

SCOTIA GARDENER

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

Fall 2021



Message from the NSAGC Chair

Greetings, Fellow Gardeners,

As I write this in late November, many gardeners are busy putting their gardens to bed for the winter. We are beginning to see festive wreaths displayed on front doors and greenery being harvested to adorn our homes. Thankfully, the abundant rain this past growing season has ensured there is plenty of Canadian holly to brighten our seasonal arrangements.

Before we know it, the holidays will be behind us and 2022 on the near horizon. With that in mind, there are a few things that I will ask you to be mindful of.

- Districts 3N, 3S and 5 are actively pursuing candidates to fill their District Director positions. Please, if you think this is something that you would like to try, consider volunteering. The role is not overly demanding, yet it is a vital connection between the NSAGC and the clubs in each district.
- After a year's lapse in collecting dues, the NSAGC is again calling on garden clubs to submit assessment forms. Many clubs saw a decline in membership in 2020-21. Though COVID-19 is lingering, it is my hope that you will come out to support your local clubs and we will see enrolment numbers rising back to or, dare I say, exceeding pre-pandemic levels.
- The Canadian Garden Council has proclaimed 2022 as "The Year of the Garden" to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association. Are you or your club making plans to commemorate this centennial celebration? If you are looking for inspiration or simply

want to know more about this year-long event, I encourage you to explore their website: <https://gardenscanada.ca>

But 2022 isn't here yet and we still have the upcoming holidays. It is hard to believe that we are facing our second Hanukkah and Christmas under the shroud of a global pandemic. In spite of that, it is my fondest wish that you and yours find ways to safely celebrate together and partake in your favourite traditions.

May your hearts and homes be filled with warmth and joy this holiday season and may you be blessed with health and happiness in 2022.

With warm wishes for all,

Kathy



Upcycling Garden Trimmings

by Sharon Jessup Joyce, member of the Executive, St. Margaret's Bay Gardening Club

Here is an article our club is contributing to the local newspaper *The Masthead News*.

“This is a great time to prune our evergreen trees,” says Claudy Levy, and use the material we remove to make beautiful outdoor holiday container arrangements, door sprays and indoor yule logs.

Levy, who owns a landscaping business and is the past president of the St. Margaret's Bay Gardening Club (SMBGC), says, “The months that end in an ‘r’—September, October, November, and December—are the best times for pruning, so you can make wonderful holiday arrangements with what you prune out from your own yard and garden.”

That's exactly what Levy and 16 members of the SMBGC spent the afternoon of November 21 doing at St. Luke's United Church in Tantallon.

Participants shared ideas, embellishments and plant materials to create unique, personalized

décor for their porches, doors and dining tables. In addition to generous piles of various pruned evergreen branches, workshop participants were using everything from the traditional holly to dried hydrangea heads from their own gardens.

“We have so much available to us,” says Levy, “so there's no need to cut down trees. We can do beautiful things with what we'd otherwise throw out.”

Karen Llewellyn, an artist and a member of the SMBGC's executive, appears in a video called DIY Holiday Décor that takes people, step-by-step, through the process of making their own holiday décor. The video, a joint project of the SMBGC and Christmas in the Bay, can be seen at:

<https://discoverstmargaretsbay.ca/christmas-in-the-bay-diy-holiday-decor>

For more information about the SMBGC or to join the group, visit:

<https://www.stmargaretsbaygardeningclub.org/>



Claudy Levy, past president of the St. Margaret's Bay Gardening Club, sits with some of the outdoor arrangements made by participants in the club's November 21 Holiday Decorating Workshop.



Diane Giffin Boudreau, one of the workshop participants, used hydrangea heads from the garden in her outdoor holiday arrangement.

Bedford Club Members Celebrate Their Christmas Traditions

by Marlene Grigg, Secretary, Bedford Horticultural Society



Bedford Horticultural Society members are shown at their recent workshop. Below, some of their creations decorate the tables for Christmas dinner. All Covid guidelines were followed and it turned out to be a very enjoyable event.

Photos: Emily Walker.



Snowflakes and subzero temperatures have finally arrived after a long, glorious fall. NSAGC members have posted photos of unusual rebloomers and even roses in November! It just never seems too late to plant spring bulbs this year. I still find myself gravitating towards displays of them in the stores, hoping for sale signs.

Bedford Horticultural Club is once again hosting in-person lectures and social events. It is a joy and relief to see our friends again; the government mandated protective measures we must follow are a small price to pay and make us all feel safer as we gather together.

In October Clarence Stevens presented a talk titled *Bugss: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*. He is an engaging speaker and provided lots of practical guidance on how to tell the difference between beneficial garden inhabitants and those that are not. As well as insects, he discussed visitors like

amphibians, fish and plants, and gave some good advice for those who have ponds and other water features in their gardens.

A well attended Christmas centrepiece workshop led by Bernice Hartnett was held on November 21. Members made arrangements for their own homes as well as many more for the Christmas potluck dinner held on November 28. The creative juices were flowing and everyone was impressed by the quantity and quality of lovely creations.

A great deal of thought went into whether or not to hold the Christmas potluck but it is the most loved event of the year and so the executive worked to plan a get-together that was safe for all who were able to attend. It was a happy wrap-up to a challenging year.

Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season and a healthy new year!

Enthusiasm on the Eastern Shore

by Linda Disbrowe, Eastern Shore Garden Club



The Eastern Shore Garden Club enjoyed an excellent turnout for their Christmas decorations workshop. In this photo, members are showing off their creations. Photo: Linda Disbrowe

The Eastern Shore Garden Club has had a full schedule of late. While following all Covid Stage Five Guidelines, the club has had a very active couple of months. Our October meeting was a seed exchange and members brought in a wide assortment of tasty treats from their garden, for all to share.

The club's November meeting was very busy as our pre-Christmas decoration making was in full force. Using an assortment of locally donated pine and fir tree boughs, we were given hands-on training in making beautiful home decor items. Beginning with empty wire frames and other bases, and additional greenery, ribbons, etc., members' great imaginations and hard work produced lovely wreaths, table arrangements and kissing balls.

December is our annual end-of-year Christmas Potluck, which is always a special time, and this year will be no exception, despite safety protocols that need to be followed. The hall will be beautifully decorated with care and each table will be set for members to share good food, good memories of past meetings and holiday cheer.

The Eastern Shore Garden Club may be small in number, but we are growing and look forward with enthusiasm to a busy 2022.



Eastern Shore Garden Club members draw on their experience and creativity to design a variety of beautiful decorations.

Photos submitted by Linda Disbrowe



2022 NSAGC Convention Program

Friday, June 10, 2022

- 1:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Self-guided tours to local gardens and nurseries
12 noon–9:00 p.m. Vendors open
- 6:00 p.m. Floral Design Competition entries closed
- 6:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Official Opening
Convention Chair: Cathy Newton
President NSAGC: Kathy d'Entremont
Announcements
- 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Speaker: Pam Ross
- 8:00 p.m. Entertainment and Cash Bar

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Saturday June 11, 2022

- 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Vendors Open
8:45 a.m.–9:45 a.m. NSAGC Annual General Meeting
- 9:45 a.m.–10:15 a.m. Nutrition Break
MC: Gail Wright
- 10:15 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Speaker: Cecil Dunlap, Pheasant Gardens Daylilies
11:05 a.m.–11:50 a.m. Speaker: Diane LeBlanc, President, Nova Scotia Bird Society
11:50 a.m. Announcements
- 12 noon–1:15 p.m. Lunch
MC: Elizabeth Hill, Central District Director
- 1:20 p.m.–2:00 p.m. Speaker: Savayda Jarone, Herbalist
2:05 p.m.–2:55 p.m. Speaker: Frank Cochrane, Cochrane Family Farm
2:55 p.m.–3:25 p.m. Nutrition Break
3:30 p.m.–4:15 p.m. Speaker: Lloyd Mapplebeck, Hill N Dale Nursery
4:15 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Announcements
- 6:30 p.m. Banquet
MC: Arthur Haskins, Convention Committee
Announcements
Banquet
Banquet Speaker: Michael van den Hoek, Lowland Gardens,
Great Village
Awards/Convention 2023 and Closing Remarks



2022 NSAGC Convention Speakers

Pam Ross

Pam has been a favorite at past conventions held in Truro. Her philosophy on gardening using interesting and sometimes funny stories from her own life makes us think about how we affect our own environment.

Cecil Dunlap

Cecil owns and operates Pheasant Gardens in Salmon River just outside Truro NS. He specializes in daylilies, some bearded iris and has some perennials as well. He has a huge selection to pick from, both bare-root and potted plants.

Diane LeBlanc

Diane never thought she would become a birder and tagged along with the others just for the exercise. In 2015, she spotted a field sparrow at Sandy Cove which sparked her interest. Since that chance encounter she has been enthralled with birding. With her background in work psychology, Diane is keenly interested in ways that birding enhances people skills such as collaboration, perseverance and patience. Diane served as Vice President of The Nova Scotia Bird Society for two years before becoming President in 2019.

Savayda Jarone

Savayda is a member of the NS Herbalist Society. She is a Nova Scotian herbalist who has been on the herbalist path for over 20 years. Her formative years as an herbalist were in Vancouver where she completed her training. She has been in clinical practice for 15 years and runs a clinic and dispensery in Halifax where she teaches several popular year-long herbal medicine courses for adults and children.

Frank Cochrane

Frank is the owner of Cochrane Family Farm which is located on 30 acres in Upper Stewiacke. The farm has been in operation since 2009 and is certified organic. The farm also operates a country store on the property, raising and selling local handmade organic products aimed at offering a wide variety of high quality, moderately priced, nutrient dense vegetables, herbs and seeds following a permaculture methodology.

Lloyd Mapplebeck

Lloyd and his wife Lauranne have operated Hill n Dale Perennials for almost 30 years. They produce a wide array of container-grown landscape perennials, potted herbs and salad greens, vegetable and flower patio pots, decorative Christmas products, outdoor cut flowers, rustic wooden garden animals and many other crops and products. They market via their retail nursery, the Truro Farmers' Market and perennial garden design jobs. They also sell perennials to landscapers, municipalities and other commercial customers. Lloyd is a retired Plant Science faculty member of NSAC/Dal AC.

Michael van den Hoek

Michael is continuing a gardening tradition in his family, having joined his parents operating Lowland Gardens in Great Village. Michael brings new ideas to the family business and ensures its popular support with gardeners in the future.



2022 NSAGC Convention Registration Form

Theme: *Year of the Garden*

Hosted by Central District 3

Held at the Inn on Prince, 437 Prince Street, Truro, NS

June 10–11, 2022

PLEASE NOTE: ALL ATTENDEES MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION AND MUST SHOW PROOF OF DOUBLE VACCINATION AND ID UPON ARRIVAL AT THE CONVENTION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

I am a member of the _____ Garden Club or Society.

Convention Registration (includes Friday evening reception, Saturday lunch, nutrition breaks)

NSAGC member(s) _____ x \$50.00 \$ _____

Non-member(s) _____ x \$55.00 \$ _____

Saturday Banquet Please choose:

_____ Roast Turkey with all the trimmings

Or

_____ Vegetarian Option Available

Number of people for Banquet: _____ x \$50.00 per person \$ _____

Total Amount Payable: \$ _____

Registration is limited to 200 delegates. Please register early!

Registration closes April 30, 2022. Late registrations will incur an extra \$10 charge.

Please make payment out to NSAGC DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Send registration form with payment to: Elizabeth Hill, 8161 Hwy 215, Maitland, NS B0N 1T0

Accommodations at the Inn on Prince: A block of 40 rooms have been set aside at \$119 per night plus taxes. These rooms are set aside until one month prior to the event.

2022 NSAGC Floral Art Competition



Theme: *Working with Nature*

One Category Only * Club Entries Only * People's Choice Voting

1. One entry per club.
2. One category only that allows a design in accordance with the theme *Working with Nature*.
3. All designs, including containers and accessories, must be in keeping with the theme.
4. Size of each entry cannot exceed 24 inches in any direction.
5. The majority of the entry must be fresh living plant material grown in Nova Scotia.
6. Winner and runner-up will be selected by people's choice voting.
7. Winner and runner-up prize-winning cheques will be made payable to the respective Garden Clubs.

Composition: *Working with Nature*

A composition created by two or more members of a Garden Club using any combination of flowers, including wildflower and native plant design, fruits and vegetables, herbs that can be grown in Nova Scotia and one or more accessories. Accessories are anything used to create the exhibit, beyond the plant material such as figurines, books, ornaments, seashells, etc.

Floral Competition Timelines

Friday, June 10, 1:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.: Entries will be placed in the designated display area.

Saturday, June 11, 8:00 a.m.–4:30p.m.: Floral Competition people's choice voting.

Saturday, June 11: Entries to be removed following the keynote speaker after the banquet.

Floral Competition Chair: Joan Salter joansalter@gmail.com

Fall River Welcomes Guest Speakers at Fall Meetings

by Lawrence Spencer, Fall River Garden Club

Our Fall River Garden Club has started to hold in-person meetings again this fall. The first one was in October, with a guest speaker—Kelly Gaulton from the Department of the Environment with a talk entitled: *Wasteless Gardening: Waste Reduction and Building Healthy Soils*.

Our second was mid-November, with guest speaker Kelly Grant, from Bloom Greenhouses whose topic was *Woodland and Shade Gardening*. We have kept our business part of the meetings short and have not had refreshments or a 'social' time due to Covid. (All wore masks and there was plenty of room for social distancing.)

We had less than 20 people present. We never meet in December and although we normally have had a get-together meal in January, we will be foregoing that this year. We have also starting collecting our annual dues again, so we can submit our fees to the NSAGC. We are looking forward to our next meeting in February, where we again expect to have a guest speaker, and if the weather is okay, perhaps more members!

Getting Ready for Christmas in Shelburne

by Marilyn Johnston, President, Shelburne County Garden Club



The Shelburne County Garden Club has a number of activities planned to end our season and celebrate Christmas.

The Shelburne County Garden Club had a wonderful time one November evening planting/forcing woodland hyacinth bulbs to bloom in our homes during December. The club provided the bulbs and soil and each member brought their own pots. We also made Christmas fir bow wreaths and pots of fir, pine, holly berries, etc., for front steps. There were 14 (all double vaccinated) of us who gathered in a member's garage for this event.

We also have planned a Christmas Luncheon at the Boxing Rock Tap Room in Shelburne for December 9.

Photo contributed by Marilyn Johnston

A Covid Lesson: Gardening Brings People Together!

by Nicki McCarthy, Treasurer, Bridgetown Area Garden Club

The Bridgetown Area Garden Club was delighted to host our first normal meeting early in November. After a carefully planned summer of small outdoor workshops and garden tours, it was wonderful to get together (following all Covid protocols, of course) at our usual meeting venue. We enjoyed a presentation on the benefits of fungi in the garden.

We are planning a potluck supper and festive craft night in December, (Covid permitting), and hope to continue with regular monthly meetings in the new year.

What did we learn this year? Even in the face of a global pandemic, gardening brings people together! Having a great website and active Facebook page, even for a smallish club of 50+ members, technology has been extremely useful in keeping our members engaged and informed.

We are looking forward to another active year ahead, whatever the circumstances!

Chester Garden Club Kicks Off the Festive Season

by Jayne Campbell, Chester Garden Club

The Chester Garden Club will be decorating the Chester Bandstand for the season on November 24. Our last program of the year is a seasonal centrepiece workshop.


We have our club social in December which will wrap up our year.

Our club hopes to meet and greet other clubs in the new year.

A touch of the sea brings a Nova Scotian flavour to this centrepiece. If this example is anything to go by, Chester Garden Club members must have created some stunning arrangements at their recent workshop.

Photos from Jayne Campbell



A close-up photograph of vibrant autumn foliage. The leaves are in various stages of color change, ranging from bright red to deep orange and yellow. They are set against a dark, textured wooden background. The lighting is soft, highlighting the intricate vein patterns on the leaves.

Outstanding Natural Beauty

North Sydney Looks Forward to an Active 2022

by Cathy Balah, Outgoing President, North Sydney Garden Club

The North Sydney Garden Club will be holding its first general meeting since February 2019 on November 25 at the North Sydney Legion, Branch 19. We are looking forward to having the opportunity, to see old friends, and hopefully some new ones.

Due to the pandemic, we will not be holding our annual Christmas wreathmaking workshop this year. However, we are continuing to support our Christmas gift program in support of Talbot House, Cape Breton. Many thanks to club member, Joan Connors, for spearheading this very worthwhile cause. Her tireless efforts are very much appreciated.

We are in the process of filling administrative positions and are continuing to encourage new membership. Becoming a part of a gardening club adds tremendous enrichment and provides an opportunity to meet with like-minded individuals and share gardening information and advice.

Our spring plant sale and annual flower show will be our focus, as we meet throughout the winter months.

We will also be sharing thoughts and ideas pertaining to the direction of our club and how we wish to continue as a vibrant community organization.

We look forward to hearing from other club members, and sharing their thoughts as well.



Workshop: Making *Hypertufa* Containers

by Deb Bowes-Lyon, Bridgetown Garden Club

What is *Hypertufa*?

Tufa is porous limestone formed from calcium carbonate, which has been used for many years to make garden containers. *Hypertufa* is a home-made substitute which is easily made using a mixture of Portland Cement, Perlite or Vermiculite and peat moss or coir. NOTE: Do not use premixed concrete products such as *Quikrete*.

Equipment Required

CAUTION: Cement is caustic when wet and safety equipment should be worn when working on this project.

- Rubber gloves
- Dust mask
- Safety glasses
- Long sleeves
- Apron
- Large container for mixing the ingredients
- Rubber hammer
- Large plastic bag

Materials Required

- Portland Cement
- Perlite or Vermiculite
- Peat moss or coir
- Mold(s)
- Short piece of garden hose to make a drainage hole
- Sand, optional to re-enforce the sides of a soft mold
- Cling wrap or cooking spray
- Water

Instructions

1. Choose a suitable mold.

Preferably anything with the top wider than the base, to make it easy to remove when dry. Here are some ideas:

- Plastic bowls, ice cream tubs, recycling bin, food storage containers, wicker or woven baskets.
- You may also want to use a smaller inner container to help create the inner shape/texture, or to make your pot watertight for indoor use.

2. Prepare the mold.

Prep your molds by spraying the inside of the outer

container with cooking spray or lining it with cling wrap. Repeat this for the outside of the inner container (if using).

3. Mix the *Hypertufa*.

- Mix **equal** portions of dry cement, Perlite or Vermiculite and peat moss or coir in a large container.
- Add water a little at a time. When it holds together and barely drips, let it sit for five to ten minutes, then it's ready to use. If the mixture gets too wet, add more dry ingredients—a watery mix will not cure properly.

4. Make the container.

- Press the *hypertufa* mixture into the bottom of the mold about an inch deep. Make a drainage hole by inserting a short piece of old garden hose in the base.
- Press the mixture up the sides of the mold. If using an inner mold, put it in place and pack the mixture around it. If the inner mold is soft, place damp sand inside to re-enforce it. Tap the outside of the mold with a rubber hammer to settle the mixture and eliminate air bubbles.
- Smooth the top edge of the *hypertufa*.

5. Cure before use.

- Place your project in a plastic bag and seal it.
- Place your mold in a shaded location to cure.
- On day 2/3: You can remove it from the mold. Tap the mold with a rubber hammer and work the mold to remove your container.
- If it feels wet, put it back in the mold and wait another day or two.
- Day 14: You can reduce the alkaline content of the cement by soaking with water or vinegar.
- Day 21: Your planter is ready to use!

Aftercare

Don't let your *hypertufa* pot fill with water and freeze as it could crack. Placing your pots on small supports (bricks, stones) off the ground can also help prevent water build up.

Workshop: Making Hypertufa Containers (continued)

Mixing the ingredients.



Patting the mixture into the mold.



A rustic container fresh from the mold.
Photos provided by Deb Bowes-Lyon

NSAGC is Getting a New Website!

by Susan Hazelwood, Web Content Manager (acting)

In the spring of 2021, the NSAGC Board agreed that our current website is outdated and difficult to maintain. We decided to hire the services of a professional web designer/developer to help us make our website more modern and easy to use.

We put together a list of what we wanted in our website and sent it to four potential vendors. In addition to a new website, we looked for a vendor that we could establish a long-term relationship with, who does websites as their business and who can provide us with support when needed to maintain our website, while allowing us some independence to update areas of the website ourselves.

After evaluating the proposals that we received, we chose True inSite to be our web partner.

Most of the features of the old site will be available on the new, in a much different layout. We will have

two maps, using Google Maps instead of creating our own. One of the maps will show club meeting locations. The other will have all of the garden centres in the province, color coded according to the discounts that they offer NSAGC members. In addition, we will be using Google Calendar to record the clubs' meeting times and events, as well as important NSAGC dates, such as the newsletter submission dates and convention info.

We are planning to launch the new website in January. The web address will stay the same—nsagc.com—and we are hoping that those clubs with websites will add the NSAGC link to their sites.

Once we are ready to go public, an email will go out to club presidents to let everyone know when they can access our fresh new site.



On a misty morning after the first frost.

Photo by
Emily Walker

Meet an NSAGC Director: Sharon Bryson

by Sharon Bryson, Director, District Two



Photo by John Brett

I make my home in Maryvale, Antigonish County. My garden is dubbed the Willow Garden. In this photo I am in the garden (with Covid hair and all!) holding my cat Mookie. The *Rhododendron* in the background is Minas Maid.

I belong to the Antigonish Garden Club where I enjoy sharing gardening exploits with club members and seeing and learning from what others do.

As a District Director, it has been nice to meet people from all over the province and to become somewhat acquainted with club members throughout District Two. Getting feedback has been a continuous challenge, I fear.

Where I live it tends to be a slightly colder part of the province but not all that bad. Many people in the district may have challenges with heavy soils and onshore winds.

If I were to recommend a good plant to grow in my area and in any other part of our province, I would

recommend daylilies. They are pretty much fool-proof, easy to grow and are beautiful.

I think gardening is in my genes. I have been gardening quite seriously since about 1973 when I had my first property. Since then, there has been an escalation of sorts. My garden here in Maryvale is a very eclectic blend but over the years *Azaleas* and *Rhododendrons* have taken a front seat; due in great part to my late husband Bill Wilgenhof who grew many, many of them from seed.

My favourite public garden in Nova Scotia is the Annapolis Royal Historic Garden, followed by the Rock Garden in Bible Hill.

If you are a new gardener, I suggest you ask for advice from experienced gardeners, join a garden club and try not to bite off more than you can chew.

Editor's note: Sharon Bryson has recently been awarded the American Rhododendron Society bronze medal in recognition for her significant contributions to promoting *Rhododendrons* in Nova Scotia and around the world, especially through her diligent work on the seed exchange. Congratulations, Sharon!

Please take a few moments to check out Sharon's Willow Garden website at: www.willowgarden.net



Sharon recommends growing daylilies. This beauty is named in honour of her late husband, Bill Wilgenhof.



A taste of the Willow Garden as seen from Sharon's back doorstep.
Photos by Sharon Bryson

Meet Our NSAGC Executive: Pamela MacLean



Pamela in the autumn garden. Photo from Pamela MacLean

I live in Bedford and belong to the Bedford Horticultural Society. I enjoy the activities our club offers, especially the workshops and garden tours.

I have been on the NSAGC Board since June 2009, first as a District Director, the Halifax region, then moving on to Vice Chair, then Chair, and now Past Chair, which includes serving as the Awards Chair and Nominating Committee Chair. I accepted the original position reluctantly, not knowing what was involved or how I would be able to do it. Thanks to the excellent members on the Board, it became very easy. Everyone was happy to help in every way. They were all there for one reason, to work together for the benefit of the clubs. I still look forward to our meetings and seeing my friends from across the province. It is an excellent Board and giving back is the best thing we can do for ourselves, the NSAGC and the clubs around the province.

Because we live in this beautiful province full of hills and valleys, gardening challenges vary from area to area. I live on a hill, which was actually a gravel pit before these homes were built. There was

no topsoil, no trees, some pretty steep banks and lots of water running down the hill. We've done some terracing, redirected some water and brought in topsoil. We planted many trees, including ones that drink up water, and made many gardens including rock gardens and wildflowers as well as ornamental trees and shrubs. There are challenges where I live but most can be overcome.

Gardening has always been part of my life. From the time I was a small child, I helped in the vegetable garden and picked roses from my parents' gardens. I learned about growing organically, making compost and using seaweed. This was just something we did all the time, so it stands to reason I would have gardens of my own, wherever I lived. This way of life has been passed on to my children and grandchildren who all grow flowers and vegetables. For me, gardening is an excellent stress reducer, provides good exercise and brings God's beauty to life in blooms, birds and butterflies.

I grow a large variety of perennials so plants are blooming all season and have a large selection of ferns and hostas. Heaths, heathers and succulents seem to do exceptionally well in my poor soil. I leave seed heads through the fall and winter to provide food for my garden friends through the winter. For me, it is a joy to see snakes and toads in my gardens and birds feeding and nesting in my yard.

The plants I recommend for all gardens are herbs. Easy to grow in the garden or in containers, their leaves are beautiful and fragrant and they often have small, colourful flowers. Herbs are a wonderful resource for your kitchen.

Over the years I have been regularly visiting the Rock Garden in Truro and taking friends there. I have followed this garden since its inception and recall when it was a huge pile of stone and machinery. What a transformation! I have seen plants come and go, just like in my own garden. I've watched it grow and mature, as new areas were developed and have visited during all seasons.

My advice to new gardeners is to do some research, find out what conditions a plant likes before planting and don't be afraid to move plants if they are not doing well. Just plant!

This and That

submitted by club members

From Bonie Moore:

Bonie writes that she has great success with *Coleus*. The plants in the photos she took below were grown from cuttings she took from her 2020 plants and wintered indoors.



Photos: Bonie Moore



Editor's Note: The common *Coleus* is also known as the painted nettle. It is clear to see why. It is so easy and so much fun to root coleus on your window sill. The ones rooting in the photo here are ready to be planted.

From Emily Walker: This cobweb adorned corn stalk arrangement was part of a friend's Halloween decorations. It was unexpected to find this display in the living room but it was pretty effective: unique, spooky and a great conversation piece!

Photos: Emily Walker

NSAGC 2022 Photo Competition Rules

by Lawrence Spencer, Chair of the Photo Contest Committee

Photo Contest Rules

Please note that these rules apply to the 2022 contest. Please do not use rules from previous years.

1. The contest is open to amateur photographers. (Photography cannot be your primary business.) The Chair of the contest and others closely associated with organizing the competition are not eligible. Questions of eligibility will be decided by the Chair.
2. Contestants must be members of a club, society or an affiliate that pays dues to the NSAGC.
3. Contestants may enter one photograph in each of the following classes:
 - **Class 1** Life in the Garden
 - **Class 2** Close-ups
 - **Class 3** Colour
 - **Class 4** Water in the Garden
 - **Class 5** Vegetables or Fruit
 - **Class 6** Garden Art
 - **Class 7** Flowering Trees or Shrubs
 - **Class 8** Fall Scene
 - **Class 9** Landscape
 - **Class 10** Nature in Winter
4. Any individual photo can only be submitted for one particular class; i.e., a photo cannot be submitted for more than one class.
5. The finished photograph must accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it originally appeared—i.e., no Photoshop-like editing except for cropping or brightness alterations.
6. You have two options for submitting photos. Please choose **ONLY** one, do **NOT** do both!

OPTION 1: Email your photos—PREFERRED METHOD

- Photos can be submitted digitally. Change the *File Name* to *Your Name and Class No.* For example: right click the mouse on the photo to change the file name and select *Rename* from the pop-up menu. Type *Adamsmith1* for your name (Adam Smith) and the class number one. Then save the photo using *Save as* in the original folder, or create a new folder for just these photos. Continue for any other photos, changing the class number of each.
- Image size is to be no smaller than 1500 pixels on the longest side (portrait or landscape orientation).
- Email your photos to: nsagcphotocontest@gmail.com or lspencer@jackknife.org
- Include in your email: your name, address, email address, phone number and the club or organization of

which you are a member.

- Photos are to be received by no later than April 29, 2022, to allow time for judging, as well as putting the presentation together for the convention.

OPTION 2: Mail your photos

- Printed photos will be "scanned in" to make them digital for inclusion in the judging and display during the convention.
 - Photos should be a minimum size of 5"x7" (preferred for scanning) and **NOT** mounted.
 - Print legibly contestant's name, email, address, class number and name and name of club or affiliate on a separate piece of paper or a sticky note and affix to the back of each printed photo.
 - Mail print submissions to: Lawrence Spencer, 38 Richardson Drive, Fall River NS B2T 1E7
 - Photos are to be received by no later than April 29, 2022, to allow time for scanning and judging, as well as putting the presentation together for the convention.
7. Photos will be judged on originality, composition, focus and exposure. Judging will be done by three people (the Chair and two others) with years of gardening/plant and/or art/photography backgrounds.
 8. Photos that have received a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place standing in any class of a previous NSAGC annual photographic contest cannot be resubmitted in subsequent years.
 9. All submitted printed photos must be claimed prior to the banquet on the Saturday of the convention. Contest participants are responsible for photo pick-up—or have someone else pick them up. The NSAGC will not be responsible for returning photos. If not claimed, they will be destroyed. All digitally submitted photos will be deleted, subject to choosing any for the purposes stated in section No. 11 below.
 10. Stickers will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd photo in each class. The judges have the discretion not to assign all the stickers in any given class. One 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize will be awarded for the three "Best Overall" photos.
 11. Display during convention: Since all photos will be in a digital format (printed photos scanned in), they will be put together in a video which will run on a TV in a loop during the entire convention so that all attending members will have to the opportunity to view them all. Each photo will have the contestant's name underneath, along with any award it received. The three Best Overall winners will be displayed at the end as well.

(continued on next page)

NSAGC 2022 Photo Contest (continued)

12. In submitting your photos, either digitally or in print form, you grant the NSAGC permission to display or reproduce them for the following purposes: to promote, inform or advertise the photo contest to members of the NSAGC; and/or for the NSAGC to use as promotional material. In all other matters the owners of the image(s) will retain their rights under copyright law. If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary release from the individual depicted.

Suggestions and Explanations for the Competition

The judges will accept any photo that is a reasonable interpretation of the title of the class concerned. This means that while the following comments are designed to help, they should not be used to exclude other reasonable interpretations of the class description. Remember, one of the four criteria of judging is originality.

Class 1 Life in the Garden Insects or Animals (e.g., birds, deer, squirrels, snakes, frogs, etc.) **no** humans or pets. Best if photo shows some botanical feature in addition.

Class 2 Close Ups Close-up or macro of any botanical feature (i.e., flower, leaf, etc.).

Class 3 Colour A colourful image, either a wonderful mixture or a single one; e.g., just the greenery, flowers of all one colour or a wonderful mixture of colours.

Class 4 Water in the Garden Any image depicting water somewhere, somehow in the garden, from a garden pond, fountain, rain (rain drops), stream rainbow, etc. This is a class where creativity can be expressed!

Class 5 Vegetables or Fruit Any type, singly or in groups, or a mixture, picked or still on the vegetation.

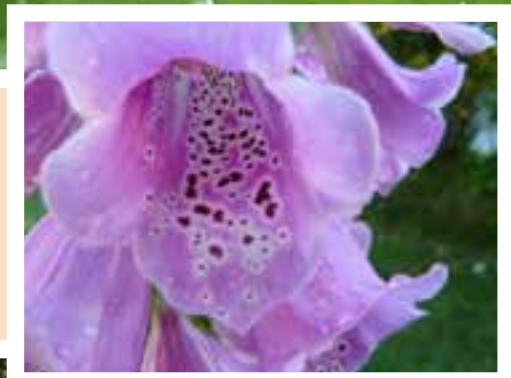
Class 6 Garden Art Any structure, sculpture or piece or art (any type) among the vegetation. Could involve such things as flower show arrangements, wreaths, topiary, creative flower beds, etc., that are part of a garden landscape (best shown among the vegetation or flowers).

Class 7 Flowering Trees or Shrubs One type or any mixture, either in the garden or as an arrangement. Can be shown alone or among the rest of the vegetation at time of flowering.

Class 8 Fall Scene A creative opportunity to capture the beauty or activities of the season, either the garden or a work of Mother Nature.

Class 9 Landscape Photo should capture the fun, beauty or creativity of a large portion of a garden or natural landscape, including aerial shots.

Class 10 Nature in Winter Views of gardens or plants in the winter season with snow, frost or vegetation shape or colour in this season.



A Note from the Editor

What a beautiful fall we have enjoyed in Nova Scotia this year! The leaves were absolutely spectacular. As the warm sunny days gave way to cooler nights, we experienced our first frost. It seemed strange to have to wear a heavier jacket in the garden after being spoiled by the mild weather all autumn long.

Everyone seems excited about decorating for Christmas this year. In the middle of November I caught glimpses of the twinkling lights of Christmas trees through windows of the homes in our neighbourhood. Perhaps people feel like celebrating after so many long months of Covid.

This issue of the Scotia Gardener contains all the information you need about the NSAGC photo contest as well as the June convention in Truro. Anticipation is building for this event so it may be

wise to register early.

Thanks to Deb Bowes-Lyon for contributing the instructions for the *hypertufa* workshop. It looks like a challenging and satisfying project with many possibilities for making beautiful containers.

Winter will soon be upon us and that means focusing on our houseplants. I am rooting coleus and begonias from the garden and hope to have a number of well established, healthy plants to take outside in the spring. This is such an economical way to propagate and offers a method to save favourite plants year after year.

Have a happy holiday and best wishes for 2022!

Emily Walker



A touch of fall colour in Sharon Bryson's Willow Garden.

Photo: Sharon Bryson

2021-2022 NSAGC Executive



Chair, Kathy D'Entremont
email: chairperson@nsagc.com

Past Chair, Pamela MacLean
email: pastchair@nsagc.com

Vice Chair, Deb Bowes-Lyon
email: vicechair@nsagc.com

Secretary, Ginny Blayney (acting)
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District Seven, Western, Lisa Doucette, Director
email: district7@nsagc.com

Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs Board Current Openings

Members of the executive and the directors of the NSAGC enjoy the experience of expanding their horizons through meeting and working with gardeners throughout Nova Scotia. They also have an interest in encouraging and supporting the gardening community in their area.

The following positions are available:

Director, District 3, Central North

Director, District 3, Central South

Director, District 5, Valley

Contact any Board member for details if you are interested in filling one of these positions or know of someone who is, please contact Pamela MacLean at: pastchair@nsagc.com

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\$50—7 inches by 4 inches per issue; \$100 for four issues

Please contact the newsletter editor at newsletter@nsagc.com if you have questions.

Scotia Gardener: Fall 2021 Issue (Volume 21, Number 4)

Please note that the editor of the Scotia Gardener has exclusive control over the content and format of the newsletter. All information submitted for publication will be thoroughly reviewed by the editor and will be included or excluded in the newsletter at the sole discretion of the editor.

The preference is that the photographs in the newsletter are original. Photos will be credited on the page where the photo appears or listed below.

Additional photo credits: Emily Walker—pages 1, 12, 13, 21



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Happy Holidays!