems for one week in June, attract native bees
- Winter forage for caribou



### **Bunchberry** (*Cornus canadensis*)

- Changes with the seasons - just like Canada!
- White flowers in spring, red berries in summer, great red-purple fall colour
- Very common in forests and wetlands all over Canada
- Creeping form, 10 to 20 cm tall, great as a native groundcover
- Pollinators include native bumblebees and solitary bees
- Berries are food source for small and large mammals, migratory birds
- Winter forage source for caribou, moose, elk, deer

Vote using the Survey Monkey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8Z9WDW9>

**Voting closes at midnight on June 30, 2017**

**VOTE NOW!**

[Source: mgoi.ca]

## 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 Andrus  
***Creating an Edible Garden*** – with Telsing Andrus

February 14

### ***Designing a Landscape for Large Lots***

– with Welwyn Wong of Welwyn Wong Landscape Design

March 14

***Child's Play: Get inspired 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@wcgc.ca

### **VICE-PRESIDENT** - Kathleen Teahen

613-850-1853

vicepresident@wcgc.ca

### **SECRETARY** - Donna Christie

613-839-2263

secretary@wcgc.ca

### **TREASURER** - Sheila Stumpf

613-868-0517

treasurer@wcgc.ca

### **PAST PRESIDENT** - David Hinks

613-461-2248

hinks.david@rogers.com

### **PROGRAM** - Anita Murray

613-894-7321

program@wcgc.ca

### **MEMBERSHIP** -

Karen Buckley & Nancy Argue

613-832-2668 / 613-622-1122

membership@wcgc.ca

### **HOSPITALITY** - Mary & Roy Reynolds

613-832-0408

royereynolds@yahoo.ca

### **YEARBOOK** - Wendy Good

613-836-1332

dogs23455@gmail.com

### **FLOWER SHOWS** -

Patricia Buchanan & Denise Burnham

613-435-7419

pbuchanan@index-edit.ca

### **WEBMASTER** - Ken Sala

613-470-6137

webmaster@wcgc.ca

### **CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER** - Dan Stumpf

613-868-0517

danstumpf@gmail.com

### **FACEBOOK** - Anne Gadbois

613-256-7161

facebook@wcgc.ca

### **NEWSLETTER** - Lorraine Jeffrey

613-839-7355

newsletter@wcgc.ca

### **MEMBERS AT LARGE** - Leslie 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@wcgc.ca.

*Visit us at [WCGC.ca](http://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@wcgc.ca](mailto:newsletter@wcgc.ca).

**Submission deadline for the May issue is April 26.**