

Presenter' s Name(s) Rebecca Last
Date and Time To be determined
Presentation Title Various, see below
Fee / Honorarium Negotiable - suggest \$75
Location Ottawa Valley and Eastern Ontario. Willing to travel up to 90 minutes.
Cell Phone or Contact Number for day of
Presentation
Home: 613-820-4248
Work: N/A
Email of Presenter RebGuenette@gmail.com

Talk Title: 10 Easy City Veggies

Brief

Description:

Veggies you can grow in pots or on small urban lots - Beans on a fence, carrots in pots, anyone can grow these easy plants! This presentation is offered in both official languages and provides an overview of easy plants that novice gardeners can grow in a confined space. The emphasis is on food plants that also have some ornamental value.

Talk Title: All From a Little Seed

Brief This presentation is all about SEX -- plant sex, that is, and how home gardeners

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Description: can save money, have fun and breed new varieties by starting their own seeds.

We begin with a discussion of why gardeners might want to start plants from seed. There is an introduction to the lexicon for seed starting and a discussion of the importance of documentation. We talk about sources of seed, and viability. Then we discuss equipment and supplies for seed-starting and what seeds to start where and when (indoors versus outdoors). There are some tips for getting a head-start on your seed-starting, and we end up with some trouble-shooting and the basics of hardening off.

Talk Title: Culinary Herbs (Usually delivered with hubby, Richard Guenette)

Brief

Description:

Note: There is a minimum fee of \$50 for the demo portion of this talk because we provide food samples, including shrimp, guacamole and bruschetta.

Talk Title: Lessons from My Big Fat Garden Reno

Brief

Description:

Over a ten-year period, a small suburban garden was transformed into a tranquil refuge for people and wildlife. This talk is a very personal take on comprehensive garden make-overs. Whether you just want to refresh your garden, or create an entirely new look, you need to answer some key questions before getting started. Also covered are the merits of DIY versus hiring

professionals, budgeting strategies, relevant bylaws and building codes, and check lists of many other aspects that need to be considered before embarking on a garden renovation.

Talk Title: Getting Started, Taking Stock

Brief

Description:

This abbreviated version of "My Big Fat Garden Reno" was developed as part of the curricula for a day-long garden design workshop. It is less personal, and more intended to inform home-owners of the many details they need to check before embarking on a garden renovation.

Talk Title: Heavenly Heritage Tomatoes

Brief

Description:

What are heritage tomatoes, and why should we grow them? This talk covers some definitions of heritage tomatoes, discusses different types and how best to grow them. There is also a brief introduction to some of the main breed programs for "new heritage" varieties. You will also learn about sources of seeds, a bit about starting tomatoes from seed, and the pluses and minuses of heritage tomatoes.

Talk Title: Organic Gardening

Brief

Description:

An introduction to the topic of organic gardening, with a focus on growing food. Topics covered include: some definitions of organic gardening; pros and cons; tools of the trade; getting to know your garden; some simple soil tests; managing weeds, bugs and diseases; crop rotation; and companion planting. The talk ends with a list of resources.

Talk Title: Seed Saving & Storage

Brief

Description:

Learn the basics of saving seeds, plant genetics, collection techniques, storage and viability. You may even be able to breed your own varieties, adapted specifically to growing conditions in your garden! This presentation provides an introduction to seed saving, beginning from the premise that in today's

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concentrated market for seed producers, saving seeds is an act of quiet revolution. The differences between hybridized and open-pollinated plants are discussed. We revisit Gregor Mendel's 19th Century experiments with peas to get a better understanding of the dominant and recessive traits for some common vegetable seeds. We will also look at seed varieties that are suitable for beginner, intermediate and expert seed-savers. Timing and collection methods are discussed, along with information on seed sanitation and storage. Finally, we discuss long-term viability of seeds, and the presentation ends with a list of useful resources.

Talk Title: Thugs, Bullies & Sneaks -- Plants to be Wary Of

Brief

Description:

Good for spring presentations, this talk addresses the issue of selecting the right plant for the right location. It offers a review of plants that have thuggish tendencies or other unfortunate outcomes when improperly sited.

Talk Title: Phenology for You and Me: an introduction to the cycles of nature

Brief

Description:

No, it's not the study of the bumps on your head. Phenology explores the timing of cyclical events in nature. The turning of the year, seasons, cycles of the moon and daily circadian rhythms all have an impact on life on earth. The earliest hominins were expert phenologists. They had to be to catch game from migrating herds and know when to look for the tender sprouts of edible plants. Scientists today are increasingly turning to phenology to understand how climate change is affecting the natural world. As gardeners, an understanding of phenology can help us plan for continuous blooms, use natural pest control effectively, and contribute to climate research as citizen scientists. This talk introduces the subject of phenology, discusses its history, the current state of the science, and how gardeners can benefit from this information.

Talk Title: The Edible Garden

Brief

Description:

This presentation discusses incorporating edibles, particularly perennial edibles into your landscape. Reasons for growing food in your garden, a discussion of perennial and ornamental edibles, and a brief introduction to permaculture are included. There is also a section on techniques for measuring your productivity, tips on using what you grow and building community as well as resources conclude this talk.

Talk Title: Plant Guilds: Taking Companion Planting to the Next Level

Brief

Description:

This presentation begins by distinguishing between plant guilds and companion planting. It encourages listeners to think in terms of modifying their conventional gardening strategies to begin creating a self-sustaining eco-system that will become more productive and result in less work over time. Achieving these objectives requires delving into the different functions that plants serve in the landscape. Building on the principles of permaculture, we explore examples of plant guilds, connection, natural patterns, and zones that help gardeners put together the pieces of that self-sustaining eco-system.

Talk Title: Gardening with Wildlife

Brief

Description:

There is both joy and challenge in gardening for wildlife. Gardening for wildlife requires different approaches and strategies -- even a different mind-set! -- from
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regular gardening. This talk addresses the characteristics of plants and garden design that will help you create a wildlife-friendly garden, strategies for including food, shelter, and water, and practices that will encourage birds and beneficial insects to make their home in your garden. Resources specific to the Ottawa area are discussed. We conclude with a brief overview of the process for certifying your garden as wildlife habitat, or as a monarch way-station, and encourage the audience to consider joining the growing army of Citizen Scientists who are helping us better understand how people are changing the natural world.

Talk Title: Preserving the Harvest

Brief

Description:

This talk (and demonstration) describes ways to preserve the harvest and covers: drying (drying herbs; dehydration of fruits and vegetables); cooking; canning (preserves - jams, jellies, chutneys); vinegars; freezing; and curing.

Talk Title: Gardeners, Contain Yourselves!

Brief

Description:

This talk combines humour, imagination and sound gardening advice to present the possibilities of gardening in containers -- all kinds of containers!