



SCOTIA GARDENER

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

From the Chair

Where did the summer go? The feeling of fall is in the air already. Time to think about gathering our bounty before the frost gets it and enjoying the last of our summer blooms and the beautiful fall colors in our gardens. As gardeners we are not finished yet as there is still lots to do during the fall season. Clean up your summer gardens before it gets too cold, and get those spring bulbs in the ground. You can still plant shrubs, fruit trees and ornamental trees at this time. If you put in a winter garden or garlic now is the time to do it. Don't forget about those end of season sales at the garden centers. A gardener never has enough plants or tools.

Now is also a great time to get back into the swing of garden club meetings. Get out there and take part in your clubs in some way, as a volunteer for some activity or get on the executive. Even if you think you can't do it, you would be surprised at how easy it is and how eager your fellow gardeners are to teach you. Volunteering on the executive is very rewarding and you get to know other gardeners very well forming long-lasting friendships.

Fall is a good time to get out and enjoy the colors, the cool air, the garden club meetings, the speakers, the fall rallies and reading your newsletter. Enjoy.

Pamela MacLean

Halifax Garden Festival

The 2nd annual Halifax Garden Festival was held on June 16, 2018. Again this year, the Festival was a huge success with a great turnout on a beautiful sunny day while the temperatures were just right. We had our tent and table set up and surrounded ourselves with astilbe "Fanal" organically grown in Bedford. Our enthusiastic and capable volunteers managed to sell plants and promote our garden clubs across the province in an effort to increase membership. The main emphasis was providing information on how to

join a Garden Club or even how to start a new club. This is a wonderful show with many interesting vendors and informative lectures throughout the day. Many thanks to our volunteers, some coming from near and far to help out, including Sue Gilmour, Vicki Willis, Susan Hazelwood, John Saville, Diane Nichols, Karen Gregor, Donna Burris, Bernice Hartnett, Pat Kean and Doug MacLean. Without you, we would not have been able to participate.

Pamela MacLean



NSAGC Booth - what a great staff!



Wonderful Weather for a Festival

My Roses

Like so many people with an interest in gardening, over 30 years ago I became fed up with the quality of roses offered to the general public by the commercial vendors of the time. With some experience, a love of reading and lots of questions for anyone I found with rose growing expertise, I was determined to at least try to improve on some aspect of modern roses.



Most commercial roses in Nova Scotia simply could not survive our winter weather. The majority were bred for eye appeal such as the Hybrid Teas and Floribundas. So hardiness became one of my major goals. Black spot and Powdery Mildew were two other calamities plaguing the rose throughout the world, hopefully something could be accomplished in these areas also.

Being optimistic is one of my dominant traits. Scanning a gardening magazine from below the border once I noticed an advertisement, "seed for sale" of a Japanese variety unknown to me. Breeding with Japanese roses has given the modern world many rose attributes previously little or unknown such as hardiness, uncommon colors, and repeat blooming. These purchased seed, over a period of years were disappointing but their hardiness soon became apparent. Tiny plants with very pastille colors were the norm.

One of the plants, among others, used in the trade for grafting root stalk is the Japanese Multiflora which has become a pest in this province and any other foreign shore it reaches. In the spring, the area around Windsor N. S. is saturated with the white, thorny mounds; it should be eradicated as it's only going to get worse. A number of these pastille plants apparently crossed with the hybrid multiflora



plant in my yard and a new variety was born.

About 15 years ago I noticed some drastic changes in the quality of the plants in my yard. Firstly plants sitting in pots, in the open all winter were not dead come spring. About this time a few showed signs of reduced disease. In any batch of seedlings there is usually a few that exhibit superior qualities beyond the norm. These plants are multiplied and bred to other plants with superior qualities in the hope that all or most of these qualities will show up in a single new seedling. This has happened many times in my experience and has produced a number of special mother plants that give me everything I worked for and a germination rate beyond anything I had experienced.

On average, I have read, only one good rose trait advancement in a thousand seedlings is the norm. My special mother bushes average 80+ germination and only the best are trialed by me for 2 or 3 years before being sent to a nursery in the Netherlands where they are again trialed for an additional 2 years. Again the best are sent to one or more of 20 international trial sites throughout Europe to be trialed a further 2 years for shrub or 3 years for climber or rambler roses.

I was lucky enough to win a first prize in Barcelona, Spain in the spring of 2018 and now await the results of 7 other trials this year. Over the years I have destroyed many thousands of seedlings and failed to root a lot more cuttings, but now knowing that the journey has been one of pure satisfaction.

George Mac Phail .

Editor's Note: Pictures used with permission from CBC, from a report Aug 9, 2017, Jon Tattie, "Gardener trying to create the perfect rose for Nova Scotia" Our thanks to CBC.

Isle Madam Garden club Flower Show

On August 21st Isle Madame Garden Club held their 2nd annual flower show at the Rocky Bay Irish Club. There were 4 categories for Class A



Compositions (with Accessories), and 4 categories for Class B arrangements. 50 entries were submitted for a People's Choice Vote and \$500.00 in garden-related prizes were given out.

Lillian O'Hearn had the most 1st place wins in the adult category (Fleur de Lis, My Emerald Isle, Unicorn in the Moonlight), and Katie Olson won 1st place in the youth categories of: Fleur de

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 Valerie Despres either by phone or email. The phone number is (902)847-1001 or email address is vdespres@eastlink.ca

Valerie Despres, NSAGC Tags & Seals

Lis, Unicorn in the Moonlight, Tantalizing Tartans, and Acadian Song.

Guest Speaker, Mr. Gabriel LeBlanc, historian, author and consultant to Parks Canada, spoke of the medicinal properties of plants in Isle Madame and their use in history. Afterwards, a light lunch was served and Lillian O'Hearn's 85th birthday was celebrated. Following the festivities, attendees were invited to view the club's Medicinal Herb Garden (designed in a 20 x 30 foot Celtic Knot) and Audrey Boudreau's container Veggie garden. Photos: portion of the Medicinal Herb Garden, Katie Olsen.

Joanne Ford, IMGC President.



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 December issue is

November 15, 2018

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.

From the Editor

Our thanks to all who submitted articles, pictures and club information for this issue of the Scotia Gardener. It has fewer pages than usual since the July issue was not sent until August and we know most gardeners would rather have been in their gardens than inside at their computers, writing. We didn't have many, if any, rainy days this summer so it was hard to leave the garden.

To make the Scotia Gardener easier to read I have set this edition in 11 pt type and changed font. The e-edition has a loser format and we don't have to worry about the number of pages.

From our Facebook Group posts I know you have all be doing wonderful things all summer. So many pictures, people, communities reflected in your posts. You gave us all so many ideas on things that other garden clubs could consider for their programs and activities. As administrator of our Facebook group, along with Kathy Harvie, and Editor of the Scotia Gardener, I am jealous of Facebook! Not everyone sees your posts or are members of the Group. I would love to have all these activities and adventures that are posted on Facebook also in the Scotia Gardener.

Please consider writing a story, sending pictures or describing your club activity. Your submissions may be short or as long as you wish. I know we have great writers out there. If you are hesitant to write, as editor, it is my job to make you look great so don't worry about it being perfect – nobodies perfect. What is important is that as many clubs with as many activities as possible, are shared in the Scotia Gardener. Don't be shy.

Our next deadline for the December issue is November 15th. Please let everyone know what you have been doing and what you plan to be doing in 2019. If you have any questions about how to send your information, please e-mail, annjones@eastlink.ca, or call- 902 742 1978 or 902 748 5948.

This is our newsletter, our Scotia Gardener. The more we know, the more we all know.

Ann Jones, Editor



Lovely meeting for District 1

The District #1 held their annual meeting in Inverness on September 25th at the beautiful Centre for the Arts. A lovely lunch was followed by lots of discussion from the 4 clubs involved, Inverness, North Sydney, Westmount, and Isle Madame. It was great to hear what other clubs are doing.

The guest speaker was Kathleen Bunin, she did a very interesting demonstration on Eco Printing. It uses watercolor paper, boiling water and plant material to make prints of leaves and flowers. A very enjoyable afternoon.

Westmont Garden Club on a Hot August Day

On a hot August day, while visiting Cape Breton I stopped in to a café for an ice cream. When you are in beautiful Cape Breton you never know who you will run into or what to expect. I recognized a voice to be a garden club member from Westmont who I hadn't seen in years. Thelma MacKillop and I sat down and enjoyed a chat. The next thing you know, I was rushing to my cottage for a change of clothes and to “spiffy me up” as I was invited to Westmont's August PotLuck and garden tour at the home of Janet Elsie as a Surprise Guest.

What a joy that was, a guided tour around Janet's huge blooming garden, meeting all the members, enjoying their delicious food and discussing gardening in their neck of the woods.

Here are some photos of the event and want to thank Thelma for the invite and the club for making me feel like one of their own.

Pamela MacLean



Janet Elsie, Pamela MacLean
Thelma Mackillop



Janet's Garden



Members of the Westmont Garden Club

THE NSAGC ON FACEBOOK

Join the NSAGC Facebook Group. We now have over 4,400 gardeners who have joined this very active group.

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.

Questions? Contact annjones@eastlink.ca

ALSO

NSAGC District Map

Check out our NEW LOOK NSAGC website

www.nsagc.com



Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs
Now in our 45th year
History Part 1

Were you a member of, or a member now of any of these garden 1973 Garden Clubs? How many of these clubs still exist? This map represents our NSAGC clubs as of 1973.



What follows is Part 1 of the history of the NSAGC, 1954 to present, excerpted from "NSAGC History, the first Twenty Years, 1954-1973" by NSAGC Historians: Marietta Silver 1954-1963 and Margaret Hambleton 1963-1973.

Early History

The idea of neighbours and friends joining together to form active Garden Clubs seem to have originated early in the 20th century. It was thought that Wolfville Garden Club (WGC), formed in January, 1935, was the first in Nova Scotia. Under the leadership of Mary Murray Forbes, the WGC began a beautification of federal building grounds, planting trees and then flower gardens at the back of the post office. These gardens were turned over to the Federal Government and it became the most

beautiful garden of any federal building in the province.

The first horticultural society was the New Glasgow Horticultural Society (NGHS), formed in March, 1937, following a meeting where Dr. W.S. Blair, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm in Kentville, addressed the group. Soon the NGHS held a Flower Show and published a year book under the direction of their first president, Arthur Hambleton. Being interested in community beautification, in 1949 they requested and received a gift of heather from the City of Glasgow, Scotland, to be placed on the banks of the East River. The NGHS was the first to receive a charter under the Provincial Horticultural Societies Act and by 1972 was the oldest continuing Society in the Province.

The first attempt to form an association of garden clubs was in 1939 when Arthur Hambleton contacted the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) which had been joining horticultural societies together since 1906. He was interesting in finding about the formation of a similar association in Nova Scotia. He conferred with Prof. C.M. Collins, Provincial Horticulturist and Provincial Horticulturalist who gave him the name of 7 societies what existed at the time: Dartmouth, Yarmouth, Truro, Wolfville, Sydney, Pictou and New Glasgow. Arthur Hambleton wrote to all but received only 2 or 3 so he felt that there was not enough interest. Soon after, war was declared so the idea was left in abeyance.

In 1944, Hon. John A. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, from representations made previously by Prof Collins, appointed a Rural Beautification Committee with Prof. Collins as Chairman. Members were Miss H.J. MacDonald, Dr. W.S. Blair, Dr. W.V Longley and Mr. G. Herman. They held their first meeting in October, 1944 at the Agricultural College in Bible Hill. As a result of this meeting a draft policy for the Rural Beautification program was adopted and later approved by the Minister.

Their objectives were:

The appointment of a Landscape Specialist for work throughout this province

The organization of Horticultural Societies and Clubs or groups

The establishment of a provincial nursery of ornamentals at the College, the product of which should be available at wholesale prices in group orders to the horticultural groups.

That an effort be made to train more people to carry out actual landscape work and the encouragement of privately operated nurseries. As more of these develop the need for department nursery would be gradually reduced

That an Act be passed authorizing and establishing the form under which Horticultural Societies be set up in the province. (The Act was passed in 1945)

From these policies, Mr. N.V. Jankov was appointed in the spring of 1945 and a nursery was established and staffed by the Agricultural College. The organizations of horticultural societies and garden clubs proceeded rapidly. Mr. Jankov was active in all phases of field work until 1961 when the work was divided placing garden clubs under Mr. R.S. Morton.

TO BE CONTINUED.....

Editor's note: We hope that Part 1 of NSAGC history will peak your interest in the history of your garden club. My thanks to our current historian, Dixie Cress, for providing me with publications of our past history. Look for Part 2 in the December issue.



2018-2019
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