



**Fredericton Botanic Garden  
Association Newsletter**

**Bulletin du Jardin botanique  
de Fredericton**

Vol 30 No 2

Spring 2018

*Spring: A time for new growth*

Message from the President  
James P. Goltz

The snow has almost completely melted in our area and fresh greenery and spring flowers are a welcome sight after a prolonged winter. Daphne, crocus, glory-of-the-snow, daffodils, hyacinths, forsythia, magnolias and other early garden plants are already in bloom, adding splashes of vibrant colour to garden settings. Woodlands are adorned with colourful patches of trout lily, Dutchman's breeches, spring beauty, bloodroot, red trilliums, hepatica and beaked hazel.

Spring is normally a glorious time worthy of celebration, but we recognize that many New Brunswickers have faced serious challenges this year from spring runoff and its associated catastrophic flooding. We send our heartfelt best wishes to those who have been adversely affected.

The Fredericton Botanic Garden has recently enjoyed some noteworthy successes. Last year, we planted tulips near the Fredericton Botanic Garden Resource Centre at 10 Cameron Court, initiated plantings in a newly created New Brunswick Literature Garden close to our rhododendron grove, and greatly expanded our daylily bed; we are eager to see how these new plantings have fared over the winter. At least 90 persons participated in our annual seed exchange, playfully dubbed Seedy Saturday; this event was hosted on Saturday March 24 by Steve Stehouwer, Holly Abbandonato and Brian Parker, and was the best turnout in recent years. Our April Talk in the Garden featured Jim Wilson, a renowned New Brunswick birder/naturalist, who spoke on monarch butterflies and attracted so many people that the seating capacity at our Resource Centre was outstripped. Grants from the provincial Student Employment Experience Development (SEED) and Canada Summer Jobs programs have enabled us to hire several summer students to help maintain the Garden. We have also established a fundraising committee with a group of enthusiastic and highly skilled volunteers.

We hope that our successes will continue as we host

**Spring Fair and Plant Sale  
Entrance Garden**

695 Prospect Street  
May 27, Noon to 4:00 pm  
(details page 2)

**Talks in the Garden**

***Gardening for  
Taste, Health and Beauty***

Speaker: **Joe Ruggeri**

Thursday May 17, 7:00 pm

Fredericton Botanic Garden Resource Center  
10 Cameron Court

several events this spring and summer. Planning is well underway for the Fredericton Botanic Garden's annual Spring Fair and Plant Sale – please plan to attend, on Sunday May 27 at the Garden entrance near the City of Fredericton's ball field on Prospect Street. Our annual tour of our rhododendron garden will be led by Brian Parker in early to mid June. We are planning to formally launch our new NB Literature Garden this summer, and to celebrate our expanded daylily bed. We have ambitious plans to create a pollinator garden and peony bed, and to begin work on a rock and crevice garden. We are also strategizing on how to enhance our community outreach to inform local residents and visitors about the Fredericton Botanic Garden and to encourage them to visit.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our many volunteers, generous donors and sponsors, and members, for your help to make the Garden a place for all to enjoy. New members, benefactors and volunteers are always welcomed. Please contact our email address ([fbga@nb.aibn.com](mailto:fbga@nb.aibn.com)) if you would like to assist with one of our projects or events or help in some way.



## The Spring Fair and Plant Sale What You Need to Know

This year the Spring Fair & Plant Sale takes place on Sunday May 27, from noon to 4:00 pm, at the Fredericton Botanic Garden's Entrance Gardens at 695 Prospect Street.

We will again have a selection of perennials and herbs, peppers and heirloom tomatoes, as well as trees donated by the .

Plants donated by area nurseries, material from our own propagation beds, trees donated by Canadian Forest Service and, and importantly, perennials and some house plants donated by members will be also available

This is the major fundraising event for the Fredericton Botanic Garden and its success is dependent on the support of members. Below are some of the ways in which you can help. Remember that when you volunteer your time to help the Spring Fair, Plant Sale and Raffle, for every shift you work at the greenhouse, helping at the Saturday set-up and Sunday Spring Fair, your name is entered in a draw for garden related prizes. The draw takes place at the end of the Fair on May 27.

This year we will be having a 50/50 draw, tickets available on the day of the Fair at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

There will be entertainment again this year, Line Michaud will be serenading us with her beautiful violin music. Other exhibitors will include the Big Bubble Guy - John Williamson, the NB Beekeepers Assoc., NB Community Harvest Gardens, Richard Hefling with his Chicken Coops and John Way with Sunset Heights Meadery, just to name a few.

We will again offer up BBQ hotdogs & sausages and cold beverages for purchase.

Further details will be shared in the coming weeks on our Facebook page and by email.

**Plant donations** Please look at the perennials in your garden and consider donating some plant divisions to our sale. Such donations have greater value, and we can charge a higher price, if they are labeled with a plant name; a word on the colour and height is an added bonus. Plants should be taken to the Resource Centre, 10 Cameron Court, and left in the roped receiving area in front of the greenhouse. The sooner we receive your plants, the more established and better looking they will be by the time of the Sale. If you need pots for your plants, you can pick some up at the greenhouse (it is open most days), or potting up can be done at the greenhouse.

**Assistance is available** if you require help digging plants. Please call or email our office and leave a message (452-9269 or [fbga@nb.aibn.com](mailto:fbga@nb.aibn.com)) and we'll contact you to arrange a convenient time.

**House plants** are accepted only on the set-up day, Saturday, May 26 at the big tent.

**Carry out boxes** are needed for our customers to carry their purchases. Particularly useful for this purpose are the low-sided corrugated cardboard boxes used for shipping produce and grocery products, and which are available from stores such as Costco. It will be very helpful if you can collect such boxes between now and the Sale and take them to the Resource Centre on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons.

**Help at our greenhouse** In the weeks leading up to the Plant Sale we pot up and label material grown in our own propagation beds. The need for help potting up and labeling is particularly great during the two weeks leading up to the Sale; a work group will be busy many afternoons and evenings. We invite members to join us in this task – if you are able to help please drop by or leave your name and contact information at our office (452-9269 or [fbga@nb.aibn.com](mailto:fbga@nb.aibn.com)). Work group schedules will be shared by email closer to the time. Also watch our Facebook page for more news and information.

**Saturday, May 26 Set-up** Our tent will be put up on Saturday morning. In the afternoon, starting at 1:30 help will be needed to set up tables, move and organize plants, and related tasks. At the end of the afternoon a pizza supper is provided on-site for the volunteers.

The Fredericton Botanic Garden Association 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**

**President - Jim Goltz    Treasurer - Stephen Heard**  
**Secretary - Louis-Philippe Albert**  
*Holly Abbandonato    Bill Ayer    Wendy Bourque*  
*Rebecca Matchett    Marg Routledge    Michael Stastny*  
*Owen Washburn    John Welling*



**The Fair and Sale** Staffing the plant tables, answering customers' plant questions, working the cashes and helping with the membership and 50/50 draw tables are some of the jobs for volunteers. Volunteers are asked to be on-site no later than 11:30 am on Sunday May 27 for assignment of tasks and final instructions before customers enter. At the end of the Fair help is required to clean up.

Let's join in making this year's Spring Fair & Plant Sale and the 50/50 Raffle a successful fundraiser for the Botanic Garden and an enjoyable event for all participants. If you are unable to help in any of the ways described above, please consider making a charitable donation. . . your Botanic Garden needs your help.

Thank you for your continued support!

## Science in the Garden

Plants in ecological webs



[spider web](#) © Kenneth Allen, CC BY-SA 2.0

By Steve Heard (Professor, Biology, UNB).

We call ourselves the Fredericton Botanic Garden, and "Botanic", of course, refers to plants. So we'll forgive you if, when you visit, your attention is first drawn to our flowerbeds and forests; to the primulas in the Hal Hinds Garden and the daylilies in our newly expanded Daylily Bed; to the reeds by our ponds and the ferns along our Woodland Fern Trail. All these beautiful plants are worth your time – but we hope you'll look beyond them, too. That's because each of our plants is also part of a larger ecological web.

Take the aphids on the green stem at right. A gardener

might be horrified by their arrival, and if aphids are devastating your prize rose you might pardonably reach for a spray bottle and some dish soap. But look closely, because there's a lot going on in, and behind, that picture. The aphids are there, of course, for lunch, with



© Judy Gallagher CC BY 2.0

their mouthparts inserted into the plant's phloem tissue for sap. That sap has lots of sugar, but only very, very small quantities of amino acids, vitamins, and other nutrients that the aphids need. In order to get enough of those rarer constituents, they process a lot of sap – passing most of it right through their bodies and producing a copious, sugary exudate called honeydew. And that's why the ants are there: harvesting that honeydew. Ants can't access harvest plant saps directly, but aphid honeydew is a conveniently tapped keg.

That's three species – plant, aphid, and ant – but the ecological web extends far beyond that. The ants aren't just taking honeydew; they're *farm*ing the aphids. They tend them, and protect them from enemies to preserve their honeydew supply (so if you thought the 10,000 year record of human agriculture was something to be proud of, think again). The aphids' enemies include lacewings, assassin bugs, and the larvae of ladybird beetles, all of which are voracious predators. They also include parasitic wasps that, if not repelled, will inject their eggs so that their larvae can develop feasting on living aphid tissues, devouring their unfortunate victims from the inside out. Not pleasant for the aphids, one imagines; but essential for the wasp species.

That's not the end of the web, either. Wasps and lacewings and aphids alike can be prey for insectivorous birds such as warblers that glean their meals from the surfaces of plants. Furthermore, the plant that supports this whole aphid-based community interacts in other ways with its neighbours. If the aphid load is high enough – and, of course, the ants are trying to keep it that way – then the plant's growth will be suppressed, to the advantage of competing vegetation nearby. We need to look down, to below-ground. The plant couldn't grow in the first place without its "mycorrhizal" partners: fungi that grow in association with



the plant's roots, helping it harvest nutrients from the soil in exchange for a share of the sugars the plant synthesizes from water, carbon dioxide, and sunlight. Ants, then, might disadvantage mycorrhizae by protecting the aphids that extract phloem sap that otherwise supplies the roots with sugars. These connections don't stop. Whether you zoom in to the microscopic ("endophytic" fungi living inside stem and leaf tissue) or zoom out to larger scales (hawks preying in their turn on the bird predators of the insects), the web can be traced ever further from the cluster of aphids where we began.

So in our Garden, or anywhere else, think webs (and not just spider). An aphid on a plant might be a gardening annoyance, but it might also be a thread that, pulled upon, leads to fascination. Nature is like that: there's always more to reward the curious eye.

*Watch this summer for our new Pollinator Garden, celebrating a very important ecological web: the mutual dependence of flowering plants on pollinating insects, and pollinating insects on flowers. Follow us on Facebook or Twitter for updates on this and other Garden projects!*

## Talk in the Garden

Thursday May 17

Speaker: **Joe Ruggeri**

**Gardening for Taste, Health and Beauty**

*Joe Ruggeri is a retired University of New Brunswick economics professor who loves gardening. Joe and his son Franco are working to develop a small botanic/permaculture garden on 2.5 acres of land containing five sections: vegetables, fruiting bushes, fruiting trees, flowers and ornamental bushes, and arboretum. Joe will share his experience with various methods of cultivation of vegetables and ways of optimizing their use, and will also focus on the cultivation, health benefits, and uses of a large variety of fruiting shrubs. Videos of Joe's garden and some of Joe's new songs (yes, he's also a composer) can be found on his you tube site called han gardener; sometimes these songs start as new tunes he whistles while exploring and enjoying his garden. Joe's videos can be accessed at:*

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=UUquGq4yN9YDkAb9chPx3CLQ>

## Membership

Visit the website [frederictonbotanicgarden.com](http://frederictonbotanicgarden.com) and find the calendar of upcoming events. The option to buy a gift membership has been added under the Membership tab.

Privileges of Membership include: 10% Discount at the following local garden centers:

- Co-Op Country Store (Northside)
- Corn Hill Nurseries

- Currie's Greenhouses
- Kent Garden Center
- Scott's Nursery
- Wetmore's Nursery

## Report from Seedy Saturday

Seedy Saturday March 24, 2018, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Seedy Saturday was a great success this year again. Last year we had around 80 people show up. This year we did even better having just over 100 people come by to participate. There were mostly adults present; however, there was a good representation of young and youthful folks as well.

There was a tremendous selection of seeds available, as well as door prizes, thanks to our local donors. I would like to thank our donors this year for their support. They are in alphabetical order as follows:

1. Atlantic Superstore – Northside
2. Atlantic Superstore – Southside
3. Canadian Tire – 2 Nations Crossing
4. Canadian Tire – Smythe St.
5. Co-op Home & Farm Supply – St. Mary's Street
6. Costco Fredericton
7. Fredericton Direct Charge Co-op
8. Hope Seeds, Annapolis Royal, NS
9. Home Hardware – Main St.
10. Kent – 2 Nations Crossing
11. Kent – Bishop Drive
12. Scott's Nursery – Lincoln Rd.
13. Sobeys – Brookside Mall
14. Shur-Gain Feeds & Needs – Exhibition Grounds

Last but not least I would like to thank Brian Parker and Holly Abbandonato for their help with seed distribution, and Jim Goltz for providing homemade baked goods and drinks and welcoming people coming in. Thank You.

If anyone else in our association wants to help with Seedy Saturday next year please contact Steven Stehouwer. Please save seeds for us from your gardens for next year!

Steve

## Summer Students

We are very pleased to welcome three students, Bailey Saunders, Sarah Boardman, and Chloe Cull who will be working in the Fredericton Botanic Garden this summer, alongside City employee Emily Boudreau. When you see them in the Garden please speak to them and make them feel welcome. We are very grateful to the Canada Summer Jobs program (CSJ) and the provincial Student Employment and Experience Development (SEED) program for providing funding that enabled us to hire.



# New displays at the Garden: Daylilies, and the NB Literature Garden

By Steve Heard and Jim Goltz

In winter, you may not be thinking much about the floral displays in our Garden, but under the snow two new attractions are waiting for spring. In October, a small but dedicated band of volunteers planted the beginnings of two major new beds: the expanded Daylily Garden, and the NB Literature Garden.



Expansion of the Daylily Garden was inspired by a donation of about 150 daylily plants of assorted varieties by gardener Jim Thibeau. To accommodate this very generous gift of daylilies in many different forms, sizes and colours, the original oval Daylily garden located just downhill from the ponds was reconfigured and expanded into a series of bracket-shaped beds. This design will enable visitors to get close-up views of all of the original and donated plants, and will provide opportunity for future expansion and more plantings. Additional Daylilies donated by Yolande LeBlanc were added to in early November. Daylilies generally are in peak bloom by mid to late July and we plan to organize a public launch of the new beds around that time of year.

The NB Literature Garden is a new direction for the Fredericton Botanic Garden, in which we explore connections between gardens, nature, and the arts. (We are grateful to the City of Fredericton for supporting this project through a grant from the Fredericton Community Fund and through special cultural funding.)

The Literature Garden is just above the ponds, and below our sculpture "Rhodo". We've landscaped and laid out the beds, and if you look carefully you'll see they're in the shape of a pair of large quotation marks enclosing an open book. Within and near these beds will be plants that are featured in works of poetry and prose by New Brunswick writers, both living and historical, English and French. The larkspur pictured here, for example, is from Anne Compton's poem *Imagining, The Gardener*. Elsewhere in the beds are goldenrod from Diane Reid's poem *The Male Damselfly Speaks*, brown-eyed Susan from Alice Whitney's children's book *Henrietta's Nightlight*, and more. When we're finished, the Literature Garden will include more than two dozen plantings, each connected with a different writer; and we'll tie in existing plantings elsewhere in our Garden, as well. For each plant, signage will quote the literary work, identify the writer, and describe the plant. Look for an official opening late next spring – but in the meanwhile, let your imagination go to work!



*Photo credits: Daylily © Jim Goltz; larkspur © Steve Stehouwer.*

*If you have suggestions for plantings to be added to the Literature Garden, we welcome them. Send suggestions, identifying the plant, the literary work, and its author to the Garden ([fgba@nb.aibn.com](mailto:fgba@nb.aibn.com)). If you have interesting daylily varieties you'd be willing to contribute to the Daylily Garden, please email us about that too.*



Join the Fredericton Botanic Garden group page on Facebook to see announcements of events, pictures of the Garden



**May  
27**



# FREDERICTON BOTANIC GARDEN SPRING FAIR & PLANT SALE

**Entrance Garden, 695 Prospect St**

**Sunday May 27 Noon – 4:00 pm Free Admission**

Entertainment, invited artists, garden-related exhibits, BBQ, 50/50 prizes and a super selection of plants:

perennials, trees, heritage tomatoes, herbs and much more.

This is a fundraiser to help develop the Botanic Garden.

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

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