

The Garden Master News

Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners

ISSUE 2

VOLUME I

MARCH, 2008



OUR NEW ASSOCIATION

Our Association has accomplished a lot since we were incorporated under the Society's Act of Nova Scotia in October, 2007.

As of today, we have 30 members – our web site has been launched and our Association has joined the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs (NSAGC).

By joining NSAGC, our members are covered for liability insurance when they act on behalf of our Association.

On July 10, 2008, we will have the first ceremony to Certify qualifying Master Gardeners of our Association.

On our web site we will be putting an "ask a

garden question link" where the public can ask any type of garden question. This link will be monitored by several of our students, who will be able to use their time on this project, towards their volunteer hours.

I also invite everyone to stop in and use the "café" under the members only section. This is a good site to get to know everyone – ask garden questions or for example, ask for help on a garden project you are going to organize.

In our Association, we have gardeners from every walk of life and at every level of gardening knowledge.

In the café, you will form garden friendships that will last a life time, as we all

have the general interest or passion of gardening.

The Association will strive to ensure that any activity organized by the Association will be enjoyable, interesting and worthwhile.

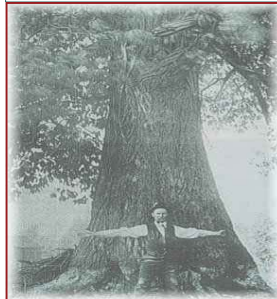
The Executive of the Association are here to serve the members - to help and guide any member of the Association to become a Certified Master Gardener.

Becoming a Certified Atlantic Master Gardener – Imagine the possibilities!!!!

Bill Thoms
President

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Castanea dentata The American Chestnut Tree in Nova Scotia

The American Chestnut tree (*Castanea dentata*) was once one of North America's most important forest trees. The wood, easily worked and durable, was used for interior trim, furniture, as well as posts and fencing.

Some split rail fences constructed early in this century are still standing. The annual chestnut crop made it important to the forest community, providing a reliable food source for wildlife as well as early settlers. Although the nuts are

smaller than other kinds of chestnut, they are very delicious. True chestnuts are sometimes confused with Horse chestnuts and Buckeyes (*Aesculus* species) which have compound leaves and inedible nuts **>2**

Castanea dentata (Cont'd from page 1)



* Ashdale NS Chestnut



* Mount Uniacke NS American Chestnut Tree 2007

*The Ashdale and Mount Uniacke trees may be among the oldest living American Chestnut trees in North America. Neither tree is currently producing viable nuts because they are solitary trees and require another tree nearby for pollination.

In 1904 a fungal pathogen "Cryphonectria parasitica" was introduced causing Chestnut blight. This resulted in the devastation of the American Chestnut population. Until the 1940's, American chestnut was a prevalent tree species in southern Ontario and occurred throughout the Carolinian or deciduous forest region. It was most common on sandy soils and well drained slopes .

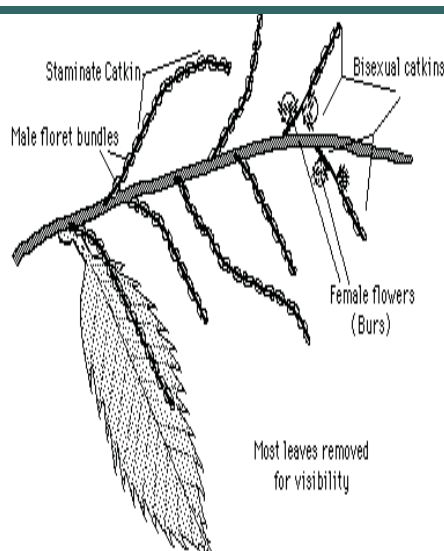
The American chestnut was a common and well-recognized tree at that time. In Ontario populations were reduced to less than 1% of the 1.5- 2.0 million trees estimated to have been present. In 1987 the American Chestnut tree was designated a "threatened" species by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). While Nova Scotia is not considered to be within the native zone of the American Chestnut tree (Carolinian), the presence of a number of very old and very large trees still living in the province is of some significance.

The presence of these trees is associated with the migration of the United Empire Loyalists from the USA. They brought seed of the American Chestnut with them and established them here. The fact that these trees exist outside the original distribution of the species is very important for the long-term survival of the American chestnut because these trees are also outside the range of Chestnut blight. These populations represent a "safe haven" or "refuge" where they continue to survive free of Chestnut blight. There has been some renewed interest in the species and new plantings are being initiated.

The Canadian Chestnut Council was established in 1998 with the mission to restore the American Chestnut The Council is a non-profit, charitable and scientific organization that has been working hard for 20 years to recover the valuable timber and nut-producing species. It is still a long road to recovery and requires the help and support of experts, members, volunteers and donors.

In 2001 the Canadian Chestnut Council initiated the "blight resistance breeding program" to restore the tree in Canada. Some of the work initiated by the CCC includes:

- 1) Maintaining American chestnut trees with diverse genetic background.
- 2) Mapping surviving native American chestnut trees.
- 3) Including different Canadian mother lines for breeding to increase genetic diversity and local adaptability.

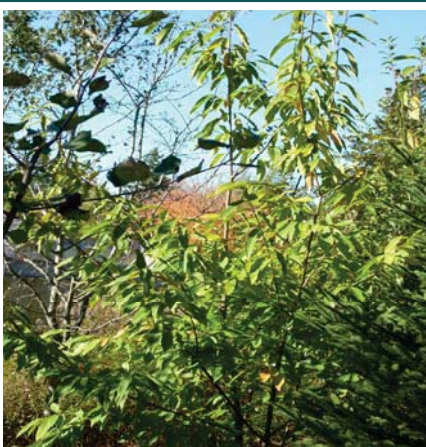




**American Chestnut tree
Dalhousie University 2007**



**American Chestnut tree
Public Gardens Halifax 2007**



**Hammonds Plains Am Chestnut
Approx 7-8 years old – 10' tall**

4) Producing hybrids that will be 97% pure American chestnut with the blight resistance of the Chinese chestnut. The CCC hopes to have these hybrid blight resistant trees available for planting in about 15 years.

5) Inoculating trees and studying hypovirulence.

Research work will be useful in dealing with other tree pathogens such as Butternut canker.

6) Educating the public including launch of a new school program.

7) Engaging the community and partnering with other interested organizations.

Some of you planted American Chestnut seedlings in 2007.

We hope that others across the Maritimes will become interested in establishing these beautiful trees in their landscapes as well.

The University of Guelph is collecting data on American Chestnut trees growing in Canada. Members of CCC in the Maritimes are working to locate trees and information to add to this database and are very much involved in the restoration of the American chestnut here.

Leslie Corkum is a member and Honorary Director of CCC, who lives in Falmouth NS. He is very knowledgeable in the growth and propagation of the American Chestnut tree. His enthusiasm for the ongoing work in locating, maintaining and propagating healthy viable trees in the Maritimes is infectious to say the least!

In PEI, Jocelyn Clark is an active member of CCC. She now has 2 week old seedlings from nuts collected from Public Garden trees in Halifax in 2007.

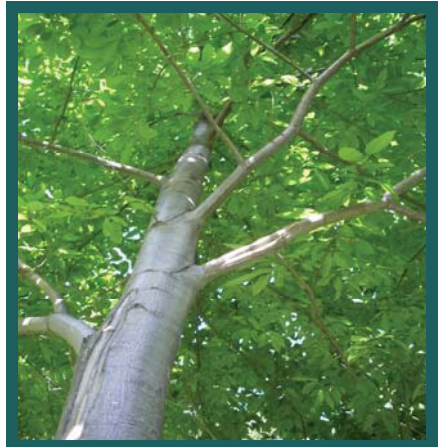
I have one germinated nut (and hoping for more any day!) from nuts collected from a tree in Wolfville NS in October 2007.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Canadian Chestnut Council or would like more information on growing American Chestnut trees in the Maritimes please contact me at:

suesturt@accesswave.ca.

You too could be sitting under the shade of a mighty Chestnut canopy - Or roasting some of the tastiest Chestnuts in the world over an open fire (or perhaps in your oven)!

Sue Stuart
Master Gardener Student
Member Canadian Chestnut Council

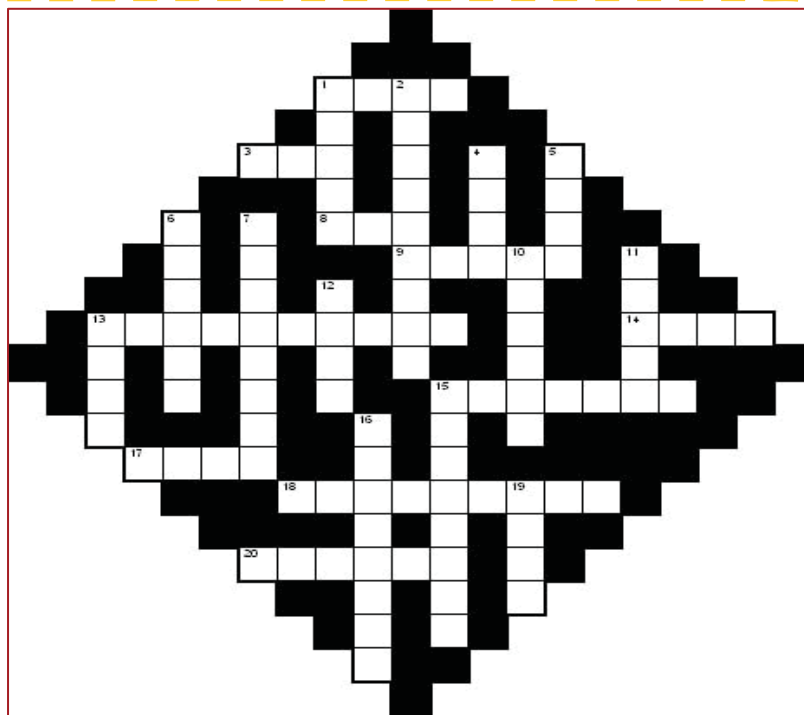


Halifax canopy 2007



Chestnuts roasting on an open fire!



**HARVEST
CROSSWORD**

ACROSS

- 1 Harvard is one type
 3 Plants like one made from manure or compost
 8 Oriental sauce bean
 9 Vine whose leaves and fruit can be eaten
 13 First fruit to ripen in a Maritime Garden
 14 Pickling herb
 15 Tart pie vegetable
 17 We eat them mashed and candied
 18 Member of Malus family grown as an Ornamental or for preserving
 20 Aromatic native berry used in candles (Latin)

Down

- 1 I'd ride my PINTO to LIMA in a SNAP to eat these veggies!
 2 A slicing tomato
 4 Suffering Succotash it's a bean!
 5 HARDY ones with HIPS grow well in the Maritimes
 6 BING! STELLA! What a treat these trees produce!
 7 Nocturnal larva that feed on corn stems
 10 Large genus of fruit trees
 11 Beverage made from apples
 12 This veggie is a SNAP, SUGAR!
 13 Stuffing herb
 15 Don't ROOT around there I BEG'YA
 16 A tender bulb in Nova Scotia
 19 She put in her thumb, and pulled out a _____



Southern gardeners are outdoors tending their garden plots now.



We Northern gardeners are indoors plotting what we intend to grow in ours.

-Text adapted from Jodi DeLong "Of chocolate gardens and seminars" Feb 23/08



Your design could go here

AMGA Logo Contest

AMGA needs a "Logo", design. If you'd like to put your artistic talents to work, submit your original design for the Logo to the Webmaster by March 25, 2008

Your Newsletter

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

suestuart@accesswave.ca

Atlantic Master Gardener Association

Contact: Bill Thoms, President

Phone: 902-369-2443

E-mail: bthoms@ns.sympatico.ca

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

HARVEST CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS

- 1 Beet
- 3 Tea
- 8 Soy
- 9 Grape
- 13 Strawberry
- 14 Dill
- 15 Rhubarb
- 17 Yams
- 18 Crabapple
- 20 Myrica

DOWN

- 1 Beans
- 2 Earlygirl
- 4 Lima
- 5 Rose
- 6 Cherry
- 7 Cutworm
- 10 Prunus
- 11 Cider
- 12 Peas
- 13 Sage
- 15 Rutabaga
- 16 Gladiola
- 19 Plum

Garden Smart Tips

HANDY MEASURE

Gardeners often need a guide to measure spacing for plants and seeds or measure depth of a planting hole. Turn your shovel, rake, or hoe into a "measuring stick" by placing a yardstick along the handle and using a waterproof marker to mark off the basic measures. Now you have a handy measuring tool with you when you're working in the garden!

-from Annalisa Palacios, Master Gardener
Maricopa County Master Gardener Volunteer
Information , 2003

TRANSPLANT COVERS

Transplanting seedlings into the garden can sometimes be a SHOCKING experience! Even if carefully hardened off, and planted on a dull day, plants often "wilt" while adjusting to their new environment. Once the plant is carefully planted and well watered, place an apple basket or cardboard box over the plant for a couple of days. This helps to protect it from too much water loss through transpiration. Don't forget to remove it in a couple of days!

- Sue Stuart