

# SCOTIA GARDENER

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

Summer 2022



## Message from the NSAGC Chair

Greetings, fellow gardeners!

Fall is in the air with the maple trees beginning their colourful display and nearly everyone sporting a pot or two of mums on their front steps. Did I mention the chilly mornings that suddenly cropped up? This is the perfect weather to put on a light sweater and stroll through the falling leaves. It is a glorious time of year in the Maritimes!

As the season changes, the NSAGC is preparing for our fall Board Meetings on September 23-24. (Editor's note: postponed until October due to Hurricane Fiona) I will be welcoming a full slate of new District Directors to our ranks:

- 1 District 1/Cape Breton: Glynis Thomas
- 2 District 2/Eastern: Anne Gratton
- 3 District 3N/Central North: Vacant
- 3 District 3S/Central South: Brenda Grasser (acting)
- 4 District 4/Halifax: Nancy MacCara
- 5 District 5/Valley: Melissa Weir
- 6 District 6/South Shore: Michele Stevens
- 7 District 7/Western: Ro Allen (acting)

With new faces come fresh ideas and a different perspective, which is always a good thing.

On September 11, I was honoured to be invited as one of Niki Jabbour's guests for her radio program, The Weekend Gardener. This provided me an opportunity to highlight the NSAGC and all the advantages of belonging to a garden club. I had so much more that I wanted to say, but time was limited.

If you missed the broadcast or would like to hear it again, I have provided a link to the recording. The whole broadcast is worth listening to, but I will say that my segment is the final 23 minutes of the program.

<https://halifax.citynews.ca/all-audio/the-garden-show/the-week-end-gardener-september-11-5806155>

Enjoy the fall gardening season and have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Kathy D'Entremont

## Hants North Late Bloomers Enjoy a Summer Soiree

by Geoff MacDonald

On Saturday August 20, the Hants North Late Bloomers held their annual Summer Soiree at the home of one of our members in Burntcoat. It was a lovely afternoon filled with a lot of great conversation and laughs. We did a garden tour, set up a couple of games, enjoyed some great food and even had a guitar out to sing some songs. The weather was perfect for the occasion and the majority of our club members were able to attend.



We hold this event every August as a summer social for our club and it is something we all look forward to each year.

## Mount Denson Garden Club has a Memorable Summer

by Carla Scholten

Hello, fellow gardeners! The Mount Denson Garden Club has remained active through the summer. Members experienced a self-guided tour at Tangled Gardens in Grand Pre. We were surprised at what hides behind the store-front, featuring a labyrinth, several “garden rooms”, and rustic garden art. I’ll have to go back to see another season of flowers.

Lucky for us, Meander River Farm and Brewery owner, Brenda Bailey, just happens to be one of our members. Brenda invited our club and members of the neighbouring Haliburton Club for a hike and social time at the Brewery. It was spectacular weather and everyone enjoyed themselves, including the impromptu tour of Brenda’s lavender field and remarkable home gardens.

We had high hopes for a bus tour to Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens and valley nurseries in July. The new wave of COVID created complications and so we sadly had to postpone plans. We toured the gardens of local day lily guru, Carol Harvey. Carol was a gracious host, providing day lily expertise, and offering many varieties for sale. Her description of gall midge verses thrip identification was enlightening for some of us.

A new project for us this year was building small gardens at the base of the Windsor Cenotaph to plant and grow Flanders Field Poppies, donated by Revival Seeds. This was such a meaningful endeavour and we have had so much positive response from the community.

Our club was approached by Laura Churchill Duke, author and journalist, to act as a resource for her gardening articles. Members contributed to the first of her series July 6, discussing the benefits of using rain barrels. Check it out at <https://www.saltwire.com> Type “rain barrel” in the search area.

This summer we were excited to hear that we were successful in our application for a grant from our local municipality. These funds will help with operating costs and special events.

Soon we will be preparing for our September 4 Plant Sale. Come on down and join us at the Avon Community Farmer’s Market, from 10-2 in Windsor.

Our club is very sad to announce the passing of our long-standing member, Norma Sweet. Many of you knew Norma or would have recognized her name from her assertive presence on the NSAGC Facebook Page, advocating for eradication of invasive species and offering advice on gardening issues. You may know that Norma was an avid collector of day lilies. In discussion with our president, Tracey Martin, it was Norma’s wish that her precious day lilies be willed to the Mount Denson Garden Club. Members are so grateful! Norma also agreed to a memorial garden in her name and club executive are investigating options in the community to make this happen.

Norma Sweet’s passing...

It was heartwarming to see the outpouring of genuine sadness and loss that fellow gardeners expressed locally and across different social media platforms. Many expressed an appreciation of her wisdom and sense of fellowship with other gardeners.

Her presence was large and she turned a lot of people to gardening and to seek the truth, not just hearsay and what is splashed across social media.

Thank you

Carla Scholten, Secretary, Mount Denson Garden Club



**Mount Denson Garden Club has a Memorable Summer** (continued from the previous page)



Lavender field at Meander River Farm and Brewery



We enjoyed the tour of Carole Harvey's day lily gardens



Youth members Anthony and Ben Reid join their mom, Lori, on the Club hike.



The poppy gardens planted at the Windsor Cenotaph

Photos contributed by Carla Sholten

(continued on the following page)

## Mount Denson Garden Club has a Memorable Summer (continued from the previous page)



Mount Denson Garden Club members had a beautiful day to tour Tangled Gardens.

Photos contributed by Carla Sholten

## Great Village Garden Club Tours the Valley

by Sybil Flemming, Secretary

In mid July, fifteen members of the Great Village Garden Club went on a road trip to the Annapolis Valley. The weather forecast suggested rain but it turned out to be beautiful weather.

A very enjoyable first stop was at Lockett Vineyard in the Gaspereau Valley. One comment stood out about the meal: the best seafood chowder ever. Wine sampling was also a hit and one traveler even got to call her sister in Maine from the British telephone box that stood among the grapevines. It was a great experience and view of the vineyards.

In Wolfville, our guided tours of the K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre and Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens had much to offer and the admission fee was covered by Club funds. Exploring the Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens was so interesting, consisting of nine distinct habitats including a bog, marsh and sand barren. A lily pond, native flowers, native high bush blueberries and bayberry, pin cherry and trees native to NS were plentiful. An

Acadian/Wapna'ki six acre forest with waterways through it stands on land where houses, which were purchased and removed, used to stand. An Indian Pipe Plant was pointed out, new to some, with several found by a member since. It is one of nature's weird wonders as it has no chlorophyll. Also viewed were a medicinal and food garden, a natural world that is necessary to preserve.

The tour was informative and there was some hands-on learning. This tour was well-received and much enjoyed. Harriet Irving's love of nature has made this teaching at Acadia possible—so important for future generations and nature in fighting climate change.

After the tour we were free to check out some garden centers and then headed back to Truro. Upon arriving in Truro we gassed up, sharing the cost with each of our drivers. A big shout out to those who organized the tour.

## Pictou and Area Garden Club's Amazing Summer

by Jenn Bethel, Pictou and Area Garden Club

The Pictou and Area Garden Club (PAGC) has had a busy summer, recently publishing a well received, second quarterly newsletter. The *Bloomin' News* has kept everyone in our expanding club updated with information and events, past and present.

We began the summer with a new pilot program called Grow with Pictou, a strategic partnership where we invited local businesses and organizations to sponsor one of the hanging baskets owned and maintained by the Town of Pictou at a cost of \$40 each. Our mission to create a donation of funds to expand the town's beautification program was a smashing success with \$1,400 raised in total. With the funds raised, the town was able to purchase an additional five baskets, bringing the total from thirty-five to forty. This was a great opportunity to market and brand local businesses while creating some great visibility for the PAGC.

This year we had our first Summer Planter Contest, kindly judged by master gardener Nancy Levo. First place winners were PAGC members Beth Beynon for the flower category and Angie Burrell for the foliage category. First prize winners took home a \$50 cash prize!

After a two-year hiatus, Pictou County welcomed the Pictou Lobster Carnival Parade with open arms, as several thousand parade watchers lined the streets of Pictou on the evening of July 9. The PAGC put great effort into their Save the Bees float this year, adorning it with a massive collection of artificial flowers. The busy bees that rode on the float had a great time and our beautiful float won "Best Other" in the parade.

Our "Garden Hero of the Year" club member Dawn Westhaver has helped spearhead determine efforts of the PAGC to improve Monarch habitat. Dawn has donated and sold hundreds of swamp milkweed plants to our club (and Facebook) membership, with incredible results. Dozens of photos are on display on the PAGC Facebook site showing the Monarch in its many stages this season at a multitude of members' homes.

PAGC members enjoyed three incredible property tours this summer. On our first tour we enjoyed a spectacular showing of day lilies at Robert and

Carla Marshall's farm in Bridgeville. Carla, day lily lover extraordinaire, toured the group around her many beds and discussed what was involved in creating her own cultivars. The members were also able to tour a unique stand-alone root cellar created by Robert in the hillside of the farm property where many tubers and winter vegetables are successfully stored each winter. A large group of PAGC members arrived two weeks later at the property of the well known retired veterinarian Dr. Bruce Robb and his wife Anne. Master gardener and property caretaker Nancy Levo led the journey, discussing the vast array of interesting and unusual plants, shrubs and fruit trees at this Caribou beachside property. Leaving the Robbs, we were invited to walk next door for a tour of neighboring property of PAGC member Angie Burrell where we enjoyed a lovely tea and treats social. It was a beautiful morning that was enjoyed by all who attended.

The PAGC has upgraded its technological capacity under the tutelage of club Communications Director Heather Mattie with the purchase of new recording equipment and an ICD projector. Aside from including members who cannot attend meetings, this new equipment presents opportunities for the club including sharing how-to videos, recording tours and special trips and events.

At the 2022 Pictou North Colchester Exhibition, the PAGC is proud to announce 37 first-place, 19 second- and three third-place entries for categories in floral, foliage and vegetables. Every year club members donate the best from their gardens into the local Ex. It's a fun day for all involved and a great way to raise funds for the club.

The PAGC will start the fall of 2022 with a Junior Gardeners' presentation. This longstanding program encourages local elementary children to build a life-long love of gardening. Nasturium seeds are handed out at the end of the school year and students are instructed how to plant their seeds and maintain their plants over the summer. PAGC members judge their gardens in late August and winners are invited to attend our first fall meeting in September for a presentation of awards and to have their picture taken for the local newspaper.

(See photos on the following two pages.)

Pictou Photos (continued from previous page)



Bringing beauty to Pictou with spectacular baskets, blooms and gardens



Photos provided by Jenn Bethel

**Pictou Photos** (continued from previous page)



PAGC members enthusiastically participated in garden tours, a Save the Bees float in the Pictou Lobster Carnival Parade and an impressive number of winning entries at the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition.

Photos provided by Jenn Bethel





## Eastern Shore Garden Club Has an Excellent Summer

by Linda Disbrowe

As the 2022 gardening season gets into full swing and Covid restrictions have been lifting, the Eastern Shore Garden club continues to keep its 60 members busy with a variety of events. In addition to monthly meetings held at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Chezzetcook and District Lions Community Center, a variety of activities were held.

May is a time for many bugs to start their life cycle so our May meeting speaker was Dr. Paul Manning, an Associate Professor of Entomology at Dalhousie University. His interesting presentation gave us a great deal of thought-provoking information on insects, their role in our gardens and their importance to the ecosystem of our planet.

We held our annual plant sale on May 28 for the first time in three years. Due to torrential rain, we held the sale inside and in record time of just over an hour all 1200 donated plants were sold. With tables and plants all clearly marked, whether it was annuals, perennials, herbs, shrubs or even a few houseplants, there was something for everyone. The sale went smoothly with tremendous support from all members and the committee headed by Holly MacNevin.

At the June meeting, there were many things to discuss: our regular monthly photo competition submission voting, plant sale update and upcoming events such as the NSAGC Conference and members' garden tours: those of Penny Roche, Cathy Connolly and Patsy Goldsmith.

In July gardeners tend to their plants, weed away and even go on holidays. Instead of our monthly

eting, we had a members garden tour of Michele Brennan's and Darlene Hart's lovely gardens.

In August the club hosted its first ever Potluck Supper/Garden Tour which was a great success. Between 15-20 members brought a wide variety of food items to three locations and a different course was held at each: appetizers at one beautiful garden; salads and the main course near a lovely flower bed next door; and dessert with tea or coffee against a backdrop of lovely buds and blooms. Many thanks to all for the great food and to Jeannine McDonald, Jane Orton, Karen and Hilda Braun and Maggie Morrison for sharing their lovely gardens.

In September the Eastern Shore Garden Club hosted guest speaker Jude Major. A certified organic farmer, she spoke on "Fall Garlic", a fitting subject as fall is garlic planting time. Other topics included members sharing photos and information on key elements of their garden, September garden maintenance and a fall-themed display table.

Last but not least, Darlene Hart and Diane Lucas will speak further on their experiences and share important information from the 2022 NSAGC Conference this past June in Truro. This information will help our club plan a part in the 2023 Conference being held by District 4, of which we are an active club.

For more information on the Eastern Shore Garden Club please visit us at a meeting and check out our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/easternshoregardenclub](https://www.facebook.com/easternshoregardenclub)



A bustling crowd browses the Eastern Shore Garden Club plant sale where they purchased 1200 plants! (more photos on the following page)

Photo provided by Linda Disbrowe

**Eastern Shore Photos** (continued from previous page)



From garden tours to potlucks, Eastern Shore Garden Club members enjoyed summer social outings.

Photos provided by Linda Disbrowe



## Lunenburg and Area Garden Club Keeps Active

by Pauline Morehouse, President, Lunenburg and Area Garden Club

The Lunenburg and Area garden Club has had a few changes over the past year. Kathie Kirkpatrick (president) resigned due to health reasons as did Cheryl Lamerson (secretary treasurer) the year prior. We wish them well and thank them for their ongoing support during our transition and for the years they dedicated to our club.

My name is Pauline Morehouse, I live in Garden Lots and am the new president by acclamation of our club. Judy Estey, also from Garden Lots, is our new treasurer.

Our club meets the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm, with the exceptions of July and August. Our present location is in the hall of St. Norbert's Catholic Church in Lunenburg. Our club advertises on Facebook. To date we have 32 members with an average of 15 joining our monthly meetings.

We met in March 2022 and it was wonderful to get together and discuss our way forward.

At the April meeting, information on the Wild Medical Walk was shared.

In May we visited Wile's Market. Elspeth was gracious with her time and knowledge

Our plant sale was a terrific success with lots of laughs. It poured! By the time we had set up we were soaked to the bone. I must say we were wondering if this would work but at 9 a.m. the cars pulled up and people jumped out with their boxes ready to buy. The rain stopped for a bit as the sellers squished about, so that by 11 a.m. we were basically sold out. What a morning!

In June three of us were able to attend the Depave morning in Bridgewater and help support this project. There were many school children eager to plant the huge variety of native plants. It was very interesting.

We did a tour de table and it was so interesting to hear what types of gardens members have. Some were very large while other were not so big. Most had a variety of vegetables along with their shrubs and flowers. Judy Estey gave a very interesting talk on composting. The Garden Club generously pur-

chased two planters, soil and mulch for the church.

Michele Stevens was congratulated on becoming our new NSAGC District Representative.

Cheryl Lamerson will keep our Facebook page up and running with an invitation out to join. The summer raffle was won by Jon Jobb

In August we were treated to two garden tours. Anne Kennedy invited us to her home and showed us how to maximize a small space. Her array of perennials is wonderful and she even has veggies growing. She has done such an incredible job that her neighbors have jumped on board with their tiny gardens. What an inspiration!

In the afternoon we were treated to Sue Gilmore's massive gardens. Honestly, how she remembers all the names of her plants is amazing. Years of collecting a wide variety of perennials has certainly paid off with each month offering a different outlook to her gardens. Sue shared some of her gardening tricks.

Our fall lineup for our club is:

September: Guest speaker will be Teresa Quilty from Ne'ata'q Food Forest at Bluenose Academy. This is an interesting and new concept for Lunenburg

October: Our First Plant Swap morning, will be a fun way to gain some new plants and meet up with fellow gardeners

During the year several members devote their time to clean, weed and prune three town gardens so they look their best. This is an act of pride on the part of our garden club and a most enjoyable way to spend the morning with fellow members.

September will begin a new year for us, with ideas and plans coming to fruition.

## Bedford Horticultural Society Continues Cenotaph Gardening

By Marlene Grigg, Secretary

Here we are, heading into autumn already! Many of us are busy harvesting our crops and processing them into jam, jelly, relish and other delicious edibles that we can enjoy when summer is only a memory. I hope that the 2022 gardening season was successful for all.

BHS members planted the Cenotaph Garden at the Fish Hatchery Park in Bedford again this spring. Over 1000 plants go into the intricate poppy design and, as always, it was lovely when complete. This style of garden is a bit fussy to plant but even more work to maintain and, for that, we have Donna Burris to thank. She diligently trimmed and watered it throughout the hot, dry summer.

Members were treated to a tour of Roslyn Duffus' garden in August. The garden is beautiful and diverse, comprising several different styles including rock, woodland, bog and perennial gardens. Her enthusiasm and willingness to share her knowledge makes a visit to Roslyn's garden even more special.

The executive of BHS is busy scheduling fall, winter, and spring activities, including presentations, workshops, and social gatherings. Members can look forward to opportunities to learn, meet with fellow gardeners and have some fun and prepare for the 2023 season.



Thanks to Marlene, Pamela and Donna for their dedication in planting the Cenotaph Garden and especially to Donna for her care and watering of the garden during the dry summer months.

Photos by Donna Burris



Members and friends of the Bedford Horticultural Society enjoyed a tour of Roslyn Duffus' garden in late August.

Photo by Katherine Burris

## Haliburton Garden Club Humming Along

by Melissa Weir, District 5 Director and member of Haliburton Garden Club

In April 2022 Haliburton Garden Club held their first meeting since 2020. Members were happy to be together again and quickly jumped back into routine, planning for a spring plant sale. The sale was held in early May. Jackie Parker, club member and owner of Brooklyn Village Garden Center, graciously donated space at her business for the sale to be held. The sale was very successful, for both the club as well as the garden center. People who came to shop at the club sale visited the garden center and vice versa. Also contributing to the sales success was a mention in the weekend edition of the Chronicle Herald by Niki Jabbour. There were folks lined up waiting for us to open and some people traveled up to an hour to attend!

In May the club enjoyed a presentation from Bruce Bowdridge. He spoke about blooming mushroom plugs in logs. His presentation was well received and very informative.

June was a busy month for the club. Two members attended the convention in Truro, staying the night at the Inn on Prince. Hats off to all those involved in organizing the convention, from the walking tours of local gardens to the wonderful presenters. It was a great weekend. Also worth mentioning was the food! It was delicious and we certainly did not go hungry! The NSAGC Convention is an experience we won't forget!



Some of the club's current members at the annual garden party potluck in June

Photo provided by Melissa Weir

The Haliburton Garden Club also held their annual garden party potluck in June. It was hosted by club member Pauline Sullivan in her beautiful back garden. Great food and conversation were had.

A week later the club met and learned about maintaining and sharpening garden tools. Andrew from Lee Valley Tools traveled to the club and everybody left with tools sharpened either by Andrew or themselves!

Later in June, club members attended a work party at the Ardoise Community Park. This is a new park that had its grand opening this spring. Haliburton Garden Club has collaborated the West Hants Trail Association, the municipality as well as Communities in Bloom, helping to plant and tend the gardens. The club has planted a memorial garden in the park. It is planted with plants from members' gardens that came from or represent loved ones, past, present and future.

July brought a heat wave and a presentation from Chris Shaw of Yonder Hill Farm. Chris and her family are seed growers. They grow seeds and sell under their own name and also grow seeds for other companies. Members learned about a year on a seed-producing farm and how to save seeds.

A few weeks later in August, members gathered again. This time to tour the property of Megan Andrus and Joe Hood. Some of you may know them as they appear on social media, Sound Living NS. Megan and Joe gave a tour of their Walipini, food forest and three-season greenhouse. Members learned about biodiversity, sustainable living and finding balance with nature.

Haliburton Garden Club had a busy summer with lots of members attending meetings and events despite the heat and busy summer schedule. Everybody is looking forward to welcoming more new members and upcoming events.

(more photos on the following page)

## Haliburton Garden Club Photos



Members of the Haliburton Garden Club and the Ardoise community park laying mulch at a work party in June.



Marie Harvey and Melissa Weir enjoyed the banquet and closing of the NSAGC 2022 convention.



Here is the three-season greenhouse in the food forest from our tour of Sound Living NS.



This is a calmer moment at the spring plant sale.  
Photos provided by Melissa Weir

### Looking Back: NSAGC in the early 60s

1960 The boundaries of the original five districts were laid down:

- Eastern: Cape Breton Island, Antigonish and Guysborough counties
- Northern: Colchester, Pictou and Cumberland counties
- Western: Yarmouth, Digby, Shelburne, Queens and Annapolis counties
- Central (a): Kings, Lunenburg and Hants counties
- Central (b): Halifax county

1961 The Association was asked to stage a floral exhibit at the Nova Scotia Festival of the Arts held that summer in Tatamagouche. Garden clubs in Colchester, Cumberland and Pictou counties rose to the occasion and the show was a great success.

1961 The Rose Bowl Trophy was won by the Riverport Garden Club.

1962 This year the Association held its convention in New Glasgow. The host club was the New Glasgow Horticultural Society who were celebrating their club's 25th anniversary.

1962 With assistance from the Department of Agriculture, the NSAGC newsletter *Landscape News* was made available to individual club members for an annual subscription cost of 50 cents.



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## Chester Garden Club—Vibrant and Strong

By Jayne E. Campbell, President

As president of the CGC and member of the NSAGC I would like to say that I have had another wonderful year working with a very dedicated group of gardeners and CGC members in the Chester area. Our membership is relatively constant with a few new members in the past year as well as some members pulling back. The club is in its 83rd year and is still vibrant and well supported within the community.

The club has had monthly board meetings and eight monthly meetings with programs. We had a social in December and one in August.

We began the year in March with a program with the assistance of “Helping Nature Heal” with Rosmarie Lohnes. We also had a presentation by members on Seed Libraries and Community Gardens by Julia Creighton. Some of our members attended Seedy Saturday in Mahone Bay to promote the Seed Library project. It is very pleasing to see our members get involved by working on these various programs. There is a great deal to learn from each other and often you don’t have to leave your own garden community to find a skilled and knowledgeable person from whom to glean helpful information.

Our programs during the year often include a demo or two on possible flower arrangements/designs to help all flower show participants to learn the basics. These demos also help to encourage those who have never exhibited in the past to get involved in designs as well as specimens. These programs are always done by our own members. The more we share with one another—the stronger the club. In November we always try to have a group activity constructing a seasonal centre piece or wreath. It is fun sharing greenery and decorations.

CGC has been decorating the Chester Bandstand for many years. This is now combined with the lighting of the community’s Christmas Tree.

The Year of The Garden was the theme for many gardeners this year and encouraged us to have programs that featured garden themes: bonsai trees and market gardening, James Denn; planters and hanging plants, Walter Downey. In the fall we will have Julia Creighton back again to talk about the

community garden projects.

Spring would not be Spring at CGC without our Annual Gardeners’ Plant Sale. It has been two years since we organized this event with outside vendor support. In May at the Chester Train Station, our plant sale was a success. Many of our vendors returned. Sales were enhanced by selling additional plants removed from the Parade Square.

Our gardens needed some extra care this year in order to celebrate the Year of The Garden. The Wee Wednesday Weeders usually got together for a little chat and work. We love to share these spaces with members of the NSAGC as well as other gardens in the Chester area over the summer. Additional mulch and seeding was done at the Cove. We provided a list as well as dates for open gardens. Several of our members opened up their gardens in June and July for visiting by members and friends. The Parade Square garden that we maintain was redesigned this year. Older growth was removed to be replaced by lower flowering shrubs and ornamental grasses.

Our Flower Show was held in July. We always had a tea but found that the last few years made it impossible under COVID restrictions. The show was well attended. Donations at the door instead of ticket sales seemed to work well. The show was very well received, especially by younger participants. We coordinated a few workshops with the Chester Art Centre to encourage younger participation.

In the autumn we will promote local produce by raffling off a Market Basket and preserves. Our members enjoy sharing their garden bounty.

Our programs are usually well attended and next year we hope to have more visitors attend our meetings. Finding different programs is always a challenge. It is always difficult to get new executive members. There appears to be a great deal of recycling in many organizations these days. We all appear to pull together though when things need to be done. Chester Garden Club planned the District 6 meeting for September. We had 45 registered for this event. Our program included a lunch prepared by members; Jamie Ellison, “Gardening In Acidic Soils” via Zoom, Hope Blooms, floral design tips,



## Chester Garden Club (continued from previous page)

Myra Knight and a tour of John Risley's greenhouses.

Our community gardens take a great deal of work to maintain but every year our members are diligent in preparing the Cove Garden and the Parade Square. We recognize the challenges of trying to maintain these gardens when we have a small group as well as older members. This year we were able to hire for some of the more demanding physical removal of plant material and maintenance. The CGC hired Elaine Collicutt to remove most of the existing plant material at the Parade Square. A new design was established with the help of Blomidon Nursery. We now have a newly designed garden that we feel is attractive as well as being manageable by our members.

Club members like the NSAGC website. It keeps us informed on what is going on around the province as well as encouraging our members to add to the content. Publicity on Facebook also helps in spreading news to gardeners concerning a great number of topics, especially upcoming programs. We have increased our exposure on social media this year will continue to do so in the future.



Michele Stevens enjoyed meeting some of the young representatives from Hope Blooms at the District 6 meeting. Those attending enjoyed the Hope Blooms presentation at the meeting.

Photo by Jayne Campbell

## Queens Garden Club Hits the Road

by Krista Doody

This summer the Queens Garden Club took their meetings on the road!

In May we found ourselves in front of the Museum for our first plant sale since the spring of 2019. Despite the pouring rain, the sale was a huge success. We had so many donations not only from members, but also from the community. Potential buyers were lined up in the rain waiting for us to open and we almost completely sold out within one and half hours. It was a huge success and we're looking at ways of improving things for next year, including eliminating the rain and replacing it with sunshine!

In June we were on the road visiting two Garden Centres on the South Shore. The first stop we made was Lavender Hill where we enjoyed purchasing quite a few interesting and reasonably priced annuals and perennials. From there we ventured on to Spencer's in Shelburne where it took us even longer to make decisions on what to buy because there was so much to choose from, as well as a beautiful gift store.

July took us for an outing to Bear Cove Resources in East Berlin where Betsy and Robert gave an extensive tour of their beautiful property and showed us the various spots where they work the seaweed for their fantastic fertilizer. Not only are Betsy and Robert experts in turning this wonderful natural resource into an amazing fertilizer, they also have very large vegetable and flower gardens. They are both so knowledgeable about the environment and vegetables, it is really amazing.

From there we ventured over to visit a member's garden, who lives very close to Bear Cove Resources. Nancy's gardens are mind boggling—manicured, organized and breathtakingly beautiful. We took a leisurely stroll through her property where she has so many garden beds filled with beautiful plants. Nancy can name each plant and knows exactly each day lily (which are her favourites) she has growing where. She has even hosted bus tours from Garden Clubs in Mahone Bay. After our tour she treated us to lovely beverages as well



Photo provided by Krista Doody

as delicious cookies and scones.

Our August meeting was hosted by members Suzanne and William at their beautiful property in Eagle Head. We strolled through their property and noticed so many different perennials, bushes, plants, berries, wildflowers and trees and each one we saw resulted in a conversation. We discussed how to take care of it, which plants do well in certain spots and compared their plants to how they grow in our own gardens. My favourite spot was a dory that they had found and are using as a planter for pots of vegetables. The deer don't seem to bother their gardens which is amazing since they are surrounded by brush and trees. After our garden tour we were treated to a delicious cake with berries and whipped cream as well as tea, cookies and chocolates! Even though our conversation did veer away from gardening at times, it's always fun learn from each other and get some new tips. Suzanne also gave us a chocolate mint plant to take home.

We have big plans for the last four meetings of the year. We have decided to take a break from meetings in January and February. We usually miss at least one due to weather and it makes it difficult to travel for those who come from further away. (more photos on the next page)

Queens Garden Photos (continued from previous page)



Photos provided by Krista Doody

## **Bridgewater Garden Club**

by Evelyn Snyder, President

In May we held a successful Plant Sale even in the rain. On June several of our members attended the NSAGC Convention in Truro. On July 26 we had a float in the South Shore Exhibition for the first time in four years. We held monthly meetings, workshops and viewed several members gardens during open garden tours.

Our flower Show and tea in July were a huge successes with many first-time entries.

Our Facebook page has now grown to over 752 followers and club membership has grown to 60 and is growing more each month.

For the fall season we have lots of activities planned with more workshops and walks about town helping gardeners with advice to put their gardens to bed. We maintain several gardens around town including the Veterans Memorial Gardens and the South Shore Exhibition along with Fort Point Museum in Lahave.

Plans are underway for a Christmas Social and in 2023 we will welcome a new set of Board members.



Photo: Elizabeth Hill, first in class Water in the Garden, NSAGC Photo Contest 2022

## Planning Well Underway for Convention 2023

by Susan Hazelwood

,NSAGC Convention 2023 Chair



The NSAGC 2023 Convention will be hosted by District 4, Halifax, on June 2–4 at Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax. Please save the dates in your calendar! We think that we have an exciting line-up of speakers and excellent private gardens to tour.

The convention committee has representatives from most of the clubs in the district. The committee is being chaired by Susan Hazelwood from the Dartmouth Horticultural Society. Also from DHS are Linda Connolly and Maggie Parker-Gionet. From Eastern Shore we have Darlene Hart and Diane Lucas. Emily Walker and Pamela MacLean are from the Bedford Horticultural Society. Fall River is represented by Linda Derrick and Stephanie Young. Jim Sharpe (Atlantic Rhododendron and Horticultural Society, Rock Garden Society and AMGA), Mary Trott (Hammonds Plains) and Nancy MacCara (Seabreeze) round off the committee.

We have had several meetings so far, and monthly meetings are scheduled for between now and the new year. Each of the committee members has 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. You will be able to register using the paper form or online. Registration fees may be paid via e-transfer or cheque. More info to follow later in 2022!

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





What a day for a garden tour—lucky Pictou Garden Club members!

Photo provided by Jenn Bethel

## Parrsboro's Gardens Charm Club Members

by Suzanne Gauthier



Eight of the Parrsboro Garden Club members gathered on September 12 to tour Heather and Paul Theobald's Bohemian Natural Garden in New Prospect. Begun 20 years ago from bare gravel, it has flourished into an enchanting well treed garden hosting a wide variety of trees and shrubs, both evergreen and deciduous. Plants were chosen for their colour and texture as well as shape.

Heather's husband Paul has sculpted intriguing wooden and rock art pieces, as well as constructing several trellises by creatively joining branches. The garden backs onto a slope, providing tiers in which a vineyard has been established with red, blue and white grapes becoming wine at the end of the season. Cedar conifers provide striking shapes that raise the eye while dark barberries punctuate the garden with lush purple splotches. (more photos on following pages)

Photo by Suzanne Gauthier

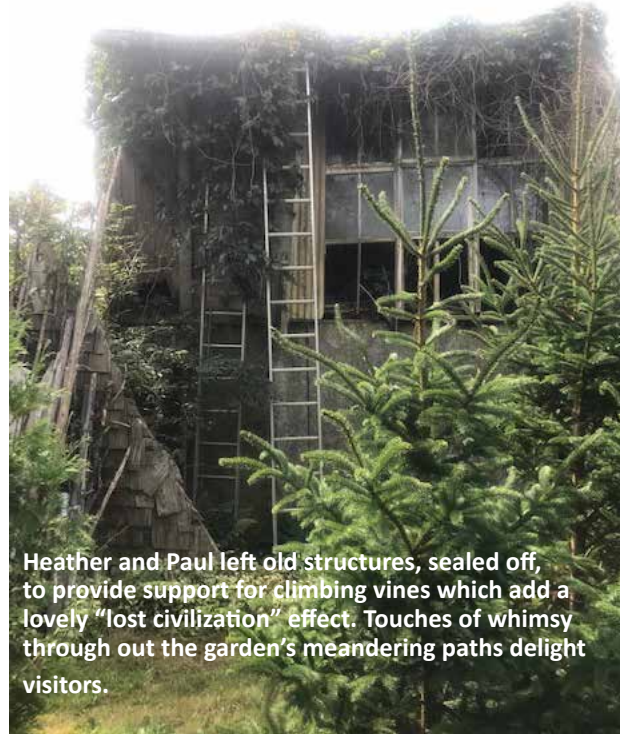
# Parrsboro (continued from previous page)

After touring Heather’s country garden we returned to Parrsboro for two smaller gardens and ended our tour at Marilyn Orr’s on Main Street. Marilyn’s son removed all the sod at her suggestion a couple of years ago so she could have flowers and shrubs instead of grass in her front yard. A gigantic hydrangea forms a magnificent centrepiece, next to a mulberry bush and a splendid climbing rose.

We then enjoyed lunch to top off a pleasant morning of garden tours. Thank you to our gracious hosts Heather, Linda and Marilyn.



A smoke bush in bloom, next to a Japanese maple, lives up to its name with its gauzy puffs of flowers.



Heather and Paul left old structures, sealed off, to provide support for climbing vines which add a lovely “lost civilization” effect. Touches of whimsy through out the garden’s meandering paths delight visitors.



Garden art adds a touch of whimsy.



Club members enjoyed exploring the beauty of lovely gardens.

Photos by Suzanne Gauthier





## Inverness Garden Club Pulls Off Another Great Summer!

by Betty Anne Cameron

Inverness Garden Club combined the Year of the Garden with Naked Gardening Day and had a great time doing it!

Members of the Inverness Garden Club entered a colourful float in the Inverness Gathering 2022



Photos provided by  
Betty Anne Cameron



# Outstanding Natural Beauty

Photo by Philip Lee, NSAGC Photo Contest 2022,  
Flowering Trees or Shrubs class

## This and That

Submitted by club members



From Kathy D'Entremont:

Kathy sent along this photo of her magnificent Sweet Autumn Clematis. Each spring she prunes it back to the base and over the summer, it grows to cover the pergola. She says the scent is phenomenal right now.

Photo by Kathy D'Entremont



From Emily Walker:

A friend gave me a small potted plant a few weeks ago. She said it would grow magnificent blooms and she was right.

This plant is a *Datura metel*, commonly called a devil's trumpet. We keep it inside but in warmer climates it is grown as a tender perennial and also grows wild. All parts of this plant are toxic! I keep it on a shelf in my little greenhouse well out of reach of curious pets. The blooms are large, ruffled purple and creamy white with purple stems.

Photo by Emily Walker

## A Note from the Editor

Hurricane Fiona interrupted our lives this month. I hope that everyone is back on the grid by the time they receive this issue of the Scotia Gardener and that their gardens and properties did not suffer too much damage.

The summer of 2022 whipped by us as summers always do. The weeks of summer are paved with good intentions but September arrives with many things left undone. Most days were so hot and humid that we just tried to keep cool and comfortable. We could certainly have used more rain. Many gardens matured early in all that sun. Some plants were spent by mid August from lack of rain or just the heat.

2022 was a banner year for day lilies with many large and spectacular blooms. Something interesting that sprang up in my garden was a three-foot tall *Eryngium planum* or flat sea holly (photo to the left). The leaves that first appeared were round, large and lay close to the ground with thick stems, almost rhubarb-like in appearance. Then stems and "flowers" shot up. The stems and bracts were a dusty blue and looked great in arrangements. Although the colour has faded, the structure still remains tall and strong and will add a bit of interest to my winter garden.

A shout out to garden club members from across the province who entered the photo contest. Readers will see their beautiful photos in this issue as well as in future issues.

Please mail your club news and photos for the upcoming fall issue of the newsletter to:  
[newsletter@nsagc.com](mailto:newsletter@nsagc.com)

Have a wonderful autumn,  
Emily Walker



Photo: Emily Walker

## 2021-2022 NSAGC Executive



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**District Three,** Central South, Brenda Grasser (acting)  
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**District Five,** Valley, Melissa Weir  
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**District Six,** South Shore, Michele Stevens  
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**District Seven,** Western, Ro Allen (acting)  
email: secretary@nsagc.com

## Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs Board Current Openings

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

The following positions are currently available with others opening in the early summer:

Director, District 3, Central North

Contact any Board member for details if you are interested in filling one of these positions or know of someone who is, please contact Pamela MacLean at: [pamela.maclean@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.maclean@gmail.com)

## Advertise Your Service or Product in the Scotia Gardener

### Fees:

**\$25—3.5 inches by 2 inches (business card size) per issue; \$50 for four issues**

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

**Please contact the newsletter editor at: [newsletter@nsagc.com](mailto:newsletter@nsagc.com) if you have questions.**

## Scotia Gardener: Summer 2022 Issue (Volume 22, Number 3)

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

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

Additional photo credits: Emily Walker: pages 1, 3, 21, 30



Day lily time: a blaze of colour