



Volume 15, Number 3
April, 2016

SCOTIA GARDENER

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs



Provincial Gardening Week

This year we will be celebrating Provincial Gardening Week, May 29th to June 4th. We have had some wonderful activities at the club level in recent years and we hope for more of the same this year.

A poster for this week, has been designed by David Burrell, of the Pictou Garden Club. Your Area Director will ensure you receive one before the end of May. We encourage you to be creative. Remember this is an opportunity to promote your club to your community. Whether that means putting a vase of flower in a public location, having a special promotion at your plant sale or submitting an article to a local paper, it all adds up to making the good work of garden clubs more visible to the entire community.

Feel free to send photos of your Provincial Gardening Week activities into the June issue of this newsletter.

Don Butler

Chair's Message

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

As I sit looking out my window at the snow, watching the birds, snow softly falling, it is a pretty, tranquil scene. But like most gardeners, I am hoping for an early Spring! I cannot wait to get in my Garden!

Thanks to face book, there is lots of color to keep us going until our own gardens start to bloom. Thank you to everyone for posting these wonderful photos!

Convention will be here before we know it & District 2 has a wonderful agenda in store for us. Get your registration form in early & I look forward to seeing you there.

Our new website is up & running. It is quite user friendly with lots of information about NSAGC & events that are of interest to you as Gardeners.

A reminder to everyone about Provincial Gardening Week. We now have an official Poster which area Directors will be distributing to all clubs after our meeting. Don Butler will be keeping you up to date on this.

Thanks to all of the clubs who worked hard to have their membership fees in on time this year!

Our Board continues to work hard on your on your behalf. Our meeting is in April, so if you have any concerns or questions for the Board or would like anything clarified, please forward these to your District Director, as they are your direct link to the Board.

Take care & happy planning for your gardens this year!

Patsy Mackenzie Chair NSAGC



NSAGC's Scotia Gardener

The Scotia Gardener is published in October, December, April and July.

We welcome articles, pictures, notices, items of interest to gardeners. Please send to: Ann Jones, Editor, 429 Lakeside Rd, PO box 167, Hebron, NS, B5A 5Z8
or e-mail to: annjones@eastlink.ca.
Phone 902 742 1978 or cell 902 748 5948.

Deadline for the July issue is June 15, 2016

If you would like to place an advertisement in the Scotia Gardener, please contact Don Butler at butlerdon@live.ca

Note: The Editor of the Scotia Gardener retains exclusive control over the content and format of the newsletter. All information submitted for publication will be subject to and will be included or excluded in the newsletter on the sole discretion of the Editor.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND YOUR NSAGC CONVENTION

Plans are well underway for the 2016 NSAGC Convention in New Glasgow. Those dates of June 3rd and 4th are less than two months away. Under the theme of "Touched By A Hand," gardeners will have a wonderful opportunity to enhance their gardening knowledge thanks to the excellent speakers that have been lined up.

A maximum of 250 delegates will be accepted. Register soon to avoid disappointment. Blocks of rooms at the Travelodge and Holiday Inn Express will be held for our group until May 3rd. Thereafter it is on a first come, first served, with the general public. Because of the popularity of the riverboat cruise to Pictou the 2:00 p.m. sailing is filled, however, a second tour will depart at 10:30 a.m. for those wish to partake in the three hour cruise.

The conference is being held at the Pictou County Wellness Centre. This is a beautiful new facility, just off exit 23 of the TCH. There is ample parking and motels are very close by.

It promises to be a great weekend. We encourage gardeners to participate in the floral arranging and photography contests and to take along your club scarp book and banner.

An application form is included with this Scotia Gardener.

NSAGC Photo Competition

Closing date for the 2016 contest is Sunday May 8th.

12 classes to choose from.

All contestants will receive a copy of the judge's report. Every contestant receives two news letters to keep them informed and all entries will be acknowledged by email. Contestants are given access to the Contestants' Gallery where all submissions are displayed.

Details can be found on the NSAGC web site at <http://www.nsagc.com/Photo.htm>
Submissions are to be mailed to Andrew Clinch, Box 235, 958 Kelly Drive, Aylesford, NS B0P 1C0.

Tags and Seals from NSAGC

For your next Flower/Vegetable Show don't forget to order your Tags and Seals from the NSAGC. NSAGC provides 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, Honorable Mention and Best in Show Seals or stickers for the judges to use during your show. These seals can be placed on the Flower Show Tags after judging. It is a nice way to remember what award you won.

The Tags have room for the class, selection, variety, exhibitor's number, name and address. The participant's information can be covered during the judging by a fold and a slot to insert the end of the tag so the judges can't see who the exhibitor is.

The Tags & Seals are both 10 cents each to purchase through your garden club. These can be mailed to your club or your club can save on postage by being picked up during our Annual NSAGC Convention.

If your club would like to place an order please contact Sarah Cluett either by phone or email. The phone number is (902)463-3685 or email address is sarah.cluett@gmail.com.

Sarah Cluett, NSAGC Tags & Seals

NSAGC Conference Floral Competition 2016

Notes and thoughts regarding the live floral arrangement "People's Choice Competition"

To be held in conjunction with the 2016 NSAGC Provincial Convention Venue: Pictou county Wellness Centre June, 2016

Who is eligible?

Any person or club registered for the convention can enter an arrangement which they have constructed.

What are the criteria for the entry?

Arrangements size: not to exceed height 60 cm width cm x60 cm depth (2ft x2ft x 2ft)

Entry should reflect the convention theme: "Touched by a Garden".

Foliage: only fresh material: flowers, herbs, wildflowers, vegetables, grasses, leaves essentially any live plant material --- not obtained from a florist.

Entry may include items such as decorative base, container, enhancements, and figurines (your choice)but no artificial plant material

What is the entry procedure?

Competition will be held in the Wellness Centre gym.

Arrangements will be accepted on Friday June 3rd from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Bring your entry to the volunteers located in the gym.

You will be assigned a number and given a copy of your number so you can claim your entry at the end of the competition.

Volunteers will assist with placement of your arrangement in the numbered spot on a table in the gym.

How do I know if I won the competition?

Participants will vote on this "People's Choice Competition". The entrant with the most votes will win and winner will be announced at the Saturday evening banquet.

What happens to my entry?

Entrants are responsible for removing their arrangement by 4:30pm Saturday.

Voting procedure: Who will be eligible to vote?

All participants who attend the convention.

What is the procedure for voting?

Upon registration each person who registers will receive a nametag as part of their registration kit. Included in the back of each nametag will be a ballot.

How do participants vote?

Bring ballot to the gym during any break or free time frame.

Volunteers will assist as necessary. Make your choice.

Enter the number of your floral display in the box on the ballot.

Deposit your ballot in a ballot box provided. (Several ballot boxes will be provided so there will be no wait time).

Voting will close at 4:30pm on Saturday

The volunteer committee will tally ballots from all containers. Announcement will be made at appropriate time during the Saturday evening banquet.

Contact Information

Contact person: Margie Beck, Phone: 902 -752 - 1906, E-mail: beckc@ns.sympatico.ca

The Eastern Shore Garden Club is Growing and Thriving

Eastern Shore Garden Club ended 2015 by having a Christmas Potluck with a Frosty Flair. One of our members,



TP Snow People

Cheryl Verge Wolfe is a party planner extraordinaire. She had us dancing, singing and creating snow men out of toilet tissue and various accessories. I bet you can't recognize any of our members in the "Frosty" photograph. Naturally our fun loving gardeners are always willing to take part. Thank you Cheryl for pushing us out of our comfort zone! But I must say that it is easier to do out in the garden. See also the photo of the winning Christmas centrepiece (made by Cheryl Verge Wolfe) and that of Ina Beaver (our founding member) with Cheryl Verge Wolfe sporting their festive Christmas hats.



Ina & Cheryl



Winning Centrepiece

It's amazing what a small group of like-minded passionate and determined gardeners can do. Who knows what we will accomplish in 2016. I'll keep you posted! For now I'm happy to say it's time to open a fresh bag of potting soil, do some repotting, start some seedlings and take those cuttings you've been thinking about. Let's get growing.

Cathy Connolly

Recognition of the Gardens of Elizabeth Hill and Bill Reader

As gardeners we are all very passionate about what we grow and how our gardens look in all seasons. This love of nature, flowers, trees, birds is very evident in the gardens of Elizabeth Hill and Bill Reader. In the past year their gardens became a "Certified Backyard Habitat" offering shelter, food and water for wildlife. Mid-summer 2015 their gardens were nominated and awarded Featured Property designation from the Municipality of East Hants, East Hants Wants to Show. On December 17, 2015 the Honorable Margaret Miller, MLA East Hants presented the following in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of NS and I quote --



"Mr. Speaker, Elizabeth Hill and Bill Reader of Selma were the first to be recognized for landscaping and gardening they have done with a Featured Property designation. This is awarded for the effort and maintenance of the wonderful gardens.

Driving by their home is a treat and shows a love of our flowers and the colours of our seasons. The property is located on Highway # 215, near the old Selma airport. The garden is also a certified backyard habitat because it offers shelter, food and water to a number of different birds.

Elizabeth Hill has been active in the gardening club.



She is always interested in different flowers and sharing with other gardeners. Elizabeth is available to give gardening advice and to help others in her community. She has also encouraged gardening club members to get involved in decorating the bridge in Maitland

for their annual Christmas Festival."

Elizabeth is the president of Hants North Late Bloomers Garden Club and Director for Central District 3 South.

Congratulations Elizabeth and Bill!

Cheryl McLellan

NSAGC Plant Giveaway for 2016

The perennial selected for 2016 is *Ligularia 'Othello'*. This is a perennial with bright yellow clusters of flowers and dark leaves blooming later in the summer, standing close to three and a half feet tall it should be placed at the back of the border or bed. This is a truly outstanding specimen perennial plant for any garden. For those gardeners who like to plant in groups of three or mass plantings additional plants can be obtained by your club placing a bulk order as described below.



BULK ORDERS OF LIGULARIA 'OTHELLO' ORDER FORM FOR LIGULARIA 'Othello' PLANTS

Name of Club _____

Number of Plants Requested @ \$2 each _____ Amount \$ enclosed. _____

Contact person in Club _____

Fill in Order Form, make cheque or MO out to the **Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs** and forward to:
Arthur Haskins, 8780 Highway #2, Great Village, NS., B0M 1L0

For any further information contact Arthur at 902 668-2838 or ahaskins@eastlink.ca

Plants to be picked up at the Convention in June.

The NSAGC Plant-Giveaway

Igularia dentata 'Othello', sometimes known as Elephant Ears, is this year's free plant that all members of the NSAGC will receive. The first plant giveaway was in 2008 and the tradition has continued. One would think that this 8 year old tradition must have produced some great specimens in Nova Scotia gardens.

The NSAGC has a special class in its photo competition so that members can submit photographs of their free plants. Yet, this is the poorest supported class, so poor in fact that the class might disappear. One has to ask why? Could it be that what is free is not appreciated; that instead of thriving, the plants end up almost forgotten in some corner of the garden or they get squeezed out by other plants? Perhaps many members have not realised that the real bargain is not the free plant but the fact that extra plants can be ordered at extremely attractive prices. This is the true value of the plant give-away program, it makes affordable mass planting.

It is through the volunteer efforts of NSAGC Director, Arthur Haskins, that the plant giveaway program exists. Arthur knows only too well that "although some plants can stand alone as beautiful specimens, most will get lost in the muddle of the mixture of plants". He believes that "experienced gardeners tend to spend more time in placing plants in their gardens for maximum visual effect."

Arthur wrote, "One of the easiest ways to draw attention to different parts of the garden is to plant in multiples, usually uneven numbers like threes, fives or sevens. This grouping of the same type of plant gives a huge splash of colour and creates a focal point in the garden that visitors eyes are immediately drawn to". Arthur observed that "another idea, that experienced gardeners use, is to make mass plantings of the same plant to cover unsightly areas or hard to mow slopes, leaving them to fill in and make a wonderful and interesting ground cover requiring next to no maintenance". He believes that "Perennial plants made available through the NSAGC each year is an inexpensive way to plant multiples in next year's garden and compared to buying potted plants from the garden center is a 'huge saving.'"

Last year Arthur was the only photographer to enter a photograph in the NSAGC Photo Competition that showed mass plantings made possible by the NSAGC give-away program.

Can you use this year's plant in your garden? If you have a moist area in your garden then this year's plant give-away is what you need. According to Perrenials.com, "Elephant Ears...is a bold specimen perennial that needs a moist location. Plants form a clump of large, rounded dark-green leaves with a purple backside. Taller stems appear in June, bearing clusters of bright golden orange daisy flowers. Superb for the back of the border, or at the waterside. An unusual centerpiece for a tub or large container. Both the flowers and leaves are great for cutting..... Clumps may be divided in the spring, every 3 to 4 years."

If you have a spot for this plant then why not order more and create such an impact that you will want to share the result.

Andrew Clinch, Chair, Photo Contest



THE NSAGC IS NOW ON FACEBOOK

Join the NSAGC Group. We now have almost 1100 gardeners who have joined. Every member of the group may post events, pictures, questions, answers, and interesting things about gardening. Members may also invite others to join. On Facebook, go to Groups, search NSAGC on the top bar and ask to join.

The NSAGC Facebook Group compliments our NSAGC website where you can find information, supports to clubs, information about our executive and directors, projects and awards and information and registration for the Annual General Meeting and Conference.

Check out our NEW LOOK NSAGC website
www.nsagc.com



Christmas 2015

The Hants North Late Bloomers Garden Club were asked to decorate a historic vacant building in Maitland as part of their Christmas Festival; (held every year in the community)



We knew we shouldn't nail much to this heritage building; and there is no power connected, so lights couldn't be used; so we thought pots of greenery would look nice. It was decided we should use

natural decorations in large pots to help hide the fact that the building is sitting on blocks. On November 22, ten members met at our president's garage in Selma (near Maitland) to assemble the pots.

Each sand was put in the pots as a base, the pots were decorated with Christmas themed bows and coverings. We trucked them the few miles to Maitland, added a few finishing



touches. We hung a wreath and two swags on the window sills and one friendly snowman was attached! We had lots of laughs that day and enjoyed the fine weather for our task! Mary Oliver



DAYLILY DAZE

SATURDAY JULY 2, 2016 AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HALL 1839 HAMMONDS PLAINS ROAD, 9:30-3:00 admittance is \$5.00 and this includes all day workshops, light lunch, and a free ☐ DAYLILY come and bring a friend, many daylilies to purchase at resonable prices, raffles, vendors.





Bible Hill Garden Club

The long dark days of winter and the snow banks are disappearing, and we all look forward to getting outside and looking every day to see what has popped up in the garden, and what has survived the winter. Signs are all around, cedar

Waxwings are lunching on the berries left on the bushes, robins are back, and the geese are flying north. The crocus, snow drops and daffodils that were planted in the fall following our order from Vesey's, are sticking their heads above ground. Spring is nature's way of saying "let's party".

Looking back over the fall, 24 members attended the District meeting Oct. 17, hosted by the Cobequid Economy area. The interesting speaker, Elizabeth Peirce gave helpful advice on preserving the produce from our garden. She also had a book for sale "Grow organics & Canning". The weather was nice, there were many door prizes, lots of food, new and old friends, making for a very enjoyable well attended day.

The November meeting was for making wreaths. The hall was alive with a large crowd having fun creating Christmas decorations.

A Centrepiece workshop was held in the Bible Hill Firehall for anyone in the community wishing to take part. Judging by the smiles as people left the hall, it was a successful afternoon.

Nineteen Hilden Garden Club members joined 53 Bible Hill members for a Christmas dinner. Music was enjoyed following the meal. 93 lbs. of food was collected for the local food bank.

The weather prevented us meeting again until March when Pam Ross was the speaker, talking about starting seeds and getting the garden ready for spring planting. Always interesting, she gets everyone in the mood for gardening.



We are looking forward to a very busy and involved spring. Plans are being made to put a display in the New library. We are looking forward to Provincial Garden Week when we will add plants to our garden at the Bible Hill Cemetery. Our plant sale will be held May 28, 8:30 – 11:30 in the Bible Hill Fire Hall.

Plans are being made for a bus trip and gardens tours in June.

It is exciting having the Garden Club Convention in Pictou Co. this year, and already members are looking forward to attending.

Dot MacNutt

NSAGC Executive

Chair, Patsy MacKenzie,

902-674-2374, patmk30@hotmail.com

Vice-Chair, Vicki Willis

902-789-1612, vwillis53@hotmail.com

Past Chair, Don Butler,

902-926-2589, butlerdon@live.ca

Secretary, Susan Hazelwood,

902-469-3661, susan.hazelwood@eastlink.ca

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902-405-5494, lisj@hfx.eastlink.ca

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Awards Committee, Lorna Williams

902-794-2893, lorna_williams640@yahoo.ca

Future Projects Committee, Arthur Haskins,

902-668-2838, ahaskins@eastlink.ca

Historian, Dixie Cress,

902-538-0741, dl.cress@ns.sympatico.ca

Photo Contest Committee, Andrew Clinch

902-847-9464, aclinch@eastlink.ca

Tags & Seals, Sarah Cluett,

902-463-3685, sarah.cluett@gmail.com

Scotia Gardener Newsletter, Ann Jones

902-742-1978, 902 748 5948 cell, annjones@eastlink.ca

Web Master, Paul Despres,

902-847-1001/403-630-7814, pdespres@av.eastlink.ca

Directors

Cape Breton District # 1, Dona Benac, Director,

902-794-3197, dlbeb75@hotmail.com

Eastern District # 2, Evie Fraser, Director,

902-752-2149, evie.fraser@eastlink.ca

District #3 Central North, Vacant

District #3 Central South, Elizabeth Hill, Director,

902-261-2678, elizabeth.hill2@bellaliant.net

Halifax District # 4, Pamela MacLean, Director,

902-832-7006, pamela.maclean@gmail.com

Valley District # 5, Debra Carey, Director,

nsagc.director5.director@gmail.com

South Shore District # 6, Myra Knight, Director,

902-277-0247, myra484@eastlink.ca

Western District # 7 Ann Jones,

902-742-1978, annjones@eastlink.ca

DAHLIA TUBER SALE

**1000'S OF DAHLIAS, OVER 300 VARIETIES
TOP SHOW AND GARDEN VARIETIES
MICMAC MALL, MAY 7th (SAT) open 8AM
\$1.50 PER TUBER**

**Main Entrance by Winners
COME EARLY FOR BEST SELECTION**



2016 NSAGC Convention

Hosted by Eastern District
3&4 June 2016

Pictou County Health & Wellness Centre, New Glasgow, NS

"Touched by a Garden"

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Telephone: (Home or Business) 902- _____ (Cell) 902- _____ (Other) 902- _____

Address: _____
(Complete Mailing) _____

Garden Club or Society Affiliation: _____

Please: One Person per Form

Convention Fees (included: Friday evening Reception,
Attendance at all Presentations, Saturday Lunch, and Refreshment Breaks)

Garden Club or Affiliated Society Member	\$35.00	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Non-Member	\$45.00	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Water (Boat) Tour	\$25.00	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Self-Guided Garden Tours	\$0.00	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Banquet (Saturday Evening)	\$35.00	→	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Chicken	<input type="checkbox"/>		Total
	Vegetarian	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ _____

Refunds will be given, if requested until 1 May 2016. After that date refunds will be considered by the convention committee based on information provided by the person making the request.

Please make us aware of **Special Concerns:** (Dietary, Mobility, etc)

The Wellness centre is very accessible and well equipped but the organizers would appreciate being made aware of any special considerations that may impede your having the best possible experience while attending the convention.

Rooms have been set aside at the Travel Lodge for \$93.00 per night and the Holiday Inn Express for \$113.00 per night for convention attendees (plus HST). Mention this when you make your reservations.

Mail Registration Form to:
(with a Cheque Attached)

A.M.Burns-Burrell, 91 Birch Hill Lane, R.R. #3, Pictou, NS, B0K 1H0
Make Cheques Payable to: NSAGC 2016 Convention

For additional information or questions

Telephone David or Angie at 902-485-6369 or E-Mail nsagc2016convention@gmail.com

Registration Closes 1 May 2016