

Dave Sangster Inducted into WBPANS Book of Recognition

(Citation read at WBPANS Banquet before presentation of Award)

David Sangster grew up on the family farm in Grand Pre, in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley, where he developed a love for agriculture and in particular, horticultural crops. After completing high school, he enrolled in the degree program at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College for two years before moving on to complete his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree at

Macdonald College of McGill University, as was the practice at that time.

Upon graduation from Mac, Dave went to work for the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture & Marketing as an extension horticulturist, where he began a long association with the greenhouse industry. In 1968, he decided to continue his studies and in 1971, received his Master of Science degree from Cornell University in New York State, after which

he returned to his chosen career as an extension horticulturist, this time working with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Vineland Research Station in the Niagara Peninsula until returning to the Maritimes. Dave also gained valuable private industry experience working for two years with Avon Valley Greenhouses in Falmouth as their production manager and plant manager of their Scotia Greenhouses operation in the Annapolis Valley, at a

time when that industry was going through rapid technological change in the area of new production methods and energy efficiency innovations. But, Dave soon returned to his true calling in agricultural extension and in 1976 became Provincial Horticulturist and then in 1981, Crops Supervisor, with the PEI Department of Agriculture & Forestry. Dave's strong leadership abilities and people skills were becoming well known in government extension circles

and in the industry they served and in 1982, he became Director, Horticulture & Biology Services Branch with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture & Marketing. Dave's reputation as an outstanding leader and visionary spread through industry and government circles as he built and supported the work of a team of experts that achieved national and international recognition and respect for its commitment and professionalism in working with private sector partners, to build a strong and competitive horticulture industry in Nova

Scotia. While Dave's real passion has always been in horticulture, his particular skills as a team builder and supportive manager were recognized by the Department of Agriculture and he was promoted through several important senior management positions, eventually becoming Director of Production Technology, with responsibility for a province wide team of 57 professional crop and livestock advisors, technicians and administrative staff.

In 2003, Dave brought his strong leadership and organizational skills to the wild blueberry industry, when he became Executive Director of the Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia. Through his eleven year term with WBPANS, Dave steadily put the organization on an ever more professional and effective footing and played a large role in its evolution into one of the province's and the country's most respected agricultural organizations. He quietly and methodically put procedures in place behind the scenes to strengthen the business footing of the organization, in areas such as board governance, committee structures and representation and general management, which greatly increased the association's effectiveness and reach. Dave strongly believes that wild blueberry research, promotion and service to our industry are the three major pillars of the association's role in building a strong, sustainable industry. During his tenure, Dave used his people skills to great effect, building strong

relationships within and outside the greater wild blueberry industry, with all levels of government and allied organizations and with a national and international network of business contacts, friends and colleagues. Above all, as we would expect, Dave emphasizes that it is the people of the industry who have made it work and who represented the most enjoyable and productive aspect of his work over the years.

In retirement, Dave has returned to the home farm in Grand Pre, where he and Sylvia have built a retirement home overlooking the Grand Pre marsh, Cape Blomidon and beyond the Minas Basin, the Land of Wild Blueberries, to which he made such a positive and long lasting contribution.

Congratulations Dave!

Information Sessions Keeping WBPANS Updated

Continued from page 12

mation on Optimizing Harvesters and Safety through discussion of more efficient harvest practices, under different field conditions with higher yields.

Dr. Scott White, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture and Peter Burgess, Perennia gave updated information on Best Practices in Weed Control Measures. Some important guidelines on application of chemicals were presented including checking the calibration of the sprayer several times/year, checking for clogged nozzles, using good water quality for mixing, using proper boom heights, timing of application and precaution for mixing multiple chemicals. "Just because they mix well it does not mean they work well together," said Peter Burgess and it was also suggested to take under consideration when applying chemicals that improving the health of the berry plant has impact on improving the health of the weeds, also.

WBPANS President Jeff Orr said he is encouraged by the positive advances in the industry and the improved government programs and policies. "Overall the government outlook has been positive on our industry, plus a good relationship with Provincial Ministers and a renewed relationship with the new Federal Minister from PEI."

Orr was pleased to acknowledge the strong relationship with researchers, especially the strong local team at Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture and Perennia, who often collaborate on their research. "New research initiatives and advances are adding to our understanding on how to produce good or record crops," says Orr.

The AGM was the end of Jeff Orr's two year term as President and he thanked everyone for their support and encouragement, adding, "we must continue to work together to grow and sustain our industry."

Barron Blois, from Kennetcook was elected as the new President.

Jim Baillie gave the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture report on behalf of President Chris van den Heuvel. He said the NSGA represents 2400 farm families in the Province, overseeing 27 commodities, with a focus on securing a better future for Nova Scotia Agriculture. The NSFA continues to administer the

Environmental Farm Program with 1800 plans completed to date, as well as the AgriInvest and AgriStability.

Paul Kittilsen, President of the NS Beekeepers Association discussed the concern surrounding import of hives from Ontario for the upcoming year. The small hive beetle has been found in some hives in Ontario and these hives have not been quarantined. The movement is being monitored but local producers do not want to risk the beetle coming into Nova Scotia on these imported hives. He says, "local is best and the same goes for bees." Kittilsen was pleased with the government's Pollination Expansion Program, noting this has resulted in a growth of hives to 25,000 in Nova Scotia. The Modern Beekeeping Course has also been a great success with a two year waiting list at present.

Alice Pugsley, WBPANS Promotion Committee Chair gave a report the past year's promotional activities which included The Saltscapes Expo at the end of April, the Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival in August, Breakfast at the Legislature in Halifax, visits by the Japanese Jam Producers and German Food Bloggers, updates to the Halifax Airport Display, fundraising by schools and hockey teams, placement of brochures and placemats, local advertising, Fort Lawrence Visitor's Center and most recently attending the fall Saltscapes Expo in Masstown.

Michael Collins, Ethos Marketing Group, Portland, Maine gave an informative presentation on Building Demand for Wild Blueberries in the US Market, and an overview of the "Pick Wild" program. Registered Dieticians and Food Bloggers are spreading the "wild word", sharing the latest research and health news along with new and exciting recipes through social media channels, e-marketing and print. The struggle is to get consumers to differentiate between the wild blueberries and regular blueberries. One component of the "Pick Wild" campaign focuses on the naturally occurring berry... "Wild blueberries have been here for 10,000 years, unchanged by man. It really does make a difference."

There have been recent exciting developments in health related research involving wild blueberries. Two recent publications, "Mind Diet, 10 Foods that Fight Alzheimer's" and

"Four Brain Foods for Kids", feature wild blueberries and there has been ongoing research, with evidence wild blueberries prevents pathologies associated with metabolic syndrome, including diabetes and heart disease.

The next Wild Blueberry Symposium will be held Oct. 22nd-23rd, 2016 in Fredericton, NB.



André Tardiff of JR Tardiff



Ron Kennedy, Commercial Equipment



Alice Pugsley presents the Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival \$100 Gift Basket to winner Martha Brown, of West Lochaber Lake. Martha is also the 2015 Provincial and Eastern Region Woodlot Owner of the Year. The winner of the Hand Painted Adirondack chair was Sherry Lynn Hiltz and the \$50 Gift Basket winner was Judith Bower.

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Past President Peter Van Dyk (left) presents outgoing President Jeff Orr with a gift of appreciation.

Great Village Fundraiser in 2016

By Heather MacKay

As many of you know the Great Village Community Association has been on hiatus for a number of months. It is now time to revitalize the association with new members and ideas. The first of which is a creation of a walking trail along the Great Village River.

This project is on the table now for discussion. We have seen lots of community support and ideas. In other news the Great Village Community Association and the St James Preservation Society have joined together for a fund raiser beginning in the new year.

Watch for poster with more information.



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