

**Fredericton Botanic Garden  
Association Newsletter**

**Bulletin du jardin Botanique  
de Fredericton**

Vol 17 No3

Summer 2005

President's Report

I hope that many of you have taken the opportunity to have visited the Rhododendron and Azalea beds at the Garden this spring. They were quite spectacular nestled as they are around a group of beautiful mature conifers. These beds were put in about 2 years ago and are now nicely established. We were advised and assisted in this project by Garth Nickerson of the New Brunswick Department of Aquaculture, Fisheries and Agriculture. Garth has been keeping his eye on these beds and continues to advise us on their maintenance.

Many thanks Garth.

These beds represent the one section of the Garden that may now be considered to be complete.

The next section of the Garden to be developed will be the Children's Garden. We have just signed a contract with Daniel Glenn Ltd. for the development of final designs and construction plans as well as tender documents for this garden module. We hope to initiate construction next spring.

As you may be aware we were working with ACOA to obtain a major grant under their SCIF program. Unfortunately all of the final arrangements could not be completed prior the expira-



Jane Seabrook and Richard Tarn and Rhododendron on June 14, 2005

tion of this program on March 31. With the recent passing of the Federal Government Budget, we are intending to again press forward with the ACOA to obtain a major grant for the development of the Garden.

The Board of Trustees of the Garden has been actively looking into the acquisition of liability insurance to cover the

Board, employees and volunteers of the garden. We hope to have this in place by the end of June.

Don't forget our annual Treasured Garden Tour which will be taking place in early July, tickets are limited so don't delay, get your tickets now.

Bill Seabrook, president

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TREASURED GARDEN TOUR Saturday July 9**

**RECOGNITION AWARDS Saturday September 17**

**TALKS IN THE GARDEN "The 'Tulip business' with Johannues Schotanus Thursday September 29**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday February 14, 2006**



We are starting a new column for the Fredericton Botanic Garden Newsletter: **Plants That Changed the World.**

If you are curious about how we came to eat or use a plant product our FBGA sleuths will ferret out the information for you. Did you ever wonder why hard wheat for pasta came to be grown on the Canadian prairies, where does the quinine come from for your summertime gin and tonic, does the Irish potato really come from Ireland or Why the Islands of Indonesia are called "The Spice Islands"?

In future columns we will let you in on the secrets of plant domestication and why this has been so important for human civilization.

## Plants That Changed the World: Rubber

Mike Dillon and Jane Seabrook

Think of a world without rubber – no latex surgical gloves for surgery, no tennis balls, no erasers, no rubber seals for high pressure vacuum pumps, no rubber boots or waterproof jackets, no elastic to keep our underwear up.... Actually, when you think about it, there would be no tires for aeroplanes or cars either. Mass transportation would never have gotten off the ground !

Rubber comes from a tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) that grows in the Brazilian rain forest, where for centuries native people made balls, shoes and bottles from the white latex sap oozing from gashes in rubber trees. The rubber tree has some interesting relatives that also have white sap: castor bean, manioc (tapioca) and poinsettia, all members of the Euphorbiaceae or spurge family.



Vast fortunes were made from rubber plantations in 19th century Brazil. The opera house in the Brazilian city of Manos, on the Amazon river, is a testament to the wealth of the South American rubber barons.

Early rubber products were difficult to use because they became brittle in cold weather and sticky in hot weather. Raw rubber needed to be a treatment that included smoking to make it malleable for transport. Charles Goodyear discovered 'vulcanization', a process in which sulphur is used to stabilize raw rubber. Another Scot, John Dunlap, made the first pneumatic tires for bicycles.

The British government in the late 1800s were interested in growing rubber tree plantations in the wet tropics and germinated rubber tree seeds, with some difficulty, at Kew Gardens near London. This is one of the points in history

where botanists and gardeners really made a difference. Rubber plantations were established by the British in India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia and southeast Asia became the world centre of rubber production.

Like many plants, rubber trees in their native habitat are prey to local diseases and pests. When Henry Ford started rubber plantation project, Fordlandia, in the 1920s the project failed because a leaf blight common in the wet, hot rain forests of the Amazon.

Because transportation routes from Southeast Asia were problematic during the World War II, rubber was in very short supply. Alternate sources of rubber from plants such as the common dandelion were tested , but ultimately the synthetic manufacture of products with rubber-like qualities was initiated.

What would the world be like without rubber? Bumpy, spine-jolting wagon rides, no biking smoothly along Fredericton's lovely trails, no tennis, never being able to erase that pesky spelling mistake!

## Plant Sale and Raffle

### 17th Annual Plant Sale

Well the Plant Sale is over for another year and as with all past years it was another success thanks to the hard work of our member volunteers and the public's support. The net revenue for the sale was \$12,284.00! No small chunk of change!

Our feature plants were well received and the few that were remaining at the end of the sale will look beautiful in the garden. The new event of the Silent Auction introduced this year did very well bringing in revenue of \$687.00. Perhaps next year we could double that! Thanks to everyone who donated items.

Events like this require a lot of planning (and a bit of hair pulling) to ensure that it all comes together on that designated Sunday in May. This year I would like to thank some of the key people who went above and beyond to ensure that this happened. First, I want to be sure that Brian Parker who was our Co-chair of the committee is thanked properly for the work he did in making sure we could deliver this event to the city again this year. I know that Brian had his hand in most aspects of the sale this year whether it was soliciting donations, ordering plants, receiving plants, potting plants, transporting plants or just about anything. Thank you Brian for the hard work that you put into this and also thanks to Shelley Parker for supporting Brian in this demanding endeavour.

Secondly I would like to acknowledge the dedication of Jim and Betty Nicholson, who managed the greenhouse activities at the garden Resource Centre. Who with the support of a number of other dedicated volunteers made sure that every plant that came into the Centre was cared for until the day of the sale. This was a daily commitment involving identifying, potting, watering and some hard work digging up



from the nursery bed and as well going to members homes to gather donations. Jim has managed the greenhouse operations for as many years as I can remember (which is at least 10 and probably more) however this is to be the last year as Jim and Betty are going to retire from this huge commitment. I would on behalf of the Plant Sale Committee and our membership like to thank Jim and Betty for their years of dedication. These will be hard shoes to fill!! Again thank you both for your commitment to the Garden.

Thirdly, I want to thank Bill Seabrook for his hard work this year as well. Bill accepted responsibility for the management of the UNB leased greenhouse space and was always willing to assist in anyway that was required. On top of this he continued with all his responsibilities as President. So again thank you to another committed volunteer who can lead by example.

I would also like to thank Charlie Fullarton who again this year crafted a beautiful garden bench, table and chair for our raffle and then faithfully delivered and retrieved it to and from the Boyce Market for our display every Saturday in May. And to all the rest of you who committed your time and expertise to make this sale a success a huge thank you and round of applause! I hope we can count on you again next year for another fun and exciting experience.

Susan Cassidy  
Co-chair Plant Sale Committee

## Membership Committee

May has been a busy month. On May 21 and 22 FBGA was asked to have a booth at Green Village's spring celebration. Many thanks to the volunteers who spent time and effort in giving us a presence there—Wayne Beckett, Nancy Beltrandi, Karen Cook, Lucy Dyer, Bill and Jane Seabrook, and Marie Wilcox. We gained several new members, and talked to others in spite of the location in the seminar area, which was a bit out of the traffic stream.

The Plant Sale was another busy weekend for us. Our basket draw prize for renewing members was won by Heather Olmstead - who was also a volunteer who helped set up the sale on Saturday afternoon and evening, worked at the sale, and then stayed afterward to help clean the market. Congratulations, Heather!!!!

The membership booth had more people walk in this year, thanks to sharing the space with the Plant Sale silent auction. We gained 9 new members, and 25 took advantage of the opportunity to renew.

On June 18, we plan to have a table at the Fabulous Free Saturday celebrations in Officer's Square.

New members will have their name entered in a draw for a beautiful and roomy screen tent (see photo). If you bring a friend to the Fabulous Free Saturday event or to the garden tour, please encourage them to become a member

### WIN a new screen tent!!! HELP US FIND NEW MEMBERS!!!!



All new members joining from Jan 1 until mid July will have their name entered in a draw for a beautiful screen tent.

This would be a great addition to any backyard - enjoy those long summer evenings without the annoyance of mosquitoes, blackflies, etc.

Give a gift membership to a new member and your name will also be entered (once for each new membership) along with the new member's name.

Increase your chances of winning this fabulous prize by finding a dozen friends or relatives who are interested in the Botanic Garden and would like to support us by joining. Remember, memberships are a good bargain, and provide a 10% discount at many garden outlets

so that they can share in the advantages of membership - and we will put your name in the draw too if the friend joins. The draw will take place at the Treasured Garden Tour on July 9.

And do not forget that the Treasured Garden Tour will be another excellent time to renew your membership for an additional year (beginning at the time your membership would normally expire). We will again have a draw for an attractive basket of garden supplies for those renewing during the Treasured Garden Tour. Don't miss out on this!! The Boutique will be worth a visit too. For those who did not see it at the Plant Sale, there is a new line of very attractive notecards, we still have some inexpensive utility belts and stretchy plant ties, and we expect to have some sturdy tote bags from Mexico.

Please consider giving a friend a gift membership before July 9—again, both your name and the friend's would be entered in the draw.!

Submitted by FBGA Membership committee (Nancy Beltrandi, Janis Boston, Wendy Bourque, Karen Cook, Melaine Duchastel, and Lucy Dyer )

#### New members in 2005

Claude Berteleme, Lois Boldon, David Seabrook, Lois Cornish, George & Elizabeth Bastin, Linda Jackson, Ann Dunn, Regan Smith, Astrid Wade, Carolann Battiste, M. K. Fitzrandolf, Cecile Ouellet, Janet Phillippis, Heather Weldon, Joan Bilensky, Don & Mary Grant, Sarah Irvine, James McIntyre, Nuala Macdonald-Ross, Diane Harriott, Lynn MacKinnon, Jennie Hornosty, Charlotte Gourlay, Monalee Moore, Zorka Karbusicky, John Welling



## Garden Visitors

This spring the Garden was privileged to host a number of visitor to view our lovely rhododendron and azalea displays.

We were very pleased to have been visited by Captain Dick Steele of Nova Scotia. Capt. Steele is one of North Americas leading rhododendron, azalea breeders. He joined the members tour on June 9 and passed on a wealth of information on the growing and propagation of rhodies.



On June 14 the Garden was pleased to host a tour by the Mayor and a number of Councilors as well as a number of senior city administrators to view the rhododendron beds. Judging from the conversations all were very impressed by the developments that have taken place at the garden.

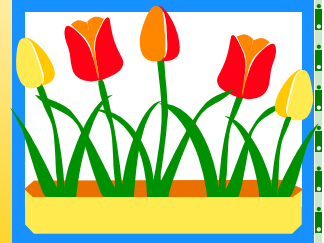


Angela Watson, Jane Seabrook, Carol Matthews Diane Rioux

We were also visited by Carol Matthews, a writer for a number of gardening and tourism publications. Carol was escorted by representatives of New Brunswick Dept. of Tourism and the Fredericton Department of Tourism (photo writers visit). Jane Seabrook showed them the entire garden

## Talks in the Garden

**Johannues Schotanus** (Joey) and his brother Tim along with their father who was originally from the Netherlands started their farm here in New Brunswick. The farm grew as the family grew, with chickens, cows and pigs. But as the farming industry changed the family also changed and they went into the "tulips" business.



In 2000, they had planted 8,000 bulbs, in 2001 24,000 bulbs, last year 60,000 bulbs and are anticipating 100,000 to 200,000 bulbs for this year. In April 2003, the Schotanus Farm became a Registered Bulb Grower. They sell a wide variety of tulips, daffodils, and a various other flowers.

Next year the brothers hope to have a Tulip Blossom Festival on the farm during the Victoria Day Weekend. They will to show people the fields of tulips in bloom. ( 36 days of continuous blooms). They also grow glads.

They produce an excellent quality tulip and their agricultural style is entirely environmentally friendly. They also answer questions and problem solve for those who are "into bulbs".

Johannues is booked for our September 29th "Talks in the Garden". We will have more specifics on his talk later in the summer.

The Fredericton Botanic Garden Newsletter is published four times a year by the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association, Inc.

The FBGA is a registered charitable organization for tax purposes. The objectives of the FBGA are to guide the establishment of the Fredericton Botanic Garden and to foster an awareness and appreciation of plants.

To obtain information on membership and to become involved in FBGA activities please contact us:

**452-9269, at PO Box 57, Stn. A, Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y2 or [fbga@nb.aibn.com](mailto:fbga@nb.aibn.com)**

**Web: [www.frederictonbotanicgarden.com](http://www.frederictonbotanicgarden.com)**

### *Fredericton Botanic Garden Association Board of Directors - 2005*

*President - Bill Seabrook Vice-President - Joel Richardson  
Secretary - Joe Harrison Treasurer - Michael Dillon  
George Bastin Lucy Dyer Jack MacDougall  
Robert Kenyon Brian Parker Jacques Paynter  
George Strunz*



**Fredericton Botanic Garden Association**  
**A Summer Garden Tour**  
**“A Treasured Garden Tour”**  
**Saturday, July 9, 2005, 1:00pm**

Dear Member:

As summer approaches everyone's gardens are bursting with color! Maximize your enjoyment and join us on the 7<sup>th</sup> annual “Treasured Garden Tour”. We will tour 4 Fredericton area gardens and finish the day with an old fashioned garden party at the Fredericton Botanic Garden- complete with live entertainment by the ever popular Don Bosse Jazz Quartet, refreshments, fancy sandwiches and desserts, and guided tours of the Botanic Garden. Tour the private gardens from 1:00pm-3:00pm and then join us at the Botanic Garden between 3:00pm and 4:30pm for an old fashioned Garden Party.

If you are interested in attending the Garden Tour, the tickets are available June 16, 2005 for \$15.00 each at Westminster Books, Trites Flower Shop, Main Street Floral Gallery, Botinicals, and Scott's Nursery. Please pay with cash or check only. All proceeds go toward future development of the Botanic Gardens.

The organizing committee has been hard at work making the initial arrangements. We would like to invite the membership to participate in the upcoming event. A meeting will be held at the Resource Center on Tuesday, July 5 at 7:00pm to coordinate volunteer activity and to finalize the day's activities. If you can help out in any of the following areas please attend the meeting or contact us:

- Information Officers at the host gardens (at least 8 individuals)
- Set-up activities at the Botanic Garden (raising large tent, set up tables etc)
- Servers for the afternoon Garden Party ( at least 10 individuals)
- Clean up at the Botanic Gardens
- Food Donations- sweets, sandwiches, and fresh fruit and vegetables
- Individuals to help in the preparation of the food and the punch
- Donations of fresh cut flowers for arrangements

For all those helping out on the day of the tour, a pre-tour of the four gardens will take place during the week of July 4<sup>th</sup> 2005. All those working on the day of the tour will be able to enjoy the “Treasured Gardens” in advance at no charge. Please attend the next meeting or contact Andrew Lawson at 458-9208 to register as a “Garden Party Volunteer”. Everyone on the registered list will be invited to the pre-tour as a special thank-you.

Please contact Andrew Lawson at Scott's Nursery (458-9208) for any additional information or to register for a Garden Volunteer.

**Thank-you for your continued support.**

Andrew Lawson  
Committee Chair



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Le Jardin botanique de **Fredericton** Botanic Garden

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