

The Garden Master News

Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association

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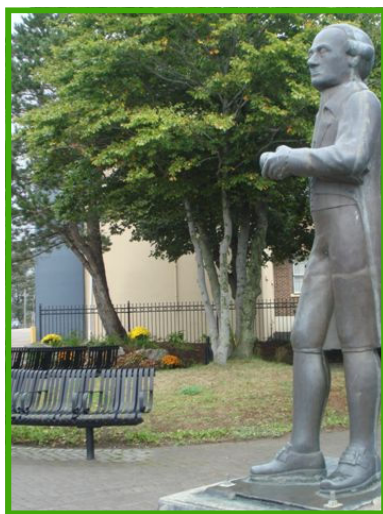


Cape Breton Master Gardeners

- By Thelma MacKillop

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Shown above are pictures taken on October 4th and 5th, 2012, when the Cape Breton Master Gardeners got together to weed "Mary's Garden" in downtown Sydney. This garden, a fond project of the late Mary Fraser, houses the statue of Colonel Joseph Frederick Wallet DesBarres, who founded the city of Sydney in 1785.

Master gardeners Janet Elsie, Christene LeVatte, Thelma MacKillop and Bibiane Lessard have taken on the project of maintaining Mary's Garden.



Shown above are Thelma MacKillop, Bibiane Lessard, Janet Elsie and members of Christene LeVatte's Highland Landscape team members Susan English, Paula MacMillan and Jennifer McMullen who together volunteered to weed, sweep and plant to beautify the garden in early October. Five brightly - coloured fall mums in stunning colours were eagerly donated by the Cape Breton Regional Municipality and planted by Bibiane and Thelma. Mary's Garden certainly stood out for the opening of Celtic Colours and the many cruise ships who visited the city in October.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- By Heather Connors-Dunphy

Here we are at the end of another gardening season. Whether you do a major clean-up in the spring or the fall it is almost time to put your feet up and think about successes and other adventures and next year's garden. There are plenty of signs of the change of season, I was at a local nursery last week and the greenhouses are full of poinsettias, tubs of amaryllis bulbs, many bulbs and paperwhites for winter bloom.

What a gardening season... we installed a deer fence part way through the summer. It kept the critters out and most nipped plants made some recovery except the edamame. The veggie garden is now covered with lots of mulched leaves and the hard neck garlic is planted. I have been restructuring several beds and that work is about 80% done. Fine Gardening had an article, "Fill your containers with tulips", so I'm giving that a whirl.

I've started advising a parents' group at a local elementary school about the gardens at the school. These parents have been very ambitious about the kind of outside school environment they'd like their kids to have. As with most of these things, interest has waned for several years and the new group wants to reinvigorate the garden.

It is always fun to see other gardens; this year we visited Chanticleer Garden outside Philadelphia and Reford Gardens in Grand Metis, Quebec . . . The dogwoods and magnolias at Chanticleer were magnificent.

Needless to say the blue poppies at Grand Metis were a thrill. At the entrance to Reford there is a plant wall. I'd like to see something like this installed at the entrance to the Fredericton Botanic Garden.

Your Executive had a productive meeting in September. The next AMGA meeting is scheduled for December. The Agenda will be sent to you in advance, please feel free to contact any of us with your suggestions, ideas etc. We are working to finalize the membership list and it should be coming your way in the next month. We are also working to provide a means of recognizing cumulative efforts by members in their gardening communities.

I've had a good meeting with the folks at Continuing Ed at NSAC (now the Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University). If there are topics you would like to see for Level II Summer School please let me know. We'd like to have the AGM, Graduation, Certification, Recognition and Level II Summer School be a real community celebration and learning event for Master Gardeners. Please consider attending!!!

My best wishes to all in the coming Christmas Season and New Year.

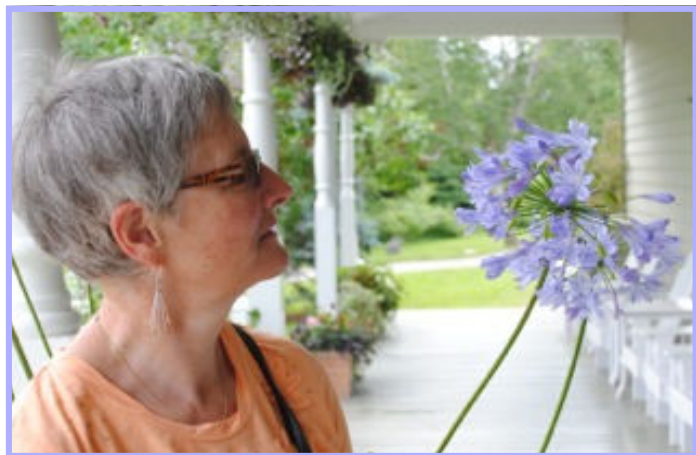
Heather



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Agapanthus at Reford Gardens



Plant wall at entrance to
Reford Garden



Seed dahlia bloom.
These are very easy to start from
seed.

Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University

Hello to the Master Gardener Community from Dalhousie University!

Yes, it is official - as of September 1st, 2012, we are now the Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University situated on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro, NS. Go Tigers and Rams!

Change is sometimes a nerve - wracking experience , and we at Continuing Education must admit we approached the September 1st date with a bit of trepidation, but we are now two months in, and things are flowing fairly smoothly. New boss for us, but the same great program for all of our gardening enthusiasts!

I appreciate being asked by your president to be a regular contributor to your newsletter to offer the latest news from those who are running the Master Gardener educational programming. For this issue, I will offer some background to the program and some stats to those who may not be aware of its success.

The Master Gardener Training program was launched in 2004 and has since shown tremendous growth.

The addition of the courses for the Master Gardeners of Ontario in 2007 was also a great success in terms of increasing student volume and institutional reach.

To date, the program has had a total of 1235

Online course registrations. The Atlantic stream has shown relatively steady enrollment annually, with October consistently showing the highest enrollment.

The Ontario stream has shown consistent growth since 2007 and also shows October being the most popular intake. Since 2008, the number of students in the Ontario stream has outweighed that of those in the Atlantic stream, with the Atlantic student population being 64% of that of Ontario.

The number of graduates from the program is worth celebrating with a grand total of 162 at the end of the 2012 year. Students from this program are from across Canada, with graduates representing Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, and Alberta in attendance at last year's Master Gardener graduation ceremony. Thank you to all who have spread the good word about what we have to offer!

To help promote this wonderful program we established a Master Gardener Training Bursary at the beginning of the 2011 academic year. Two \$300 bursaries are awarded to students in the program to provide incentive for further education in gardening. To qualify, applicants must be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in one of the four online courses that are required for either the Master Gardener Training or Master Gardener Training Program certificates. Applications are due in the fall, and more information can be found on the Continuing Education website.

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Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University

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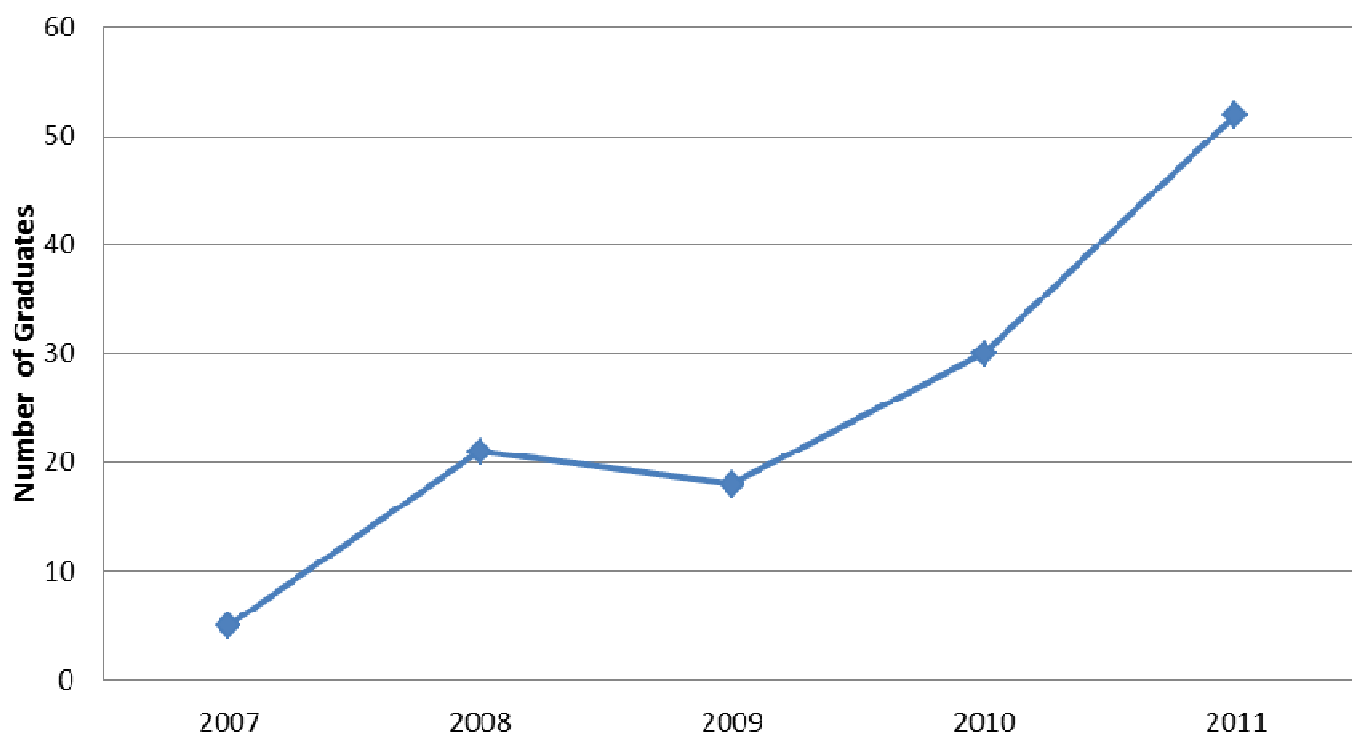
I hope this information has given you some appreciation of the great work we have all been involved in since the beginning of this journey. Thank you to all of you for being part of its success! Contact our office at any time with any comments or suggestions- especially for topic suggestions for summer school level 2. We are in the planning stages now and would appreciate some ideas.

You can reach Continuing Education, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus at: 902-893-6666, or email me at: jmaceachern@dal.ca.

Until next time....

Jolene MacEachern
Program Manager,
Continuing Education,
Faculty of Agriculture,
Dalhousie University

Master Gardener Graduates per Year



2012 AMGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- By Bonnie Snow, AMGA Secretary



This is a brief summary of five pages of minutes for your reading enjoyment.

The AGM was held in Truro the evening of July 11.

This is also the week of Summer School and we were pleased to have students and guests from Ontario in attendance.

After the usual business of approving minutes, members introduced themselves and shared highlights of their recent volunteer and gardening activities. As well as MG's, many are involved in local garden clubs, the Rhododendron Society, Daylily Society, Canadian Chestnut Council and the Fredericton Botanical Garden.

Library programs for new gardeners, school and daycare gardens, IWK garden, Senior's programs, garden tour fundraisers for the Stephen Lewis Foundation (Grandmother s to Grandmothers) are

but a few of the volunteer experiences shared. Both Pauline Kemp and Sue Stuart have been active with Grandmothers to Grandmothers. Sue is also a member of the Canadian Chestnut Council whose mission is to restore the American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*). Read more about this project and the chestnut trees at Uniacke House in the March 2008 Master Gardener Newsletter in the archives on the MG website. Now our Past President, Carol Goodwin has been planting the Courtyard Garden at the new hospital site in Truro. Look for our new President, Heather Connors-Dunphy, at the Fredericton Botanical Garden as she prepares to assume tour guide duties.

In her President's Report Carol Goodwin shared the new MG logo, posters and banners, the Membership Package and the successful Cornhill Nursery Day. She discussed plans for an HRM Chapter of MG's, and the exciting prospect of providing training in areas of specialization for Master Gardeners. She encouraged members to contribute to the Facebook Group, Blog and MG Website as well as share ideas for much needed MG social events.

Emily Miller, our retiring Volunteer Co-ordinator, reported 1325.5 volunteer hours,

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2012 AMGA ANNUAL MEETING

(Cont'd from page 6)

reminding members they must record and report these volunteer hours in order to remain certified.

Sue Stuart's tremendous work on the Newsletter is much appreciated by all members. She will continue with four seasonal issues and thanks members for their timely contributions.

Carolyn Downie, Anita Sulley, Emily Miller were honoured for their contribution to the Association and presented with Master Gardener aprons.

You are no doubt familiar with the names of the new executive but I will include them here.

President	- Heather Connors-Dunphy
Vice President	- Lynn Brooks
Past President	- Carol Goodwin
Treasurer	- Johanne Robertson
Secretary	- Bonnie Snow
Newsletter	- Sue Stuart
Volunteer Co-ordinator	- Anita Sulley
Member at Large	- Janet Elsie
Member at Large	- Barb Polley
Member at Large	- Lynn Brooks

The Webmaster is a position that requires specialized skills not always available among executive members. The motion was passed to remove this position from the executive. Members at Large are still needed for PEI and NFLD.

Heather Connors-Dunphy, our new AMGA President, thanked past executive members, and all members, for their volunteer contributions. She welcomed the new executive and moved on to the New Business of the meeting and lots for us to think about.

How do we encourage ideas through improved communication - make this communication more relevant? Should we have special logo pins with a number which indicates when a significant milestone has been reached Eg. 500 hours. There is a strong interest among members for specialized in depth learning - certification in specialized areas. What do you think of this idea and what topics would you be interested in? Join the Facebook Group and share your ideas. AMGA is 5 years old! What does this mean? We are due for an audit of financial and historical records. It is important for the protection of the organization to maintain accurate records and to ensure continuity as records are passed to the new person in the job. Note of interest: Master Gardeners in certain jurisdictions provide their own training. Finally, have you paid your dues?

I have Member at Large reports and a message from CARP concerning their excellent partnership with Master Gardeners in Cape Breton which I will email.

Bonnie Snow

AMGA Secretary

Restructuring The Fredericton Botanic Garden Daylily Bed

- by Heather Connors - Dunphy

A map showing this location may be found at www.frederictonbotanicgarden.com.

The Daylily Bed

This bed was fairly overgrown. It contained a tangle of roses and some Siberian iris as well as daylilies. To my surprise the planting contained 71 daylilies. At the time these were planted the name tags were planted with them. There was a planting plan at one time, but this was not to be found.

Where to start? We knew that most of the daylilies had come from purchases made from Red Lane Gardens in PEI. Because some were annual plant sale choices, there were photos of them and some descriptions. We waited until most were in bloom and then commenced the work.

The bed is roughly rectangular in size. I began the work with one of our student gardeners in mid July. First we divided the bed into six linear sections. Within the sections we assigned a number to each plant. She recorded the number system and the observations on the iPad while I was numbering and giving her the description of the cultivars, ie diploid or tetraploid, flower (spider form, recurved petals etc), colour(s), markings (chevrons, water marks etc.)

When this was done I started trying to identify the plants. There are well over 40,000 cultivars! Do you know how many pink daylilies there are? I found a few this way. Then we started back through PDF files of previous purchases. We had invoices and some PDFs for purchases made in 2009, 2008, 2007 and 2006. These yielded five of the plants we were searching for. Meanwhile I was putting some of the pictures on the FBG Facebook page. This really helped as one of our members also had some records. Turns out she had a PDF of the 2005 purchases. That was the answer. With this in hand the rest of the cultivars (except for several which were not blooming) were identified. Some of the cultivars are *Hemerocallis* 'Willy Nilly', 'Too Marvellous', 'Endless Galmour', 'Final Touch', 'Justin June' and 'Camden Gold Dollar'.

Now what? Since most of these had been planted in 2005 many were overgrown, crowded and not looking their best. Knowing that many of these would be saleable in the Annual Sale, we proceeded to divide some cultivars and move the divisions to the propagation beds (about 5 dozen in all), some plants were also moved to areas of the Entrance Garden and the Resource Centre Garden that had been restructured. They can be harvested from there in future. Finally with the space gained, we moved many so that they would have a chance to flourish. The bed now contains



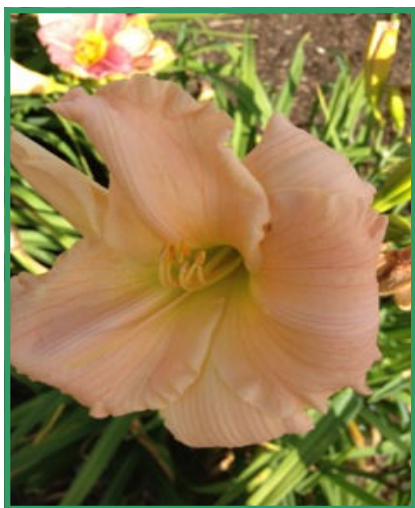
Restructuring Daylily Bed

(Cont'd from Page 8)

about 43 plants. We arranged the replanting with an eye to colour and height. We should have a vibrant display next summer.

In total about 40 hours of effort with City staff, students, a volunteer, the author and member, Doug Dewar were required. There is now a planting plan of the restructured beds. Next spring plants will have name tags so that visitors may know the names of the plant or plants they are admiring. The planting plan and other supporting documents will become part of the permanent plant files of the FBG.

A project like this offers lots of learning opportunities. These include problem solving, structure and features of herbaceous perennials like daylilies, how and when to dig and divide large daylily clumps, and replanting techniques.



Hemerocallis 'Silent Wonder'



Hemerocallis
'Prairie
Charmer'



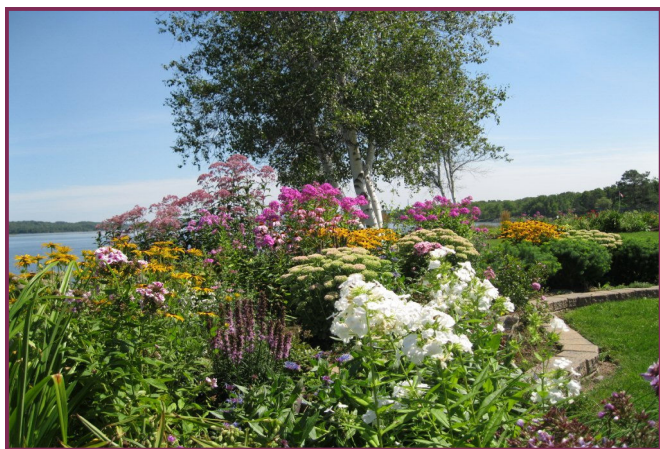
Hemerocallis
Asian
Artistry'



Hemerocallis Addie- Branch Smith'

My Garden

- By Kathryn Saunders



This picture was taken on August 22, 2012. I particularly like this one as it shows the location of the garden. It faces northeast and gets sun for most of the day. In the early morning it is somewhat shaded by the birch tree but the afternoon sun plays a big part in the growth of the plants. The garden was started in 2010 when we moved to this location in Abercrombie. We are situated on the East River about three miles from New Glasgow, Nova Scotia and have a really nice view of the town of Pictou.

There had been a garden in this yard many years before but I wasn't sure of the exact location of it when we moved here. There was evidence of a few scattered plants but not much else. The yard was cleared and while the house was under construction I brought in many loads of top soil and compost from the local landfill site. Some kind friends gave me many plants and I hastily put them in this area.



The next fall, spring and summer I reorganized and tried to get some semblance of what I wanted it to look like. In the spring of 2011 I brought in the interlocking bricks and built a wall to enclose the plantings and give the garden some structure.

At the time these pictures were taken you can see there were many plants in bloom. The good soil and lots of sunlight from a great growing season made for very enjoyable gardening time.

Two obstacles I face in this location are limited watering, as we are on a well, and fire ants. The latter are a huge nuisance and I have been stung several times. Although the bites are uncomfortable they don't keep me from doing what I love to do. I have found some ways around their presence. One thing I do is wear long pants, long sleeved t-shirts and long gloves. This usually means working early in the morning before the heat of the day

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My Garden

(Cont'd from page 10)



but that is fine with me. The best time of year is spring and fall when they are not so active. I really try to limit my spraying as it tends to take a lot of activity out of the garden.

This is the third year for the garden and it is still undergoing many changes. This fall I moved many of the plants out to another garden because the area was getting overgrown. As gardeners all know this is always a work in progress and we are never satisfied so who knows what next spring will bring and what will be blooming there next August?

2013 International MG Conference



A reminder from our Ontario member Lynne Marie Sullivan regarding the 2013 International Master Gardener Conference and Alaskan Cruise September 7-14, 2013.

For details of this unique vacation / conference check out the following website:

<http://www.uaex.edu/imgc2013/>

AMGA Resources & Reminders

Do you have a Master Gardener Presentation or Event in your area and would like to 'identify' your space?

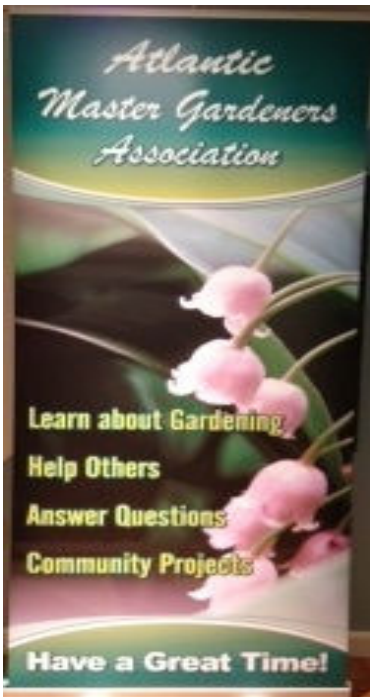
Below are photos (A & B) of our AMGA display units and table Mats available to all members of AMGA. If you would like to use the tall free standing screen for a booth or backdrop at an event contact:

Heather Connors -Dunphy (NB) :
hmcd@bellaliant.net

Carol Goodwin (NS): goodwin.carol56@gmail.com

Cyndy MacCormack (PEI): cyndy@eastlink.ca

A



The above photo (A) shows one of the units. These free standing screens can be rolled up to fit in the case (pictured in photo (C) on the bottom right) making them convenient for travelling!

The photo below (B) shows how the display units can be used as a background. Use of more than one could form a booth eg. Making presentations at a trade show or in this case at the AGM.

B



If you don't need a tall backdrop there is also the option of Table mats as pictured in photo (C). Book them in advance to be sure they will be available and allow time to be shipped to you!

C



AMGA Resources & Reminders

Facebook

Don't forget to check out our **Atlantic Master Gardeners Facebook group**.

It's your opportunity to chat with other members of the AMGA - discuss hot gardening Topics, special events of interest to MGs, get advice on gardening problems or concerns relative to MG practice.

The Facebook group is a **closed** group, so once signed - in to Facebook go to 'Atlantic Master Gardeners Group' and click on "Join group"! An Administrator will let you join the Group if you are a member of AMGA!

If you're feeling a little out-of -touch with your fellow MG's here's the place to find them!

Help to make the Atlantic Master Gardener's Facebook Group a vibrant place to visit!

Newsletter

Please forward your submissions for the Winter Newsletter by January 20, 2013 to:

suestuart@accesswave.ca

As a member of AMGA we want to hear from YOU about what YOU are doing.

You probably have lots of photos of your Garden and stories to go along with them. Maybe you have a particularly good MG Project underway and would like to share it.

Winter is obviously not far off, and you'll be sitting with your plant catalogues and magazines, dreaming about gardens to come! Sit down with your pen or at the computer and start writing. Maybe you've read a great Gardening book or article you'd like to share. Tell us all about it!

Greetings to one and all for a very

Merry Christmas

&

Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy 2013

With a Delightful Gardening Season!