



**Fredericton Botanic Garden
Association Newsletter**

**Bulletin du Jardin Botanique
de Fredericton**

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President's Message

Seasons greetings everyone. The end of the outdoor gardening season has arrived, and we now have snow cover to keep the plants cozy during the frigid temperatures. The birds are visiting the garden foraging for those dried out seed heads and it's time to fill the feeders to help the little feathered visitors survive until spring. Every fall, at or house, there is a bit of a debate about whether to cut the dead stalks down to the ground or leave them over the winter. We are pretty laid back gardeners and so our garden clear up usually waits until spring. I make all the appropriate noises, that it is better for holding snow cover over the perennials during the winter, and it adds a bit of architectural interest above the snow, but really it has a great deal to do with simply running out of steam at the end of the season. By spring I will be anxious to get gardening again, but by late fall the enthusiasm has waned.

Since the last newsletter, we held a very successful Plant Sale. Thanks go out to the Committee and all the members who once again came through for the Garden. The annual Plant Sale provides the bulk of our maintenance budget for the year. Special thanks to Bill Seabrook who once again provided us with a plethora of tomato and pepper plants that disappeared very quickly. Although activities in the Botanic Garden are beginning to wind down a bit, we are starting to make plans for spring and the Plant Sale Committee has already met once. Look forward to some big changes in this event come May 2014. We are going to try something new, but that is all I am going to say about this right now. However, if you would like to find out what's up, please come join us at the next Plant Sale planning session. We would love to have some extra help, so don't be shy, new ideas are always welcome. Please call the Garden for date and time of the session.

**Annual General Meeting
February 22, 2014**

Our planning committee for Talks in the Garden has put together an interesting slate of speakers for the upcoming year and we hope to entice you out for something that tweaks your interest. I would like to thank Heather Connors-Dunphy and Valerie Hillier for all their work on these evenings, they would not happen without the unflagging dedication of these two members. Special educational events are held several times a year in the Garden and these past few months have seen three workshops. Thanks to Vic Dunphy for showing the attendees how to build a garden obelisk and bench. Later on in the spring we had a Saturday workshop where we learned the techniques for constructing a hypertufa planter. We had a great time that Saturday, despite rather inclement weather, and thanks go out to Brian Parker and Steve Stehouwer for leading us through this process. Everyone left with a hypertufa planter, the fruits of their labour, and a recipe to create more at home. Just recently we held a wreath and centerpiece workshop with Mary Pugh. Mary showed us all how to use natural materials in our Christmas decorating. We shared some ideas, some laughs and some very delicious cider and sweets. Best of all we met some new people. It was a wonderful day and it sure put us in the Christmas spirit.

We were all extremely gratified that our reinstatement of the Treasured Garden Tour met with such an enthusiastic response from Frederictonians. We had some concerns that since we had not held the event for several years, it would have dropped off the radar of our loyal supports. There was no need to worry.



Ticket sales were better than ever, and we had a beautiful day to explore some lovely gardens. Particular thanks to James Whitehead and Nancy Beltrandi who were brave enough to organize the event, and of course thanks to the supporters who worked in the Botanic Garden and especially to those who allowed us access to their "Treasured Garden." We were treated to a cream tea in the Botanic Garden after the tour and enjoyed Mary Pugh's much sought after strawberry jam with our scones...thanks so much Mary. We already have a number of people who have expressed interest in having their garden on the next tour, so look for it again this summer.

Recently we made a presentation to the Development Committee of City Council asking for continued funding for maintenance of the Fredericton Botanic Garden. Whereas the Board of the Association recognizes that the City is working with limited financial resources at the present time, we were modest in our 2014 budgeting request, asking only for what we spent maintaining the garden in 2013, an amount of \$30,000.00. We hope to hear good news shortly about this request. We continue to acknowledge and appreciate the help of City staff, particularly Don Murray and Ken Forrest, and our liaison with Council, Councilor Eric Megarity.

Finally I would like to express thanks to Jim Nicholson, on behalf of the Board, for a very generous donation to the Garden. As many of you know Jim discovered a rose sport growing off of his William Baffin rose back in 1990. Through Jim's diligence, and with Bob Osborne's expertise, this rose became an officially registered variety, named Lucy Irene, after Jim's mother-in-law. Jim has kindly offered his share of the royalties from the sale of his rose discovery, to the Fredericton Botanic Garden. The Board is happy to announce that the Lucy Irene rose will be the official rose of the Fredericton Botanic Garden.

Our Annual General Meeting is approaching in February of 2014. You will soon be receiving your invitation so please make plans to attend, bring a friend and help us continue to develop Fredericton's Botanic Garden.

I would like to extend to you and your families my most sincere wishes for your health and happiness in the Christmas season and beyond.

Wendy Bourque, President
Fredericton Botanic Garden Association

Garden Weddings

This year we spoke with three brides. Some were looking for a spot to take bridal pictures. Others were looking to have their weddings outdoors in the Garden. We can respond that garden entry is free and people can come and go as they please. For a small investment of members' time though, people can be let into the Garden and shown places with fair access where photos can be taken.

We also hosted one wedding. The bridal party made a contribution to the garden

Christmas Workshop

FBG held its second Christmas design workshop on November 24. Mary Pugh, a FBG member and designer, lead eleven participants in the design of wreaths and arrangements. The event started with participants learning to tie a florists bow, using natural materials to decorate locally made balsam fir wreaths and constructing a table arrangement with natural materials and chrysanthemums and carnations. Refreshments were served by Talks in the Garden committee members Valerie Hillier and Heather Connors-Dunphy.

All had a great time and were happy with the results.

The Fredericton Botanic Garden Association 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: **506-452-9269 PO Box 57, Stn. A, Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y2 or fbga@nb.aibn.com**
Web: www.frederictonbotanicgarden.com

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Thank-you to Jane Tarn for her expertise in editing the Newsletters.



2013 Plant Sale Review

By Richard Tarn and Heather Connors-Dunphy

In the past ten years the net profit of the annual Plant Sale and Raffle has dropped steadily to about \$6,500, 50% of what it was in the early 2000s. Our customer turn-out has dropped considerably over the same time. These changes probably result from competition among local nurseries and garden centres, lower plant prices and an increased number of plant sales run by other organizations.

After the excitement of the Plant Sale has subsided and everyone has recovered, the organizers get together to relax and to review what went well, what did not, to make recommendations for the next year, and to consider how to make the FBGA Sale more profitable and better than other plant sales. The 2013 review included results from a survey organized by Evans Estabrooks to obtain feedback from our customers.

The work of running the Plant Sale is divided into groups of tasks with a leader for each group – this shares the work load so that no group of tasks is too daunting for a volunteer to take on.

Plant Acquisition Acquisition includes purchased plants, an increasing amount of excellent quality material dug from our own propagation beds, and donations from members. The variety and quality of the plants determines what we can charge: the plants are, of course, our major income source. Organizers welcome plant variety suggestions from members. The big variable is the plants donated by members – strong plants of named varieties make money; small plants of the most common varieties are often worth only \$1 and may end up in the compost. The nursery order of the 2014 Sale has already been placed.

Sale Location The Boyce Farmers' Market has served us well. Typically 40 to 50 volunteers help move plants to the Market and set up on Saturday, then clean up when the Sale is over. Our members do an excellent job but it is almost the same amount of work whether we make \$13,000 or \$6,500. The Market rental is our second largest cost after the purchase of plants. The Board is considering other options.

Plant Management From mid April, when the first plant orders arrive, until the time of the Sale, the plants require regular attention whether in the greenhouse or outside. Purchased and much donated material has to be potted up. Material in the propagation beds has to be divided, potted up and labelled. This is a lot of work and the number of volunteers has been down in the last few years – can we make it more fun?

Publicity and Advertising Posters continue to be produced but may need to be distributed more widely. Extensive use is made of free publicity, and photos are submitted to the Gleaner and news coverage sought. Greater use should be made of social media.

Canteen This makes a small profit when run by members, but should members snack for free? This is a fundraising event for the Garden.

Disposition of Unsold Plants In recent years some unsold plants have been donated to community gardens and school projects – the organizers need to have requests for approval before Sale day. Valuable plants are taken back to the Garden, itself no small task, to be planted in the Garden or the propagation beds.

Raffle The more tickets sold the more money the raffle makes, yet high ticket sales have often been a struggle. Changes at the Boyce Farmers' Market mean we can no longer get our 'traditional' space for four weeks which has hurt our sales. Ticket sales at the Northside Market were disappointing. It is often a struggle to get volunteers for ticket sales. How can we do better?

Past prizes have included beautiful furniture made by Charlie Fullarton and most recently by Mitch Bourque, who is again making a garden bench for 2014, as well as high-end BBQs. Ticket sales improve when there are prizes to show off, but getting heavy prizes to the markets can be a nightmare.

Donor Relations Some nurseries donate plants, nurseries and other businesses donate items used as prizes. Maintaining good communications with these companies is important.

Give a Fredericton Botanic Garden Membership



Talks, Walks and Workshops in the Garden ~ 2014

All talks will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Resource Centre, 10 Cameron Court unless otherwise noted.
Locations and times of other events are provided below.

- Thurs. Jan. 16 **Mosaiculture- Landscape as Sculpture.** Talk by Matt Methven. Matt will focus on his experiences working on the construction of displays at Mosaiculture International 2009, in Hamamatsu, Japan.
- Thurs. Feb. 20 **Bushes and Shrubs, New Introductions and General Care.** Talk by Dianne Earl, Scott's Nursery
- Thurs. Mar. 20 **New Ornamental Introductions.** Talk by Brian Spragg, Representative of VanNoort and Mori Nurseries
- Thurs. Apr. 17 **Plant species at risk in New Brunswick.** Talk by David Mazerolle, Botanist, Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre, Sackville, NB
- Thurs. May 15 **Daylilies.** Talk by Ruth Muldrew
- Thurs. Jun. 19 **Site Visit to Kings Landing.** Tour and visit the orchards of Francis Peabody Sharpe. An interpreted tour.
- Thurs. Jul. 17 **Curated tour of FBG.** Meet in Entrance Garden at 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs. Aug. 21 **Curated tour of FBG.** Meet in Entrance Garden at 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs. Sep. 18 **History of Food Crops - Corn.** Talk by Ian Veach

Needed: Convenor(s)

Talks in the Garden Series...our convenor, Valerie Hillier, has left this position due to increasing work demands.

A huge thanks to Val for a great job!

We really need a convenor... so please volunteer...

Some details

An ad hoc committee of the Board, the Education and Outreach Committee, made up of Richard Tarn and Heather Connors-Dunphy, is working on the goal of helping the public become more knowledgeable about the Botanic Garden and gardening. In order to progress the Board's strategic plan we must reach out to the public and interest them in the Garden. At the same time all botanic gardens have an interest in educating the public about matters surrounding plants and their environment.

Richard and Heather will continue to search out speakers and schedule the talks. They would like one or two volunteers to come forward to do the following:

notify the publicity committee of the need to "get the word out" via Web, Facebook, newspaper, radio and newsletter

arrange "thank you" membership for speakers with Executive Director

communicate with speakers to remind them and ensure that their needs for projectors etc. are met, communicate requirements to Executive Director solicit refreshment items from members

be present at the Talks, acting as hosts, introducing the speaker, welcoming the attendees, thanking the speaker, promoting FBGA membership, soliciting donations to the Garden and taking every opportunity to promote the Garden and upcoming FBGA events.

Please indicate your interest by emailing Richard Tarn at rtarn@nbnet.nb.ca or Heather Connors-Dunphy at actea08@yahoo.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Improving the Garden and Identifying Plant Material

by Heather Connors-Dunphy

What distinguishes a botanic garden from a horticultural or pleasure garden? Most botanic gardens in addition to having colourful displays of plants also have programs to educate their visitors and use parts of their collections for scientific study. The Fredericton Botanic Garden has been working over the last several years to improve its plantings and to give its beds a structure and appearance which says to visitors, "this garden is much more than a park with a few beds".

In aid of this direction, members of the Site Development Committee and other members have been working to ensure beds are properly edged and mulched. The following beds have had this treatment:

- Entrance Garden.. berm, beds and tree plantings
- White Garden
- Memorial Garden.. magnolia planting
- Hal's Garden
- Daylily Planting
- Lower Entrance Garden (by the Resource Centre)
- Parts of the Rhododendron planting

Some beds have had complete restructuring and expansion:

- Lower Entrance Garden and Hal's Garden

A big step in education comes with the installation of plant tags to identify the family from which the plant comes and the name of the specific cultivar. Both of these pieces are done in Latin and in English. Material is now identified and tagged with weatherproof tags.

The following beds have had this treatment:

- Entrance Garden.. berm and beds
- Holding Pond Garden is about 80% completed
- Memorial Garden..magnolia Planting
- Rhododendron Planting
- Daylily Planting
- Propagation beds are maintained at 100% identified and inventoried

How does this get done? Most of us who were involved with this scoured FBG records for planting plans, inventories, plant purchase lists, and records of material donated to the Garden. This was not an easy job as some records reflect very old planting plans which had to be verified and some records were not found.

The Rhododendron work took more than two years with Richard Tarn, Garth Nickerson and Owen Washburn leading the charge. They installed the id tags early this summer.

The writer did most of the work on the other beds with assistance with the daylilies from Brian Parker and Ruth Muldrew and on the magnolias from Jane Seabrook. Many, many hours were spent on research and photography. Graham Allen printed the tags. By late summer with the help of Doug and Gail Dewar and the summer students the id tags were installed.

In this process files were created and designs documented. These items will shortly find their way to the web site as plant lists attached to the information on the various gardens.

There is still much to do. I hope other members will volunteer to help with this in 2014.

Woodland Angelica: A prolific Invader

by James P. Goltz

Alarmist media attention to potential health hazards associated with Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), a very rare European invader in New Brunswick, has stimulated close public scrutiny of all robust members of the carrot family, as well as considerable confusion. The showy white-flowered carrot that has become so prolific along the St. John River and in parts of the Fredericton Botanic Garden site is not Giant Hogweed, but is Woodland Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), a highly invasive plant of concern in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

According to the New Brunswick Invasive Species Council (www.nbisc.ca), New Brunswick is at the epicenter of the naturalization of Woodland Angelica in North America, the first reports being from the Fredericton area and also Cape Breton. This Eurasian species is highly successful at spreading because of its long blooming period, from July to November, and resultant prolific seed production, as well as its ability to spread vegetatively by rhizomes (underground stems that resemble roots), and its versatile ability to grow in moist habitats in conditions ranging from full sunshine to deep shade. Also, like many Eurasian invaders, this species seems to have very few natural predators here. Consequently, it has become extremely common and conspicuous along much of the St. John River valley, often overwhelming native vege-





Dome-shaped flower clusters

tation at sites where it grows. Hopefully, Woodland Angelica will not have a devastating impact on the native flora of the St. John River valley and elsewhere where it becomes established.

Woodland Angelica is easily recognized by its tall stature, ranging from 1 to 3 meters in height, its large dome-shaped clusters of small white five-petaled flowers, its stout hollow ridged purple stems, and its large leaves that are divided into many oval finely toothed leaflets. Like Giant Hogweed, it has prominent swollen leaf sheaths and an umbrella-like shape to its flower clusters, but Giant Hogweed has three large leaflets that are once-divided, and Woodland Angelica's leaves are twice divided. Anyone wishing to become familiar with this species simply needs to make an excursion by boat, vehicle, bicycle or foot along the St. John River in August and September.



Swollen leaf sheath

In addition to being a threat to native vegetation, Woodland Angelica also poses some potential threat to human health (<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/harmful-angelica-plant-spreads-in-new-brunswick-1.1193278>). Skin contact with the sap of Woodland Angelica and its yellow-flowered relative, Wild Parsnip, can result in skin rashes and blisters when that part of the body is exposed to ultraviolet light, including sunlight. Those who wish to eradicate Woodland Angelica from their land are advised to prevent skin contact by wearing protective gloves, long-sleeved shirts and trousers, and to wash and shower, and launder clothes with soap and warm water after working around this plant. Eradication efforts are best attempted during cloudy days, as an added precaution.

What is the Fredericton Botanic Garden doing to try to control the spread of Woodland Angelica at the Garden site? Control efforts are proving to be daunting because of the abundance of the species on adjacent lands and strategic advantages that it has to ensure its successful spread. However, its most prolific stands in the garden are strategically cut at times designed to minimize its opportunity to set seed.

Although various species of Angelica were historically thought to possess medical and spiritual properties, and several angels evidently touted the benefits of Angelica for warding off evil powers and curing a plague, the highly invasive nature of Woodland Angelica in our area makes it seem not the least bit angelic.



Flowering plants in a wetland

