



The Watering Can

West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society



December Potluck

Tuesday, December 12th
Carp Memorial Hall
Doors Open: 6:00 pm
Dinner at 6:30 pm



Our December 12th Meeting

Carp Memorial Hall - Doors open at 6:00, Dinner at 6:30 pm.

Silent Auction and Centrepieces

The silent auction, our festive fundraiser, is a very popular event at our December meeting. Many of us have been known to get a little excited in trying to outbid our fellow members for a certain item! This is a good thing, a great occasion to pick up a few extra gifts for family and friends.

Please bring in a festive floral table arrangement and/or any kind of nature-, garden- or season-inspired gifts: soaps, candles, decorations, gift styled baked goods, etc. All will be auctioned off at the end of the dinner. Cash, cheques and e-transfers will be accepted.

Potluck

Feel free to bring your favourite hot or cold entrees, salads and desserts to the potluck. You can plug in your slow cookers at the tables and please don't forget to bring serving implements. Also, for the sake of the environment, it is appreciated if you could bring your own plate, glass or cup and cutlery. Beverages - punch, coffee and tea- will be provided.

Raffle

New this year: a raffle! Opposite, you will find pictures of the items to be raffled, generously donated by some of our members for the Christmas Potluck: a festive Gnome Home and a Glass Bird Feeder. Tickets will be \$1 each or 6/\$5. The lovely glass bird feeder was crafted by a vendor from the OHA Convention and the adorable Gnome Home is the creation of Johanna and Merrill Cutts. Cash is preferred for the raffle please.

Let's have fun!

This will be our first full sit-down potluck since the pandemic. Please come in droves and **don't hesitate to invite guests**. Let's see your creative ornamental festive centrepieces! See you all at the Hall on December 12th.



Reminder: Volunteer Hours

Each horticulture club must report volunteer hours on a calendar year basis to qualify for the OMAFRA grant (and any municipal grant). There is a spreadsheet on the website so we can update our hours ourselves:

https://www.wcgc.ca/documents/VolunteerHours_Fillable_AutoSumming_Header_OnePage.pdf

Please send your completed form to Brenda Baird at president@wcgc.ca by the end of December.



Executive positions open

As Brenda mentioned at the November meeting, we are looking for a volunteer to join the executive team in the position of Newsletter and Social Media Editor. We wish to thank Shannon Murray so very much for her amazing contribution in this role since September.

We are also looking for the Hospitality role as well (two or more members can share this task). New Members at Large are always welcome. This is a good way of becoming acquainted with the workings of our group, pitching in wherever and maybe going on to lead a portfolio later.

If you are interested, please contact Brenda Baird at president@wcgc.ca

2024 Events

(All on the second TUESDAY of the month except when otherwise mentioned)

January 9, 2024
"Drought Resistant Perennials"
with **Laurie Bachand** of Stoneridge Gardens

February 13, 2024
"Canadian Orchids"
with **Jan Johns** of the Ottawa Orchid Society

March 9, 2024
"Seedy Saturday"
Carp Agricultural Hall

March 13, 2024
"Burnt Lands Trilliums"
with **Brian Carson**

April 9, 2024
"Design"
with **Sandra Black**

May 14, 2024
"Pruning & Tool Maintenance"
with **Ed Lawrence**

May Plant Sale TBD

June 11, 2024
Summer Social & Flower Show

Highlights of our November Meeting

Our November meeting was well attended and we had a quorum for **our 2022-23 AGM**, chaired by Brenda Baird and welcoming OHA District 2 representative Cindy Zorgel who installed the new Executive members for the 2023-24 season. The financial statements were approved by the membership and this year's auditors confirmed. The President gave her remarks for the 2022-23 season. They are appended to this newsletter. A big vote of thanks goes out to Brenda for her dedication and hard work throughout the year and in recognition of her service for the OHA convention this summer, Brenda received a District Service Award at the meeting.

The AGM having finished, Brenda welcomed Master Gardener Judith Cox, our guest speaker, who gave us a talk on "How to live with what lives in our gardens". Judith is a lively and informed presenter, and her talk was much appreciated by all.

A note to mention that while our meetings will continue to be in person for the season at Carp Memorial Hall, should there be inclement weather during the winter months, we may opt conduct some over Zoom. We will send notice of this by email ahead of the meeting.

Coming events

- **Seed Giveaway**, 16 December, Kanata, Beaverbrook Community Centre, Event organized by Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library
<https://wildflowerseedlibrary.ca/events>
- **Laurie Bachand**, owner of Stoneridge Gardens in nearby Clayton will address us on the subject of "Drought Resistant Perennials" at our WCGC general meeting on January 9th.
<https://stoneridgegardens.com>

**Warmest Holiday Greetings
to all our Members from
your WCGC executive!**

**May you have a festive season full
of joy and happy get-togethers
with family and friends.**



WCGC President's Message November 14, 2023 AGM Carp Memorial Hall

“September 13, 2022 was our first in-person meeting here in this hall since March 10, 2020. It was wonderful to welcome back our members with so many of you remarking on how much they missed meeting in-person and they were thrilled to be getting “back to normal”. We also offered a hybrid meeting, which allowed members to log in from the comfort of their homes on Zoom. This would not have been possible without the technical expertise of Ken Sala.

In October, we needed to finally get working on improvements to the Reading Garden which we maintain at the Carp Library. A new perennial border was established, edged and topped up with a load of topsoil. On a sunny Saturday morning, several of us gathered and started planting our Pollinator bed with plants donated from our own gardens. We now have a lovely pollinator bed which offered a good display of blooms this year and will continue to do so in the future.

The only item left to complete in our Reading Garden Project was the purchase and installation of new seating for this space. We approached the City of Ottawa to see if they could offer any financial help with the replacement of the existing, deteriorating picnic table. They provided us with three new picnic tables. We purchased six Adirondack chairs and the City crew gladly installed and secured them for us.

All of the tables and chairs are made of high quality resin materials and steel which will last for many years to come. The project has now been completed, with the new pollinator garden situated between the 2 established peony borders and it is so nice to see the area being used for picnics and relaxation by local community members and visitors to the neighbouring Diefenbunker museum.

Last year, we once again heard from wonderful speakers at our meetings who shared their experiences and various gardening techniques with us.

For the first time, on Saturday March 11, we held a Seedy Saturday with our neighbouring Societies, Stittsville Goulbourn and Kanata-March. It was held here in Carp, at the Agricultural Hall and what a great day we had. We had over 500 people attend, great vendors and a great variety of seeds to choose from and purchase. We received nothing but positive praise and so we have decided to hold another one, on Saturday March 9, 2024 again here in Carp. From this event, we gained several new members and our three local food banks received the funds from the admissions at the door.

The third weekend in July saw a few of us, at the Brookstreet Hotel in Kanata where we were part of the organizing committee hosting the Ontario Horticultural Association's annual convention. Over 300 Gardeners from the Province attended and despite it being so much work planning and executing it, it was a great success.

We continue to ask for members to join us on our Executive. The majority of us, have held our positions, doing them very well for years but now some of us would like to take a break and offer others to join us. It is a lot of fun, and we hope to welcome new members to offer fresh ideas and inputs.

I wish to thank all members, the Executive especially, for all of your assistance in any way during this past year. Whether it was weeding our local community flower beds, helping at the plant sale, Seedy Saturday or anything else we couldn't have done it without you.”