

**FREDERICTON
BOTANIC GARDEN
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

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**BULLETIN DU
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BOTANIQUE
DE FREDERICTON**

SPRING 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring Everyone,

We are finally pulling ourselves out from under that huge deposit of snow Mother Nature saw fit to gift us with. Since we gardeners are generally optimistic people, we can try and find it in our hearts to thank her for her efforts to keep our precious little plants safe and warm over this long winter. The first days of spring are also so much more joyous after a long, cold winter and as I write this we are enjoying one of those very special days. Let's hope it continues. One of the first signs of spring around our house is the opening of the Saint John River. Once we can see that beautiful blue expanse, we know the daffodils will not be far behind.

We are all looking forward to the annual Fredericton Botanic Garden Plant Sale, a local spring tradition for Fredericton residents. This activity pulls in a large number of our members, united in an effort to raise money to keep our garden growing. All of us are looking forward to renewing our gardening acquaintances, talking plants with all the other enthusiasts and generally getting an injection of spring. Plants and helpers are welcome and I would invite everyone to consider making this their year to take a more active role in this very rewarding and worthwhile endeavour.

As was the case for the last several years, we are fortunate once again to be able to offer several outstanding door prizes. A couple of our talented members have been labouring over the winter to provide us with some lovely pieces of garden furniture to raffle off. The raffle typically raises a significant sum of money for the garden and we are most grateful to these individuals for their continuing generosity. To this end, you will shortly be receiving a book of tickets on these items and other items of interest to the gardener. I would like to encourage you to contribute to your Botanic Garden by selling these tickets

to your friends and acquaintances. Not only will you be giving them a chance to acquire a wonderful prize, but you will be helping to raise the profile of the garden in the Fredericton area. We members sometimes assume that everyone in the city must know of the existence of the Fredericton Botanic Garden. Not so! It's our job to let everyone in on what a special haven we have right in our midst.

Another sure sign of spring in the Botanic Garden is our spectacular planting of rhododendrons and azaleas. Those of you who witnessed their stunning display last year, are no doubt looking forward to an encore performance this spring. We were fortunate to be able to acquire and put in mature plants, and even though last year was their first display, they outdid themselves. We are hoping for an even more grand showing this year. Please take the time to come and enjoy the collection at its best. Oh, and rumour has it, we will have a supply of Rhodos and Azaleas to sell at the Spring Plant Sale, so you can build your very own display garden. If you would like more information on these beautiful shrubs, the April issue of Canadian Gardening magazine features a well known Rhododendron expert from our end of the country, Captain Dick Steele of Bayport Plant Farm near Lunenburg Nova Scotia. If you just can't get to the garden this spring, take a virtual visit by spending some time on our website (www.frederictonbotanicgarden.com).

Perhaps you would like to participate, but don't wish to become involved in the typical activities we offer. Please come forward and let us know what you would like to do. You may have skills you didn't even realize could be put to use by a Botanic Garden. For example, we are currently seeking a volunteer who has some experience in historical research, particularly a familiarity with the materials housed at the New Brunswick Archives.

I hope to see everyone at the Plant Sale and here's hoping that your garden this year will be the best ever!!

Wendy Bourque
President of the Fredericton Botanic Garden

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Lucy Dyer Membership Committee

For the first time, we have recorded over 300 memberships on our list. This is good news! However, this list does include a few members whose renewals are overdue - and if you have not renewed during the past year, we encourage you to send in your renewal now. Renewals and gift memberships are welcomed at any time!

Some not-so-welcome news: The price of memberships in the FBGA had remained constant for many years, but our costs had increased (stamps, stationery, etc.). At the Annual General Meeting in February, the membership fees were raised. They are still a bargain - the benefits of the 10% discount at many local garden centres will pay for most or all of the cost of membership for most serious gardeners.

The new fees (which we hope will remain in effect for many years) for one year are: Senior/Student \$15, Individual: \$20, Family: \$35.

Because of the change in fees, we have changed the membership brochure insert and the gift membership form.

15TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE IS COMING UP

Bill Seabrook Plant Sale and Raffle Committee

Sunday May 25th the day of our 15th annual plant sale is coming up. Last year's sale was the most successful to date. Planning is well underway and we hope that this year will be the biggest and best sale so far. Please start thinking about the things from your perennial beds...**we need them**. If you need help with this chore we have a crew who will be glad to assist you.

We will be receiving plants at the greenhouse behind the resource building commencing the first week of May. This is the same date as last year and about two weeks earlier than usual. Please consider getting your plants in early this year so that they can be potted up and looking their very

best by May 25th. We also hope to have all of the plants labeled and priced prior to moving them to the market. This will cut down substantially on the effort required when we arrive at the market.

The feature plants at this year's sale will be Rhododendrons & Azaleas, Butterfly plants and Daisies and Woodland plants. This year we will have a selection of 250 Rhodies and Azaleas encompassing 15 different varieties. Among them will be the Finish hybrid Helliikki which is flower bud hardy to -40^oC. It would have survived even this winter in an exposed site. These Rhododendrons and Azaleas are varieties which are not available at your local garden centres.

In addition to our feature plants we will be having a super selection of Herbs, we hope to have over 1000 pots of herbs

Please volunteer to assist in this venture. Being a plant sale volunteer is great fun. Most of our workers are repeat volunteers. We need volunteers to help set up the market and to work the day of the sale at the market. We also need volunteers to sell raffle tickets at the market on Saturday mornings commencing May 3rd. This is the Garden's biggest moneymaker. We desperately need these unrestricted funds! Please volunteer for one or more of these sessions, we need your help and it will be appreciated

If you can assist us with the plant sale, or if you would like further information please contact Bill Hall (455-7935) or Bill Seabrook (459-7862)

PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS ENTERED IN DRAW

Again this year plant sale volunteers will be entered in a for a draw for a beautiful Adirondack chair similar to the ones being offered as a prize in our annual raffle.

Volunteers will be given a ballot to fill in for each session that the person works in support of our annual plant sale / raffle. Ballots will be offered for assisting with the potting up, helping to prepare the market, assisting on sale day, selling tickets on Saturday mornings at the market and any of the other numerous tasks associate with the sale.

The more sessions that you work the more ballots you will have in the draw. The more ballots you have in the draw the better your chance of winning. So join with your fellow members and let's push this year's sale over the top. It's great fellowship and fun; not to mention the Saturday night Pizza Party.

BUTTERFLY PLANTS

Butterflies visit flowers to sip nectar from the nectaries that are often deep within the flower tube or corolla. To access these nectaries, butterflies have evolved long, sucking mouthparts that pierce the nectaries and sip the nectar. Flowers that attract butterflies frequently have a lovely scent and bright colours - often orange or red.

The Spring Plant Sale is featuring perennial plants that attract butterflies, and volunteers will have further resource material to guide your choice of plants. Many plant of the Compositae family, the daisies, asters, etc., which are made up of many tiny flowers in a compact head, are attractive to butterflies. Monarda or Beebalm are frequently visited by butterflies and hummingbirds. Many butterfly plants thrive in full sun.

As they visit the flowers in your garden, the butterflies are unwittingly transferring the pollen that has stuck to their legs to other flowers, thereby cross-pollinating the flowers. Most of the plants that are pollinated by butterflies have to be cross-pollinated and cannot be self-pollinated. This need to be cross-pollinated is controlled by the genes which specifically code for pollen/flower compatibility. So the butterflies are doing us a great favour if we want to collect and save seed for next year's Seedy Saturday! If you want to have beautiful butterflies in your garden this summer take advantage of our great selection at this year's Fredericton Botanic Garden Plant Sale.

WOODLAND PLANTS

This year for the Annual Plant Sale the FBGA is bringing in a number of plants your woodland gardening needs. Not to be confused with shade tolerant plants, though many certainly are, woodlanders fill a specific niche in the woodland environment. Many bloom early in the season, often before the trees leaf out and provide that first welcoming colour in spring. Though often subtle individually, many of the plants being brought in will eventually create larger clumps or groups along the forest floor. The following descriptions will hopefully wet your appetite for these

wonderful plants.

Trillium: Three species of Trillium are being brought in. Many will be familiar with *T. erectum*, the Purple Trillium found throughout much of New Brunswick. *T. grandiflorum*, the Showy Trillium is the official wildflower of Ontario. Large white flowers that fade to pink make a beautiful sight in the woods. Lastly, something a little different, *T. luteum*, the Yellow WakeRobin. The Yellow Trillium is probably a little less hardy than the above species but should survive in a woodland situation with a good cover of leaf mulch. Originates from Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Carolinas, Alabama and Georgia. The Yellow Trillium is a double duty plant as the foliage has a mottled variegation that is quite attractive.

Kirengeshoma palmata: A Japanese native, the Kirengeshoma was all the rage a few years ago. Often classed as an herbaceous shrub in this area most like a perennial. Maple like leaves on 3-4 foot purplish stems. Lemon yellow funnel shaped blooms develop from the leaf axials in late summer. Interesting seedpod, supposedly, needs shade and protection from wind, moist, rich soil.

Sanguinaria canadense: One of the first flowers to bloom in spring, Bloodroot is a small native wildflower that has interesting palmately lobed foliage with an intense white, single flower. Double forms are sold. Best in a sheltered spot away from winds, which seem to quickly remove the eight petals. Named for the bright red sap contained within its roots.

Cypripedium acaule: The Pink Lady Slipper needs little introduction. The pendant pink slipper orchid can be found in acid soils beneath White Pine or in mixed Red Maple and Paper Birch woods. Rarely found as an albino. Can tolerate a range of moisture regimes from pine understory to the edge of bogs. Should bloom from late May into June. Various sources rate the ability to grow the orchid as extremely difficult others less so. In the wild it grows in association with a fungal mycelia. It should be planted in a similar location to that which it would normally be found, leafy woodland floor.

Uvularia grandiflora: The Large Bellwort, cousin to the native *U. sessifolia*, is a clump forming, erect plant growing to approximately 2 feet in height. The flowers are yellow, pendulous bells of twisted tepals. The plant has bright green lance shaped leaves. A plant for the rich deciduous

woods.

Arisaema tryphylla 'Rosea': Jack in the Pulpit is a spring woodland wildflower between 1- 2' tall. The "flower" is actually a spadix (Jack) which holds an erect spike containing numerous, tiny, green to purple flowers and the sheath-like spathe (pulpit) which encases the lower part of the spadix and then forms a hood over the top of the spadix. The outside of the spathe is normally green or purple and the inside is usually striped purple and greenish white, though considerable color variations exist. This variety is pinkish where it would normally have been white. A pair of large green, compound, long-petioled leaves provide umbrella-like shade to the flower. Jack in the Pulpit grows best in fertile, medium wet to wet soil in part shade to full shade. Provide plenty of organic matter to the soil.

Epimedium per. Frohnleiten: The Barrenwort is one of the newer fad plants and is being hybridized by a number of specialty growers for the foliage and flowers. This hybrid (*E. perralderianum* x *E. pinnatum* ssp. *colchicum*) is a small plant, 10-12" with large yellow flowers, sometimes with a red centre. The foliage is a mottled red in the spring. Supposed to be able to handle dry soil areas beneath trees though can handle wet conditions as well. Provide good drainage though.

Erythronium albidum: White Dog Tooth Violet, Trout Lily. Small (6-12") white flowered plant for full to partial shade. It grows from tiny corms which purportedly resemble dogteeth and its flowers supposedly resemble violets, hence the common name. The variegated foliage provides the other common name of Trout Lily. The foliage consists of two basal leaves in flowering specimens though non-flowering plants will only have a single leaf. Often seen in mixed hardwood stands growing through the leaf litter in early spring. Do not plant too deep, 3-4 inches and mulch with leaves. Will slowly spread.

Podophyllum emodi Nodi: The Mayapple is a rhizomatous wildflower that grows in both moist and dry woodland areas. Does best in rich, humusy soil and will self-seed under ideal conditions, though goes dormant in late summer. Each plant consists of a single stem, 12-18" tall with one or two palmately lobed pale green leaves, each up to 12" across. Like the Trout Lily, plants with only one leaf will not flower. Flowers are

attractive, single white and nodding though hidden beneath the leaves. The fruit is an edible green fruit, which turn golden yellow when ripe, and is used in jams and preserves. Leaves and roots are poisonous.

Lilium henryi: Henry Lily, named for whom I do not know. What I do know is that this 3-4 foot orange lily is a denizen of the woodland environment. Probably does best at the edge of woods or forest meadows with partial shade. The lower part of the plant probably benefits from the support of small plants or grass to keep the stems upright.

Anemone tomentosa 'Robustissima': A hardy variety of Japanese Anemone. Very howy rose-pink flowers that look best when grown in partial shade and moist soil. Growing 3-4' tall and forming a large clump over time. Blooms late summer to early fall.

Peltiphyllum peltatum: Also known as *Darmera peltatum*, the Umbrella Leaf is a, thick-rhizomed perennial forming large clumps in moist to wet areas. Often used as a pond side accent due to the large rounded leaf and ultimate clump size. Can grow in full sun, if adequate moisture present, to full shade. The leaf can be up to 18" across. Flowers can be white or pink and are an open corymb. The Umbrella Leaf can grow to between 3 and 6' in height and spread in optimum conditions.

Rodgersia podophyllum Braunlaub: Bronze Leaved Rodgersia is similar in requirements to the Umbrella Leaf. Provide humus rich, moisture retentive soil for best growth and appearance. These plants have large, jagged leaves that are bronze-green in the spring changing to green in the summer and then dark copper in the fall. Creamy white flowers appear in late spring. Growing 3-4' in height the plant will form a clump up to 3' across. Protect from winter winds.

Adiantum pedatum 'Aleuticum': Everyone is familiar with the delicate airy foliage of the Maidenhair fern. Though an uncommon native, this variety exhibits a blue green foliage colour rather than the more typical bright green. A 1.5-2' deciduous clump forming perennial, this fern does best in moderately wet, well-drained soil with plenty of humus in full to partial shade. Will form colonies over time. A beautiful plant in all phases of growth.

Polystichum braunii: Holly Fern. An uncommon native, the Holly fern is a beautiful semi-evergreen fern for the moist mixed woods. Grows to approximately 16" in height.

Does well on rocky slopes. Has leathery like foliage that resembles the evergreen holly and scaly stems.

TALKS FROM THE GARDEN

The well attended Talk in the Garden on March 27th was on the subject of "Lawn Care with Minimum Pesticide Use." Jack Wetmore, a professional agrologist and owner of Wetmore's Landscaping, Sod & Nursery, gave a very thought provoking talk on lawn care, illustrated with slides. His advice was practical and literally down to earth, as he repeatedly emphasized the importance of having good soil in order to have a healthy lawn. He gave helpful suggestions as to how soil can be improved by adding compost, etc. in order to have a better lawn.

After a brief intermission, Mr. Wetmore shared his slides of his trip to Floriades in Holland in the summer of 2002. This very diverse display of gardens over several acres was most interesting. Floriades provided an opportunity to gain new ideas in creating gardens, whether it was perennial borders, water gardens, hedges or wattle screens. All were pleased to view this gardening wonder.

The next Talk in the Garden will be about woodland gardens by Brian Parker on May 15 at 7:30 pm at the Resource Centre on Cameron Court.

Woodland plants are going to be one of the featured plants in the Botanic Garden Plant Sale on May 25th.

Submitted by Joyce Astle

Looking for a gardening project? The Forest Hill Cemetery has several perennial gardens that are in need of some TLC. The management of the cemetery is looking for someone to adopt one or more of these gardens as a volunteer project for the summer. They would be able to subsidize some out-of-pocket expenses and provide some labour and materials to an interested party. The cemetery management is also interested in developing a wildflower area on the slope between the cemetery and the Forest Hill Road. If you think that there might be something here of interest to you please call George Bidkake at 454-5649.

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Details can be found at www.cornhillnursery.com
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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 at 452-9269, at PO Box 57, Stn. A, Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y2 or fbga@nb.aibn.com

Fredericton Botanic Garden Association

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TREASURED GARDEN TOUR

Spring has finally arrived! After such a long winter why not become part of something beautiful? We are currently planning for the 5th annual Treasured Garden Tour. Four local gardens will be toured on July 12/03 with an old fashioned garden party to follow at the Fredericton Botanic Gardens. If you are interested in being part of the organizing committee or want to help out on that day feel free to contact Andrew Lawson at alawson@greenvillage.net or call Andrew at 450-3388.

it on your calendar! With live music, refreshments, free draws, and the best sandwiches ever the garden party is a great way to meet and greet after viewing four phenomenal local gardens! Each garden is selected for their unique characteristics. Enjoy unique plant varieties, landscape designs, and decorative accents from each garden. There is something for everyone! This is the best place to get ideas for your own garden paradise. Tickets can be purchased starting June 12/03 at Green Village, Westminster Books, Main Street Floral Gallery, Trites Flower shop, and Botinicals. The ticket price is \$15.00, which includes the tour of the gardens as well as the reception at the Fredericton Botanic Gardens. Tickets sell quickly so grab a friend and don't miss out!

For those wishing to attend the event, be sure to mark

Give a gift membership Fredericton Botanic Garden Association

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