

# The Watering Can

West Carleton Garden Club & Horticultural Society

## Season's Greetings

First of all, Happy New Year! Sincere good wishes for a happy, healthy and productive 2024 to all our Members. We look forward to many encounters at our meetings, events and garden worker bees at the West Carleton Branch of the Ottawa Public Library- Carp and at our executive meetings this coming year.

## Our January Speaker

"**Laurie Bachand** is the Stoneridge Gardens & Nursery's business owner, a self taught perennial expert who is always happy to offer plant information and answer any questions you may have! Laurie designed and maintains the display gardens and keeping greenhouses full of gorgeous perennials all season long!" <https://stoneridgegardens.com/our-story> + Credit photo opposite



## January 2024 Meeting

### "Drought Resistant Perennials"

with **Laurie Bachand** of  
Stoneridge Gardens

Carp Memorial Hall

Tuesday January 9th, 2024

7:30-9:00 pm.

(Doors open at 7:00 pm for social mingling)

Members:Free, Guests:\$5

Please note that in the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held via Zoom. An email will be sent prior to the meeting. Please check your in baskets and/or if in doubt, send an inquiry to : [president@wcgc.ca](mailto:president@wcgc.ca) or [newsletter@wcgc.ca](mailto:newsletter@wcgc.ca).



## Grow to Show: Flower Show Tips from Gay MacQuarrie

### Grooming Your Specimens

The judge is looking for well groomed specimens. The plant should be clean and free of dust, debris and pests. A small paint brush is helpful for this task. The clear container for the specimen should also be clean and should be stable. Leaves that are marred, broken, dead, yellowed and/or bleached should be removed. Don't be afraid to use a pair of scissors to trim browning leaf tips and/or edges, just be sure the leaf's natural contour is maintained.

The container of a potted plant should be clean and the top soil layer cultivated to give a fresh appearance. The spent blooms on your potted plant should be removed except for cacti.

Photo above: <https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/25-of-the-best-house-plants-to-grow/>  
Photo opposite: A Gadbois

## News and Events, etc:

- **December Meeting:** Good news, we raised \$344 at our fundraising auction during the festive potluck evening a few weeks ago. Thank you to all who donated, to all who bought and to all who brought in yummy donations for the buffet table. It was so nice to be able to get together to kick off the festive season.
- The December edition of **Trowel Talk** from the Master Gardeners of OttawaCarleton and the Master Gardeners of Lanark County: <https://docs.google.com/viewerng/viewer?url=https://mgottawa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/TT-23-12-December.pdf> . Here's a useful **gardening activities calendar** from the same source: [https://mgottawa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2022\\_GardenActivity\\_MGOC.pdf](https://mgottawa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2022_GardenActivity_MGOC.pdf)
- **February Meeting.** : February 13, 2024, "Canadian Orchids" with Jan Johns of the Canadian Orchid Society: [www.wcgc.ca](http://www.wcgc.ca)





## Seasonal Musings

It's winter...dark, cold and often grey. We haven't had much snow this year. As a matter of fact, the lawn outside is actually greening a little. The post-holiday period slump is upon us. After a frenzied action-packed buildup to the holidays, time to rest and ponder.

Winter is a great time to cycle through our summer garden photos to find areas in our gardens which need improvement, redefinition, rewilding or a complete change. Winter is also a good time to search online or in gardening magazines for information and new inspiration. We have the time and the resources are all out there.

The seed catalogues are available online - Vesey's, Richter's, William Dam Seeds, etc..as well as catalogues of diversity (<http://seeds.ca/diversity/seed-catalogue-index>). What about that new pergola, fire pit, patio or deck that we have been dreaming of putting in? This year would be good to tackle new projects, especially ones for the outside and around which we, family and friends can congregate.

The new year also prompts resolutions. Topping many lists is the desire to contribute and act in an environmentally friendly way in many aspects of our lives, including to engage in green garden practices. Green gardening requires some knowledge of acceptable practices and it does not have to be daunting. Green gardening requires us to align with nature's plan, to go native whenever possible, to recycle our waste into compost, to forgo harmful chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides inasmuch as possible and if we are facing a real problem, to read labels and choose the most eco-friendly product we can find.

<https://www.motherearthliving.com/gardening/step-into-sustainable-gardening>

Whatever our new year resolutions are, let's add one of the above to our list. It will make our gardens, our community and the planet better. Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024!

(Adapted from A.Gadbois, West Carleton Online, Jan.2021 <https://westcarletononline.com/?s=Gadbois>. paywall.

## Executive Vacancies

As mentioned in previous newsletters and at meetings recently, the following jobs on the executive are coming up vacant for the next season. Please consider stepping up to help your club.

**Newsletter & Social Media, Hospitality** (can be filled by two or more people), **Programme.**

If you enjoy our club, let's ensure we continue to have a vigorous steering committee. We won't be able to operate without assistance. Meetings are held mainly by Zoom for about an hour and a half every fourth Tuesday evening of the month. We have fun! <https://www.wcgc.ca/executive.html>

**A Look Back on 2023**

**Seedy Saturday!**  
Carp Agricultural Hall  
Saturday, March 11, 2023  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**NOVEMBER MEETING**  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH  
7:30-9:30 PM  
Master Gardener Judith Cox  
"HOW TO LIVE WITH WHAT LIVES IN YOUR GARDENS"  
Break open 7:00 pm for mingling and refreshments  
Carp Memorial Hall, 2738 Carp Road  
Members: Free, Guests: \$5

**West Carleton Garden Club March Meeting**  
"Pruning: The Ins and Outs"  
with Master Gardener Rob Stuart  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 7:00 pm  
Carp Memorial Hall

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**  
Tuesday, September 12th  
7:30-9:30 PM  
Anne Breau  
"Fall Ikebana Flower Arranging"  
Carp Memorial Hall, 2738 Carp Road  
Members: Free, Guests: \$5

**OCTOBER MEETING**  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH  
7:30-9:30 PM  
JENNIFER HARRIS  
"THE LOST LEGACY OF LANARK FRUIT TREES"  
Postcard and Seed Exchange (break open 7:00 pm to plant offerings)  
Carp Memorial Hall, 2738 Carp Road  
Members: Free, Guests: \$5

**January Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 16, 2023  
7:00 p.m., Carp Memorial Hall  
and on Zoom at 7:30 p.m.  
Master Gardener Judith Cox  
"Promising You a Rose Garden"

**Annual Plant Sale**  
May 9, 2023  
7:00 pm  
Carp Memorial Hall  
Nancy MacDonald  
Master Gardener

**WCGC May Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
7:00 pm  
Carp Memorial Hall  
"Digging in the Dirt: Ways to Stay Healthy Gardening"  
with Nancy MacDonald  
Master Gardener