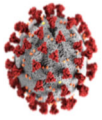


SPRING 2022



Spring 2020 brought Covid to the World
 Staying the blazes home we were told
 What to do to get us through?
GARDEN! That's what we would do!



From tiny seeds to healthy plants
 Help the Nurseries have a chance
 No Virus could defeat us all
 We'd have food and garden Savvy by Fall!

Spring 2021 didn't end the plight!
 Covid was still with us, no end in sight
 Frustration, Climate calamities and Covid all took bites
 But we still had our Gardens to help things seem right!



Spring 2022 and Covid sits as we learn to live with it!
 While distrust, depression, protests, even war strain our senses
 But Hey! It's the "Year of the Garden"
 Lets grow it and hope it will help mend some fences!

Our thoughts are now with the people of Ukraine
 The Evils they endure must come to a stop!
 Their Spirit and Resolve will save them we hope
 May they soon be home in **their** gardens again!



Plant **Sunflowers** In your Garden this year
 (Ukraine's National flower) to remind us of
 their plight and to instill the hope
 of peace and health in
 Ukraine and
 the world!





The Garden Master News



Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association

ISSUE #14

VOLUME #1

SPRING 2022



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AMGA News & Events

First Blooms



- Carol Goodwin reported that her spring Hazels started blooming on February 18, 2022!
Have you had blooms yet in 2022? Let us know when your first blooms of the season appear on your plants, shrubs and trees! We'll report the dates in our Summer Newsletter. What variations will we find in varying locations? Send your info to:

suestuart@bellaliant.net

- **AMGA Executive Meeting** - Monday, March 21/22—Zoom
If you have anything discussed by the Executive please send message to: atlanticmastergardeners3@gmail.com
- **AMGA Gardening Session** - Members only - "Transplants and Plants you regret planting" - Monday, April 4/22 - 7pm Zoom - Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85601782697?pwd=RTJvZU13TVFYUDIKR1JtTW93aTVoQT09>
- **Seedy Sunday in Antigonish** - March 27 from 11am - 2pm
More info: Arlynn McGrath : arlynn.mcgrath@gmail.com
- **"Grounded in Science Spring Symposium"** - April 2/22 - Online
12:00-5:30pm ADT - \$40.00
[Master Gardeners Association of Alberta](#)
- **NSAGC Convention** - "Year of the Garden" - June 10-11/22 (see details on website) [NSAGC convention registration form, including contact details.](#)
- **FINE GARDENING** - 4 Sustainability Courses - [Fine Gardening's Growing Knowledge \(mykajabi.com\)](#)
- **'Native Gardens For Nature's Sake'** - MGOI North Region MG Technical Day-\$20, April 9/22, 9:30am-4:00pm ADT-[NATIVE GARDENS FOR NATURE'S SAKE' - MGOI North Region MG Technical Day Tickets, Sat, 9 Apr 2022 at 8:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- by **Sandra Matchett, AMGA President**

Another year is before us and by now seeds have arrived from the various suppliers. What a joy to see these packages arriving and the planting frenzy under way. I hope you all have been able to find something new. There is nothing like the thrill of discovering a new plant to try! As I look out my window, I can see my Helleborus through the snow and before long they will thrill me with their fabulous blooms. The delight of spring as we watch daily for signs of new growth.

Our Summer Conference planning is well under way and the information can all be found on our website. Keeping fingers crossed that we will be able to meet in person. For me, it will be a thrill to see everyone and renew old friendships and the opportunity to make new ones.

Gigi has done fabulous work with our website and you can now enter your volunteer and education hours directly on the site as you earn them and Helen will be delighted to receive your hours throughout the year. What a treat! I personally find the new form user friendly and very convenient. It is so easy to enter your hours as you complete them and then there is no hassle at the year-end gathering them up and remembering everything you did.

Being a member of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association carries the responsibility of volunteering and receiving ongoing education. To maintain your membership, you are required to do a minimum of 25 volunteer hours per year and receive 8 hours of education every 2 years.

The last couple of years have been a challenge maintaining hours but I feel confident that 2022 will be a year of progress so get out there and get your hours to maintain your membership.

Wishing you all happy seeding and the joy of spring!

- *Sandra*



GROWING CLEMATIS

02/23/2022
BY: DAWNE JEFFREYS

Have you ever passed by someone's house or yard and thought to yourself...holy smokes what an incredibly beautiful climbing vine? There's a good chance it's a Clematis. They can produce an astounding number of flowers, sometimes even twice a year. There is a wide array of flower colours, shapes and different sizes. If you're interested in diving into the Clematis world, read on, there's lots of information to help you get the best out of these plants, including when things go awry.

About Clematis

Clematis is within the *Ranunculaceae* family. This family also includes aconites, anemones, buttercups, peonies, and hellebores. There are approximately 300 species, and significantly more hybrids within those. The multitudes of choice regarding shape, color, characteristics, and flowering varieties can be somewhat overwhelming. Clematis can be a woody, deciduous, evergreen, or herbaceous plant. There is a wide array available: ground cover, mound-forming (up to 2'), bush (2-6'), pillar (6-10'), or vines (10' and over). Flowering times range from spring/late spring, late spring/summer to summer/autumn, some even flower more than once in a year.

Generally, you should expect it to creep, as most common clematis are vines. Clematis will grow up a trellis, across the ground, and along other plants, provided the roots are not in direct competition with other plants. The tendrils will wrap around anything they encounter, regardless of what is there to support them. When support is not provided, they will wrap around themselves. Supports (trellises, arbours, cages, etc.) are best

set during initial planting. Unless you prune low, placing support structures later risks harming the plant as the stems and tendrils are very susceptible to breaking.

If you are looking for a native species in your garden, you'll need to really watch what is written on the plant tags. Most clematis vines available at garden nurseries are non-native and some are aggressive growers. The more exotic and native varieties can be hard to find, so online ordering may be something to think about.

Interesting Facts:

- ***Clematis terniflora*** (Sweet Autumn Clematis) classed as an invasive species (think very carefully about purchasing this one)
- Clematis have a high wildlife value. The flowers provide nectar and pollen for butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. Birds will use them for nesting, and last year's spent seed heads provide a nest lining. Bees will use them to find safety during a storm
- KLEE-mah-tis, cle-MAT-us, CLEM-uh-tus and cle- MATE-is? William T. Stearn, in his book *Botanical Latin*, states "Botanical Latin is essentially a written language, but the scientific names of plants often occur in speech. How they are pronounced really matters little provided they sound pleasant and are understood by all." We all know what people are talking about regardless of how they say it.

Growing Requirements - In A Nutshell

- Available varieties range between Zones 4-9
- Plant deeply to keep the roots cool and cover with a thick layer of mulch.

GROWING CLEMATIS

02/23/2022
BY: DAWNE JEFFREYS

shaded from hot afternoon sun where possible.

Too much shade may inhibit flowering.

- Well drained fertile soil, don't let them dry out or stay soggy 6+hours sunlight/day
- Well drained fertile soil, don't let them dry out or stay soggy
- 6+ hours sunlight/day
- Best time to plant: Spring, once any chance of frost has passed

How To Plant: In the Ground Or In A Container

Before planting, it's recommended to root-wash clematis. This involves soaking the root ball in a container of warm water, and gently coaxing the original growing medium away, which often becomes too dry in the garden. Root-washing requires care, but it gives the plant a better start and allows you to check for the newly arrived Pheretimid Earthworms (the invasive Jumping worms).

Plant deeply, with some of the crown (where the roots meet the stem) about six inches below soil level. The stem will grow additional roots underground when planted this way. Deep planting will provide some protection against wilting diseases. This also helps to keep the roots cooler when topped with a 6-inch layer of mulch around the stems.

If you wish to plant your clematis in a container, you can absolutely do that. It can be done successfully with some planning. Follow the above steps for planting but keep these extra few things in mind.

- Choose a variety that is suitable for one zone

lower than yours, as container growing exposes it to harsher conditions (so if you're in Zone 6, buy one rated for Zone 5)

- Choose a large pot (the larger, the better), fill it with a combination of compost and organic container mix suitable for flowering plants.
- Over winter Clematis the same way you would over winter semi-hardy potted trees.

Identifying Your Clematis

Realistically, it is more important to know which of the three pruning groups your clematis belongs to than which cultivar you have. Waiting a full flowering cycle to see how it behaves over the year will answer these questions (embrace your **gardener patience!** **and show you** which pruning group it belongs to. Look a bit farther down for the Pruning information.

According to the website <https://empressofdirt.net>, the characteristics you see below are the most useful for identifying the cultivar you have in your garden. Another useful resource is www.clematisontheweb.org. This U.K. site is suggested by Clematis International and may offer a more exacting match if you are up for the challenge. Note that it requires a fair amount of information and has a potentially long search time.

Leaves: Clematis leaves grow in pairs along the stem. Leaf shapes can vary by variety.

Buds: Does it produce these in spring, late summer/early fall?

Flowers: Does it produce flowers once a year, or twice? How big are the flowers? What colour are the centres (there are many

(Continued on page 6)

GROWING CLEMATIS

02/23/2022
BY: DAWNE JEFFREYS

stigma, and ovary)

Seed Heads: What do they look like?

Stems: If you look at a stem that has a bud or flower on it, is that stem green and new or is it brown and woody?

Height: How tall or long do the stems get?

Habit: Is it a mounding ground cover? bushy? a creeper?

Pruning

Clematis have three pruning groups, known as Groups 1, 2 and 3. Pruning at the wrong time can set back flowering for a year, so pay heed to which group yours falls into. Apart from Group 1, you aren't going to kill it if you make a mistake, these plants are tough once established.

Regardless of the pruning group, all clematis can and should be pruned to remove dead, damaged, or diseased branches at any time of the year.

Group 1:

These bloom in spring on stems grown the year before and they tend to be quite vigorous growers. They don't like pruning at all, so most of the time there is no need to prune. If you must, however, prune seed heads off immediately after they flower in the spring. A little tip pruning is more than enough. Less really is more in this group.

Note: The exception to this rule is rejuvenation pruning. It's meant for a messy neglected plant or one that has really grown out of its space. You can prune one-third of the plant back in the spring and repeat for the next two or three years. You won't get flowers on the new growth in the next year. Be very careful how much you prune away; severe pruning is the one thing that has the potential to kill Group 1 Clematis.

Group 2:

Depending on the cultivar, these is where the large-flowered cultivars and **repeat bloomers** are found. Blooming occurs late May through July. They are slightly more finicky to prune than Groups 1 and 3, but they are worth the effort.

The first set of flowers comes from old wood in May/June, as the buds were produced on the previous year's wood. Prune away no more than 30% of the old wood to various lengths (always above a set of healthy new buds) in March/April when the buds are easier to see. Pruning to various lengths means the resulting new growth of stems and buds will not only provide a more balanced flower show that comes September onwards, but also keeps a healthy structure for the plant.

Group 3:

These bloom in summer on new wood after July. Prune entire plant to 12-24", just above a new set of buds in April. This is the easiest group of Clematis to prune.

What Is Damaging / Killing Your Clematis?

There are insects, fungal, and bacterial diseases that can harm your clematis. Insects may happily munch away on the foliage (mind, so do the beneficial caterpillars, so be careful what you squash!). Fungal and bacterial diseases can strike suddenly and kill the plant or reduce it to the soil until next year. Viruses can mean the best course of action is to get rid of the plant.

There are products available to address some of these issues. Speak to knowledgeable staff at your nursery if you choose that route. But keep in mind,

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GROWING CLEMATIS

02/23/2022

BY: DAWNE JEFFREYS

(Continued from page 6)

you may kill all the beneficial insects that come to your clematis as well (remember the high wildlife value they have). Take a moment to truly evaluate the cost/need of using this type of product.

Below are some pictures to help you recognize some of the more common insects that you may find on your plant(s).

INSECTS:



FUNGAL AND BACTERIAL DISEASES:

On the next page, Penn State University provides this information table in an article on Clematis Diseases that you may find helpful (<https://extension.psu.edu/clematis-diseases>). I have added what type of disease it is (fungal, bacterial, or viral).

What To Check If Your Clematis Doesn't Bloom

Your clematis looks healthy with lots of new leaves and stems. That's good. But for some reason it doesn't flower. That's not good. What's going on? Some reasons for this to happen:

Incorrect pruning. Oops! Unwittingly you have cut off the emerging flower buds (perhaps it is a Group 2, not a 1 or 3 and you didn't realize?)

#Not enough light. Clematis can grow well in partial shade, but it may need full sun to produce its optimum number of flowers.

Nutrient imbalance. Too much/too strong a fertilizer or nutrient imbalances in the soil are two possibilities. An accredited lab can test your soil sample. The results may surprise you.

Age. There are some clematis that don't produce flowers until 5 years old.

Can You Propagate Your Own Clematis? You can.

There are several ways to propagate Clematis:

- Grow clematis from seed. (This is a very slow process, taking up to 3 years for germination, and it will test your tenacity and patience)
- Divide and transplant mature plants
- Layering (A stem of a living vine is pinned to the ground until it establishes strong roots)
- Growing new plant from cuttings (Plant more than you need, a quick and easy method, but not all will root)
- Can I root a cutting in water? Unfortunately, No.

GROWING CLEMATIS

02/23/2022
BY: DAWNE JEFFREY'S

<u>NAME & DISEASE</u>	<u>WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE</u>	<u>MANAGEMENT</u>
Clematis Wilt <i>Fungal</i>	A fast-acting fungal disease. One day the plant looks fine and the next day it's blackened and withered as the stems collapse.	Ensure good air circulation around clematis stems. Remove infected leaves as they are detected. Irrigate plants in a manner that keeps water off the foliage. Apply a fungicide to protect plants.
Leaf Spot <i>Fungal or Bacterial</i>	Appears as large tan or black spots on the leaves.	Same as Clematis Wilt.
Powdery Mildew <i>Fungal</i>	Shows up as white fungal growth on the leaves, which wither and die.	Application of sulfate, potassium bicarbonate or sulfur as soon as mildew is noticed.
Rusts <i>Fungal</i>	Slightly swollen areas on the vine have eruptions of yellowish spores.	Ensure good air circulation around clematis stems. Remove infected leaves as they are detected. Irrigate plants in a manner that keeps water off the foliage.
Root Rots <i>Fungal</i>	Wilting and dying plants have a rot at or slightly below the soil line.	Ensure good air circulation around clematis stems. Remove infected leaves as they are detected. Irrigate plants in a manner that keeps water off the foliage.
Tomato Ringspot <i>Viral</i>	Yellow mottling and spotting occur on the leaves.	This virus is moved from infected clematis and some weeds by nematodes. If plants are vegetatively propagated from infected stock plants, new plants will have the virus. Remove infected plants.
Botrytis Grey Mould <i>Fungal</i>	Buds and flowers to develop abnormally and turn brown.	Provide good air circulation, do not leave large stubs if taking cuttings. A fungicide may be required. Remove dead or dying tissue from the plants and from the soil surface.
Slime Flux <i>Bacterial</i>	A soil-born bacteria occurring in damaged stems. It leads to wilting, dieback and a foul-smelling liquid leaking from the damaged stem.	Take care to protect plant from wind and frost damage. Prune out diseased stems and hope for new growth. If plant dies, you can remove completely and replant with fresh soil.

In The End...

Growing clematis is easy. Plant deep and mulch. Prune by the appropriate group (now you know what to do, that shouldn't keep you awake at night). There are so many beautiful choices, you are sure to find one that meets any criteria you have.

2022 Atlantic Master Gardeners Association Conference

7th & 8th July 2022

Learning from Nature

Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture
Truro, Nova Scotia

2022 AMGA Conference Program Thursday, 7th July 2022

08:45	Welcome	Location
09:00	Gerald Gloade	The Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre
10:30	Tour	Mi'Maqi Lunar Garden
11:15	Keith Williams	Back to the Future: Indigenous Knowledge and Three Sisters gardening
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	Paul Manning	Insect Identification
15:00	Frances Dorsey	Plant Kingdom, Exhibition & Pollinator Garden for Dalhousie University, HalifaxNS.
18:00	AMGA Reception	
19:00	Banquet/Ceremony	

Friday, 8th July 2022

08:45	Welcome	Location
09:00	Julie Moir Messervy	Home Outside - Garden Design Workshop

Conference Information & Registration Form located on AMGA Website

<https://www.atlanticmastergardeners.ca/events>



Thursday, July 7th, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus

9:00 Gerald Gloade The Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre (MDCC)

Mi'kmaw Calendar



Our ancestors' survival depended on seeing signs and patterns in nature to tell them when it was the best time to hunt, to plant or to prepare for winter. Many of these signs can be seen today, like the silence of crickets preceding the start of fall weather. Our ancestors knew that when the crickets stopped singing, it was time to dry fish for winter, because the humidity was out of the air. Gerald is focused on passing traditional knowledge he has learned from his parents and grandparents and many other Mi'kmaw knowledge holders.

10:30 Mi'Magi Lunar Garden Tour

Before the arrival of Europeans, the native peoples of Canada and the Mi'kmaw people used natural celestial and seasonal cycles to gauge the passage of time and organize their activities.

The rising and setting of the Sun governed the daily cycle. Over a yearly cycle, the variation of the day length and maximum elevation of the Sun drove the weather patterns and events in the natural world around them and in between the daily and yearly cycles, the Moon waxed and waned through its phases over a 30-day period.

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2022 ATLANTIC MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 8)



A new landscape art installation on the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus represents the Mi'kmaw lunar cycle and is organised to showcase educational knowledge of the 12 months and moons within the four seasons.

11:15 Keith Williams

Back to the Future: Indigenous Knowledge & Three Sisters Gardening

The Three Sisters (corn, beans, and squash) are central to multiple Indigenous cosmologies on Turtle Island. In this talk, Keith Williams outlines Haudenosaunee cultural understandings of the Three Sisters, recent scientific work, and speculates on that role of the Three Sisters (and Three Sisters thinking) in addressing contemporary sustainability concerns.

Keith Williams is a gardener and forager who enjoys preparing (and consuming) the foods that he grows and collects from the wild. Keith is of Scottish, Mohawk, and Dutch ancestry and recently finished a Ph.D. from St. Francis Xavier University dealing with the potential for food systems change through Indigenous-run higher education.



12:30 Lunch

13:30 Paul Manning Insect Identification

Dr. Manning is an assistant Professor in the Department of Plant, Food, and Environmental Sciences at Dalhousie University, Faculty of Agriculture. Dr. Manning's research aims to better understand the importance of biodiversity (specifically insects) to the health and functioning of agricultural ecosystems. His research interests are focused on: entomology, citizen science, community ecology, and natural history. Much of his work looks at dung beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea) as a model system for understanding the vulnerability of agroecosystems to environmental disturbances.



15:00 Frances Dorsey

Plant Kingdom, an Exhibition & Pollinator Garden for Dalhousie, Halifax (Studley Campus), NS.

During the planning of the exhibition "Plant Kingdom" there were many conversations about bringing the art gallery out of the white box into the "Jiksituinen" or "Listen to Us", planting mostly native plants that would feed insects, birds, mammals..... As the garden evolves it invites us to consider in a broader way the purposes and nature of art and gardening. This gives a way for every gardener to understand that they are their own artists.



Frances Dorsey, Master Gardener, lives and gardens near Halifax, where she taught at NSCAD until retirement. For some time she has been working with local plants, clays, ferrous rocks, etc to investigate a palette of local colour. Her current work investigates the seed as metaphor as well as object, and the woods as subject as well as idea.

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2022 ATLANTIC MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 9)

Friday, July 8th, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus

Home Outside, Garden Design Workshop

Julie Messervy

Julie Moir Messervy is the founder & principal designer of JMMDS (Julie Moir Messervy Design Studio) with over three decades of design experience and nine published books.



Messervy was the landscape designer of the award-winning Toronto Music Garden, a collaboration with renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma and the City of Toronto. Messervy studied landscape design with eminent Japanese garden master Kinsaku Nakane in Japan. Messervy's vision for composing landscapes of beauty and meaning is furthering the evolution of landscape design and changing the way people create and enjoy their outdoor surroundings. She launched the Home Outside® landscape design app and award-winning Home Outside online design service.

9:00 *Pleasure Principles*

Julie introduces the day's events, discusses her thinking about "home outside," and summarizes her landscape design process with its key "pleasure principles."

9:30 *Lay of the Land*

Julie introduces a process for analyzing your existing site and your ideal site. By studying the conditions on your site, including the soils, sun, wind, slope, circulation, vegetation, and views, you'll have a clear picture of what you want to keep and what you want to change. From there, you can start to imagine your ideal site, using Julie's signature "Designer's Personality Test" and other exercises that examine your aesthetic preferences, activity options, and favorite vantage points.

10:00 *Big Moves*

Julie helps you organize the spaces around your house using four basic layout choices and three different

aesthetic arrangements. Using a series of design exercises, she helps participants learn to identify a theme, style or "big idea" that pulls together a vision for your property.

10:30 *Comfort Zones*

Julie examines the areas around your house as four separate "zones." The "Surrounding Zone" is the larger area a person considers "home"—whether your neighborhood, town or entire region. The "Welcoming Zone" makes up the important area in front of a home, while the "Neighboring Zone" encompasses the area surrounding the home that sets it apart from the neighbors. "Living Zones" are areas around the house that feature amenities related to outdoor activities.

11:15 *Making It Flow*

Julie helps participants explore ways to enhance the flow of a property through three different types of motion: moving, pausing and stopping. Using case studies and diagrams, she shows how to determine "Paths to Follow;" "Places to Pause;" and "Spaces to Stop."

11:35 *Group Exercise*

12:15 Lunch A buffet-style lunch will be provided on-site.

12:45 *Placing the Pieces*

Julie talks about ways to compose the elements of your property into a coherent whole by using the "four Cs: concentrating, connecting, conveying, and containing. She explains how to conduct an "energy audit" to uncover positive and negative energy on your site, and discusses how you can place focal points on your property—the objects that stand out as the center of attention, and vertical and horizontal frames—structures that surround something that's special such as a focal point or a view.

13:15 *Design Exercise*

(Continued on page 12)

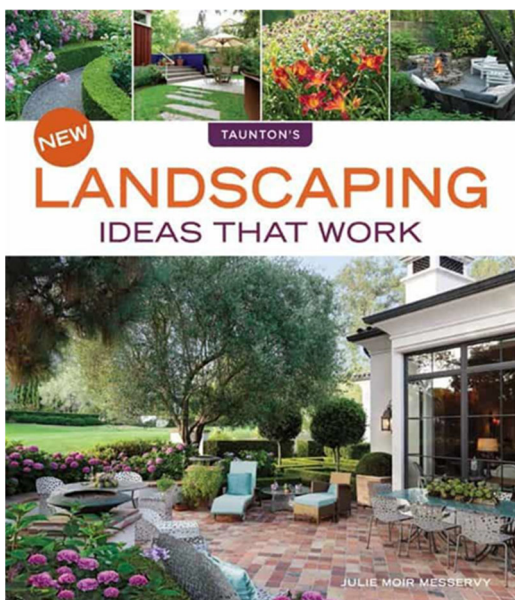
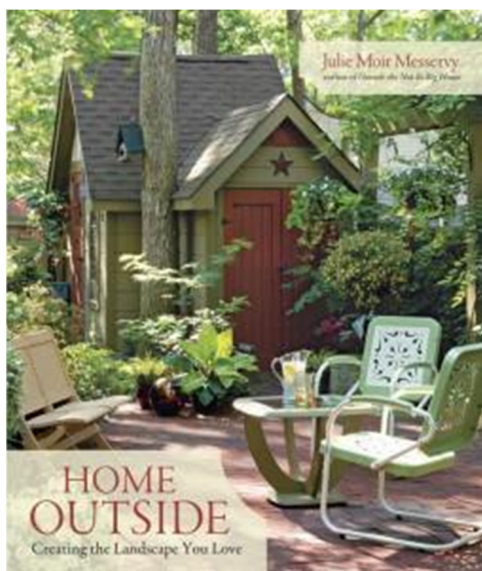
2022 ATLANTIC MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 10)

14:15 Sensory Pleasures and a Joyful Process

To end the workshop, Julie leads the group in discussing how to create the conditions of a joyful landscape design process and answers questions that have come up throughout the day.

14:45 Workshop Conclusion & Evaluation



AMGA Conference Cost

Registration for the Conference can be completed at <https://www.atlanticmastergardeners.ca/events>

	AMGA Member	Guest (Non-Member)
Thursday, 7 th July	\$100	\$125
Friday, 8 th July	\$100	\$125
2 Day Special	\$175	\$225
Lunch	\$20	available Thursday & Friday
AMGA Banquet	\$40	Thursday evening

Accommodations

Reservations are the responsibility of attendees, and are listed in no specific order.

1. **Dalhousie University;** Faculty of Agriculture, Truro (Bible Hill), Nova Scotia For more information on Dalhousie University Accommodation options:

<https://www.dal.ca/dept/summer-accommodations/truro-accommodations/tourists-and-overnight-guests.html> ;

to Book a Room online - <http://stay.dal.ca/>

2. **Hampton Inn & Suites Truro -** <http://hamptoninntruro.guestreservations.com/>

3. **Comfort Inn -** <https://www.reservationcounter.com/>

4. **Holiday Inn Truro -** <https://www.ihg.com>



The Birth of a Garden and Hope for a Better Future

-by Michel Parent

Back in April 2021, I was searching for something to do. I was feeling good about retirement but there was something missing. Anyone that spends a better part of his life working for the same organization probably feels the same. You want to feel useful and want to make a difference, bring something good to the table. For me, helping the community was the path I chose, and equipped with my knowledge of gardening, I offered my services at the local food bank who needed help with their garden.

The Beginning!



Little did I know that it would consume a lot of my time, more than I was expecting in fact...

But one step at a time, other volunteers and I progressed in our journey to create a garden. Many attempts had been made before my involvement and they ended up failing. So, I planned the space keeping this in mind and opted for what I call, 'an edible and beautiful garden'. Not only will we grow produce for the clients but we will also create a

green space where the community, clients and volunteers can come, relax and be educated about everything gardening.

The first thing we did was to build a fence around the perimeter of the planned garden. Doing this gave a sense of space, of security and makes for a nice background for all that is installed within the walls. We organized and positioned our greenhouse, garden boxes, we designed paths, garden beds, a patio/seating area, a small maze for our kids' education program and set in place our rain water recuperating system.

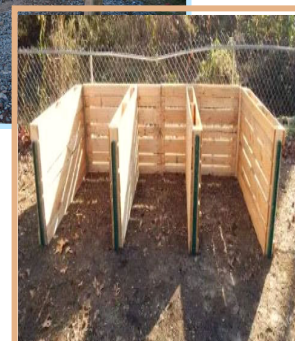


Rhubarb patch

Gaby hard at work!



Future composting bins



The Birth of a Garden and Hope for a Better Future

(Continued from page 13)

Then, we went out looking for donations. Our search for donors with a big heart soon paid off with help from our local grocery store and from many individuals in the community.



We picked up three trailer loads full of seeds, pots and seedlings!

After all this hard work came the fun time. The first step in creating life, as you all know, is planting a seed. This is a favorite amongst all us gardeners. With lots of 'TLC' and patience soon the plants started to emerge from the soil, transforming the dull empty boxes with their various colors, textures. Feels great to know the fruits and vegetables produced will be helping clients of the food bank.



Of course, it doesn't stop here. Volunteers will always be needed and so are supplies and equipment, but things are looking promising. There is hope for a better future and I can't wait for next growing season!

- Michel

Volunteer gardener



AMGA Executive 2022

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Sandra Matchett

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Heather Connors -Dunphy

PAST PRESIDENT:

Jim Sharpe

SECRETARY:

Gigi Pelletier

TREASURER:

Johanne Robertson

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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:

Helen Cook

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