



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Minutes
October 22, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Willow Bend Motel
177 Willow Street, Truro

#	Item
	<p>In attendance: Kathy d'Entremont Deb Bowes-Lyon Ginny Blayney Pamela MacLean Anne Gratton Sharon Bryson Ro Allen Melissa Weir Michele Stevens Susan Hazelwood Nancy MacCara Geoff MacDonald Glynis Thomas Liz Hill Regrets: Brenda Grasser, Emily Walker</p>
1.	<p>Review Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting – April 30, 2022 Ginny moved to accept the minutes, as circulated. Seconded by Michele. Motion passed.</p>
2.	<p>Old Business</p> <p>a. Convention 2022 Report Liz presented the Convention report and evaluation. One item that was mentioned was that there were no fruit or fruit juices at the nutrition break. Overall, the satisfaction rating was very high – 9.26 out of 10. Board discussed Convention and Rallies. Convention information is already in the manual and the evaluation form will be added shortly. Ro suggested a Convention Book to be passed along to each district holding the Convention and Pamela added that this always used to be the case.</p> <p>b. Strategic Plan (Deb) Deb recapped on where we are currently with the strategic plan. She is looking to recruit a couple of members to form a committee so that we can move forward on this. Michele and Anne volunteered, and Nancy may also join. Glynis mentioned that she would like to review the Strategic Plan to provide input.</p> <p>c. Club Speakers lists Are we able to compile a list of speakers by district? Melissa asked</p>

	<p>whether there was guidance on finding speakers, and Michele wanted to know how she could help her presidents with this issue. Pamela spoke about checking in the Histories and the Scotia Gardener to see what clubs have been doing. Liz noted that not all speakers are professionals; try recruiting speakers from within your clubs. What do your clubs want to know more about?</p> <p>A couple of presidents spoke about how they arrange their programming, i.e. brainstorming sessions among anyone interested in providing input, etc.</p> <p>d. Facebook Advertisements (Nancy MacCara)</p> <p>Nancy spoke about Harbour Breezes Daylilies wanting some return for offering members a discount. Are they allowed to advertise on our FB page? Susan noted that links to garden centres are already available on the website. Pamela referred to Allan Banks being put out that he couldn't advertise on the FB page.</p> <p>Melissa confirmed that when a garden centre signs up to offer a discount, their information is added to the website.</p> <p>Deb spoke about the FB page – although sales are not part of our mandate, sale are permitted on the promotions day thread.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>a. Diamond Jubilee Bible Hill GC (event program)</p> <p>This event was postponed.</p> <p>Do we have any recognition program for club milestones? At the moment we just request that clubs advise us of milestones and we can add them to the website (calendar?). Could we add in an award for Most Improved club and recognize it at Convention?</p> <p>** Susan offered to collect the information from the assessment forms on numbers to enable us to do this.</p> <p>b. Training for new Board Members</p> <p>The last Board Member training was in 2016 and Vicky Willis was the chair. Kathy set a date for training (November 12th?) Susan will check availability of hotel/board room.</p> <p>c. Procedure for Assessments</p> <p>Susan recapped on the assessment process. Forms are sent out in September and the deadline for clubs to have forms and fees submitted is 1st March. This year forms can be submitted online and fees via etrf. Susan will update DDs on 1st Jan, 1st Feb, and 1st Mar as to which clubs haven't yet paid. Without payment, clubs will not maintain NSAGC membership and will not be able to benefit from insurance coverage, discounts, etc.</p> <p>** Susan has prepared a document on the Assessment process and will circulate it to DDs.</p> <p>d. Financial Audit 2022/23</p> <p>Each year one new person should be included in the audit process. Deb and Geoff will perform the audit at Susan's.</p> <p>e. Plant Giveaway 2023</p> <p>Last year's plugs had a mixed reception. Some members had issues with the plants thriving, as they were so small when received. Not all the extra plants were sold, and it was a lot of work to keep the extra plants alive.</p>

	<p>How many plants should we order this year? Etrf is now available (yay). It was determined that it is better to run out of plants than to have left overs. Michele suggested putting the care instructions on the website.</p> <p>Geoff presented the plants that he thought were suitable and the Board selected the Scabiosa.</p> <p>Geoff made a motion to increase the price of extra plants to \$3. And order 2700. Seconded by Michele. Motion passed.</p> <p>f. Communications Chat Groups</p> <p>In an attempt to get away from the large chain emails that end up circulating between board members, we will try to communicate on simple items by FB chat groups. Deb will set up one for the Executive and one for the Board.</p> <p>Glynis requested that emails contain 'NSAGC' in the subject line for clarity.</p> <p>g. Convention 2023 – District 4</p> <p>The starting suggestion is \$50 for the Convention registration and \$50 for the evening meal, but this will be reviewed by the Convention committee as costings roll in and could increase. Payments will be accepted by etrf. Accommodation will be available at Mount St Vincent. 'Pods' will be available at \$129 + tax per night for a 4 bedroom unit.</p> <p>Liz asked about the distance from the accommodation to the event location and Susan advised it was about 3 buildings over, so about half a city block. The theme is 'Working with Nature'.</p> <p>h. Convention 2024 – District 7</p> <p>Ro will be the DD for this convention and has a lot of questions, such as how to go about selecting a location. The last District 7 Convention was at the Rodd Grand in Yarmouth. How about the Digby Pines, or Annapolis Basin Conference Centre? Susan offered to help with guidance as she has experience in this.</p> <p>i. Deer culls (Michele Stevens)</p> <p>One of Michele's presidents brought up the subject of whether the NSAGC would support a petition for a deer cull. Questions were raised concerning whether the NSAGC is a lobbying group, as suggested by Arthur Haskins' comments in the past. Pamela talked about the various initiatives that the NSAGC had been behind, such as anti-littering signs on the highways, introduction of provincial gardening week, etc.</p> <p>The consensus was that we would not be supporting a drive for a deer cull, but that we wouldn't rule out supporting other initiatives in the future.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Reports Highlights (to be circulated prior to meeting)</p> <p>a. Treasurer / Tags & Seals</p> <p>Susan – Tags and seals are now part of the Treasurer's report. For the sake of transparency, it is important for the Board to approve the Profit and Loss statement and to pass this information on to the membership.</p> <p>It was noted that it is important to verify funding sources for projects BEFORE they are entered into.</p>

It was suggested that we might be able to make better use of our \$10k savings by putting it into some form of investment, such as a GIC. Susan made a motion to approve the financial reports. Seconded by Michele. Motion passed.

b. Web Content Manager

Susan – New site was introduced January 2022. Feedback from the Board is appreciated. The events calendar is a useful tool and we could make more use of it.

Deb asked for input on what we want to see for the next phase of the site's development.

c. Newsletter

Emily(absent) – Designing of ads is taking up a lot of Emily's time, and it was agreed that she shouldn't be doing the design work for our advertisers. They must submit something ready to go into the newsletter if they wish to advertise.

Ro asked why we have a website AND a newsletter, and it was determined that if interest in the newsletter wanes significantly, we would consider dispensing with it all together. Could we canvas opinions on the newsletter and website at Convention?

d. Facebook

The page is going well. Moderators and admins are screening members, monitoring posts, and keeping it all in good shape.

e. Plant Giveaway

Geoff has already spoken on this.

f. Photo Contest

Deb asked if there were any questions about the photo contest. None were mentioned.

The rules require revision - Sharon is in the process of revising the online procedural document. When it is complete, she will submit it to Susan for inclusion in the website, and to Emily for the newsletter.

For judging, we require a chair plus two others. Should the chair be involved in judging as they would be aware of the names of the contestants? Pamela mentioned that just one judge is usual. The chair just organizes the contest.

It was determined that photos should be submitted via the NSAGC photo contest email, not into Sharon's personal email. Sharon, Deb, and Susan to discuss this further.

g. Historian

No contact has been received from Dixie.

h. Awards

Pamela presented her Awards and Nomination Committee reports.

i. District Directors

Reports submitted:

1. Glynis – enjoying meeting members and getting out to clubs, but felt she was not getting enough done.
2. Anne – enjoying visiting clubs and getting to the District Rally
3. Brenda – Liz spoke in Brenda's absence about District 3
4. Nancy – enjoying the feedback from clubs but disappointed that she was unable to connect with some of them.
5. Melissa – enjoying contact with clubs but noted that some of her clubs were reaching their end.

	6. Michele – report submitted 7. Ro – enjoying reaching out and getting to know clubs Looking at succession, Liz asked what we can be saying to potential District Directors to bring them on board.
5.	Next Meeting – April 29, 2023
6.	Adjournment Motion to adjourn by Pamela @ 2.50pm

Treasurer's Report For September 24, 2022 Board Meeting

I took over the position of Treasurer at the AGM in June. The first thing I did as Treasurer was to setup the NSAGC chequing account in Quicken and download all transactions from April 1 forward. I now reconcile the Quicken account against the bank statement each month. It is not necessary to automate the savings account since it is rarely accessed.

The second, and surprisingly time-consuming, task was to have 3 meetings with RBC to determine how the service fees are calculated. Very complicated for a community account but I now understand how they work.

The third, and again surprisingly time-consuming, task was to change the signing officers. The signatories of the account are Emily Walker, Dixie Cress and me.

E-Transfers

e-transfer has been used for some functions in the past year or so. From now on, e-transfer may be used to pay fees for Assessments, Convention attendees, Convention vendors, Tags & Seals, Newsletter ads and anything else appropriate. This option will be included on all documents that refer to payments.

Financial Statements Audit

Audits of the financial statements are performed by two Board members in April or May - after year end and before the AGM. Preferably one Board member who audited in the previous year and another who did not will be identified at the September Board Meeting. This will provide continuity of the process.

Financial Statements Notes

1. Because of the formats of the financial information provided for the 2019, 2020, and 2021 September Board meetings, it is not possible to compare the current year P&L figures against those years. Also, the last 2 years were not typical due to COVID. Therefore, a comparison with 2018 is provided.
2. I am attempting to follow the methodology used by Janet Simpson, the Treasurer until 2018.
3. Garden Club and Affiliated Club dues were down this year because 3 Garden Clubs and 1 Affiliate chose not to renew their memberships. We hope to welcome them back in 2023.
4. Plant sales were up this year and associated expenses were down resulting in a revenue of \$568.
5. The Meeting Expenses have been changed to track Board Meetings (the cost of the meeting room and lunch), Board Members (the travel and hotel expenses of attendees) and District Directors (travel associated with meetings within their districts). The 2018 expense of \$1669 includes both the Board Meetings and Board Members.
6. The \$2185 Web Site Expense was the final payment for the new Web Site development project and is not a recurring cost.

Tags & Seals

Since Tags & Seals are now the responsibility of the Treasurer, I looked at how best to incorporate them into the Treasurer's report instead of having a separate one. After consulting with the Executive Committee, it was decided that detailed reporting on the individual tags and seals sold and those still in inventory is of little value or interest anymore. The value of the

remaining inventory may be found on the Balance Sheet under Tags & Seals Inventory. The value of the items sold is shown on the P&L under Sales of Tags & Sales.

I have recalculated the Tags & Seals inventory using the last Tags & Seals report and the Tags & Seals sales register. I used the purchase cost of \$0.06307 per inventory item to establish an inventory value, as per the Treasurer's notes from 2018.

Tags and Seals may be ordered from the Treasurer and delivered via mail (least preferred method as the club must pay the postage), at the convention or to the District Directors at Board meetings. The cost is \$.10 per item.

Assessment Letter and Form

The 2023 Assessment Letter and Form were sent to the District Directors for distribution to their clubs in September. They are also on the web site. With Pamela's help the tone of both documents was changed this year to make them more friendly. I will follow up (via the District Directors) on the first of January, February and March with clubs that have not submitted their fees and forms. It is hoped that more clubs use e-transfer to pay their fees this year.

Financial Reports Distribution and Review

In order to maintain a decent balance in our chequing account and a reserve in our savings account, it is recommended that we do not proceed with any new projects without funding acquired for those projects before they are initiated. The funding for the web site development project was taken from our bank account and we cannot afford to do that again in the future.

It is important that the P&L Statements and Balance Sheets are distributed and reviewed at every Board meeting. In this way the Board can keep track of the income and expenses and therefore the financial health of NSAGC.

It is also important that the financial reports are distributed with the Board and AGM minutes to the clubs and on the web site so that the Board is transparent to the membership about how the fees paid by the members are being used.

Submitted by Susan Hazelwood

Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2022

ASSETS

Bank Accounts

Chequing 3938.31

Savings 10085.34

TOTAL Bank Accounts 14023.65

Other Assets

Convention Loan to Host District 1000.00

Prepaid Insurance 0.00

Tags & Seals Inventory 712.12

TOTAL Other Assets 1712.12

TOTAL ASSETS 15735.77

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Prepaid Dues - Affiliates 0.00

Prepaid Dues - Garden Clubs 0.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES 0.00

EQUITY 15735.77

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 15735.77

Profit & Loss Statement

April 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022

	2022-04-01 to 2022-08-31	2018-04-01 to 2018- 08-31
INCOME		
Income from Sales		
Newsletter Advertising	50.00	200.00
Sales of Surplus Plants	2857.00	2090.00
Sales of Tags & Seals	50.20	277.32
Halifax Garden Festival Plant Sales	0.00	325.00
TOTAL Income from Sales	2957.20	2892.32
Income from Other Sources		
Affiliated Garden Clubs Dues	200.00	300.00
Garden Clubs Dues	6265.00	6776.00
Interest	18.49	3.84
TOTAL Income from Other Sources	6483.49	7079.84
TOTAL INCOME	9440.69	9972.16
EXPENSES		
General Expenses		
Awards	380.80	45.00
Newsletter	0.00	0.00
Photo Contest	250.00	211.13
Plant Giveaway	2289.83	2700.60
Halifax Garden Festival	0.00	529.92
TOTAL General Expenses	2920.63	3486.65
Meeting Expenses		
Board Meetings	1112.05	1669.07
Board Members	999.36	0.00
District Directors	0.00	144.59

TOTAL Meeting Expenses	2111.41	1813.66
Operating Expenses		
Bank Fees	30.71	179.97
Incidentals (postal, printing, etc.)	354.52	5.52
Insurance	1338.00	1280.00
Joint Stocks Membership	31.15	31.15
Web Site	2185.00	0.00
TOTAL Operating Expenses	3939.38	1496.64
TOTAL Expenses	8971.42	6796.95
OVERALL TOTAL	469.27	3175.21

**Convention 2023 Report
For September 24, 2022 Board Meeting**

The NSAGC 2023 Convention will be hosted by District 4, Halifax, on June 2nd to 4th at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax! The theme is Working with Nature. We think that we have an exciting line-up of speakers and excellent private gardens to tour.

The 12 member convention committee has representatives from most of the clubs in the district, including the Rhodo Society.

We have had several meetings so far, and monthly meetings are scheduled for between now and the new year. Each of the committee members have volunteered to take the lead in the tasks that are necessary for the event to take place (garden tours, speakers, silent auction, registration, communications, etc.). We are still working on the budget in order to establish the registration fee.

The registration form will be in the December newsletter. Attendees will be able to register using the paper form or online. Registration fees may be paid via e-transfer or cheque.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Halifax for the 2023 convention!!

Submitted by Susan Hazelwood

Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs
Facebook Group Report
September 18, 2022

The Association's Facebook group continues to be a valuable resource for the NSAGC, Clubs and group members. Since the last report (April 2022) it has operated smoothly with no problems to report.

The FB Group was recently promoted by Niki Jabbour on her radio program as a useful, friendly group for local gardeners. Of interest, there were 44 requests for membership the day the program aired.

Membership in the group has been slowly increasing and as of September 18, 2022 the group had 14,701 members, an increase of 293 since April 2022.

Reviewing membership requests continues to be the highest workload for Administrators and Moderators. For example, in the last four weeks there were 742 requests for membership of which 72 were approved. The others declined principally because the membership questions were not answered or incorrectly answered.

Following the recommendation from the October 2021 FB Group report, a schedule of announcements was drafted and in May 2022 the Website Content Manger provided suggested posts to highlight the website. Posting these manually has proved problematic. However, there is a provision in FB that allows posts to be scheduled in advance and then posted automatically. This will be trialled in the next month.

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

Administrators:

Pamela MacLean

Deb Bowes-Lyon

Lisa Doucette

Moderators:

Laura Hansen

Tracy Monk

Cindy O'Leary

Recommendations:

None at this time.

Respectfully submitted

Deb Bowes-Lyon

Facebook Group Co-Administrator

Newsletter Report for NSAGC Executive meeting—September 2022

Submitted by Emily Walker

Newsletter

Just a reminder that newsletter submission deadlines are:

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

These dates are not written in stone but they allow the newsletter to fall nicely into Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall issues. I usually try to have the newsletter out within ten days of the deadline.

Club reports

As usual, I depend on club directors to distribute my requests for submissions from the clubs in their regions and I hope they will continue to encourage members to contribute. It would be easier for me if everyone would submit their material to newsletter@nsagc.com so that newsletter items are in one place instead of mixed in with my two personal email addresses.

Directors continue to play a key role in distributing the newsletter to the clubs in their area.

Ad Topic for Discussion

The summer issue (about to be circulated) contains two ads: Lambe Concrete and Cuba Garden Tours. Ads are a possible income stream. However, they do require a fair amount of time. I have had to design both ads and have had to respond to 12 emails for the Cuba Garden Tours ad! I don't mind doing a couple of ads each issue on an ongoing basis to generate some income. I really do not have time to canvass for ads. However, if anyone has any ideas on a garden related service or business that would be a good candidate for an ad, I could send them information about NSAGC—maybe they are even on the NSAGC website map of nurseries throughout the province. Buying an ad allows them to show their support for our gardening community.

NSAGC Awards Report, October 22, 2022

As we are just now coming out of major isolation and our clubs are finally starting to be able to meet again, there were very few awards for convention in June. We did have a large number of retired Board Members during the time of isolation and it has been a couple of years since we held a convention. Retiring members were Elsie Lock, Debra Carey, Ann Jones, Valerie Despres, Vickie Willis, Betty Ann Cameron, and James Skinner while Deb Bowes-Lyon left the director position and moved into the vice chair position and Susan Hazelwood left the secretary position and took on the website coordinator position.

In 2022 we had 2 members step away from the board, Allison Magee, Treasurer and Jamie McLellan, plant give away.

Most of our directors were retiring in June of 2022. Retiring were Bibianne Lessard, Sharon Bryson, Elizabeth Hill, Kathy Harvie, Sandi Carol, Susan Gilmore and Lisa Doucette retired shortly afterward.

Outstanding member Awards:

Outstanding Garden Club Member 2022

Mount Denson Garden Club: Norma Sweet

Lunenburg Garden Club: Kathy Kirkpatrick

Mahone Bay Garden Club: Jacqueline Avery

Pictou and Area Garden Club: Linda Morden

Bridgewater Garden Club: Charles Berry

This year we also had Garden Hero Awards associated with the Year of the Garden.

Isle Madame Garden Club: Lillian O'Hearn

Pictou and Area Garden Club: Dawn Westhaver

Respectfully Submitted

Pamela MacLean

Awards Chair

NSAGC Nomination Report, October 22, 2022

We did have a large number of retired Board Members during the time of isolation and we have had to regroup and find new members for the directors and some other board positions. This was a difficult task as clubs were not meeting and no one was volunteering.

Thankfully, those who were in attendance at the convention were open minded and looking forward to the coming years, and happy to be involved in the NSAGC as that is where we finalized several directors. We are thankful for all those who accepted these positions.

The following are the members of the NSAGC Board effective June 11, 2022

Chair: Kathy d'Entremont,

Vice Chair: Deborah Bowes-Lyon

Past Chair: Pamela MacLean

Nomination Chair: Pamela MacLean

Secretary: Ginny Blayney

Treasurer: Susan Hazelwood (new)

Tags and Seals: Susan Hazelwood (New)

Website Content: Susan Hazelwood (New)

Historian: Dixie Cress

Plant GiveAway: Geoff MacDonald

Photo Contest: Sharon Bryson (New)

Newsletter Editor: Emily Walker

Awards: Pamela MacLean

The following are the incoming District Directors:

District 1 Cape Breton: Glynis Thomas

District 2 Eastern (Antigonish/Pictou): Anne Gratton

District 3 Central South (Truro): Brenda Grasser

District 4 Halifax: Nancy MacCara

District 5 Valley: (Kentville area) Melissa Weir

District 6 South Shore (Bridgewater area): Michelle Stevens

District 7 Western (Yarmouth): Ro Allen

We still have a vacancy for District 3 Central North.

Respectfully Submitted

Pamela MacLean

Nomination Chair

Photo Contest Report – September 2022 Board Meeting

Sharon Bryson

This is a preliminary report for me. Deborah has the detailed report for the Contest just past and some outlook for the future.

I have commiserated with Deborah and Pamela and have begun an edit of the Rules for the 2023 Contest. Certain changes with respect of digital only submissions make some modifications necessary.

In discussion with Liz Hill, we want to change Class 3 from Colour to Foliage. These will be done quite soon.

I need to have some clarification on judging procedures. The current suggestion of three seems a bit cumbersome. I am reaching out to a candidate for primary judge.

Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs
2022 Photo Contest Report
September 24, 2022

The Chair of the 2022 Photo Contest initially was Lawrence Spencer, he resigned due to ill-health and I took over in early April 2022.

The 2022 contest had 10 classes and a total of 89 photos were entered. All entries were submitted by email. Some entries were rejected due to their resolution being insufficient but for the most part contestants followed the submission rules.

Although not in accordance with the rules, due to time constraints the photos were judged by one person; Dan Froese, a professional photographer who had no connection with the NSAGC or any Garden Club. I believe he did a good job on fairly short notice. He chose the top three in each class and top three overall. Cash prizes were awarded to the top three overall photos, \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. Prizes were announced during the 2022 convention. They were awarded at the convention and by mail.

Because I had no previous experience as Photo Contest Chair Pamela Maclean provided me with comprehensive instructions for which I am very grateful. These instructions should be edited and included in the Board Manual for future reference.

The photo contest presently uses a Google Mail email address. This was set up by Pamela but is problematic as she has to “delegate” users. Also, sent emails have her name on them.

The Contest Rules should be revised prior to the next competition. My suggestions are: Remove “Option 2” - this is the option to mail in prints. No one has used this option in the last few contests. Remove all references to ‘mail in’ and ‘prints’ in the rules.

#7 - The Chair should not be part of the judging, they have access to all the names of the contestants and it is possible that there maybe some unintentional bias.

#9 - Digital pictures are not deleted but are posted indefinitely on our website.

#10 - Stickers are not awarded. Include that cash prizes are awarded to the top three overall.

Costs

Judge’s Stipend \$100

Prizes \$150

Recommendations

Draft instructions for Photo Contest Chair as part of the NSAGC Board Manual.

Revise Photo Contest Rules

Establish a corporate email address e.g. photocontest@nsagc.com

Respectfully submitted
Deb Bowes-Lyon
2022 Photo Contest Chair

**NSAGC.COM Web Site Report
For September 24, 2022 Board Meeting**

There continue to be virtually no issues with the NSAGC.COM web site since its launch in January. The site has been updated with the clubs meeting times and dates based on the 2022 Assessment Forms. This exercise is very time consuming and will be started in January next year in order to spread it out over several months. The AGM and Board minutes have been added and the NSAGC Team section was updated after the convention in June. Tweaks have been made as needed or requested.

Thanks to Liz Hill for allowing me to test the Convention Registration process on the site. The test went well, with a few changes required along the way which will be useful for the 2023 convention. The 2023/2024 Assessment form is posted and it is hoped that more clubs will renew online this year.

A list of suggestions for advertising the site on our Facebook page was sent to the 2 administrators. I had suggested that these be posted every 2 to 4 weeks so that people are reminded that the web site exists and contains useful information. Since I never see these posts when I have on our Facebook page, I am wondering if there is another way to post them (maybe post several times a week?) so that the users of our Facebook page are aware of the web site. I do not think that it is being used as much as it could be.

From April 1 to August 31, there were 6,861 visits to the site by 4,973 unique visitors. The Newsletters were by far the most downloaded documents on the site for this period.

Submitted by Susan Hazelwood

Plant Giveaway Committee Report

September 18, 2022 NSAGC Board of Directors Meeting

As at the last NSAGC Board meeting in April 2022, approximately 85% of the purchased plants were sold.

After the meeting and through June we sold an additional 97 plants, which included 34 that were sold at the NSAGC Convention. The goal was to sell all remaining plants, however, we did not reach that goal and sold a total of 1444 of the 1530 additional plants ordered. As approved by the NSAGC Executive, I distributed the remaining plants to community groups, friends and family locally. 15 plants were put to the compost, as they were not viable to even give away.

There has been a lot of feedback on this year's plant selection, as many people have had issues growing it. The most common comment is that while there is a good colour to the plant, it will not grow or bloom. In my personal experience, my plants did have blooms, but not until mid-September and the plants that were potted matured quicker than those placed in a flour bed. Additional feedback also stated that in the future we should provide after care instructions for the plants. It seems this plant is a difficult one to grow and might not have been a good overall general selection.

After discussing some concerns about this year's plant selection with the NSAGC Executive via e-mail, it was decided that we should look at providing a larger plant this year, even if there are additional costs to doing this. I contacted Jolly Farmer and asked about larger plant sizes and was given some information on the tray size and pricing. I also received a detailed catalogue for this year's plant offerings. I will review the catalogue and as in the past, present the Board with options to vote on for plant selection for the 2023 giveaway and sale. I will also provide cost breakdowns for each plant.

A couple of updates we will make to the ordering process and program for 2023:

- Order fewer plants – perhaps only 1000 additional above the membership estimate. This will prevent additional aftercare work required to maintain the extra plants and reduce any possible waste. This is open for discussion. Ideally the goal would be to have all plants distributed at the April board meeting.
- Offer an e-transfer option for payments to avoid delays of payment via cheque.
- Provide after-care instructions for the plants.
- Attempt to separate orders into clubs, rather than districts. If the larger format of plant is easier to work with and we have enough volunteers, this can be a feasible option for next year now that we are familiar with the process.

Overall, the ordering and distribution process worked very well this year. With the selection of a stronger plant this year and the above changes, I am confident we can have a very successful execution of this program going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff MacDonald

NSAGC Plant Giveaway Chairperson

September 18, 2022

DISTRICT DIRECTORS' REPORTS

District 2 Report

Five clubs: Antigonish; Pictou and Area; Westville and Area; Lismore and Area; East River St. Mary's,

And hopefully Guysborough and New Glasgow clubs will revitalize.

I attended Lismore and area garden club in June to introduce myself and give recap of Convention as none of their members attended, but several of their club attended the District fall rally hosted by East River St Mary's in Sherbrooke on Sat Oct 15.

About 60 attended the rally which was well received with good venue, speakers, program, vendors, food. As convention hosting list was adjusted due to covid cancellations past 2 years, so did rally locations. Lismore will host 2023, and Westville host 2024 which is also their 50th anniversary. Club reports were given, copies of Antigonish, Pictou and Lismore attached, East River St Mary's and Westville gave verbal reports. Outstanding Member certificates were presented. Clubs were encouraged to submit items to newsletter and I shall remind them of Nov 15 deadline.

Anne Gratton

District 2 – Eastern

NSAGC

District 4 - Fall Report

Nancy MacCara

District 4 Director

September 18, 2022

It's been almost 4 months now that I have been in my role and I have been able to meet up with representatives from 5 out of the 8 clubs here in our District. Not including my own Club nor Dartmouth Horticultural Club, whereas I see Susan Hazelwood (one of the acting Presidents) during our Convention Planning Committee Meetings in which I am also actively involved with.

Getting the Club Membership Cards passed over to the respective Clubs have played a role in this being able to happen throughout the Summer.

Majority of Clubs are just starting up their monthly Meetings this month - in which I have full intention of attending a meeting of every club in our District over the next year. Learning more about the members and fielding any questions that they may have and at the same time - learning a great deal myself

I have reached out to all Clubs to date; Presidents, Secretaries and Correspondence Persons and have had very positive feedback about me attending one of their meetings.

A question that was asked of me for consideration by Donna Burris of the Dartmouth Horticultural Society was in regards to a Seed Exchange - has been shared with all Club Presidents, Secretaries and Correspondence persons - I have asked to have feedback passed back to me - in hope of extending the scope of the Seed Exchange (that was in the past just done within the DHS on it's own), our goal will be to have a date set in the Fall to have all Clubs in our District get involved and for us to have a Seed Exchange Day set up for the District 4 Clubs.

It may not come to fruition this Fall due to time restraints but there would be no reason for us as whole to work together to get this set in motion for 2023.

I have been spending some time stopping in various Garden Centers and Nurseries to try to get them on board of extending a discount to NSAGC Club Members. Currently in District 4 - there were no Nurseries/Garden Clubs extending this. This is currently changing... and is one of my personal goals

District 5 Report

Mount Denson

Mount Denson Garden club has seen a slight increase in membership. They are sitting at 48 members, including 3 youth and 2 honorary. They report the same 10-12 member attending and volunteering on a regular basis.

They had two plant sales this year , spring and September and both were successful. The club also was successful in securing a 1500\$ grant from the municipality for operational costs and special events. Mount Denson club also awarded a 500\$ bursary to a local NSAGC student, and planted Flanders poppies at the cenotaph in Windsor.

Charring Cross

Charring cross is slowly returning to a normal schedule after the pandemic. They held two meetings this year and are holding steady at 7 members.

When I spoke to Barbara last week they were planning to hold meeting during a lunch outing on Saturday the 17th.

Members contributed and maintained hanging baskets and planter boxes in the community of New Ross this summer.

A highlight of their year was packaging sunflower seeds and distributing them at local business to be given out for free to community members. Barbara plans to take a drive to gather photos of the sunflowers grown from the packages.

New Ross

The New Ross club has not met or had any events since pre covid. They maintain their 8 members.

Their president Lucille expressed that she is not interested in being president much longer but that they are having a hard time finding new members. She says most of her membership is aging and not interested in filling the role. We spoke several times this summer about ways to increase member ship. Lucille hopes to take out an advertisement in a local flyer, inviting commune members to a meeting.

Haliburton Garden Club

The club has a increasing membership of close to 40 members now. They started meeting again in May this year with typically 12-15 members attending.

There will be an election this fall, with a change to almost every executive position. A committee has been created to gather nominations.

The club had many special guests and group trips this year with the highlight being having Lee Valley tools come to a meeting and teach members how to sharpen and maintain their garden tools.

Valley Gardeners

After coming close to disbanding , Valley Gardeners club has new executives step up and has had an increase in membership. They sit at 55 members.

They've been challenged with keeping a regular meeting space, but may have possibly solved that moving forward as covid restrictions are changing.

They have big plans , including rebranding of their logo and website.

They were able to increase they're bursery this year thanks to a successful spring plant sale.

I am very much enjoying the role of District Director so far. I joined Mount Densons August meeting , and had planned to attend Valley Gardeners August meeting as well but it was canceled as the executive came down with covid. I travelled to New Ross in August and met with both Charing Cross and New Ross club's president to hand off the cards/materials from the convention in June.

My only struggle so far, is communicating with two clubs who's presidents do not use email, and there has been no response from the communications contact who handles the clubs email accounts. For now I will continue to call those clubs.

Thank you ,
Melissa Weir

South Shore Garden Club Report

I performed the following tasks since the spring:

- set up an email data base for the various Presidents in the District as well as their Communications contact people.

- in the process of collecting the information as to when their Club meetings are so I may add them to my calendar.

- attended the wonderful District Meeting on September 10th organized by Chester Garden Club.

- starting to field questions from the Presidents about their concerns and requests for membership cards, etc.

Kindest regards,

Miche

District 7 Director's Report
Fall Board meeting September 24, 2022

Bridgetown

Club is thriving, 63 members, several activities every month-highlights - Tea Party in the park

Champlain -----

Clements

membership is up, good turnout to meetings, healthy financially

Digby Neck and Islands

I've been invited to upcoming events

Pubnico

15 - 20 members, stable membership, good turnout to meetings, struggling to find presenters and attracting younger members

Rooted in Clare

membership up 25, good turnout to meetings, struggling to find presenters.

Weymouth -----

Yarmouth

healthy membership 100+. Good turnout to meetings. healthy financially. Lowered membership fee. Summer activities were successful. Going to give out a bursary to hort/ag student.