

# The Garden Master News

Newsletter of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association

ISSUE #5

VOLUME #1

WINTER 2013



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editor's message	1
President's Message	2-3
Garden Bench	3-4
Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture	5
Scattered Seeds	6
AMGA Twitter	7
Favourite Plant	

Blog, Chat, Post, Tweet on Twitter,  
Like us on FB, or even E-MAIL!

### Atlantic Master Gardeners - Are you there?

This Newsletter is one of the ways we share information between members of the Atlantic Master Gardeners Association. Hopefully, each season of the year we provide to you a summary of things happening with and for our members and their local Communities. We hope this information is useful or meaningful to you, in particular as a Master Gardener in the Atlantic region, as well as our members in other parts of Canada.

In this day of instant communication there is no limit to the ways we can communicate with one another.

Have you checked out our website lately - why not do it right now, right here: [AMGA](#).

Did you check out the [Blogspot](#)? Kind of looks like we need you there! Don't let Carol's challenge on Page 6 go unanswered!

What about [Facebook](#)? Yup we're there too! Directions for joining this closed Facebook group can be found in the 2012 [Fall](#) Newsletter page 13.

Now there is also [Twitter](#) available for getting your message out or just plain getting messages!

Last, but not Least PLEASE send us photos, articles info on events etc. for YOUR Newsletter. We want to hear how your garden is growing or how your Community garden or project is doing! Just e-mail it to [Sue](#)!

Meet in cyberspace and chat with your fellow MG's—get to know them! Then meet them personally at AMG Summer School and attend the AMGA AGM! Have a say! We really want to see you there!

- [Sue](#) - Newsletter Editor



# AMGA PRESIDENT'S WINTER MESSAGE

- by Heather Connors-Dunphy

Here we are in mid January 2013. Spring is just around the corner... or at least closer than it was when last I wrote to you. Just before Christmas I placed the perennial, rose and rhodo orders for the Fredericton Botanic Garden Plant Sale in May. Going through websites and plant catalogues was very therapeutic. I felt like a kid in a candy store! I'm looking forward to seeing the hosta of the year for 2013..a little charmer called 'Rainforest Sunrise'. Despite the rampaging lily beetle, we have ordered some magnificent double pink oriental lilies, one stunning example is 'Roselily Fabiola'. The 2013 introduction in the Canadian artist series of roses is 'Campfire', named for the Tom Thomson painting of the same name. It is a gorgeous rose, well-worth seeking out. The Atlantic Rhodo Society featured some lovely rhodos and azaleas (we ordered those appropriate for our zone); they also listed *Agapanthus* 'Summer Skies' which we ordered.

Your Executive had a productive meeting in December. The next Executive Meeting is scheduled for February 10. Please contact any of us if you have ideas or concerns you'd like to have discussed.

Plans are progressing for Summer School, AGM and Graduation/Certification in July in Truro. We are making some changes this year in hopes they will boost attendance. We'd like to make these events be a real community celebration and learning event for Master Gardeners. Please consider attending!!!

As most of you know, the International Master Gardener Conference is this September.

One of the events is the Search for Excellence awards. These are given in seven categories:

- youth programs
- demonstration garden
- workshop or presentation
- community service
- innovative projects
- special need audiences (senior, disabled audiences or horticultural therapy)
- research applied scientific methodology

As a committee member I received applications to evaluate in the research and demonstration garden categories. There is some outstanding work going on! What struck me about all of these was the partnership between communities and Master Gardener groups. Most did not involve spending a great deal of money, but they surely had impact. When the judging is complete and winners announced I will let you know about some of these projects. There are some great ideas to be shared.

Speaking of sharing, a friend wants to borrow a couple of seed catalogues, so I need to get my order together. Later.....

Heather



My husband is a great woodworker. We have wooden structures in and around our gardens. This “how to” is intended to make construction of the bench easy for people with few tools and/or little woodworking experience. I built one with these instructions.

Enjoy!

Heather

## Garden Bench Photos



48" Garden Benches being built by Vic Dunphy



# 48" Garden Bench

- by Vic Dunphy

An easy to build bench so you can sit and watch the flowers grow!

Supplies:

- 1 : 1x10x8' Pine
- 1 : 1x6x8' Pine
- 1.5" Galvanized Nails

Tools:

- Saw
- Hammer
- 12" Combination Square • Measuring tape
- Pencil
- Wood working clamps

Just follow these steps:

Cut the 1x6 in half so you have 2 boards 48 inches long. These are the skirts.

Cut the 1x10 so you have 1 board 48 inches long and 2 boards 18 inches long. The long board is the seat, the 2 short boards are the legs.

On the seat and skirts, measure 5 1/2 inches from the ends and using square draw lines across the boards on both ends.

On the skirts, measure 4 inches from each end and using combination square draw a 45 degree line.

Cut these 4 chamfers off the ends of the skirts.

On the legs, measure down from the end 5 1/2 inches. On same end, measure in 3/4 inches and draw a line to the 5 1/2 inch line, this is a notch for the skirts. Carefully cut these notches. If you want to get technical, the amount of wood remaining is equal to the width of the seat minus the thickness of two boards.

Use your imagination to fancy up the other ends of the legs to make 'em pretty!

Assembly .. the fun part!

Stand the skirts on work bench a few inches apart with the lines earlier drawn on them facing each other. Chamfers down.

Lay the seat on the skirts, with the lines on the bottom of board. Clamp one skirt to the seat. Nail the other skirt through the seat, making sure it is flush with the edge of the seat, and flush on the ends. Start at one end, keeping it flush with the seat.

Take off the clamps and nail the remaining skirt, keeping it flush. NOW!!!

Turn the assembly up side down, bottom facing you and with any luck the lines that were drawn in 5 1/2 inches should be all aligned. If we made accurate cuts, the notches we cut in the legs will fit snugly between the skirts. Place the legs so the inside is aligned with the lines. Tap it in to position. Turn the assembly on it's side. Drive one nail near the bottom of the skirt into the leg, making sure the leg is on the line. Now nail the top of the leg through the skirt. Repeat other side and other end. Add a few extra nails for fun.

VOILA!! All done!

Finish with an outdoor stain, or exterior paint. Let the finish dry and put the bench in your garden.

Now you deserve to sit and sip!

I hope you all take time to build one of these benches!

- Vic Dunphy

# Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University

Greetings to the Master Gardeners from the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus!

As I look out my window on this wintery day, I feel like the chances of seeing anything green and alive are slim in the days to come, but then I am reminded that this is Atlantic Canada and the snow could be gone by the time this goes to print!

I hope the New Year has brought blessings to all of you, and that you are deep into your seed catalogues and planning for a new gardening year. The Master Gardener program is going well for the 2012-2013 year. We now have 138 students enrolled in the program with our final intake in March. Thanks to all of you who have spread the good word about our program to friends and family.

I believe that in tight-knit communities, like the ones where the majority of us reside, word of mouth is the most important promotional tool. However, some professional publicity doesn't hurt! We are now looking at our marketing plan for the 2013 year and would appreciate any ideas your membership could provide about associations we could be contacting, events we should be attending or clientele groups we should be targeting to continue our strong enrollment trends. Please contact the Continuing Education office if you have any promotional ideas to share. That being said, I would like to take this opportunity to do some promoting of my own!

I also wanted to share a couple of general notices with you regarding news from Continuing Education:

- Continuing Education is currently undergoing a website transfer from the NSAC site to the new Dalhousie Agricultural Campus site. We are doing our best to keep the information up to date on the NSAC site, but if you are encountering difficulties, please contact our office.
- Summer School plans are underway! Level II will be held July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and the schedule is coming together. Look forward to topics on volunteering opportunities to protect your planet, protecting yourself from Lyme Disease, growing and cooking with herbs with the hopes of a live cooking demo! Once plans are finalized, we will be sending out registration information to the association.
- We would like to announce that we have welcomed a new member to the Master Gardener program team. Joy Galloway-Jones has joined us for a one-year term and will be working as Program Manager for the Master Gardener program. Joy comes with an extensive background in Adult Education and Student Service so we are excited for what talents and ideas she will bring.

In closing, thank you again for the opportunity to connect with the association and I wish you well as we enjoy the rest of winter.

Jolene MacEachern

Continuing Education,

Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture





# SCATTERED SEEDS

- by Carol Goodwin

I'm thinking about spring a lot lately.. not because I don't like winter, but I'm planning to move my garden to Kentville. The idea is a bit overwhelming, I have to admit. This morning I sipped tea and stared at the bamboo near the fence. I don't remember it being 2 m across, but there it is, next to a huge *Miscanthus variegatus*. There's a chestnut that put on 2 m of growth in 2012. My white daphne. The woodland garden... I'm looking for a reason why I seem to have given up sleeping – maybe I've found it!

Seed catalogues and invitations to open garden days are drifting in. My mother talked to me once about my sisters' move to live permanently in Australia. She said she wouldn't be willing to give up the non-gardening season. She'd miss the time for memory and reflection on the season. At the time I didn't really agree with her, but this year I'm enjoying the garden from the window and thinking she's right. I need time to get mentally prepared for spring. Snow tomorrow? Bring it on!

Lots of people are wondering if the Dalhousie University merger has changed our college. So far the changes I've seen are for the better. Decisions don't take as long. We have an administration that wants to help us move forward after a decade of being held back. The only glitch is the need to wait a year till I retire, but I love what I do so it isn't like I'll have to suffer through it. Those of you who know my office might agree I could use the extra time to pack it up!

If you have shade and want to try something the deer have passed over (so far), I have a recommendation. The perennial plant of the year for 2013 is a woodland plant – variegated Solomon's seal. Since woodland plants are my thing, you can imagine my excitement! I have a few of these in my garden and I love their understated elegance. They are slower growing than *Polygonatum biflorum* and less prone to march around the garden. They are fabulous paired with the smaller hostas. This species is more fragrant than the others, but it's no daphne!



*Polygonatum odoratum*

I've been looking for everyone on the MG blog and on the MG Facebook page. We seem to be a quiet lot – so here's my challenge for this year – if you post something, so will !!!



# Something to Tweet About



- by Lynne Marie Sullivan



Atlantic Master Gardeners now have a way to speak to the world. Sharing and inspiring is what we're all about, and now we can do it on Twitter!

[twitter.com/AtlanticMGA](https://twitter.com/AtlanticMGA)

Announce your garden clinics, plant sales and community gardening events. Share bits of garden wisdom, outstanding web articles, garden humor or folklore. Have some fun and get creative as we tell the world what Master Gardeners are about.

If you already have a Twitter account of your own, feel free to send us a direct message for re-tweeting. But if social media makes you cringe, just send your tweets to me at [atlanticmga@gmail.com](mailto:atlanticmga@gmail.com). Your contributions will be posted on Twitter at [twitter.com/AtlanticMGA](https://twitter.com/AtlanticMGA). They will also be forwarded to our newsletter editor [Sue](#), and our webmaster [Carol](#). They will publish events and pearls of wisdom, as time and space allows.

Be sure to include all details for events (date, time, place, who and what). And if you send a zingy quote or a horticultural discovery, give credit where it's due. In the spirit of sharing and inspiring, please refrain from naming businesses and products.

Master Gardeners have plenty to sing about, so let's hear it on Twitter!



# Favourite Plant

-by Sue Stuart

Do you have a **Favourite** Plant?

Why not write about it and add it to those on our webpage: <http://www.atlanticmastergardeners.ca/html/plant.html>.

Please include the following information:

- 1.The Latin name as well as the common name.
- 2.Your name and why you love this plant!
- 3.Growing Conditions including Hardiness Zone.
- 4.Mature size (height and spread)
- 5.Appearance of leaves and flowers
- 6.Distinctive characteristics of the plant.
7. How to propagate it.
- 8.A photo of your plant.

Have a look at the 'Favourite plants' currently on the website.

Is your Favourite Plant already there ?

If not how about putting it there!

Send your completed write-up to [Carol](#) to be put on the website .

Those of you who have already submitted a write-up of your favourite plants, please let [Carol](#) know which ones you wrote so your name can be added to your write-up! Some photos are currently not accessible for the 'favourite plants' . When you check out your plant, please note if the photo is displayed. If not, please forward another photo to Carol , if at all possible!

These plants could become a very useful resource for anyone looking for information about a plant or choosing plants for a specific spot in their garden! Time spent writing about your plant will count as Volunteer time!