President’s Message

Isn’t there an old saying that rain and snow in spring are a “poor man’s fertilizer?” In fact there is truth to this and studies have shown that both contain nitrogen, but rain actually has a higher proportion of nitrogen than snow. Rain, however, runs off quickly while snow melts gradually and seeps onto the soil over a period of time. Now this is all well and good, however, I for one have had enough of the wet stuff and am itching to get out into the garden and start the spring planting rituals. There is nothing more hopeful than all the little sprouts that are beginning to peak their heads above the soil and are revealed once the detritus of winter has been removed. In our shade garden the trout lilies and woodland poppies are almost like a time lapse video, seeming to grow as I look at them. I know that at the height of summer I may be longing for fewer garden chores, but right now, bring on the warm weather!

Here at the Fredericton Botanic Garden we are in high gear as we prepare for our annual Plant Sale. The plant orders have arrived and many hours have already been spent making preparations, potting plant material and re-covering the greenhouse. As this is the time when many of us start to contemplate what plants should be moved and what should be divided, I urge you to think of the Botanic Garden sale as a recipient of your extra plant material. We will have a drop off area adjacent to the greenhouse where you can leave any plant donations you may have. While supporters of our Plant Sale are always looking to see what rare and unusual plants we have

Plant Sale
Sunday, May 26, 2013
12:00—3:30
Boyce Farmers’ Market
Featuring
Herbaceous Perennials

Return of the
Treasured Garden Tour
July 2013
Watch for details

RHODODENDRON DAY
Guided Tour of the Rhododendron Collection
Fredericton Botanic Garden
Starting from the Entrance Garden
(next to the Prospect St. Ball Diamond)
Saturday June 8, 1:00 pm
Refreshments

Rain date
Sunday June 9, 1:00 pm
Everybody Welcome
ordered in for the sale, they are also keen to see what our local residents have donated. These are plants that have already been growing well in our area and they are often well established clumps that are the progeny of numerous members/collectors. A feature that has grown in popularity over the years is the wide variety of tomato and pepper plants grown by one of our long time members, Bill Seabrook. And if you don’t have acreage to dig up for gardens, fear not, we have house plants to adopt, and again often some rather unusual ones. Finally one of the biggest draws to our annual Plant Sale has to be the opportunity to socialize with other like minded enthusiasts and draw on the expertise of our many members who will be helping out on that day. So keep May 26 free and join us at the Boyce Farmers’ Market for a treasure trove of gardening delights, including a handcrafted Lutyens Garden Bench, on which we will be selling tickets. You will even be able to grab a snack while you shop.

On another note, I would be remiss not to welcome our new Board members elected at the February 23 Annual General Meeting. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have been able to add to our Board several new supporters, including Jim Goltz, Matt Methven, Tom Sifton, Liz Whamond and James Whitehead. We extend to these people our very sincere thanks for allowing their names to stand and we look forward to their enthusiasm and fresh perspectives. Many thanks as well, are due our outgoing Board members including Bill Seabrook, Ruth Muldrew, Doug Dewar and Brian Parker, who will continue as Past President. We hope we will continue to benefit from your experience and dedication as we work together to build the Garden.

The Annual General Meeting also afforded us the opportunity to hear a very interesting and informative presentation by Carol Goodwin from the Department of Environmental Science at Dalhousie University’s Faculty of Agriculture. Carol’s presentation was titled Urban Trees and emphasized the importance of green in our city-scapes. The talk served to underline the importance of preserving, planning and building green space into our urban environments and reinforced the importance of the Botanic Garden to all the residents of Fredericton.

We finished up the meeting by engaging in a brain storming session that provided the members who were in attendance an opportunity to throw out ideas on various topics. These ideas came back to the Board and will be referenced in our long term planning strategies.

We have had a very busy education committee this past year and they have had things happening all winter long. The “Talks in the Garden” are a great opportunity to learn and socialize, so keep an eye out for the schedule on our website and in the newsletter. Thanks so much to Valerie Hillier and Heather Connors-Dunphy who are the driving force behind these activities.

Finally don’t forget to take a walk through the Garden and see what is happening. It won’t be too long before our beautiful collection of azaleas and rhododendrons will burst into bloom and it is a sight not to be missed. Although timing varies from year to year, typically the best time to view these spectacular plants is in late May, early June and you won’t be sorry you stopped by for a look, I promise!

As always please get involved in our activities and if you have any ideas or comments to offer we would love to hear from you. You can contact the garden at 452-9269 or you can contact me directly by phone at 450-3904 or by email at wendyb@nbnet.nb.ca.

We hope to see you at the Plant Sale and happy gardening!

Wendy Bourque
President Fredericton Botanic Garden Association
Notes from the 2013 Plant Sale Committee

The Plant Sale and Raffle combined are the largest fund-raising event the FBGA does in support of the Botanic Garden. These notes are provided as a checklist for volunteer support.

Volunteering for Setup, Sale and Cleanup

Setup for the Sale on Saturday, May 25 starts at 2 pm, at the Boyce Farmers’ Market. Sale day is Sunday, May 26 when volunteers should arrive at 11:30 am. The Sale runs from 12 noon to 3:30 pm. Again this year, volunteers will have the opportunity to pick up two plants before the Sale and put them aside for later payment. There will also be prizes for volunteers. Don’t forget that after the doors close at 3:30 pm there is a clean up and plant removal job to be done.

Feature Plants

Check out the featured plants – see the article in this newsletter and the pictures on our web site.

Selling Raffle Tickets

Please volunteer to sell raffle tickets at the markets. To sign up online please go to our pages on the scheduling website Doodle at the following links:
- to sign up for the Northside Market: http://www.doodle.com/wpm24wwsxx8vbmzx
- to sign up for the Boyce Market: http://www.doodle.com/qzedc22z66rbkd8b

Alternately, please contact Valerie Hillier at 238-9833 to let her know when you wish to help. Please sell the raffle tickets you have been sent in the mail.

Donating Plants and Helping with Potting Work

We’d love to have your plant donations. Please deliver them to the Resource Centre on or after May 6. There will be an identified holding area for them. Please plan on potting early so your labeled donations will look their best for our customers on Sale day. After May 6 pots and potting mix are available at our greenhouse for your use. You may bring your plants and pot them up at our greenhouse too. Volunteers are also needed in May to assist in potting up and labeling plants grown in our own propagation beds. We plan on having some day time and some evening potting up sessions. Please contact Matt Methven at mattmethven@hotmail.com or the Office 452-9269 to volunteer. We really need your help.

Saving Carryout Boxes

Please save all your carry-out boxes from stores like Costco. We need them for our customers. The plastic trays that we used to use now retail for almost $2 each, so we are trying to conserve.

Donating Plants for the Children’s Table

One of our new features this year is a children’s table. Items on the table are free, one per child, while supplies last. We are trying to encourage young families and young gardeners. Please consider this as you make your donations. Small blooming perennials, plants like pansies, forget-me-nots and violets and annuals will all attract the youngsters. There will also be colouring materials available.

May Plant Sale
Tomatoes

**Amish Paste** – Amish heirloom, 6” to 8”, elongate red, fresh eating or sauce, indeterminate.

**Beaverlodge Slicer** – an early red with 2” fruit, does well in short seasons and coastal regions, taste is good for an early tomato.

**Black Cherry** – these dark purple cherry tomatoes are borne in large clusters and are very sweet and delicious, indeterminate.

**Black Early** – a large black tomato, delicious flavour, early, indeterminate.

**Brandywine (Landis Valley strain)** – considered to be the true red Brandywine, a medium size tomato with excellent taste, indeterminate.

**Coustralee** – large red beefsteak, 1 to 3 lbs, excellent well balanced flavour, indeterminate.

**Djena Lee’s Golden Girl** – medium sized golden fruit, very tasty, indeterminate.

**Druza** – Bulgarian heirloom, deep red globes, 8-12 oz, delicious, indeterminate.

**Fargo Yellow Pear** – heavy bearing yellow, salad size tomato, excellent flavour, determinate.

**Farthest North** – a very early and prolific cherry tomato, good for cool climates, determinate.

**Ferris Wheel** – a large flattened pink beefsteak, great taste, one slice per sandwich, indeterminate.

**Fireball** – glossy red globes, 6-10 oz, good for canning and eating fresh, store well, semi-determinate.

**Ganti** – Hungarian heirloom, 10-12 oz deep red fruit, full bodied flavour, indeterminate.

**Jaune Flame** – French heirloom, a delicious tomato with orange skin, 2-3 oz in clusters of 5-6.

**Kalinka** – Belarussian heirloom, medium sized fruit produced in bunches, great flavour, early.

**Magnum Beefsteak** – a really nice large red beefsteak with old fashioned flavour, perfect for slicing, indeterminate.

**Martino’s Roma** – Italian, dark red fruit, 3-4 oz, produced in clusters, for paste, sauce or salsa.

**Neves Azorean Red** – dark red 1-2 lb fruit, rich outstanding flavour, indeterminate.

**Nile River Egyptian** – fruit are very tasty, carried on very productive vines, tomatoes are large up to 2 lbs, indeterminate.

**Orange Minsk** – a very early large orange beefsteak with great taste, indeterminate.

**Pritchard’s Scarlet Topper** – scarlet, self topping, disease and drought resistant, good for slicing or canning.

**Rideau Sweet Cherry** – one of the best tasting cherry tomatoes, very productive, indeterminate.

**Russian Saskatchewan** – Russian heirloom, compact plants ideal for containers, nice tasting medium size red fruit, good flavour, early.

**Sasha’s Altai** – Siberian heirloom, great for short season, tolerates cool nights, heavy producer of 6 oz fruits, determinate.

**Sugar Lump** – large red cherries, excellent flavour, abundant producer, determinate.

**Woodle Orange** – large round tangerine coloured fruit, excellent taste, indeterminate.

**Yagodka** – Russian heirloom, excellent for pots, small red fruit with excellent taste, very early, determinate.

Peppers

**Chervena Chuska** – Bulgarian heirloom that is traditionally used for roasting, excellent fresh as well, the tapered fruits are 2” by 6” long and very sweet, they ripen from green to red and are very productive. An excellent variety.

**Doe Hill** – great for short seasons, gold at maturity, very sweet and productive.

**Early Jalapeno** – very early, 3” to 3.5” dark green fruit can be used green or at mature red stage.

**Feher Ozon** – one of the best paprika type peppers, prolific production of 3” to 4.5” very sweet fruit.

**Joe’s Long Cayenne** – prolific plants produce long finger-width fruit that ripen from green to red.

**King of the North** – large blocky red sweet pepper, good for short seasons, mild and sweet.

**Orange Bell** – 4 lobed orange bell peppers, thick sweet flesh.
2013 FBGA Plant Sale
Featured Herbaceous Perennials

Echinops ritro ‘Veitch’s Blue’ Globe Thistle – re-bloomer, attracts butterflies, 32”, full sun, purple ball flowers, zone 3.

Echinacea purpurea ‘Powwow’ – white, drought tolerant, easy care, lots of white flowers, full sun to part shade, white coneflower, newer cultivar, zone 4.

Dianthus gratianopolitanus ‘Firewitch’ Pinks – pink flowers, cinnamon fragrance, attracts butterflies, height 6”, full sun, zone 3.


Heuchera ‘Snow Angel’ Coral Bells – dramatic edging plant, easy care, deer resistant, height 8”, small red flowers, sun to part shade, white sprinkled leaves, zone 3.

Heucherella ‘Gold Zebra’ Foamy Bells – unique colouring, dense habit, height 10”, partial to full shade, golden with red deeply coloured leaves, cross of Heuchera and Tiarella.

Hosta ‘Empress Wu’ – garden focal point, strong upright habit, height 48”, full to part shade, zone 3.

Hosta ‘Hadspen Blue’ – one of the bluest hostas, height 18” full to partial shade, zone 2.

Hosta ‘Lakeside Cupcake’ – thick heavily corrugated foliage, height 5”, full to part shade, green with large white centre, zone 3.

Hosta ‘Liberty’ – sport of Sagae, slug resistant, height 40” part sun, chartreuse with green midribs, zone 3. Hosta of the Year in 2012.

Hosta ‘Pathfinder’ – sport of Francee, height 16”, part to full shade, dark green, lighter green and white midribs, zone 3.

Hosta ‘Rainforest Sunrise’ – dwarf, solid light green, slug resistant foliage, height 8”, full to partial shade, zone 3. Hosta of the Year 2013.

Double Oriental Lily ‘Distant Drum’ – pink double, fragrant, late summer blooming, height 36”, full sun to part shade, zone 3.

Double Oriental lily ‘Magic Star’ – double, pink with dark pink mid ribs, fragrant late summer blooming, 36” high, full sun to part shade, zone 3.

Double Oriental lily ‘Rosellia fabiola’ – double, pink with white margins, light scent, late summer blooming, 18 petals/bloom, height 34”, full sun to part shade, zone 3.

Orienpet Lily ‘Beverly’s Dream’ – hybrid lily, white and dark red with green throat, fragrant, outward facing trumpet flowers, height 36”, full sun to part shade, zone 3.

Perovskia atripicifolia Russian Sage – purple flowers, fragrant, attracts butterflies, drought and heat tolerant, height 40”, full sun, zone 4.


Stachys byzantina ‘Helene von Stein’ non-flowering Lamb’s Ear – deer resistant, height 18”, sun or partial shade, zone 3.

Tiarella ‘Crow Feather’ Foam Flower – ground cover, multicolored dark red, green, burgundy foliage, fragrant, deer resistant, height 8”, shade or part shade, zone 4.

SPCA Day Camps

Again this year the FBG Resource Centre will be the host facility for the Fredericton SPCA’s week long day camps. Last year’s campers loved the location, the space and the freedom they had to run and explore. Campers will be using the facility most weeks in the summer. We welcome them and hope they and their families will become regular visitors to the Garden!
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.

Friends of the Fredericton Botanic Garden

As the Botanic Garden has grown, so has the need to maintain it. FBGA wants to start a “Friends of the Garden” Group. Friends need to be interested in the Garden, willing to learn about gardening tasks with which they are unfamiliar, and willing to volunteer to keep the Garden looking great for our visitors; they do not need to be members of the Association.

It is preferable that Friends work in small groups and not alone, and should work in the Garden once every two weeks. Friends can devote as much time as they like to the Garden. The Friends will be led by Doug and Gail Dewar. The Friends’ group is part of the committee structure of the Site Development Committee of the FBGA Board.

Typical tasks will include: weeding and mulching beds, trimming shrubs, fertilizing plants, helping with installing plant identity tags, helping Garden visitors, working on planting new garden installations such as the pond garden, reporting items requiring more manpower or specific garden knowledge, insect infestations, theft of materials etc., keeping kiosk materials current and stocking Garden maps.

The gardens/installations to be covered include: Entrance Garden, holding pond garden, Memorial Grove, Lilac plantings, Rhodo beds, Hal Hind’s Garden, Daylily bed, propagation beds, beds around the Resource Center at 10 Cameron Ct., beds on the left of the service entrance road, information kiosks in the Entrance Garden and adjacent to the Resource Centre.

Friends should bring their own tools. Assignment areas will be posted in the Friends’ area of the greenhouse.

The inaugural Friends meeting is June 3, 2013 at 7 pm at the Resource Centre, 10 Cameron Court, refreshments will be served. Please join us!

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

Treasured Garden Tour 2013

by James Whitehead, Chair Garden Tour Committee

Like the crocus emerging from the spring thaw, after a three year hiatus, the Fredericton Treasured Garden tour is planning to re-emerge. Right now plans are somewhat early, but in order to mature productively we need your help. The principle initial task is to identify willing garden hosts. Although we have a list of possible gardens, the list is now several years old. If you might consider being a host, with no obligation to actually do so, please let us know. Your garden doesn’t need to be huge, nor perfect. We are looking for diversity and gardens with lots in them. If you register interest we’ll let you know how we can help prepare your garden.

Aside from welcoming everyone and identifying plants, on the day you will have volunteers to assist you in steering people in the right direction. This brings me, oh so seamlessly, to our second challenge; volunteers. I see from the files of previous tours that a myriad of volunteers are needed. If you are willing to lend a hand in some capacity, please let me know. We will need steering committee members, garden welcomers, food prep and set-up people for the Botanic Garden, those willing to help hosts get their gardens ready, poster distribution, etc. Please email jamesw@stu.ca if you’d like to help out.

Date is still to be determined.

For developments, check out our website at: www.frederictonbotanicgarden.com
FBGA Members Allotment Garden

The FBGA Board wants to raise a committee at the AGM to take charge of this project.

The Idea
The Board has approved funds ($1200) for the creation of a Members’ Allotment Garden. We envisage a garden with a similar format and adjacent to the propagation beds. The funds are sufficient to build about a dozen raised beds. We believe a fee of $25/bed/year will cover costs.

We believe that this may bring new members to the garden and awaken gardening interest in those who may not garden at present.

Ideas on how it may work
The committee will firm up plans, report progress to the Site Development Committee Chair. Material changes to this plan will be referred to the Board by the Chair of the Site Development Committee.

Gardeners will be required to subscribe and pay their fee. They will participate in building the beds. They will plant as they see fit. They will maintain and weed their plots and undertake not to use pesticides. Gardeners need to be aware that deer do wander through the garden and do sample the fare. FBGA has had plant material stolen, so produce in the allotment gardens might suffer the same fate. Gardeners will need to bring their own tools. They can use water from the hoses on site.

The site is to be completely cleared and ready for the next year’s planting by October 15th. Composting needs for the allotment garden will be determined and actioned by the committee and the gardeners.

Talks, Walks and Workshops in the Garden – 2013

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

Thurs. May 16 Explore the Featured Plants at the FBGA 2013 Plant Sale. Talk and FBGA greenhouse tour by Heather Connors-Dunphy.

Sat. Jun. 8 FBGA Rhododendron Tour. Walk leader Garth Nickerson. Meet at the Entrance Garden, 1:00 p.m. Rain date Sunday, June 9.


Thurs. Jul. 18 Curated Tour of Plants Blooming at FBG. Meet at the Entrance Garden, 7:00 p.m.

Thurs. Aug. 15 Curated Tour of Plants Blooming at FBG. Meet at the Entrance Garden, 7:00 p.m.


Thurs. Oct. 17 The Origin of Wheat. Talk by Richard Tarn

Thurs. Nov. 21 The National Tree Seed Centre – Its Mandate and How It Works. Talk by Dale Simpson, National Tree Seed Centre, Canadian Forest Service, Fredericton.

Sat. Nov. 30 Christmas Design Workshop. Fee and pre-registration required. Detail.TBA

Pre-registrations may be made by contacting the FBGA at 452-9269 or by e-mail to fbga@nb.aibn.com
Yoga in the Garden

The yoga sessions which have been held at the Lighthouse in the Downtown area have found a new home. Every Wednesday in July and August “Yoga in the Garden” will happen from 6-7pm in the FBG Entrance Garden. We are delighted to welcome yoga enthusiasts. This program has received recognition Canada-wide for its innovative offering.

The Entrance Garden will also be the host facility for Yoga Day in Fredericton, June 16, 2013.

Free Yoga Offer for FBGA Members

This session is offered at no charge to FBGA members by the person arranging the “Yoga in the Garden” Series, Ruth Merrett.

Ruth says that this is a class suitable for just about everybody. She has lots of props to help those who need them. The studio in the Currie Centre at UNB has elevator access.

Ruth has been teaching and practicing yoga for 30 years. Her training has taken her to a variety of teachers, principally, Darby and Allison Ulan for Ashtanga Yoga, Ravi Ravindra for philosophy, T.V.K. Desikachar for breathwork, Hart Lazer and Ramanand Patel for their ever evolving interdisciplinary approach to putting it all together. Her current area of study is therapeutics with Hart Lazer.

She approaches asana practice and meditation with humour and humility. In class she asks you to explore your range of possibilities and works to provide you with an environment to discover your potential.

Please join us for this free yoga session: Hathe-way Family Fitness Studio at the Richard J. Currie Centre, UNB, Friday, June 7, 2013 4:30 to 6 pm.

Many thanks in advance to Ruth Merrett.