

# The Garden Master News

Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association

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## 2012 NSAC MG Graduation & AMGA Accreditation



Congratulations to the 2012  
Atlantic Region NSAC  
**Master Gardener Graduates!**  
Left to Right:

Rodger LeDrew,  
Deborah Castle,  
Susan Miller  
Michael Strang  
Michael Branscombe  
Gea Kremers  
Carolyn Hooper  
Catherine Seely

Absent:

Lynn Brooks  
Donna Flemming  
Deanne Knee  
Teresa Nott  
France Routhier-Vos  
Jessica Vos

Following Graduation from the  
NSAC Master Gardener Program  
and completion of the required  
volunteer hours a Master  
Gardener Graduate is eligible  
to become a Certified Member  
of the AMGA to practice as a  
Master Gardener in the Atlantic  
Provinces.

**Congratulations to the following  
2012 AMGA Certified MG's!**

Lynn Brooks  
Roger LeDrew  
Bibiane Lessard  
Thelma MacKillop  
Jane Plant  
Johanne Robertson  
Kathryn Saunders  
Lynne Marie Sullivan



# Message from the New AMGA President

- by Heather Connors - Dunphy



Hello Master Gardeners

I'm Heather Connors-Dunphy, your new President. I live and garden outside Fredericton, NB and have been a certified MG since 2009. I retired a few years ago from a management position at NB Power. I am also on the Board of the Fredericton Botanic Garden Association. I love gardening!!!!

As an organization the AMGA is leaving the toddler years and starting on the growing up years.

I'm looking forward to the growth of the Association and offering more opportunities to members.

I'd like to thank Carol Goodwin, on your behalf, for the great work she did as President of the Association. As you know, Carol will continue on the Executive, as Past President. Retired from their Board positions are Emily Miller, Volunteer Co-Ordinator, Carolyn Downie, Treasurer and Anita Sulley, Past President.

I join with you in thanking them for their contributions and wishing them continued successful gardening and volunteering. You will see a list of the new Executive elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The new Executive had a brief meeting after the AGM in Truro and set out the following as items to be progressed this year:

- Improving communication and enhancing member involvement
- Recognition program for members
- MG areas of Specialization
- Facebook Group participation
- Fall workshop
- Financial Responsibility Committee

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## Message from the New AMGA President

- History and Records Retention Committee
- Circulation by newsletter of minutes of Executive meetings
- Non-paying “members” process
- Request for course evaluation results from NSAC

The schedule for Executive Meetings is as follows:

Sundays at 1 pm.. Sept 9, December 2, 2012 and February 10, April 7 and June 2, 2013. If you'd like to have an item on the Agenda, please contact Bonnie Snow, our Secretary, one week before the scheduled meeting date.

Membership packages and new membership cards will be out soon. To save on postage we want to send this with the new membership list. As you know, the membership year starts August 1.

We will shortly be looking for a volunteer Program Co-Ordinator. This person will help devise opportunities for us to get together to have fun and learn some new skills.

More about this later.

This message has been mostly “business”. I’ll put in a bit more gardening next time.

Cheers , Heather





# AGM 2012

- by **Thelma MacKillop**

I have to say how thankful I am for biting the bullet and driving to Truro to attend the AMGA annual general meeting held on the eleventh of July. When it was determined that I was the only one of the four MG's from the Cape Breton area who was able to attend, I shuttered at the fact that I would have to make the trip by myself. Because of an eye injury six years ago, I don't see very well to drive at night, so my worry glands were at their busiest to say the least.

However, the trip was great and upon arrival at NSAC, I couldn't wait to tour the rock garden again and visit the grounds where we had planted so many hostas during our one-week summer school two years prior. I also made it to the Continuing Education office to meet Pam Doyle who had been so helpful to me in the past. I also met Johanne Robertson for the first time as we crossed paths walking to Jenkins Hall for the meeting.

The lunch provided beforehand was superb, and it was great to be able to put

a face to the names we often see on emails, i.e. Bonnie and Anita, and see familiar faces. Thanks to everyone on the executive for greeting me so kindly. Four executive members completed their terms that evening, and I'm certain they must have earned thousands of volunteer hours for their years of dedicated service to the AMGA.



**(L-R) Emily Miller, Carolyn Downie, Anita Sulley and Carol Goodwin received "Thank - you" AMGA aprons on the completion of their Executive position terms.**

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**AGM 2012**

I was really impressed with the willingness of the members to fill these executive positions – no hesitation whatsoever. I couldn't attend the graduation ceremony last year due to illness, and this year I had the nerve to bring my certificate with me so that Carol Goodwin could present it to me in person. Now I feel that I graduated!



**Officially Receiving NSAC Master Gardener Graduation Certificate from Carol Goodwin**



**Outgoing AMGA President Carol Goodwin conducting AGM 2012**

Ha! Thank you, Heather, for taking the picture.

It was great to see instructor, Sherry Chaisson, and classmates Gigi Pelletier and Glen Nichols at Summer School Level II.

All in all, I am so glad that I attended and spent time with a roomful of dedicated master gardeners.

Yours in gardening, Thelma MacKillop

# THE NEW AMGA LOGO

- by Carol Goodwin (REVISED)

I'd like to thank everyone for your participation in the logo selection process. I know some of you agonized quite a bit over the choices – which is probably better than not really liking any of them! The logo you have chosen (by a landslide, I might add) is this one



The logo represents the four Atlantic provinces through the flower colours – white for the Nova Scotia mayflower, pink for the Prince Edward Island ladyslipper, mauve for the New Brunswick violet, and maroon for the Newfoundland and Labrador pitcher plant.

Many of you loved its simplicity, some of you wished it represented more of what Master Gardeners do. It's up to us to make sure that message gets out! I'll just remind you that if you are doing an activity as a Master Gardener, we'll be happy to send you a banner stand to put up as a backdrop! It will come to you by bus, and you just send it back when you're done.



## AMGA EXECUTIVE 2012 -2013

PRESIDENT: **Heather Connors-Dunphy** - [hmcd@bellaliant.net](mailto:hmcd@bellaliant.net)

VICE-PRESIDENT: **Lynn Brooks** - [lynbrook@eastlink.ca](mailto:lynbrook@eastlink.ca)

PAST PRESIDENT: **Carol Goodwin**- [goodwin.carol56@gmail.com](mailto:goodwin.carol56@gmail.com)

SECRETARY: **Bonnie Snow** - [bonniesnow1649@gmail.com](mailto:bonniesnow1649@gmail.com)

TREASURER: **Johanne Robertson** - [daisyluc@xplornet.com](mailto:daisyluc@xplornet.com)

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:  
**Anita Sulley** - [anitasulley@gmail.com](mailto:anitasulley@gmail.com)

MEMBER AT LARGE (1): **Janet Elsie** - [janetelsie@yahoo.com](mailto:janetelsie@yahoo.com)

MEMBER AT LARGE (2): **Barb Polley** - [barbiepolley@hotmail.com](mailto:barbiepolley@hotmail.com)

MEMBER AT LARGE (3) : **Lynn Brooks** - [lynbrook@eastlink.ca](mailto:lynbrook@eastlink.ca)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: **Sue Stuart** - [suestuart@accesswave.ca](mailto:suestuart@accesswave.ca)

# Bad bug – Good bug !

## EAB Is On It's Way

- by Lynne Marie Sullivan

*He who shares joy in what he's grown  
spreads joy abroad, and doubles his own*

The Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) continues to expand it's range in Ontario and adjacent states, threatening up to 40% of the tree canopy in certain urban and forested areas. This invader, originally from Asia was first identified in Detroit in 2002. It now affects areas from Lake Huron to Montreal. All varieties of ash (*fraxinus*, not Mountain Ash) are at risk, including healthy trees. Infected trees die within 2-4 years, but signs of the EAB are generally not noticed until it is too late. Their trademark is the tiny D-shaped exit holes in the trunk, usually with the flat edge at the top.

Adult EAB migrate by flying up to 1/2 mile. More significantly, it is spread as people transport infected firewood. Currently, the only preventative is a product called *TreeAzin* that can be applied only by certified arborists. This product is neem-based, and is injected into the cambium layer during spring and early summer when adequate moisture is available for the treatment to be transported throughout the tree. Treatment is expensive and must be applied every 2 years, making it practical only for select trees in a landscape.

Master Gardeners can help preserve the tree canopy across eastern Canada. Tell the public about the ban on transporting firewood in EAB-regulated areas.

A map can be found on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-protection/insects/emerald-ash-borer/ministerial-orders/eng/1337373086853/1337373166199>

Next, help homeowners in making decisions about their landscape. They need to identify ash trees in order to decide whether any warrant preventive treatment by a certified arborist.

Perhaps most important is to promote planting new trees to replace the ash that will be lost to the EAB on private property as well as the many acres of Canadian forests. Advise homeowners to avoid planting the types of trees that are at risk to invasive pests. A list of susceptible trees can be found at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-protection/insects/asian-longhorned-beetle/questions-and-answers/eng/1343673119957/1343673243583>

Written by Lynne Marie Sullivan,  
AMGA Master Gardener and EAB Ambassador  
for LEAF.org. [yorkmastergardener@gmail.com](mailto:yorkmastergardener@gmail.com).



**Emerald Ash Borer**



# Good bug – Bad bug !

- by Sue Stuart

It's important to keep an eye open for such destructive pests!

Carol Goodwin mentioned in her Master Gardener Facebook posting July 18, 2012 another harmful insect the "Brown Marmorated Stink Bug" coming from the U.S.



**Brown Marmorated Stink Bug**

But, she points out "Be careful when you see Insects on your plants – the chances are just as good that it's a friend and not a pest."

There are many similarities between the Brown Marmorated Stink bug and the Spined Soldier Bug, a "generalist predator with a broad host range including several important economic pests."



**Spined Soldier Bug**

Brenda Hiltz in her e-mail on June 6, 2012

"Tiger beetles are predators that feed on small insects, spiders, and other arthropods. They are fast, agile flyers, and are able to catch insects in the air. Tiger beetle larvae are also predators, and have a lifestyle very similar to antlion larvae. Tiger beetles live in vertical tunnels in sandy soil where they wait for ants, spiders, other small creatures. When prey gets close enough, the larva pops out and grabs it."



**Six Spotted Tiger beetle**

Make sure you can distinguish the Good guys from the Bad !

# Miscanthus 'Giganteus'

- by Janet Elsie

One of my favorite plants in my garden over the past few years is an ornamental grass that I use as a focal point at the back of a large border viewed from the deck and at a distance.

It is ***Miscanthus 'Giganteus'*** formerly listed as *Miscanthus 'floridus'*.



It likes comparatively rich organic soil but can tolerate quite a bit of dryness. In my location it grows up to approx. 8' but can grow up to 13'. Here in a zone 5b Cape Breton garden the summers are not long enough for it to blossom. Also because we

generally have very cool springs, it does not even start to show green sprouts until late May, early June as it is a warm weather grass. My planting now is about 5yrs old and has just gotten large enough that I feel I could divide a piece from the original to start in a new site. It tends to expand clump style. Because it will only grow in warmed soil, I will wait until next spring to do any transplanting.



One of the reasons that I love this grass is its size. It makes a striking focal point

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## Miscanthus 'Giganteus'

in the garden right from July through until the following spring. Its stalks are strong enough to withstand strong winds all summer and remain standing even during the winter snows. I have positioned my garden bench so that the grass provides a lovely vertical backdrop and also a wonderful symphony of sound as the breeze rustles through it's long blades on a summer afternoon. It would be a great plant for creating a soothing white noise in a garden where one wanted to drown out unwanted cityscape sounds. I believe that it is actually a favorite plant for Japanese and Chinese meditation gardens.



This versatile plant could have many applications. It could be used as a border screen, background plant, hedging, planting en mass and would also be lovely near water. This plant always is pleasing visually. I don't have to worry about it's appearance like other perennials after their bloom time.

In the spring I cut down the bamboo - like stalks and use them dried in two large interior urns. The pale champagne colored stalks are quite lovely.

I was fortunate to get my original piece from a private nursery. I have not seen this particular grass at any of our local nurseries but it may be available at another maritime nursery or I'm sure one could find it online.

# ON VOLUNTEERING \*



Rosmarie Lohnes, *Helping Nature Heal*, 2011

Brenda Hiltz, a member of the AMGA, has asked us to include these ideas on volunteering from a member of her gardening community.

On Volunteering.....Rosmarie Lohnes, in conversation with Alison Smith:

"My commitment to nature and volunteerism comes from a very personal place. When I volunteer with people who are in a troubled place in their own lives, I identify with their feelings of hopelessness and loneliness. If, by teaching them to grow something, I can help them feel more hopeful and less alone, if they can face tomorrow feeling empowered by the

knowledge and skills I've shared, then I know that I am helping them heal themselves.

Of course, not all of the volunteer work that I do is with people in crisis— it is not only people in crisis who benefit from engaging with nature. Gardening can help anyone feel a sense of peace and accomplishment. And when I reach someone through my volunteer work, I know that the effects will ripple outward. The impact that volunteering can have on people and nature is limitless.

I've worked on a project called the Hodge Podge Community Garden. In the first year alone, I put in over 500 hours helping to organize, design, and construct an inclusive space in Bridgewater for people to grow food. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing someone bite into the first tomato that they grew for themselves, tasting their effort. Seeing people gathering at that garden—excited, happy, grateful, learning new things—was my dream coming true.

\* Excerpts taken from information provided by Brenda Hiltz of on the work of Rosmarie Lohnes



# AMGA NOTICE

-by Lynne Marie Sullivan  
Master Gardener, AMGA, MGOI

The **2013 International Master Gardener Conference**, hosted by the Arkansas Extension Master Gardeners, will be held September 7-14, 2013 on board Holland America cruise ship, the *Westerdam*. Speakers, presentations, and participants from the US, Canada, and Great Britain will be supplemented by shore excursions from Seattle to Juneau. The IMGC is held every second year, and was last held in West Virginia in 2011. The cruise venue was chosen for 2013 as it was found to be more economical than many conference sites. All Master Gardeners are invited to get on board! Book your space now at: [www.uaex.edu/imgc2013/](http://www.uaex.edu/imgc2013/)





# NARGS Lecture: Alpine Plants of the "Austrian Alps"

**The Nova Scotia Rock Garden Club in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Sciences at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College is pleased to host a lecture offered by the North American Rock Garden Society's 2012 - East speakers tour**

**Topic:** "Alpine Plants of the Austrian Alps"

**Date and Time:** Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm

**Place:** Riverview room in Jenkins hall, 40 Horseshoe Crescent, just off Cumming Dr. on the campus of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill

**Speaker:** Nicholas J. Turland

Associate Curator Co-Director, Flora of China Project; Missouri Botanical Garden

Nick Turland is an Associate Curator in the Division of Science and Conservation at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, Missouri. He joined the staff there in 1997 to work on the Flora of China Project, moving from his native England where he had worked since 1993 in the Botany Department of the Natural History Museum, London. Nick is now Co-Director of the Flora of China Project, which is coordinated from St. Louis and involves 11 partner institutions in China, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France. This 50-volume flora is now more than

two-thirds complete, with all the information freely available online. Nick has traveled to China seven times for field work, workshops, and Flora of China editorial meetings. Since 1984, Nick has also had a deep interest in the flora of the eastern Mediterranean region, especially Greece, where he has made over 30 visits, mainly for field work. He has published several books and articles on the region, including *Flowers of Crete* (with John Fielding, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 2005). Nick is also a specialist in botanical nomenclature, and is an editor of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature - the rules for the formal scientific naming of plants.

For details of Nick Turland's speaking tour go to:

The North American Rock Garden Society's webpage: [www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org) or the direct link <http://nargs.org/images/stories/speakers/Nick-Turland-schedule-and-topics.pdf>



# Primula Propagation Workshop

## The Nova Scotia Rock Garden Club

is pleased to host a **Primula Propagation Workshop** with Primula expert, **Pam Eveleigh** in conjunction with the **Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society's annual Steele Lecture**.

**Pam Eveleigh** is a founding member of the Calgary Rock and Alpine Garden Society (CRAGS) and has held the positions of Vice-President and Newsletter Editor. Her garden is filled with choice alpinists grown from seed and she continually experiments with gardening methods to grow challenging species. Pam is an accomplished photographer and knowledgeable on native plants. She has a keen interest in Primulas and is internationally known for her personal website: [www.primulaworld.com](http://www.primulaworld.com), which contains a gallery of over 3000 images of species Primula. Pam's utter enthusiasm for this jewel of an alpine genus makes this a not-to-be missed event..

**Place:** Cox Institute room 164, on the Dalhousie Agriculture Campus (formerly Nova Scotia Agricultural College) in Bible Hill

**Date and Time:** Sunday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 11am to 4 pm

**Workshop:** *Propagation and growing of the genus Primula*

10:00 am Check-in

11:00 am Slide show

12:00pm - 1:00 pm Lunch (Bring your own, or enjoy our cafeteria in Jenkins Hall)

1:00pm - 4:00 Demonstration and hands-on. Tips and unusual techniques for growing (difficult) species. Bring your questions!

(Break at 2:30pm with coffee, tea and snacks provided)

**Registration for NSRGC and ARHS members** starts Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Registration for non-members** starts Sept. 21, 2012

**Register with Darwin Carr at :**

[darwincarr@eastlink.ca](mailto:darwincarr@eastlink.ca) or call 902-893-0521

after 6pm

**Maximum enrolment: 40 participants**

**Workshop Fee: \$30.00 for NSRGC and ARHS members, \$40.00 for non-members**

**Cheques payable to the "Nova Scotia Rock Garden Club" and sent to Darwin Carr, 2987 Route 236, Old Barns, NS B6L 1K1**

Details about Pam Eveleigh's Steele Lecture on Oct. 2 in Halifax will be posted on the Atlantic Rhododendron & Horticultural Society's website at

<http://www.atlanticrhodo.org/>