



**Fredericton Botanic Garden
Association Newsletter**

**Bulletin du Jardin Botanique
de Fredericton**

Vol 22 No 2

Spring 2010

President's Message

It is an honour to serve as the President of the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association. There is much to learn and there are many things to do.

I have set some ambitious goals for this year in the Garden.

GOAL- to increase awareness of the Association and the Garden itself. We have a jewel in Fredericton's crown and hope that it will sparkle brightly and attract attention. We intend to promote the Garden at every opportunity.

GOAL- to increase membership. The support of membership can never be undervalued. Interested, active members will keep our Garden alive and vibrant.

GOAL- to develop new fund-raising strategies involving business and corporate interests. Our membership fund-raising effort was wildly successful. We must take the next step to engage the support of business interests in order to move forward with our strategic plan.

GOAL- to complete the Rose Garden at the earliest possible time. The Rose Garden is a major component of the Plan for the Garden. It will draw significant attention to the Garden.

GOAL- to make the 22nd Annual Plant Sale the most successful to date.

GOAL- to bring the public to the Garden.

There are so many projects and organizations clamoring for attention. It is true that "a picture is worth a thousand words" and it is also true that seeing for oneself is worth a thousand pictures.

The Fredericton Botanic Garden Asso-

ciation is a registered non-profit charitable organization. We rely on volunteers and donations to meet our goals.

So bring your friends for a walk through the Garden. Buy a gift membership for someone. Consider a gift membership or donation to the Garden as a thank you to someone in your business for a job well done.

Volunteer with us. Volunteering can be one of the most satisfying things to do - meeting people and making a difference in the world around you. We certainly welcome your help.

Norah Davidson-Wright

**22nd Annual Plant Sale
Featured Plants**

This year's Annual Plant Sale should have a wide array of plant material for the eager gardener. As always, the majority of the plants come from donations from our members as well as from the commercial nurseries that have sponsored the Sale for years with their own donations. A portion of what you see each year on the tables the FBGA buys to top up the local donations and add something extra. Each year we try to find something that we have not tried before and to have some of the things that are always popular.

This year's purchases include the following varieties: Anemone 'Whirlwind', Astilbe 'Red Charm', *Rodgersia aesculifolia*, Sedum 'Elsie's Gold', Hosta 'Canadian Blue', H. 'Sagae', H. 'Maple Leaf', H. 'Cherry Berry' and Dicentra 'Luxuriant'. These plants were all purchased through Canning Perennials in

Events in the Garden

Talks in the Garden

Plant Sale Featured Plants
by Brian Parker
and

Vietnam Exchange Experience
by Julie Baker
Thursday, May 20, 7:00 pm
Resource Center

PLant Sale and Raffle

May 30, 2010
12:00 noon to 4:00 pm
Boyce Farmers' Market,
George St.

Treasured Garden Tour

July 11, 2010

Paris, Ontario.

The other major purchase was fifty four "designer" daylilies from Red Lane Gardens in Prince Edward Island. There is a very nice range of colours, forms and sizes in the mix ...in fact, I seem to recall that I selected all of them on the basis that they should provide scent and colour to the garden. The varieties include: 'Ann Kelly', 'Aquamarine', 'Bradley Bernard', 'Dark of Night', 'Different Steps', 'Enjoy', 'Ferris Wheel', 'Fun Fling', 'Jen Melon', 'Justin June', 'Little Bit Extra', 'Ruffled Apricot', 'Russian Easter', 'Singing Minstrel', 'Statuesque', 'Super Purple', 'Trahyta' and 'Yasmin'.

We also have a small order of Rhododendrons and Azaleas from the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society's annual sale of tissue culture propa-



gated plants. These plants are small cuttings that can be purchased inexpensively and allow the sampling of varieties not always available here. All were chosen for hardiness within our area and should do well if protected the first winter. Varieties include: Rhododendrons R. 'Anke Heinje', R. 'Axel Tigerstedt', R. 'Crete', R. 'PJM Elite' and Azaleas R. 'Candy Lights' and R. 'Tri Lights.' A short talk will be given at the Resource Centre on the above Rhodies on May 20.

We are often asked about trees and shrubs, and while not always big sellers a good number are sold at each Sale. This year we expect the usual donations of various trees and shrubs but we also purchased or had donated some special plants. There will be a handful of sour cherry trees available in addition to a few dozen each of seedlings of Black Walnut and *Cercis Canadensis* (Eastern Redbud). The *Cercis* is a beautiful small tree that naturally occurs in southern Canada south into the USA. While 100% hardiness is usually not the norm for larger specimens, it is believed and hoped that these small seedlings will better acclimate to our region and thrive. Flower colour is a "Thrills" gum purple and fall colour is similar to Serviceberry....a plant worth trying in a sheltered yard or woodlot.

We also have an order of hybrid lilies that are growing in the greenhouse. These may even be in bud or bloom by the sale...weather dependent of course.

Hopefully this list of plants has wetted your appetite to attend the Sale and to spread the word to friends and acquaintances. I hope to see all of you there. Brian Parker

Another Successful Silent Auction

12 Years of Great Donors

We want to thank all the members and friends who attended the AGM and Silent Auction on February 13, 2010. It was with your help, and the many dona-

tions we received to our 12th Silent Auction, that we managed to raise \$1,152.55. This money will be used to further the growth of the garden.

It really is true. Each year the silent auction donations get more plentiful, and better and better in quality. This year we had 238 items. Sometime we/you should plan a gala event just around the Silent Auction. The food donations were delicious and plentiful, and the helping hands were just great. Thank you so much to Graham Allen, Joyce & John Astle, Mary Lou Beckett, Nancy Beltrandi, Jeanne Beltrandi Chown, Catherine Betts, Lorraine Bourque, Carol Bray, Avis Bruce, Rose Burke, Lynda Rae Burke, Juliet Davis, Jorge Dietrich, Heather Connors-Dunphy, Janet Crawford, Katherine Crawford, Kit Everett, Yolande Gagnon, Angelique Gloss, Gwen Herbin, Rachel Kimm, Eileen Knight, Jim & Betty Nicholson, Carole Peacock, Betty Ponder, Mary Pugh, Isabel & Dugald Richford, Helen Rufelds, Bill & Jane Seabrook, Jackie Stewart, George & Annette Strunz, Jane & Richard Tarn, Bill Walker, Doreen Wallace, Owen & Sheila Washburn, Margaret Wicken, Marie Wilcox, Rob Wright and all those who remain anonymous but who gave generously. **Thank you.**

A special thank you to Mary Pugh for the loan of her sparkling white table cloths.

Nancy Beltrandi, chair Silent Auction

Garden Plans for 2010

We are pleased to welcome Horticulture Technician Keenan Jewett as the City employee now assigned to the Botanic Garden. Keenan has a diploma in Horticulture Technology from the Nova Scotia Agriculture College and is a certified arborist. He worked for the City from 2000 to 2007, moved to Ontario for three years and has now returned to the Parks and Trees Division. Keenan replaces Jamie Adamson who worked in this position for the past several years.

We also have a change in our liaison contact with Parks and Trees – Julie Baker, the City Horticulturalist, replaces

Harold Boone. Harold has filled this role for many years and has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Botanic Garden. He has been instrumental in much of the progress we have made. Now he is concentrating on other projects for the City. We look forward to working with Julie as we continue to move ahead with development of the Botanic Garden.

This summer we are expecting to hire two summer students to work with Keenan. At press time staffing is in progress. When you visit the Garden in the coming weeks, if you have the opportunity, please speak to Keenan and the students and make them feel welcome.

The Garden has wintered well and the garden cleanup is underway. The perennial planting below the Entrance Garden is doing well and with most of the material now in its third year it should show an increased amount of colour this year.

Plans for new developments in the Garden are dependent on the success of funding applications; you will have to visit the Garden to see if we have been successful. In the meantime Keenan and the students will be working to have the existing plantings looking better than ever.

Richard Tarn
Site Development Committee

Membership Privileges include:

Newsletters

and advance notice by email of all events

10 % discount at:

Capital Landscape and City Designers,

Co-op Country Store (Northside),

Corn Hill Nursery,

Currie's Greenhouses,

Kent Garden Centre,

Scott's Nursery,

Wetmore's Landscaping, Sod and Nursery

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





Photo courtesy Garth Nickerson

*In Memorium**Captain Richard M. Steele**September 22, 1915 – March 14, 2010*

Renowned plantsman, Captain Richard (Dick) Steele passed away after a brief illness late this winter. Part of his legacy is many of the spectacular blooms of *Rhododendron* now on display in gardens throughout the Atlantic region including here in Fredericton.

Captain Steele was an extraordinary man. Born and raised in New Brunswick, he grew up on historic family property along the picturesque Kingston peninsula and always maintained a great fondness for the beauty of the landscape. He attended Rothesay Collegiate School and joined the Canadian Navy in 1939. He was a veteran of WWII and the Korean War. He had a long and distinguished naval career until his retirement in 1970 and then he spent the next 40 (!) years immersed in his passion for ornamental horticulture, plant selection and breeding.

Returning to Atlantic Canada, Captain Steele settled by the sea and established Bayport Plant Farm, near Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. He developed this 30 acre woodlot into an oasis of rhododendrons and magnolias interspersed with primula, heaths, and alpine plants. He became

Gardens (Annapolis NS), Memorial University Botanical Garden (St. John's NF), and the Fredericton Botanic Garden (Fredericton NB). Although he never sought acclaim, he was honoured with many distinguished awards. In 2004, he received the Order of Canada for outstanding contributions to horticulture in Canada.

Captain Steele had a keen and observing eye for garden worthy species and varieties found in nature. He had a special fondness for the ericaceous plants native to the barrens of Newfoundland and Labrador. With his commanding demeanour and military strategy, he orchestrated native plant hunting expeditions to collect seed and cuttings. For the last two decades, he led these trips to wilderness spots in Labrador, Newfoundland, Gaspé, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; they were a great opportunity for participants to be enriched by his vast knowledge and experience and warm-hearted humour. Both amateur and expert were inspired by his boundless enthusiasm.

Many FBG members will remember Captain Steele's visit here in May 2005. He was pleased to see that his donated plants had found a new home at this excellent location; they had been transferred from plant trials at NB Agriculture's Hoyt Research Station. Rhododendron 'Fertile Myrtle' is one of the Bayport hybrids that is in bloom here now. As well as being so generous with his specimen plants, he had such a generosity of spirit that will be missed by all who knew him.

Dianne MacLeod

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**

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Fredericton Botanic Garden Association

22nd Annual Plant Sale

Sunday, May 30

Boyce Farmers' Market Noon to 4 p.m.

Perennials
Annuals
Heritage Tomatoes
Trees and Shrubs

Raffle
Silent Auction
BBQ

Free Admission



Ikebana Flower Arranging

Instructor: June Crow
Dates: July 10 & 11

Time: 9 am – 12 pm; 1 pm – 4 pm
Workshop Fee: \$140 plus HST
Material Fee: \$20

Note: Participants should bring a pair of flower cutting or garden clippers.

During this two day workshop participants will learn basic principles of Ikebana. A traditional Japanese way of arranging flowers, Ikebana has its origins in Buddhist temples, where arrangements were made as shrine offerings. Practiced as a contemplative art dealing with form and space, the result is a fresh, three-dimensional artistic expression composed of flowers and plant materials. Participants will be introduced to basic Ikebana principals and techniques in a relaxed, creative atmosphere. Flowers and other materials will be provided, while participants

are also welcomed to bring plant material that inspires them from their own gardens.

If you require more information, please contact me directly:

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Er-Ratum

Rata is not an alternative name for the New Zealand Christmas Tree or Pohutukawa, *Metrosideros excelsa*. The Northern and Southern Rata trees are two different species also in the genus *Metrosideros*. Incorrect information was given in our item on New Zealand Botanic Gardens in the last issue of this Newsletter. We thank our NZ friend Rata Garside for the correction.

Richard and Jane Tarn



Join us on Facebook

The Fredericton Botanic Garden Association now has a Facebook page. If you're one of the one in three Canadians on Facebook, you can join the FBGA group page by entering "**Fredericton Botanic Garden**" in the Search bar on Facebook, and then selecting "Join this group."

We'll have announcements about events and pictures of the garden. There's also a discussion page for messages.

