

***NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION  
OF  
GARDEN CLUBS***  
**HISTORY UPDATE  
2005- 2009**



by  
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Historian

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## **Introduction**

Why belong to a Garden Club or Horticultural Society? The answers are many and will vary from person to person, but the underlying reason to join an organized club is to become a better gardener by learning more about plants through lectures and hands on demonstrations. The concept of becoming part of a group of people with similar interest and over time bond as friends is a simple idea but with many rewards.

Garden Clubs and Societies situated around the province are as diverse as snowflakes, everyone is different and with its own uniqueness. Garden clubs have become wonderful resources, utilizing members expertise on local growing conditions and planting technics that work in their particular area and they carry on their activities with that in mind, teaching themselves as well as others how to garden successfully.

As club members groom the horticultural aspects of their own properties they quite often set up a domino effect where their next-door neighbors begin to take a greater pride in having their property looking good which in turn encourages their neighbors to follow suit as well, and before long the whole neighborhood begins to look better which draws the attention of other neighborhoods to do the same. As you enter communities in Nova Scotia that have garden groups, this concept of having attractive properties becomes quite evident as compared to communities that do not. Well groomed home landscapes, flower beds at town sites like welcome signs, schools, and community buildings often are due solely to the efforts of garden club members.

Many clubs work behind the scenes on these community projects without ever getting or demanding credit from their neighbors, many gardeners just pitch in and make sure that flowers, shrubs and trees get planted and looked after year in and year out. The public may not know who did this work but believe me they do appreciate it regardless of who is responsible. Why else would they be so keen on living in these communities?

Thanks to these dedicated gardeners our communities are much more appealing to us and makes us very proud to call it home.

**Clubs in the NSAGC as of April 1, 2009**

<p><b><u>Cape Breton District #1</u></b>            Glace Bay G C            Inverness G C            New Waterford G C            North Sydney G C            Westmount G C</p>	<p><b><u>Halifax District #4</u></b>            Bedford Hort Society            Dartmouth Hort Society            Eastern Shore G C            Fall River G C            Halifax Westmoor Hort Society</p>	<p><b><u>Western District # 7</u></b>            Bridgetown Area G C            Champlain G C            Clements G C            Pubnico G C            Weymouth G C            Yarmouth G C</p>
<p><b><u>Eastern District #2</u></b>            Antigonish G C            Guysborough G C            Highland G C            Lismore &amp; District G C            Pictou G C            St. Marys G C            Westville &amp; Area G C</p>	<p>Hammonds Plains &amp; Area G C            Mayflower G C            Sea Breeze G C</p> <p><b><u>Valley District #5</u></b>            Charing Cross G C            Forties G C            Haliburton G C            Mount Denson G C            Nicholville G C            Valley Gardeners G C            Wilmot G C</p>	<p><b><u>New Clubs</u></b>            Bridgetown Area G C            Atlantic Master Gardener            Nicholville G C            Sea Breeze G C            May Flower G C            Hammonds Plains G C            Highland G C            Lismore &amp; District G C</p>
<p><b><u>Central District #3</u></b>            Atlantic Master Gardener Assoc            Bible Hill G C            Cobequid G C            Country G C            Debert &amp; Area G C            Great Village G C            Hants North Late            Bloomers G C            Hilden G C            Parrsboro G C            Stewiacke Garden Soc            Stewiacke Valley G C            Valley Weeders G C            Village G C            Wentworth Valley G C</p>	<p><b><u>South Shore District #6</u></b>            Basin Gardeners Assoc            Bridgewater G C            Chester G C            Lunenburg &amp; Area G C            Mahone Bay Garden Soc            Riverport G C            Shelburne County G C            Queens G C</p>	<p><b><u>Clubs Leaving NSAGC</u></b>            Clifton G C            Cottage G C            Admiral Digby Hort Soc            Clare G C</p> <p><b><u>Plant Societies</u></b>            Rhododendron Society            Dahlia Society            Orchid Society            Annapolis Valley            African Violet Society            The First Halifax African Violet Society            Nova Scotia Daylily Soc            Nova Scotia Rock Garden Club            Annapolis Valley Dahlia &amp; Gladiolus Society</p>

## **NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION of GARDEN CLUBS**

The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs became an entity in 1954 as the result of the work of the Rural Beautification Project Committee. In 1944, the Rural Beautification Committee was appointed by the Honorable John A. MacDonald, minister of Agriculture, to come up with a plan for rural beautification projects. Mr. Nick Jankov, a Landscape Specialist, began working with the Agricultural Representatives, Women's Institutes, Home and School Associations and Service Clubs, to begin formulating a long term plan for Rural Beautification around the province. He assisted groups in getting organized and provided landscape sketches and plans to these groups. Another part of the project was to provide trees and shrubs to groups. The trees and shrubs were grown at the Agricultural College and distributed to clubs for a small fee to help offset the costs involved in developing the project. Over the years, many new horticultural groups and garden clubs were organized and the Rural Beautification Program became a very successful endeavor. By 1948 there were forty three garden clubs and four Horticultural Societies that were actively taking part in projects throughout the province. However all the groups working under the umbrella of the Rural Beautification Project were working by themselves in their own communities and did not know what the other areas were doing. For this reason and in order that one group might learn from another, Mr. Jankov put forth the idea of bringing the groups together through a provincial organization. The Department of Agriculture sponsored a two day conference so that all the groups could send representatives to find out what projects were taking place in other areas and how they could benefit from each others experience. At this conference, a committee was appointed to plan for another conference in 1955. This committee planned the organization of the Garden Clubs and Horticultural Societies into a provincial body and selected the name "Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs.

The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs (NSAGC) is made up of garden clubs and horticultural societies from all areas of Nova Scotia. The NSAGC is the coordinating body for organized gardening groups in the province and is guided by an elected board of directors, whose members come from the different districts of Nova Scotia. The district representative, also known as the district director, serves as the link between the individual clubs and the NSAGC board.

The main objective of the NSAGC is to promote the general landscape beautification of the Province of Nova Scotia, by promoting community beautification and encouraging the formation of horticultural groups (garden clubs) which will procure interest in all phases of home gardening and ornamental horticulture in their areas.

The districts in the NSAGC are Cape Breton, Eastern, Central, Halifax, Valley, Western and the South Shore. Within each district, local clubs provide the outlet for budding gardeners, amateurs and professionals alike. There are over fifty local garden clubs and horticultural societies throughout the province.

Each year the NSAGC convention and board meeting is held in one of the districts. The convention is hosted by one of the garden clubs in that district, while the other clubs in the district play assisting roles. The convention brings together enthusiastic gardeners from all walks of life, whether they are professional or just part time amateurs, with the penchant for gardening. The convention program includes guest speakers, presenting their specialty or a general topic, workshops and tours. Other activities at the convention include vendor's tables, plant sales, the floral contest, photo contest, the awards banquet and the annual business meeting. Delegates take this opportunity to meet with gardeners from other areas of the province and discuss gardening issues. It is also a chance to learn new things that may benefit their own gardening efforts, their club's endeavors and further one of the objectives of the NSAGC; the landscape beautification of Nova Scotia, through home gardening.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u># OF CLUBS</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>
2005	50 plus 4 Affiliates	1514
2006	51 plus 5 Affiliates	1463
2007	52 plus 6 Affiliates	1547
2008	55 plus 6 Affiliates	1757
2009	56 plus 8 Affiliates	1717

It is a well known fact that gardening is great exercise, and we are kept in great shape gardening in Spring, Summer and Fall, but during Winter many of us fall off the wagon and get a bit out of shape. A vegetable gardener friend of mine has come up with the perfect exercise to get us back into fighting shape for the next gardening season, follow his plan and you will see great results. Following is his plan.

***Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level.) After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.***

## **EXECUTIVE - NSAGC**

	<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
<u>Chair</u>	June Robertson	Doug Beaman	Doug Beaman	Arthur Haskins	Arthur Haskins
<u>Vice Chair</u>	Doug Beaman	Elisabeth Jackson	Arthur Haskins	Charles Berry	Charles Berry
<u>Past Chair</u>	Vernon Oickle	June Robinson	June Robinson	Doug Beaman	Doug Beaman
<u>Secretary</u>	Ann Painter	Jackie Nielson	Jackie Nielson	Jackie Nielson	Jackie Nielson
<u>Treasurer</u>	Yvonne Johnstone	Sarah Cluett	Elisabeth Jackson	Elisabeth Jackson	Elisabeth Jackson

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006**

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY**

<b><u>CAPE BRETON</u> District #1</b>	Sharon Voutier
<b><u>EASTERN</u> District #2</b>	Edgar Hart
<b><u>CENTRAL</u> District #3</b>	Ruth Graham
	Ann Richard
<b><u>HALIFAX</u> District #4</b>	Wendy Levo
<b><u>VALLEY</u> District #5</b>	Nina Dandurand
<b><u>SOUTH SHORE</u> District #6</b>	Vivian Tanner
<b><u>WESTERN</u> District #7</b>	Shirley Bradshaw

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2005-2006**

Newsletter	Carol Matthews	Truro
Tags and Seals	Ann Painter	Kentville
Historian	Arthur Haskins	Great Village
Photo Contest	John McGrath	Kentville
Awards	Sharon Voutier	North Sydney
Future Projects	Allison Magee	Berwick
Website	Elisabeth Jackson	Dartmouth



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006-2007**

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY**

<b><u>CAPE BRETON</u> District #1</b>	<b>Sharon Voutier</b>
<b><u>EASTERN</u> District #2</b>	<b>Edgar Hart</b>
<b><u>CENTRAL</u> District #3</b>	<b>Ruth Graham</b>
	<b>Ann Richard</b>
<b><u>HALIFAX</u> District #4</b>	<b>Wendy Levo</b>
<b><u>VALLEY</u> District #5</b>	<b>Nina Dandurand</b>
<b><u>SOUTH SHORE</u> District #6</b>	<b>Vivian Tanner</b>
<b><u>WESTERN</u> District #7</b>	<b>Shirley Bradshaw</b>

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2006-2007**

<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Carol Matthews</b>	<b>Truro</b>
<b>Tags and Seals</b>	<b>Ann Painter</b>	<b>Kentville</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Arthur Haskins</b>	<b>Great Village</b>
<b>Photo Contest</b>	<b>Patsy MacKenzie</b>	<b>Millville</b>
<b>Awards</b>	<b>Sharon Voutier</b>	<b>North Sydney</b>
<b>Future Projects</b>	<b>Allison Magee</b>	<b>Berwick</b>
<b>Website</b>	<b>Elisabeth Jackson</b>	<b>Dartmouth</b>

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008**

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY**

<b><u>CAPE BRETON</u> District #1</b>	Sharon Voutier
<b><u>EASTERN</u> District #2</b>	Edgar Hart
<b><u>CENTRAL</u> District #3</b>	Sandra Conrad Ann Richard
<b><u>HALIFAX</u> District #4</b>	Wendy Levo
<b><u>VALLEY</u> District #5</b>	Nina Dandurand
<b><u>SOUTH SHORE</u> District #6</b>	Charles Berry
<b><u>WESTERN</u> District #7</b>	Shirley Bradshaw

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2007-2008**

Newsletter	Carol Matthews	Truro
Tags and Seals	Ann Painter	Kentville
Historian	Arthur Haskins	Great Village
Photo Contest	Patsy MacKenzie	Millville
Awards	Sharon Voutier	North Sydney
Future Projects	June Robinson	North Sydney
Website	Elisabeth Jackson	Dartmouth

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009**

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY**

<b><u>CAPE BRETON</u> District #1</b>	Lynn Moore
<b><u>EASTERN</u> District #2</b>	Don Butler
<b><u>CENTRAL</u> District #3</b>	Sandra Conrad Ann Richard
<b><u>HALIFAX</u> District #4</b>	Wendy Levo
<b><u>VALLEY</u> District #5</b>	Nina Dandurand
<b><u>SOUTH SHORE</u> District #6</b>	Brenda Hiltz
<b><u>WESTERN</u> District #7</b>	Shirley Bradshaw

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2008-2009**

Newsletter	Ann Jones	Yarmouth
Tags and Seals	Sarah Cluett	Dartmouth
Historian	Arthur Haskins	Great Village
Photo Contest	Patsy MacKenzie	Millville
Awards	Sharon Voutier	North Sydney
Future Projects	June Robinson Doug Beaman	North Sydney Wilmot
Website	Paul Despres	Berwick

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-2010**

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY**

<b><u>CAPE BRETON</u> District #1</b>	Lynn Moore
<b><u>EASTERN</u> District #2</b>	Don Butler
<b><u>CENTRAL</u> District #3</b>	Sandra Conrad Linda Giddens
<b><u>HALIFAX</u> District #4</b>	Pamela MacLean
<b><u>VALLEY</u> District #5</b>	Tracey Martin
<b><u>SOUTH SHORE</u> District #6</b>	Brenda Hiltz
<b><u>WESTERN</u> District #7</b>	Shirley Bradshaw

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2009-2010**

Newsletter	Ann Jones	Yarmouth
Tags and Seals	Sarah Cluett	Dartmouth
Historian	Arthur Haskins	Great Village
Photo Contest	Patsy MacKenzie	Millville
Awards	Sharon Voutier	North Sydney
Future Projects	June Robinson Doug Beaman	North Sydney Wilmot
Website	Paul Despres	Berwick

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF NSAGC BOARD MEETINGS**

**2005 - 2010**

- The Board of Directors met every spring and fall to plan the operation of the NSAGC for the year.
- The NSAGC continues to provide third party liability insurance, tags and seals, training for flower and vegetable judges, an improved website with the ability to apply directly for liability insurance, and information on district happenings like flower shows and plant sales. An improved newsletter and a better distribution system using electronic mailing.
- The Future Project Committee provided a Propagation Workshop for all districts and a Daylily Project that saw a contest to name a special daylily supplied by Canning Daylilies and distribution of the named daylily “ Silver Thaw” to every member of the NSAGC in 2008. Another project undertaken by this committee is a Beautification Project open to all clubs and the winners will receive \$500 for 1<sup>st</sup>, \$300 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and \$200 for 3<sup>rd</sup>. In 2009 the committee arranged to have various perennials and bulbs distributed to all members thanks to plant material donated by Vessey Seeds.
- The number of garden centers and nurseries offering discounts to NSAGC members continues to grow each year.
- Reports from District Directors reveal that most clubs are doing well and membership continues to grow with more and more interest in gardening. The NSAGC continues to add new garden clubs each year as well as new plant specialty groups.
- The NSAGC retired the “Gardener of the Year” award and replaced it with “Outstanding Gardener Awards”, which will recognize outstanding gardeners from all seven districts in the province each year.
- The newsletter and web site have been vastly improved and provide important communication to all members of the NSAGC.
- The “Activities Contest” was revived and looked on as a great way to encourage clubs to be more active with gardening projects and receive recognition for them.

## **CONVENTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETINGS**

### **CONVENTION 2005 June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>**

St. Mary's Lion's Club Hall, Sherbrooke

**Theme“ Using Our Resources”**

The 2005 Convention visited the Eastern District and the beautiful village of Sherbrooke where we were made welcome by host St. Mary's Garden Club. The Lions Club Hall was spacious and decked out in horticultural attire, including a number of local garden vendors selling their products. During registration on Friday delegates were treated to a local delicacy, smoked salmon, donated by the Sherbrooke Smoke House, located just next door.

The convention had a full program featuring local speakers and special guest speaker Liz Primeau, former editor of Canadian Gardening Magazine. The program began with a most informative and entertaining talk on “Bees and Honey” by local bee keeper Margaret Cornect, who made us aware of the pollination value of the honeybee to our food supply and not just as a honey source.

Edgar Hart gave a very practical talk on growing roses in a maritime climate, talking about some of the major problems associated with growing roses and ideas on how to be more successful with these plants.

Technical personnel from the local Natural Resources Complex talked about reforestation and the value of managing our forest resources properly. They also gave out spruce seedlings to the delegates to take home and plant.

Sea Boost had a vendor table selling their various products and a spokesperson talked about the benefits of this product derived from seaweed harvested from our maritime waters.

Special guest speaker Liz Primeau, gave two talks, the first was on “Cottage Gardens” and the second was at the banquet on “Landscaping Your Front Yard”.

The club floral arrangement contest featured two classes, “Beautiful Nova Scotia”, and “ Nova Scotia Welcomes Spring”, the arrangements providing a beautiful display next to the stage.

## **CONVENTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETINGS**

### **CONVENTION 2006 June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Kings College, Halifax**

**Theme "HRM - A Horticultural Spectrum"**

The 2006 Convention returned to the metro area hosted by the Halifax District at the University of Kings College campus. Registration began Friday afternoon, later in the evening a meet and greet social was held with entertainment, followed by a guided tour of the Halifax Public Gardens. The floral competition had three categories, the first "Coastal Gardens", the second "City Plots, and third "Rural Vistas".

Saturday morning saw an early start to the convention with breakfast followed by the annual general meeting then by the scheduled lectures. The special guest speaker for the convention was Kathy Renwald who hosts the Gardening Network show "Gardeners Journal". Her first gardening talk "Style and Substance", gave many ideas to those attending. Her second talk, presented at the banquet was titled "Views and Vistas".

Other presenters at the convention were Melanie Priesnitz who told all about the Nova Scotia Plant Watch program, and Jeff Morton who talked about the many and varied "Ornamental Grasses" that are so popular now with gardeners.

An added highlight to this years convention was the addition of an extra event on Sunday: gardeners who stayed a little longer were treated to a tour of the gardens of Dr. Stewart McInnis located on the Northwest Arm.

## **CONVENTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETINGS**

### **CONVENTION 2007 June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Rodd Grand Hotel, Yarmouth**

**Theme "This is My Garden"**

The Rodd Grand Hotel was a bee hive of activity from the beginning of the convention until the end. Friday started with registration in the hotel foyer followed by a reception put on by the Town of Yarmouth in Frost Park just across the street from the hotel.

A dozen or so Vendors were set up in the hotel selling various gardening materials and plants, which proved to be very popular. There was also a Plant Sale between 5 and 6 o'clock in the Digby Room. The official opening in the evening was followed by refreshments and a social time.

Saturday began with the annual general meeting. Draws for door prizes and a number of workshops came next. At lunch the special guest speaker William Alexander talked about "The \$64.00 Tomato". After lunch there were more workshops on Eco-Systems, Rhododendrons, Scrap Booking, Lilies, and garden tours which were well attended. The floral competition featured three classes: wreath, arrangement, and composition.

A "Hat Event" was held on Saturday proving to be very popular. Eighty-eight people took part and had a lot of fun. The Parade of Hats took place at the Lunch on Saturday, with winners announced. Peoples Choice - Brenda Tate, Best of Theme - Donna Quigley, Most Colour - Sarah Cluett, and Most Original - Janet Swan.

A wonderful banquet ended the evening with guest speaker Willian Alexander speaking on "One Man's Weed is Another Man's Salad".



# **CONVENTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETINGS**

## **CONVENTION 2008 June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>**

Holiday Inn Hotel, Truro

**Theme “I Dig Gardening”**

The convention began on a bit of a rough note as the organizing committee arrived early Friday morning and discovered the convention entrance and registration area still under construction. A visit to the management office made for a quick exit of workmen and activity, and within an hour or so everything was back on track. The newly renovated hotel made for an ideal place to hold the convention. There were two large rooms, one for the lectures and another for meals. The large reception area and wide hallway worked well for the dozen or so vendors that were selling horticultural goods. Reports back from patrons staying overnight at the hotel stated that the newly renovated rooms were very nice.

The keynote speaker for the convention had to cancel out, but Professor Lloyd Mapplebeck from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, offered to fill in for her. Lloyds first talk “Container Gardening” and his second at the banquet on “New Plants” was well received.

Other presenters at the convention were Bernard Jackson, a well known horticulturalist now living in Truro, who spoke on the development of the “Rock Garden” located on the campus of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Bible Hill. Cliff Sandeson, a retired teacher and amateur photographer discussed photographic equipment and techniques to help members achieve better results with their photos. Roxanne Beavers who works with the Organic Agricultural Center of Canada and an organic farm inspector answered questions about organic gardening. Also as part of the program was a self guided trip to the NSAC Rock Garden, where members of “Friends of the Gardens” offered information on the rock garden and the many plants growing there.

The entries for floral competition using the theme “I Dig Gardening” decorated the stage. First place was won by an entry from the Hants North Late Bloomers Garden Club. Luckily we did not have to engrave their name on a trophy! They received a nice prize instead.

Special recognition was also given to Anna Wilkie of the Dartmouth Horticultural Society for winning the “Name That Daylily” contest. Her winning entry was “Silver Thaw”. Special recognition also needs to be extended to Canning Daylilies owners Wayne Storrie and Wayne Ward for their support of this project. The amount of daylily material and the work involved by them far exceeded the modest amount they charged us for the daylilies.

## **CONVENTIONS AND ANNUAL MEETINGS**

### **CONVENTION 2009 June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**

Royal Canadian Legion, Pictou

#### **Theme “Preserving the Past for Our Future”**

The Pictou Garden Club was the official host for the 2009 Convention and they staged a great weekend of gardening talks, plant vendors, tasty food and wonderful hospitality.

The convention began with a series of self guided garden tours featuring some of the horticultural secrets of Pictou Town. You could spend as much time as you wished at each site garnering many ideas and gardening tips from the owners. At the official opening Friday evening Convention Chair Dawn Westhaver brought greetings from the host club Pictou Garden Club. The featured speaker for the evening was Pam Ross talking on “Heirloom and Native Plants”. Her approach to the subject was both informative, thought provoking, and at times outright hilarious, keeping her audience spellbound throughout. The evening concluded with a wonderful lunch and entertainment, setting the stage for what was to come the next day. Just adjacent to the main entrance was a room containing a dozen or more plant vendors who were kept busy selling a wide selection of garden plants to willing convention goers. The amount of plant material some people packed into their cars would even make a sardine packer envious.

Saturday morning started bright and early with the NSAGC AGM followed by Gwynne Basen whos talk “ It All Begins With A Seed” was most interesting and made us take stock of where we are going in the future with food production. The morning session was dotted with draws for door prizes, refreshments and entertainment. After a wonderful Lunch we listened to Michelle Smith tell us how to save our own seeds and then Ty Murray co-founder of the New Glasgow Market and an organic grower talked about the many advantages of buying local food stuffs. Closing remarks were given to close the program portion of the convention and plant material donated by Vessey Seeds was distributed to district directors.

The evening concluded with a banquet, awards presentations, entertainment and featured a key note address by Gwynne Basen who spoke to us about “The Beauty of Biodiversity”.

This was one of the most interesting and thought provoking conventions in recent times and perhaps served as a wake up call for us gardeners to pay greater attention to where our food comes from and how it is produced.

## **DISTRICT MEETINGS**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Host</u>
<b>2005</b>	Oct 14	Cape Breton	Glance Bay Garden Club
	Oct 15	Eastern	Pictou Garden Club
	May 11	Central	Valley Weeders Garden Club
	April 30	Halifax	Dartmouth Hort Society
		Valley	Mount Denson Garden Club
	Sept 10	South Shore	Lunenburg and Area Garden Club
	Oct 15	Western	Bridgetown Area Garden Club
*****			
<b>2006</b>	Oct	Cape Breton	Glance Bay Garden Club
	May 10	Central	Wentworth Valley Garden Club
	April	Valley	Forties Garden Club
	Sept 23	South Shore	Chester Garden Club
	Oct 15	Western	Yarmouth Garden Club
*****			
<b>2007</b>	May	Cape Breton	North Sydney Garden Club
	May 17	Central	Village Garden Club
	April 21	Valley	Charing Cross Garden Club
	April 14	Western	Pubnico and Area Garden Club
*****			
<b>2008</b>	April 25	Valley	Valley Gardeners
	May 26	South Shore	Queens Garden Club
	July 12	Cape Breton	New Waterford Garden Club
	Sept 13	Central	Great Village Garden Club
	Oct 4	Western	Yarmouth Garden Club
	Oct 18	Eastern	Lismore & District Garden Club
*****			
<b>2009</b>	April 25	Valley	Valley Gardeners Garden Club
	April 25	Halifax	Bedford Hort Society
	May 9	Central	Hilden Garden Club
	July 11	Cape Breton	Westmount Garden Club
	Sept 19	South Shore	Mahone Bay Garden Club
	Oct 3	Western	Clements Garden Club
	Oct 17	Eastern	Antigonish Garden Club

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

### **Gardener of The Year**

The gardener of the year should have a garden and demonstrate the ability to grow plants well, including flower gardens, vegetable gardens, container gardens, houseplants and or water gardens. The nominee should also promote gardening; i.e. lecturing or demonstrating how to garden, arrange flowers etc. The person should be active in a club, helping with flower shows, plant sales, district meetings, attending conventions and or serving as a judge. Also include other garden related activities, breeding plants, composting, maintaining a public garden etc.

Gardener of the Year - 2005 Rita Appelboom Shelburne G C

2006 No Award Given

2007 Norma Baldock Bible Hill G C

### **Outstanding Gardeners Awards**

After the 2007 Convention the Gardener of the Year Award was replaced by a new award called Outstanding Gardeners Award that is give to an outstanding gardener from each of the districts. The same criteria applies as the previous award. The winners will be selected by each district director who will then submit their name to the Awards Chairperson.

### **Tags and Seals**

This is a very popular and valuable program of the NSAGC. The tags and seals are used by many clubs for their flower and vegetable shows as well as special programs with school and 4H youth. Most years see in excess of 2000 seals and 2300 tags utilized by these clubs. The chair of the Tags and Seals committee, Ann Painter of Kentville, after many years of fine service, turned the responsibility over to Sarah Cluett of Dartmouth in 2008.

### **Yearbooks**

Many clubs do scrapbooks of their activities throughout the year and are encouraged to bring them to the annual convention to allow other clubs to view what they do in their district. A certificate is given to all those clubs presenting their yearbook at convention in appreciation of the work the club has done in compiling this information.

### **Website**

The NSAGC embarked on a new and exciting venture in 2005 with the establishment of an official NSAGC Website. Elisabeth Jackson took on the task of setting this up and trying to get members to participate in supplying various portions of the website. Things were slow at first as many were hesitant to get on board this cyberspace train, but after a few years things began to pick up, helped by the fact many more of our members became computer owners. Lis in 2008 turned her web master responsibilities over to the very capable Paul Despres. Paul has continued to expand and improve the web site over the past few years and it has become one of our most important communication tools we have to receive and send out information to the membership.

### **Newsletter**

In 2005 a new Newsletter Editor was appointed, Carol Matthews of Truro. One of the first things Carol set about doing was to get a new name for the newsletter. A contest was held and from all the submissions a winner was chosen, "Scotia Gardener" submitted by Dona Benac of the North Sydney Garden Club was to be the new name. The circulation number for each issue of the newsletter was around 1600 and was bulk mailed to the club secretary for circulation at their meetings. In 2008 Ann Jones from the Yarmouth Garden Club became editor and as all new editors in the past have done, began to make improvements. Ann began to put colour photographs in the issues although the print copies are still in black and white, and set up an e-mail list to send the newsletter out faster and at less cost than was previously done. Many members have bought into this way of getting the newsletter and this has helped defray the escalating costs of printing and postage. Over 50 % of the membership now receives the newsletter electronically in a much faster time and with colour photos. Ann has also added many more club activities with pictures in each issue which seems very popular. This publication is our main communication with every member in every club, so take advantage of this resource to get your ideas out there to all gardeners in Nova Scotia.

## **Photo Contest**

The photo contest is open to all amateur photographers residing in Nova Scotia. Each contestant must either be a member of the NSAGC or belong to a members family. Photos are judged on originality, composition, proper focus and exposure. John McGrath followed by Patsy MacKenzie have been the chairs of this committee for the past five years and have done a fine job of promoting the contest, presenting the photos at convention, keeping track of entries, getting a judge to make the decisions on the winning photos and securing prizes for the winners. We would like to thank all the effort of the judges over the years and a special thank you to Lee Valley Tools and Vesey's Seeds for sponsoring the prizes for the top photos in the contest.

### **Top Winners Photo Contest - 2005**

- 1<sup>st</sup> -Ericka Crowell - Valley Gardeners G.C.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> -Agnes Murray - Pictou G.C.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> -Brenda Hiltz - Basin Gardeners Association

### **Top Winners Photo Contest - 2007**

- 35 mm Category** 1<sup>st</sup> -Adrienne Maynard - Hammonds Plains & Area G.C.  
2<sup>nd</sup> -Myra Knight -Chester G.C.  
3<sup>rd</sup> -Erika Crowell - Valley Gardeners G.C.

- Digital Category** 1<sup>st</sup> -Nancy Guest - Basin Gardeners Association  
2<sup>nd</sup> -Brenda Tate - Yarmouth G.C.  
3<sup>rd</sup> -Brenda Tate - Yarmouth G.C.

### **Top Winners Photo Contest - 2008**

- 35 mm Category** 1<sup>st</sup> -Adrienne Maynard - Hammonds Plains & Area G.C.  
2<sup>nd</sup> -Myra Knight - Basin Gardeners Association  
3<sup>rd</sup> -Linda Giddens - Great Village G.C.

- Digital Category** 1<sup>st</sup> -Erika Crowell - Valley Gardeners G.C.  
2<sup>nd</sup> -Brenda Tate - Yarmouth G.C.  
3<sup>rd</sup> -Doris Tye - Nicholsville G.C.

## **Top Winners Photo Contest - 2009**

- 35 mm Category** 1<sup>st</sup> -Tina Poirier - Pictou G.C.  
2<sup>nd</sup> -Sharon Voutier -North Sydney G.C.  
3<sup>rd</sup> -Adrienne Maynard - Hammonds Plains & Area G.C.

- Digital Category** 1<sup>st</sup> -Charles McPhee - New Waterford G.C.  
2<sup>nd</sup> -Brenda Hiltz - Basin Gardeners Association  
3<sup>rd</sup> -Brenda Tate - Yarmouth G.C.

## **Judging Schools**

There have been three successful Judging Schools held over the last five years. In Cape Breton District under the leadership of Yvonne Johnston five new flower and vegetable judges graduated and are actively judging in shows in the area. Congratulations to Patsy MacKenzie, Kathy MacIntyre, Sharon Voutier, Thelma MacKillop and Paula Peinsznski.

The second Judging School was held in the Valley District with Nina Dandurand and Allison Magee doing the training. Joanne Jellett, Jenifer Niemi, Tracy Martin, Jana Fejtek, Barbara Friedman, and Ann Crosley have completed the course and are actively judging in shows far and wide.

The third group of judges who will graduate from a Judging School is a group from the Western District who travel to the Kentville area to train under the guidance of Nina Dandurand and Allison Magee.

These Judging Schools take a lot of time and effort not only for the students taking the course but especially those who develop the training material, take the time to teach, and who mentor each student through this program. These individuals are not highly paid professionals but highly skilled volunteers who offer their time and skills to train new judges just to support the NSAGC. A huge Thank You goes out to these people who made all of this happen and without whom we would be lacking qualified flower and vegetable judges in Nova Scotia.

The executive is currently working with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College to develop a Judging Course that could be completed online to make the certification of judges more efficient.

## *Flower Shows*

Flower shows play a significant role in the activities of many garden clubs and horticultural societies throughout the province. These shows provide the public the opportunity to see garden flowers grown to horticultural perfection and are often the first place to see new cultivars that have come onto the market. Gardeners get the chance at these shows to flaunt their gardening prowess in a fun way to their fellow competitors but at the same time give new members some of their tips to gain championship form. All districts have a number of flower shows to attend and some clubs even have more than one show a year.

In the *Valley District* clubs like Wilmot, Charing Cross, Forties, Valley Gardeners, Mount Denson, and Nicholsville all stage wonderful flower shows in their communities.

*Central District* with the largest number of clubs has the fewest number of flower shows, Bible Hill, Village, Valley Weeders, and Hilden all have had successful flower shows the last five years.

Another busy district is *South Shore District* with Chester, Basin Gardeners, Bridgewater, and Shelburne all hosting great flower shows with lots of interest at each venue.

The *Halifax District* had a number of shows hosted by Halifax Westmoor with their regular show and the provincial rose show, Bedford, and Dartmouth.

*Cape Breton District* clubs were busy holding a number of shows, North Sydney with a regular show and a rose show, Glace Bay, Westmount, and New Waterford.

In the *Eastern District* both St. Marys and Pictou held successful flower shows and had lots of interest from the public.

The *Western District* held some outstanding flower shows in recent years, Yarmouth, Champlain, Pubnico, and Weymouth all did a great job.

Flower shows require a great amount of planning and a lot of man hours to support such a venture. These shows in many ways showcase gardening in our province and without them we would be the much poorer. Thanks goes out to all the clubs and their members who support horticulture in this way, with their time, effort and dedication.

The several specialty plant societies in the NSAGC have held a number of special flower shows to showcase their special flower.

## *Plant Sales*

This activity has been a major fund raiser for most clubs in the province, providing funds to support numerous gardening projects in their communities. The plant sale calendar runs from early May until late July with many club members traveling every weekend to take in a different sale, or even several sales on one day. As well as a fund raiser for the clubs these sales help distribute many of the older heirloom perennials to many more gardens, thus ensuring their continued survival. A number of clubs have also taken advantage of the bulk sales of daylilies from Canning Daylilies and then resell them at a profit. Also many clubs sell spring bulbs from Vesey's as a fund raiser.



Clubs in the *Valley District* having plant sales were Mount Denson, Wilmot, Haliburton, Charing Cross, Valley Gardeners, and Forties. In the *Central District* clubs having plant sales for the public or their own members were, Great Village, Debert, Village, Wentworth, Parrsboro, Bible Hill, Stewiacke Garden Society, Valley Weeders, Hilden, Cobequid, Stewiacke Valley, and Country Garden Club. Clubs in *South Shore District* holding plant sales were Chester, Queens, Lunenburg, Bridgewater, Riverport, Mahone Bay, Shelburne, and Basin Gardeners. *Halifax District* clubs having plant sales were Halifax Westmoor, Dartmouth, Bedford, and Eastern Shore. Clubs in *Cape Breton District* having successful plant sales were Inverness, North Sydney, Westmount, Glace Bay, and New Waterford. Clubs in the *Western District* holding plant sales were Yarmouth, Clare, Admiral Digby, and Clements. A number of clubs in the *Eastern District* also hold plant sales. Highland, St. Mary's, Guysborough, Lismore and District, Antigonish, Westville and Area, and Pictou, all have had plant sales. Of the sixty four clubs and affiliates in the province over forty-six have reported to have had plants sales.

### **Community Projects**

Anyone who has a view of garden clubs as a group of old ladies sitting around in a garden sipping tea and munching on finger sandwiches are so wrong. Garden clubs do a tremendous amount of work in our communities to beautify their own properties as well as planting trees, shrubs and flowers around public buildings, parks, welcome signs, cenotaphs and cemeteries. These clubs do all this work while keeping a low profile, for getting the job done is of greater importance to them then receiving any credit. As well as the many man hours put in doing this work, these same clubs support these projects financially. In fact most monies raised by clubs throughout the year is spent on community projects. In an age of continued government financial cutbacks, garden clubs have stepped in to maintain beautification projects in virtually all communities with a club or society and have funded these projects themselves. Following is a list of some of the activities carried out by clubs around the province.

- ❁ Pictou G.C. places hanging baskets throughout the town.
- ❁ Chester G.C. looks after the Cove Garden and Parade Garden in town.
- ❁ Inverness G.C. places 70 hanging baskets and 40 half barrels around town.
- ❁ Riverport G.C. supports the maintenance of Ritcey Garden in their community.
- ❁ Valley Weeders, New Waterford, Debert, Stewiacke Valley, and St. Marys enter floats in local parades.
- ❁ Virtually all clubs planted and maintained flower beds throughout their communities.
- ❁ The Country G.C. and the North Sydney G.C. planted daffodils in their local "Field of Hope".
- ❁ Mahone Bay G.C. takes care of an Aquatic Garden and planting at Heritage Cemetery .
- ❁ Guysborough G.C. places hanging baskets through out town and plants vegetables for local food bank.
- ❁ St. Mary's G.C. supports the upkeep of the Pioneer Memorial Park..

- ✿ A number of clubs build and fill planters throughout their communities.
- ✿ Shelburne G.C. looks after the Alma Chetwynd Garden.
- ✿ Many clubs plant spring flowering bulbs in the same beds they plant annuals for the summer.
- ✿ Stewiacke Garden Society plants beds at “Halfway Between Equator and North Pole” signs.
- ✿ Community Christmas Trees are a popular project for many clubs: Great Village, Bridgewater, Valley Weeders, North Sydney, St. Mary’s, Parrsboro, Lunenburg and Stewiacke Valley all report decorating trees.
- ✿ Stewiacke Valley G.C. takes care of flower beds at local site “Crockett Park”.
- ✿ Bible Hill G.C. plants spring bulbs at their “Holy Well Park”.
- ✿ North Sydney G.C. do up arrangements and deliver them to the Palliative Care unit at the North Side Hospital.
- ✿ A number of clubs report donating gardening books to local libraries.
- ✿ Many clubs collect food stuffs at various functions and donate to their local food banks.
- ✿ Many clubs donate a portion of their plant sale and other fund raisers to local food banks.
- ✿ The Cobequid G.C. cares for the Memorial Gardens flower beds at the Economy Rec Center.
- ✿ Great Village made a sizable donation to the newly developed Veterans Memorial Garden in Bass River.
- ✿ The Debert G.C. cares for flower beds at the Riverside Park and welcome signs to the area..
- ✿ Wentworth G.C. decorates the Community Rec Center for many local events.
- ✿ Village G.C. plants three gardens in their community including one in a local park.
- ✿ A number of clubs support the CNIB fund raiser of potted crocus bulbs.
- ✿ Valley Weeders plant a number of flower beds and helped develop the new Cornerstone Park.
- ✿ The Mount Denson G.C. looks after the care of the Mini Park in Falmouth.
- ✿ The Basin Gardeners Association sponsors a “Container Garden Competition”.
- ✿ The North Sydney G.C. holds a flower arrangement workshop in local schools.
- ✿ Bible Hill G.C. holds a public flower arrangement workshop every year for centerpieces.
- ✿ Pictou G.C. distributes nasturtium seed and planting containers to schools for spring planting.
- ✿ Valley Gardeners care for the Courtyard Garden at the Valley Regional Hospital in Kentville.
- ✿ Basin Gardeners Association has began work on the new “Anvil Park” in their community.
- ✿ Bridgewater G.C. puts a lot of work into the “Veterans Memorial Park”.
- ✿ The Charing Cross G.C. donated seeds for planting at a local school for a Butterfly Project.
- ✿ Many clubs around the province support Christmas Index, Christmas Daddies, etc each year.
- ✿ Many clubs provide seed kits to school children to help them understand how things grow.
- ✿ Many clubs provide money, leaders, and judges for 4H projects around the province.
- ✿ More and more clubs each year design and produce beautiful “Welcome” signs landscaped with flower beds for their communities.
- ✿ Many clubs held “Pruning Workshops” put on by their own members trained through the NSAGC Future Projects committee.

- ❁ The Basin Gardeners Association held a special “Floral Art Show” in 2005 combining both art forms. They also donated marigold seedlings to school children for planting at the school.
- ❁ The Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia in 2006 hosted the American Dahlia Society National Show with close to 2000 dahlia blooms on display at the Weston Hotel Ballroom in Halifax.
- ❁ Many clubs see education as a major mandate of their clubs activities, not only to educate their own members but also to extend this mandate into their community. A number of clubs have established bursaries to aid students in the pursuit of horticultural related education. Some bursaries are small while others are of considerable size, but all are important. All gardeners need to thank the clubs who pursue this wonderful endeavor. Thanks goes out to Country Garden Club, Westville and Area Garden Club, Hants North Late Bloomers Garden Club, St. Mary’s Garden Club, Stewiacke Garden Society, Mount Denson Garden Club, Wentworth Garden Club, Great Village Garden Club, Valley Weeders Garden Club, Stewiacke Valley Garden Club, Village Garden Club,, Bible Hill Garden Club, Bedford Horticultural Society, and New Waterford Garden Club. I’m sure there are a few clubs and societies that present bursaries but did not include them in any report and so we congratulate them as well.

### **Club Programs**

Perhaps the most important part of any garden club meeting is the program. Clubs around the province are most inventive when it comes to garden club program topics. Some clubs are lucky enough to have professional horticultural experts from different colleges, research stations or universities situated near them, while other clubs have to entice local amateurs with expertise in the field of gardening to speak at their club meetings. Here are a number of topics sent in by clubs for you to check out and perhaps copy for your own club program.

- ❁ How to grow Daylilies.
- ❁ Ornamental grasses.
- ❁ Photography in the Garden.
- ❁ Sharpening your garden Tools.
- ❁ Identifying harmful garden insects.
- ❁ Identifying the Good Insects.
- ❁ Planting Seeds.
- ❁ Transplanting seedlings and Hardening Off.
- ❁ Plant Watch.
- ❁ Bees and Honey.
- ❁ Composting made Simple.
- ❁ Lawn Care.
- ❁ Mulches and their Benefits.
- ❁ Making Christmas Centerpieces.
- ❁ How to grow Lilies.
- ❁ Food Security.
- ❁ Water Gardens.
- ❁ How to make Christmas Wreaths and Swags.

- 🍷 Growing New Perennials.
- 🍷 Planting Roses.
- 🍷 Heirloom Plants.
- 🍷 How to grow Bearded and Siberian Iris.
- 🍷 Identifying plant diseases.
- 🍷 Edible Landscapes.
- 🍷 Plant Identification.
- 🍷 Growing Heaths and Heathers.
- 🍷 Seed or Plant Exchanges.
- 🍷 Spring Flowering Bulbs.
- 🍷 Growing Rhododendrons and Azaleas.
- 🍷 Peonies- Double, Single and Japanese.
- 🍷 Sandstone Ornaments.
- 🍷 Growing Dahlias and Gladiolus.
- 🍷 Organic Gardening.
- 🍷 Herbs.
- 🍷 Attracting Birds to the Garden.
- 🍷 Hypertufa Planters.
- 🍷 Dying wool with natural plant extracts.
- 🍷 Growing Orchids.
- 🍷 Nova Scotia Wildflowers.
- 🍷 Owls.
- 🍷 Making Garden Journals.
- 🍷 Seaweed Fertilizers.
- 🍷 Drying and Pressing Flowers.
- 🍷 Growing Summer and Winter Squash.
- 🍷 How to Grow and Prune different Clematis.
- 🍷 Saving your own Seed.
- 🍷 Plant Propagation.
- 🍷 Hardy Geraniums.
- 🍷 Canada Blooms.
- 🍷 Hemp and its products.
- 🍷 Growing Garlic.
- 🍷 Cacti and Succulents.
- 🍷 Slides of Trips to Japan, England, Finland, Mexico, Ireland, Arizona, and Newfoundland.
- 🍷 Garden Design.
- 🍷 Strawberry varieties, along with sample tasting.
- 🍷 Lichens.
- 🍷 Mammoth Mums.
- 🍷 Bonsai
- 🍷 Petunias.
- 🍷 Twig Furniture Construction.
- 🍷 Wine making.
- 🍷 Rearing Racing Pigeons.

- ☞ African Violets.
- ☞ Christmas Plants.
- ☞ Growing and using Horseradish.
- ☞ Outdoor Winter Arrangements.
- ☞ Carving Vegetables.
- ☞ Home canning and preserving.
- ☞ Growing plants in a Greenhouse.
- ☞ Scrap Booking.
- ☞ Manure Tea
- ☞ Oriental Flower Arrangements.
- ☞ Preparing exhibits for show.
- ☞ Medicinal Plants.
- ☞ Physiotherapy tips to avoid injuries in the garden.

### **Anniversaries**

Congratulations go out to the following Garden Clubs who celebrated special anniversaries over the past five years. The longevity of these clubs is a testament to the commitment and dedication that their members have to their clubs and communities they serve.

#### **2006**

60<sup>th</sup> Shelburne County Garden Club  
 55<sup>th</sup> Riverport Garden Club  
 50<sup>th</sup> Wilmot Garden Club  
 10<sup>th</sup> Wentworth Garden Club

#### **2007**

60<sup>th</sup> Glace Bay Garden Club  
 20<sup>th</sup> Guysborough Garden Club

#### **2008**

50<sup>th</sup> North Sydney Garden Club  
 25<sup>th</sup> Valley Gardeners Garden Club

#### **2009**

70<sup>th</sup> Chester Garden Club  
 70<sup>th</sup> Pictou Garden Club  
 60<sup>th</sup> Bridgewater Garden Club  
 50<sup>th</sup> Westmount Garden Club  
 10<sup>th</sup> Mahone Bay Garden Club

On behalf of their communities I want to thank all of these clubs for all their time and effort they have expended over the years to make their town a more beautiful and serene place to visit and live.

## **Tours and Events**

Garden Clubs not only carry out events for their own members but often invite the general public to participate as well. A number of clubs have members that open their gardens to the public for viewing. Many clubs have open workshops where people can learn about pruning, seed propagation, landscaping, flower arranging, wreath making, and composting. Many of these functions are offered at cost or are a fund raiser for a local charity. Perhaps we should mention here the great work done by Dartmouth Hort Society member Sarah Cluett who created the "Gardens Galore Tours" to raise funds for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada.

Some clubs car pool and tour gardens outside their local area, but in recent times the trend has been to charter a bus and driver to take them to these same gardens. Rhododendrons in the Valley and the South Shore are particular favorites, along with the Irving Gardens, Canning Daylilies, Halifax Public Gardens with harbor boat tour, NSAC Rock Garden, and every hole in the wall garden center or nursery along the way.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

We have lost some wonderful gardeners and friends in the past five years. We acknowledge their dedication to their clubs and their communities. Some of those no longer with us are:

- ♡ 2005 - Sheldon Langille - member of the Dartmouth Hort Society and Past Pres of NSAGC.
- ♡ 2006 - Jim Morrison - a valued member of the Glace Bay G.C.
- ♡ 2006 - Frank Buxton - a valued member of the Stewiacke Valley G.C.
- ♡ 2007 - Art Henderson - a stalwart in the Weymouth G.C. and Past Pres of NSAGC.
- ♡ 2007 - Eileen Hallett - a valued member of the Weymouth G.C.
- ♡ 2007 - Ken Coudrey - member of the Halifax Westmoor Hort Society and Dahlia Society of NS
- ♡ 2007 - George Moffat - member of the Halifax Westmoor Hort Society.
- ♡ 2009 - Edie MacLeod - a stalwart in the Glace Bay G.C.
- ♡ 2009 - Myrtle Kregor - life member of the Great Village G.C.
- ♡ 2009 - Barry MacKenzie - member of the Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia