

The Garden Master News

Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association

ISSUE #12

VOLUME #1

SPRING 2020



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NOTE: Covid-19 Update - On March 13, Dalhousie University announced that all in-person winter classes, exams and spring Convocations are cancelled. The Executive is monitoring the situation and will advise as soon as we know if this cancellation will be extended to the July summer course and conference. The June newsletter will advise whether the conference is going ahead and provide information on our 2020 Annual General Meeting. - Jim

"Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the Composer" - Geoffrey B. Charlesworth



Spring Is Coming! Are you Ready?



Things to think about before gardening season actually starts!

Early Spring Gardening Chores:

- 1) Dormant prune trees, shrubs, perennials as needed.
- 2) Make an inventory check of your gardening tools and gear
- 3) Clean garden beds, add new soil, compost, manure, and/or soil amendments.
- 4) Clean and sharpen garden tools (pruners, shovels, etc.)
- 5) Make a Garden Plan.
- 6) Check your seed inventory. Purchase new seed if needed. Use healthy, viable seeds from a reliable source.
- 7) Start seed indoors for transplant after last frost date





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- by **Jim Sharpe**

Spring Greetings from the AMGA President,
Jim Sharpe

Now is the time for you to plan your 2020 garden and register for the AMGA 2020 Conference and Workshop.

So far this year, I've started a dozen flats of herb, vegetable and flower seeds and it's wonderful to watch the seeds germinate and the seedlings push up to the sun. It will be a busy spring tending the transplants in March and April and planting them in May and June in my summer garden.

It will also be a busy summer for Atlantic Master Gardeners Association. Our annual conference and workshop will be at the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus on Wednesday July 8 and Thursday July 9. Building on last year's successful conference "Gardening in Challenging Environments" the AMGA Conference Committee chose "**Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada**" for this year's theme.

We are very pleased to feature **Julie Moir Messervy**, an internationally recognized landscape designer from New England, as this year's keynote speaker. She opens the conference on Wednesday, July 8 with her lecture on "**Seven Spatial Archetypes for Landscape Design.**"



Julie Moir Messervy,
Landscape Designer
JMMDS

Following the opening talk, **Niki Jabbour**, a local author and broadcaster, will speak on "**Techniques for Season Extension**" based on her award-winning book "**Year-Round Vegetable Gardening.**"



Niki Jabbour
Harvesting vegetables
in coldframe in winter

After lunch and a tour of the Alumni Garden the Wednesday afternoon program will include a talk by **Gerald Gloade**, naturalist, educator and story-teller with the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre, who will share his stories and inspiring art work of "**Glooscap Legends and Landscape.**"



After the busy day of presentations of new ideas for our gardens, at 4:30 pm we will have our Annual General Meeting followed by the awards banquet where we recognize Dalhousie Master Gardener graduates and the new members for our Association.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 2)

On Thursday we will have a full day long (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) workshop with **Julie Moir Messervy** on **"Creating Home Outside."** I met Julie last June at the International Master Gardeners Conference in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania and I was impressed by Her experience designing gardens and her passion for contemplative gardens. At this very large conference (1100 participants) she was a keynote speaker, presenting ideas from her latest book on "Landscape Ideas that Work."

I also attended her concurrent session "Get Out! Designing Landscapes that Get Everyone Outside Again" where she presented her seven archetypes for designing landscapes. She also presented an evening lecture, accompanied by music, on her work designing the Toronto Music Garden with Yo Yo Ma. This garden is based on Bach's Cello Suite #1 and her talk showed how the form of each of the six parts of the garden was based on the music from the suite. At this event she talked about the spirits of the rocks chosen for the garden which were brought in from the Canadian shield.

After her concurrent session I talked to her about the spirit of the land that is Mi'kma'ki, which is explained in the Glooscap Legends of the L'nu or Mi'kmaq. Julie related to this idea as she trained in Japan with garden master Kinsaku Kakane from Kyoto learning Japanese garden design and Zen Buddhist philosophy. Her book, **"The Inward Garden"**, explains seven landscape archetypes: the sea, the cave, the harbour, the promontory, the island, the mountain, and the sky.

The Atlantic Provinces have landscapes with many of these archetypes and I invite you to learn from Julie how to use these landscape design principles in our gardens.

Two other gardening events are taking place in Halifax before our July event. The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs (**NSAGC**) **Convention** will be at Mount Saint Vincent University from June 5-7 ([see http://www.nsagc.com/convention.htm](http://www.nsagc.com/convention.htm)) with the theme of **"Working with Nature."** The banquet speaker is Gerald Gloade who will talk about the "Mi'kmaq Ecological Calendar."



The **Halifax Garden Festival** will be at Victoria Park on Saturday, June 20, 2020 attended by many of the local nurseries and gardening associations, including Master Gardeners.



AMGA NOTES:

- 1) Next Executive Meeting - **April 5, 2020**
- 2) Deadline for next Newsletter submissions - **June 1, 2020**

With the arrival of Spring, you should be able to practice "Social Distancing" in the Garden! Stay Well!



Plant colour - coral, apricot, brown and grey

Plants with dark or glossy foliage

Large tropical plants

Mosses and succulents between pathways and stones

Perennial, trees and shrubs with variegated foliage

Smaller and more compact plants

Gardening Vertically – wall climbing plants

Dwarf version of evergreen trees

Plants that require less water and fertilizer

Plants that resist disease and insects and that attract pollinators

Setting bed edges with garlic, onion, arugula or basil to deter mammals

Environment restoration

Re-wilding gardens

Novel greens – bok choy, mizuna and Komatsuna

Returned interest in plants medicinal Properties

Softer, leafier floral arrangement – organic feel of greenery

Using logs to edge gardens & as habitat for beneficial insects

Landscaping for natural disasters – planting trees around your house that reduces risk

High quality outdoor furniture

The interest in gardening continue to grow, no longer just the over 50 crowd

Plant parenting term that refers to plant care

Parents of teenagers creating areas with fireplaces & plants to provide privacy & absorb noise

Secluded spaces – garden nooks usually in a shady area with comfortable seating – wind chimes – water fountains

Places to unwind – meditate – yoga

*Gathered from different internet sources
- by Johanne Robertson*



(MAYBE) COMING TO AN ALLIUM NEAR YOU...

-by **Kristene Swaren**
Master-Gardener-in-training

You know the exodus of folks from the Atlantic provinces to points westward... well, there's somebody moving east towards us, but you might not like them. It's best to be prepared, so here's what to look for.

The **GARLIC LEEK MOTH** (*Acrolepiopsis assectella*) used to be called just the Leek Moth until she expanded her territory to include other alliums: garlic especially, but also onions (perennial and annual) and chives. In my ten years of market gardening in Eastern Ontario, I had lots of experience dealing with her and her brood. The little ones decimated my Egyptian walking onions, took a major chunk out of my big clumps of chives, and we waged an ongoing battle over the garlic – I think I was winning by the time we left Ontario to move to Antigonish, going from about 80% of plants affected the first year to about 15% several years later. I didn't have any Ornamental Alliums in the gardens, so I can't speak to their appetite for those – but I'd keep an eye out just in case.

The moth is a tiny brown thing, just over 1 mm (1/4") long. You're unlikely to see her as she's active At night (him too of course).



And you won't see her eggs unless your eyesight is really good – she lays them singly on the leaves, each one like a grain of white rice but only 0.4mm (3/16") long.

What you will see is a voracious little white/green larva tunneling through the leaves, a trail of green frass (aka sh*t) in its wake. As they eat, they grow up to 14 mm (1/2") long.



The challenge for gardeners and farmers is that there can be three generations in a season, so if you don't catch them in the first round, there are exponentially more to deal with as the summer progresses, and increasingly more damage to the garlic or onion crop – the last generation burrows down into the bulb making it unusable. (I'll speak mostly about garlic below but it all applies to other alliums too.)

So what to do?



The adults emerge from their winter hiding places once night temperatures reach 9°C, usually early April.

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(MAYBE) COMING TO AN ALLIUM NEAR YOU...

(Continued from Page 5)

The eggs hatch in one week, so starting mid-April you should be monitoring all alliums in your garden, watching for the tell-tale sign of fresh green frass – on garlic it will be on the inner surface of tender new leaves, close to the stem; on onions you'll see transparent patches where the larva is chewing away from the inside.

This is one time where the “wish to squish” can be fully indulged. I tried pulling the larvae out with various small tools, including knitting needles, but the most effective is just to squish them right on the leaf, wearing neoprene or other washable, well-fitting gloves to reduce the ick factor.

If the frass isn't fresh – if it's faded from bright green to light beige, then you need to look for pupae. The cocoons will be attached anywhere on the leaf, again a little less than 1 mm (1/4”) long, beige to brown in colour, held on with cream-coloured webbing. Squish them too. The whole life cycle takes only 3-6 weeks, depending on temperatures

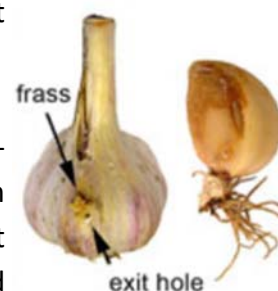


If the first generation gets by you, the second generation (eggs laid early to mid



June) often goes for the scapes, so the harvest for human consumers is reduced. Remove scapes as soon as you see any damage – burn them for a great aroma!

The third generation burrows down the stems and heads right for the cloves and completes its life cycle there – so if you plant those cloves, you've provided a lovely wintering-over spot for them. Sometimes the last-gen adult moth will emerge while the garlic heads are curing – if you see little moths fluttering around, examine the bulbs very closely for exit holes (the pupa stage will have been between the drying layers of skins) – you won't want to eat those ones.



Row cover on your newly-emerged alliums in spring can keep the moths away. Install it before nights warm up, and leave it on – garlic doesn't mind the fabric directly on it. But you might want to support the row cover a few inches above the full-grown height of the garlic just to make sure that she can't lay eggs on leaves that are touching the fabric. Ideally you'll have drip irrigation and mulch under there as well, to keep maintenance efforts down. Row cover has been found to be just as effective as pesticides.

For more information on life cycle and control, go to the Agriculture Canada website, search for “Leek Moth” (la teigne du poireau) and look for the article “An Integrated Approach to Management of Leek Moth: 10 years of collaborative research, development and knowledge transfer.” Some of the photos above are from that article, some are my own.

I wish you luck in your growing and monitoring, and happy squishing if we need to, but here's hoping we don't!



So What's Next!

- by Ann Buck,
AMGA Member at Large, Halifax



So you have completed your required courses and have graduated the Master Gardening course. Now what? You like the idea of becoming certified, but you have no idea where to start. It doesn't always have to involve shovels.

Sometimes you just have to be creative. Here are just a few of the things I have done over the years.

Before I had graduated, I was on the executive of my garden club. All of the executive meetings and any events I helped out with all counted towards my hours and I was able to certify and graduate the same year. Often the club would have speakers that qualified for my Additional Education hours as well.

Shortly after I stepped down from the club executive, I was basically drafted by my boss to be the lead in a small volunteer food garden to grow food for the food bank. This required some physical labour in getting the 3 small beds ready to plant each year, but most of the effort was in finding volunteers to help with the watering. Fortunately, we have an eager group and that wasn't difficult. As a result, we have donated a respectable amount of food over the years.

I guess it was involvement in the garden at work that piqued my interest in a community food garden that was being started in my community. Because it was in its infancy, all jobs were open. I offered to be the registrar. My logic there was that I could have the majority of the work done in Feb, Mar, Apr in my basement and have the late spring and summer to spend in my own garden. So far it has been working really well and we have a great group steering the ship with lots of side projects on the go.

Recently I have become the Member at Large for Halifax for the AMGA. We always need people to help with presentations, planning conferences and generally pitching in.

Other things I have done is write a book report for this newsletter on a novel that has the language of flowers as a main theme, I have participated in "Ask a Master Gardener" tables at libraries and community markets, I have done presentations on this and that over the years. One of the most rewarding was being part of a couple work parties that have gone out to Hope for Wildlife to weed beds and clean up streams and build trails.

Other things you could consider: If you are up for it, there are often gardens in communities cared for by volunteers. They are always looking for help with weeding, pruning and planting. This often happens as a work party and have a social element which can be very appealing to some. Many community gardens need someone with experience to help new gardeners get started. Or if there is a topic you are passionate about and want to share, all of your prep time as well as presentation time counts towards your hours. Or if you enjoy writing, Sue is always looking for stories for the newsletter, write an article about a favorite topic or recent gardening adventure for this or some other publication.

Just a few ideas for you as you decide "What's Next".



2020 Atlantic Master Gardeners Association Conference

Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada

8th & 9th July 2020

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture
Truro, Nova Scotia

2020 AMGA Conference Program

Wednesday, 8th July 2020

08:30	Registration	MacRae Library; 135 College Rd.
08:45	Welcome	
09:00	Keynote Speaker	Julie Moir Messervy <i>Seven Spatial Archetypes for Landscape Design</i>
10:45	Break	
11:00	Nikki Jabbour	Techniques for Season Extension
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	Alumni Garden Tour	
14:45	Break	
15:00	Gerald Gloade	Glooscap Legends & Landscape
16:00	Conference Wrap Up	
16:30	Annual General Meeting	King Lam Restaurant; 39 Main St., Truro
18:00	Dinner	
19:00	Presentation Ceremony	

Thursday, 9th July 2020

08:30	Registration	Collins Building; 160 College Rd.
08:45	Welcome	
09:00	Workshop	Julie Moir Messervy <i>Creating Home Outside</i>
12:00	Lunch	
15:00	Workshop Wrap Up	

Conference Information & Electronic Registration Form located on AMGA Website
<https://www.atlanticmastergardeners.ca/events>





2020 AMGA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

INFORMATION		
First name:	Last Name:	
Street address:		
City:	Province:	Postal Code:
Email:	Primary Phone:	

CONFERENCE		
<i>Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada</i> Wednesday, 8 July 2020; 8:30 am to 4 pm		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conference Only AMGA & MGOI Member \$100 per person	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conference Only NON Member \$125 per person	\$
WORKSHOP		
<i>Creating Home Outside</i> Thursday, 9 July 2020; 8:30 am to 3 pm		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Workshop Only AMGA & MGOI Member \$100 per person	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Workshop Only NON Member \$125 per person	\$
CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP SPECIAL		
<i>Designing Adaptive Gardens in Atlantic Canada & Creating Home Outside</i> 8 th & 9 th July 2020		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conference & Workshop AMGA & MGOI Member \$175 per person	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conference & Workshop NON Member \$225 per person	\$

Additional Activities			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday, 9 July 2020; 4:30 pm Annual General Meeting; King Lam Restaurant - 39 Main St, Truro, NS		No Charge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wednesday, 9 July 2020; 6:00 pm; AMGA Annual Banquet & Graduation, King Lam Restaurant - 39 Main St, Truro, NS		
	Buffet Meal - \$35 / person	Number of person(s):	\$
	Dietary Restrictions <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> None	(if yes) Restriction:	

Total Cost \$

COMPLETE REGISTRATION	
1.	Email Completed Registration Form to: gigipelletier@hotmail.com
2.	Send Payment via PayPal or E Transfer: atlanticmastergardeners3@gmail.com
or	Mail Registration Form & Cheque (payable to AMGA) to: GR Pelletier, 6628 Highway 2, Enfield, NS, B2T1C3



AMGA Executive 2018-2019

PRESIDENT:	Jim Sharpe
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Sandra Matchett
PAST PRESIDENT:	Lynn Brooks
SECRETARY:	Gigi Pelletier
TREASURER:	Johanne Robertson
MEMBER AT LARGE (1): Annapolis Valley/Central NS	Carol Goodwin
MEMBER AT LARGE (2): Halifax NS	Ann Buck
MEMBER AT LARGE (3): Cape Breton, NS	Janet Elsie
MEMBER AT LARGE (4)	Heather Connors -Dunphy
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:	Carolyn Downie
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Sue Stuart

NOTE: If you would like to contact a member of the Executive please send your message to the following email address and someone will be in touch with you

atlanticmastergardeners3@gmail.com