

The Garden Master News

Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association

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FALL 2011

AMGA



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Atlantic Master Gardeners Association *Learning Day* at CORNHILL NURSERY

- by Phyllis Sutherland

Event: Atlantic Master gardeners Association Learning Day
Cornhill Nursery, NB, September 24, 2011

Attendees: Ann Buck, Heather Connors-Dunphy, Emily and Dawson Miller, Carol Goodwin, Barb Polley and Lorraine Polley, Johanne Robertson, Phyllis Sutherland

Schedule: Hardy Roses, 9 to 12
Lunch at Cedar Café
Growing Hardy Kiwi and Grapes, 1 to 3
Fall-Blooming Perennials, 3 to 4

A wonderful, relaxing, information-filled day with Bob Osborne at Cornhill Nursery. Cornhill Nursery is a great place to spend an educational day as the facilities include a Cedar building with a café in the lower level and a classroom/dining area on the upper level. After spending part of the morning in the classroom, Bob led the participants around the nursery grounds showing the different varieties of roses he had discussed earlier. In addition to growing roses for sale, he also grows roses for trials. After a tasty lunch of sandwiches and soup and a selection of desserts, the discussion resumed and Bob elaborated about kiwis, grapes and fall perennials. The day ended with another tour of the acres of the former plants, the greenhouses, display gardens, storage area for perennials destined for sale and, of course the retail area.





Preparing the “Fall Garden” for winter!

- by Rodger LeDrew, NS Gardener

As the last gasps of warm air touches our skin in the chilly fall, we know it is time to prepare the garden and landscape for winter. Looking back on the summer and fall don't you think we did okay with our Nova Scotia weather, even though we had such a wet spring? Actually it lasted well into July. It took some time for my plants to mature, but wow, my Rose of Sharon, *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Aphrodite' 'Helene' has been simply stunning this year. The bright blooms hung on until the first of October.



The fall is a perfect time to survey your garden and plan for what you would like it to be. Take stock of what you have in your garden. Evaluate your space. Over the winter you can dream of what your future garden will look like with the changes you've made. It is a great time to move or remove plants if you don't like their current location. Last fall I moved a plant which I call Boys Love. Southernwood *Artemisia abrotanum* L. It is a joy to have in the garden, not only for its wispy look, but for its soft amazing smell. For whatever reason, it always irritated me sitting by the White Pine. It just didn't look right. I couldn't stand it any longer so I moved it a few meters away to contrast with my dwarf burning bush and I am now satisfied with its beauty and location, and “Boys Love” is happy too.



It is no chore for me to do the fall clean up. I love the fresh fall air and spending this time outside gives me an appreciation of life itself. Removing weeds and spent annuals is a good place to start. Non-hardy bulbs, such as *cannas*, *dahlias*, and *gladiolus* should be removed from the ground. Let them dry in the sun for a few hours before storing them in a cool dry place for the winter. You may want to think of planting hardy bulbs for spring blooms as well. Most of my spring bulb planting was done by the first week of October. This year I was smart enough to plant bulbs to stagger the time of blooming for a much longer flowering period. Autumn is the right time to plant hardy, spring-blooming bulbs. Don't put it off too late; if the ground gets drenched by rains or freezes, the project will be difficult or doomed. Buy large, firm bulbs and plant them to a depth of two or three times their diameter.



Divide and conquer perennials. Yes, just do it. Lift the big fibrous clumps of Summer Phlox, Siberian Irises and Hostas. Divide them with a knife or sharp spade. They will readily take root again. A clump of plants should be divided if it is not flowering as well as in the past, if bare spots appear in the center of the clump, if plants in the clump flop over or if plants spread to the point of becoming invasive.

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Preparing the “Fall Garden” for winter

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Roses such as hybrid teas, floribundas and grandifloras should be cut back to about 30-36”. It is not necessary to cut back other types unless there is a chance the canes will be broken by heavy snow. There is always some winter kill requiring spring pruning, so you might as well wait until then. Clean up fallen rose foliage before winter. This will prevent any over-wintering disease or pests.

Shrubs and trees need attention too. The wind and winter has a great habit of drying out verdant evergreens, especially first and second year plants. We have all been accustomed to staking and wrapping with burlap. Just hammer in a few stakes and wrap the burlap to make a good windscreen. It sure isn't pretty but it is effective.



Evergreens such as *Cedars*, *Boxwoods*, *Yews*, *Rhododendrons* and most Coniferous shrubs need watering to prevent dehydration and saving them from permanent dormancy.

Also remove any diseased leaves, but no pruning at this time. The fall is a great time to plant new evergreen trees and shrubs, so if you find a good deal at the nursery, take the good buy if it fits with your plans. Leaves from Honey locust, Birch, Beech Ginkgo and Silver Maple can be spread under shrubs and over all exposed soil. They will degrade into good nutrients and worms will turn them into fertilizer. If you like to put down mulch it is a good idea to wait until the ground freezes. The pests and rodents won't be around to damage the plants.

Flower beds do not require a lot of care once the cleanup is done, but in Atlantic Canada we often have exposed beds from time to time throughout the winter. Have you ever seen your prized Columbine heaved out of the ground? Try putting on some organic mulch to protect plants from extreme weather. The mulch acts like a quilt to keep the cold in the ground, which is what you want throughout the dormant period. This protects the roots from freezing during sudden cold snaps and thawing during mild spells, a cycle that can heave plants from the ground, damage roots and place plants under stress.

Raking up your lawn is something most gardeners do, but instead of putting the leaves in bags pick up, try composting if you are not already doing so. Most leaves will degrade over the winter and I find that I can always use some of this mulch in the spring. Don't worry about the bits and pieces of leaves left behind as they too will break down and provide nutrition for the grass or wherever they end up decomposing.

Preparing the “Fall Garden” for winter!

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Time and daylight is not always on our side in the fall but I think we should make the effort to clean, sharpen and prepare our tools for the next season. Just like my snow blower which is now ready to go because I made it ready when I put it away in the spring, my tools will be ready to use after the winter is over as well. Throughout the season it is fine to clean your tools by thrusting secateurs, loppers, shovels and spades etc. into a bucket of sand and motor oil, but in the fall I take the few extra hours needed to sharpen and refurbish my tools. The best method of cleaning is to take the tools apart to do a proper job. It is not that difficult and it usually means removing only one or two screws. Mineral Spirits (paint thinner), fine steel wool, a stiff wire brush and a few rags is all you'll need for the cleaning. Wear latex gloves as the paint thinner can be hard on the skin. When the cleaning is done, put them back together, and sharpen each tool as required. Use Three-in-one oil for lubricating hard to get at places such as the inside faces of the blades where they bolt together. Motor oil can be used on all blades. Use a bucket to stand wooden handled tools in as you massage linseed oil into the wood.

You will be proud of how your tools look and so relieved in the spring that you are ready to go once again.



Fall gardens and landscapes can be beautiful. Sedum and Mums are everywhere for purchase. There is such an array of beautiful choices that your fall garden can really be spiced up and look marvellous for weeks to come. Last year the yellow hardy mums in my garden would not easily give up their blooms to old man winter. They were still blooming the last week of November.

Enhancing your landscape with amazing fall vines and shrubs such as Arrowwood viburnum, Sumac, Fothergilla, American Bittersweet, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Virginia Creeper and Red chokeberry will keep you happy through the fall season.

Credits:

Canadian Gardening Magazine, Judith Adams,
Lee Oliver

What a Summer!

- by Johanne Robertson

For me, summer started at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill in July. The weather was warm and sunny and it turned out to be a great vacation. The Atlantic Master Gardener Summer Camp was everything I expected and more. It was nice to meet people from all over Canada; one lady even drove her motorcycle from Northern Ontario. After the first night at the residence, we were told we were moving, I thought we were being upgraded to a deluxe dorm room. I guess there is no such thing, but the room was comfortable anyway. I felt like a teenager since I never experienced living in a dorm.

I would like to thank two of the instructors Carol and Sherry who were very interesting and have a wealth of knowledge. The agenda was full and all topics relevant. I enjoy touring the grounds and since I am planning a rock garden I thought "Well it will give me an idea". I just never imagine how big it is, mine will be a lot different in size than that is.

I had never seen a tulip tree before, Sherry showed us one and she then directed me toward another huge one. I walked toward the location she had sent me to and looked and looked, but



**UNDER
THE
TULIP
TREE**

couldn't find it.. I was standing under a giant tree. As I looked up I realized this was it, I was standing right under it. It is an impressive tree, not sure it would survive where I live.

The graduation/banquet was lovely and somewhat emotional, maybe it was the culmination of almost three years of studies, working full-time, two teenagers graduating from high school, turning 50, building a new house, and a new position that requires commuting two hours a day 5 days a week..



2011 ATLANTIC MASTER GARDENERS

The exciting part now is that with a new house come new gardens. Last fall I made a new bed and planted over 300 bulbs of tulips, daffodils, crocuses and muscari. There is nothing more exciting as the sight of spring bulbs in full blooms.

Earlier this spring I started some asparagus from seeds, got them planted and now have to wait three years for a first crop. I also started cactus from seed, I thought if they sell the seeds you must

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What a Summer!

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be able to grow them. They are still very tiny but it looked like there is three different species that I need to identify. When I came home after summer school, I still had pumpkins, peppers, tomatoes and sunflowers to plant. I thought maybe it was a bit late in the summer but everything came up and I even got red peppers, which is amazing considering the wet summer we had. When I picked the red peppers I was so excited, I showed them to my daughter and told her how beautiful they were. She had this weird look only a teenager can give you. I made some pepper jelly with sweet and hot red peppers. The sweet one was 'California Wonder' and the hot one 'Hungarian Chili pepper'. My family enjoys the jelly on crackers with cream cheese. It is also delicious on a pork roast as a glaze.

At the end of the summer, I dug and tilled a shrub border. My husband had dug the bulbs bed and this time I think he knew I had to do it by myself, it took me a few week-ends but I am pleased with the results. I planted a Clethra, a Magic Berry Coralberry, a Grefsheim Spirea, a Pee Gee Hydrangea, a Rose Glow Barberry and a Shenandoah Switch Grass. I need to mulch this border but I am not sure what to use yet, we live on top of a hill and it is very windy. You can tell on a windy day when all the shrubs are leaning one way. I can tell when it is a good day to dry clothes, if only I had a clothesline!

I haven't received my new bulbs order yet, the last 3 week-ends were so nice I would have liked to put them in the ground. I called Vesey's the other day and she told me they were being shipped that day. Hopefully they will arrive soon before it gets too cold. After that is done there won't be much left to do in the gardens besides waiting for spring for the first flower to bloom. I will spend hours browsing seed catalogues to see what I will grow next year.

Our garden club, the "Dirty Diggers" is still going strong, finding guest speakers or new topics each month is always challenging. This summer the highlight was touring the Irving Arboretum and "Elizabethan Gardens" in Bouctouche. Located on Irving land, the arboretum becomes more impressive every year as additional species of trees are planted and added to the already 10,000 different species.

Also on the same site is the Memorial Chapel. The Irving Memorial Chapel stands next to an old Protestant burial ground which contains memorials to the many Scots families from southwest Scotland who emigrated to Bouctouche in New Brunswick. The Irving family and local community have maintained strong links with their ancestral homeland and called upon Simpson & Brown's particular knowledge of traditional Scottish ecclesiastical architecture to help them build their new chapel.

The masonry and most of the interior details were drawn from Scottish precedent, although

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What a Summer!

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the joinery of the steeple could be interpreted as more 'New World' than "Old". The chapel has an open timber roof, articulated by four enormous king post trusses which were turned on a giant lathe. The commission provided a wonderful opportunity to work on all elements of the building from its overall form through to the detailed design of furniture, stained glass, paneling, custom-made ironmongery and embroidery.



**'GATEWAY' IRVING CHAPEL
BOUCTOUCHE NB**

Acknowledgement must be given to Murray John Architects of London, who assisted with the design of the joinery elements.

Next time you take a road trip, make sure you stop by this hidden treasure. The arboretum and gardens are also accessible by car for those with restrained mobility.

Until next time, happy gardening!

Johanne Robertson
Mundleville, NB

AMGA News

Reminder:

Payment of 2012 Membership fees (\$20) was due in July 2011.

If you have not paid please be sure to forward payment to the Treasurer.

The Membership form can be found on the AMGA website:

http://www.atlanticmastergardeners.com/html/members_page.html

Please make cheques payable to:

Atlantic Master Gardeners Association

or **AMGA**

Send payment to the Treasurer:

**Carolyn Downie
119 Doull Avenue
Halifax NS B3N 1Z1**

Master Gardener Banner Stand

Master Gardener banner stands are available for use by Master Gardeners who are doing an event in public. Whether you're putting on a workshop, at a garden centre answering questions for a day, or having a garden information booth at your local garden club convention, we will get a banner stand to you if you'd like one to use. We usually send it out on the bus – it's all in a metal tube about 70 cm long and 10 cm in diameter. For Nova Scotia contact Emily Miller, for New Brunswick contact Heather Connors-Dunphy, and for Prince Edward Island contact Carol Goodwin. Those of you in Newfoundland – I'd be happy to send you one if you need it!



COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM SUSSEX NB

- by Barb Polley

It's all about the people, plants and pride – growing together to beautify our town – that's the motto of Communities in Bloom/Sussex, which was established in April 2010 by a small group of dedicated residents who had the vision and determination to make a difference.

Partnerships were formed with local businesses, environmental groups, service clubs and schools as well as the Mayor Sussex and Town Council.

Many projects were planned during the winter months and in April 2011 were put into action. Just to name a couple: Flower beds were dug with the help of volunteers from our local college and elementary school students for the "Marigolds on Maple Project." Over the years, O'Connel Park had become an unsightly, tangled mess of trees and shrubs. With the help of Rotarians and the Town of Sussex, it is now a lush parkland, a public garden for all to enjoy. Quaint businesses that have been with us for generations are located on Broad St..CIB members worked with these businesses in

tidying beds, planning window boxes and planting any available ground space. Many citizens throughout the town not only maintained their own gardens, but also helped maintain "island" gardens throughout the town.

On August 7-9, Sussex put on a Beautiful Face for the National CIB Judges. They were surprised that the chapter had been operational for less than a year and that so much had been accomplished.

On October 29 we will find out how many blooms we have received from the Judges.

Wish us luck!

Barb Polley
Sussex, NB





President's Message

- by Carol Goodwin
AMGA President

What an autumn! 'Monsoon' rains and flooding – it was a big finish after a wet summer. I've really enjoyed the warm temperatures. It seemed I waited all summer for things to improve. Despite the gloomy prognostications for a colourless autumn, my trees are glowing in brilliant fall hues as I write. It was a bang-up season for planting and transplanting, everything settled in beautifully. I've said it was a great summer for gardens but a hard one for gardeners, and I've heard a lot of agreement. I'm hoping things get a chance to dry out before freeze up. Last year's wet soils led to a lot more woody plant losses than is normal, and autumn planted shrubs and potted perennials were pretty much frost-heaved right out of the ground. I hope to avoid a repeat performance this winter – if it stays wet a heavy straw or leaf mulch will go down as soon as the ground freezes.

I want to acknowledge the passing of Master Gardener Cathy Noseworthy. I think Cathy is the first member we've lost – taken too soon by cancer. Our condolences to her family and friends – I know Cathy will be keenly missed.

Many of you will have read the news of the NSAC-Dalhousie merger. Some have wondered what it means to the Atlantic Master Gardeners and our programs. The programs will still be offered – there's no question about that! Personally, I'm very excited about the merger and all of the possibilities it brings. The College will be the Faculty of Agriculture of Dalhousie University, so on the same par as Medicine, Science, or any other faculty of Dal.

The MG fall workshop at Corn hill Nursery was a success. I learned a lot! It was an opportunity for New Brunswick members to enjoy a workshop on their own turf, and they came out in support of the event. Bob Osborne was our host, and spent the entire day with us. We spent the morning learning about hardy roses – their history, Canadian breeding programs, care, and propagation techniques. We had a discussion about purchasing the rights to a new rose and calling it 'Master Gardener' or 'Atlantic Master Gardener'. We all fell in love with a pink rose in a vase on the table – softly coloured and extremely fragrant. It has a *R. rugosa* parent, and so it does



President's Message

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send up root suckers. How much would we object to that? What characteristics would we want in a plant that bore our name, besides fragrance and disease resistance??

PLEASE let me know what you think. Do you even like the idea of a 'Master Gardener' rose?

You will soon be receiving a printed copy of the Atlantic Master Gardener membership directory in the mail. We are sending a hard copy in an effort to protect you from the ever present spam software that searches out and copies email addresses. This is our first time producing one, and if you have any suggestions for improvement, I'd be glad to hear them!

The College has just printed the new brochure for the Master Gardener program. If you see one you'll notice a hefty tuition increase. It came against my advice, and I regret having to report it. Tuition is now set at \$300.

I'm just getting set to go out and collect plant pieces for a garden design exercise with my students. Rubber boots are necessary because the frost is thick, but haven't we had a glorious autumn?

Carol D. Goodwin
Associate Professor,
Environmental Horticulture
Dept. Environmental Sciences
Nova Scotia Agricultural College



On Saturday, December 3 we will be having a Master Gardener Association Christmas event at Lakeland Plant World.

We will be making either a decorated wreath or a living Christmas arrangement.

A meal will follow. (Price not known yet). We will have lunch followed by an afternoon workshop. That would give people time to drive in from outside areas.

We need to know whether you are going to do a wreath or a living arrangement, and if you have food allergies.

Registration will close on **NOVEMBER 25**

If you **MIGHT** be interested, please e-mail Carol **THIS WEEK** at:

cgoodwin@nsac.ns.ca

Details can be e-mailed to you next week so you can decide.



Obituary

Dr. Catherine M. (Cathy) Noseworthy



At the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 of Dr. Catherine M. (Cathy) Noseworthy, age 56 years.

Beloved wife of Allan Campbell. Dear mother of Kiri Campbell and John C. Campbell. Sister of Charles Noseworthy (Suzanne), Ann Noseworthy and Elizabeth Noseworthy. Lovingly remembered by her nieces Amy and Erin. Predeceased by her parents John A. and Catherine (Yetman) Noseworthy.

Funeral service was held at St. John's Anglican Church, Milton, PEI.

Cathy loved to garden, and she loved to share her talent and knowledge with others. She was a valued member of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association.

Cathy will be sadly missed by those whose lives she touched through her community work, and by a large circle of friends in PEI and Newfoundland. The family wishes to extend thanks to all those who so kindly gave support during Cathy's illness. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

AMGA EXECUTIVE 2011 - 2012

PRESIDENT: Carol Goodwin - cgoodwin@nsac.ns.ca

VICE-PRESIDENT: Heather Connors-Dunphy - actea08@yahoo.com

PAST PRESIDENT: Anita Sulley - asulley@accesswave.ca

SECRETARY: Bonnie Snow - bonnie_snow2002@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Carolyn Downie - cdownie@ns.sympatico.ca

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR :
Emily R Miller - emilyrmiller@accesswave.ca

MEMBER AT LARGE (1): Janet Elsie - janetelsie@yahoo.ca

MEMBER AT LARGE (2): Sue Stuart - suestuart@accesswave.ca
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

MEMBER AT LARGE(3) Johanne Robertson - daisyluc@xplornet.com

MEMBER AT LARGE(4) Barb Polley - barbiepolley@hotmail.com

WEB MASTER: Helen Zebedee - hzebedee@eastlink.ca