

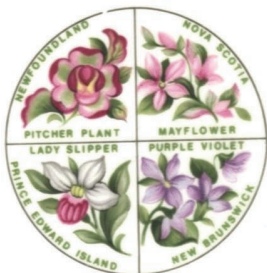
The Garden Master News

Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners

ISSUE I

VOLUME I

FEBRUARY I, 2008



- **Atlantic Master Gardeners Association**
- **(AMGA) is on the Web!**
- **Become a Certified Master Gardener**
- **Contribute to Your Newsletter**
- **Enter the "Logo" Contest**

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The Atlantic Region Master Gardener Story

The first class of Master Gardener students in the Atlantic Region came together on NSAC's WebCT in the Fall of 2004. These Pioneers plunged into "Plant ID", with not a totally clear vision, of what lay ahead as a "Master Gardener". Summer School followed with the opportunity to finally meet the Instructors and fellow students who had only been names in the wasteland of WebCT up to that point! Hands-on learning to enhance the online text! A great incentive to get into the 2nd of four courses of the "The Science of Gardening". Once through that there was no turning back!

The half-way point had been reached !

By July of 2007, four of the students had completed the 3rd section "Maintaining the Garden" as well as "The Art of Gardening", the 4th and final step.

The first four Pioneers marched to the Podium at Summer School 2007 — the very first recipients of Atlantic Master Gardener Certificates from NSAC.

The next step involved the organizing of the Atlantic Master Gardener Association in the Fall of 2007. AMGA will be the Regulatory body for the Certification of Master Gardeners through their

time, knowledge and physical commitments to their Community Gardening Projects. The first Certified Master Gardeners will look forward to initiating their Volunteer role at the Graduation in July 2008. Best Wishes to each current NSAC Master Gardener student in attaining the goal of Certified **Atlantic Master Gardener!**



AMG Graduates 2007

Becoming a Certified Master Gardener

Have you thought about what's beyond the coursework of the Master Gardener program? When you enrolled in this Course you probably had some thoughts about volunteering your time and skills as a gardener in your Community.

Now is a good time to start thinking about

gardening projects to which you might contribute time and effort. How much time could you commit through the year? A Certified Atlantic Master Gardener is expected to complete a minimum of 25 hours volunteer service each year. In addition, you should log 8

hours of continuing education over a 2 year period. Start volunteering now as a student. As a "Certified" Atlantic Master Gardener, you will be ready to use your expertise and love of gardening to make a positive contribution in your Community!



In the Shade Garden

By Anita Sulley

Gardens, like people, evolve getting lovelier with time. A sunny garden filled with colorful flowers, over time, will change becoming a shady garden under a canopy of mature trees and shrubs.

A shade garden's beauty lies in various hues of leaf color from greens, blues and some gold and white. The subtle color variation and leaf structure and texture create the mystery and quiet beauty of a shade garden. With all of this to consider it is a world of endless diversity when choosing plants.

In Nova Scotia we have many beautiful Native Trees which will create the canopy under which a shade garden will flourish. These trees may already exist in your garden or you might choose to plant some. Natives are not necessarily more resistant to disease than other plants but they are well suited to the climate and soil.

Of the Native Evergreens we have *Pinus Strobus* (eastern

white pine) the largest Eastern Conifera reaching 30 to 60 meters at maturity. These trees are easily identified by their needles, which are in bundles of five.

Picea (red spruce), our provincial tree has a yellowish green leaf and grows to 40 meters.

Abies Balsamae (balsam fir) is often cultivated for Christmas trees. Its flat needles and upright cones can distinguish it.

Some of the Native Deciduous trees we see frequently in this area are,

Betula papyrifera (paper birch), growing from 15 to 21 meters and has interest year round with its white bark.

Acer Rubrum (red maple) has a fast growth rate and can reach a height of 30 meters. It has a wonderful red fall color.

Fraxinus Americana (white ash) is a fast growing large tree with a bright gold fall color.

When planning a shade garden it's important to consider not only the soil and

moisture conditions but also the degree of shade. The ranges of shade we may see include:

Total shade where there is an absence of reflected light and very few plants will grow Full shade (FS), which is typically seen under wide low-branched deciduous trees. Medium shade (MS) exists under high-branching deciduous trees. It is referred to as dappled or filtered shade. Light shade (LS) is often called open shade and exists for only part of the day. There would be a constant brightness to the area and sun exposure for about two thirds of the day. When selecting plants it is important to consider for which degree of shade they are best suited.

The following is a list of some plants to consider when planning a shade garden.

Shrubs

Buxus sinica var. insularis (Korena boxwood) (LS) has a delicate fine textured evergreen leaf. Its slow growth rate allows it to stay

put in the garden for many years.

Hydrandea paniculata

'Grandiflora' (MS) loves our acidic soil and has huge pink flowers from late summer to fall.

Taxus cuspidate (Japanese Yew) (MS) offers good background color year round.

Ground covers

Ajuga reptans (Bugleweed) (FS/LS) is an evergreen perennial, which will spread quickly forming a dense mat between other perennials and trees.

Hedera helix 'Baltica' (ivy) (LS/FS) is a fast growing vine, which can also be used as an effective ground cover.

Vinca minor (periwinkle)(MS) is a solution plant for a dry shade area such as around surface roots of Maple Trees.

Annuals

Impatiens wallerana (FS) is available in many colors and will flower non-stop all summer.

Lobelia erinus (MS) available in blue, mauve, pink and white. They are excellent in containers or as a border plant. They require moist soil.

Begonia semperflorens-cultorum (FS) comes in shades of pink, red and white. They will tolerate dry shade and are very low maintenance.

Herbaceous Perennials

Dicentra spectabilis (bleeding heart) (MS),

especially the white form, will add both brightness and texture with arching branches, bluish leaves and white delicate flowers. If planted in moist, shady conditions it may last into fall, without dying back .

Digitalis pupurea (foxglove) (MS/LS) has spikes of purple pink or white bell shaped flowers. This tall, short -lived perennial is perfect for a background plant adding a splash of color.

Hosta (LS/MS) is queen of the shade garden. With the wide variety of size and leaf colour available, there is bound to be the perfect Hosta to add just the right color and texture to every garden. They are extremely long lived and look good from their spring arrival until late fall. Some particularly interesting varieties are:

Donahue Piecrust, with ruffled edges adding good texture to a garden design.

Blue Jay, one of best blues, also has good slug resistance. Sagae is a wonderful, tall, vase-shaped hosta with blue and cream leaves.

For spring interest we can plant bulbs such as

Hyacinthoides hispanica (Spanish bluebell), in colors of blue, white and pink or *Muscari botryoides* (grape hyacinth) in sky blue. Both of these bulbs do well in light shade.

Many woodland plants such as *Sanguinaria canadensis*

(bloodroot) with their bright white flowers and unusual leaves, and *Trillium* , bloom in spring, setting next year's flower buds before the canopy becomes dense.

No shade garden is complete without the magical fern. Many of these ancient plants thrive in shade under a canopy of mature trees. We are fortunate in Nova Scotia to have approximately 40 different species of native ferns. Some favorites include the Cinnamon Fern, the Royal Fern and the evergreen Christmas fern. We should note that some Nova Scotia ferns are quite rare and only found in abundance locally.

By letting nature be our inspiration and working with her, planting where plants prefer to grow, we will create a garden that is soothing to the soul and kind to our environment.

Leontopodium alpinum

EDELWEISS



Edelweiss badge

A flower that brings people of the world together

The day after 9/11, I left Halifax for Germany and Austria. In Salzburg, Austria I visited Mirabelle Gardens. The picture below is one part of the gardens which was in the movie "The Sound of Music".



The theme song of the movie is "edelweiss".

The botanical name of the plant is *Leontopodium alpinum* which is a protected species in Germany and Austria. The plant belongs to the sunflower family (Asteraceae). The name comes from German *edel* (meaning noble) and *weiß* (meaning white). The scientific name, *Leontopodium* means "lion's paw", being derived from Greek words *leon* (lion) and *podion* (diminutive of *pous*, - foot). Flowering stalks of edelweiss can grow to a size of 3-20 cm (in cultivation, up to 40 cm). The leaves appear woolly because of the covering of white hairs. The flowers are felted and woolly with white hairs, with characteristic bloom consisting of five to six small yellow flower heads (5 mm) surrounded by

leaflets in star form. The flowers are in bloom between July and September. It is unequally distributed and prefers rocky limestone places. It is not toxic, and has been used traditionally in folk medicine as a remedy against abdominal and respiratory diseases.

Symbolic uses:

- On the Austrian euro coins, a picture of Edelweiss is used on the two-euro-cent coins.
- On the Romanian 50 Lei banknote.
- In Austria, *Edelweiß* is also a brand of beer named after the flower.
- Edelweiss is the unofficial national flower of Switzerland.
- It appears in the logos of both the German and Austrian alpine societies.
- Edelweiss Air, an international airline based in Switzerland, is named after the flower, which also appears in its logo.
- "The Edelweiss" was established 1907 as the sign of the Austrian-Hungarian alpine troops by Emperor Franz Joseph I. These original 3 Regiments wore their edelweiss on the collar of their uniform. During World War I (1915) the Edelweiss was granted to the German alpine troops, for their bravery. Today it's still the insignia of the Austrian, Polish, and German alpine troops. Established 1907 by the Austrian-Hungarian Army for their alpine troops, the sign was used in WWII by the Wehrmacht Gebirgsjäger - Edelweiss cap badge
<(see side photo).

Leontopodium alpinum (continued)

- The Edelweiss flower was the symbol of Wehrmacht Gebirgsjäger, or mountain troops, worn as a metal pin on the left side of the mountain cap, on the band of the service dress cap, and as a patch on the right sleeve.
- The rank insignia of Swiss generals has *Edelweiss* signs instead of stars. A *Korpskommandant* for example (equivalent to a Lieutenant General in other countries) wears three *Edelweiss* signs on his collar instead of three stars. (Wikipedia encyclopedia)

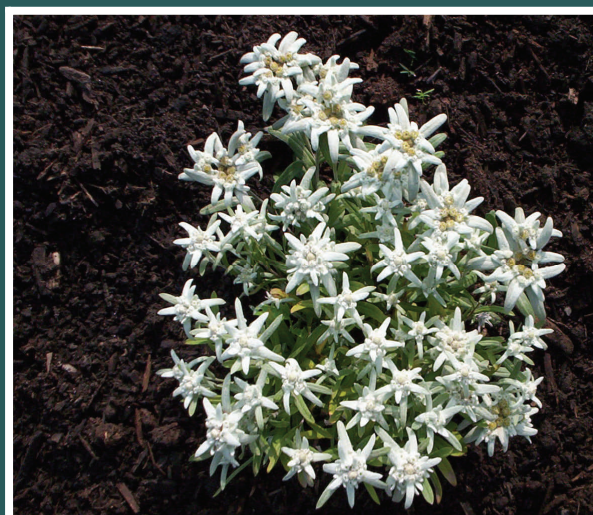
The city of Salzburg, Austria in their bid for the 2014 Olympics is using the Edelweiss as their logo :
(see side photo)>

As a gardener, I have always been intrigued by this plant. On my property I have a designated *Leontopodium alpinum* garden. Last year I planted 50 plants, with the intention of adding them to my part time garden business, Noel Gardens.

I also fly the Austrian flag on my property and have had people stop in from Wales, Austria and The Ukraine. They are pleasantly surprised when they see the Edelweiss plants on my property. The couple from Austria gave me a pendant from Austria and of course on it was the Edelweiss symbol.

Flowers do bring fellow gardeners from all over the world together - people who we would probably never meet if it wasn't for the flowers that we grow and in the case of Edelweiss, a plant most certainly worthy of having Julie Andrews sing about.

by
Bill Thoms
President
Atlantic Master
Gardeners Association



Noel Gardens
Leontopodium alpinum July 2007





Your design
could go
here

AMGA Logo Contest Coming Soon

AMGA needs a “Logo”, design.

If you'd like to put your artistic talents to work, submit your original design for the Logo.

More information on the contest will be coming soon.

Watch the site for details!

Your Newsletter

If you have questions, comments, contributions or suggestions for the Newsletter please contact:

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Website: <http://www.atlanticmastergardeners.com/>

We're on the Web



Plant of the Year 2008 Geranium Rozanne

Color: Violet-blue

Exposure: Full Sun to Part Shade
Good heat tolerance, minimal care

Height: 18-24 "H, 20-24"W

Blossoms: 2-2 1/2" across

USDA Hardiness Zones: 5 - 8

Habit: Mounded/clump

Bloom Time: Spring, Summer, Fall

Animal Resistance: Deer, Rabbit

Uses: Containers, Front Border

Attributes: Attracts Butterflies,
Pest free

Plant of the Year

In order for a perennial to be considered for “Plant of the Year” it must exhibit the following Characteristics:

- 1) Suitable for wide range of climatic conditions
- 2) Low maintenance
- 3) Pest & disease resistant
- 4) Readily available in year of release
- 5) Multiple season of ornamental interest
- 6) Easily propagated by asexual / seed propagation

Garden Tidbits

