

The Garden Master News

Newsletter of the Atlantic Master

ISSUE #6

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FALL 2014



AMGA Notes

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Your Thoughts.....

1. As part of Continuing Education for AMGA members we need your input on Topics for the Conference Workshop in July. What topics would you like to have covered as part of YOUR Continuing Education? Please contact any of the AMGA Executive members listed on the back page of the Newsletter with your ideas or preferences.

2. Do you have suggestions for Continuing Education opportunities in your Community or province that you would like to share with other MG's possibly as a Fall AMGA Project . Again please contact one of the Executive on the back page of the Newsletter with your ideas for Topics or Speakers!

These are for your own learning experiences and provide Education hours for YOUR Continuing Education.

Reminders.....

1. The AMGA Executive meets by Conference call at least 4 times per year. If you have any items you would like to

have brought forward at an Executive Meeting please contact one of the Executive members to have this item added to the Agenda or arrange to attend the Meeting to present your item.

The next Meeting will be December 7/14 at 1:00pm

2. Remember to document and submit your Volunteer hours. These hours must be submitted in May, 2015 to the Volunteer Coordinator, Anita Sulley at: anitasulley@gmail.com

3. Our Newsletter is published 4 times a year- Winter, Spring, Summer & Fall. These Newsletters provide you with a voice on issues of significance to you as a Gardener, a Master Gardener. It should provide information regarding AMGA events, membership, education expectations and the opportunity to submit education information for other MGs as well as "Educator "opportunities for your contributions.

The Winter Newsletter will be emailed to you in February, 2015. Please send your contributions to the Winter Newsletter to: suestuart@bellaliant.net , no later than **January 23, 2015**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-by Heather Connors-Dunphy
AMGA President

Hello....here in central NB we had about 6 inches of snow, rain, hail, and freezing rain on November 1. There is more of "something" coming today (Nov 7). This is a reminder, I think, that global warming means unpredictable weather; that in fact there may not be a "normal" weather pattern anymore. A teacher friend of mine tells me that November 3 is the earliest "snow day" that she can recall in her teaching career.

My husband and I were in Europe in September. I am attaching several pictures we took in Venice. The grape harvest was just getting underway and the produce available in the markets was colourful and abundant.

On the gardening side I was still harvesting herbs and doing garden clean-up, which I will finish if the snow melts away. The rhodos are still in need of their winter protection. Whether you do a major clean-up in the spring or the fall it is time to think about "winter" gardening. I purchased some paperwhites and amaryllis yesterday. I have to pot up the amaryllis plus some brugmansias and think I'll start some basil seeds since I will have the seed starting heat tray out for the brugmansias.

We have an infant vineyard industry started here in NB. It is probably about ten years behind those in the Annapolis Valley. The FBG Talks in the Garden series on Nov 21 will feature one of winemakers on the business of growing grapes and making wine. There will be a wine tasting as part of the event. There is work involved in setting up the speakers' series, but lots of interesting topics to learn about.

Your Executive had a productive meeting in October. Halifax members have just had their first chapter meeting. Following in the path of the Cape Breton Chapter, this is a great way to get together, increase comradship among MGs and bring grassroots input to the Executive, for the betterment of the AMGA.

I have written an essay in this newsletter about Master Gardeners and the spirit of volunteerism. I think it is important to understand the history of the MG movement and "why things are the way they are". This does not mean that we cannot choose to change, but rather that knowledge about the past can enrich discussion about the future.

The next AMGA meeting is scheduled for December 7. The Agenda will be sent to you in advance, please feel free to contact any of us with your suggestions, ideas and constructive comments.

Warmest wishes for the Christmas Season and New Year.

Heather

Produce in the
Rialto Market in
Venice



Hydrangea in bloom
at the Art College
in Venice



Some thoughts on Master Gardener Certification Requirements

- by **Heather Connors-Dunphy**
AMGA President

There have been numerous conversations about volunteering and other certification requirements for the AMGA. The requirements are those approved by the first Executive at the formation of the AMGA. Sue Stuart, Brenda Hiltz, Anita Sulley and Emily Miller were members of the first Executive.

Introduction

Master Gardener programs started in the 1970s as a response to calls for help from US State Agricultural Agents swamped with requests for information from home gardeners. The land grant Universities had a responsibility to help out with this, and the MG program began. It was from the beginning based on folks educated in science-based agriculture volunteering to share their knowledge with the public. In many states the educating and certifying body was and is the same, a Master Gardener Association.

In the beginning

The Atlantic Program resulted from NSAC professors wanting to make this program available to gardeners and others in Atlantic Canada. The NSAC academic program was adapted from the MG program in Virginia with much review and augmentation from the NSAC profs. The NSAC provided the education and the AMGA was formed to provide the body which would certify 'graduate Master Gardeners'... thereby ensuring the on-going care and feeding of the group and the program.

Events

As time has gone by the AMGA has begun to mature. When the Dalhousie Ag folks decided they were not interested in offering a Level II Summer School (2013), the AMGA responded with its first annual Conference

graduation, (2014) the AMGA had a graduation, certification and recertification exercise. I expect the AMGA to grow into other typically Dal Ag functions such as Certified MGs teaching some of the Level I Summer School. In the last two years we put in motion a series of steps to get the organization on a more business like footing. We gathered all the documentation from the beginning (by laws, minutes, AGM documents, financial reports) and have it electronically stored. We had an audit done of the books of account. We moved to follow the recommendations of the auditors (by the way nothing was found amiss).

Review of Member Status

The last area to be tackled in this business review was member status.

For the first years people paid or did not pay their memberships; they continued to receive the benefits of membership...newsletters, email updates, Facebook, etc. We called people, sent them emails, etc., some responded; we continued to carry them along. In 2014 we initiated Paypal and electronic means of payment and billed members for their dues. We are now in a position to know the dues status.

For some time we have been trying to deal with the requirements of membership as noted in the By Laws (copies of the relevant By Laws in the beginning and now are attached) to pay dues, perform and document volunteer hours. The Association Executive chose not to enforce the volunteer requirements, hoping that people would begin to volunteer on their own...and many did. There remained a group whose status was unclear, we knew that they had not submitted volunteer hours but were they still students?

(Continued on Page 4)

Some thoughts on Master Gardener Certification Requirement

Due to privacy issues Dal Ag cannot share any student info with us. After much debate the Executive decided to enforce the membership requirement for volunteer hours.

Our Secretary, Aileen Reid sent an email to the folks in the group who we knew had graduated from the Dal Ag program. Anita Sulley did the same with folks we believed were taking courses (students).

Differing Master Gardener Programs

Many of us have come to understand that other MG programs work quite differently than ours: training is of a shorter duration, completed over weekends, in some cases these students must work with certified MGs as trainees. In other cases MGs are not members of an Association as we are, but of their city or local association which in turn is a member of the provincial MG association. Attendance at local meetings is mandatory and MGs are assigned volunteer opportunities by their associations. One thing that does not change is the volunteering requirement. The AMGA, due to geography and other issues allows its members great latitude in their volunteering; I think this is one of our strengths!

Last year I was one of a panel reviewing Search for Excellence awards for the International Master Gardener Conference; I was amazed at some of the projects and the large difference that one or two master gardeners made in the projects in their communities.

Here in Atlantic Canada we have very good education from Dal Ag, we have volunteering requirements which are at the choice of the Participant. Anyone looking for opportunities can contact Anita Sulley for help. With things like Communities in Bloom, community, food bank and school gardens, senior and other care facilities

needs for programming and shovel work in their planting beds, various organizations looking for program speakers, our own newsletters, Garden Clubs looking for executives and committee chairs, the public with a great thirst for information on growing things, answering questions at farmers' markets, etc., there seem to be many places for volunteers. Certified MGs are well-qualified to perform any of these roles.

Any discussion of volunteer requirements can be enriched by having some knowledge of "why things are the way they are". We understand that not everyone can volunteer due to physical and time restraints. We know that some people want the learning but are not interested in volunteering. That is their choice.

AMGA ByLaws August 2007

Section 2. A member will:

- (1) pay dues as set by the Associati
- (2) make every effort to attend Association meetings,
- (3) assist in projects agreed upon by the Executive,
- (4) volunteer the number of hours per year as set by the Executive (in compliance with the requirements set by the AMGA standing rules.
- (5) participate in additional training of a minimum of eight hours every two years.

The Standing Rules

In compliance with the AMGA active Master Gardener requirements, a member must complete 25 hours of volunteer service as a Master Gardener, which would include a minimum of 8 hours of Education service annually as approved by the executive.

Members renewing who have not completed required hours would be sent an ineligibility letter along with a refund of renewal dues.

(Continued on Page 5)

*Some thoughts on Master Gardener
Certification Requirement*

(Continued from Page 4)

By Laws 2014

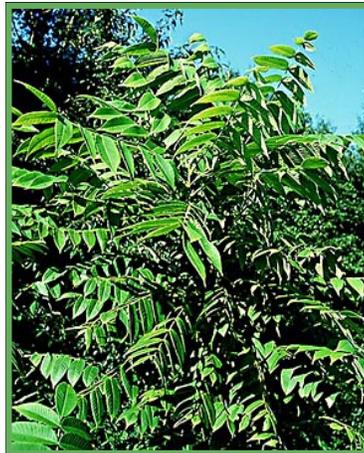
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Mystery Plant



This Mystery Plant in our Summer Newsletter was not correctly identified. Here's your chance to send in your guess. This tree is native to New Brunswick.

We have an additional plant for you to identify.



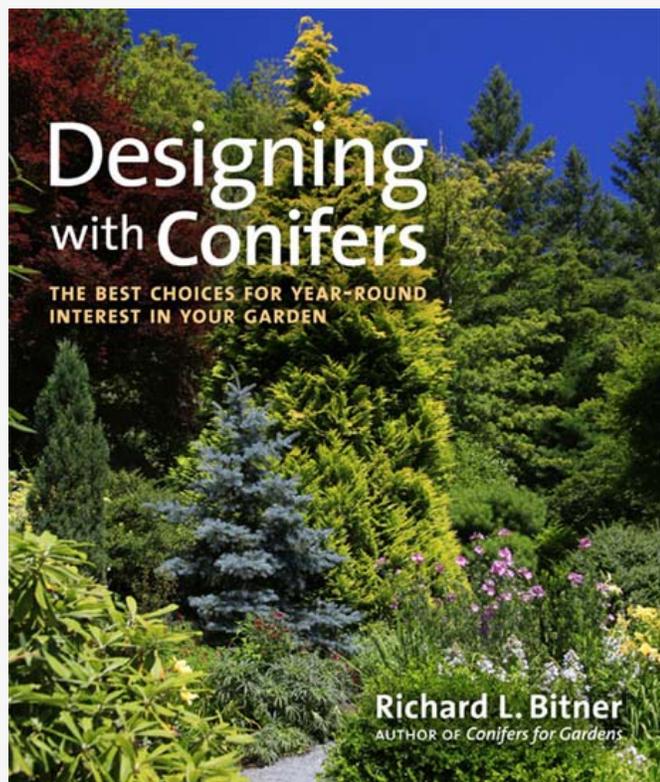
If you can identify either of these plants please send your guess with a write-up about the plants to:

suestuart@bellaliant.net

Designing With Conifers

Book Review

- by Pauline Kemp



As a new member of the NS Rhododendron & Horticultural Society I was keen to attend what appeared to be an interesting November program, and it was. Richard Bitner who lives in Pennsylvania, gave a very well illustrated presentation and prompted me to get his book from the library.

Adding conifers to a garden can be one of the most poorly considered aspects of garden design, but this book is a valuable resource to integrate conifers, large and small, into the mixed garden landscape. Bitner illustrates beautifully the many shapes and colours available, their cones, their bark, growth habit, and site selection for the various varieties. Unfortunately what he does not mention is zone suitability.

Particular attention is given to how conifers can be used to create year-round interest in the garden. Many of the gardens are on the west coast, and he devotes a chapter to the Barrett Garden in Eugene, Oregon (where I lived at one time). The design principles she lives by are worth reading, and one resonated with me that 'plants should be chosen for all season performance – 50% for fall and winter, 25% for spring and 25% for summer interest, an important thought as more than 50% of the time of our maritime gardens endure fall and winter. The challenge for the home garden is in choosing the right varieties, and I think finding a wide variety of dwarf plants in the maritimes might be difficult.

He instances the Isely nursery in Oregon as the best source for a wide variety of conifers. There are chapters devoted to specific sites, topiary, hedges, bonsai, deer issues, and places to see conifers.

Whatever landscape situation or challenge you may face, *Designing with Conifers* will show you how to select from this beautiful, useful, versatile and often misused species to create interest in your garden all year round.

REVITALIZING HYDRANGEA

- by **Diane Giffin-Boudreau**

When faced with a well treed lot, the gardener is always seeking plants that not only tolerate significant amounts of shade but will offer color interest. Hydrangea shrubs deliver on both scores!

A genus of 70+ species of flowering plants, the Hydrangea thrives in diverse conditions. It is hardy in zones covering the Atlantic Region, tolerates part sun as well as shade, and prefers a more acidic soil – perfect for our eastern Canadian environment. In fact, you will note the color of the blooms that are not only the result of the specie itself but also the relative availability of aluminum ions in the soil brought about by the pH level of the soil. Acidic soils with a pH <5.5 will produce blue flowers while >5.5 will produce a pink blossom. Quite often when we install a new plant, we introduce new soil, compost and other amendments. The blooms in the first year may be pink moving to blues in later years as the natural environment, for example falling pine needles, increase the acidity in the surrounding soil. In fact, my neighbour's Endless Summer Hydrangea was half pink and half blue in the second year likely the result of the soil used to infill the hole during planting. It has since **moderated** to an attractive blue.

What draws the gardener in to this plant, beyond its hardiness, are the timing and duration of the bloom in late summer/fall when most other plants are preparing for the winter hibernation. Yet in addition to the bloom is the range of foliage colors that are available –Hydrangea macrophylla Lemon Daddy being a particular favorite. This came in particularly handy this year as all the Hydrangeas on my property showed no signs of life on the previous years' stems.

Having suffered a long winter and wet spring, even the long established and those protected from lake winds did not look promising. While disheartening not only because of the holes this would have led to in the gardens but also given the expense of replacement, I clipped them all with secateurs to their base and added a healthy volume of home-grown compost and left them to the wiles of nature. A periodic peak rewarded me with new basal shoots; and over the summer, bushy three-four foot stems. Unfortunately as the big-leaf varieties which I have bloom on previous year's growth, there were no blooms this year. The upside of this extensive pruning is the development of strong stems which will be more than capable of supporting the banner crop of gigantic mop-head inflorescences I am expecting summer/fall 2015.

The moral of the story is not to lose faith or to act rashly by removing what might appear to be doomed. With a little TLC and trust in Mother-nature, hope blooms – and maybe even the Hydrangeas!





Seaside Gardening

- by **Jim Sharpe**

Plant Identification and Use, Fall 2012

“I must go down to the seas today, to the lonely seas and sky...”

- **John Masefield**



Seaside gardens in the Maritimes have many challenges: wind, salt spray, dry soil, and heavy gales, but they also possess an inspiring beauty. Seeing water, waves and reflections of the sun and sky as a backdrop to flowers, grasses and shrubs is a refreshing, pleasing sight. The wide, open space of the ocean may remind us of the primordial savannah, where we emerged from the dense forest for our long journey. The shore is a romantic littoral zone, where we imagine adventure, drama and thrilling stories. The seaside garden becomes the setting for this drama, the stage set for a familiar script of growth, loss, forgiveness and redemption.

A dramatic setting requires plants with character;

there is no shortage of varieties and species to fill the playbill. Although the wind will dry and the salt will sting, the elements of sun, spray, wind and sand will build character of form and style to the plants and shrubs, a natural pruning which results in a beauty celebrated by the art of bonsai. A succession of growth can result from a planting of bulbs, grasses, ground covers, annuals, perennials and shrubs which with careful planning can provide colour from April to November and protection of the shore throughout the year.

Grasses and ground covers

First it is necessary to secure the site, especially if it includes sandy dunes or an unstable bank. Many ground covers such as *Juniperus horizontalis*, *Cotoneaster dammeri* and *Genista pilosa* will thrive in the dry sandy soil. Grasses such as *Ammophila bervilgoulata* (beach grass), *Elymus mollis* (American dune-grass) and *Agropyron repens* (couch-grass) can grow in the sand and provide abundant roots for the dune or bank which along with vines such as *Celastrus scandens*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* and *Hedera helix* var. *baltica*, can help stabilize the site. Natural beach plants such as *Salicornia europaea* (samphire) and *Hudsonia tomentosa* (beach heather) provide native plants to complete the planting.

Shrubs and small trees

There are also many low shrubs, *Juniperus sabina*, *Calluna vulgaris* (Scotch heather), and *Erica*

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Seaside Gardening

(Continued from Page 8)

carnea (spring heath) which add special interest. Larger shrubs that will do well include *Ilex x meserveae*, *Potentilla fruticosa* and *Rosa rugosa*. These shrubs can be grouped with trees such as *Hippophae rhamnoides* (sea buckthorn) *Pinus nigra*, and *Gleditsia triacanthos*, to form a dramatic backdrop. Some of these plants such as *Rosa rugosa*, *Hippophae rhamnoides* and *Ligustrum vulgare* (common privet), can also be used for seaside hedges to provide shelter from the wind and wind breaks as necessary.

Flowers and bulbs

No garden is complete without flowers. Many spring and fall bulbs, including *Allium moly*, *Crocus x hybridus*, *Scilla siberica*, *Colchicum variegatum* (Autumn crocus) will provide early and late flowers in an open, well drained seaside site. Perennials such as *Echinacea purpurea* and *Rudbeckia hirta* (Black-eyed Susan) will withstand the dry conditions and provide wonderful flowers while *Lavandula augustifolia* (Lavender), *Centaurea cineraria* (Dusty miller) and *Santolina chamaecyparissus* (Lavender cotton) provide wonderful foliage and small colorful blossoms. Finally annuals such as *Antirrhinum majus* and *Portulaca grandifolia* (moss rose) and *Petunia x hybrida* provide striking displays of colour.

Dramatic but restful

These plants all provide plenty of drama on the seashore as they survive and thrive against the wind and salt spray. In fact the harsh conditions will shape the plants, to form a garden of character, resourcefulness and beauty. The seaside garden is a special place for meditation, inspiration and redemption, a resting place for the soul.



References

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- Halpin, A. [2005]. Seascape Gardening; Storey Publishing, North Adams, MA
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- Jim Sharpe



Flora Of South Africa

- by Anita Sulley

In September I was fortunate enough to visit South Africa and see for myself where so many of our bedding plants and exotic cut flowers originate.

September is very early spring here so it can be quite cool, especially in Cape of Good Hope, with strong winds whipping the barren land from the ocean. This rocky mountainous area is a part of the Cape Floral Kingdom, which is the smallest but the richest of the World's Floral Kingdoms.

This particular area around the Cape, is home for an amazing 1100 or more indigenous plants. A great many of these species can be found growing nowhere else in the world. I was astounded by the mounds of colorful plants tucked in every rocky crevice. Some I recognized from our summer hanging baskets and borders, like the large clumps of white Cala lilies tucked in amongst the rocks, geranium, gladioli, African Iris and crane flowers (Bird of Paradise). There were also many varieties of Erica in bloom. It was only later that I learned that as many as 33 varieties of Erica here are endemic to the region.

It is in this area where I first saw the Protea. The **King protea (Protea cynaroides)** is the National Flower of South Africa and endemic to the Cape Floral Kingdom. It is a woody shrub, with thick stems leading to beautiful clusters of large flower heads. There was a beautiful yellow variety known locally as the **Pincushion Tree**, as well as a bright pink type, both in full bloom when I was there. As many as 24 species of the Proteaceae family

occur here. Up until this visit, my only experience with this amazing plant was as a cut exotic flower.

Later while climbing to the top of Table Mountain, in Cape Town I spotted an unusual aloe. It is unique to this area and is called the **Table Mountain Aloe**. This area too has protea, erica and Asteraceae scattered amongst the rock. The **Asteraceae** is a massive family of plants and it is from these indigenous plants we get our cone flower, marigold, zinnia, dahlia and the not so popular dandelion. I was interested to learn, dandelion was originally introduced by European settlers who used the young leaves as a salad green.

This is "**Daisy Season**" in South Africa. In the Cape of Good Hope area there were masses of yellow, deep purple, pale mauve and white daisy like flowers with dark centers blooming. These are: **Osteospermum fruticosum**, also called the Trailing African Daisy or Shrubby Daisybush. These are so often seen in cultivation around the world, typically grown as an annual. It was quite the sight to see these beautiful blooms in their natural habitat. Just outside the former cell block of Nelson Mandela, on Robben Island, are fields of yellow Gerber daisies. **Gerbera jamesonii** are also indigenous to this area.

My brief visit just gave me a taste of all South Africa has to offer. I have to admit I travelled here to see the Fauna but the Flora came in a close second in the Awe!!! Category.

(Photos on Page 11)



South Africa's National Flower
-Protea cynaroides



Dimorphanthea aurantiaca



Yellow Protea



Felicia heterophylla



Euryops chrysanthemoides



Table Mountain Aloe



Strelitzia - Bird of Paradise



Gerbera Robben Island

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Notes from the Greenhouse

- by Glen Nichols

It's early November with howling winds, drizzly freezing rain, and even some white stuff in the air... and fresh-picked lettuce and a tomato for my sandwich: Does that sound impossible? Does it sound like something tempting? Well, I have enjoyed the fruits, real and metaphoric, of various home greenhouses for a number of years, and want to share some of my mistakes and victories in this column over the next few AMGA newsletters.

I'm passionate about encouraging people to grow their own food, and hope to excite a few AMGA members to try a home greenhouse of one sort or another. A home greenhouse can be a fun way to extend the season, either a little or a lot: and who among us doesn't want to do that!

In this piece, I'll outline the basic construction of the three different greenhouses I've enjoyed to give an idea of the range of things you can do: a greenhouse doesn't have to be expensive and doesn't have to mean a four-sided glass (or plastic) shed purchased in kit form and dastardly hard to heat.

For my first greenhouse back in Moncton, I simply framed off a 12 ft. x 6 ft. "room" in the southeast corner of a detached garage. The wall was skinned on the garage side with ½" OSB and on the inside with ¼" melamine. I roofed the room at about

7 ft. and insulated it thoroughly. A contractor I had doing some work at the time supplied me with 6 double-pane windows, which we installed in the outside walls, and a metal door he scavenged from another job he was doing, installed on the garage side. I built benching along the window sides out of scrap material from the renos we were doing in the house.

The cost of materials was minimal, plus about two days labour costs. Below is an image of that greenhouse taken in May 2005 when it was full of plants ready to go out in the yard.



Notes from the Greenhouse

(Continued from Page 11)

This was a great starter greenhouse: very low cost, very simple construction and concept. I didn't heat at first (2001): just used it to overwinter semi-hardy stuff, but discovered on sunny days in the middle of January, even when the temperature was way below zero, the temperature in the room was cosy as heck. So the next winter I bought a simple 1500 watt space-heater with a built-in thermostat, and set it just high enough to keep the space just barely above freezing. The result... lettuce boxes and but-ton broccoli growing all winter and tomatoes that set fruit before November continued to ripen well into the winter. Eureka! The cost of heating was very low... about \$100.

We moved to a new place in Sackville, New Brunswick in 2011. After spending the first year working on the house, my attention turned to the gardens and yard, including projects to take what I'd learned from my "garage-room" greenhouse in Moncton and inspired by Eliot Coleman's various "four-season" gardening books.

Channelling Coleman I built a very simple hoop-house greenhouse over three raised beds next to an old garden shed. The three beds give a footprint of 12 ft X 12. The hoops are made of two 10 ft pieces of ½ plastic conduit attached to the inside edge of the outer beds. They are spaced every two feet and braced by purlins of ¾" plastic conduit running horizontally at the crown and at about half up each side.



You can see in the picture the basic construction and how I attached it to the side of the garden shed, cutting a small door in the side for access when the poly covering is added. The covering is woven 11 mil. poly purchased through Northern Greenhouse Sales in Manitoba. I remove the poly from May to Oct and use the beds as regular growing areas, thus extending the life of the poly, which is extremely durable in any case.

Material costs were very minimal: the conduit is dead cheap and the lumber a few pieces of 2x12. The plastic was the largest cost at about \$350 (including enough running feet of the slickest attachment system that allows me to add and remove the plastic without damaging it). I did all the labour myself. I don't heat the hoop-house, but do use inner row covers during the winter which results in a good 4 to 6 weeks additional growing time at both ends of the season.

(Continued on Page 14)

Notes from the Greenhouse

(Continued from Page 12)

My dream greenhouse was also built in 2012, designed myself based on the concept of a “sunshed”: glazing is used on the south and east walls above an insulated kneewall, while other walls are insulated top to bottom. Angles were calculated to maximize winter sun elevation, while giving a protective kneewall and as low a ceiling height as possible, plus extra width to allow a water-wall: all to maximise heat conservation. I used a contractor, who put the structure on an insulated poured concrete footing (using gravel infill for the interior to save costs and give basic drainage). We trenched a water line and power from the house. The walls are 6” studding with full exterior weather sealing and siding, interior vapour barriers, and ¼” plywood inner surface, all painted white with a moisture resistant marine paint. The glazing is 16mm five-wall polycarbonate sheets I had to buy from Greenwall Solutions in Ontario since I could find no supplier in the Maritimes who carried anything more than the minimal 8mm single chamber polycarb. The plan was to use propane heat, but in the end I installed electric heat because I have not been able to find a Canadian supplier of the kind of small greenhouse heaters I had in mind.

The first year I heated it just above freezing, last year I bumped the heat up to minimum 10 degrees and the cost was still less than \$200 for the winter. You can see the angle of the glazing and special shape of the trusses. With a permanent foundation and contractor costs, this was not a “cheap” project; however, compared



to my neighbours’ multiple noise-making “toys”... ATVs, snowmobiles, motor bikes... the greenhouse comes in at about the cost of 2 ATVs... except in 10 years the greenhouse will still be operating and an ATV will be in the junkheap. Isn’t our pastime worth at least as much as those so-called hobbies?

These little greenhouses have given countless pleasure (and good eats) and I’ve learned a lot from many mistakes. In the next AMGA newsletter, I’ll review some of the great ways these can add even more fun to gardening, and recount the lessons learned and things to avoid when you build your own home greenhouse!



You Know You Are Addicted to Gardening When...

I received a longer version of this in an email. It hit a little too close to home! Thought I'd share a little of it with you! Enjoy!

- Sue

- You grab other peoples' banana peels, coffee grinds, etc. for your compost pile.
- You have to wash your hair to get your fingernails clean.
- You can never ever account for all your trowels or pruners.
- With each year, your lawn gets considerably smaller.
- It becomes the norm that carloads of plants are purchased without particular planting spots in mind.
- Google Image, plant databases are your best web friends.
- You plan vacations around locations of botanical gardens, nurseries, arboreta, garden tours, etc.
- You sneak home a 7' Japanese Maple and wonder if your spouse will notice.
- You appreciate your Master Gardener badge more than your jewelry.
- You talk "dirt" at baseball practice.
- You spend more time chopping your kitchen greens for the compost pile than for cooking.
- You drive around hoping to score extra bags of leaves for your compost pile.
- Soil test results mean something.
- You'd rather shop in a nursery than a clothing store.
- You look at a child's sandbox and see a raised bed.
- You ask for tools for Christmas, Mother/Father's day, your Birthday or any occasion you can think of.
- Every room in your house has slips of paper with gardening To-Do lists.
- You brake for garden vignettes, hidden garden views, and Plant Sales.
- You collect swept-up clippings from your local hair salon and apply them to your hosta crowns to keep away deer.
- Your cellar, attic and garage become increasingly filled with overwintering potted plants.
- You pull weeds anywhere you go.
- It is not uncommon for you to be planting spring bulbs in December, with pick ax if necessary.
- Your preferred reading matter is plant and seed catalogs.
- You know that the Four Seasons are:
 - 1.Planning the Garden
 - 2.Preparing the Garden
 - 3.Gardening
 - 4.Preparing /Planning Next Year's Garden.

AMGA EXECUTIVE

2014 - 2015

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