



The Watering Can



Newsletter of the West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society

NOVEMBER 2016

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday November 8, 2016
7:30 p.m.

Carp Memorial Hall
3739 Carp Road

PROGRAM

*"Taking Companion Planting
to the Next Level"*

with guest speaker Rebecca Last

PLUS...

27th Annual General Meeting

PLUS...

Seed Exchange

GOODIES & DOOR PRIZES

Goodies: If your last name begins with...

O to R

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

Judith Cox

THANKER FOR THIS MEETING

Pat Buchanan

NOVEMBER MEETING - GUEST SPEAKER

TAKING COMPANION PLANTING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

with master gardener Rebecca Last

Want to learn the secret of a garden that takes minimal effort yet is the envy of your neighbours?

Rebecca Last has the answer.

A federal government policy advisor by day, and self-confessed gardening addict anytime else, Last says the key is changing our approach so that we look at a garden as a mini ecosystem rather than looking at plants individually.

"It's a philosophy that allows you to be a lazy gardener, in fact it encourages you to be more of a lazy gardener," says Last, a Master Gardener who will explain the approach in a talk and slideshow presentation at our November meeting.



The philosophy she's referring to is called a plant guild, which is both a relatively new concept and a very old idea, she says. It's somewhat similar to companion planting – which aims to ensure that plants, usually annual vegetables, growing close together do not compete with each other – but it's much more than that. A plant guild seeks to create a self-sustaining system of perennials that requires minimal maintenance.

Early European settlers in North America came across beautiful forest food gardens created by indigenous peoples, but none of those early settlers took the time to study these gardens and how they worked, Last explains in a recent article for Master Gardeners of Ottawa-Carleton. That means today it's an evolving field of study as we relearn what plants go together harmoniously.

A plant guild typically starts with a large tree as a centrepiece, although it could be a shrub, around which you would place a variety of mostly perennial plants with perhaps some annuals mixed in.

"What you're trying to do is put together a grouping of plants that will get along with each other and that will provide all the different functions that you need in your garden," such as fixing nitrogen levels in the soil,

providing food and esthetic value for you, benefitting wildlife, adding privacy or a windbreak.

Many of the plant guild examples Last refers to are quite compact, fitting in a 10-metre diameter space, which would easily work on a typical city lot. They can be created gradually, working around what you may already have on your property “and through an evolutionary process move towards a more self-sustaining system.”

It does take a bit of trial and error to figure out which combinations of plants will work for you, but once you do “you can save yourself a lot of time and energy and money and still have a very productive environment.”

[Contributed by Anita Murray, Program Director]

PLUS...

27TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It's time for the annual general meeting and that means there will be some business covered at the start of our November meeting prior to our guest speaker's presentation.

Notice was sent to all members two weeks prior to the meeting, along with minutes of last year's AGM and the 2015-2016 financial statements and auditors' report. Please bring these documents with you to the meeting.

During this portion of the meeting, you will have the opportunity to find out about our operations and finances and ask questions. You will be asked to vote to:

- accept the minutes of the last AGM
- accept the 2015-2016 financial statements and auditors' report
- accept the annual report
- appoint the auditors for 2016-2017
- ratify the slate of officers elected at the June meeting



PLUS...

SEED EXCHANGE

We had such a wonderful response to our first of many “seed exchanges” at our October meeting that it has been decided unanimously that we would continue with the seed exchange at our November meeting.



If you wish to participate, flower seeds and vegetable seeds are most welcome. Please come prepared with baggies and a marker so you can “pinch & package” and label your seeds. Don't forget to mark on your flower seeds for exchange the colour of the flower, height and if they should be planted in the sun or shade.

[Contributed by Donna Cook, Member]

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 Design – with Telsing Andrews of Aster 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 - Date TBA

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

LAST REMINDER TO RENEW



We're happy to report that about half our membership have renewed. But that means there's still half who have not yet done so! This is your last reminder that **membership dues for this year need to be paid by December or your name will be removed from the mailing list.**

Please bring cash or a cheque (made out to West Carleton Garden Club) to the November meeting and see Karen Buckley or Nancy Argue at the membership desk. If you can't make it to this meeting, mail your cheque to: West Carleton Garden Club, c/o Karen Buckley, 3558 Torbolton Range Rd, Woodlawn ON K0A 3M0. Individual dues \$15, couple or family \$20.

If you have any changes to your phone number, email address or mailing address, please let Karen or Nancy know.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend a big warm welcome to **Lee Ann Smith** who joined us in October.



RECENT EVENTS

OCTOBER MEETING

Seed Exchange

We had a great response to our first seed exchange. So much so that we're holding it again at the November meeting! Here are some photos from the October event.



LAST CHANCE TO BUY ORGANIC RAW PURE HONEY

Our speaker from the September meeting, Dr James Coupland, has his organic raw pure honey for sale. It is unpasteurized and cold extracted to make sure the good things remain in the honey. This is the best kind for sore throats and allergies.

We have some left over from the October meeting and will be offering it for sale again at the November meeting. If you are interested, please see **Karen Buckley** at the membership desk.



PRICE:

500 mL jar - \$8
1 kg jar - \$15

APRONS FOR SALE

We have a small quantity of gardener's aprons available for sale. The aprons are made of heavy weight, dark green, cotton-poly twill with three handy pockets to hold all your tools, while protecting your clothes. They also include an embroidery of our club flower, the *Aquilegia canadensis*, aka Columbine. Price is \$35. A great gift for yourself or your gardening buddy! Contact **Denise Burnham**, 613-839-3378 or denise_burnham@hotmail.com.





Kate Green, guest speaker at the October meeting, talked on how to collect, save and use seeds from your garden — apropos to our seed exchange.

Announcements/Presentations

At the October meeting, an engraved trophy was presented to **Donna Caldwell** for winning **Best in Show - Design** at our June flower show. Donna gets to keep the trophy for one year.



President **Brenda Baird** presents the Best in Show - Design trophy to **Donna Caldwell** for her winning entry at our June show.



FREE BOOKS / MAGAZINES

At the November meeting we will have a table containing gardening books and magazines that are left over from the exchange/fundraiser we held last winter. They are being stored on the stage at the Memorial Hall and are taking up valuable space. They need to be removed.

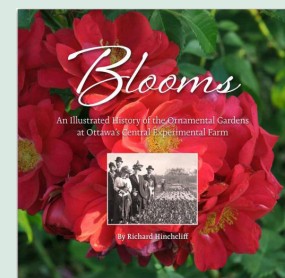
You are invited to take any items that interest you. Everything must go! So please help yourself to whatever you want. Any items not taken will be donated to Goodwill.

NEW BOOK FROM FRIENDS OF THE FARM

Friends of the Farm have published a beautiful new book by local author Richard Hinchcliff — *Blooms, an Illustrated History of the Ornamental Gardens at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm*.

It is a wonderful gift for anyone who loves gardens and flowers, as well as a treat for those interested in Canadian history. It is the Friends' contribution to the country's 150th anniversary in 2017.

Blooms is available at www.friendsofthefarm.ca, at the Friends' office in Building 72 CEF, and at local bookstores – \$35.



OTHER NEWS / INFORMATION

2016 VOLUNTEER HOURS

As part of our responsibilities as members of District 2 of the Ontario Horticultural Association, we are required to complete an annual report which includes the number of volunteer hours our executive and other members of the club put in.



If you have worked on any of the club's activities during the past year, we ask that you complete the form included with this newsletter mailout. The form is also available at the back of your yearbook and on our web site under the Resources section. Bring it along with you to the November meeting where you can give it to **Kathleen Teahen** or send it to her at vicepresident@wcgc.ca. Kathleen is compiling the numbers for inclusion into our annual report to the OHA.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Date: Friday, November 11, 2016
Time: 10:50 am
Location: West Carleton War Memorial
corner of Falldown Lane and Donald B Munro Drive in Carp

See you there!



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 | Join us on Facebook

2016 / 2017 EXECUTIVE

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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.

Submission deadline for the December issue is November 30.