



February 2015

Manitoba Horticultural Association

Connected & Growing

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Special Interest Articles:

- Stevenson Award Recipient
- MHA Convention Overview
- Pull Ticket Winners
- Tanzanian Project



Think Spring!

Individual Highlights:

Stevenson Award Recipient	1
Pull Ticket Winners	1
MHA Convention Overview	2
Secretary Treasurer position	4
Students Attend Convention	5
Retiring MHA Director	5
MHA Membership Fees	5
Horticultural Events	6
Glad Bulbs for Juniors	6
Thank You Marion	7
Tanzanian Project	7
MHA Directors	8
MHA Committees	8
Society/Club Information	8

Greetings from your president

The 117th Annual Convention of the MHA is history and a special "Thank You" to all the garden clubs and horticultural societies that helped to make the event the success that it was.

To our Past President Louise Page, thanks for guiding us through the last couple of years and for your support in the MHA activities. Our thanks to Cathie McFarlane, although fairly new to the board, she has brought much to the table as food for thought. Her financial advice has been very helpful - thank you. Good luck Cathie as you move on in your career.

Our thanks and appreciation to Marion Tresoor for her many years of dedication to the MHA as a director, president and Ex-Officio Director. Thank you for being the down to earth and methodical person that you are. Good luck and health in the future.

On another note, usually as we leave the convention we know what society/club will be hosting the next convention. The last couple

Congratulations!

Thank you to our many supporters for selling MHA Pull Tickets. The draw took place on January 31, 2015 at the MHA Annual Convention in Winnipeg under License No. 09/14.

Congratulations to the winners —

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 st prize - \$200 | Isabelle Coldwell, Winnipeg |
| 2 nd prize - \$100 | Marion Tresoor, Winnipeg |
| 3 rd prize - \$100 | Sandra Havig, Winnipeg |
| 4 th prize - \$ 50 | Shirley Prawdzik, Neepawa |
| 5 th prize - \$ 50 | The Garden Club of Carman |
| 6 th prize - \$ 50 | Diane Donohoe, Petersfield |
| 7 th prize - \$ 50 | Rich Hammond, Arden |



of years this has not happened. Please talk to about hosting the 2016 convention among your members.

Lastly, think Spring, seed catalogues and Gardening!

Brent Hunter

Lynn Collicutt Receives Stevenson Award

Congratulations to Lynn Collicutt, recipient of the prestigious A. P. Stevenson Commemorative Award.

Lynn was presented with the Award, a painting by Fran Partridge, at the 2015 MHA Convention.

An article featuring the presentation and Lynn's achievements will appear in the May newsletter.

"Deadline for articles and information for the May newsletter April 15, 2015"



2015 MHA Annual Convention Highlights

Rock Around the Garden

The Welcome sign in the lobby of Charleswood United Church invited delegates coming to the 117th annual MHA Convention to *Rock Around the Garden*. Stage decor, rock displays, and fairy rock garden table centres enhanced this lively theme. Registrants were handed a bingo mixer which sent them scurrying from table to table to get signatures from folks who belonged to a certain club or had accomplished a particular gardening feat. Following a cordial welcome from MHA President Louise Page, the Thursday evening program commenced.

The ever popular David Hanson of Sage Garden Herbs was guest speaker. His topic was *Herbs as Ornamentals*. He explained that as well as having culinary or medicinal properties, many of the herbal plants that he selected had a special quality that inspired him to use them in landscape design. It could be the show stopping curb appeal of *Tiki Torch Echinacia*, the outstanding fragrance of *Mabel Grey Lemon Geranium*, or the long period of bloom of *Monardas* and *Signet Marigolds*. There are herbs suitable for pots, flower beds and lawn replacement.

Nia Massey was next on the program with a show of photos

from the talented photographers who belong to our garden clubs. Entries in the MHA Print Competition were up this year. Congratulations to all the winners. The MHA appreciates the work of Nia, Elly Garrett, and June Minish who look after the competition. At the conclusion of presentations everyone enjoyed refreshments.

Business sessions at this conference were kept to a minimum. The budget and MHA membership fee increase were approved and an auditor appointed. Vice President Cathie McFarlane reported on the analysis she had done on MHA finances to suggest efficiencies in the operation of the organization. Hugh Skinner explained the proposal for associate membership in the MHA by industry, educational institutions, horticultural non profits, and individuals. More on this will be forthcoming as the Board sets up a committee to develop guidelines.

Everyone was eager to hear from Dinah Ceplis who continues her volunteer agricultural development work with small farmers in Tanzania, with the objective of improving their production of tomatoes. The MHA supports this project with donations it receives from

garden club members. A portion of the funds raised in 2014 enabled the MHA to apply for a grant from the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation. It is gratifying to learn firsthand how our small contributions in Canada are put to such practical and effective use abroad. Coffee monies from the convention were earmarked for continued involvement in the Tanzanian project. At this year's convention \$650 was raised through coffee monies and donations.

Shea Doherty from Our Farm, Portage la Prairie, was back with his honey, beeswax products, and succulents. This time his presentation was on *Gardening Lasagna Style*. He showed step by step the process in building a lasagna garden. It's like building a compost pile with wet cardboard or paper on the bottom and layers of greens, browns, manure, and soil. He noted that it is the perfect solution for city yards with clay soil.

Saskatoon horticulturist and author, Sara Williams, is the gardening guru for the Prairie Provinces. She knows what works in our harsh climate and has a plant for every circumstance in a prairie garden. Her solid information and

humorous style endear her to audiences everywhere. Sara's first talk was on *Basic Perennials*, those good old favourites, and some newer varieties of them, which are reliable, hardy, and still very attractive. Her second presentation *The Spring Garden* suggested a combination of trees and shrubs, perennials, and flowering bulbs to achieve the most bloom throughout the spring season. If you can't find some of her recommended plants at your local nursery, her advice is to "nag" until the owner gives in and orders them in for you!

Fairy gardens are a delight for adults and children alike. Joanne Jones of St. Mary's Nursery & Garden Centre began with a whimsical introduction to the world of fairies. Her photos showed the array of containers, plants, and accessories available at garden centres. Whether you build or purchase your fairy houses, scrounge or buy the tiny plants, the whole idea of fairy gardening is to have fun.

Maurice Larson of Assiniboine Park introduced us to Mosaiculture. He defined it as a work of art created from plants. His presentation depicted how he and his staff designed, built, planted, and installed the *Snakes and Ladders* plantings on the ground and the *Froggie Band* sculptures in the Children's Garden at Assiniboine Park. No wonder he claimed that he had the perfect job!

On Saturday morning Duayne Friesen hosted his live radio *Lawn and Garden Journal* from the floor of the convention. He elicited a rousing welcome from Charleswood to his audience in radio land. Keen gardeners lined up to have the chance to ask Duayne their questions in person. As usual, he recruited experts from the floor - Hugh Skinner and Sara Williams - to help answer the tough questions.

The MHA sincerely appreciates the effort Duayne makes to bring his show to the convention. For many years garden clubs across the province have benefitted from the publicity he gives their events on his weekly program.

Lori Ann Regnier of Blue Lagoon Organics, believes there is no excuse for not growing some of your own food. She proceeded to show many clever ways of using the space one has - different shaped beds, vertical structures and recycled containers. An organic garden provides family activity, health benefits, food safety and security. Lori shared her experiences getting into vegetable production and many helpful tips for the home gardener.

Roy St. Lawrence, Heartwood Arboricultural, Oakville came with his branches and pruning shears to demonstrate *Pruning Fruit Trees and Ornamentals*.

He listed three reasons for pruning: crown cleaning crown thinning, and height reduction and proceeded to show with photos and shears how this is done. One needs to learn to identify the branch collar and bark branch ridge, and then don't cut into them. It helps a lot if the gardener is familiar with the growth habits of the trees he intends to trim.

The information program concluded with a presentation on the convention theme *Rock Gardens and Gardening in Small Spaces* by Madeline Nield of Lacoste Garden Centre, Winnipeg. Using her own garden as an example she discussed the situation, design, maintenance consideration, types of rock, plant choice, and mulch. She noted that rock gardens could still be located in small spaces - even in containers. To achieve maximum use of space use vertical structures, standard plants, towers, above ground beds, square foot gardens.

The MHA Company Store offered the usual items - garden hats, gloves, hand weeders, books and catalogues, tote bags, cards and garden markers. Plants for sale included succulents from Connie Lagerquist at the International Peace Garden, peonies from Driedger Nursery, Brandon, martagons from Skinner's Nursery, Roblin, cannas from Carol Dowd, Glenboro, oxalis

from John Rempel, Charleswood and cupid's bower corms, from Brent Hunter. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the store and for the seed table.

When long time store assistant Susan Fulton fell ill, Cheryl Dreilich of Agassiz stepped forward to help Marion and Carol.

Costume contest winners were Carol Clegg, Tracy Theriault and Lorene Schipper. The costume contest did not inspire many entries. Is it time to give it a rest?

Friday evening everyone returned to the hall for a delicious roast pork dinner. After the introduction of the Board of Directors, and the presentation of the prestigious A. P. Stevenson Commemorative Award to Lynn Collicutt, a number of guests, led by Louise of course, rocked around the hall to the melodies of the duo *Fire and Ice* from Winnipeg.

Thanks to auctioneer Ken Waddell of Neepawa, the *Great Gardener's* Auction proceeded at a rapid pace. Board members were the runners and Roger and Dorcas did the tally. Auction proceeds were \$2,018. Much appreciation to all the member clubs who contributed such an amazing variety of garden stuff. Saturday's proceedings ended with presentations to retiring directors Marion Tresoor and Cathie McFarlane. Brent Hunter and Louise Page thanked them for their dedicated service to the MHA and extended good wishes from everyone present.

There should be a huge round of applause for the host clubs Charleswood, St. James, Transcona, and West Kildonan for all their work in planning and pulling off another great convention. These clubs provided the coffee breaks and volunteers to do all the behind the scenes jobs. Canvassing and assembling packages for the Sweet Pea Auction was a very time consuming job and those who did it deserve a big thank you. This fund raiser netted \$720. Great catering service was by KT Katering, Winnipeg.

All of our speakers were top notch and we appreciate the time and effort that went into their presentations. Garden Club members are advised to ask their delegates for copies of the lists of plants and instructional handouts kindly provided by our speakers. There was a wealth of information exchanged during those three days and it was meant to be shared. Now it's time to curl up with those seed or nursery catalogues and dream of spring.

Carol Clegg

MHA Secretary Treasurer Position

In the last newsletter it was mentioned that Dorcas is retiring as Secretary Treasurer for the MHA, and that we are in the process of trying to find a replacement. Anyone interested may contact the MHA office for more information and copy of the job description.

Résumés should be sent by February 28, 2015 to: Brent Hunter, MHA President
beyondthegardengate@hotmail.ca

“A huge thank you to the clubs involved in hosting the 2015 MHA Convention.”



“Please contact your MHA regional director if your club is interested in hosting the 2016 convention.”



“What speakers and topics would you like to hear at the 2016 Convention? Please let us know. The Program Committee is open to suggestions.”



Students Attend Convention

The Weir Memorial Board extended an invitation to R. B. Russell School students in the horticultural program to attend the 2015 Annual Convention. The two students selected by their teacher Louise Shachtay, attended on Friday and Saturday.

Louise made a presentation at last year's convention when two students spoke on how the horticulture program at R. B. Russell School has enriched their lives and was helping them to achieve their goals.

If anyone has used pots, any size, or seed trays to donate to the program, these may be dropped off at R. B. Russell School, attention Louise Shachtay, Monday to Friday during school hours.

Retiring MHA Director

With reluctance Cathie McFarlane has found it necessary to step down from her position as a director of the MHA.

She became a director in 2012 representing Selkirk, Agassiz and South Interlake clubs.

Cathie has been a great asset to the MHA bringing her financial expertise to the board and her guidance toward the proposed Associate Membership program.

Cathie we wish you well in your endeavours and hope to see you at future MHA conventions.

Thank You

The MHA board of directors, on behalf of its member horticultural societies and garden clubs, wishes to thank the volunteers from Charleswood, St. James, Transcona and West Kildonan for their tireless efforts in hosting a very successful convention. Also many thanks to the Garden Club of Carman, hosts of last year's great convention, for providing delicious treats for the Saturday afternoon coffee break.

A special "Thank You" to Rev. Michael Wilson for delivering the invocation and to Myrna Driedger, MLA for bringing greetings.

Everyone enjoyed the fund raising activities and your support is very much appreciated - thank you!

We also wish to extend our appreciation to all of the speakers for sharing their knowledge and expertise and for contributing to the success of the 2015 MHA Convention.

MHA Membership Fees

The proposal to increase the base MHA membership fee to \$80.00 per society/club plus \$4.00 per member was approved at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

Society/club secretaries will receive the MHA Membership fee invoice with this newsletter.



"If you would like to help a student with their horticultural studies please donate to the MHS Award Fund"



"Free glad bulbs for your Junior Garden Club. (See page 6)"



"Speaker subsidies available from the Weir Memorial Fund. Details in MHA binders."



“Mark your calendar”



“The next meeting of the MHA Board of Directors will be held March 27, 2015, Neepawa, MB”

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We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.icangarden.com/clubs/mha

Horticultural/Gardening Events

Agassiz Garden Club

- Feb 11 **MHA Convention Report** – 1:30 pm
Mar 11 **Bird House Feeder Demonstration** – 1:30 pm
Apr 19 **Spring Garden Workshop** – 12:30 pm, Pioneer Club, Lac du Bonnet

St. James Horticultural Society

- Feb 17 **Eco Landscaping** – Bill Dowie, Project Management Consultant
Mar 17 **Gardening with the New Weather** – Charlotte Tataryn
Apr 21 **Garden Registration & Silent Auction**

Transcona Garden Club

- Feb 18 **Succulents** – Lori Van der Meer
Mar 18 **Tree Care** – Mike Allen
Apr 15 **Peonies** – Ted Sobkowich

West Kildonan Horticultural Society

- www.wkhorticultural.ca
Mar 3 **Square Foot Gardens** – Mick Manfield, Master Gardener
Apr 7 **Succulents in Containers** – Marilyn Dudek

Westman Gardeners

- www.westmangardeners.ca
Mar 5 **Fairy Gardens** – Carla Hrycna, St. Mary's Nursery, Winnipeg
Apr 2 **Fabulous Succulents** – Kerri Van Mackelbergh, Greenhouse Manager. 6:30 pm at Patmore Nursery
Apr 18 **Hort Day** – 9 am to 3:30 pm. (See add this page)
Apr 25 **2015 Peace Garden Cactus Exhibit Tour**

Winnipeg Seedy Saturday

February 14th at Canadian Mennonite University (600 Shaftesbury, south campus) from 10 am to 3pm. For more information visit www.winnipegmseedysaturday.wordpress.com or find us on [Facebook](#).

Canada Blooms Flower & Garden Festival

www.canadablooms.com
March 13 - 22, 2015
Direct Energy Centre, Toronto

Manitoba Orchid Society Show and Sale

March 19-22, 2014
“Orchid Reflections” at the Conservatory
Website:
<http://www.manitobaorchidsociety.ca>

GARDENING SATURDAY

Gardens Manitoba presents the **8th Annual Gardening Saturday** sponsored by Manitoba Hydro on March 28th, 2015 at the Victoria Inn Hotel & Conference Centre, 1808 Wellington Avenue, Winnipeg 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Registration before the event is \$15 for each 1 hour session or \$20 at the door.

Visit www.gardensmanitoba.com for full details and online registration.

Glad Bulbs for Juniors

The MHA will distribute glad bulbs again in 2015 using funds from the donation received from the Winnipeg Gladiolus & Dahlia Society. Junior gardener groups affiliated with MHA member societies and clubs are eligible to take advantage of this offer. Please make your Junior Leaders aware of this special promotion.

If you have a junior program please contact Dorcas at m.h.a@shaw.ca or phone 204-256-2745 by **April 15th** with the number of junior members and the name and address where the glad bulbs are to be sent.

Westman Gardeners

HORT DAY

Gardening in the Shade

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Central Community Centre, 529 – 4th St., Brandon

9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Speakers: Fran Wershler and Brenda Newton

Topics will include growing roses, lilies, and coral bells. Presentation on how to landscape, plant choice possibilities, etc., for shade gardening.

Pre-registration required

For more information call: 204-728-0792,
204-725-2883 or 204-726-0294

www.westmangardeners.ca

Thank You Marion

After 25 years of dedicated service to the MHA, Marion Tresoor has decided to step down from her current position as an Ex-officio Director. Marion's involvement with the MHA began in Thompson when she became a member of the Thompson Horticultural Society. I remember visiting her yard when judging the Home Grounds Competition; she was also growing orchids and bedding plants.

In 1989 Marion became the MHA director for the north representing Thompson, Flin Flon and The Pas. She travelled many miles to visit her societies sharing her horticultural knowledge and judging at flower shows. During her time with the MHA Marion served as President in 1994 and 1995 and has worked on many committees sharing her knowledge and expertise.

In 2001 Marion decided it was time for someone else to become the director for the northern societies and she agreed to remain on the MHA Board in an advisory capacity as an Ex-officio Director. In 2003 she left Thompson and moved to Winnipeg.

Marion is probably best known to many of you as the lady who works in the MHA Company Store at conventions.

Although Marion is retiring from the MHA board she has agreed to help us in any way she can in the future.

From all members of the MHA we thank you Marion for your dedication to horticulture and to the MHA.

Roger Brown

Update on MHA's Project with Tanzania

Greetings from the Tanzania Society of Agricultural Education and Extension (TSAEE). In December 2014, with funds provided by the MHA, TSAEE provided small holder tomato growers in Tanzania the opportunity to attend seminars combined with field investigation to identify a new pest problem of tomatoes in the Missungwi District of Tanzania (south of the city of Mwanza). Tomato growers participating in the Value Chain Project were feeling comfortable with their knowledge of pest and disease problems *until* damage from a new insect became prominent. The insect is known as the Tomato Leaf Miner from South America or *Tuta absoluta*. It crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 2006 and was discovered in Spain. It has been steadily making its way southward and eastward through Europe and the Middle East and is now seen in tomato plots in African countries of Tanzania and Kenya. Growers are very concerned about this new insect problem. In the words of one Tanzanian tomato grower: "*Tomato has been a reliable crop for us. It has provided us with income for food, the ability to build improved houses, and to buy cows. It has changed our lives. This insect will affect us greatly. We are frustrated by this insect.*" Control measures involving integrated pest management strategies appear to be the most reliable way to slow down the damage. Further investigations are underway in Tanzania to identify the best control methods. Thanks to the MHA members for supporting this project. It was a pleasure to speak about the project at the 117th Convention in Charleswood, and to provide an overview of the project and its inception.

Dinah Cepelis



Manitoba Horticultural Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2015

PRESIDENT:	Brent Hunter
VICE PRESIDENT:	Connie Lagerquist
DIRECTORS:	Louise Page Tena Kilmury Hugh Skinner Pamela McFarlane
EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS:	Roger Brown Reg Curle
SECRETARY TREASURER:	Dorcas Brown

Manitoba Horticultural Association

COMMITTEES

2015

First named is chairperson

Executive Committee:	Brent Hunter Louise Page MHA Secretary Treasurer
Finance:	Connie Lagerquist MHA Secretary Treasurer Hugh Skinner Pamela McFarlane
Ways & Means:	Roger Brown Louise Page Connie Lagerquist Tena Kilmury
Judges/Judging Standards:	MHA Secretary Treasurer Roger Brown Brent Hunter
Newsletter:	Roger Brown - Editor Carol Clegg - Co Editor and all Directors
Print Competition:	June Minish Nia Massey Elly Garrett
Nominations:	Roger Brown Reg Curle
Resolutions:	Reg Curle Louise Page
2016 Convention Program:	To be announced
MHS Award Fund:	Josina Zander Roger Brown – Vice Chair Louise Page MHA Secretary Treasurer
Weir Memorial:	Brent Hunter MHA Secretary Treasurer Hugh Skinner Roger Brown Reg Curle Connie Lagerquist Pamela McFarlane
Stevenson Memorial:	Brent Hunter MHA Secretary Treasurer Hugh Skinner Reg Curle Roger Brown Dr. Wilbert Ronald Dr. Philip Ronald Gerry Aubin

MHA information for society and club secretaries:

- **MHA Membership fee invoice** -to be given to your club treasurer. Invoices reflect the increased membership fees approved by the membership at the annual meeting (blue copy for MHA binder - Membership/Insurance)
- **Minutes of the 2015 MHA Annual Meeting** (binder - Annual Meetings)
- **2015 MHA Board of Directors list** (binder - Contact Lists)
- **2015 President & Secretary list of member horticultural societies and garden clubs.** This list is for the sole use of MHA member societies and clubs and is not be given out to anyone wishing to compile a mailing list, email list, etc. (binder - Contact Lists)

Societies/clubs not represented at the 2015 MHA Annual Meeting will also receive the following:

- **2014 Annual Reports book**
- **2014/15 MHA Budget** (binder - Annual Minutes)
- **2015 Judges List** (binder - Judges/ Apprentice Judges)