



The Garden Master News



Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- BY Heather Connors-Dunphy
AMGA President

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Hello Master Gardeners

It is a dreary fall day as I write this message. Here in my garden there has not been a killing frost. The basil and rosemary are still going strong. We were away for several weeks and some scavengers managed to savage the small squash crop. From several sweet potato slips I harvested enough sweet potatoes for supper. Cucurbits..squash, cucumber etc. did not grow well this summer. I am thinking that the lack of sun is probably the culprit. For the third year and despite offering the habitat, I saw no monarch butterflies; in NB though, we are on the edge of their range.

While we were on vacation we saw many camellias in bloom. In Sicily, some of the street trees were limes laden with fruit; London plane trees are used often in the streetscape. Most places in southern Italy and Spain have three crops per year. There were lots of small plants that had just been set out.

Several of us are in harvest mode for a Christmas design workshop that the Botanic Garden hosts. My assignment is milkweed pods, green alder cones, rose hips and native holly (*Ilex verticillata*). It can be a bit of a treasure hunt. Our participants love the fact that nearly everything is natural NB material. It is interesting to watch them master the "art" of creating a florist's bow for their creations.

I attended an interesting session last night on the origin of wheat. It was a great introduction. Beyond knowing that it originated in the Fertile Triangle, I knew very little going in. I am a bit more educated now.

Now for some Association news....Your Executive had a productive meeting in September. Based on feedback, we have been trying to get the Association better known to students in the MG program.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

To that end Dalhousie published a letter from us in the material sent to students in the October intake. I have heard from two of them who are interested in joining the Association. We need them!

We are working to finalize the membership list and it should be coming your way electronically (as a pdf attached to an email).

The next AMGA Executive meeting is scheduled for December. Those present at the AGM indicated that they would like to attend a session on landscape design. How we might organize to get this done will be discussed by the Executive at the December meeting. The Agenda will be sent to you in advance, please feel free to contact any of us with your suggestions, ideas etc.

I hope some of you have gotten back to Lynn on the IWK garden. This is a great project for us. I am usually in Halifax three or four times a year and I am going to try to help out.

Enjoy the Fall...

Cheers Heather



Rose garden in Barcelona, Spain



Hillside at Pompeii, Italy

From:

THE FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

By - Joy Galloway-Jones

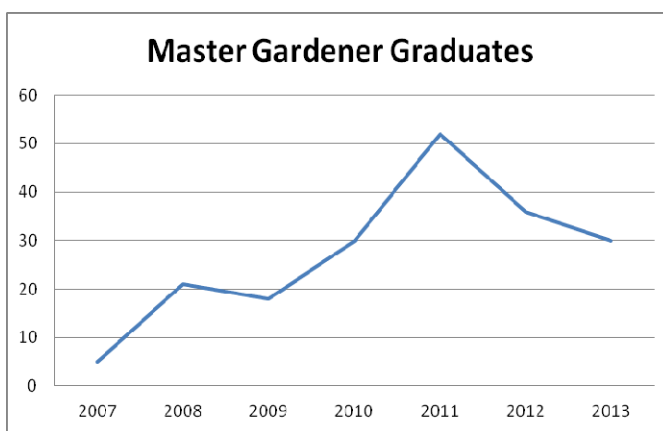
Greetings to the Master Gardener Community from the Faculty of Agriculture - Dalhousie University!

We are beginning our 10th year of offering the online Master Gardener training program. Although there have been a few growing pains due to the merger of NSAC and Dalhousie, we are confident that we can continue to provide this training to the Master Gardener Community.

Our numbers speak volumes with a total of 1561 online course registrations since 2004. The Atlantic stream has shown relatively steady enrollment annually, with October consistently showing the highest enrollment. The Ontario stream has shown consistent growth since 2007 and also shows October being the most popular intake. Since 2008, the number of students in the Ontario stream has outweighed that of those in the Atlantic stream, with the Atlantic student population being 60% of that of Ontario.

The number of graduates from the program is impressive with a grand total of 192 at the end of the 2012-2013 year. Students from this program are from across Canada, with graduates representing Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Newfoundland, and Alberta.

To help promote this wonderful program we established a Master Gardener Training Bursary at the beginning of the 2011 academic year.



Two \$300 (now \$305) bursaries are awarded to students in the program to provide incentive for further education in gardening. To qualify, applicants must be currently enrolled or planning to enroll in one of the four online courses that are required for either the Master Gardener Training or Master Gardener Training Program certificates. Applications are due in the fall, and more information can be found on the Extended Learning website.

I hope this information has given you some appreciation of the great work we have all been involved in since the beginning of this journey. Thank you to all of you for being part of its success! Contact our office at any time with any comments or suggestions. You can reach Extended Learning, Dalhousie Agricultural Campus at 902-893-6666, or email me at joy.galloway-jones@dal.ca.

Joy Galloway-Jones



Notes From the Secretary

- by Aileen Reid

Hello all. I'm Aileen Reid and I'm your new Secretary. I participated in my very first executive meeting on September 9, 2013, and am very much looking forward to contributing regularly to our newsletter keeping you up to date on the activities of your Executive.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2013-2014, you will be receiving a telephone call. Your Executive is preparing a 'telephone call list' to all members who have not renewed their membership. Your executive is also looking at a better way to manage the renewal of memberships. Some thoughts included an actual invoice that goes out each spring along with the reminder to collect and submit your hours.

Our full membership list is joining the electronic age. We will be ceasing to print the full membership booklet, and instead, will create a similar looking electronic format. And it will be distributed electronically. For our membership, this means you will get updates on membership more frequently. Our collective thanks to Carol Goodwin who is taking charge of converting our entire membership booklet into an electronic format.

We are also seeking the input from our membership on your wallet cards and Certificates of continued training and hours. We had some lively discussion on how we can better serve our members and if you have some great ideas, we'd love to hear about them.

Your Association is seeking an Events Co-ordinator. A job description has been prepared and has been published. It's a big job!

Are **you** the person we need?

Continuing Education is the one area we all want to see improved. Did you participate in the survey presented in the September newsletter? We want all of your thoughts and ideas on a solid and successful continuing education program for AMGA.

My own personal contribution to the Executive meeting was on the subject of better interaction with the students in the Master Gardeners Program. I am currently an enrolled student at NSAC who hopes to complete all the courses and graduate with my Certification in July of 2014. I felt that the association didn't interact enough with the students, we didn't educate the students early in their studies on the benefits of membership in our organization. As a result, some introductory information is accompanying all materials mailed to the new intake for the October 2014 semester. And we will continue to work with Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture to see just how we can improve communication with the students on an ongoing basis.

We have an exciting executive, as always! This team is full of fantastic ideas and goals for the coming year. Watch for regular updates in your newsletter.



NEW AMGA "EVENTS COORDINATOR" POSITION

Following is the Job Description for the position of "Events Coordinator" as requested by AMGA Executive. If you are interested in filling this position please contact Carol Goodwin at:

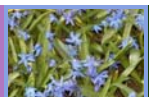
goodwin.carol56@gmail.com

The role of this position is to:

1. Survey membership for desired workshop topics
2. To choose two topics in consultation with the Association executive
3. To find qualified workshop presenters for desired topics
4. To calculate profitable attendance goals for events
5. To organize two events per year among the three Maritime provinces
6. To notify members by email of upcoming events 2 months in advance, and then send out two reminders, the last one two weeks before the event
7. To provide workshop information for the Events page on the AMGA web page
8. To decide, in consultation with the Association executive, whether events should be cancelled

PLANTING BULBS

By - Sue Stuart



When is it too Late to plant Spring - flowering Bulbs in Atlantic Canada?

Ultimately, it will depend on your location! Ideally, they should be planted 6 weeks prior to hard frost in your area.

Generally, bulbs can be planted here from **September to December**, as long as the soil can still be worked and not frozen hard.

If you can't plant the bulbs soon after you receive them, store them in a cool, dry place away from sunlight.

Spring – flowering bulbs are planted in the Fall because they require a long, cold winter as a dormant rest period. Melting snow and ice in early spring provides moisture and signals that the time is right to start growing and flowering.

How should the Bulbs be planted ?

- In a sunny spot with good soil and good drainage
- Dig a hole 2-3 times the height of the bulb (see chart)
- Add Organic matter such as compost
- If only planting a few bulbs, use a trowel and individual holes
- If planting lots—use a shovel and make a trench don't crowd them.
- Plant bulbs in clusters, 3 bulb -widths apart
- For Impact—plant in clusters of same-colour flowers in a triangle. Odd numbers of bulbs tend to provide more interest!

- Plant bulbs with the root system down and pointed part up
- Bulbs need Phosphorous to develop flowers. The most commonly used phosphorous source is Bone Meal. Using Bone meal can result in attracting squirrels or other small animals that can kill the plant. Some alternative phosphorous sources include Rock phosphate (expensive & hard to find), Crab meal and Poultry manure.
- If you have Deer frequenting your property, you may prefer to avoid planting Tulips. Deer fences, products like “meat meal” may help!
- Remember - the Larger the Bulb—the larger the bloom!

Name of Bulb	Depth	Comments
Tulips	12-18	Plant 15-20 cm apart in drifts of one colour in full sun.
Scilla	5-7.5	Plant 7.5-15 cm apart in clumps, early bloomers for rock gardens and borders.
Muscari	5-7.5	Plant 5-7.5 cm apart in rich, moist soil.
Crocus (Chrysanthus)	5-7.5	Plant 5-15 cm apart in large groups (rock gardens, forces well).
Snowdrops (Galanthus)	5-7.5	Plant 5-7.5 cm apart in moist soil, great for naturalizing, can be forced, full sun or part shade.
Glory of the Snow (Chionodoxa)	7.5-10	Plant 2.5-7.5 cm apart in large groups in full sun to light shade, three to four week blooming period, excellent choice for naturalizing.
Daffodil (Narcissus)	18-20	Plant in rich soil, full sun to part shade, great for forcing indoors, great for naturalizing.
Crown Imperial (Fritillaria)	15-30	Plant 20-23 cm apart in sweet, well-drained soil, flowers mid-season.
Allium	15-30	Flowers May to June or July for Azureum Blue allium.

NAME THAT PLANT - CHALLENGE

A number of us have had some fun through the summer on our Atlantic Master Gardener Facebook Group, challenging members to identify a plant photo! The lucky MG who names the plant gets to select the next plant!

Lets keep this going!

If you can identify the Native Shrub in this photo, go to our Atlantic Master Gardener Facebook Group and “Name That Plant”!

To become a member of the AMG Group login to Facebook :

<https://www.facebook.com>.

How do I join a group?

Go to the group you want to be part of (Atlantic Master Gardeners) and then click Join Group in the top-right corner. You may have to wait for a group admin to approve your request.

The Photo will be uploaded to the AMG Group site as well. If you can't access the “Challenge” on the Facebook Group, e-mail your answer to:

suestuart@accesswave.ca

Hope to meet all of you on our AMG Facebook Group Site!

- Sue Stuart





AMGA EXECUTIVE

2013

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MEMBER AT LARGE (2): Lynn Brooks - lynbrook@eastlink.ca

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