

***NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION
OF
GARDEN CLUBS***

HISTORY UPDATE

1995-2000

by
Barbara Morton
Historian



The Table of Content

Introduction WHAT'S NEW?	2
Horticultural Societies, Garden Clubs and Affiliated Plant Societies	3
Departments of Agriculture and Marketing	4
Board of Directors, Advisory Committee	5
Board of Directors 1995-2000— Committee chairpersons	6-10
Highlights of N.S.A.G.C. Board Meetings	11
Rural Beautification, Communities in Bloom	12
Conventions and Annual meeting's	13-15
Awards	16-18
District meeting's	19-20
N.S.A.G.C Programs and Contests	21
New Clubs and Clubs Disbanded	22
Landscape News, East Coast Gardener	23
Judging School	24-25
Community projects, Plant Sales Etc.	26-27
Club programs	28
Bus trips and Garden Tours	29-30
Flower Shows	31
Special Events	32-33
In Memoriam	34-35



Introduction

Another five years (1995- 2000) have passed and we stand on the threshold of a new millennium.

We can only guess at the changes that might be ahead in the next one hundred years. More people are opting to get away from the hustle and bustle and enjoy the privacy of their own back yard. Travel and cottage life have become expensive, and in recent years the trend subsequently is to develop an outdoor living area where in privacy one can eat, relax and entertain.

Today the information on gardening is as close as our fingertips through the mediums of newspaper, radio, TV, magazines and the Internet. Information on composting, recycling and other aspects of waste management bombards us. The Department of Agriculture now has a call in service to answer questions and they can also be found on the Internet.

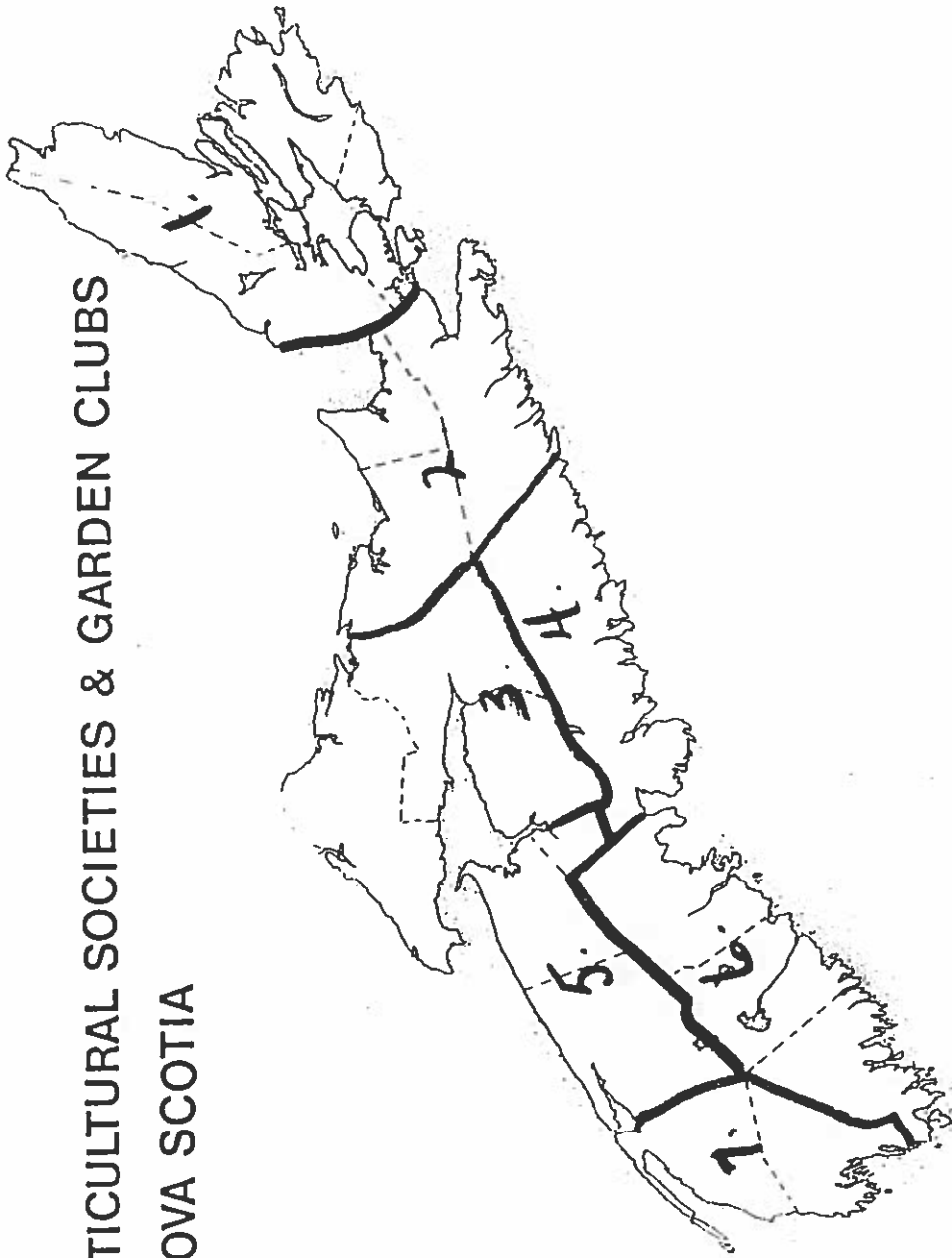
With so much information available it is interesting to see that garden clubs are continuing to grow in number. It seems that the personal touch received in a garden club brings gardeners closer together. The sharing of knowledge is a communication that they can't learn in the same way from a TV show. The workshops, area meetings, special speakers, bus tours, plant sales, community projects and social gatherings bring people together to learn and enjoy. In the December 1999/January 2000 issue of Canadian Gardening, Carol Matthews of the Yarmouth Garden Club had an article, "Let's Go Garden Clubbing". It was pleasantly refreshing to read her article and to agree whole heartily with her. Every club is different with different objectives and plans. This is good for we wouldn't want to be all the same. We can learn from one another and make our province a more beautiful place in which to live.

With the growth of garden clubs and interest in gardening in general, the landscape industry and the greenhouse industry have been helped significantly and are now a 40 million-dollar business. Composting, recycling and waste management has also become a big employer in recent years. Gardeners are at the head of the parade when it comes to composting and recycling.

As gardeners we have a large variety of vegetables and flowers to choose from as well as deciding whether we will garden organically or by other methods which are presented to us. Genetically engineered food will give us more decisions to make and who can tell what new and wonderful things will be developed to make growing plants easier and to give us new tastes and beauty to enjoy.

As we stand on the brink of a new millennium, we wonder what more new and amazing things can still be ahead for us in gardening. Debates are occurring as to whether genetically engineered food produced to be resistant to bugs and pesticides are safe for human consumption. Will it be common place to grow all of our food under controlled conditions? We cannot foretell the future, but if there are as many changes as in the last 100 years it will be an interesting place in which to live.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES & GARDEN CLUBS
in NOVA SCOTIA



*Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs,
Horticultural Societies & Garden Clubs, Affiliated Plant Groups*



CAPE BRETON DISTRICT #1

Glace Bay Garden Club
New Waterford Garden Club
North Sydney garden Club
Westmount Garden Club
Middle River Garden Club
Big Pond
Baddeck & Area

EASTERN DISTRICT #2

New Glasgow Horticultural Society
Pictou Horticultural Society
Westville & Area Garden Club
Guysborough Garden Club
St. Mary's Garden Club

CENTRAL DISTRICT #3

Bible Hill Garden Club
Great Village Garden Club
Cobequid Garden Club
Clifton Garden Club
Hilden Garden Club
Westmount Park Garden Club
Stewiacke Valley Garden Club
Amherst Garden Club
Village Garden Club
Country Garden Club [Milford]
Valley Weeders Garden Club [Musquodobit]
Wentworth Valley Garden Club
Stewiacke Garden Club
Shubenacadie & District Garden Club
Cottage Country Garden Club

HALIFAX DISTRICT #4

Bedford Horticultural Society
Dartmouth Horticultural Society
Halifax- Westmoor Horticultural Society
St. Margaret's Bay Gardening Club

VALLEY DISTRICT #5

Haliburton Garden Club
Wilmot Garden Club
Valley Garden Club
Charing Cross Garden Club
Forties Garden Club

SOUTH SHORE DISTRICT #6

Bridgewater Garden Club
Basin Gardeners Association
Chester Garden Club
Riverport Garden Club
Shelburne Garden Club
Lunenburg Garden Club
Queens Garden Club
Mahone Bay Society and Com.

WESTERN DISTRICT #7

Admiral Digby Garden Club
Champlain Garden Club
Clements Garden Club
Clare Garden Club
Weymouth Garden Club
Yarmouth Garden Club
Pubnico Garden Club

AFFILIATED GROUPS

Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia
Orchid Society
First African Violet Society
Rhododendron Society of Canada
Atlantic Region

**Other groups not
members**

Whitney Pier Garden Club



Changes in the Department of Agriculture and Marketing

In 1995 Dave Sangster was re-appointed Director of the Plant Industry Branch. In 1997 the branch was enlarged to include Agronomy, Engineering, Horticulture, and Livestock and is now called Production Technology.

Department of Agriculture and Marketing has a direct relationship with the NSAGC through the presence of Jeff Morton on the Board of Directors. This has been a formal relationship to assist in the development of the association.

The home garden specialists in the department, Myrna Blenkhorn in Kentville, and Arthur Haskins in Truro, both deal directly with the NSAGC members on a regular basis in their jobs assisting with home gardening problems throughout the province. Both Myrna and Arthur are also actively involved as members of garden clubs in their own areas. Arthur is also a committee chairman of the Landscape News.

Jeff, Arthur, and Myrna often are invited to give talks at Garden Clubs, District meetings and the annual convention, as well as judging at exhibitions and flower shows.

This year Chatelaine Magazine honoured 'The Home Gardener' page on the Internet, produced by the Horticultural branch, as being among the best for delivery of information, a feather in their cap.

Other staff members in the department contribute through information presentations, involvement with county fairs, and other community agricultural programs. The department also provides a number of programs or services that benefit members of the NSAGC such as 4-H and the soil testing lab.

The more one gardens,
The more one learns;
And the more one learns,
The more one realizes
How little one knows.

-Vita Sackville-West {1892-1962} English poet





Boards of Directors

The following pages list those who served as Directors on the board of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs from 1995-2000. The Chairman was elected at the Annual Conventions by a vote of the directors.

	<u>Chairmen</u> were:	<u>Vice- Chairmen</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
1995-1996 -	Dick Morton	Pauline Whittier	Arthur Chisholm
1996-1997 -	Sheldon Langille	Pauline Whittier	Arthur Chisholm
1997-1998 -	Sheldon Langille	Pauline Whittier	Arthur Chisholm
1998-1999-	Sheldon Langille	Pauline Whittier	Arthur Chisholm
1999-2000-	Sheldon Langille	Allison Magee	Yvonne Johnstone

Trustee and Advisory Committee

At the 1985 June board meeting, an advisory committee was established on motion by Jack Harris. The committee consisted of Dr. Milford Jackson, as chairman, along with Dick Morton, Yvonne Johnstone, Wilfred Armstrong and Jack Harris. This group may be added to at a later date. They will meet twice a year and have in put into the operation of the board. They will consider policy, budget, future plans and necessary items. (minutes September 21, 1985) The advisory committee was asked to act as the trustee committee responsible for NSAGC assets.

July 12, 1995 the committee met at Milford Jackson's cottage at Margaree. Seven recommendations came to the board from that meeting.

May 4, 1996 and September 27, 1996 they met and brought recommendations to the board.

May 2, 1997 advisory committee chairman Art Henderson reported to the board with three recommendations. The advisory committee at this time included Art Henderson, Milford Jackson, Dick Morton, Marjorie Fowler, Sheldon Langille, Freda Robb, Carl Levo, Jeff Morton, and Yvonne Johnstone.

May 2, 1998 meeting - As the advisory ommittee was not required by the constitution, it was moved and seconded that the advisory committee and trustee committee be phased out.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1995-1996

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>CAPE BRETON</u>	Yvonne Johnstone ,Brae D'Or	Nancy Lynk, Dominion
<u>CENTRAL</u>	Art Chisholm, Great Village Percy Ellis, Bible Hill	Vera Stewart, Hilden Dick Morton, Bible Hill
<u>EASTERN</u>	John MacKarney, Westville	
<u>HALIFAX</u>	Sheldon Langille	
<u>SOUTH SHORE</u>	Pauline Whittier	
<u>VALLEY</u>	Mary MacMillan	
<u>WESTERN</u>	Art Henderson	
<u>EXOFFICIO</u>	Jeff Morton Marjorie Fowler (Historian) Freda Robb(Secretary)	

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 1995-1996

Advisory	Milford Jackson	North Sydney
Newsletter	Yvonne Johnstone	North Sydney
Tags & Seals	Phyllis Selig	Wilmot
Historian	Marjorie Fowler	Halifax
Program Library	Ann Painter	Kentville
Photo contest	Grace Wile	Wilmot
Awards	Eileen Eaton	Great Village
Auditor	Donald Robb	Sydney
Membership	Dick Morton	Bible Hill
District Activities	Art Henderson	Weymouth
Year Books	Dick Morton	Bible Hill



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1996-1997

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>CAPE BRETON</u>	Yvonne Johnstone, North Sydney, June Robertson, North Sydney	
<u>CENTRAL</u>	Art Chisholm, Great Village Percy Ellis, Bible Hill	Vera Stewart, Hilden Dick Morton, Bible Hill
<u>EASTERN</u>	John MacKarney, Westville	
<u>HALIFAX</u>	Sheldon Langille, Dartmouth	
<u>SOUTH SHORE</u>	Pauline Whittier, Bridgewater	
<u>VALLEY</u>	Mary MacMillan, Wilmot	Allison Magee, Berwick
<u>WESTERN</u>	Art Henderson, Weymouth	Chip Inkster, Digby
<u>EXOFFICIO</u>	Jeff Morton NSDAM Marjorie Fowler (Historian Halifax) Freda Robb (Secretary) Sydney	

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 1996-1997

Advisory	Milford Jackson	North Sydney
Newsletter	Yvonne Johnstone	North Sydney
Tags & Seals	Phyllis Selig	Wilmot
Historian	Marjorie Fowler	Halifax
Program Library	Ann Painter	Kentville
Photo Contest	Grace Wile	Wilmot
Awards	Eileen Eaton	Great Vilage
Auditor	Donald Robb	Sydney
Assessments & officers	Dick Morton	Bible Hill
District Activities	Art Henderson	Weymouth

Yearbooks

Dick Morton

Bible Hill



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1997-1998

<u>CAPE BETON</u>	Yvonne Johnstone, June Robertson, North Sydney	
<u>CENTRAL</u>	Art Chisholm, Great Village Percy Ellis, Bible Hill	Vera Stewart, Hilden Dick Morton, Bible Hill
<u>EASTERN</u>	Nancy Levo, Westville	
<u>HALIFAX</u>	Sheldon Langille, Dartmouth	
<u>SOUTH SHORE</u>	Pauline Whittier, Bridgewater	
<u>VALLEY</u>	Mary MacMillan, Wilmot	Allison Magee, Berwick
<u>WESTERN</u>	Art Henderson, Weymouth	Chip Inkster, Digby
<u>EXOFFICIO</u>	Jeff Morton NSDAM Marjorie Fowler (Recording Secretary) Halifax	

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 1997-1998

Newsletter	Yvonne Johnstone	North Sydney
Tags & Seals	Phyllis Selig	Wilmot
Historian	Marjorie Fowler	Halifax
Program Library	Ann Painter	Kentville
Photo contest	Grace Wile	Wilmot
Awards	June Robertson	North Sydney
Auditor	Percy Ellis	Bible Hill
Assessments & Officers	Dick Morton	Bible Hill
District Activities	Art Henderson	Weymouth
Year Books	Vera Stewart	Hilden
Handbook	Pauline Whittier	Bridgewater

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1998-1999



DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>CAPE BRETON</u>	Yvonne Johnstone, North Sydney June Robertson, North Sydney	
<u>CENTRAL</u>	Art Chisholm, Great Village Percy Ellis, Bible Hill	Vera Stewart, Hilden Dick Morton, Bible Hill
<u>EASTERN</u>	Nancy Levo, Green Hill	
<u>HALIFAX</u>	Sheldon Langille, Dartmouth	
<u>SOUTH SHORE</u>	Pauline Whittier, Bridgewater	
<u>VALLEY</u>	Allison Magee, Berwick	
<u>WESTERN</u>	Art Henderson Weymouth	Chip Inkster, Digby
<u>EXOFFICIO</u>	Jeff Morton (NSDAM)	
<u>Recording Secretary</u>	Marjorie Fowler, Halifax	

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 1998-1999

Newsletter	Arthur Haskins	Great Village
Tags & Seals	Phyllis Selig	Wilmot
Historian	Marjorie Fowler	Halifax
Program Library	Ann Painter	Kentville
Photo contest	Grace Wile	Wilmot
Awards	June Robertson	North Sydney
Auditor	Percy Ellis	Bible Hill
Assessments & Officers	Dick Morton	Bible Hill
District Activities	Art Henderson	Weymouth
Year Books	Vera Stewart	Hilden
Handbook	Pauline Whittier	Bridgewater

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1999-2000



DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY:

<u>CAPE BRETON</u>	Yvonne Johnstone, North Sydney, June Robertson, North Sydney	
<u>CENTRAL</u>	Art Chisholm, Great Village Dick Morton, Bible Hill	Vera Stewart, Hilden
<u>EASTERN</u>	Nancy Levo, Green Hill	
<u>HALIFAX</u>	Sheldon Langille, Dartmouth	
<u>SOUTH SHORE</u>	Sandy Brown , Milton	
<u>VALLEY</u>	Allison Magee, Berwick	
<u>WESTERN</u>	Art Henderson Weymouth	Chip Inkster, Digby
<u>EXOFFICIO</u>	Jeff Morton (NSDAM)	
<u>Recording Secretary</u>	Ann Painter, Kentville	

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 1999-2000

Newsletter	Arthur Haskins	Great Village
Tags & Seals	Chip Inkster	Sandy Cove
Historian	Barbara Morton	Bible Hill
Photo contest	Myra Hunter-Duvar	Chester Basin
Awards	June Robertson	North Sydney
Auditor	Milford Jackson	North Sydney
Assessments & Officers	Dick Morton	Bible Hill
District Activities, & Finance	Art Henderson	Weymouth
Year Books	Vera Stewart	Hilden
Handbook	Yvonne Johnstone	North Sydney
Nominating & Finance		
Millennium	Sheldon Langille	Dartmouth

Highlights of N.S.A.G.C. Board Meetings 1996-2000



- The trustee and advisory committee (consisting of past and present chairpersons) was disbanded in 1998.
- NSAGC was represented on the Rural Beautification Board.
- Board represented at meetings regarding endangered species legislation and other community activities.
- Judging School established in 1997 -1999
- List of special events and flower shows sent to clubs
- Communications survey carried out in 1996, and 1998
- A government grant discontinued in 1998, resulting in financial crisis for NSAGC.
- Convention planning guidelines passed from one group to next convention
- Special Contribution to (1) 4-H prize thru Rural Beautification (2) Historic Gardens, (3) NSAC Research, Lloyd Mapplebeck and Carol Goodwin,
- Membership cards available
- Liability increased to two million dollars.
- Newsletter taken over by Art Haskins , to be sent in bulk to every club member.
- Program library phased out, material distributed to the Provincial Library System.
- Government Grant of \$3000 received to help cover cost of judging school and getting started.
- East Coast Gardener dispensed information on Garden Clubs , programs and gardening information.
- Questionnaires were sent out to clubs to get opinions on various subjects.
- Clubs in the Association reached a new high of 53 in the Province.
- Membership has reached approximately 1500.
- Board met two times a year.
- Concentration on club activities.

The Works of a person that builds
begin immediately to decay, while
those of him who plants begin directly
to improve. In this, planting promises
a more lasting pleasure than building.
-William Shenstone {1714-1763}, English poet





RURAL BEAUTIFICATION

Rural Beautification was funded over the years by several government departments: Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Tourism, Department of the Environment. In 1981 the Department of Agriculture took over and continued to fund it until 1998.

With the loss of funding, there was no private partner to supply income to reimburse the prizes, to pay the judges and cover other expenses.

In 1998 the program was discontinued, after 30 years of encouraging individuals and groups to reawaken their heritage, take pride in their surroundings and thus enhance the natural beauty of Rural Nova Scotia. Many community centres, cemeteries, 4-H clubs, youth groups and community pride grants were given out with a positive result on the landscape.

For many years Dick Morton served on the board and was a provincial judge. Rick Whitman from the Kentville office was also a member. Yvonne Johnson was chairperson and served on the Board, and acted as a judge in Cape Breton.

Garden Clubs entered the contests over the years, and many garden club members entered properties, or were involved with youth groups etc.

Communities in Bloom



Communities in Bloom, an exciting program of municipal beautification. It is an initiative designed to involve whole communities in the challenge of improving the visual appeal of Canada's cities, towns and villages and to compete for national awards.

Communities enter according to their population and compete against other communities across Canada of the same size.

This program has been gaining popularity and many communities across Nova Scotia have entered the competition.

Last year in 1999, the National Awards Ceremony was held in Halifax. Margaret and Ivan Stinson who were very much involved in Rural Beautification are working hard for Communities in Bloom.

Conventions and Annual Meetings

1996

The policy of moving the convention around the province was continued. On Friday May 31st. and Saturday June 1st. 1996 the convention was held at the Inverary Inn in Baddeck with the Cape Breton clubs acting as hosts.

The theme of the convention was "Island Treasures" which was carried out in the decorations, special entertainment, and program . It was a well-run convention going non-stop with all program highlights on time from registration to banquet

Friday evening programs featured Marjorie Williston with a talk on "Communities in Bloom." Time was provided for clubs to put together flower arrangements and club displays. The yearbooks were also on display as well as quizzes to be completed . . .

The evening closed with entertainment by a "Milling Frolic and Ceiladh" group , " Campbell School of Dancing" and the "Mira Fiddlers".

Saturdays began with a show and tell session by various members of the audience, followed by several workshops on potpourri, tree grafting, gardening with nature and Organic gardening.

The afternoon session included talks by Jeff Morton , Mark Eyking, Dr. Edith Angolopoulos, Katherine Snedden, and Rita Campbell. Myrna Reeves from New Ross, entertained us with her songs. The guest speaker at the banquet was Dr. Bob Morgan, who spoke on " Gardening in Cape Breton". Following this awards were presented.

1997

In 1997 the Convention moved to the Heather Motel in Stellarton and was under the guidance of the Pictou County clubs. The convention began on Friday May 30th .and continued on May 31st. The first afternoon contained the business meeting, a talk by Arthur Haskins on judging flowers, Nancy Levo on landscape speciality features, and A.J. Post on Noxious weeds.

The official opening was in the evening, followed by a talk on Daylilies by Nancy Oakes, Perennials for Wet Areas with Jane Schule, and Culinary Use of Herbs by Nancy Loomer. Entertainment followed , piano and fiddle playing, recitations and dancing by the clubs.

Saturday morning they continued the business meeting, and talks were given by Lloyd Mapplebeck on " David Austin Roses", Chris Helleniner on growing Orchids, Jeff Morton on Ornamental Grasses, John MacKarney on Honeybees, and Bernard Jackson on attracting Butterflies to your garden.

Milford Jackson conducted the provincial quiz and they awarded prizes for flower arrangements, yearbooks, gardener of the year etc. Those wishing to, toured the "Museum of Industry" on Saturday afternoon.

A guest speaker at the banquet was Jamie Ellison who spoke on "Alpine Gardens."

1998

1998 saw the Convention in Dartmouth at the Holiday Inn on May 29th , 30th . with the theme "Gardeners Helping Gardeners." Planning was carried out by the Halifax area clubs.

Friday included the annual meeting, bus tours , displays of year books, photo contest, flower arrangements, talk on what's new in gardening, and Jeff Morton speaking on new plants for 1998.

In the evening following the official opening, talks were given on MacNabs Island by Dr. D.Soudak ; Old Roses by Peggy Ann Pineau and Gardening 100 years ago by Allison Magee. Special guest for the evening was Uncle Newt , depicted by Myrna Reeves of New Ross.

Saturday business continued, followed by Gardening by the Moon, by Peter Langille; Gardening with Native Plants by Jeff Morton; Community gardens, by Ann Li Heustis; Fruit Trees in the Urban garden by Myrna Blenkhorn ; Water Gardens by Roslyn Duffus; Birds in the Garden by Clarence Stevens. Jr.; Language of Flowers by Carla Allen; Garden Photography by Fred Joyce, and Dahlia Show 1997 by Arthur Haskins.

"Quiz the Pros" was held with draws and prizes to follow.

Jeff Morton chaired the annual banquet in the Holiday Inn Harbourview Room, where awards for Gardener of the Year, Photo Contest and Yearbook were given out. Guest speaker for the banquet was Steven King from the City of Halifax speaking on the green areas in the city.

Displays were from Halifax Seed, The East Coast Gardener, The Orchid Society, various clubs and other commercial companies.

New Waterford hosted a mini- convention at the Fireman's Hall in New Waterford on October 17,1998

1999

Shelburne was the host for 1999 . For the first time in a number of years the clubs in this area were involved in preparing the program and displays for the Convention.

The theme for the convention which was held on June 4 and 5 was "Gardening in Nova Scotia's Banana Belt". The clubs had worked hard and prepared a full program for the two days.

The Willow Garden Furniture demonstration with Jon Swim went on throughout the two days. The local garden centres had set up displays and there was a competition for flower arrangements. The yearbook and photo contests were on display giving plenty to keep everyone busy.

Tours of selected gardens in Shelburne as well as walking tours of some of the historic buildings and sites were available at different times of the day for those wishing to take part.

The sessions opened with a business meeting which included approval of the previous year's minutes, reports of the chairperson and the nominating committee. This was followed by election of officers for the following year and other business.

The full afternoon included many speakers. The address Aeromatherpy was given by Ann Tingley; Queen's Co. Gardens by Sandy Brown; Bats in your garden by Bill Curry ; Gardening with Arthritis by Laurie Tarris; Seaside gardening by Roland Roth; Gardening in Zone 6B and 5 by Vernon Oickle ; Hydroponics, and Mulches by Lloyd Mapplebeck ; Heritage Plants by Bernard Jackson ; Acadian Gardens & French Gardening by Pat Pelham; Herbs by Carla Allen.

Friday evening saw special entertainment and interesting lunch breaks.

The Saturday evening guest speaker at the banquet was Ed Cayer, vice-president and co-owner of Ocean Produce International. He introduced us to some new products from the sea.

Yarmouth, Pubnico, and Queens County Garden Clubs all worked with Shelburne to help make this convention a big success.

2000

The Millennium year Convention is to be held in Yarmouth in June of 2000 They are planning a big send off to the century.

2001 is to be in Kentville

The GARDENER

All summer long the guy next door lay smiling at the skies,
And when I'd call across at him he'd wave benign and wise.
I thought him quiet and aloof, pleasant but hard to know,
So I worked on with well feigned joy to make my garden grow.
I thought about the harvest time when we'd receive our own,
The sweet reward that all expect who reap where they have sown.
But now I taste the bitter woes to which us squares are born----
The blight has my potatoes and the worms are in my corn.
The drought has shrivelled up the peas, the rust has got the beans,
Club root destroys the turnips, and the slugs eat up the greens.
Next year should you look through the fence, a sight you'll surely see---
That smiling wise guy lying there , it won't be him, but me.

By J.W.Reid M.D.



Awards

"Gardener of the Year" is the most prestigious award given by the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs yearly at the Annual Convention . The winner or winners ,must have (1) a garden and demonstrate the ability to grow plants well. This includes flower gardens, vegetables, herbs, spring bulbs, shrubs, trees, house plants, container gardening and water gardens. (2) Promote gardening by teaching or demonstrating skills in gardening flower arranging, etc. within their own club, at a district meeting or instructing young people i.e. Brownies, Girl Guides, 4-H groups, school classes and other local groups. (3)The person should be an active club member , assisting with flower shows, plant sales, other club activities, and take part in things related to the promotion of gardening and beautification. The nomination should include photographs of their gardens and gardening activities and as much information about the person as possible.

NSAGC Award for an Association Member is awarded to a member of the Association who, through his or her efforts , has contributed greatly to the advancement of home gardening in N.S.

NSAGC Award for Non- Member is awarded to a non member of the Association or an affiliated association, who has through his or her efforts contributed greatly to the advancement of home gardening in N.S.

NSAGC Photo Contest is open to amateur photographers residing in N.S. Each contestant must be either a member of NSAGC or belong to a member's family. Only 1 entry per contestant per class is allowed.

Photos will be judged on originality, composition, proper focus and exposure.
For the year 2000 there are 12 classes which can be entered .

NSAGC Yearbook Contest is open to all Garden Clubs and contains a history of the activities of their club. A number of years ago the Forties Club donated a trophy in memory of Jack Harris for this contest which is still awarded along with a keeper trophy for the winner. Rules for the setup of the book have been outlined by the committee to try and keep the standards fair and to make the judging of the books easier.

NSAGC Award of Merit is awarded to a person who has contributed significantly to the work of garden clubs in the province , but who has not qualified for one of the other awards.

ORDER of the Green Thumb is awarded to a person who has achieved a high standard of proficiency in divining flora from the soil, and having gained the admiration of his fellow gardeners, is hereby granted membership in the ORDER of the GREEN THUMB , and permission to wear the Symbolic Green Thumb.

Winners in 1996,97, 98, 99 were:

YEAR	AWARD	NAME	ADDRESS	CLUB
1996	Gardener of the Year	Pat Johnstone	Bras D'Or	North Sydney G.C.
	Award of Merit	Linda Boylan		Charing Cross
	A Non-Member	Fayne Leopold		Charing Cross
	Yearbook	Bible Hill G.C.	Bible Hill	Bible Hill G.C.
	Photo Contest 1 st .	Mary Magee		Autumn Glory (category)
	2 nd .	Shirley Turner		Close- Up
	3 rd .	Lynn Gray	Westville	Strictly N.S (Category)
1997	Gardener of the Year	Pauline Whittier		Bridgewater G.C.
	A Non- Member	Carla Allen	S. Cove Nursery	Yarmouth
	Award of Merit	Charlotte Wardrope		Mt. Denson G.C.
	Yearbook	Bible Hill G.C.	Bible Hill	Bible Hill G.C.
12 classes, 261 entries	Photo Contest			
1998	Gardener of the year	Myrna Reeves		Charing Cross G.C.
	Award of Merit	Honey Barkhouse		Charing Cross
	Yearbook	Bible Hill G.C.	Bible Hill	Bible Hill G.C
9 classes	Photo Contest			
	Gardener of the Year	Marie Meister		Charing Cross

1999	Award of Merit	Bernice Hiltz	RR#2 New Ross	Charing Cross
	Yearbook	Upper Stewiacke	Upper Stewiacke	Stewiacke Valley G.C.
	Photo Contest	Erica Crowell		
	Non-Member	Mona Reeves		Charing Cross

Retiring Board Members

Several directors retired in the past five years , after having given unselfishly of their time and talents to the work of the N.S.A.G.C.

Freda Robb	1969-1996
Marjorie Fowler	1982-1998
Mary MacMillan	1986- 1998
Grace Wile	1986- 1998
Phyllis Selig Harvey	1986- 1998
Percy Ellis	1986- 1998
John MacKarney	1994 -1995

The word "garden" comes from the Hebrew and means "a pleasant place", and it is to this Eden that each gardener, after his or her fashion, strives to return.
-George Ordish {1908- 1991}, The Living Garden

DISTRICT MEETINGS

For ease of identification by the Association, the province is divided into seven districts Eastern, Halifax, South Shore, Western, Valley, Central and Cape Breton. Each district has a director or directors (depending on size and number of clubs), who are responsible to convey information from the board to the clubs in their area.

During the past five years the districts have continued to have meetings at least once a year , usually in the spring. The time and length of meeting varies with the district, and can be a day long event with a noon meal, or simply be an evening meeting.

Wherever possible the chairman of the Board has attended these meetings, as well as the District Director or Directors. The District Directors helps with the planning of these meetings and may be chairman. Where there is a District Council they would take over the planning of the meeting, with input from the Director.

These meetings are a time for clubs in an area to get to know one another , and to exchange gardening information. The programs vary from one district to another, but includes reports from clubs, quizzes, workshops, special speakers and demonstrations.

Often nurseries in the area will bring in displays, clubs will have sale tables, and usually a noon meal is prepared.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOST</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>1996</u>			
Cape Breton	-----	Westmount G.C.	Ossie Fraser Hall
Eastern	Oct.	Guysborough & Area G.C.	Guysborough, United Church Hall
Central	May 2	Westmount Park G.C.	Bible Hill, St.David's
Halifax	April 22	Bedford Horticultural Society.	
Valley	May 25,	Wilmot Garden Club	Wilmot
South Shore	-----	-----	-----
Western	-----	Champlain G.C.	Annapolis Royal
<u>1997</u>			
Cape Breton	May 24 th .	Middle River	Community Hall
Eastern	Oct. 4 th .	Westville & Area G.C.,	St. Andrews Church
Central	May 1 st .	Stewiacke Valley Garden Club	Un.Church Up. Stewiacke
Halifax	April 21 st .	1 st . African Violet Society	Stevens Rd. Baptist
Valley	April 28 th .	Valley Gardeners	Agr. Center Kentville
South Shore	Oct. 18 th .	Bridgewater	Senior Citizen, Arena
Western	May 10 th .	Admiral Digby	Anglian Church, Digby

<u>1998</u>	Cape Breton		New Waterford G.C.	New Waterford
	Eastern	Sept. 19 th .	St. Mary's Garden Club	Sherbrooke
	Central	May 26 th .	Great Village Garden Club	St. James Church Hall
	Halifax		Stevens Road Baptist Church	Dartmouth Hort.
			Society	
	Valley	April 25 th .	Haliburton G.C.,	Falmouth Hall
	South Shore	-----	-----	-----
	Western	-----	Weymouth G.C.	Weymouth
<u>1999</u>	Cape Breton	-----	North Sydney G.C.	North Sydney
	Eastern	Sept. 18 th .	New Glasgow Hort, Soc.	St. Gregory's Church
	Central	May 25 th .	Wentworth Valley Garden Club	Recreation Centre
	Halifax	April 26 th .	Halifax-Westmoor Hort. Soc.	St. John's U.
			Church	
	Valley	April 24 th .	Mt. Denson G.C.	Legion Hall
	South Shore	-----	-----	-----
	Western	May 3 rd .	Clare	Saulnier Parish Hall

District Councils

Cape Breton

The Cape Breton area clubs have a council which meets to co-ordinate activity dates and plan District Meetings.

The first meeting was held January 2nd. 1987. Yvonne Johnstone was chairperson for 11 years. Now Allen MacDougall chairs the meetings and Freda Robb is secretary.

In August 12, 1990 they sponsored an all day mini convention in North Sydney. They also held a large flower show at Malcolm Munro Junior High School with 785 entries.

In 1991 they sponsored Dick Morton's retirement party.

They hosted the N.S.A.G.C. Convention in 1996.

In 1999 they assisted in planting a vegetable bed to feed the animals at the Wild Life Park in North Sydney.

Halifax

In the Halifax area the presidents and secretaries of the Halifax district get together to plan district meetings and any events that involve all the clubs. On some occasions the Violet Society, the Dahlia Society, and the Orchid Society are also included. The district representative acts as chairman.

The money that comes from the district meetings is divided between the club hosting the meeting and the district council. This money is used to defray the cost of speakers, tea and coffee etc.

N.S.A.G.C. PROGRAMS AND CONTESTS

PROGRAMS:

Tags and Seals

In the past year Phyllis Selig gave up her job on the board of looking after distributing the tags and seals to clubs ordering them. This job was taken over by Chip Inkster of Sandy Cove , Digby Co.

Program Library

Ann Painter continued in the role of distributor of the programs to clubs requesting them until 1998 when the library was dissolved. It was felt the programs were not being used to any extent and with the advent of Internet and many gardening programs on TV , up to date information was readily available.

The videos were made available to the Provincial Library Services to be distributed to libraries throughout the province and the slides were given to Myrna Blenkhorn, Department of Agriculture , Kentville.

Insurance

The N.S.A.G.C. has a third party liability insurance policy with Zive Insurance Company of Halifax, which covers the liability of clubs holding events in which the public are involved

Landscape News

Arthur Haskins of Great Village, is now the editor of the Landscape News. Published four times a year , it is sent in bulk to the clubs to be distributed to the members.

CONTESTS:

Photo Contest

In 1998 the number of classes was reduced from 12 to 9 and the titles of some classes were changed. The number of entries continue to be plentiful and make a nice display at the convention. In 1998 Grace Wile gave up the chairmanship of this contest. It was taken over by Myra Hunter-Duvar from Chester

Yearbooks:

The yearbooks have continued to be popular and are a good record of the activities of the clubs. The quality of the books has improved dramatically and competition is keen. Vera Stewart continues to chair this project. Different items have been awarded as prizes in the past five years. In 1998 and 1999 a keeper plaque was awarded for the first place winner. The Jack Harris trophy ,which was donated by the Forties Garden Club, is still presented to the first place winner.

NEW CLUBS AND CLUBS DISBANDED

In 1999 there were 43 Garden Clubs, 6 Horticultural Societies, and 4 affiliated Speciality Plant Societies, belonging to the Association .Approximately 12,578 gardeners are members of Garden Clubs or Horticultural Societies, while over 350 belong to the Speciality Plant Societies. We are pleased that other societies are affiliated with the NSAGC and we are able to share with them and learn of their specialities.

After more than forty years the Tatamagouche Club disbanded. It had been a very active club and served the community well over the years. The members were aging and not being replaced by younger people and so they decided to disband.

The "Remshag" Wallace Club met in the Museum for a couple of years , then wound up activities.

New clubs that were formed are : Wentworth Valley Garden Club, Wentworth ,Valley Cottage Country Garden Club, Northport Cumberland. Co., Basin Gardeners ,Chester Basin , Lunenburg Garden Club , Queens Garden Club ; Liverpool, Stewiacke Garden Club, Shubenacadie Garden Club, Mahone Bay Garden Society and Company and St. Margaret's Bay.

On February 24,1998 about 30 people gathered at the Lorneville Church Basement for the purpose of forming a garden club. The "Cottage Country Garden Club" was formed and after 2 years are an enthusiastic group delighted with the positive response they have enjoyed.



LANDSCAPE NEWS

Yvonne Johnstone of Bras D'Or, continued to be editor of the Landscape News until the fall of 1998 when Arthur Haskins of the Great Village Garden Club became the editor. He wanted to put emphasis on what the NSAGC had to offer rather than gardening tips which are available from many resources such as the Internet, East Coast Gardener, and magazines. Clubs were encouraged to report to him about their activities, flower shows, plant sales, upcoming conventions, district meetings, special people in the clubs, details of awards, contests, etc. He includes writeups about individual clubs whenever they report to him. One copy is devoted mostly to the Convention.

The paper is published four times a year. It was decided that instead of two copies being sent to the secretaries and presidents of each club and having individual subscriptions, a group parcel would be sent to every club with a copy for each member. This may prove to be more expensive, but the objective is to get the news to everyone. Probably the hardest job is to get clubs to write in their activities, as the paper can only be as good as the information received.

This paper continues to be the main communication link between the association and the more than 50 clubs in the province.

East Coast Gardener

On May 1st, 1997 a bright new paper was born called the "East Coast Gardener." The editorial co-ordinator is Carla Allen who owns and operates a garden centre, "South Cove Nursery" outside of Yarmouth. Carla and her staff have developed an interesting paper full of gardening information pertinent to this area, written by professionals. There is news about garden clubs, plant societies, a page for children, a reader's forum, an article on the weather, and a place for clubs to advertise special events such as flower shows and plant sales.

Nearly every month a different garden club has been featured, telling something about their club, when they were formed, projects, and activities in which they are involved in the community. The local nurseries and garden centres have their ads included.



Judging School 1997- 1999

Planning for a judging school began in the fall of 1997 in response to a need for standardized training of flower and vegetable judges. The NSAGC secured a grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing and along with the Association's own funds set up a committee consisting of Sheldon Langille, Dick Morton, Yvonne Johnstone, Arthur Haskins , Jeff Morton and Arthur Henderson to develop a training manual and a program guideline for the course. The cost to the applicants would be \$50.00 and the classes would be held in Truro to keep costs as low as possible.

When the final outline of the course was presented to the clubs 38 people showed definite interest in taking the course.

This is the agenda of the judging school which the candidates followed :

Winter 1998: a home study of plant identification prepared by Jeff and Arthur and a scrapbook which was to be compiled by the students.

April 24 & 25: 36 Students met at Keddy's in Truro to be introduced to the mechanics of Judging, show standards, information on judging houseplants , and design. There were 2 practise judging sessions , which proved useful.

Aug. 6&7: Information on annuals, perennials, and roses, and a judging session

Sept. 11 & 12 : How to judge Gladiola, Dahlias, vegetables, fruit and garden displays .

1999- July 31: A staged flower how at the Agro- Tech Park where all students were critically evaluated .

1999: Summer Judging practise with qualified judges in specific areas. Each student judged at a provincial show with either Arthur Haskins, Dick Morton, Yvonne Johnstone, or Sheldon Langille accompanying them and reporting on their work.

The following candidates have successfully completed the course and are ready to judge at Flower Shows.

Those completing the course were :

Rita Appelboom	RR# 1, Lockport
Norma Baldock	41 B Harmony Rd. Truro
Jane Blackburn	RR# 1, Truro
Margaret Buffett	65 Berthelot Crescent, Coxheath C.B.
Margaret Ann Cann	2023 Coxheath Rd., Sydney Forks
Barbara Jean Clissold	RR#3, Greenfield Rd. Truro
Mary E. Conrad	RR#3, Bridgewater
Karen Deveau	3873 Memorial Dr. , Halifax
Dr. Diane Deveau	Box #1, Salmon River
Judy Dickinson,	518 St. George St., Annapolis Royal
Rollande Dube	RR#2 , River John
Carolyn Downie	119 Doull Ave., Halifax
Susan K. English	60 Weeks Lane, Sydney



Myra Hunter-Duvar	RR#2, 680 Beech Hill Road , Chester Basin
Bernard S. Jackson	44 Burnyeat Street, Truro
Patricia Johnston	RR#3, 563 Georges River Road, Bras D'Or
Ruby Kaiser	RR#1, Sherbrooke
Nancy Levo	RR#1, Westville
Wendy Levo	36 Lakehead Court, Lower Sackville
Anne MacIsaac	Box 1752, Pictou
Pamela MacLean	14 Erin Leah Dr., Sydney
Rita MacPherson	492, Pictou Rd., Truro
Allison Magee	P.O. Box 441, Kentville
Dorothy MacNutt	RR#6, North River
Alice C. Morrison	Box 382, Middleton
Barbara Morton	16 Vimy Rd., Truro
Vernon Oickle	1597 King St., Bridgewater
M. Elize Ratchford	92 Caledonia St., North Sydney
Anne Richard	708 Onslow Mt. Rd., RR#6, Truro
June Robertson	RR#3, Georges River, North Sydney
G.L.J. Shuurkamp	Box 422, North Sydney
Agnes Stokes	RR #3, Bridgewater
Pamela Watson	RR#1, Bridgetown
Grace Wile	134 Vault Rd., RR# 2, Kingston

Judging at a Flower show.



Community Projects, Plant Sales, Etc.

Every active Garden Club or Horticultural Society has over their history been involved in beautification of their community. This may take the form of planting flower beds, planting trees, restoring old cemeteries, helping young people get started growing plants, fixing up around public buildings, memorials, hospitals, and schools.. Many groups are seeing the importance of encouraging young people to start seeds, be involved in planting trees and taking pride in looking after their projects.

Material for these projects come from members own gardens , are purchased from local nurseries ,or are purchased by the club. The money for these projects is raised by the clubs through plant sales, flower shows etc.

Some of the interesting projects carried out by clubs over the past five years were:

- ☼ In 1999, 20 Garden Clubs reported a plant sale, tuber sale, or seed exchange.
- ☼ Many clubs have tours in the summer of gardens in their own area.
- ☼ Community spirit is shown in the large number of clubs who plant flowers in various places within their community.
- ☼ Clubs reported flower shows in most communities. The Forties take part in a vegetable show held at Ross farm museum in the fall.
- ☼ Group orders for bulb were obtained from Holland for many years. In 1998 the company stopped giving this service. Some clubs ordered oasis for their shows in large amounts.
- ☼ Plant exchanges among the club members are popular, as are plant auctions.
- ☼ Pictou, Great Village , Bridgewater and Shelburne have had garden tours open to the public , as a money raising project.
- ☼ Bible Hill Garden Club helped with the planting of tulip bulbs in both Truro and Bible Hill for the Tulip Festivals held in April in the years 1997, 1998 and 1999.
- ☼ Westville & Area helped with the fixing up of the new "Acadia Park" in their town.
- ☼ The African Violet Society hosted the Canadian Annual Violet Show in Dartmouth in May 1998.
- ☼ The Dahlia Society has held a tuber sale in the Mic Mac Mall every fall.
- ☼ Halifax Westmoor Horticultural Society each year has held a "Gardening for Children" workshop in the N.S. Museum where in 1999, 44 enthusiastic children got an opportunity to plant seeds .
- ☼ N.Sydney started about 60 house plants and gave them out to seniors at " Spring Fling for Seniors"
- ☼ The Weymouth club continues to keep up several flower beds in the town.
- ☼ The Village Garden Club Kennetcook in 1996 planted 500 daffodils for the Canadian Cancer Society.
- ☼ Dartmouth Horticultural Society for a number of years has planted and maintained a garden in the "Leighton Dillman Park". They also donate a \$500.00 bursary to a student at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College.
- ☼ Upper Stewiacke in 1999 had a new project to plant flower beds at the Upper Stewiacke Museum.

They continue to look after flower beds in "Crockett Park" and in 1999 started programs involving children.

☼ Queens Garden Club have been involved with the Region of Queens in judging for "Queens in Bloom", an activity which has allowed judges to see for themselves the high quality of Queens Co. Gardens.

☼ Great Village Garden Club sponsors a wildflower competition at the local school. Forties garden Club do a hands on demonstration with children in the New Ross Consolidated School.

☼ North Sydney planted a tree at Archibald's Wharf, the boardwalk area of the downtown business section.

☼ Bedford Horticultural Society provides a bursary to the local high school for a student "who is planning to attend Agricultural College or who is interested in gardening , agricultural and environmental studies."

☼ Bible Hill and Westmount Park in Truro provide seeds to classrooms in the spring.

☼ Guysborough and Weymouth Garden Clubs hire students to help out with their special projects.

☼ Glace Bay Garden Club. assisted with the planting and weeding at the landscaped area of the Savoy Theatre.

☼ In 1999 the Admiral Digby Horticulture Society awarded the "Alice Oliver" award for children. Mrs. Oliver was a very avid garden club member who enjoyed teaching children about flowers

☼ In 1997 Halifax- Westmoor made about 85 Christmas decorations for shut-ins in Metro distributed by Meals on - Wheels.

☼ May 1998 Mark Cullen spoke at the NSAC on "Composting". Several clubs were on hand to hear his interesting talk.

☼ November 1999 Alex Wilson of the Nova Scotia Museum spoke to several garden clubs in the Truro area on "Trees".

☼ Village Garden Club, Kennetcook , were part of an interpretive nature walk developed on the perimeter of the school in conjunction with some of the students.

☼ Westmount Park in Truro included a trip to the sugar woods in their program

☼ Great Village Garden Club and Bible Hill Garden Club purchase books for the Colchester Library

☼ Clifton Garden Club and Wentworth Valley clubs visited the Greenhouses at Wittenburg Colchester County, and made various Christmas arrangements and living wreaths.

☼ Several clubs came up with logos which they put on shirts, bags, jackets etc..

☼ Wilmot Garden Club started a Library of Gardening Reference Materials and Books for their club. They also built a large planter and three picnic tables at the Community Centre.

☼ New Waterford have an annual contribution to the Breton Educational Fund to a student entering the Agricultural field or the Enviornmental field.

☼ Valley Gardeners Club, Kentville, awarded bursaries to two Kingstec Horticultural students.

☼ Mount Denson had a busy year planting flower beds, writing for the local paper, supporting the food bank, and having auctions.

☼ Forties Garden Club won in the 1997 Rural Beautification contest.

☼ Several clubs were involved in a workshop on painting your flowers held at Forest Height School.

Club Programs

A healthy club will provide interesting programs for their members , to stimulate interest and to make the participants feel like they have learned something.

A good practise is to plan for a year's program , and to have input from the members. This saves time in the long run and ensures that guest speakers can be notified well in advance of the meeting. Not everyone is lucky enough to be close to speakers and programs have to be found by the members in other ways.

The following is a list of some of the programs that have been reported by clubs.

*Planting by the Phases and Signs of the Moon - Peter Langille

*Summer bulb and new introductions. - Myrna Blenkhorn

*Show and tell - interesting plants and articles.

*Old roses

*Period flower arranging.

*Orchids

*Growing herbs -- Laurie Weiss -- the Village Witch

*Natural hand cream -- Nancy Maxner

*Care of roses

*Care of iris, daylilies.

*Overwintering plants

* Pesticide use & effects

*Life cycle of the Tussock moth

*Landfill reduction

*Mushrooms, good and bad.

*Making pictures with pressed flowers.

*Making pot-pourri.

*Flower arranging.

*Growing African Violets.

*Commercial growers talking about their special interest.

*Displays and sampling from a local grocery

*Propogating houseplants.

*Pruning trees and shrubs.

*Photographing your garden.

*Gardening books and how to choose them.

*Growing rhodendrons and azaleas

*Decorating and delivering cheer boxes to shut-ins.

*Composting.

*Mark Cullen videos.

*Making bird houses and feeders.

*Herbal vinegars.

*Water Gardens, care and plants.

BUS TRIPS AND GARDEN TOURS

Since 1996 the *Shelburne* County Garden Club have organized tours of local private gardens on six different garden loops. For 1997 they added two more loops to include Cape Sable Island, Bear Point, Atwoods Brook and Barrington Passage .By 1999 they had 24 gardens included in their tours.

Heather White , of Canadian Gardening Magazine, visited the gardens and prepared articles for the magazine at a later date .As well a 1/2 hour T.V. Garden program sponsored by Life Channel out of Toronto was filmed here and aired February 10th ,1997 across Canada .It featured Mrs. Mable Mitchell , who was 91 and an avid gardener. The club felt these two events were a direct result of their backyard garden brochure.

Great Village Garden Club have held three Garden Festivals .The first one was held August 1995 with the gardens of Gus and Jane Chisholm , Arthur Haskins, Eileen Eaton, and Lois and Al Brae open to the public. Refreshments were served on the lawn at the home of Pat and Sybil Flemming.

The second Garden Festival took place in July 1997 and featured the gardens of Chuck and Cindy Smylie, Arthur Haskins, Enid Cooper, and Tony and Gerri Van den Hoek. Refreshments were served at the garden of Chuck and Cindy Smylie and there was also a Fish Chowder Luncheon sponsored by the club at noon.

The third Garden Festival was held in August 1999 and displayed the gardens of Chuck and Cindy Smylie, Art and Shirley Chisholm, Tony and Gerri Van den Hoek, and Gus and June Chisholm. Refreshments were served in the Smylie's garden next to the fish pond.

Bridgewater and *Queens* Garden Clubs have members gardens which are open to the public in the summer. Many clubs take the opportunity in the summer to visit members gardens .This is a perfect chance to pick up new ideas and see different plants in bloom.

Queens Garden Club have included bus trips to see the gardens of Halifax, Yarmouth and the Annapolis Valley,

Bedford Horticultural Society has assisted for two years at the 'Gardens on Sunday' tours arranged by the YMCA in June .

Five private gardens were opened in *Dartmouth* on July 11, 1999 with proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society.Members of the garden club helped by being guides and identifying plants.

Chester held an open gardens day "Roses and Rock Walls" with a cream tea served at the Chester Yacht Club, on July 17,1999.

Pictou Horticultural Society held a "Pictou Garden Tour '98" on July 25, 1998. The gardens of Rollie and Judy MacDonald, Ruth Sterling, Milton Veniot, Kathy Cyr and the MacCulloch House were opened to the public as a money raiser for McCulloch House Garden Restoration . Following the tour tea was served at the Hector Centre. Research between the Pictou Co. Historical Society, Pictou Horticultural Society and the Nova Scotia Museum was begun, in order to restore the MacCulloch property back to its original early 1800 appearance.

In summer of 1998 *Bible Hill Garden Club* and *New Glasgow Horticultural Society* visited the water gardens of Rolland Dube' in River John. They travelled on to Marshville to enjoy a pot luck supper.

Several clubs included the *Historic Gardens* at Annapolis Royal in their tours.

The *St. Mary's Club* from Sherbrooke visited *Parkers Greenhouses* in West River Pictou Co. , and Levo's Gardens , Green Hill in their tour.

During each of the past four years approximately 40 members from *Stewiacke Valley, Hilden* and *Bible Hill Garden Clubs* have enjoyed a bus tour .

Stewiacke Valley Garden Club organized the trip to *Kentville Experimental farm* in June of 1996 to see the Rhodendrons in bloom.

In 1997 the same group toured the *Public Gardens* in Halifax and went on a boat cruise of Halifax Harbour.

In 1998 the tour took them to the *Historic Gardens* in Annapolis Royal

1999 found the group in P.E.I.



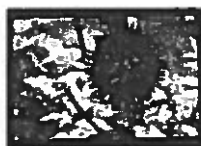
FLOWER SHOWS

The various clubs put a lot of effort into producing quality flower and vegetable shows and what better way to show your community the expertise of your gardeners. At a flower show folks can come and enjoy the individual specimens, flower arrangements and speciality flowers and usually partake of a cup of tea and a light lunch.

In 1999, 26 clubs held shows, some in malls, others in schools, halls, hotels, exhibitions, wherever space could be found. As well many garden club members worked at the flower shows at exhibitions, such as Truro and Musquodobit.

Clubs make up their own syllabus, decide on the layout of their show, and find a judge or judges to give out the ribbons. Sometimes local nurseries have displays or the club sells plants, or has a tea to make a bit of money.

There were a number of special flower shows held in the past five years.



The *Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia* was honoured in 1997 to host the ADS National Show and Conference. Exhibitors came from New Brunswick and from several states in the USA to exhibit specimens at the Sheraton Hotel in Halifax. One exhibitor came from Newfoundland and carefully carried his bloom on his knee on the plane. Three of the local club members were big winners. The whole show was a huge success and a compliment to the organizers for a first time show in Nova Scotia.



In May of 1998 the *African Violet Society of Canada* held their annual show in Dartmouth. About 500 plants were on display from all across Canada and attracted a big audience.



'*Art in Bloom*' was a first for the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Held September 22-27, 1998 a large crowd of people came to view art with corresponding flower arrangements. Several NSAGC took part in the exhibit and were prize winners. These included Marjorie Fowler, Barbara Christie, Karen Deveau from Halifax- Westmoor, Sheldon Langille, Carloyn Mills, Joyce Boon, Dartmouth Horticulture Society, Shirley Haughan Basin Gardeners Association, Myra Hunter- Duvar, Chester Garden Club, Pam Newton, Westmount Garden Club, and Yvonne Johnstone, North Sydney Garden Club



The *Provincial Rose Show* held its 45th show at the Spring Garden Place on Saturday, July 17, 1999.

North Sydney held their 32nd "*Rose & Flower Show*", in 1999 and featured "Golden Oldies" as their theme, in honour of the Year of the Older Person.



The *Orchid Society* holds an annual Spring and Fall Show at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History.

SPECIAL EVENTS

For the past five years the Queens Garden Club provided winter seminars for three Saturdays in February. In 1999 they changed the format to a winter weekend in White Point Beach. It was judged to be a big success by the 75 attentive gardeners who attended to hear speeches by Christopher Clarke, Bernard Jackson, Joe Bidermann, Jenny Sandison, Pat Pelham, Jamie Ellison and Capt. Dick Steele. The club is looking forward to repeating the weekend in 2000.

The Forties Garden Club dedicated a plaque, "Best in Show", in memory of Ellen Keddy who was a very active member of their club.

The Wilmot Garden Club marked their 40th Anniversary in 1996 with a banquet at a local restaurant.

In 1999 to celebrate their 40th Anniversary on July 25th, 1999, North Sydney held an "English Cream Tea" at Fairholme Farm the home of Earl & Yvonne Johnstone. The tea was followed by a buffet for guests and members in the evening. Ladies of the North Sydney club sported "Hats" of their own design at the "Tea". It was lots of fun!

The Charing Cross Garden Club celebrated their 45th Anniversary April 22, 1998. In 1998 and again in 1999 members of this club won "Gardener of the Year". They are a busy club, mixing "good times" with work. Besides planting trees, maintaining flower beds, raising money, they take time for sight seeing, attending conventions, visiting gardens, holding teas, barbeques, picnics, pot luck supper to get to know district representative better and have fun working together.

In 1997 the Forties Garden Club celebrated their 45th Anniversary. This is another community minded club who do many things during the year to enhance the beauty of their surroundings. They take part in many other projects in their area and often go beyond gardening.

On October 24, 1997 the Bible Hill Garden Club celebrate their 50th Anniversary with a banquet and Dr. Milford Jackson as guest speaker.

Bridgewater celebrated their 50th year as a Garden Club in 1998 with two special projects. 1. Planting bulbs at Hillside Pines and Harbour House. 2. Presenting a one time bursary of \$300 to a student to help pursue education in Agriculture.

In 1997 the New Glasgow Club celebrated their 60th Anniversary with the Bible Hill club as their guests.

The Chester Garden Club is celebrating their Diamond Anniversary (1939-1999) this year.

The Rhodendron Society created their own website - www.AtlanticRhodo.com.

George Moffatt and Kenneth Coudrey were presented with Honorary Life Memberships in the Halifax-Westmoor Horticultural Society on November 18, 1997.

“Communities in Bloom” held their Awards weekend at the Westin Hotel in Halifax on September 17-19, 1999, hosted by the Halifax Regional Municipality. This is the first time this award weekend has been held in Nova Scotia.

Ed and Sylvia Alley of the Dartmouth Horticultural Society have moved to Berwick and started a new business “E&S DAHLIAS”.

Ruth and Jerry Draper were made life members of the Mount Denson Garden Club.

Stewiacke Valley Garden Club were first place winners for Colchester County in the Rural Beautification Contest in 1998.

4- H was 75 years old in 1996. Many gardeners have been influenced by their floriculture and gardening projects.

Mahone Bay registered with “Communities in Bloom” for 1997.

On April 8, 1998 the Valley Gardeners was incorporated under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia and celebrated their 15th year as a club. As their millennium project they are producing a brochure on the “Open Gardens of King Co.”, to be distributed through the area tourist bureaus, hotels, motels and inns. There will be eleven private gardens and seven parks, trails and inns included in their tour.

“We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing,
but others judge us by what we have already done”.

Count Leo N- Folstoi

IN MEMORIAM

We have lost some dear gardening friends in the past five years .We acknowledge their dedicated service to the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs and because they have touched our lives we are wiser.

.Some of those who are no longer with us are:

1995 Isabel Matheson, the past president and dedicated worker in the Bible Hill Garden Club.

1996 Belle Holmes of Dartmouth who passed away May 14, 1996. Belle was an avid gardener and supporter of every aspect of the work of the NSAGC. She attended the Convention every year until age and illness prevented her attendance. A loving tribute was presented at the 1996 Convention by the Dartmouth Horticultural Society of which she was a valued member. She was also a member of the board for a number of years and presented a trophy in memory of her late husband James .

1996 Isabel Wallace, of the Village Garden Club, Kennetcook

1996 Mary Hanrahan, an honorary member of the Halifax -Westmoor Club

1997 Fred Fellows , Honorary Life Member of Halifax- Westmoor

1997 Douglas Durning, of the Bible Hill Garden Club, a dedicated gardener and Garden Club member.

1997 Ena Fenton of Bedford - one of the founding members of the Bedford Horticultural Society.

1998 Arlene Britten of Halifax, board member from 1975-1986 .She was convention chairman, looked after the photo and slide contest while on the board She was an active member of the African Violet Society and the Halifax-Westmoor Horticultural Society.

1998 Ellen Keddy, the Forties, one of their most valued members.

1998 Pauline Whittier of Bridgewater , a District Director and Vice- Chairman at the time of her death. She was a board member from 1993 to 1998.

1998 Dr. Donald Robb of Sydney, auditor for NSAGC for a number of years.

1998 Dorothy Jackson, North Sydney, attended many board meetings with Milford helping out behind the scenes.

1999 Stewart Vair, North Sydney, an active Garden Club member.

1999 Nellie Hillier, North Sydney, who lived to the amazing age of 101.

We also remember others who were members of local clubs and who worked diligently to improve the landscape of Nova Scotia.

We realize there are many that we have missed, but at the time of printing these were the names we had received.

IRISH POEM

*There is peace within a garden
A peace so deep and calm
That when the heart is troubled
It's like a soothing balm.*

*There is life within a garden
A life that still goes on
Filling the empty places
When older plants have gone*

*There is glory in the garden
At every time of year --
Spring, summer, autumn, winter
To fill the heart with cheer.*

*So ever tend your garden
it's beauty to increase,
For in it you'll find solace,
And in it you'll find peace.*