



# Bermuda Botanical Society

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## MAY NEWSLETTER 2009 PRESIDENT'S CORNER

What a wonderful time of year. The water is clear and it is enjoyable to go without a sweater, but not too hot and humid.

If you have been by the Visitors' Centre recently you will have noticed a change in the café. We have switched the coffee area and the cashier area. The cashier now has a better vantage point and the customer circulation in the café is better. In addition, the floor has been regouted and we were successful in utilizing an old drain so we now have a sink area which will allow us to make coffee without having to go to the kitchen. These changes help our volunteers help us.

If you went out on the terrace, you will have noticed the new wall with a gate on the eastern end to allow us access to an area we will use to sell plants. In the meantime, it allowed us to use an area to demonstrate composting. On Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> we had Frances Eddy give us a talk. Frances lectures on GROW BIOINTENSIVE which is a completely sustainable method of growing. It uses composting as the means to maintain soil fertility. It only takes about 2% humus in the soil to maintain microbial activity.

Our volunteers are really great. They have made Lesley feel right at home, and extra folks turned up to help with the annual exhibition in April. Many, many thanks to those who support our endeavours. Our takings for the three days this year were at least as good as last year.

We are indebted to David Wingate who gave us a thorough walk through Spittal Pond on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. I was fortunate to hear Mr. Wingate on New Year's Day, however his talk this time definitely had a botanical theme. His knowledge is impressive. Likewise, Sarah Vallis did a number of walks the following week around the Botanical Gardens which catered to different age groups, including children. We thank both of these special people who help us bring a botanical awareness to the public.

We have our Annual General Meeting this month. The guest speaker this year will be our very own curator Neville Richardson, speaking on his vision for the Botanical Gardens. Please note the date, Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm and join us for this worthwhile time. Refreshments will be served.

Keep gardening.  
**Bill Ingham**  
President



## NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

The 2009 fiscal year has seen significant changes in the Society's finance and treasury function. I volunteered as Treasurer with the Society beginning in August. Hiroko Okada did an excellent job arranging the inventory in preparation for the August 31, 2008 inventory count and entering the count sheets into Microsoft Excel after the count. Most of the Society's board some spouses turned out for the full day of inventory counting. Performing an inventory count on nearly 1,500 unique items is no small feat!

Lyn Vaughan put in a strong effort to value the inventory listing. Our new volunteer Finance Director, Samantha Bromfield, has assembled an excellent set of financial statements and audit materials for PricewaterhouseCoopers upcoming audit of the August 31, 2008 financial statement, scheduled for last week of May 2009. The finance and treasury function is making progress in other areas as well:

- Bill Ingham was kind enough to spend a bit of his time while on

vacation in the U.S. shopping for a new HP Slimline PC for the Society;

- Samantha Bromfield has been working with Lyn Vaughan to implement QuickBooks On-line as the Society's new accounting system;
- Plans to update all banking signatories and implement on-line banking; and
- Plans to implement a simplified inventory tracking system.

I will be presenting the draft unaudited August 31, 2008 financial statements at the upcoming Annual General Meeting. If you have any questions or comments regarding the finance and treasury function, please contact me.

Sincerely,

*Andrew Hudson*

[andrew.hudson@lycos.com](mailto:andrew.hudson@lycos.com)

### BERMUDA BOTANICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

We are in the planning stages of setting up a website for the Society, and we'll be working with Rick Hawke of 3264 Group, Media Consultants, to get this up and running this year. And about time too, I hear you say! If there's anyone out there among our members who would like to be involved in maintaining/updating a part of the website, we'd love to hear from you. We'd also love to hear from you if you'd like to make a donation towards the cost of this project, in which case you would be credited on the website for sponsoring a page.

In either case, if interested, please contact Bill Ingham at [bi57@northrock.bm](mailto:bi57@northrock.bm) or Helle Patterson at [helle@northrock.bm](mailto:helle@northrock.bm)

## TEN IPOMOEAS, FOUND IN BERMUDA

by Tour Guide

Morning Glory is one of those lovely and evocative plant names that one finds in the English language. The flowers have the strongest colour in the morning and lose their beauty during the day. The scientific name *Ipomoea* is from the Greek, meaning worm-like. Indeed, it seems to wriggle like a worm on the ground and wherever it can it will climb up, in search of sunlight.



The very attractive flowers of Morning Glory, or Bluebells as some people call it are abundant at this time of the year. One has to take a close look to appreciate their beauty. They have more than one colour, each one enhancing the other. There are shades of blue, shades of pink, and white, the pink and blue mixing into purple. I look at them with mixed feelings. The flowers are lovely but, how quickly it can spread and become a nuisance! Whole bushes can be overgrown and suffocated by it. It is a good thing that the seeds are not spread around by the wind or by birds.

The Morning glory is, of course, mentioned in Christine Watlington's book "Bermuda's Botanical Wonderland". The book also describes five other *Ipomoeas*, including the sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*), which has been used as ground cover in the Botanical

Gardens. But we have found yet more species of *Ipomoea* in Bermuda.

Around Christmas and flowering into January on some spots in Bermuda one can find an *Ipomoea* with small white flowers. On this vine a number of buds are lined up in a row behind each flower and they open one after another. Like the Morning Glory the flowers look at their best in the morning and late in the afternoon they close. It has lovely dark green leaves and the flowers have a pleasant fragrance. You can find it on the Railway Trail in Paget a few hundred yards east of Cobb's Hill Road. Can somebody give me the name of it?

In a far corner of the Botanical Gardens itself, where the Dept. of Parks stores earth, mulch, horse manure, etc. this winter we have found another spectacular *Ipomoea*! It is the Moonvine, *Ipomoea alba*. This vine covers quite a lot of ground there. It showed large and pure white flowers. This plant would be ideal to have in a planter, supported by some sticks. But don't let it loose in your garden... the battle against the Morning Glory is enough for most of us!

A year ago I came across a flowering bush with large pink flowers that looked like Morning Glory. This also has a line of buds behind each flower and it flowers for a long time. It is definitely an *Ipomoea*. We have taken a cutting and have it growing in a pot. Later we saw the same plant in the Yucatan, Mexico, and also found a white variety there.

There will be photos again on display in the Visitor's Centre. Who can identify this one and the one with the small white flowers?

I would like to add a riddle:

***What is between two Clerodendra gigantea and one Ficus urbaniana?***

(The answer is on the back page)

# AROUND THE ISLAND

by Lisa Greene

Many school children are receiving cedar trees from SOS as part of Bermuda's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



Here are planting instructions for our Bermuda Cedar, *Juniperus bermudiana*: Please pass them on to anyone you know who might be interested. We want to give all those lovely cedars the best chance they can get!

The optimum spacing between cedar trees is 25 feet (essentially each tree will need a circle of about 25 feet diameter if it is to grow to its potential).

Dig a large hole. Remove the cedar from the pot and gently pull the roots apart (but not too much) to encourage them to grow out and into the new soil. If you don't pull the roots gently apart they may continue to grow around in a circle and your tree may not thrive.

You can plant natives and endemics just about any time, but if you plant your cedar in the summer, you must water the plant/s.

If you can, get a bit of soil (including rootlets) from a healthy cedar tree and add it to the soil in the hole in which you are planting your cedar for improved growth.

Happy planting!

The following was borrowed from the following website for a New York City tree planting programme, but much of the information applies to anywhere:  
<http://www.milliontreesnyc.org/html/planting/placement.shtml>

**Get inspired and plant a tree in Bermuda!!**

When you plant a tree, you give a bountiful gift. The benefits of planting trees are many—cleaner air, more beautiful neighborhoods, energy savings, cooler streets in the summer—and mature trees return these benefits to New Yorkers year after year, and for future generations to come. When properly planted and cared for, trees are valuable community assets throughout their long lifespan.

**Consider the following suggestions for fitting the tree to the site.**

A tree's mature size and shape must be of the proper scale to fit the site and surrounding buildings.

Trees have roots. Roots spread beyond the branch area of the tree. Most roots are found in the top 18" of soil; most absorbing roots are found in the top 6" of soil.

Plant an appropriate sized tree under overhead wires. Avoid planting over under-ground utilities. Do not plant trees near building foundations or walls.

If you plan to plant near the street or in a parking lot, know the snow removal plans.

Determine the necessary root growth space for

the species you select. Think of clustering trees in a park setting or a parking lot to provide larger soil volumes for safe root growth. Grouping spaces as contiguous pits to provide shared soil volumes is recommended, rather than digging several individual pits. Groupings create their own small environments and may survive better.

Identify legal restrictions for planting for both public and private property.

To maximize the tree's energy-savings and health benefits to the community, plant the largest size tree possible. But always think ahead

to the mature height of the tree. Never plant too large a tree in too small a space.

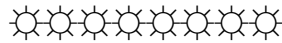
Which way is south? The sun is always in the southern portion of the sky, so a deciduous tree planted on the south side of the house will shade the house in summer but allow the sun's warmth to come through its bare branches in winter.

Understand that if you plant a large tree in full sun, it will eventually create shade. You can still have grass and a lovely garden in shade.

Answer to riddle on page 3:

*An Elephant*

(Two Elephant's Ears and one Elephant's Tail)



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 27**

**Bermuda Botanical Society A.G.M.**

6:30 pm, Visitors' Centre, Botanical Gardens.

**June 3**

**Stargazing with Eddie McGonagle**

8:00 pm, Botanical Gardens