



The Garden Master News



Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association

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Happy Autumn !



Many of the leaf colors we see in fall are always present, but normally they're hidden from view. The *leaves* of trees and other plants contain three main pigments: carotene, anthocyanin, and the photosynthetic pigment, chlorophyll, which captures the sun's energy to make food for plants. As the most abundant pigment, chlorophyll is what gives *leaves* their green hue in spring and summer. Another chemical, auxin, controls a band of cells at the base of each leaf stem, called the abscission layer. During the growing season, auxin prevents this layer from fully developing and blocking the tiny, internal tubes that connect each leaf to the rest of the tree's circulatory system. In fall, cooler and shorter days trigger an end to auxin production, allowing the abscission layer to grow and cut off the circulation of water, nutrients and sugar to the leaves. Chlorophyll disintegrates, letting carotene shine through as the yellow in maple, aspen and birch leaves. Anthocyanin provides the oranges and reds of maples, sumacs and oaks. When there's less sun, anthocyanin isn't as active and leaves are more orange or yellow than red. **FROM:** <https://news.wisc.edu/curiosities-why-do-leaves-change-color-in-the-fall/#targetText=As%20the%20most%20abundant%20pigment,hue%20in%20spring%20and%20summer.&targetText=In%20fall%2C%20however%2C%20cooler%20and,and%20sugar%20to%20the%20leaves.>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- by Jim Sharpe, AMGA President



What a summer it's been! After the cold and wet of June, we've had hot and dry weather throughout July and August, perfect growing conditions if you have ample water. My garden beds were loaded with flowers, vegetables and greens, looking forward to harvest. I need to return soon to check on the damage from post tropical storm Dorian.

It has also been a busy summer for AMGA. I attended the International Master Gardener Conference in Valley Forge, PA in June, meeting Master Gardeners from across Canada and the US. I was truly impressed by the quality of the programs that they offer. An exceptional speaker was Julie Moir Messervy from Vermont, who talked about her collaboration with Yo-Yo Ma to design the Toronto Music Garden. As the garden is inspired by the first Bach unaccompanied cello suite, the presentation included a wonderful performance of the music. As I had played this as a student cellist, I found the combination of music and images truly magical. The garden is used throughout the summer for concerts by musicians from all over the world. In this age of constant restraint and cutbacks it is wonderful to witness the creation of gardens as public spaces.

In July, we had our largest summer conference ever, with 21 attending the conference combined with 20 attending the Master Gardener week long course. I received many positive comments on the quality of the speakers including Todd Boland, Alan Banks and Jamie Ellison presenting on gardening in challenging environments throughout Atlantic Canada. Bernard Jackson and Darwin Carr provided a tour of the Agricultural Campus Rock Garden, including the new expansion of the limestone garden. It was inspiring to see how such a garden is created. The day before the conference we held our Annual Meeting, with reports

on membership, newsletter, programs and finances. With the turn out for our conference our finances are healthy and our membership is growing. We discussed how we can send our Newsletter to more interested, including other gardening groups and the students in the AMGA courses.

In August I attended the "Digging In" workshop of the Nova Scotia Horticulture for Health Network. I was impressed by the interest and use of gardens for recreation and healing throughout our community. In September, post tropical storm Dorian caused the cancelation of the "Art of Gardening: Lessons from Chanticleer Garden" workshop scheduled for the Agricultural Campus on September 7. I have included an article in this Newsletter on the principles presented by Joe Henderson at an informal gathering at the Bedford Basin Market just before the storm hit Halifax.

I plan to attend the national Communities in Bloom conference in Yarmouth Sept 25-27 and will be working on the planning of the NSAGC conference at the Mount June 5-6, 2020 and the American Rhododendron Society conference at Old Orchard Inn June 3-6, 2021. It looks like a busy fall, especially with the harvest from the garden. I've included two pictures from my cottage garden at Murray Corner, New Brunswick.

Happy gardening

- Jim



Murray Corner, NB Garden



Dalhousie MG Graduation, AMGA AGM, Certification and Conference 2019

On Wednesday, July 10, 2019 AMGA Summer Events were initiated with a Pot Luck Lunch for AMGA members and Dalhousie MG summer students in the Collins building, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro. This provided the opportunity for Dal Master Gardener students to interact with members of AMGA!



Following lunch, students returned to their classes to continue their week long summer hands-on sessions. AMGA members headed to the association's AGM.

Executive reports brought discussion on how to increase AMGA membership. Increasing exposure of MG students as well as other gardening groups to the Volunteer work of Master Gardeners through invitation to conferences, workshops, newsletter, etc. seemed an appropriate goal!

Information of note included the :

- Retirement of Sherry Chaisson from the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus (including MG program)
- Emeritus Membership status granted to Anita Sulley, long-standing AMGA member

Both will be greatly missed by Master Gardeners !

Events on Wednesday culminated with Banquet as well as MG Graduation and AMGA Certification at King Lam Restaurant in Truro, NS

Congratulations to Graduates of the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus Master Gardener Program!

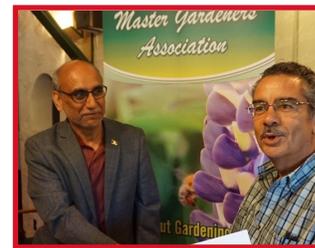
Those present to receive their MG Certificate:



Glenna Lowe



Dawne Jeffreys



Marwan Iskandar

Absent Graduates:

Rose Kelly, Candace Dressia, Mary Jonsson, Tricia Cox, Carol Wilson, Mary Trott, Dan Corrigan

Graduates Certified as AMGA Master Gardeners:



Marwan Iskandar



Dawne Jeffreys



Rebecca Lancaster



AMGA Certification and Conference 2019

(Continued from Page 3)

On Thursday July 11, 2019, the annual AMGA Conference was held at the Truro Campus.

The Theme of the Conference was:

“Gardening in Challenging Conditions”.

Please see AMGA website:

- https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/c19e4b_ff8ae51cc04e4321b4fd78273bed5aa7.pdf
- or AMGA 2019 Spring Newsletter article with details of Speakers and Topics of Conference.

A Tour of the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus Rock Garden was conducted by Bernard Jackson, founder of the Rock Garden and Darwin Carr, Garden Manager. A major expansion in 2018 with limestone rock was initiated by Darwin.

The Conference day proved to be a very interesting and worthwhile experience for all!

Following are photos from the Rock Garden Tour:



**Bernard Jackson
& Darwin Carr**

AMGA UPDATES

- Schedule for upcoming **AMGA Executive Meetings** to be held the 1st Sunday of every 2nd month from 2:00-3:00pm
- October 6, 2019, December 1, 2019, February 2, 2020
April 5, 2020, June 7, 2020
Should you have an item you wish to have added to the meeting agenda, please contact AMGA at :

atlanticmastergardeners3@gmail.com



- Submissions for the **Winter Newsletter** edition are due by **December 1st**, 2019. Send your submissions for the Newsletter to:

suestuart@bellaliant.net

You should receive your Winter Newsletter on or around December 21, the first day of Winter!

THE ART OF GARDENING: Lessons from Chanticleer

- by Jim Sharpe

Post-Tropical Storm Dorian cancelled our workshop with Joe Henderson, horticulturalist from Chanticleer and his partner Jeff Jabco, from Scott Arboretum, Swarthmore College. However, I was able to attend his lecture at Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society and view his impromptu presentation to three of us at a coffee shop during the approach of Dorian. Here are some of his design principles:

Texture

For long views, fine textured plants look coarse textured while coarse textured plants have a fine appearance. Compare the look of the needle-leaf *Chamaecyparis* (coarse textured) and *Cryptomeria* (coarse textured) with the oak tree (fine textured) in this distance picture of the lawn at Chanticleer.



Variety

It is fascinating to combine very simple plants in striking variety. See the contrasts of the poppies, delphiniums and flowering rapeseed (canola) in the Serpentine beds.



Space and Composition

Sometimes a view just needs a frame. Here is the view from the veranda of Chanticleer house. Don't you just want to sit down and admire the view? The chair on the outside left terrace is one of Joe's custom creations.



Lessons from Chanticleer

(Continued from Page 5)

Reference

Sometimes classical garden design is referenced, here with the rill, the textures, the symmetry, and the sound of the moving water creating a magic place.



Recycle, reuse and improve

All the furniture is custom made by the staff in the winter, when the garden is closed, from recycled wood from the garden.



Draw from the local, the vernacular and the spirit of the place

All gardening requires learning the local conditions: soil, weather and possibilities. Joe advised that Chanticleer has terribly hot and humid summers (evenings often don't go below 30°C in the summer), that Great Dixter

has terrible chalky, clay soil, that Derek Jarman's Prospect Cottage Garden has terrific winds and a pebble shingle beach; but all are able to work with their local conditions to produce creative beauty. At Chanticleer the magic is created by the knowledge and attention of the gardeners and the appreciation of the visitors.



Lessons for Nova Scotia: learning from the spirit of place.

What was most interesting to me was to hear about Joe and Jeff's visits to landscapes and gardens in Nova Scotia. They visited the headlands of Peggy's Cove, Halifax Public Gardens, Tangled Garden, Wolfville and Lightfoot, Annapolis Royal Historic Garden, Lunenburg and the Agricultural Campus Rock Garden. They see great potential in gardening and landscape in NS, from the preservation of Victorian traditions in the Public Gardens, to the creative use of art and horticulture at Tangled Garden and Wolfville and Lightfoot Nursery, to the presentation of indigenous, Acadian and British traditions at Annapolis to the memories of Edinburgh Rock Garden that they saw in Bernard Jackson's masterpiece at the Agricultural Campus.

What is required is learning from the spirit of Mi'kma'ki, the people of our land, and the energy of storms such as Dorian in the design and creation of our gardens.



URBAN FARMING

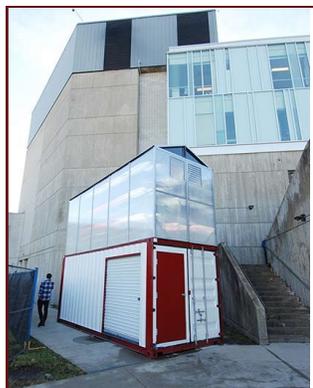
- by Sue Stuart



While visiting Family in Ontario, I had the opportunity to visit the CNE in Toronto on the Labour Day Weekend!

As we were about to leave, I discovered a display that peaked my interest. It was from "Ripple Farms" in Toronto. This might just be the ultimate recycling project and an answer to food insecurity for urban dwellers!

The system set up at the CNE consisted of 45 Tilapia fish in 150 gallon tanks (**Aquaculture**) and styrofoam shelves with edible plants growing above the tank of nutrient-rich water instead of soil (**Hydroponics**).



Aquaponic Facility at Seneca College

Warm, moist air from the fish tank goes into the root systems of plants like kale, lettuce, etc.



Tilapia Fish Tank

A pipe moves water from the centre of the fish tank cleaning sediment, uneaten food, and fish poop.



The water travels to a **radial filter** that brings sediment to the bottom so it doesn't clog the system. The water travels to a bioreactor where naturally occurring nitrobacteria convert fish poop into healthy plant food!



Aquaponic plants growing above Tilapia tanks

The water is constantly moving and being aerated and returned to the fish tank. When the plants are about 3 weeks old they move to a greenhouse and continue to grow until harvested. The food produced is used in the Cafeteria at Seneca College Newnham Campus. They are also certified as a sustainable seafood operation .

This enterprise was started by two young Entrepreneurs, one an Environmental Science graduate, Brandon Hebor and the other a Business Administration graduate, Steven Bourne . It was initiated in 2016 as a pilot project at Seneca college.



Harvesting the produce

Their ultimate goal is to produce their Aquaponics products on a large scale to feed as many people as possible.

Cities like Toronto are growing at a fast pace. Farmland is being turned into housing projects at an alarming rate. Urban Farming systems such as this may help to provide nourishment to the city masses in the future!

Resources:

- 1) <https://ontarioculinary.com/the-ripple-farms-effect-a-fresh-look-at-urban-agriculture/>
- 2) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/start-up-city-ripple-farms-1.4588450>
- 3) <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/new-urban-agriculture-projects-in-toronto-are-struggling-to-take-root-as-public-awarenesslags/article36835601/>
- 4) <https://www.senecacollege.ca/news-2017/rpf.html>



AMGA Executive 2019-2020

Contact executive members at:

atlanticmastergardeners3@gmail.com

PRESIDENT: - Jim Sharpe

VICE-PRESIDENT: - Sandra Matchett

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SECRETARY: - Gigi Pelletier

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Annapolis Valley/Central NS

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Halifax NS

MEMBER AT LARGE (3): - Janet Elsie
Cape Breton, NS

MEMBER AT LARGE (4): - Heather Connors -Dunphy
New Brunswick

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR: - Carolyn Downie

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: - Sue Stuart