

Fredericton Botanic Garden

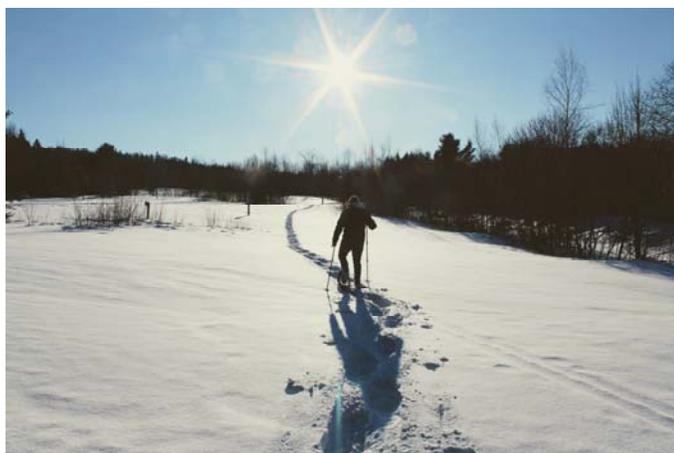
Bulletin du Jardin botanique

Vol 32 No 3

Winter 2020

Message from the President – Stephen Heard

In December, our thoughts might not turn right away to gardens, but I hope you'll all remain engaged with our Garden this winter. Opportunities for outdoor recreation are important to us every year, this year being outdoors will matter more than ever as we find ways to see each other while maintaining safe distancing. The Garden is open all winter; come walk, come snowshoe, come ski! If you keep a sharp eye out, you'll see that while most of our plants are slumbering, there's still plenty going on. Watch for woodpeckers in the trees; for voles tunneling under the snow; and for buds on shrubs and trees biding their time for spring.



Stephen Heard skiing in the Garden. Photo credit: Holly Abbandonato.

But even if you can't visit us outside, we're here for you. Watch for our online *Talks in the Garden* – we plan talks monthly (or so) through the winter. While we can't meet in person for those as we used to, we'll continue to bring you interesting speakers so you can think and learn about gardening, plants, and nature from the comfort of your own living room. You can also follow us on social media where we'll tell you

what we're looking forward to next spring. On Twitter, I'll be sharing posts from our sister gardens all over the world – because while our Garden sleeps, Southern Hemisphere gardens are at their peak.

We'll have cold this winter, and snow, and surely an ice storm or two – but the Botanic Garden will always have something for you anyway. Join us, and bring your friends!

Winter Events

We continue to monitor the pandemic recovery and will adjust events accordingly. Updates will be sent by email and posted to social media.

Online Talks in the Garden TBA
Seedy Saturday March 13, 1–3 p.m.



Follow and Tag Us on Social Media

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Instagram @FredBotanicGarden



Twitter @FredBotGarden



[#frederictonbotanicgarden](https://www.instagram.com/frederictonbotanicgarden)



Plans for 2021

James P. Goltz, Site Development Committee

If you visited the Fredericton Botanic Garden in 2020, you will have observed substantial progress and many changes. No doubt you are wondering what to expect this coming year.

Work will begin on two new gardens, the long-awaited Pond Garden and an Abandoned Homestead Garden. The creation of a Pond Garden has been planned for many years but was not feasible due to resource challenges. The original plan has been revised and scaled down so construction can be initiated and implemented in phases over a number of years. The initial phase will focus on placing garden beds between the lane and the edge of the pond located closest to the lane, and also on the berm between the two ponds. The new garden plantings will augment the showy flowering crab apples that are planted around the edges of the ponds.

An Abandoned Homestead Garden is planned for the upper part of the garden along the old stone wall that stretches between the Prospect Street ball field parking lot and the first garden kiosk. This garden will feature plants such as roses, daylilies and lilacs that have persisted around abandoned dwellings in New Brunswick. Implements historically used on farms and homesteads may be interspersed among these plantings.

Watch for spring blooms from bulbs planted near the Cameron Court entrance as well as in the Pollinator Garden, the Peony Garden, the NB Literature Garden, the White Garden, the large Perennial Garden and the garden beds near the Prospect St. entrance.

Good progress has already been made on creating the Wabanaki Healing Garden (see following article) and the addition of more plants, and installation of signage, benches and a central feature are planned for the upcoming year, along with opening ceremonies.

A bee hotel and a seed dispensary for visitors will be added to the Pollinator Garden; new plants will be added to the Rock and Crevice Garden and NB Literature Garden; and native and exotic ferns, stumps and

logs, and signage will be added to a newly designated Fern Corridor that is located between the White Garden and the Memorial Garden.

The Fredericton Botanic Garden has embraced a strategy of doing our best to utilize, work with and build upon what we already have. As we continue to create new gardens and developments, additional resources will be required for maintenance, and we will need to overcome challenges such as access to water. Our continued progress would not be possible without the steadfast support of our members, dedicated volunteers and generous donors. Thank you!



Updates are planned for the ponds in 2021. We want to make the best possible home for the wildlife that lives in and around the ponds.

Wabanaki Healing Garden

Cecelia Brooks and Tess Madigan

The Fredericton Botanic Garden, located on traditional Wolastoqiyik territory, is excited that a garden celebrating Indigenous Knowledge, culture, history and tradition has begun to come into fruition this year. The Wabanaki Healing Garden is well underway thanks to the support and collaboration of many. The goals of this project include educating visitors about the various uses, purposes and cultural importance of medicinal and edible plants to Indigenous



plant knowledge. The Wabanaki Healing Garden will serve as a tool for the healing that our society desperately needs.

We are very grateful for the funding received so far for this project from the City of Fredericton, Fredericton Community Foundation and the Wabanaki Future Ready program.

If you have strolled through the gardens in recent months you will have noticed that progress on the Wabanaki Healing Garden is well underway. It blends perfectly within the selected location above the holding beds, bordered by a cluster of prominent cedar trees, a wet meadow, conifers and shrubs. In a season or two it will seem that this garden has been there forever. The groundwork started the last week of August – with the City leveling the area, preparing gravel pathways and mounding the topsoil for the planned beds as per specifications set out by the project working group. This autumn, Anthony Brooks and Jim Goltz spent a number of days in the field gathering plants in the most respectful, low impact way possible. These have been tenderly transplanted to the beds.

This Garden is an approximately 300 m² installation that, when completed, will be comprised of planted garden beds, semi-natural plantings in a forested section, wheelchair-accessible pathways, benches, and informational signage. Plantings will include both native and cultivated species that have been used by indigenous people as either medicine or food or both.

Matthew Golding, a recent UNB Graduate with a degree in Environment and Natural Resources who is currently employed as the Indigenous Outreach Specialist in UNB's Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management, is currently working to develop signage for the Garden. Matthew grew up just outside Saint John's city limits and like many young Indigenous people, had been cut off from their culture, but they feel that projects like this help serve as a path to reclaim that. The Future Ready Wabanaki program has funded Matthew's work which so far has involved research about the plants going into the Heal-

ing Garden and creating a database. Their next steps are to reach out to Wabanaki Community Elders to learn more about these plants and then include the Wabanaki names and traditional uses of the plants. The goal is to have information in English, French, Mi'kmaw, and Wolastoqiyik, with a combination of physical and web-hosted signage.



[A call to artists](#) seeks artist submissions for the Wabanaki Healing Garden. One idea for this new garden space is to have a Wolastoqiyik artist create a stone sculpture in the center with a built-in smudge bowl for ceremonial purposes. The Botanic Garden Association is open to all project proposals or submissions of relevant pre-existing artworks by indigenous artists.

Our vision is to have a growing number of participants from all races, genders, ages, etc. involved in the creation and caretaking of the Wabanaki Healing Garden.

If you would like to be involved, know someone who would be or if you are an Indigenous artist with a proposal or submission for consideration or know of any Indigenous artists, and/or have questions or comments, please contact us.

Thank you ~ Woliwon ~ Wela'lin ~ Merci



Thanks to our many contributors!

It is good to remind ourselves, and you, that our Garden couldn't exist without all kinds of help. The end of a year in which the Garden made great strides is a good time to express our gratitude for your support, whether it was monetary, in-kind, or through volunteering, and to highlight some of the positive impacts of your generosity.

With your support:

- The Wabanaki Healing Garden was laid out and planted.
- A new wildflower meadow was created.
- A Spring Bulb Garden was planted.
- Successful Seedy Saturday and Spring Plant Sale events were held mindful of Covid-19 concerns.
- Work on the Pollinator Garden continued and this summer it was ablaze with colour and buzzing with activity.
- Four hands-on education programs were developed for children.
- Remedial work has been done around the pond.
- The Urban Orchard, Hal Hinds Memorial Garden, N.B. Literature Garden, White Garden, Memorial Garden and Entrance Gardens have all been augmented.
- Work has begun to supplement plantings along the main corridor edge.
- A geocache and scavenger hunt for children have been added to the newly upgraded Woodland Fern Trail.
- The City of Fredericton staff and Council have continued their partnership and assistance with the Garden.

We are humbled and grateful for all the support received for the Garden. With our scant budget and very limited paid staff time none of this would have been possible without you. We are

excited about the future and look forward to your continued participation and help.

Sincerely,
Board of Directors

Donors

Three new Corporate sponsors
Increased monetary donations
Plant, seed & materials donations
from individuals & businesses



Volunteers

18 Weeding Wednesdays
Regular morning volunteers

12 Work Parties:
Trail rehab, Fence building,
Invasive species removal,
Hauling rocks and water,
Holding bed repairs, Painting,
Mulching

Events:
Invasive Species Removal
Seedy Saturday
Spring Plant Sale
Talks in the Garden



Lily Sponsor Profile: Scott's Nursery

Our Botanic Garden is pleased to have sponsors in the New Brunswick business community. We're particularly grateful to Lily Sponsor Scott's Nursery, a family-owned business on the Lincoln Road with a long history of partnership with our Garden. Most of our members will know Scott's, with its astonishing 5 acres of greenhouses and its helpful staff. This year, as interest in gardening burgeoned, Scott's worked hard to introduce new plants to people, and plants to new people too. That, while working out new ways of operating to deal with Covid-19 safety.

Over the years they've donated plants and materials, offered us advice, helped us publicize the Garden, and much more. If you're a Garden member, you'll also know that



they're one of the local garden centres where members are offered a 10% discount. All this adds up to a lot of gratitude, and so we're pleased to recognize Scott's and its staff for all they do for us.



If your business would like to be a Garden sponsor, please contact fredbotanicgarden@gmail.com – we have sponsorship options for every budget.

Plant Sale 2021

With the pandemic in mind, the 2021 Plant Sale will look a lot like the 2020 Plant Sale. Online pre-orders, designated pick-up times and a scaled back in-person sale at the Resource Centre in late May.

Stay tuned for details!



Give the Gift of Membership

A Garden membership is the perfect gift for the gardener in your life. In addition to free admission to most FBGA events, members receive a 10% discount at local garden centres.

- Co-Op Country Store (Northside)
- Corn Hill Nurseries
- Curries Greenhouses
- Kent Garden Center
- Scott's Nursery
- Wetmore's Nursery

Gift memberships can be purchased online.

frederictonbotanicgarden.com/membership

Paper forms are also available from the link above.



Deck the Halls with *Ilex aquifolium*

Holly Abbandonato

What is *Ilex aquifolium* you may ask? *Ilex aquifolium* is the Latin name for English Holly or Christmas Holly. It is often praised in song during the Christmas season or found in wreaths or Christmas décor, but why is it so celebrated around this time of the year?

English Holly was first used by the Celts as a symbol for the pagan winter solstice. During the year, it was believed that two kings: the Holly King and the Oak King would do battle. The Holly King represented the yule, darkness, and decay, and the Oak King, the summer, light, and life. This is the origin for the saying “Deck the halls with boughs of Holly” which would occur from the end of the summer solstice to the end of the winter equinox to celebrate the rule of the Holly King. After the New Year, the Oak King would be welcomed until the end of the summer solstice. Many believe that the Holly King was the original Father Christmas. However, Santa Claus has continued to evolve from multiple traditions from the 15th century until today.

English Holly was also used during the Roman times for different midwinter celebrations, like the Saturnalia (from Dec 17-23) where Holly wreaths were given or placed as décor for the god of Saturn who considered Holly to be a sacred plant. Over time, the presence of the wreaths during the Saturnalia began to overlap with the Christian holiday of Christmas and it was later adopted as a classical Christmas plant still seen today.

Ecologically, English Holly is an understory species meaning it prefers to live in shady areas under the canopy of larger trees, like oak and beech. It is common in moist forested or shrubby areas with wet winters and dry summers in continental Europe, the southern United Kingdom and certain parts of Spain and Italy. Its distribution is restricted by cold temperatures and frost; however, it is drought tolerant and adapted to periodic fires. However, it has been introduced to certain parts of the world where it is now considered invasive, like British Columbia, Oregon, and certain parts of Australia.



Plants were originally shipped from Europe in the late 1800s, to the Pacific Northwest where the climate is more suitable for the species. The largest Holly tree was planted in 1874 in Portland, Oregon next to a post office. Since then, English Holly has been planted in California to Washington for commercial purposes, and cut branches are sold throughout North America during the holiday season.

Have a Holly Jolly Christmas everyone!



The Christmas Tree

Louis-Philippe Albert

The Christmas Tree is a practice initiated in Germany some 400 years ago during the Fall solstice celebrations, which was common in many cultures for centuries. The tradition was adopted later in France and Scandinavia to symbolise Jesus' nativity, featuring Saint Nicholas. Families decorate a cultivated or wild fir, spruce, cedar, pine, white birch or even a fake tree (plastic or aluminum) from China. Most common in Canada is the Balsam fir, the official New Brunswick tree. Greenery, fir tips for wreaths and other decorations also contribute to this multi-million dollar industry, dominated in Canada by Nova Scotia and Québec.

Tree farming involves a number of practices from planting a 2-year-old seedling on rows, 6 feet apart to marketing a 6-8-foot tree, 10-12 years later. Most producers spray for weed and insect control. Wild raspberry is a common weed while budworm and various aphids and mites affect fir needles. Severe damage may also result from snowmobile and other all-terrain vehicles used by disrespectful joy riders. Yearly fertilization is done depending on tree size and land quality for tree growth. Soil analysis indicates the need for minor elements, such as manganese in the central NB region.

Producers initiate shaping, and butt-pruning when trees are about one metre high. Sheering is an annual chore, usually done in July-August, to ensure the conic shape and to increase the density. By cutting the leaders, other buds fill the space. Winter damage (sticky snow, ice, hail) can be important some years. Insurance and on-site sanitary inspection are also required for export.

Harvesting and marketing starts in September by selecting and tagging marketable trees. It is unnecessary in U-Pick operation, since customers will often buy trees that producers would not dare put on the market. Families select trees to fit a particular need such as space and other criteria, often a child's wish. New Brunswick markets over 500,000 trees and 2 million wreath per year. Research on preventing needle drops is on-going at Dalhousie University in Truro, N.S.

Trees are generally harvested in November, dragged (preferably on snow), put through a shaker, graded, tagged, baled (less than a foot diameter) piled, loaded



on an open truck (800 - 1,000 per load), carried to markets in USA (80%), Mexico, the Caribbean Islands, Europe, Western Canada. etc. It will be exposed to the elements at sales sites for weeks and then brought home, unpacked, put in a safe stand with water at the base, open up beautifully and decorated with lights and a variety of items. After all this process, it will show its fresh

green colour and release its fragrance during the entire Christmas season. I don't know of any other plant that could do that.

JOYEUX NOËL / MERRY CHRISTMAS

Louis-Philippe Albert operated his tree farm for 40 years in Kingsclear.

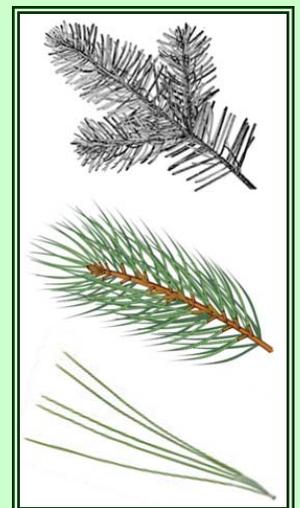
Children's Corner

Identifying Evergreen Needles

FIR needles are flat. Look for white stripes on the back of the needles. Fir are Flexible and Friendly.

SPRUCE needles are square and easy to roll. Spruce are Spiky and Straight.

PINE needles grow in bundles from one point on a branch. White pine have clusters of 5 needles. Each cluster is arranged on the branch like a spray.



Invasive Species Removal

Chloe Cull

Invasive species are known as any type of nonnative species that will disrupt or significantly modify the ecosystems to which they are introduced. Many of these species are even brought from other regions of the world unknowingly! In terms of botanical invasive species, these can be extremely destructive to naturalized gardens and forest ecosystems. They often proliferate in these systems and choke out native species. Clearly, this is of concern to any individual passionate about conservation and plants! Which brings me to the Rising Youth event I organized in October.

The Garden has several invasive species, although there are two that are higher in abundance along the trails: Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) and Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*). I spent two summers working for the garden and witnessed firsthand how quickly these invasive species spread. Since my years as a summer student, the Botanic Garden has been my favourite green space in town, so when the opportunity to organize a volunteer event aimed at invasive species removal arose, I knew I wanted to take it on! Rising Youth Canada provides grants to young people (ages 15-30) interested in bettering their community. Thankfully, I received the grant and started planning!

October 17th was a chilly, rainy day, and I was somewhat disheartened as I headed off to the event I had been organizing over the past couple weeks. I had previously been excited about the possibility of a large turnout, but I figured we would only see maybe three or four gardeners decked out in rain gear, ready to battle some invasive species. To my absolute delight, quite the (social-distanced) crew gathered despite the persistent rain. The fourteen of us worked away at taking out mostly Angelica, but any other invasive species encountered along the way as well. After two hours of hard work (and muddied faces, for some of us), we regrouped for some light refreshments that I had baked and hot apple cider.

The tools purchased with the grant will continue to benefit the Garden as the need to remove invasive species is ongoing.



Photo credit: Steve Stehouwer

I couldn't have been more pleased with the event.

The Fredericton Botanic Garden Association Newsletter is published by the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association, Inc. The FBGA is a registered charitable organization. The objectives of the FBGA are to guide the establishment of the Fredericton Botanic Garden and to foster an awareness and appreciation of plants. For information on membership and to become involved, please contact us:

fredbotanicgarden@gmail.com

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Resource Centre Hours October—April:

Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.

