



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
September 29th & September 30th ,2023 TIME

Meeting Via ZOOM

#	Item
1.	<p>Friday <i>Meeting called to order at 6:35pm</i> Regrets: Liz Hill In attendance: Susan Hazelwood Emily Loit Lori Reid Melissa Weir Brenda Grasser Deb Bowes-Lyon Sharon Bryson Ginny Blayney Kathryn Davidson Beate Acker Glynis Thomas Kathy d'Entremont Emily Walker Nancy MacCara Geoff MacDonald Anne Graton</p> <p>Review Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting – April 29th,2023</p> <p>Kathy d'Entremont moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting, motion seconded by Susan Hazelwood</p>
2.	<p>Old Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Convention 2023 (Susan): Convention was very successful; suggestions have been passed along to the 2024 team. b. Planning Committee (Susan): Under section 1a, reviewing job descriptions, due date to be moved from Nov '23 to March '24. Susan reviewed and explained the plan. The plan is to be reviewed and updates will be provided at every board meeting. Susan can share her zoom account with any groups wishing to meet over zoom. It is suggested that the executive member working on each item be the person to initiate meetings. c. Facebook Revenue (Deb): It was discussed if using advertising on the NSAGC Facebook page to generate revenue was an option. Advertising is against the FB group's established guidelines and would be a very large workload. Individual garden clubs can allow advertising on their Facebook pages. Glynis will explore if there is an option for paid advertising to be introduced somewhere other than the main feed of the page. d. Use of Chats on Facebook (Glynis): Glynis explained how the chats feature should not be used for general discussions that could be taking place in the Facebook groups main feed. The moderators and administrators of the group are going to review possible uses for chats and will bring any proposals for changes to guidelines to the board to review.

<p>3.</p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>a. Convention 2024 D7 (Kathryn): Convention 2024 will be June 7-9. The convention committee meets regularly. The theme will be “Getting back to our roots”. The first advertisement for the convention went out in the September edition of the Scotian Gardener. There are still a few positions on the committee to be filled. They are planning for 150 attendees. It will be held at the Rod Grand Hotel with a room rate of 114\$ per night. The committee is considering less speakers, potentially replacing some with a panel discussion, breakout sessions and walking tours. There will be a kitchen party Saturday evening, 2 workshops, and a quiz. It is suggested that directors start promoting the event. Nancy has ballots printed on high quality paper that she will share with the committee.</p> <p>b. Speaker’s list - discussion around a list of speakers for the whole association. This list would be too big. It can be handled district to district if the directors wish to take that on. Emily W reminded that club reports in the newsletter are a good resource for speaker ideas.</p>																		
	<p>Saturday – meeting called to order at 10:05am</p> <p>In Attendance:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Beate Acker</td> <td>Melissa Weir</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sharon Bryson</td> <td>Deb Bowes-Lyon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Susan Hazelwood</td> <td>Pamela Maclean</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lori Reid</td> <td>Kathy d’Entremont</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Emily Walker</td> <td>Liz Hill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nancy MacCara</td> <td>Anne Graton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kathryn Davidson</td> <td>Emily Loit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geoff MacDonald</td> <td>Glynis Thomas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brenda Grasser</td> <td>Ginny Blayney</td> </tr> </table> <p>3.cont’d</p> <p>c. Judges List (Melissa): Judges list has been fully updated, will be sent out as a Pdf. There had been a question about replacement name tags for judges. It was suggested those who wanted one could have them made, but this could explored as part of the plan under section 1.b #3.</p> <p>d. Secretary Microsoft Subscription (Melissa): Melissa has been paying monthly for Microsoft and is asking the board to cover a one-time payment to purchase Microsoft to continue to do NSAGC secretarial work, which would cost 169\$ plus tax. Kathy d’Entremont moved that the NSAGC cover the cost of purchasing Microsoft office. Motion seconded by Susan Hazelwood.</p> <p>e. Vector File (Emily Walker): Discussion surrounding club use of NSAGC logo vector file. Should we be concerned about how clubs use the file, and if we have any control over it. There should be guidelines on how it can be used, especially when creating merchandise, it implies it is under the auspices of the association.</p>	Beate Acker	Melissa Weir	Sharon Bryson	Deb Bowes-Lyon	Susan Hazelwood	Pamela Maclean	Lori Reid	Kathy d’Entremont	Emily Walker	Liz Hill	Nancy MacCara	Anne Graton	Kathryn Davidson	Emily Loit	Geoff MacDonald	Glynis Thomas	Brenda Grasser	Ginny Blayney
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Emily Walker	Liz Hill																		
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Kathryn Davidson	Emily Loit																		
Geoff MacDonald	Glynis Thomas																		
Brenda Grasser	Ginny Blayney																		

	<p>Emily will draft a document explaining the purpose of the file, how to use it, and guidelines surrounding use. Deb will work with Emily W on this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Markus Kehoe wholesale opportunity (Lori): Markus (Mount Denson GC member) works for JC Baker & Sons, a nursery wholesaler out of St. Catherines Ontario. He can offer discounted prices on trees and shrubs and would like to extend this offer to the NSAGC as a whole. This was discussed previously, but Markus did not provide price lists. After a discussion surrounding supporting local, not undercutting local nurseries and planting natives, it was decided that this is not something the board would prefer to be involved in arranging. It would be a large undertaking arranging orders and delivery and should be done club by club by Markus. It would be up to individual clubs and members if they were interested in participating. g. RJSC: The NSAGC belongs to the RJSC, so in turn each individual club also belongs. Clubs can and are encouraged to use the RJSC # to apply for grants. The number is available to the public on the RJSC website. h. NSAGC Bookmarks: Members of the board are interested in an updated version of the bookmark, Deb and Emily W will draft a new version for the boards approval. i. New Board Manual Sections: New sections to be added to cover the use of the RJSC # and the NSAGC logo Vector file. These should be in both the president's handbook and the board manual. Emily W will draft a document for the RJSC #. Deb and Emily W will draft the vector file document. Both will be submitted to Melissa to be proposed at the April '24 board meeting for approval. j. Newsletter puzzle (Ginny): Ginny proposed we add a hidden clue puzzle to the newsletter to encourage members to read the newsletter more thoroughly. Emily presented examples of past contests that had very little response. Emily W and Ginny will work together on this. k. Planning Committee (Susan): Susan presented each item for 2023/2024 on the plan and asked for board members to volunteer to work on these items. The planning document will be updated by Melissa with the names and any discussed changes to dates and circulated to the board.
4.	<p>Reports Highlights (to be circulated prior to meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Treasurer (Susan): The membership renewal letter will go out ASAP. Having one meeting a year via zoom frees up funds. The 23/24 Audit will need to be completed in April before the board meeting. Geoff will stay on to do the audit for a second year, Kathy d'Entremont volunteered as a second. Susan moved that Geoff MacDonald and Kathy d'Entremont complete the 2023/2024 Audit. Motion seconded by Ginny, with all in favor. b. Plant Giveaway (Geoff): This year the plants were 80% sold before being marked down and all plants were eventually sold. The association incurred a 599\$ cost on the plant giveaway. Geoff offered

5 selections of plants for next year's giveaway. It was discussed that because the plants did so well this year, more may sell next year. Tags could be excluded to lower the price of the plants. There is a 10% discount for ordering this weekend, and another 3% discount if the order is paid for by December. All 5 options will have a cost to the association of roughly 1000\$ before selling the extras. Susan suggested that holding this meeting had saved the association \$1700 and this could cover the plant giveaway. Sharon moved to continue with the plant giveaway next year. Ginny seconded the motion, with all in favor. Geoff moved that the plant ordered for the 2024 plant giveaway be the Green Twister echinacea, ordered with no tags at a cost of \$3879.26. Seconded by Glynis, with all in favor. Geoff will place the order this weekend and will share the info sheet in place of the individual tags.

- c. **Web Content** (Susan): The website is working well; it appears to be being used mostly internally.
- d. **Newsletter** (Emily W): Clubs are submitting content and then emailing Emily to ask why their submissions were not printed, when in fact they were in previous editions. Emily requests that when directors receive and read the newsletter, they could email clubs with content and note that their submissions were published. When sharing the newsletter, please save the attachment and send it out in a separate email instead of forwarding Emilys email to make sure the attachment doesn't get lost.
- e. **Facebook** (Deb): Lots of positive feedback regarding page members politeness and helpfulness, members appreciate the lack of advertising.
- f. **Photo Contest** (Sharon): Photo contest went well. Sharon wondered if it possible to make photo contest information easier to find on the website.
- g. **Historian** (Pamela): Pamela received all the historian information and documents from Dixie. The edition from 2014-2019 has many errors, and Pamela is working on editing it. Once complete it will be shared. The edition due in 2024 will likely not be complete until 2025. There are several boxes of yearbooks, and it is suggested that the books be displayed at the convention. Pamela will have a new email address created solely for the historian's information to keep it all separate and in one place.
- h. **Awards:** There should be more folks being awarded the outstanding gardener award.
- i. **Nominations:** Pamela is handing this position over to Kathy now that she is past president. Pamela thanked everyone for stepping up at the AGM to fill roles.
- j. **District Directors**
 - **District 1 – Glynis** – D1 is considering starting a district Facebook page. The September district meeting is being moved to Spring and will allow them to gain some experience for the 2026 convention. North Sydney club is celebrating 65 years.
 - **District 2 - Anne** – It should be noted that on the district map Susan created there is no New Glasgow club, it was replaced

	<p>with Westville. Lots of members in D2 attended the convention. Fall Rally is on October 14th, in Lismore.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District 3N – Beate- Beate intends to visit all 6 clubs yearly. All clubs hold plant sales and do lots of community activities. All clubs tend community gardens. • District 3S – Brenda – Most clubs remain active. Fall Rally is October 14th. Middle Musquodoboit took part in the HFX county exhibition flower show. Entries in this show are down 70%. • District 4 – Nancy – Bedford had an anniversary this year, and along with Dartmouth horticultural society, had to move to a new location due to the floods. Hammond plain club also moved, due to the wildfire. Most clubs are continuing to need executive positions filled but are creating strategies to help with this. • District 5 – Lori – All clubs are active with lots of activities going on. Valley Gardeners & Mount Denson were both able to award bursaries this year. Charring Cross held a flower show. Mount Denson and Valley Gardeners are celebrating their 40-year anniversaries. • District 6 – Emily L – There is one non active club. Emily has visited all the clubs, and most are growing in membership. They hold meetings and have speakers. The district meeting was cancelled due to hurricane Lee. • District 7 – Kathryn – There are 8 active clubs in district 7, which she plans to visit. Some clubs need volunteers for exec positions. Many clubs are moving to workshops instead of having speakers. <p>Kathryn moved to accept all reports, motion seconded by Pamela</p>
5.	Next Meeting : Saturday April 27 th @ Willow Bend Motel, Truro
6.	Adjournment: Kathy moved to adjourn at 1:16p,
7.	<p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa – update the plan. • Glynis – explore if paid advertising can be placed on Facebook somewhere other than the main feed. • Deb – review possible uses for “chats” with FB moderators and administrators. • Directors – promote convention. • Nancy – share ballots with 2024 convention committee • Melissa – Check status of Anne T on judges list, send list to board as Pdf. • Emily W and Deb - draft a description of the vector file use and a use policy to be included in the Board Manual • Deb to draft guidelines for use of the RJSC # to be included in the Board Manual • Emily W & Ginny – newsletter puzzle

Treasurer's Report – August 31, 2023

Membership Renewal (AKA Assessment) Letter and Form

All of the suggestions proposed by the Board have been included in the letter and form, including changing the name from Assessment to Membership Renewal. These changes will hopefully decrease the amount of work required to get the membership fees submitted on time. The form and letter were emailed to the District Directors for distribution to their clubs on September 28.

Tags & Seals

There were 2 orders for tags & seals placed since April 1.

Balance Sheet Notes

1. The balance sheet shows that we have a healthy cash position.
2. We had to spend from our Savings account to pay for the plant sale, dropping that balance by about \$3,000. We paid most of that back with the proceeds of the sales of surplus plants and a transfer from our chequing account.
3. The convention loan to District 7 was not requested until September and is therefore not reflected in this balance sheet.

Profit & Loss Statement Notes

1. The income from the sale of surplus plants was about \$200 less than last year.
2. The income from other sources is almost \$0 because we have not started to collect membership dues.
3. At this point there is no concern about the expenses.

Budget Notes

1. The budget vs actuals to August 31 are probably not relevant at this point in the year.
2. We must be mindful of the meeting expenses that will be incurred in April.
3. The only item of concern is the Plant Giveaway loss expected.

Auditors for 2023/2024

Each year we ask 2 Board members to audit the books for the year. Ideally one of the auditors is from the previous year and one is new. Once again, we will need auditors to review the financials in April 2024, after our year end and before the April Board meeting.

Motion to appoint auditors for 2023/2024.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report.

Submitted by Susan Hazelwood

Balance Sheet
April 1 - August 31, 2023

	2023-2024	2022-2023
ASSETS		
Bank Accounts		
Chequing	5,079.92	3,938.31
Savings	8,904.99	10,085.33
TOTAL Bank Accounts	<u>13,984.91</u>	<u>14,023.64</u>
Other Assets		
Tags & Seals Inventory	676.49	712.12
Convention Loan to Host District	0.00	1,000.00
TOTAL Other Assets	<u>676.49</u>	<u>1,712.12</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>14,661.40</u></u>	<u><u>15,735.76</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
None	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
EQUITY	14,661.40	15,735.76
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>14,661.40</u></u>	<u><u>15,735.76</u></u>

Profit & Loss Statement April 1 - August 31, 2023

	2023-2024	2022-2023	
INCOME			
Income from Sales			
Newsletter Advertising	50.00	50.00	
Sales of Surplus Plants	2,656.00	2,857.00	
Sales of Tags & Seals	53.23	50.20	
TOTAL Income from Sales	2,759.23	2,957.20	
Income from Other Sources			
Affiliated Garden Clubs Dues	0.00	200.00	Note 3
Garden Clubs Dues	-50.00	6,265.00	Note 3
Interest	79.28	18.49	
TOTAL Income from Other Sources	29.28	6,483.49	
TOTAL INCOME	2,788.51	9,440.69	
EXPENSES			
General Expenses			
Awards	150.00	380.80	
Newsletter	0.00	0.00	
Photo Contest	175.00	250.00	
Plant Giveaway	27.80	2,289.83	
TOTAL General Expenses	352.80	2,920.63	
Meeting Expenses			
Board Meetings	1,026.94	1,112.05	Note 1
Board Members	634.80	999.36	Note 2
TOTAL Meeting Expenses	1,661.74	2,111.41	
Operating Expenses			
Bank Fees	25.35	30.71	
Directors expenses	0.00	0.00	
Financial statements review	0.00	0.00	
Incidentals (postal, printing, etc.)	0.00	354.52	

Insurance	1,349.00	1,338.00
Joint Stocks Membership	31.15	31.15
Web Site	575.00	2,185.00
TOTAL Operating Expenses	1,980.50	3,939.38
TOTAL Expenses	3,995.04	8,971.42
OVERALL TOTAL	-1,206.53	469.27

Note 1 Meeting room, lunch, accommodations

Note 2 Travel expenses to/from Board meetings and within Districts for meetings

Note 3 2023 - Refund of duplicate payment by AMGA; 2022 - Dues were received after April 1.

Budget 2023/2024 \$5 Membership Fees

	2023/2024 Budget	August 31 Actuals
INCOME		
Income from Sales		
Newsletter Advertising	150.00	50.00
Sales of Surplus Plants	3,400.00	2,656.00
Sales of Tags & Seals	50.00	53.23
TOTAL Income from Sales	3,600.00	2,759.23
Income from Other Sources		
Affiliated Garden Clubs Dues	250.00	0.00
Garden Clubs Dues	8,300.00	-50.00
Interest	84.00	79.28
TOTAL Income from Other Sources	8,634.00	29.28
TOTAL INCOME	12,234.00	2,788.51
EXPENSES		
General Expenses		
Awards	100.00	150.00
Newsletter	0.00	0.00
Photo Contest	250.00	175.00
Plant Giveaway	3,700.00	27.80
TOTAL General Expenses	4,050.00	352.80
Meeting Expenses		
Board Meetings	1,700.00	1,026.94
Board Members	1,500.00	634.80
TOTAL Meeting Expenses	3,200.00	1,661.74
Operating Expenses		
Bank Fees	70.00	25.35
Directors expenses	0.00	0.00
Financial statements review	0.00	0.00
Incidentals (postal, printing, etc.)	55.00	0.00
Insurance	1,338.00	1,349.00
Joint Stocks Membership	31.15	31.15

Web Site	1,000.00	575.00
TOTAL Operating Expenses	2,494.15	1,980.50
TOTAL Expenses	9,744.15	3,995.04
TOTAL INCOME (LOSS)	2,489.85	(1,206.53)

NSAGC Planning for 2023 - 2025
Updated August 29, 2023

President's Vision 2023 - 2025

- 1 Review Board Structure and Business Processes
- 2 Increase External Stakeholder Engagement
- 3 Increase Internal Stakeholder Engagement

	Ideas / Action Items	Who	By When	Cost	\$\$ Source	Status
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1 Review Board Structure and Business Processes

1a Review Business Processes

1.	Review Board Job Descriptions	Deb, Kathy, Susan, 1DD	Nov '23	\$0		
2.	Review Board Handbook	Melissa, Ginny	Mar '24	\$0		
3.	Interview long serving Board members	Kathy, Susan	Mar '24	\$0		
4.	Define list of missing documented processes & assign documentation (e.g., T&S, Assessments, Nominations)	Deb, Kathy, Susan, 1DD, Melissa, Ginny	Apr '24	\$0		
5.	Prepare survey for exiting Board Members	Deb, DD	Apr '24	\$0		

1b Review Board Structure

1.	Document current District boundaries	Susan	Nov '23	\$0		Complete
2.	Review existing committees and what they do, lengths of terms and relevance	3 Board members	Mar '24	\$0		
3.	Determine if new committees are needed and which should be Board members	3 Board members	Mar '24	\$0		
4.	Determine and document how to recruit new committee members	3 Board members	Mar '24	\$0		
5.	Ad hoc committee to look into judging needs and approach to courses, if applicable	3 Board members	Sept '24	\$0		

2 External Stakeholder Engagement

Defined as (like-minded unknown organizations, industry groups such as landscaping orgs, nursery orgs, etc.)

1. Develop list of External Stakeholders	Melissa (via email with Board)	Sept '24	\$0		
2. Define what stakeholders can provide us (\$\$, discounts, partnership, ads, etc.)					
3. Branding – standardize look for NSAGC	Emily, ??				
4. Increase # of nurseries giving discounts	DDs	Apr '24	\$0		
5. Contact orgs giving local discounts and ask to expand to NSAGC	DDs	Apr '24	\$0		
6. Develop media kit	Emily, ??	May '24			
7. Define how to promote Provincial Gardening Week (same as Internal)	Pamela	May '24	\$0		
8. Increase kiosks and visibility at local events		Apr '25			
9. Define NSAGC Handout Materials needed		April '25	\$0		
10. Develop NSAGC Handout Materials		After Apr '25			

3

Internal Stakeholder Engagement

Defined as Member Clubs

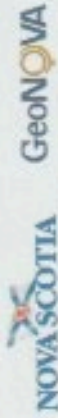
1. Develop Presentation for DD's to show clubs	Deb, Melissa, 1DD	Apr '24	\$0		
2. Dedicate Board agenda item to review roles of DD's once every 2 years	Melissa – agenda, Deb – roles	Apr '24 meeting	\$0		
3. Define how to promote Provincial Gardening Week (same as External)	Pamela	May '24	\$0		
4. Research recognition programs re club anniversaries	Pamela to develop list of anniversaries, Ginny	Sept '24	\$0		
5. Create survey for Clubs and distribute	Ginny, 2 DD's	Sept '24	\$0		
6. Summarize survey responses and develop "to do" list	Ginny, 2 DD's	Sept '24	\$0		
7. Review and Update Club President's Handbook for yearly distribution to clubs	Melissa, 2 Club Presidents, DD	Jan '25	\$0		
8. Implement recognition programs re club anniversaries		Apr '25			
9. Develop package for new club members about NSAGC	2 DDs, 1 Club President, Melissa	Apr '25			

Nova Scotia

Counties Colour



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Gulf of
St. Lawrence

Northumberland Strait

Bay of Fundy

Atlantic Ocean

Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

Facebook Group Report

September 29, 2023

The Association's Facebook group continues to be a valuable resource for the NSAGC, Clubs and group members. Since the last report (April 2023) it has operated smoothly with no problems to report.

We are continuing to experience membership growth. As of September 27, 2023 the group had 15,269 members of which approximately 12000 are active. An increase of 439 members since April 2023. In the preceding reporting period (September 2022 - April 2023) we added only 30 members. Presumably the advent gardening season prompted the increase.

In the April 2023 report the Admin/Moderators suggested we encourage businesses to use the 'Events' feature of Facebook and revise the group's guidelines to reflect this. It was decided at the April Board meeting to discuss this at the September Board meeting.

At the April 2023 Board meeting a suggestion was made to consider ways of generating revenue from the group. This will be discussed at the September Board meeting.

The Moderators continue to do a excellent job; monitoring posts, approving memberships and responding to member reported content. On behalf of the NSAGC Board I would like to again thank them for all their suggestions and efforts, which are keeping the FB group a safe and respectful place for the members.

Administrators:

Pamela MacLean

Deb Bowes-Lyon

Glynis Thomas

Susan Hazelwood (web posts only)

Moderators:

Laura Hansen

Tracy Monk

Cindy O'Leary

Recommendations:

None

Respectfully submitted

Deb Bowes-Lyon

Facebook Group Co-Administrator

NSAGC Outstanding Member Awards June 2023

These members were chosen by their garden clubs to celebrate members who have made outstanding contributions to their club and community.

Activities include holding office, doing lectures or demonstrations at club meetings helping with plant sales, flower shows, holding tours and being involved in club activities and on club committees.

Often these members would hold office and attend district meetings, do lectures or demos at meetings assist on the committees for convention, attend convention and/or be an NSAGC board member.

Congratulations to each one selected by their respective clubs. Volunteering is the best thing you can do for your club and for the NSAGC Board.

Ada Swift, Colleene Jackson, Bonie Moore, Tina Small, Holly MacNevin, Donna Jones, Bob MacDairmaid, Mary Trott, Krista Gill, Rose Lane, Bill Lane, Lori Reid, Art Crowell, and Jean Elliott

Pamela MacLean,

Awards Chair

Plant Giveaway Committee Report
September 30, 2023 NSAGC Board of Directors Meeting

As at the April 2023 board meeting, we had sold over 80% of the additional plants ordered as part of the giveaway program. We were left with 220 plants to sell/distribute after the meeting. After consultation with the Executive, I received approval to discount the remaining plants and sell them at a reduced rate for bulk purchases as follows:

10 for \$20.00

20 for \$30.00

An e-mail communication was sent out to the board and all previous purchasers. Within 24 hours, all plants were sold. While it was great news to sell out, having to do so at a reduced rate meant we did not recoup all costs this year. The total breakdown of costs is as follows:

Total Revenue: \$3,085.00

Plant Costs: \$3,656.39

Cup/Soil Costs: \$27.80

Total Costs: \$3,684.19

Net Cost Incurred: \$599.19

In total, we ordered 2,808 plants (2,700 we paid for and 108 to cover any duds). 1,664 were allocated as free plants to existing NSAGC members, 1,121 were sold, 17 were allocated to Champlain Garden Club, due to a mix-up with delivery, 4 plants were not feasible for sale and 2 were not accounted for.

Response to the plant this year was very positive. I received no complaints and a couple of messages of positive feedback from members, which was welcoming after last year's plant selection that had some negative feedback from members.

The price increase this year from \$2.00 to \$3.00 most likely had an impact on slower sales, however, I suspect the issues with the previous year's selection also had an impact on sales, which meant for lower sale amounts. In 2022 we sold 1,444 plants.

Due to the amount of costs incurred this year, there has been some discussion about discontinuing the sale going forward and this will be open for discussion at the September board meeting. I will still proceed with preparing a selection of five plants to vote on and have obtained a catalogue and pricing from Jolly Farmer, should we decide to proceed.

Two changes with this year's giveaway is that we enabled the e-transfer option for payment, which was very popular and how we received a majority of payments. We also provided after care instructions for the plant this year, which may have contributed to the success with the plant, compared to last year.

Overall, outside there being an end result of a cost to the organization, the plant giveaway went very smoothly. Due to a family commitment, I was not able to make the April board meeting and with to

thank two members of my local club, Janet Rose and Elizabeth Hill for getting the plants to Truro and distributed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff MacDonald
NSAGC Plant Giveaway Chairperson
September 2, 2023

Newsletter Report for NSAGC Executive meeting—September 2023

Submitted by Emily Walker

Newsletter Reminders

Just a reminder that newsletter submission deadlines are:

- March 15
- June 15
- September 15
- November 15

I send two-weeks-prior reminders to directors each March, June, September and November. It is important that directors then inform the clubs in their region promptly to give them time to come up with content and photos. Some clubs have chosen a person to coordinate the newsletter submission which is an excellent idea.

Raising Awareness to the Newsletter

Sometimes it seems that club members do not receive or read the Scotia Gardener. I have been contacted several times by club members who think their article did not appear. When I check the previous issues, it was usually there but somehow it passed them by.

Here are points/suggestions to stimulate interest in the newsletter and to get people reading it:

- Please, directors, distribute the newsletter to your clubs promptly when you receive it.
- It is a good idea to browse the newsletter yourself first, identify any articles from your region's clubs and mention this in your covering email, something like: "Check out the newsy article and beautiful photos from our Great Village Garden Club (page 12)" This way, it stimulates interest in reading the article. Also, the club submitting is sure to see that their article is in the newsletter and it may stimulate other clubs in your area to have a look at the newsletter just to see what their sister club is doing.
- Clubs also need a designated person to be responsible for circulating the newsletter to their members. Again, they could point out items of particular interest to their club members such as: "Please take a look at the workshop article on rock painting on page 19. This looks like something that would be fun for us to do." "The newsletter article from Pictou (page 7) mentions a couple of community activities that have been successful for them—sounds like something we could try here."
- It is all about follow through. It sometimes takes a little nudge for club members to open and browse the newsletter. There are lots of pretty photos and the articles are easy reads—they might find they like it!

Convention

Pleased to report that newsletter issues contained comprehensive convention information both before and after the event. Worked closely with Susan Hazelwood to get the word out well in advance.

NSAGC Historian Board Report

Sept 30, 2023

I agreed to take over the position as Historian in June at the AGM. I received 2 boxes in August, containing year books, binders of minutes and a memory stick with documents on it.

I am currently in the process of editing and proofreading the draft document prepared by the previous Historian, Dixie Cress dated 2015-2019. Once this is completed I will distribute it to the board for distribution to the clubs.

In order to complete this, I will be contacting some members for additional reports to fill in the missing information.

After this is completed, I will begin work on the next report, 2020-2024 which will not be ready for distribution on time.

I set up a new email address for the reports and documents to be sent to going forward. This will make things easier to locate. The new email address is:

nsagchistorian2023@gmail.com

Please forward all information and reports to this address.

I look forward to working as historian.

Respectfully Submitted

Pamela MacLean

Historian

Photo Contest Report – September 2023 Board Meeting

Sharon Bryson

The 2023 Photo Contest information was added to the NSAGC website after the last update of the Rules and Classes.

I do not foresee any radical changes in the Rules and Classes, except for one or two clarifications on the number of images per person per class and the naming of image files.

There was good exposure via the Scotia Gardener and the NSAGC Facebook page in the time leading up to the April deadline. Reminders were also sent to District Directors to be forwarded to their clubs.

After a bit of a slow start to the submissions, there were eventually a good number. 22 Contributors, resulting in 142 entries.

Overall	In Order Received		Photo Contest Contributors 2023			
	NAME	#	ADDRESS	E MAIL	TEL	CLUB
	Emily Walker	3	245 Moirs Mill Road, Bedford, NS. B4A 3Y3	eandwalker@bellaliant.net	902-832-3107	Bedford Horticultural Society
	Susan Stevenson	8	680 N S Trunk 2, Brookfield, NS B0N 2J0	Catsass@eastlink.ca	902-673-2479	Brookfield Garden Club
	Anne Roach	1	79 Collins Grove, #313 Dartmouth NS B2W 6B9	aferoach@gmail.com	902-880-6752	Dartmouth Horticultural Society
	Jen Bethell	5	P.O. Box 1314, Pictou, NS B0K 1H0	jennybethell@gmail.com	902-396-8387	Pictou and Area Garden Club
#1	Melissa Weir	8	748 Mines Road, Upper Falmouth NS B0P1P0	melissaweir22@gmail.com	902-799-0166	Haliburton Garden Club
	Cynthia O'Leary	9	47 Second St. Lakeview NS B4C 4C9	coleary50@gmail.com	902-403-3437	Hammonds Plains Club
	Donna Burris	3	56 Union St, Bedford NS	marietiger@hotmail.com	902-835-4781	Bedford Horticulture Society
#2	Tim Geddes	5	6714 St Margaret's Bay Road, Head of St Margaret's Bay, NS B3Z 1X9	tgeddes1000@gmail.com	902-229- 6714	St Margaret's Bay Gardening Club
	Rena Nixon	9	42 Old Farm, Lane, New Minas NS	nannynix58@gmail.com	902-681-0049 or 902-690-7677	Valley Gardeners Club
	Nancy Hutchinson	5	737 Highway #1 Hebron, Nova Scotia B5A 5Z5	stevenwaynehutchinson@yahoo.com	902-742-2131	Yarmouth Garden Club
	Frank Mosher	2	230 Longards Road, Tantallon, NS	fwmosher@ yahoo.com	902-826-2953	St. Margaret's Bay Gardening Club
	Tanya Emmons	7	230 Old Trunk 1, Deep Brook, Nova Scotia	bliss.full@live.ca	902-526-2243	Clements Garden Club
	Mary Landry	9	42 Tannery Drive Elmsdale, NS	youthwhocareherh@gmail.com	902-240-1137	Elmsdale Country Garden Club
	Florence Brown	5	24 Moraine Dr. Enfield, NS B2T 0G3	fbrown1366@gmail.com	902-997-1366	Elmsdale Country Garden Club
	Anne Gratton	2	PO Box 1792, Pictou, NS B0K 1H0	annegratton@live.com	902-331- 0809	Pictou and Area Garden Club
	Mia Muise	10	44 Forest St Yarmouth NS B5A 3L5	Miamuise4@gmail.com	226-218-0392	Yarmouth Garden Club
	Francine Chiasson	4	255 C. Saulnier Rd., Saulnierville, N.S. B0W 2Z0	francinitadr@gmail.com	902-249-0244	Yarmouth Garden Club
	Carol Morrison	7	8 Acorn Drive, Oakfield, N.S. B2T 1B2	carolsfineart@ns.sympatico.ca	902-860-0101	Country Garden Club
	Regan White	10	61 Clementsport Road Clementsport NS B0S 1E0	reganwhite1@hotmail.com	902-740-9213	Clements Garden Club
#3	Elizabeth Hill	10	8161 Hwy 215 Selma, Nova Scotia, B0N 1T0	elizabeth.hill2@bellaliant.net	902-261-2678	Hants North Late Bloomers
	Jennifer Hill	10	7652 Hwy 14, Hardwoodlands, Nova Scotia, B0N 1Y0	jennhill_02@yahoo.ca	902-448-8825	Hants North Late Bloomers
	Bill Reader	10	8161 Hwy 215 Selma, Nova Scotia, B0N 1T0	elizabeth.hill2@bellaliant.net	902-261-2678	Hants North Late Bloomers
	TOTAL	142				

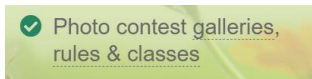
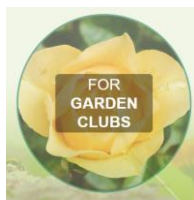
All entries were organized on the NSAGC Google Documents site and were easily shared with the judges. They also exist on my computer.

Jeffrey Parker and Anne Louise MacDonald did a very effective job judging the submissions. They each received a \$50 stipend for their efforts. It is possible in the future that one judge might suffice, but that needs clarification.

The slideshow for the Convention was completed and forwarded to Susan Hazelwood for use at the 2023 Convention. A copy exists [online](#) should anyone need access.

The images are displayed on the NSAGC website.

I am wondering if it is possible to have a more “upfront” direct link to the Photo Contest inserted on the website. As it is now, a bit of hunting needs to be done. It is very much, at least, a two-three step process.



Clicking on the  or  symbol also takes you to



which then gives the



link.



It is also available if you click the link in the section under my name.

All in all, lots of actual links, but they are not very obvious to someone unfamiliar with the site.

**NSAGC.COM Web Site Report
For September 29 and 30, 2023 Board Meeting**

The web site continues to work very well.

The following updates have been made to the site since April.

- 2023 Photo Contest entries
- April 2023 Board minutes
- June 2023 AGM minutes
- 2023/2024 Board members
- Spring 2023 Scotia Gardener
- 2024/2025 PDF Membership Renewal (AKA Assessment) form and letter
- 2024/2025 Online Membership Renewal form

I took over responsibility for the Contact Us form and check the emails that come through to the Webmanager email account every 2 days. From April 1 to August 31 there were 48 emails on a wide variety of topics.

Submitted by Susan Hazelwood

NSAGC 2023 Convention Report - September 29, 2023

We had 149 registrants and 13 vendors who purchased 15 tables. We had 1 Friday night speaker and 6 on Saturday, which might have been 1 too many, and a workshop on Friday afternoon. Due to the wildfires in HRM a few of the garden tours were cancelled but there still enough on Friday and Sunday.

87 out of 149 completed the evaluation forms, or 58%. Most of the evaluations were great and in the 8 to 10 score range. They enjoyed the speakers, the food (except for lunch), vendors.

The following are the top 5 suggestions/improvements, meaning they were mentioned by several people, in order of priority.

1. Poor signage to the building and within the building to the registration area.
2. There should have been mikes for people in the audience asking questions at the AGM and of the speakers. Or, ask the people asking to stand up and speak clearly. Or, ask the presenter to repeat the questions.
3. Needed different colored tickets for the auction, draws, etc.
4. Lunch was chaotic and there wasn't enough food. Several people didn't get a choice of sandwiches or dessert.
5. The Friday night and snack/break table should have been setup so that people could go on both sides of it.

Here are some other suggestions. I didn't include those where one person said one thing and someone else said the opposite. For example, someone wanted more time before the banquet and someone else wanted less.

1. Too many last minute time changes on the program.
2. Track emails in the registration spreadsheet so that you can communicate with the attendees (this is from me and would have been helpful to let them know about the location of registration, campus map, status of fires).
3. Option and pricing to listen to the keynote without paying for the banquet.
4. Registration table needs to be "manned" for at least 30 minutes before the AGM. They found the registration table chaotic on Saturday because it was being used to hand out AGM vote ballots.
5. Specify a minimum of \$5 increments for the auction. Collect bid sheets as soon as the auction closes.
6. Have water on the tables.
7. Specify times and place to register on the web site. This was the first time using the web site and there are a number of improvements we can make in the future.
8. Keep in mind that not everyone uses the web site or Face book.

Here are some suggestions for future conventions:

1. Have a breakfast talk on Sunday morning.
2. Physio or Pilates instructor as speaker to talk about how to safely garden.

All in all, a very successful convention!! Thanks to everyone who attended.

Submitted by Susan Hazelwood

NSAGC NOMINATION Report September 30, 2023

For the coming year we had volunteers for a few positions and we have just a few positions changing as follows. Many thanks to those who stepped up.

New NSAGC Board for 2023

Chair: Deb Bowes-Lyon

Vice Chair: Ginny Blayney

Past Chair: Kathy d'Entremont, includes the Awards Chair and the Nomination Committee Chair positions.

Secretary: Melissa Weir

Treasurer, Susan Hazelwood

Historian: Pamela MacLean

Photo Contest Committee, Sharon Bryson

Plant Give Away, Geoff MacDonald

Scotia Gardener Newsletter, Emily Walker

Web Content Manager, Susan Hazelwood

District One, Cape Breton, Glynis Thomas

District Two, Eastern, Anne Gratton

District Three Central North, Elizabeth Hill

District Three Central South, Brenda Grasser

District Four, Halifax, Nancy MacCara

District Five, Valley, Lori Reid

District Six, South Shore, Michele Stevens

District Seven: Kathryn Davidson

Pamela MacLean

Past Chair, Nomination Committee

2023 NSAGC Report – for NSAGC Convention – to be hosted by Western District (District 7)

Theme: Getting “Back to our Roots”

So far, we have had 4 meetings. The intention is to have a meeting once every 3 weeks. We are all very excited to be planning and hosting this wonderful get together of gardeners, throughout our province.

Our executive is:

Chair: Kathryn Davidson; Treasurer: Kathy D’Entremont, Secretary: Kathryn Davidson; Venue/Food: Kathy D’Entremont; Speakers: Kathy D’Entremont and Deb Bowes-Lyon; Entertainment: Alvina Robicheau; Floral Competition: Weymouth GC; Garden Tours: Liana Hood and Bridgetown GC; Workshops: Pamela Morris; Vendors: Alice D’Entremont; Quiz: Ginny Blayney; Registration Part 1(Registrar): Kathy D’Entremont; Registration Part 2 (gift bags and name badges; Pubnico GC; Registration Part 3 (Day of event); Digby Neck & Islands GC;

Some positions are still open – but we are actively seeking members to step up and fill the positions.

Our budget is still a work in progress and will be based on 150 registrations.

We will be holding the Convention at the Rodd Grand Hotel, in Yarmouth. We have secured hotel costs capped at \$114.00 per night which we believe are extremely affordable.

The Event Flyer has been finalized and was included within the September Scotia Gardener.

Next Meeting October 18th, 2023.

Western District #7 Report September 2023

Submitted by Kathryn Davidson, District Director

The garden clubs of District 7 have been busy, in their own way over the summer-time. We do have representatives from each of the 8 clubs, on our 2024 NSAGC Convention Committee. All clubs are starting to regroup and meet, on a monthly basis.

It is still a challenge for some clubs to attract and maintain their memberships.

It is my intention to meet with every club, in person over the next 2 months, beginning in October and running through into December, if need be.

I would like to really get to know the clubs, and their executive, and clearly understand their issues, but what also makes them “tick”. If I can cross pollinate ideas from each club, into other clubs, that may help with memberships.....I’m hopeful.

I would like to discuss the idea of a District Rally with all the clubs over the winter to see what interest there is. I suspect, with the 2024 Convention being held in Yarmouth, and all clubs actively participating with the organization and tasks, to ensure it is a successful convention, the District Rally idea may need to be moved to the Fall of 2024.

Pubnico Area GC still struggles to attract new members. I will be attending their meeting in October and looking forward to meeting the executive and all members.

Yarmouth GC membership is doing very well and has attracted some new members. They have 117 members in total. There is still the VP position empty at this time.

Spring Photo Contest preparations have begun & revisions to the Plant Sale are being discussed.

Garden tours, held throughout the summer were well attended & the bus trip held in mid June was a sold out event.

Rooted in Clare GC – no update at this time. First meeting of the club is September 27th, and I look forward to attending and meeting the executive and membership.

Weymouth Garden Society – no update at this time.

Champlain GC in Annapolis is concerned with dropping numbers in their membership. This is a concern, so I will strive to meet with the membership to discuss ways to attract new members.

Clements GC - no update at this time. Will be attending their meeting on October 4th and look forward to meeting the executive and membership. They are having a presentation on Fruit Trees.

Bridgetown Area GC – no update at this time.

Digby Neck and Islands GC – no update at this time.

On the agenda for all Clubs:

(1) District 1 Cape Breton Island Garden Club Facebook and/ or Instagram page. All club presidents, or a whomever designated, would automatically be an admin. More than anything this would be to keep all members across Cape Breton Island informed of ongoing events. (This wouldn't be to replace what is already in existence, just link to each other and supplement).

(2) **DISTRICT 1 MEETING - ON HOLD**

A very enthusiastic Kelly Ingram and Dona Benac of the North Sydney Garden Club, along with myself, had hoped to pull together a District 1 meeting for the end of September. However, life events have delayed the possibility of a fall meeting with them at the helm. We are now looking at the Spring. We had hoped to do a larger event as a run up to **our hosting the NSAGC AGM in 2025.**

(3) UPDATED EMAILS follow at end of reports.

The North Sydney Garden club report for September 2023

The NSG celebrated its 65th anniversary as a club on April 14th at the North Sydney Library. It was open to present and past members and the public. A display of books and scrapbooks were on hand as well as cake and tea for those who attended. In celebration of our anniversary members **planted 65 daffodils at the Field of Hope Garden.**

Our annual plant sale in July was held at the CB Exhibition grounds. We were very pleased with the amount of people who came out to support us. It was our **most successful to date.** **With the plants we had leftover, 2 of our members set up outside the library to sell the remaining perennials and used it as an opportunity to promote our club.**

A few of the members **volunteered their time to tend to some of the public garden beds in the community:** Field of Hope, Northside General Hospital, and the North Sydney Legion grounds adding over 200 petunias to their walkway.

We have designed and **printed Club bookmarks with our contact information and have used them to invite people to join us.**

We usually try to have a speaker or a presenter at our meetings - recently we had one on **"Winter Sowing"** give by a Master Gardener and another on **"Flower Arrangements"** given by a local Florist.

With the amount of rain this year we were unable to arrange any garden tours. We are optimistic for next year and plan to make it a priority

We were saddened by the loss of one of our long time members, Edna Jabalee. We donated a book on gardening to our local library in memory of another member who had passed away last year.

A new North Sydney Garden Club Facebook page was created.

Our annual Flower and Vegetable show was held at the CB Exhibition during Exhibition week in August. We were very pleased with the show of specimens and arrangements. There was a **display showing the many ways to grow a plant from seeds to propagation. Members did their own propagation of coleus plants to give to the public.**

We are consulting about buying and planting a tree for our local Smelt Brook Park.

We are presently discussing what will be offered at our annual Christmas workshop. This is a very successful fundraiser for us - last year 54 people attended. **We are also looking forward to the annual District meeting in the spring.**

Respectfully Submitted
Kelly Ingram

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Isle Madame Garden Club Report

Following is the summary of activities that the Isle Madame Garden Club participated in beginning April 01, 2023, and ending August 31, 2023.

- **April- Cancer Awareness Month**

With the arrival of the daffodil, we thought it was most fitting to create an event around the symbol of the daffodil as the flower of hope for people living with Cancer. The garden club held an event April 30th at the Rocky Bay Hall. **We had a table set-up with a beautiful display of daffodils, healing music, stories and testimonials, candles were lit to honor cancer survivors and for loved ones who lost their battle to cancer.** A registered nurse gave a talk on cancer prevention. The event closed with a prayer of healing. A light lunch was served.

- **April - Seniors Take Action Coalition**

In April, the garden club wrote and submitted an article to the Seniors Take Action Coalition - Spring Edition Newsletter. The piece was titled **“Honoring our Loved Ones through the Creation of a Garden”**.

- **June-Telile Community Television**

In June, the club was interviewed by the local community TV station to chat about an Invasive Species, the Woodland Angelica. The plant is presently threatening our natural environment here on Isle Madame. It has spread in our woodland and causing great harm to our native plants. The interview was followed by a public meeting conducted on zoom. The guest speaker was a spokesman from the Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council.

- **June-Plant Sale-Plant Swap-Seed**

The plant sale took place on June 17th, National Garden Day. We had a beautiful display of plants for sale. A table was set up for a **plant swap, seeds were given away**, and the day ended with fun activities and a light lunch. We were happy to receive a surprise visit from two avid gardeners from the Sydney area Margaret Buffet and Lorna Williams.

- **July- Irish Tea and Desserts**

The garden club **partnered with the Rocky Bay Irish Festival to host an Irish Tea and Desserts**. It was a fun afternoon of local Irish storytelling, a fun leprechaun quiz, Irish music, and a touch of Irish desserts made by our members. The fundraiser was **in support of Anne's Healing Garden**.

August

No activity

In closing, we keep in touch with our members by using our Face book page. We have **380 followers who visit the site**. We provide useful gardening information, photos, publish club activities and we keep in touch with community using this venue. At regular garden meetings, we have round table conversations on gardening tips, exchange garden photos, bring plants to give away, and create fun quizzes and activities relating to gardening.

Please accept my report

Happy Gardening

Claire Doyle, IMGC Chairperson

WESTMOUNT GARDEN CLUB

We have 30 active members.

The Westmount Garden Club had another very **successful Plant Sale, \$1800+**.

Monthly meeting continued except for August, with the July meeting being a tour of the **Goat Island Cultural Tour** at Eskasoni First Nations. The tour was well done and provided cultural insights and information on uses of herbal medicines from local plants. Beautiful day out.

Monthly meetings have included guest speakers wherever possible from **terrariums, fairy gardens, peonies, and an awesome recipe for cranberry nut cake** that everyone raved about as

well as continually sharing knowledge, plants and good company. The **minutes of every meeting are emailed out** to all members and provide tips and information that was included in the meeting.

Provided a **\$500 scholarship to Riverview Highschool for a student participating in the horticultural/botany field.**

Provided \$200 to purchase bulbs for the hospice gardens. Volunteer hours are put in spring and fall to maintain the garden.

There have been several new members and the club provides a **lovely welcome package with club info, seeds, gloves and a book.**

Pauline Murray was acclaimed as this years Outstanding Gardener for the club.

Loss of member Earlene Gill.

UPDATED EMAILS (President followed by Secretary)

INVERNESS

Betty Anne Cameron
Bettyanne.cameron@icloud.com

ISLE MADAME

Claire Doyle clairedoyle@hotmail.ca

Margarete Herdman
Margareteherdman@yahoo.ca

NORTH SYDNEY

Kelly Ingram
kelly.ingram@hotmail.com

Dona Benac (Past President)
dlbeb75@hotmail.com

Kathleen Bunin
kbunin37@gmail.com (not confirmed).

WESTMOUNT

Pauline Murray
paulinevmurray@gmail.com

Janet Elsie
elsiejanet18@gmail.com

District 2 report:

Members of District 2 attended convention June 2/3 at Mt St Vincent in Bedford and came away with learned info and renewed enthusiasim. Both Pictou and Lismore club reports show busy summer. Weather has been more challenge than usual, and judging by NSAGC Facebook this is province wide; especially lack of monarchs and other pollinators. District 2 fall rally is Oct 14 in Lismore and we all look forward to sharing garden topics & connect with other club members.

District 3 South
Director's Report
September 2023

The Clubs in District 3 South are still very active. I have received new reports from every club in District 3 South. There has been lots of events and activities taking place. Some clubs don't meet over the summer so they didn't have new events to report on. I had to phone several clubs to get their information sent to me. However this was a good opportunity to have a chat with them about their club. Several clubs feel that there should be only one report a year to send in. So you can see there is some unrest in this area. This should be discussed at the zoom meeting on September 30 and now we've just been told it is on Friday night the 29th as well. Many of us thought the Executive were zooming on Friday night. Some confusion with this.

Stewiacke Garden Club, The Musquodoboit Valley Weeders and the club I'm with Stewiacke Vally Garden Club have been busy planning our Fall Rally for District 3 North & South. Our Fall Rally Committee has held many successful planning meetings. We have two speakers Charlie The Tree Guy and Cheryl Forrest from her Company called Forrest the Gardener. A great program with many door prizes, snacks, refreshments and a line up of special guests. This event will be held on Saturday October 14 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm, at Carrolls Corners Community Centre. We have close to 120 members confirmed to attend.

The Musquodoboit Valley Weeders continue to struggle with their membership. They have a webpage but due to attendance & commitments to attend regular meetings they haven't had a lot to post on it. They did continue to organize the The Flower Show for the Halifax County Exhibition. They are awaiting an updated list of qualified flower judges.

The Halifax County Exhibition held in Middle Musquodoboit was a great success attendance wise in spite of the rain. However entries for the flower show organized by Musquodoboit Valley Weeder GC was down by half and the vegetable competition for adult and children organized by Stewiacke Valley GC was down by 70%. Many gardeners dropped by and told of their garden failures over the summer. So as we all know not a very successful summer for gardens.

Members who I have spoken with about the plants for the plant give away were quite happy with the choice this year. They still look forward to getting their plant every year and want this to be continued

Hats off to District 4 for their very successful Convention in June. This was enjoyed by many members.

District 3 South
Director's Report
September 2023

I have several invites to visit some of the clubs in my area. Which we will try and organize this fall. Congratulations to Beate Acker President of the Stewiacke Garden Club. She has agreed to take on the position of Director for District 3 North from Elizabeth Hill. We have been working closely together organizing the Fall Rally for our district. Elizabeth has been a great coach and hopefully the two of us will get the flow of our responsibilities as new Directors.

I wish the new Executive all the best in running the NSAGC this year.

Respectfully Submitted
Brenda Grasser
District 3 South Director
Secretary
Stewiacke Vally Garden Club

NSAGC District 3 North Club Consolidated report with club detail reports attached, for September 2023 meeting.

District 3 North has 6 clubs located in 2 counties, Colchester, and Cumberland.

My clubs are:

Hilden Garden Club, Pres: Sheila Terry, ? Members, *(info required)*

Brookfield Garden Club, Pres: Gail Wright, ? Members, *(info required)*

Bible Hill Garden Club, Pres: Joan Salter, 72 Members, Meet the 2nd Monday of the month at the *(info required)*

Great Village Garden Club, Pres: Cathy Mazur, 33 Members, Meet the 4th Tuesday of the month. At the Faith Baptist Church at 7PM.

Cobequid Garden Club (Bass River), Pres: Myrna Fisher, 9 Members, Meet 3rd Monday of the month at 2PM

Parrsboro Garden Club, Pres: Louanne Henwood, 21 Members, Meet at the Band Hall on the *(info required)*

This report covers the six months period of April-Septembre of 2023.

Three of my six clubs have submitted their reports.

The primary funding practice is holding a plant sale mostly in the months of May and June.

All clubs have a full compliment of an executive team, President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Some of the clubs create additional committees to support a FB page or for lining up speakers.

Many of the clubs assume the responsibility of maintaining a community flower bed or two, either a monument or legion or Town/Village signage.

Each club follows the practice of holding meeting regularly and taking the summer months of July and August off where many visit one or two of their members gardens or take a tour to points of interest.

Example: Fundy Geological Museum, Broadfork Farm near River Hebert, Public Gardens, and Cole Harbour Farm and Museum, and enjoy the highlight of the NSAGC Convention.

All clubs offer guest speakers several time during the year, sometimes offering a talk by a club member, offer seed exchanges, Plant Identification feature, and one club has the annual practice of decorating the Holiday Tree, sometime donated, followed by an open house meet and greet for new folks that maybe interested in gardening.

A couple of clubs assist the venue they use for their meetings with an annual donation. In one case it was in support of a solar energy field project for the community.

Detailed Club Reports attached below.

Respectfully Submitted

Beate Acker

Parrsboro Garden Club Report September 22, 2023

In May we held a meeting to discuss the upcoming June plant sale at The Band Hall in Parrsboro. It's our club's only fundraiser and the engagement of many of our members made it a success.

For our June meeting a dozen members met at the Fundy Geological Museum and then carpooled to a garden tour on Whitehall Road, led by Mary McPhee at her mother June's homestead. Mary, as a horticulturist and an entomologist, shared her wealth of knowledge about gardening with us to our great appreciation. Then we drove to Harbourview restaurant for a delicious lunch and lively conversation.

A departure from our usual hiatus during the summer was touring two members' gardens, one in July and one in August. Tea and treats were served after visiting the gardens, a very pleasant way to spend a summer afternoon.

In September 17 of us drove to Broadfork Farm near River Hebert for an extensive tour of Shannon and Bryan's large organic gardens. We learned about solarization to eliminate weeds, no tilling and rewilding forest plots with native plants. Seeds and plants were purchased by the members before we drove to the Wild Caraway in Advocate Harbour for a fabulous lunch.

respectfully submitted by Suzanne Gauthier

Report from the Great Village Gardn Club

August -September 2023

The Great Village Garden Club meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday evening of the month for January to June, and September to November, taking the summers off to tend our own gardens. We meet at the facilities of Faith Baptist Church at 7 pm, and appreciate the use of their space and technology. To thank them for their generosity, we traditionally make a donation to them; this year our donation was earmarked to support their project to create a solar energy field.

We have 3 honorary and 30 members, many who come from surrounding communities and even Truro.

The executive for the club for 2023 are: President Cathy Mazur. Vice President Cheryl Cooke, Treasurer Trudy Johnson, Secretary Sybil Flemming. We also have a three-member program committee and a Facebook captain.

Programs have featured invited guests as well as by members. In second quarter of 2023 these have included

April: Volunteer Work at the Venner Community Garden at the Colchester East Hants Hospice Office building by member Sybil Flemming

May: Preserving the Harvest and Seed Collection by member Cathy Mazur

June: a field trip planned by the program committee to the Public Gardens, and the Cole Harbor Farm and Museum. Lunch was at the Rose and Kettle restaurant at the Cole Harbor site. Car pools made their choice of sites and nurseries to fill in the afternoon.

An interesting addition to our meetings has been a show and tell time, when a member brings a plant, often a house plant, that is unique or little known. The technology available at our meeting site has facilitated slide shows at many programs.

Projects throughout the year include: spring planting and fall clean-up of flower beds on the monument grounds in GV; annual plant sale which is our only fund raiser; a field trip; care of the beds at the Welcome signs at each end of the Village, and sometimes impromptu garden tours by invitation from members. Our social events continue to be very popular. Several members travel to the site of the provincial convention, a good place to see members from other groups as well as learn from the various speakers. Planning for projects into spring 2024 continues at most meetings.

As with any group, there are challenges. Our members are all very involved with their personal gardens which sometimes impacts on planned events. It is encouraging and refreshing to have many new members who come from a distance; this presents its own challenges on work days and for winter travel. Everyone is busy with the non-gardening parts of their lives, and of course, age is creeping up on many of us presenting other challenges.

Our busy group provides an opportunity for personal growth as gardeners and community service.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Mazur President and Sybil Flemming Secretary.

Bible Hill Garden Club.

District Report. April 2023 ---Sept. 2023

We have an active garden club with 72 members, that meet on the 2nd Monday of each month with the exceptions of the month of January and the months of July and August.

April meeting, our guest speaker was Glynis Thomas; speaking on growing Peonies.

May meeting, our speaker was John Heukhorst on working in the poultry industry, working the land and his involvement with the gardens for the local food bank, here in Truro.

May we hold our annual plant sale, which is always a good fund raiser for the club

June meeting, our program is a plant auction held within the club for our member's

July 24th, we toured 3 local garden's and then followed with a pot-luck supper at a member's home.

In Sept 11th, we started our new 2023-2024-year, registration taking place. Our speaker for this month was from Vista Bella Farm, cidery and Apiary from Malagash, N.S.

Respectively submitted, Joan Salter; president for the Bible Hill Garden Club,

September 2023 NSAGC Directors Report

District 4

Prospect Garden Club - Club remains very informal, They have had a successful Plant Sale this year and received a Community Grant from the Prospect Road Community Assoc. so the Club is financially okay - able to cover all costs of renting space at the PRCC. They provide honorarium for presenter and door prizes and have had a successful Summer with many tours including Dal. Agricultural Gardens, Charlie the Tree Guy, Pheasant Gardens and at Club Members gardens for their Annual Daylily Social. This year they also added greenhouse/garden tours of others in the community. Along with their Annual Plant Sale they also set up a booth at the PRCC community gathering to promote the Garden Club. Tara and her Club are doing a great job !

Fall River Garden Club -Currently sitting at 36 members, and still meeting at the Lions Club in Fall River. Which is no cost to them because they look after two gardens for them and give a \$500.00 donation each year to their Christmas Fund. No Garden tours this year for them, but they maintained and planted 3 Community Gardens. One of their members built 2 sturdy benches for Jamieson Park (to add to the 5 they already have there) as more people are using the Park.

They are also in the process of working on a major project of installing a large metal sculpture in Jamieson Park to honor the Monarch. Their Annual Gardener of the Year receives their Certificate and also a Trophy to keep for the year along with a clock with a plaque with their name on it for them to keep. Eleventh year of doing this. Fall River Club continues to Annually give \$1000.00 to Dalhousie Dept. of Agriculture in Truro as a Bursary for a student taking some field of Plant Sciences.

Bedford Horticultural Society - This year BHS grew to 39 Members. Monthly meetings were held with Guest Speakers talking on various and interesting topics. At Novembers Meeting they held their Christmas Potluck Dinner and Santa interrupted his busy schedule to drop in to pass out gifts to winners of their games. They held a Rock Painting session for interested members. The year came to an end in May with a Victorian Tea. Some members participated in Traditional Costume. In June, three members planted the Carpet Bed in Fish Hatchery Park as the clubs yearly Community Project. A Plant Sale held was enabling them to support their Students Bursary Fund and pay for speakers for the upcoming year. During the summer they were invited to Join the Dartmouth Horticultural Society to view their gardens.... A good year ! Minus the flooding in which they have had to move to a different facility to host their meetings, starting this Fall.

Eastern Shore Garden Club - Their membership is growing with 66 members currently.

Their finances continue to be good. They have assisted with planting and maintenance of public Butterflyway Gardens on the Gaetz Brook Greenway and in Bennett Park, in Mineville. They continue to do a Cenotaph clean-up - Spring and Fall.

They have had great speakers this year including - Elizabeth Peirce - 'The Low-work Food Garden; Building Healthy Soil Using the Lasagna Method, Rosmarie Lohnes on Erosion Mitigation using Native Species (via Zoom). In May their Annual Plant Sale was held and was a great success again. When there isn't a Speaker during a certain Month, they have a Question and Answer style Meeting where everyone learns lots on various topics from experienced Gardeners. In July they toured the Patton property in Bible Hill, also visited Dalhousie Rock garden, lunch at Victoria Park, and toured the property of Darwin Carr, Old Barns, and visited Charlie the Tree Guy in Old Barns. 13 Eastern Shore members and 4 members from Dartmouth Horticulture club joined in. It was a perfect day. They also toured their three local Butterflyway Gardens, 2 public and one private. Learning that Native plants can certainly make a beautiful garden. The tours culminated with snacks and drinks at the Lions Hall. In September –a presentation put on by their Convention Reps. on the 2023 Convention at their Meeting, sharing their Convention experiences

to encourage more attendees for future Conventions. They also had tastes from their gardens and members brought in a couple of flowers from their gardens and 3 bouquets were made and given to lucky members.

They will wrap up their fiscal year with Seed and Tuber Exchanges at their October Meeting and Wreath Making Centerpiece Arrangements and a Kissing Ball Workshop in November followed by a Christmas Potluck. A great Participating Member's Garden Club !

Dartmouth Horticultural Society-

DHS has had a very active and successful summer season, thanks to the hard work of many of their 110+ members ! Nearly two dozen members attended, donated plants, or volunteered at NSAGC Convention in June...

At their June club meeting, when the speaker was unavailable at last minute, members shared their experiences & pictures from Convention. Then their very creative Program Chair Linda Connolly led the 40+ members in a fun activity to share their knowledge on specific gardening issues...involving everyone & creating many bursts of laughter!

They held their annual Plant Sale in mid-June, chaired by Linda Mosher ...their current Treasurer. Several newer members were active in the planning group, hopefully building leadership for the future, and the event was well organized for their customers who spent over \$3000 . Over 1500 plants were donated by DHS members, as well as books, tools, pots, etc. and their usual DHS Information Display Board was set up near the Cash Tables so that the public could see what the club does, & benefits of membership. The few unsold plants at the end were provided to volunteers from the Community Gardens to augment their flower beds .

Financially, this Plant Sale is the Club's primary source of revenue after memberships. Given rising costs of meeting spaces & everything else , they have been frugal with spending, and their Program Chair has been creative in keeping costs down for speakers/activities at monthly meetings....and at encouraging members to present & share their experience.We have paid our 2023 Bursary to Faculty of Agriculture (Dalhousie) ...an unbroken donation for 30+ years now!

More than a dozen members(some new) + their Volunteers in Community Gardens opened their gardens to DHS members to tour during July and August, with an organized schedule & email reminders. They had not had this activity since before Covid 19 Pandemic, the tours were very popular, and they were glad to invite Bedford Hort. Society to join them for the tours.

In August they held their usual Potluck, but made it a 65th Anniversary year theme and enjoyed the music of a harpist in the outdoor setting of Cole Harbour Heritage Farm. Despite a deluge of rain just before the event, it was a lovely time for all.

The club Executive members had to scramble in late August to find new meeting space as the previous venue had had flood damage & repairs were not guaranteed until 2024. Very fortunately they secured the Hall at Woodlawn United Church until at least January, and their September meeting was held there with a presenter from a local photography club on Tips for Taking Pictures in Your Garden. Presenters or activities are already booked for the rest of 2023, and well into 2024, with emphasis on encouraging their club members to share their many talents. Amazingly their Potluck in December will celebrate the closing of their 65th year as a garden club.

A big influence in their club this year has been thanks to concentrated efforts by Tina Small (recipient of their Outstanding Member Award) to increase their presence on Facebook....posting meeting notices & speakers, special events, benefits of membership, other gardening events in community, work groups in Moir Garden & Cole Harbour Farm, and re-posting articles on gardening found by club members. This activity has directly contributed to many new club memberships, and increased diversity as well as attracting younger members. They have had new members join at every meeting since January, and are now a larger club than pre-Pandemic!

Their biggest on-going challenge, like other volunteer-led clubs, is to have members take on more leadership roles...to allow those who have been on committees, Executive particularly , to step back after many years of contribution.They are trying many avenues & have a large membership to draw on, but this remains a constant struggle as their new year of activity approaches.

SeaBreeze Garden Club - Continues to remain as an informal Club with older and aging Club Members.

They continue to meet in the Spring and Fall and tour other members Gardens. Wrapping up their Meetings in December with a Wreath-making session at a members home.

St. Margarets Bay Garden Club - The St. Margaret's Bay Gardening Club has had a terrific year. It was great for them to once again have in-person meetings at St. Luke's United Church in Upper Tantallon. They currently have 40 family and 46 single memberships in the 2022/23 year.

This year has found them having their finances finally back to pre covid levels.

Some speaker highlights were a Zoom presentation with author Todd Boland, and a wonderful slide show and talk by Megan Andrus and Joe Hood of Sound Living Nova Scotia who wowed them with their sustainable living lifestyle.

Every year like a lot of the Clubs - they hold a holiday decorating workshop at the end of November.

Karen Llewellyn and Claudy Levy bring their skills to share with 20 + participants. They all go home with fresh home accents for the season.

The Club attracted almost 500 attendees to their "Seedy Saturday/Get Growing" event in March.

Then on May 28th, they held their first ever Ikebana Workshop learning this Japanese art form from instructor Chantal Tsai.

Their plant sale in June did very well. This Club encapsulates NSAGC's goal for beautifying our Province and supporting fellow gardeners by giving one-half of their net proceeds to the fire relief fund. Totally awesome to say the least !

Club members volunteer at the "Crossroads Garden" in Upper Tantallon twice a week all summer.

Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings. This garden was founded by St. Margaret's Bay Garden Club members three decades ago! The Club is nearing their election period and hopefully there will be Members stepping up and wanting to join their Executive Team.

Hammond Plains Garden Club - The Hammonds Plains Area Garden Club, (HPAGC) had an interesting year in 22/23.

Their first meeting in September was cancelled due to Hurricane Fiona and their last meeting scheduled for May was cancelled due to wildfires. They have never been geographically defined as a club; however, a large percentage of their membership were evacuated during the wildfires and many sustained property damage then and during subsequent heavy rains and flooding events.

They have been fortunate to have members with technical skills to enable their club to conduct monthly meetings online since the beginning of Covid. This resulted in an increased membership as people who travelled, planned to move to our province, or who had immunocompromised conditions themselves or family members could still participate. When they were able to meet again in person, they continued the live streaming as well but maintaining two formats while conducting the meeting had its challenges.

However, as restrictions were lifted, they felt they should return to the in person meeting only, with the occasional live streaming of a guest speaker. This will be effective starting for this months September meeting.

Their club has always had a relaxed, welcoming, sharing vibe. They have been encouraging members to meet in person to help facilitate that.

The day before the wildfires started in Hammonds Plains, they had a successful plant sale netting over \$2000 so they are all set again for this year. Finances are good.

They have had five guest speakers this year covering monarch butterflies, care/planting of trees, physical and mental benefits of gardening, healing plants in the garden, and principles of permaculture.

Valley District #5 NSAGC Director
Lori Reid

September 22, 2023

As a new Director, I am still in the process of acquainting myself with the duties required. Many thanks to Melissa Weir for her guidance and her patience in answering my endless questions.

I have been able to make contact with 4 of the 5 clubs in District 5.

The 4 Clubs do not report any problems and all have been active as much as possible thru the odd summer weather we have had.

As District 5 Director, I have been invited to join Valley Gardeners for their Annual Potluck and 40th Anniversary Celebration. Due to Lee it had to be postponed. Charing Cross has extended an invitation to join them in Christmas Tree Ornament creation to celebrate their 70th Anniversary.

Haliburtons member ship is holding steady this year at over 30 members, with a regular 12-25 attending events and meetings. Financially the club is doing better than it has in many many years after a profitable district meeting and plant sale in the spring of 2023. This is allowing the club to give larger honorariums to presenters.

Haliburton garden club holds a full executive with no empty seats. There have been no complaints about the free plant for 2023, many members have mentioned theirs have bloomed this summer.

The club was successful in securing another municipal grant which they plan to use to continue the workshops they have been giving to local seniors groups, and nursing homes, as well as purchase audio visual equipment for meetings and events.

I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know the Club members in District 5.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT FOR ZONE 6

Mahone Bay Garden Club

June 6, 2023

70 members, 7 meetings, 4 garden tours, Xmas Pot Luck, Plant Sale in May

Bridgewater Garden Club

July 20, 2023

70 members, 9 meetings, 2 garden tours, Flower Show and Tea July 29th, Plant Sale in May, Seedy Saturday in June, Christmas Meal and Social, 3 members sponsored for the NGASC Provincial Conference, Regional Conference Cancelled this year due to Lee

Chester Garden Club

July 20, 2023

40 members, 8 meetings and tours, Flower Show in July, Chester Arts Society sponsored Children's programme, need new executive, celebrating 85 years next year

Queen's County Garden Club

July 28, 2023

45 members, meetings and tours year round, Plant Sale in May, Dogwood Festival in July every second year, Christmas Social, wreath making workshop

Lunenburg and Area Garden Club

August 3, 2023

41 members, 8 meetings, Wine and Cheese with Christmas Arrangement, Plan on re-working garden at the local Hospital,

Shelburne County Garden Club

August 29th, 2023

43 members, 6 meetings, potting workshops in the spring, Plant Sale in May, plan to sponsor a Botany Club at Schools

I had no meeting with Chester Basin Garden Club as it has been inactive since COVID.

Issues

- NSAGC acknowledgement of Anniversaries
- Official NSAGC signage for public projects
- Is there insurance coverage for volunteers, especially on public sites?
- Is it worthwhile to incorporate?
- Can a club apply for grants from the Provincial, Regional or local governments?
- All clubs would benefit from a list of speakers and garden tours for their programming committees. (I am working on it)

Respectfully Submitted: Emily Liot