21st Annual Plant Sale

Greetings everyone, I hope your winter was short and your garden is ready to plant.

This year’s Sale holds the promise of a great selection of plant material for the discerning gardener. Unlike the material which we receive from local gardens the plants we order are usually selected to represent some plant theme e.g. colour, species or application. Let me tell you, after twenty one plant sales it is getting a little more difficult to find a theme that rings fresh.

Thankfully many species offer thousands of varieties so hopefully we have selected material that has not become too familiar. When ordering plant material we also have to balance what is popular with the economics of plant demand and resale profit. New varieties in high demand tend to cost a king’s ransom… if you can get them. We have been looking at acquiring the newer varieties of coneflower the last few years but when they wholesale from $8 to $15 it is hard to see where the profit margin will end up. In keeping with a philosophy of plants at an affordable price we tend to stay clear of the high cost varieties as the markup price would preclude many from purchasing as well as providing the sale a small profit margin.

In keeping with past sales we have continued to order certain species of plants but have selected different varieties. Daylilies acquired from Red Lane Gardens, www.redlanegardens.com, on Prince Edward Island, offer a wide selection of colours and forms and would look great in any garden.
A variety of grasses from Bluestem Nursery, www.bluestem.ca, offer a mix of large and small varieties suitable for a range of locations and soil types. As the plants are dug from the nursery, spring weather is a factor in acquiring some varieties. At the moment we are looking at getting Calamagrostis ‘Karl Foerster’, a 2001 perennial plant of the year.

and Stipa brachytricha.

A small number of rhododendrons, ordered through the Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society, www.atlanticrhodo.org would be a fine addition to any garden and some of these plants are not commonly available.

The major portion of the plant order includes a mixture of perennial varieties based on the theme of Perennial Plants of the Year and include;

Molina ‘Skyracer’

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Geranium Rozanne (2008),

Rudbeckia Goldstrum (1999),

Echinacea Magnus (1998),

Veronica Sunny Border Blue (1993),

Fragrant Bouquet Hosta (1998)
Help Wanted
I have been involved with locating gardens to feature for The Treasured Garden Tour for 10 years now. I have felt we should not visit previous gardens a second time, but it is becoming harder and more time consuming to search for new treasures. I would really like to have your help. If you have a garden that you love and treasure, and don’t mind sharing for one afternoon, please let me know. If you have a friend or a neighbor with a lovely garden, please let me know how I may contact them. It would also be helpful if you let them know that I might call. Even if it is not possible for this year, it may be for next. I try to keep a file on all possibilities.

This year the Tour will be Saturday, July 11.

Hoping to hear from you.
Nancy 459-8004 or beltrand@rogers.com

Thank you to Jane Tarn for her expertise in editing the newsletters.
Site Development Committee

Garden Plans for 2009

At the beginning of May, City employee Jamie Adamson and our two summer students, Stephen Gilliss, returning from last year, and Dominique Miles, will be at work in the Garden cleaning up the beds and walks in preparation for the new season.

Early in the year there will be a planting of mixed thyme varieties in the Entrance Garden between the road and the swale. As the thyme grows and blooms it will provide a colourful line along the road to draw visitors towards the kiosk. There are also more perennials to plant around the holding pond below the Entrance Garden. We shall be inviting volunteers to assist with both these tasks early in June.

A new orientation map has been prepared for the kiosk in the Entrance Garden and will be mounted in the kiosk in the near future. This is our first map of this type and is a very welcome addition to the on-site information about the Garden and its features. In addition there will be two new interpretive signs – one in the Entrance Garden and one in the Memorial Grove.

In the Rose Garden visitors will see further site preparation taking place. Behind the scenes, planning is continuing for providing water and electrical utilities to the site, and material for building the terrace walls has been purchased.

Be sure to visit the Garden this spring to enjoy the rhododendrons and azaleas as they come into bloom towards the end of May, and to see the lilacs in June.

Richard Tarn,
Site Development Committee

Membership

We would like to extend a sincere welcome to the new members who joined the Association at the “Seedy Saturday” seed exchange - may all the seeds germinate and fill your gardens with interesting flowers and heritage vegetables.

It is great to be back in the garden after a long snowy winter! The last snowbanks are finally melting quickly, and it is time to think of the Plant Sale and all the great plants you will find there. When shopping for garden supplies, seeds or plants - do not forget to ask for your 10% discount (as a member of FBGA) before a purchase is rung up at participating garden supply outlets, such as Capital Landscape, Corn Hill Nursery, Country Garden Co-op (North side), Currie's Greenhouses, Green Village, Kent Garden Centre, Scott's, and Wetmore's. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to these suppliers, who have made your membership more valuable.

We are planning to set up both our Membership booth and a small boutique at the Plant Sale where we will have some non plant items for sale. We have a good stock of high quality forest green T-shirts with the Garden’s logo in a range of sizes up to XXXL - get yours this spring. Lapel pins were introduced some years ago, and will be available again this year. If you do not yet have one, be sure to buy one. We have some attractive and sturdy aprons (volunteers at the Plant Sale will be modelling them) and more. So come and browse our “Botanic Boutique” while you are taking advantage of the plant sale.

And do not forget that the sale is a convenient time to renew your membership for an additional year. Visit us at the Membership booth - we will have a big sign up so you cannot miss us. There will be a draw for a prize for both new and renewing members.

Please consider giving a friend a gift membership this spring.

Submitted by FBGA Membership committee (Nancy Beltrandi, Janis Boston, Linda Glassford, and Lucy Dyer)

Tomatoes

When we think of tomatoes we think of the perfectly round blemish free beauties that are found in the stores or at the roadside stands. However we seldom comment on the flavour, they all seem to taste the same, nothing really outstanding. It appears that the modern tomato has been bred for visual appeal at the expense of flavour. To get the real tomato flavour, that sweetness and acid, we have to turn back to some of the heritage varieties which have given rise to the modern tomato.

Last year at the plant sale we offered a few of the numerous heritage varieties. These are available only as seed from specialist heritage growers. This year we will be offering you a number of varieties which we have not had available before. These have been selected for size, colour, form and most of all for flavour.

Amish Paste (early) This is a cherry red plum type tomato. It is meaty with few seeds and is an excellent cooker. Fruits are 3 ¼” by 3 ½” and weigh about 12 oz. The flavour is excellent.

Manitoba (early) A blood red medium size tomato 3” long. Bred by Dr Charles Walkoff at AAFC Morden. Its flavour is rated excellent, well balanced and winy.

Blondkopfchen (early, currant) A yolk yellow tomato about 1” long reasonably firm with excellent flavor.

Yellow Pear (early) This is a pear shaped small yellow tomato 1 ¼” long by 1” wide. It is bushy and a very high yielder. The fruits have a sweet mild flavour.
**Red Brandywine** (main crop) This is a beefsteak type tomato with an average weight of 1lb 2oz. It has brilliant red skin and flesh. Its flavour is described as perfection with high sugar and high acid.

**Sudduth’s Brandywine** (main crop) A large beefsteak type tomato average weight 1lb 10oz. tomato pink colour. The flavour is described as “excellent, like a fine wine”. Amy Goldman challenges any hybrid to measure up.

**Pink Brandywine** very similar to the Sudduth’s Brandywine above.

**Believe it or Not** (main crop) This is a very hefty, red appetizing beefsteak type tomato with an average weight of one pound. Its flavour is excellent perfectly balanced between sugar and acid.

**Mammoth German Gold** (main crop) This is an orange yellow beefsteak type tomato. It is 3” long by 5” wide with a weight of 1lb 5oz. Its flavour is described as good, very sweet and delicious.

**Radiator Charlie’s Mortgage Lifter** (main crop) This is a very large 2 to 3 lobed beefsteak type pink tomato with a weight of 3lb 8oz. It is the original mortgage lifter and to most accounts the best. The flavour is excellent and well balanced. Indeterminate, requires staking.

The descriptions of these tomatoes have been taken from The Heirloom Tomato by Amy Goldman, published by Bloomsbury 2009. This is a great book and I strongly recommend it to any tomato grower/lover.

Bill Seabrook

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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:
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**Another Successful Silent Auction**
**11 Years of Great Donors**

We want to thank all the members and friends who attended the AGM and Silent Auction on February 7, 2009. It was with your help, and the many donations we received to our 11th Silent Auction, that we managed to raise $1269.00. This money will be used to further the growth of the garden.

We seem to say the same thing year after year, but it is true, each year the silent auction donations get better and better. The food donations were delicious and plentiful, and the helping hands were just great. Thank you so much to Graham Allen, George Apostoleris, Joyce Astle, Carolyn Atkinson, George & Elizabeth Bastin, Wayne & Mary Lou Beckett, Nancy Beltrandi, Avis Bruce, Gordon Burke, Rose Burke, Lynda Rae Burke, Capital Credit Union, Heather Connors-Dunphy, Janet Crawford, Katherine Crawford, Norah Davidson-Wright, Juliet Davies, Patricia DesChamps, Jane Edwards, Kit Everett, Katie Fitz-Randolph, George Flanders, Yolande Gagnon, Angelique Gloss, Gwen Herbin, Rachel Kimm, Eileen Knight, Genevieve Laloux, Travis Lane, Pat Mason, Harry McKone, Jim & Betty Nicholson, Brian & Ellys & Kelhan Parker, Carole Peacock, Betty Ponder, Mary Pugh, Isabel & Dugald Richford, Helen Rufelds, Bill & Jane Seabrook, Penny & Tony Short, Miriam Sifton, George & Annette Strunz, Jane & Richard Tarn, Ian Veach, Bill Walker, Doreen Wallace, John Welling, Marie Wilcox, and all those who remain anonymous but who gave generously.

Thank you.
Le Jardin Botanique le Fredericton Botanic
21st Annual Plant Sale

Sunday May 24, 2009
Boyce Farmers' Market
12:00 - 4:00

FEATURED PLANTS:
Daylilies, Rhododendrons, Award Winning Hardy Perennials, Hostas & Grasses

ALSO AVAILABLE:
Trees, Shrubs and a wide variety of Perennials. One of a Kind and Rare Items as well as a Birdhouse Table & Silent Auction