



**Fredericton Botanic Garden
Association Newsletter**

**Bulletin du Jardin Botanique
de Fredericton**

Vol 23 No 2

Spring 2011

President's Message

Oh Happy Day!

May 29 is coming soon. The 23rd Annual Botanic Garden Plant Sale is nearly upon us. It is time to check your gardens out and prepare to shop for great perennials at the Plant Sale. While you are planning for new additions, make room for them by sharing some of your favourites with us. We are ready to accept your labeled extra plants at the Resource Centre.

Our theme this year is **SUMMER BLOOMING PERENNIALS**. We have added some new cultivars along with traditional top picks from years gone by to help you fill in one of those blooming times that are often marked by a gap in your garden season.

Heritage tomatoes and peppers are also featured. We have had tremendous interest in the "old fashioned" varieties and have expanded our selection of them.

A new feature this year are **strawberries**. Note: these can be ordered and picked up early, by contacting the Garden Resource Centre.

We are looking for **volunteers** as well as plants to make our Plant Sale a success. Join with the Plant Sale Committee and have some fun. Learn a little, **laugh a little** and help the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association move forward. The funds we raise from this sale are used for the development of the Botanic Garden. We need help on the days before the Sale as well as the day of Sale and after, and help selling raffle tickets on the best prizes going. If you have an hour to spare, or a day to spare, please help the FBGA grow our Botanic Garden toward our goal of making it a beautiful space in which to enjoy the beauty, learn about plants and relax; one that is available to all people. If you can help, come on down, we need you, we need your hands, your energy, your wisdom and your ideas.

Plant Sale
May 29, 2011
12:00—3:30

Boyce Farmers' Market

Featuring
**SUMMER BLOOMING
PERENNIALS**

Brian Parker and the Board are to be congratulated on the successful completion of an Environmental Trust Fund project for 2010/2011 contributing to the betterment of our Province's environment. The funding was primarily for procuring plant material for around the new pond site. Efforts will be focused on this area once the weather starts to cooperate.

We welcome the two students who will be working in the Garden this summer.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS to the Sale on May 29. Be at the Farmer's Market between noon and 3:30. This is a great opportunity to find some great additions to your garden.

SEE YOU AT THE SALE

*Norah Davidson-Wright
President FBGA*



Thank You for Supporting the Silent Auction

Thank you to FBGA members who contributed items to the Silent Auction held at the AGM on February 5, 2011. Thank you as well to everyone who purchased goods and helped us raise almost \$1000 to support development of the Garden.

Although we limited the number of articles each member donated, this helped ensure only quality items were contributed which in turn resulted in higher bids.

Thank you to donors Graham Allen, John and Joyce Astle, Nancy Beltrandi, Catherine Betts, Avis Bruce, Norah Davidson-Wright, Juliet Davis, Rachel Kimm, Genevieve Laloux, Pat Mason, Jim and Betty Nicholson, Mary Pugh, Isabel and Dugald Richford, Helen Rufelds, Bill and Jane Seabrook, Doreen Wallace, Marie Wilcox, Downtown Fredericton, Sue Lawrence Hair Spa and Gallery as well as those who asked to remain anonymous.

Strawberry Cultivars to be Featured at Spring Plant Sale

It has been decided that more fruit plants should be offered to customers at the Annual Spring Plant Sale. This year two types of strawberry plants will be for sale: a June-bearer and a day-neutral type.

“AC Wendy” bred at the AAFC Research Centre, Kentville, NS, is the June-bearing cultivar chosen. “Wendy” produces an early, large berry, bright red, with average firmness and excellent fresh flavour. The plants are vigorous and moderately resistant to powdery mildew. No red stele has been detected in the cultivar.

“Seascape” is the name of the day-neutral strawberry cultivar chosen for this year. This patented plant was developed in Oregon for the Pacific Northwest but has performed well in eastern Canada and US as well. “Seascape” fruit is noteworthy for its intense flavour, high yield, large fruit, firmness, symmetry and attractive appearance. The plants are noted for their general flexibility in planting requirements. They produce fruit all season from July to September. Only a limited supply of “Seascape” plants will be available in 2011 and these will command a premium price.

Dormant crowns will be potted in groups of 4-5 plants and the unit will be sold as started plants at the May Plant Sale. FBGA members are being offered the opportunity to purchase dormant crowns of “Wendy” in early May if member’s orders are placed before the plants are potted for the Sale. Because of the small number of “Seascape” plants available, no plants will be available for sale as dormant crowns this year. “Wendy” strawberry crowns will be sold in units of 10 plants at \$4.00/unit at the Resource Centre starting May 5.

If you would like to purchase dormant strawberry crowns, please email FBGA at fbga@nb.aibn.com or telephone at 452-9269 before May 15, 2011 and provide the following information:

- **Your full name with email and/or telephone number**
- **The number of “Wendy” strawberry units (10 plants each) needed at \$4.00/unit,**
- **Approximate date and time when you can pick up strawberry plants at the Resource Centre**

Offering dormant strawberry crowns at a reasonable price to members is another benefit of FBGA membership and allows us to offer started plants in pots at the Spring Sale.

For future reference the Plant Sale Committee would like to know from members how much interest there is in having raspberry plants for sale in 2012. A “Raspberry Expression of Interest Survey” will be conducted during the next few months.

*Evans Estabrooks, Member,
Plant Sale Committee*



Tomatoes



At last year's Plant Sale we offered a number of heritage tomato plants. They were very popular and sold out rather quickly. These are old or traditional varieties that are open pollinated so you can collect seed from them and it will be viable. We are repeating some of last year's varieties

and are introducing a number of new ones. The seed for these tomatoes are from a farm in central Manitoba and should grow well here – try them.

Note: **Indeterminate** varieties should be in a tomato cage, **determinate** varieties require staking. The number of days are days from transplanting to first mature fruit.

Amish Paste – Indeterminate An Amish heirloom from Wisconsin that produces 6-8 oz red elongated fruit. Very juicy and great for fresh eating or sauce. A great dual purpose tomato. 85days.

Andrew Rahart's Jumbo Red – Indeterminate Andrew Rahart lived north of New York City and collected seeds from the local immigrants; this is one of the varieties he collected many years ago. The healthy plants produce heavy yields of deep red beefsteaks that average one pound. A great slicer that is very dense and meaty with exceptional taste and aroma. Excellent producer as a main crop tomato. Strongly recommended. 80 days.

Believe it or Not – Indeterminate A very nice and very large classic red beefsteak-like tomato. Fruits routinely weigh well over a pound and up to two pounds. Smooth-skinned, red ripening and great for slicing, with a top notch flavour. 85 days.

Aunt Gertie's Gold – Indeterminate The late Chuck Wyatt obtained this variety from a friend in Virginia. The large golden beefsteak-type fruit have great flavour. One of the best tasting yellow tomatoes. Potato leaf foliage. 90 days.

Bison – Determinate An old fashioned favourite that was developed by Prof. A. F. Yeager of North Dakota University and listed by Oscar H. Will & Co. in 1937. The 1937 McFayden Seed Catalog also listed this variety as Bison Self-pruning, stating that it was an "outstanding new development for the dry land farm." Bison is one of the most productive tomatoes. The medium size red fruit are 2.5" x 2" and ripen all at

once. This tomato is also quite early and has exceptional taste. Great for salads and canning. 65-70 days.

Black Zebra – Indeterminate A Jeff Dawson selection. Beautiful blemish free purplish black fruit with green stripes and a great taste. The medium size round fruit weigh 4-6 oz and are produced in abundance. Excellent for adding colour to salads or as slices on a platter. 75 days.

Black Cherry – Indeterminate One of the tastiest cherry tomatoes. Customers at the Farmers' Market seem to agree. The dark purple cherry tomatoes are borne in large clusters on very vigorous plants. Very sweet and delicious fruit are great for eating out of hand or in summer salads. Excellent paired with red and yellow cherry tomatoes. 70 days.

Brandywine (Sudduths strain) – Indeterminate This tomato is legendary for its delicious taste and the Sudduth's Strain is considered by many to be the most delicious strain available. This strain was obtained in 1980 from Dorris Sudduth Hill. Dorris claimed that it had been in her family for 80 years. The large deep pink beefsteak fruit can grow to 1-2 lb and are quite late maturing. Start indoors early. It is simply an exceptional tomato that no gardener should be without. This strain is rather hard to find although Brandywine is quite common. Potato leaf foliage. A must have! 90 days.

Djena Lee's Golden Girl – Indeterminate Djena Lee had grown this variety in Minnesota in the 1920's. In 1929 she gave some seed to Reverend Morrow who preserved it for many years. Apparently this variety won first place at the Chicago Fair for 10 years in a row. The medium size golden fruit are very tasty. 80 days.

Druzba – Indeterminate An old Bulgarian heirloom that is a delicious and problem free tomato. The deep red globes are 8-12 oz and produced in clusters of three or four. Yields are very high and the foliage disease free. Tasty. 70 days.

Estler's Mortgage Lifter – Indeterminate One of the best strains of Mortgage Lifter Tomato. Estler's Mortgage Lifter is more productive and tasty than the other strains. The pink oblate fruit average over one pound and can get much larger. 85-90 days.

Farthest North - Determinate Introduced by the North Dakota State University in 1934. A very early and prolific cherry tomato that sets fruit in cool temperatures. Good for containers and northern areas. 50 days. EXTREMELY RARE.



Ferris Wheel - Indeterminate Introduced by the Salzer Seed Company of LaCrosse, Wisconsin in 1898. Originally grown simply because of its history and rarity, this tomato impresses with the large flattened pink beef-steak-type fruit and amazing production and taste. One slice of this tomato will easily cover a piece of bread and the beautiful fruit are blemish free. Definitely one of the highlights of the season. 80 days. EXTREMELY RARE.

42 Days - Determinate This is a very early red salad-sized tomato that is productive and has a sweet flavour. 45-50 days.

Monomakh's Hat – Semi-Determinate. This Russian heirloom is named after the crown worn by Russian Tsars and is a most impressive variety. The plants produce huge, heart shaped fruit that can grow up to two pounds. They are meaty and have a good taste. This is a very early large variety. Outstanding! 70 days.

Morden Yellow – Determinate Developed at the Morden Research Station in Morden, MB, in 1950. Medium size yellow tomatoes are produced in abundance. Very productive, good flavour. 65 days.

Neves Azorean Red – Indeterminate Originally from the Azores where the late Anthony Neves had been selecting for larger size fruit. Anthony took the seeds to Massachusetts and traded fruit for fertilizer with Ed McCollum. Ed then gave seeds to Charlie Perry who passed some to Carolyn Male, the tomato collector. The large dark red fruit average one to two pounds and have rich outstanding flavour. 80 days.

Pink Thai Egg – Indeterminate This very special heirloom tomato has true pink oval salad-size fruit. The 1 oz fruit are very firm and have a pleasing texture and excellent taste. The egg-shaped fruit are produced in large clusters and are great for snacking or salads. 70 days.

Purple Russian – Indeterminate The seed for this old Ukrainian variety originally came from Irma Henkel of the Ukraine. The long plum-shaped fruit are about 2-3" long and a very dark purple colour. The gorgeous fruit are blemish free and the taste is outstanding and very sweet. Highly recommended and very productive. 70 days.

Bill Seabrook

Grower of Tomatoes for the Plant Sale

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 11, 2:00 pm
Rain date Sunday June 12, 2:00 pm
Refreshments
Everybody Welcome

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**
Web: www.frederictonbotanicgarden.com

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Join us on Facebook

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.

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



Report on the 2011 Annual General Meeting.

The FBGA held its annual general meeting on February 5, 2011. President Norah Davidson-Wright reported the highlights of 2010. These included a successful Plant Sale and Raffle which raised \$9540, up \$2400 from the previous year, and an application to the NB Environmental Trust Fund that secured \$30,000 for plant material and signage for the pond enhancement project.

Not all the news was good. In the preparation of its 2011 budget the City of Fredericton cut \$25,000 funding for the FBGA. Although the City called this a "grant" the Association has not received a grant from the City since 2008; the amount was in fact the \$25,000 in the City's budget for Garden maintenance. Maintenance is the City's responsibility under the formal agreement between the City and the FBGA. Mayor Woodside subsequently wrote that the City "remains in compliance with the duties and obligations outlined in the Agreement". However, the \$25,000 budget item was not restored.

Thanks were offered to Carole Peacock and Jacques Paynter who left the Board. Re-elected to new terms on the Board were Ruth Muldrew and Norah Davidson-Wright, and elected for the first time was Heather Connors-Dunphy. Heather is a Certified Master Gardener and spent her career with NB Power, mainly in management.

Guest speaker was George Scott, co-proprietor of Scott's Nursery, who discussed "Gardening Trends" and answered questions. Entertainment was provided by Becka deHaan who sang and accompanied herself on keyboard. The meeting ended with the Silent Auction results which produced almost \$1,000.

Garden Plans for 2011

Already in mid May there are plants in bloom throughout the Botanic Garden: Marsh Marigold (*Caltha*) and *Rodgersia* (an east Asian plant in the Saxifrage family) in the large planting below the Entrance Garden, daffodils below the Ecosystem Kiosk, early azaleas in the Rhododendron Collection and around the Resource Centre, and *Primula* in Hal Hinds' Memorial Garden (though access areas are wet). Visit often with your family and friends to follow the progress of blooms through the season.

The highlight of the activities this summer will be the completion of the Pond Enhancement Project undertaken with assistance of a \$30,000 grant from the NB Environmental Trust Fund. Pond excavation and shaping of the surrounding area will be completed as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry. We shall then be calling on FBGA members to assist with planting about 1,500 plants of some 150 varieties. Watch for the announcement of the time and details of this activity.

Although the City Parks and Trees Division does not have a budget this year for the maintenance of the Botanic Garden, staff will be doing their best to keep the site looking good. The FBGA is waiting to learn the result of applications for NB and Canada summer student grants. In the meantime two students have been hired and are on the job in the Garden. They are Nicole Armstrong, who worked with us for a short time last summer, and Jenna Walker. When you visit the Garden in the coming weeks if you have the opportunity please speak to the students and make them feel welcome.

Richard Tarn
Site Development Committee

Help Make the Plant Sale and Raffle a Success

Our annual Plant Sale is being held this year on Sunday, May 29 from noon to 3:30 pm. Now in its twenty-third year, the sale is the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association's main fundraiser. Proceeds from the sale are used for on-going development of the Garden. With City budget cuts affecting the garden, it is more important than ever to make this event a success. Here's how you can help us get ready.

Every year we pot up our own feature plants, tomatoes and peppers but we also have a great need for your donated plants. Hopefully the weather will warm up this week so that we can all do some gardening; while you are out there, please dig up and pot a few plants for the cause. When you label the plants with variety name, flower colour, and plant height, it really adds to the value of your donation. Donated plants can be dropped off at the Resource Centre located on Cameron Court.



As a member you will have received some raffle tickets in the mail recently, you can help by selling them to friends or family. You can drop off your sale stubs and money at our booth at the Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings or on the day of the Plant Sale.

We are still in need of volunteers to help sell raffle tickets at the Market as well. A booth will be set up each Saturday from now until May 28. Shift times are 6:30 – 8:00am; 8:00 – 10:00am; 10:00am – noon; and 11:00am – 1:00pm.

Of course, we are always in need of lots of helping hands for the Plant Sale set-up and the Plant Sale itself. We will start setting up on Saturday, May 28 around 2:30 pm. Set up usually takes about 5 to 6 hours including a pizza break. Volunteers for the Plant Sale are asked to arrive no later than 11:15 am on Sunday to get ready for the doors to open at noon. Volunteers will once again have the opportunity to put a plant aside prior to the doors opening and there will be prize draws for volunteers at the end of the Plant Sale.

If you are able to help fill shifts at the Saturday markets and/or help with the Plant Sale, please contact Valerie Hillier at 238-9833 or by email: valeriej_hillier@hotmail.com.

Feel free to bring along a friend!

Thank you all for your contributions!
Plant Sale Committee



Plants propagated for the Plant Sale

The Boboli Gardens in Florence, Italy

... a walking tour in pictures

Heather Connors-Dunphy

In September of 2010 my husband and I spent three weeks in Tuscany and Lombardy. One of the “must see” items when we were planning our trip was the Boboli Gardens in Florence. Florence was the cradle of the Renaissance and magnificent artwork, cathedrals and statuary abound. The museums of the Accademia and Uffizi hold many famous works of art ie. Michelangelo’s “David” in the Gallery of the Accademia, Bronzino’s portraits of the Medici family in the Uffizi. Another museum complex consists of the Pitti Palace and the Boboli Garden which is on the hillside behind the palace.

Italy was only unified in the 1860’s. During the time of the Renaissance, Italy was composed of a group of city states. During the Renaissance, the leading family of Florence were the Medicis. This family controlled the commerce and were great patrons of the arts. They commissioned many of the works of art that we all recognize today by artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Botticelli, and goldsmith/architect Brunelleschi.

In 1550 Duke Cosimo I de Medici and his wife Eleonora of Toledo acquired the palace and the “garden-orchard” from the Pitti family. Eleonora set about having the garden designed by Niccolo Pericoli, known as ‘Il Tribolo’. Many designers and overseers came after Il Tribolo but much of what currently exists is faithful to the original plan.



Map of Boboli Garden.



Boboli is a garden in the high Italianate style. As people during the Renaissance rediscovered Roman and Greek culture; so they wanted to emulate the gardens of those classic periods. The Boboli is a virtual outdoor museum featuring many statues, water features, mature trees and shrubs. There is no natural water source in Boboli, so an aquaduct was constructed to the nearby Arno River.

We entered the Boboli through the entrance by the Roman Gate (Porta Romana) at the far end of the Garden and took a path heading toward the Island Pond. Along the walkways we passed through the Meadow of the Columns, featuring twelve busts, some original Greek and Roman works and others copies. There are many holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*) and European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) in the garden.

The Island Pond, in Island Square, was created to display both roses and citrus plants, of which the Medici were fond. The entrance columns feature capricorn statues (the motto of the Medici family). The pond is large, featuring fountains, statues and when we were there, many potted citrus trees. The pond is a large oval basin with an island in the centre. The chief artwork is the Island Fountain, the original was finished in 1576 and moved to its current location in 1636. The original is now in a museum.



Roman Gate (Porta Romana)



Owl Game

On the path to the Island pond we passed the famous statues of the "Owl Game", a copy of a Roman work, created between 1617 and 1621.

Continuing on, we began to climb the Cypress Walk (Il Viottolone) . This is a steady up hill climb, not for the faint of heart. The cypresses lining the way are magnificent. The original cypress planting began in 1612. There are many sculptures lining the walk. Some of the original labyrinths remain. These are of holm-oak pruned to form a continuous tunnel.



Cypress Walk



After a long up hill walk we arrived at the Knight's Garden. From this site a panoramic view of Florence emerges. The original ramparts were designed by Michelangelo in 1529. The Knight's Lodge now houses the Porcelain Museum.



Parterre of the Knight's Garden with the Porcelain Museum (former Knight's Lodge) in the background

Continuing on we began to descend the hill. From here we could see the Pitti Palace with Florence as a backdrop. There is an imposing statue of Plenty, moved to Boboli in 1636 to embody the prosperity of Tuscany. She has a cornucopia in one hand and bronze sheafs of wheat in the other, Planted near the statue are plane-trees, *Platanus acerifolia*, pruned in the form of candelabra.



Plenty

The trip down hill is punctuated by many other works. Chief among these is the Forcone Basin, containing the Neptune Fountain. The original basin was the repository of the water brought from the Arno River for the garden.



From the Forcone basin it is a short walk to the Amphitheatre. This part of the garden has seen much change from the original to the mid 1850's. In the centre of the Amphitheatre stands the Egyptian Obelisk, placed there in 1790 and an ancient granite basin, placed in 1840.



Our tour continued with the Medici Treasures Museum in the Pitti Palace. We enjoyed the garden, as an example of Renaissance thinking and art and as a living museum.

Florence is a jewel of a city, with a storied past and a vibrant present. Consider visiting it.

