

## President's Report

Since the last report we have had a most successful Annual General Meeting. This year we held our Annual meeting at the Heritage Centre in Marysville. We were entertained by the Centre for Musical Arts, Senior String Orchestra who were absolutely great! The extent of the young musical talent that we have in Fredericton constantly amazes me.

The highlight of the meeting was an address by our Lieutenant Governor and patron the Honourable Herménégilde Chaisson. He spoke on the topic Zen and the Art of Growing Morning Glories and absolutely enthralled the audience. Our sincere thanks to His Honour.

In the area of fundraising, which always seems to take a major portion of my report, we were unsuccessful in convincing City Council to support our ACOA application for \$1,000,000. Apparently the Garden is not on Council's list of priorities which seems to be limited to Rinks, Pools and the E-Plex all worthy projects. It was pointed out to Council that the program that the Garden was applying for was not open to other city projects and therefore the Garden would not be in competition with other city projects for funding. Your Board continues to work with ACOA on a modified proposal which we hope will be more successful. On a happier note the Garden has submitted a proposal to the Fredericton Foundation for their 50th Anniversary

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**PLANT SALE**  
**May 28, 2006**

End of May/early June  
**a field trip to Joey Shotanus'**  
**magnificent fields of tulips.**

**TREASURED GARDEN TOUR**  
**July 8, 2006**



Foundation 50 grant. This is a very special one time only competition for a \$50,000 grant. We have proposed a rebuilding of the entrance garden to a more useable and public friendly space in which special events such as art shows, concerts, receptions and weddings may be held. So far we have passed two selection levels and are scheduled to make an oral presentation on May 18. Special thanks are in line to Brian Parker who developed a beautiful proposal and presentation.

The Garden is beginning to wake up after a rather unusual winter. By the first week of June our Rhododendron and Azalea gardens should be in full bloom. These are fairly new gardens and should be reaching their prime this year. They are located just north of the pond and near the Hal Hinds Memorial Garden. Don't miss this display; it will be well worth a visit.

I encourage all of you to lend your support to the upcoming Plant Sale and Raffle to be held this year on Sunday, May 28. As always volunteers are needed. Please help.



## Membership Committee

Spring gardening season is here again and early flowers have already appeared to brighten our days! 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

**WIN** a new screen tent!  
**HELP US FIND NEW MEMBERS!**

All new members joining from May 1 until mid July will have their names entered in a draw for a beautiful screen tent. This would be a great addition to any back yard - enjoy those long summer evenings without the annoyance of mosquitoes, blackflies, etc.

Give a gift membership to a new member and your name will also be entered (once for each new membership) along with the new member's name.

Increase your chances of winning this fabulous prize by finding a dozen friends or relatives who are interested in the Botanic Garden and would like to support us by joining. Remember, memberships are a good bargain, and provide a 10% discount at many garden outlets



participating garden supply outlets— Capital Landscape & City Gardeners, Corn Hill Nursery, Co-op Country Store, Currie's Greenhouses, Green Village Home & Garden, Kent Garden Centre, Scott's Nursery, and Wetmore's Landscaping Sod and Nursery. We would like to express our appreciation to these suppliers, who have made your membership more valuable!

We are planning to set up both our Membership booth and the "Botanic Boutique" at the Plant Sale, and will have some garden-related items for sale - some at reduced prices. Lapel pins were introduced three years ago, and will be available again this year. If you do not have yours, be sure to buy one. We have some attractive gardeners' utility belts, packages of stretchy tomato plant ties, some note cards based on beautiful garden photographs, battery-operated bug zappers for those pesky mosquitoes, deer flies, wasps, etc., and more! So come and browse our "Botanic Boutique" while you are at the plant sale!

And remember that the sale is a convenient time to renew your membership for an additional year. See us in the Membership booth in the raised restaurant area of the market. We have

also been invited to set up a display at Green Village on May 20 if you would like to visit us there.

New members joining at the sale (or between now and mid July) will have their names entered in a draw for a beautiful and roomy screen tent - provided for a second year by Kent Garden Center. If you bring a friend to the sale or to a "Talk in the Garden", please encourage them to become a member so that they can share in the advantages of membership - and we will put your name in the draw too if the friend joins. The draw will take place at the Treasured Garden Tour in July. Don't miss out on this!

Please consider giving a friend a gift membership this spring - again, both your name and the friend's will be entered in the draw.

<b>Cost of Membership</b>
Individual \$20.00
Family \$35.00
Senior/Student \$15.00

Submitted by FBGA Membership committee (Nancy Beltrandi, Janis Boston, Wendy Bourque, Karen Cook, Melaine Duchastel, Nadia Khoury, and Lucy Dyer )



## Plants that changed the world: Spices

by Jane Seabrook

Soft breezes in the wet tropics bringing the scent of tropical flowers and spices, this is the image we have of South East Asia, the home of many of the spices that we use in everyday cooking. But some centuries ago Western Europe and the Americas lacked many condiments and food was pretty dull. Imagine cooking without cloves, ginger, nutmeg and mace from Indonesia (the Spice Islands), pepper, cinnamon, coriander and cardamom from India.

Trading with Persia, the Romans obtained very expensive spices from South East Asia. Eventually, through the efforts of Portuguese and Dutch traders, spices flowed through the port of Venice. Originally, cloves, nutmeg and mace were rare and only grew on a few small volcanic islands of the Moluccas, now Maluku Province, of Indonesia, and it took some time before these plants were adapted to other parts of South East Asia.

Pepper (*Piper nigrum*) originates from



Spices for sale in a Balinese market

the monsoon forests off the southwest coast of India, and was the largest spice import into medieval Europe. When Christopher Columbus set out westwards with his fleet and landed in the Americas, he was looking for a new route to South East Asia. Instead of pepper he found the chilies (*Capsicum frutescens*) used by the Indians, and called these capsicums pepper, thereby

starting a confusion that lasts until this day. We often say that a dish is too spicy really meaning that it has too much chili pepper in it. Some cuisines are surprisingly bland if you remove the hot pepper, a sign of a lazy cook! Laws dating from the 10<sup>th</sup> century stated that British stevedores and seamen were not allowed to have cuffs on their trousers and had to have their pockets sewn shut because the ship owners did not want the men to bring valuable peppercorns ashore. Elizabethan sailors carried little leather pouches on their belts containing peppercorns to be used to flavour their bland diet at sea.

White pepper, which is considerably less aromatic than black pepper, is obtained by removing the black outside coating of the peppercorn and grinding this portion separately.

Cloves (*Eugenia aromatica*) are the dried flower buds from a small tree which grows in South East Asia. Ground cloves and oil are extracted from the buds. Do you remember the clove oil that used to be used for toothaches? Nutmeg and mace, which also come from Indonesia, are related. The mace, which when fresh is a red webbing surrounding the nutmeg, is separated



Rice seedling nursery and paddy, Bali Indonesia



and the subtle differences in the two plant parts are exploited. The thick, short sticks of brown cinnamon (*Cassia linnata*) we see in our grocery stores are the bark of a tree native to China. A much thinner and longer roll of yellow bark (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum*) comes from India and Sri Lanka.

Markets in Bali, Indonesia, have a dazzling array of spices available to shoppers. Balinese cooking takes advantage of the huge array of spices available in their local markets: cardamom, chilies, cinnamon, coriander, cloves, ginger, peppercorns, turmeric, all part of the magic of this lovely island. At night the gentle off shore breeze brings the scents of night-blooming tropical flowers and the fragrant cooking of the evening meal.

*The Food of Bali. 1994. Periplus Editions. Available from Scoop 'n Save in Fredericton.*

*The Spicy Food Lover's Bible. 2005. Dave DeWitt and Nancy Gerlach. Stewart, Tabori & Chang.*

*Cook's Ingredients. 1980. Adrian Bailey. Dorling Kindersley Pocket Encyclopedia, London.*

Botanic Garden Association members had a wonderful time when they travelled to the gardens. The season is a little later around Grand-Métis and for many gardeners this is a chance to see our favourite flowers in bloom again.

Why not take a 5-6 hour drive and visit the Garden and the Peony show. You will be rewarded with a rare sight... the Himalayan blue poppy in bloom.



Himalayan Blue Poppy  
(*Meconopsis betonicifolia*)

The great English poet, journalist and gardener, Vita Sackville-West wrote about her ideas for a white garden at her famous garden at Sissinghurst Castle in the *London Telegraph* ("The Birth of the White Garden"). White gardens are best seen at dawn or twilight when the shadows are long and mysterious. The painter's principle of *chiaroscuro*, the play of light and shade, is prominent in a white garden, especially if there is a backdrop of dark trees or a hedge.

Imagine the textures of hostas and the grey of artemisia, smooth and silvery. The nodding of goose-necked loose-strife and white phlox in the background with white peonies and upright white irises providing changes in texture.

Many white plants have a lovely scent: maybe to compensate for their lack of colour they need another enticement for pollinating insects. In fact many night-blooming plants are white. A couple of years ago we sold Casa-Blanca lilies at the FBG Plant Sale. In the evening their big flowers look ghostly, as if they are floating in the moonlight.

## The White Garden

Jane Seabrook

Last fall, the Site Development committee planned and Jeff Graham and his crew planted a small 'White Garden' on the east side of the access road, about half-way up the Garden. The plants were very kindly supplied by Scott's Nursery and Brian Parker designed the half-circle-shaped garden. We hope that the mild winter of 2006 has been kind to the new plants.

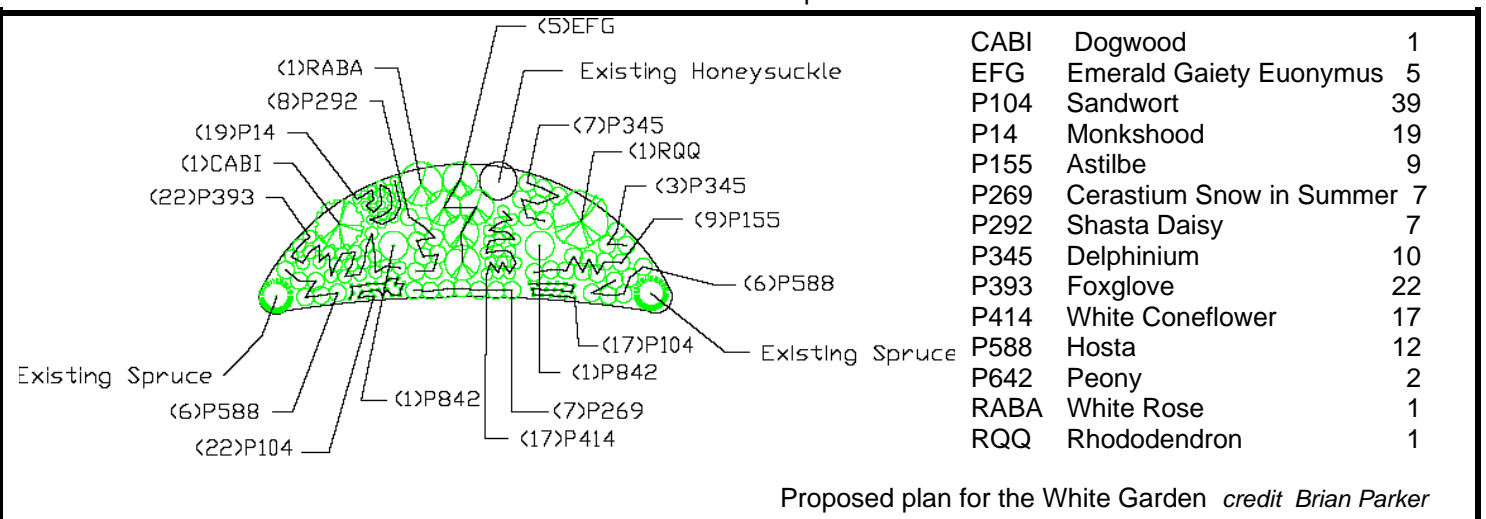
Vita Sackville-West's white garden has become famous and is one of the main attractions at Sissinghurst Castle. Who would have thought that such a simple idea would be transported around the world!

If you would like to read more about white gardens and Vita's idea,

## Canadian Peony Society Annual Show and Meeting

The Canadian Peony Society Annual Show and Meeting will be on July 1 & 2, 2006 at Les Jardin de Métis on the shores of the St. Lawrence.

Several years ago the Fredericton



Proposed plan for the White Garden credit Brian Parker



the following books are available in the Fredericton Public Library:

*A Garden by the Sea. A Practical Guide and Journal.* 2005. Leila Hadley. Chapter 11.

*V. Sackville-West. The Illustrated Garden Book . A new anthology by Robin Lane Fox (1989). This is a wonderful book of garden writing, and the articles are as fresh today as they were when written in 1947-61, accompanied by exquisite coloured drawings by Freda Tiford.*

*Sissinghurst: the making of a garden by Anne Scott-James (1974)*

*Vita's Other World. A gardening biography of V. Sackville-West by Jane Brown (1985)*

*If you would like a personal copy of V. Sackville-West's books, look at the ABE Books website (abebooks.com). Some of them are only \$5.00.*



## New Brunswick Botany Club

Wild plant enthusiasts in New Brunswick get together for field trips to discover New Brunswick's rich botanical diversity, and to share knowledge of its flora. The 60 or so members of the New Brunswick Botany Club (NBBC) host workshops as well as field trips. They recently participated in a survey of the University of New Brunswick Woodlot, an area that is heavily used for recreation and education.

This summer members of the NBBC will be treated to an introduction to sphagnum mosses in the Lake George area (June 17). Trips to Kennedy Lakes protected Natural Area (July 15) and the Third Lake and Green River Watershed (Aug. 12) are planned. Membership is just \$10.00. Contact: Sara Richard at 506 455-4383.

The NBBC web site is:  
[www.macbe.com/botanyclub/home.html](http://www.macbe.com/botanyclub/home.html)

If you interested in our native plants why not join the NBBC and see for yourself how beautiful our New Brunswick flora really is.



## Thank you!

The FBGA 's eighth Silent Auction was held at the Marysville Heritage Centre this year. The Centre was very convenient, and spacious. We had plenty of room to display all our auction items, spread out the many books and magazines that were donated, set up several food and beverage tables, and still have plenty of space to sit and enjoy the entertainment.

We want to thank the many members and friends who attended. Your presence was greatly appreciated, and very valuable. We realized about \$2,100.00 this year, which is just about double what we made last year.

We also want to thank all the people who donated such wonderful items for us to bid on. Thank you very much to: Jane and Bill Seabrook, Nancy Beltrandi, Louis-Philippe Albert, Travis Lane, Mary Pugh, Genevieve Laloux, Carol Wakeham, Gwen Herbin, Bill Hall, Jo Lynam, Eleanor Methven, Pat Mason, Marie Wilcox, Charlie Fullarton, George Strunz, Lucy Dyer, Kate Fitz-Randolph, Janet Crawford, Graham Allen, Jim and Betty Nicholson, Judy McKendy, Haifa Miller, Bill Walker, Mike Dillon, Mitch and Wendy Bourque, Don Young, Isabel and Knut Grotterod, Juliet Davis, Joyce Astle, Avis Bruce, Doreen Wallace, Katherine Crawford, Isabel and Dugald Richford, Dale and Carol Bray, Linda Rae Burke, Susan Cassidy, Carla Ward, John Welling, Capital Credit Union, Philip and Melaine Duchastel, Chantel, Michael, and Nadia Khoury, Eileen Knight, Brian Parker, and all those who remain anonymous but who gave generously. **Thank you.**

## Talks in the Garden

Series 2006

End of May/early June—a field trip to **Joey Shotanus'** and his brother Tim's magnificent fields of tulips. We will see over a half a million tulips in bloom, a delight to behold I imagine, so don't forget your cameras! A car pool from the Resource Centre will be available. Time and date to follow. We will send out a reminder by e-mail.

Thank you all for your support over the season.

Janis Boston email:  
[janboston@rogers.com](mailto:janboston@rogers.com)

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:

**506-452-9269**

**PO Box 57, Stn. A, Fredericton, NB E3B 4Y2**  
or [fbga@nb.aibn.com](mailto:fbga@nb.aibn.com)

**Web: [www.frederictonbotanicgarden.com](http://www.frederictonbotanicgarden.com)**

**Fredericton Botanic Garden Association**

**Board of Directors - 2006**

**President - Bill Seabrook**

**Vice-President - Joel Richardson**

**Secretary - Joe Harrison**

**Treasurer - Michael Dillon**

*George Bastin Lucy Dyer Jack MacDougall*

*Brian Parker Jacques Paynter*

*Carole Peacock Carmen Stuart George Strunz*

**Get Well Mike Dillon**  
**from your friends and fellow workers on**  
**the Plant Sale Committee**



# PLANT SALE

May 28 will be our 18th Annual Plant sale and Raffle. It will be held as usual at the Boyce Farmer's Market beginning at 12:00 noon.

This is one of **THE** events of the Botanic Garden year and it is our major fund raiser. For the past several years the Association has raised in excess of \$13,000 from the raffle and sale. This money is of particular importance to the Garden as it is our primary source of unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds are those monies which the Garden can use for whatever projects it deems necessary.

As usual we will need your help on sale day May 28. We will need the help of cashiers, sales persons, general helpers and BBQ assistants. It is always a busy and exciting day.

We will need help with potting up. Jim Nicholson our forever chief of potting has retired this year. We need a coordinator for potting up plants as Mike Dillon is unable to follow through with this task.



The most important source of plants for the Sale are divisions from your garden. So please when you are splitting your plants donate your extras to the Plant Sale. Please leave your plants outside the garden's greenhouse. We will be ready for your plants beginning on May 1. We would appreciate you telling us what they are and the colour if possible. This will make labeling them much easier for us. Should you need help splitting your

We are going to need help at the Boyce Market starting at 2 PM Saturday May 27 to prepare the Market and to set up for the sale. Our efforts will be interrupted about 6PM by our annual pizza feast and hopefully all will be completed between 8 and 10 PM.

plants please give us a call. We have a team that can do this job for you, under your supervision of course.

The other major part of the sale is the Raffle. Undoubtedly you have already received tickets to sell. Please do your best. As in the past few years the first prize will a beautiful, white ash bench, chair and table made by Charlie Fullarton. This has been a most sought after prize - so please sell your tickets.

Starting Saturday May 6, we will begin selling raffle tickets at our usual station at the Boyce Farmer's Market. We need volunteers to staff our booth for two hour periods on the four Saturdays until sale day. If you are willing to volunteer please contact Jane Seabrook -459-7862 or Email: seabrook@nb.sympatico.ca . You may drop off your raffle ticket stubs and cash at this booth on any of the above Saturdays.

For every period that you volunteer for the Plant Sale and Raffle, your name will be placed into a draw for a hand made cedar Adirondack chair. This will be drawn for at 4:00PM on May 28 at the end of the sale.

**PLEASE DONATE PLANTS WE NEED THEM.**

