



OTTAWA BOTANICAL GARDEN  
JARDIN BOTANIQUE D'OTTAWA

# NEWSLETTER

April 2006

No. 20

P.O. Box 727, Postal Station B, 59 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5P8

[www.ottawagarden.ca](http://www.ottawagarden.ca)

## Slide show tour and talk on North America's finest **Botanical Gardens**

with

**Frank Kershaw**

**Popular horticulturist, garden photographer, writer and tour leader**

When: 7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 1, 2006

Where: Rockcliffe Park Community Hall  
380 Springfield Road

Cost: \$15

Free – Members of The Ottawa Botanical Garden Society

\$10 – Members of Friends of the Farm

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## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting  
of the  
Ottawa Botanical Garden Society  
will start at 8:30 p.m,  
following Mr. Kershaw's  
presentation.

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### Frank Kershaw

Mr. Kershaw, is a well-known horticulturist who has photographed thousands of gardens throughout the world. He has a particular interest in botanical gardens and will share his insights into such facilities from California to New York and northward into Canada. Join us as he takes us on a photo journey and shares his thoughts on the challenges that new gardens face.

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*From concept to reality*



# Botanical Gardens: Past, Present, and Future

**D**id you know that the famous Blue Mountain coffee from Jamaica traces its origins to a single plant in the Amsterdam Botanic Garden?

Throughout the centuries, botanical gardens have played many different roles. The first “modern” botanical gardens in Pisa and Padua, Italy, were effectively teaching establishments for pharmacology students. As European economic power developed, botanical gardens became centres for studying the economic worth of plants from new lands. Today, with one quarter of the world’s flora at risk of extinction in the next 30 years, botanical gardens are focussing on plant conservation, the preservation of biodiversity, and on education.

We have a long way to go in understanding our place in the natural world and in making the changes

necessary to safeguard nature. With your help, we hope one day to see a botanical garden in the Nation’s capital take a leadership role in this important mission.

## Thanks

Thank you to the many new and returning members of the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society. Thank you for keeping this important dream alive. And thank you for your encouragement, support and new ideas. We welcome your suggestions and offers of assistance. We can be reached at 745-5945.

Jane Panet  
Chair

## OBGS NEWS

### A Most Generous Offer of Assistance

**Bill Teron** is passionate about seeing a botanical garden established at the Central Experimental Farm. Last Fall, he approached the Joint Planning Committee to offer his assistance. (The Joint Planning Committee is composed of members of the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society and the Friends of the Farm. It was created two years ago so that the Friends and the Society could work together to achieve their common goal.)

We extend a very hearty thank you to Mr. Teron for very generously offering to prepare, at his cost, conceptual drawings of a botanical garden at the Farm. The drawings will form the basis for creating dialogue with the public.

### Karen Haddon --Volunteer Extraordinaire

I hardly like to mention her name in case some other organization comes along and snatches her away. The Ottawa Botanical Garden Society couldn’t operate without her. She manages large a data base containing the names of people who have been members of

the Society at one time or another. Working with OBGS Treasurer, David Davidson, Karen has created a computer program which has streamlined the business of producing membership cards, address labels and charitable receipts. As well, she has produced newsletters. In fact, there isn’t a job too difficult or time consuming that she hasn’t taken on at one time or another. Karen is a keen gardener with a special interest in native plants and ponds.

Thanks Karen -- for your dedication, hard work and belief in the cause.

### Introducing Mary Duggan

A warm welcome to Mary, a long-time member of the OBGS, who has taken on the task of newsletter editor. Mary has a life-long interest in all things horticultural and runs a small part-time landscaping business called Your Garden.

#### Wanted: French translator

The OBGS is looking for someone to help out with occasional French translation. If you are interested, please call 745-5945.



# Devonian Botanic Garden

## Devon, Alberta

by Mary Duggan

### Kurimoto Japanese Garden

The Kurimoto Japanese Garden is a five-acre garden nestled in an oval bowl bordered by low hills and trees and dominated by a series of interconnected ponds and streams. It is designed in the *kaiyou* style – a strolling garden – with pathways, bridges and numerous resting/viewing areas. The design provides expansive views from viewing shelters across the valley to display pavilions and other strategically placed authentic elements such as stone lanterns and pagodas. True to the highly regarded design skills of the Japanese, the garden looks as if it has always been there. Plantings are highly complementary to the design with the Ozawa Pavilion, an authentic Japanese Tea House, nestled under conifers and hardwoods, reeds and water lilies at the water margins and more formal, manicured plantings along the pathways.



Summer - note the pruner on the ladder to the right of the tree. (photo: M. Duggan)

### Patrick Seymour Alpine Garden

This specialized area features a wide variety of alpine plants displayed in their natural habitat and the niches in which they thrive (currently comprised of 310 genera and growing). The site was constructed based on the original contours formed by glacial activity that deposited rocks and boulders from the Canadian Shield c. 12,000 years ago. Ongoing research adds to the knowledge about each species' autoecology and growth requirements, and helps to determine plant hardiness (critical in the Zone

### DEVONIAN QUICK FACTS

- Established in 1959 by the University of Alberta and is part of the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics
- Northernmost Botanic Garden in Canada
- Extends over 80 acres with an additional 110 acres of adjacent natural areas
- Located 5 km north of Devon, Alberta and 30 minutes west of Edmonton

The garden is named after Dr. Yuichi Kurimoto, who was the first Japanese national to graduate from the University of Alberta Faculty of Arts in 1930. It is the creation of the late Tadashi Kubo, of Kubo and Associates, Osaka, Japan. The site was dedicated in 1984, construction occurred over four summers and the official opening was held on 7 September 1990. Two Mayday trees *Prunus padus*, located on the centre hill, were planted by Hiroshi Kurimoto in memory of his parents in 1993. The Kurimoto Japanese Garden's main purpose is to provide a cultural exchange between the Japanese and Canadians. I have visited the garden twice, during different seasons (Summer and Fall) and each time it provoked a sense of serenity and contemplation.



Autumn - the thirteen level granite pagoda represents the thirteen levels to enlightenment in the Buddhist faith. (photo: M. Duggan)



3 environment of Northern Alberta). Plants featured are both native to Alberta and introductions from seed obtained from botanic gardens around the world. The garden holds interest all year long; however, Spring brings forth the grandest display including numerous *Primula*, bulb and cormous species.

## Herb Garden

The Herb Gardens cover 0.75 acres enclosed by Pygmy Caragana *Caragana pygmaea* hedges that act as windbreaks and dividers to the different herb classifications. The gardens are divided into Economic, Medicinal, Domestic, Culinary, Edible, and Poisonous (drug plants) Herbs. Adjacent gardens feature a Chinese Herb Garden, a Natural Order Garden (herbs arranged in botanical families) and a sheltered woodland herb section devoted to plants that do not thrive in the sunny, open areas.

## Plants of Alberta Garden

This garden features the many indigenous plants of the Province of Alberta, demonstrating their use to gardeners and conservationists. It includes a rare plant conservatory.

## Facilities and Services

The Gardens also feature a tropical Butterfly Greenhouse; a cool, moist Orchid Greenhouse; and a small cactus room. The Friends of the Devonian Botanic Garden provide a number of services such as guided tours, an excellent gift shop and a licensed patio café.

**In summary** – This is a delightful garden to visit at any time during the year (open on weekends only from Thanksgiving until the end of April). I enjoy starting out on the woodland paths that lead to the Imrie Wetland to watch migrating birds and continuing on to the numerous other specialty gardens (there are over 20 in addition to those few mentioned here). Regrettably, I haven't had a chance to thoroughly visit them all yet and plan to return soon. My tour ultimately leads me to the final jewel of this botanic garden – it is well worth the wait – the Kurimoto Japanese Garden.

**Website:** [www.devonian.ualberta.ca](http://www.devonian.ualberta.ca)

*Upcoming issues will feature stories on the Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden, The New Brunswick Botanical Garden, Edmunston, NB, and the Kaisaniemi Botanic Garden in Helsinki, Finland.*



Hedged herb garden in Autumn.  
(photo: M. Duggan)

**The Newsletter** is a publication of the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society, a wholly volunteer organization committed to building a botanic garden in the Nation's Capital. Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

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## Honouring Marguerite Buchanan

One of our new members made a generous donation to the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society as a means of honoring an old friend, Marguerite Buchanan. Mrs. Buchanan created a beautiful garden on a spare lot in Rockcliffe Park Village. Unfortunately, the garden has since disappeared with Mrs. Buchanan's death.



*From concept to reality*



