

## **President's Column by Bob Fowler Board President**

### President's Column

For my money we're in the best part of the gardening season right now. The harried pace of spring, though it offers the promise of the gardening season to come, involves the many tasks which define that season. From the cleaning of winter detritus from garden beds to preparation of planting areas to the tending of tender seedlings, all those time-sensitive duties which are necessary to get our gardens off to a good start command our attention in the spring. And as wonderful as a Maine summer in the garden is, that season has us contending with weeds and pests and drought (okay, maybe not contending with drought *this* summer!); still, there's much to be done to keep our summertime gardens cooking along, and all of it under the hot sun.

This time of year, though, when the garden is mature and the frost has yet to hit, our gardens invite us to settle in and enjoy the fruits of our labors. The days are warm, the nights crisp, and in the mornings we can take lazy strolls through the garden - coffee cup in hand - and see how things are coming along. We'll see our gardening successes and our disappointments, and think about how we'll do things differently next year. Walking there and looking at our plants we'll be witness to the life cycle itself as we see our annuals approach the end of their lives or our perennials prepare for dormancy, and our minds may be drawn to thoughts of our own life cycles and mortality. But there's a quietness and peacefulness about this time in the garden that I cherish, a sense of satisfaction as I reflect on how the tiny seedlings I planted back in the spring have become mature plants, preparing to embark on their next phase of existence. Those plants may become compost which will nourish the soil, or may yield seeds which will become tomorrow's garden. It's all there in front of us, and the slower pace of fall encourages us to notice.

Here's to hoping all of you have quiet mornings in your gardens, complete with coffee and reflections. Thanks for reading.

Bob Fowler

Board President

Check out this great new on-line key to help you identify New England trees, shrubs, vines, aquatics, etc. <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/>

## **MG HARVEST SUPPER~POT LUCK~AWARDS~SPEAKER**

OCTOBER 16

YARMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

5:30 PM

*[FLYER ATTACHED WITH DETAILS](#)*

Hello Native Plant Enthusiasts!

If you would like to volunteer to promote native shrublands at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge we are having two volunteer planting days in Scarborough, ME. Friday Sept. 27th and Saturday Sept. 28th. Both events run from 9-1.

All participants get a coupon for free entrance to a National Park or Wildlife Refuge. Please call the office at [207 646 9226](tel:2076469226) or email [Janet\\_Gorman@fws.gov](mailto:Janet_Gorman@fws.gov) if you would like to help out.

Friday, September 27 (9am—1pm) Kelly Field in Scarborough (end of Tenney Ln) - plant native shrubs - remove invasive plants

OR Saturday, September 28 (9am—1pm) - Libby Field in Scarborough (Route 77) - plant native shrubs

Congratulations Clark Whittier (2010)...named Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year for 2013.

Best Diana

## HOME HORTICULTURE COORDINATOR

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**TO RECORD YOUR MG VOLUNTEER HOURS:** [http://www.cc-mg.org/MG\\_monthly\\_report.html](http://www.cc-mg.org/MG_monthly_report.html)

Cumberland County Website: <http://www.cc-mg.org/>  
<http://extension.umaine.edu/>

For timely information on gardening in Maine, check out Maine Home Garden News: <http://extension.umaine.edu/gardening/maine-home-garden-news/>

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