

SCOTIA GARDENER



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Greetings, gardening friends:

After a long cold winter, Spring is here! A joyful time for many gardeners as we see new life burgeoning in our gardens.

First off, a huge shout out to **Central North District Director Beate Acker** and her volunteers who organized the delivery, storing and repackaging of the epic amount of donated seeds. Also, a big thank-you to all those folks involved in delivering them to the Clubs.

April 1st is the beginning of the new NSAGC membership year. This year we welcomed two newly formed Clubs; the **Petals Society Garden Club** in Ardoise, West Hants and the **Coal Coast Garden Club** in Donkin, Cape Breton.

There is lots to do this spring, mark your calendars for the following:

- The **NSAGC Board** will be held **April 26th**. This is when we will be distributing this year's free plant, *Coreopsis Solana Sunset Bright*.
- **NSAGC annual photo contest**, submissions must be received no later than **April 29th**. Classes and rules can be found on our website. Winners will be announced at the Annual Convention.
- Our **Annual Convention, June 13th - 15th** promises to be a enjoyable event as we celebrate "**Gardening for a Better World**" in Antigonish. Program details and registration can be found on our website in the '**Save the Date**' box.
- **April 27th - May 3rd** is **National Volunteer Week**. Please take a moment to recognize and thank your Club and community volunteers for all they do.

Also, check out the **Events Calendar** on our website www.nsagc.com for many more activities.

Wishing you all the joys of springtime.

Deb Bowes-Lyon
Chairperson, NSAGC
secretary@nsagc.com



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CANADA EH!

Submitted Janice Schmidt

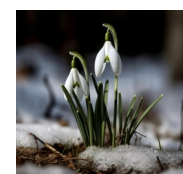


Roses have had a long and colourful history. They have been considered symbols of love, beauty, war and politics. The rose is one of the oldest flowers known to man.

Fossil evidence finds them to be approximately over 35 million years old. The Chinese were probably the first to cultivate roses, 500 years before the birth of Christ. Century's later true repeat flowering roses from China would arrive in the west with the crusaders.

Roses are once again enjoying resurgence in popularity, specifically Canadian hardy roses and old garden roses. Gardeners realize that these roses fit the lifestyles of today's

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Snowdrops

CANADA EH!

(Continued from page 1)

gardener who want roses that are not as demanding with regards to disease control and that offer excellent floral quality and have excellent winter hardiness.

My series of articles on the Rose will begin with site location, soil preparation, rose selection and planting.

SITE LOCATION

To help your rose to grow and thrive the ideal location would be a southern exposure as the plant needs 6-8 hours of sunlight every day. Sunlight is not the same as heat and if it gets too hot you may have to mulch as it not only keeps the weeds down but keeps the soil cool. Please try to keep away from the roots of trees or shrubs as roses don't like the competition for water, space or nutrition. Some additional advice is if you don't have an area that faces south, do what I did several times. I placed the rose, still in the pot in a sunny location in the morning and throughout the day I watched and found areas in my garden that had a minimum of 6 hours of sun. So, there is a site to grow roses in everyone's garden if you don't live in the woods.



*Canadian Shield
Vineland's 49th parallel
which has been in my
garden for four years.*

SOIL PREPARATION

One of the most important recommendations that I can make is if you are a new rose grower or growing roses and finding they don't bloom as much as you would like, is to have your soil tested. **Simple PH kits** are available and not too expensive from a local Canadian Tire or Hardware store. The kit shows you the relative acidity or alkalinity of your soil and roses have a sweet spot that is approximately a **PH of 6.5 to 6.8**. Roses do not like acidic soil and as I live in Nova Scotia, I found my soil is extremely acidic, so I went to the Hardware store and bought bags of lime, and I amended the soil as lime sweetens the soil. On the other hand, if it is too Alkaline then you need to add sulphur. Again, after the amendments are made, test the soil until you get the magic number. Remember amending your soil with either lime or sulphur will not hurt the environment.



ROSE SELECTION



*George Vancouver,
Explorer which has been in
my garden for four years.*

Now you are ready to select a rose. A rose can be purchased by buying bare root or in a pot.

Either works well but I like bare root as you get to inspect the root before you plant.

This enables you to cut off any diseased or dead growth. The roses in the pot are also fine as you learn to trust the nursery that you purchase your roses from. In the end it is totally your choice. Do your homework and select roses that are suited to your climate and gardening zone. A recommendation to start would be a Canadian Hardy rose. You could select a rose/s from Parkland, Vineland's 49th parallel, Artist Series or Explorer series as they are tested, tried and true. Multiple bloomers, more disease resistant and require less winter protection which suits our Maritime climate.

PLANTING

At this point in the process of planting the rose it is important to look at the **bud union** shown in the picture on the right. For the rose to survive a winter the bud union must be **buried in the ground at least 2- 4 inches**, the deeper the better. That means the hole must be deep and wide enough to cover the bud union and to allow for the fibrous root tissues to be able to spread out horizontally. Once the rose is placed in the hole, water generously and fill in with soil and using your feet press the rose into the ground filling up with more soil as needed.



Bud Union

All you must do now is wait for the rose to show growth and start to produce blooms. In **Part 2** of this series, I will be making *recommendations on watering and fertilizing*.

Happy Gardening and if you have any questions, please email me at jantim200698@gmail.com.

2025 NSAGC Convention Program



2025 NSAGC Convention Program

St. Francis Xavier University, Keating Centre
June 13th to June 15th, 2025

	Friday, June 13 th , 2025	Saturday, June 14 th , 2025
Registration (<i>main entrance</i>)	1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Vendors (<i>2nd floor</i>)	1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Silent Auction (<i>2nd floor</i>)	1:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday, June 13th, 2025

Time	Description	Presenter
6:30 pm.	Opening Ceremonies	NSAGC
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Battle of the Gardeners! Foxy Entertainment	Lismore Garden Club

Saturday, June 14th, 2025

Time	Description	Presenter
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.	NSAGC Annual General Meeting & AGM door prize	NSAGC
9:30 to 9:45 a.m.	Opening Remarks & Announcements	NSAGC
9:45 to 10:45 a.m.	Growing into the Community <i>A presentation on funding, feeding and loving your neighbours.</i>	David Tudor
11:10 to 12:10 p.m.	Gardening with Raised Planters <i>Gardening should not be a battle; it should be fun. A few years ago, we decided enough was enough and we started a transition to raised planters and all I can say is we have never looked back.</i>	Lloyd McLean Andrea Haughan
1:30 to 2:30 p.m.	Food Forests & Community Resiliency <i>Mandy and Raina will speak to the intricate, interconnected relationships in a food forest and share how these diverse ecosystems can foster community resiliency in our ever-changing world.</i>	Raina MacDonald Mandy Sandbach
3:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Growing a Better Tree and the Edible Landscape	Charlie Baird "The Tree Guy"
4:00 to 4:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks	NSAGC
5:45 to 6:20 p.m.	Awards	NSAGC
6:30 p.m.	Dinner Served	
7:45 to 8:45 p.m.	Rooted in Service <i>Jessica will be discussing the importance of therapeutic horticulture and how experiences in nature benefit women struggling with physical and mental health traumas. Sharing lived experiences and how one plant can help begin a journey of healing.</i>	Jessica Miller
8:45 to 9:00 p.m.	Banner Hand off & Closing Remarks	

Sunday, June 15, 2025

9:00 to 1:30 p.m.	Garden Tours	Information Supplied
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2025 NSAGC Convention Information

Have you *registered* for the *NSAGC Convention in Antigonish*?

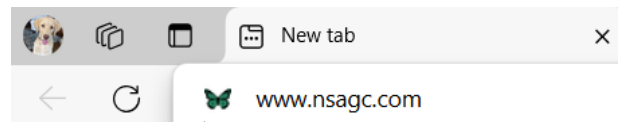
You do not want to miss any of the following events:

- **Opening Ceremonies** and the **Battle of the Gardeners!**
- Annual General Meeting
- A roster of speaker's who are experts in their field building upon our knowledge and need for "**Growing for a Better World!**"
- Engaging Q&A's
- Annual Awards
- Floral Art Competition
- A video of Photo Contest Entries
- And so much more



How do I register? Where can I stay?

Go online today - enter the **NSAGC website address** into the URL box located top left of your screen, as shown: **www.nsagc.com**



Click on **WHO ARE WE?** - located top-right of the screen.

WHO ARE WE?

Scroll down to the text box - **SAVE THE DATE!**

In the lower portion of this text box you can click on one of the following options to access more detailed information:

- **Program**
- **Convention Registration Form (PDF/Online)**
- **Convention Accommodations**
- **Speaker Bios**
- **Floral Art Competition**
- **Vendor Registration**

SAVE THE DATE!

Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs
Convention 2025

Date:	June 13 - 15, 2025
Location:	St. Francis Xavier University Antigonish, NS
Theme:	Growing for a Better World

Program, Convention Registration Form (PDF/Online), Convention Accommodations, Speaker Bios, Floral Art Competition, Vendor Registration.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

If you want to print the registration form be sure to click **PDF**. If you want to register Online - click **Online** to input your information.

Registration - Deadline is May 15th.

Pay by *E-transfer* – please include *your Name in the Memo box of the E-transfer* as we do not want to have a payment and no name to confirm your payment. Your registration is not complete until we have your payment.

Or mail your registration and payment – **must be received by May 15th.**

2025 NSAGC Photo Contest

Get those cameras in action and start snapping photos to enter the **2025 NSAGC Photo Contest**.

There are **10 Classes** and contestants may enter **one photograph per class** (*maximum 10 photos*):

- Class 1** **Life in the Garden**
- Class 2** **Close-ups**
- Class 3** **Foliage**
- Class 4** **Water in the Garden**
- Class 5** **Vegetables or Fruit**
- Class 6** **Garden Art**
- Class 7** **Flowering Trees or Shrubs**
- Class 8** **Fall Scene**
- Class 9** **Landscape**
- Class 10** **Nature in Winter**

Follow the rules and class information and **enter by April 29, 2025**, as detailed in the Photo Contest Rules.

To **download** the Photo Contest Rules for this competition, access the NSAGC website at www.nsage.com by:

1. Click on **Who We Are** at the top of the screen, scroll down to the **Save the Date** text box and click on the **green banner** (at the bottom) - **Photo Contest**. 
2. Click on **Site Index** at the top of the main screen, scroll down under the heading **For Garden Clubs** until you see **Photo contest galleries, rules & classes**. Click only on **rules & classes**. 
3. Click on **Garden Clubs** at the bottom of the main screen to display select your interest, click **Photo Contest** and then click on **Rules & Classes**. 

It is important to note that that these rules apply to the 2025 contest. Please do not use rules from previous years.

In Options 2 and 3 above, click on **galleries** to have a look at the *Results of the 2024 Photo Contest*.

Have fun and best of luck to all the competitors!

2025 NSAGC Floral Arts Competition



FLORAL ARTS COMPETITION

2025 NSAGC Convention

June 13 -15

Theme: Growing for a Better World

1. **Any garden club is eligible to enter the Floral Arts Competition. (One entry per Club.)**
2. **All designs reflect the theme “Growing for a Better World.”**

The majority of the entry must be fresh living plant material and/or fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers or berries grown in Nova Scotia. **Maximum size 2 Ft. in height.**
3. **Winner and runners up will be selected by People’s Choice Voting, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be announced.**

Note: The ballot to vote for your favourite entry will be included in the Registration Package.

Floral Competition Highlights:

- The deadline for all entries to be set-up is 6 PM - Friday, June 13, 2025.
- **People’s Choice Voting Ends - 1:15 PM - Saturday.**
- Winners will be announced at the Awards ceremony prior to the banquet.
- Entries need to be picked up by Exhibitors before 4:30 PM - Saturday, June 14, 2025.
- Members of the Convention Committee will be on hand to assist Exhibitors.



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

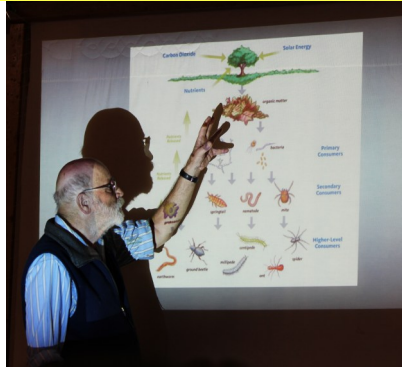
Hants North Late Bloomers Garden Club (Central South District #3)

Submitted by Geoff MacDonald

On Thursday, September 19th, the **Hants North Late Bloomers** held an event at the Rising Tides New Horizons Hall in Noel to **celebrate their 20th anniversary**. The evening consisted of a remarkably interesting and informative

presentation by **Andrew Hebda**, retired Curator of Zoology at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, titled "**Insects and Other Friends in your Garden**." Following the presentation, Andrew, who is a wealth of knowledge on this topic, took questions from the audience.

A light lunch followed with sandwiches, a



Andrew Hebda



Charter member Kaye Lingard cutting the celebratory cake.

celebratory cake and tea. In attendance with our club members were some founding members, members from other local clubs in our district along with our **District Director Brenda Grasser**. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all.

Fall River Garden Club (Halifax District #4)

Submitted by Lawrence Spencer

Following are highlights of all the projects and events for the second half of 2024 for the **Fall River Garden Club**.

We raised **\$8,210** at our **Annual Plant Sale** in June at the **LWF** (Lakeview-Windsor Junction-Fall River) Hall and two club members alleyways at their homes. The long lineups were a testament of this. Over one thousand plants sold out in approximately two hours. It was a fun time!

The local "**Fall River Living**" magazine featured our club with an article entitled "**How One Garden Club Makes Fall River a Nice Place To Live**" by Leah Douglas.

Planning for our District Meeting in October is well underway obtaining funds from local businesses and prizes from various other sources.

In August, our executive reviewed the Club's By-Laws (last update was in 2016). Club members will have an opportunity to review prior to a vote at our November

AGM (Annual General Meeting). Our club presented a \$1,200 bursary in September to the **Lakeview High School** for a student graduating in



Bursary presentation to Lakeview High School for a graduating student in 2025.

June 2025 and attending an Agricultural College. In support of their food programs, our club donated \$1,000 each to **Beacon House** and **Souls Harbour**, as well as our Annual \$500 donation to the local Lions.

Club members planted **thirty Fall Mums** at the **LWG and Jamieson park gardens**. A local Craft Group made a \$400 donation to thank the Club for maintaining the community gardens and park where they held their Sale.

Our regular meeting was a get together for "**Wing Night**" at the newly renovated LWF Hall with thirty members, spouses, and guests in attendance. **Jamie Ellison**, author of "**Gardening in Acidic Soils**" was our guest speaker and focused on the best plants to use in this type of environment.

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GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Fall River Garden Club

(Halifax District #4)

Submitted by Lawrence Spencer

(Continued from page 6)

Pictured right is the installation of the **Large Metal Bee sculpture** of a Zinnia flower at the **LWF Hall** where we hold our meetings. This sculpture was made possible, primarily funded by the Lions Club, with additional donations from community businesses and personal donations. Our Club had a great deal of input in its design and construction. This is our community's second sculpture created by **Heavy Metal Heather** who works out of her studio in the Wolfville area.



The Club hosted the **District #4 Meeting** on October 26th at the Waverly Legion with over eighty people in attendance. We had four guest speakers, great food and tons of prizes supplied by club members, other gardening clubs, local businesses/organizations, as well as local politicians.



Darel Kilford - Club's Gardener of the Year.

The Gardener of the Year award for our Club went to **Darel Kilford**. The Club thanks Darel for his contributions, especially at Jamieson Garden – building benches, preparation of the Monarch Sculpture base sign and much more.

In November, at our Club's AGM we held elections for new executive – Secretary, Treasurer, Member at large and President (remains the same).

Two of our club members attended the **Awards Banquet** at **Dalhousie University's, Department of Agriculture** located in Truro, where we provide a yearly \$1,000 bursary to a student taking a



Award winner of \$1,000 bursary for 2024.

Queens Garden Club

(South Shore District #6)

Submitted by Chris Radimer

The Queens Garden Club continued its popular guest speaker series through the fall of 2024.

In October, we were lucky to have a fascinating talk about rare flowers in Nova Scotia by **Nick Hill** from the **Southwest Nova Scotia Biosphere Reserve Association**.

We learned of examples of plants only found in the coastal plains of Nova Scotia. Nick spoke about property owners that are



Nick Hill

collaborating with his team to ensure these species have room to thrive even with increased development and agriculture in the area. He demonstrated how knowledge and cooperation can create an environment that benefits the native flora and fauna while enhancing recreation and home locations.



Chris Sanford

In November, the club had a chance to enjoy a presentation on selecting and preserving heirloom seeds. **Chris Sanford** from **Yonder Hill Farms** gave an excellent talk on how she chooses the plant varieties that lend

themselves best to seed banking in our area. The evening including a chance for members to purchase seeds and garlic cloves. Chris's amazing display of plant families and the seed preservation process received lots of attention from cellphone cameras as members saved the incredible amount of information for future reference. **Emily Liot, Director, NSAGC District 6 (pictured right)** was also present at this meeting to award our long serving former club president, **Karin Allen**, with the outstanding member award. Congratulations Karin!



November was the last opportunity for the club to meet at the Thomas Raddall Library at its current location. Many members lent a hand to the library

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GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Queens Garden Club

(South Shore District #6)

Submitted by Chris Radimer

(Continued from page 7)

staff by taking home large bags full of books and the library's extensive collection of gardening books went quickly.

After what seemed like an unusually long growing season this fall which saw several members experience late blooms in their gardens, winter finally came to Queens with more seasonally chilly weather in December. This set the mood for club events including a wreath making workshop at **Cosby's Garden Centre** in Brooklyn and our traditional Christmas luncheon held this year at **White Point Resort**.

Our final Christmas activity was the creation of a stunning, garden themed Christmas tree for the Queen's Chamber of Commerce Charity Christmas Tree display. Ours (**pictured left**) was one of many decorated trees by groups in the region and included seed packets, small clay pots turned into bells, old hand tools sprayed silver and gold, and bird ornaments all donated by club members. With the addition of coloured lights and a decorated straw gardening hat as a tree topper the completed

tree looked great! The display drew charitable donations for our area's food bank.

With the Christmas season behind us, the club gathered at the **Emera Centre** for a presentation by member **Chris Radimer**. Chris gave a talk on how area plants and seasonal blooms impact honey flavour and other characteristics. He then guided the group through the honey creation process from bloom - to bee -to jar. Members enjoyed a honey tasting after the presentation.

The strong turn-out on a chilly night in January was a great start for what is a very promising year for our club. With excellent guest speakers and events already planned, the club is looking forward to filling our new meeting place at the **Thomas H. Raddall Library** on Harley Umphrey Drive in Liverpool with returning and new members.



Eastern Shore Garden Club

(Halifax District #4)

Submitted by Diane Lucas

In 2024, the **Eastern Shore Garden Club** celebrated its **25th anniversary**. We decided to have our dinner catered to make our annual Christmas dinner special (**pictured above**).

Our caterer was "**Let's Grow Together**," a registered non-profit organization. Their objective is to promote interaction between different cultures



Let's Grow Together Catering



through various social events and activities, with an emphasis on children. It was an excellent dinner. That night we also raised money for three local food banks by selling the swags and table centrepieces that some of our members had made for the occasion and received cash and dry goods donations from the membership.

In January, our guest speaker was **Alan Banks** of **Harbour Breezes** <https://harbourbreezes.ca/>. Alan's talk and presentation was "**The Soil and Garden Development of Harbour Breezes**." He told us about the landscaping project he undertook on his property to excavate a tremendous amount of rock, which he used to build pathways and rock walls. He explained in detail the process of amending the soil to grow the beautiful gardens that he has now with over 850 varieties of daylilies, one hundred varieties of Japanese Iris, and countless other perennials.

Several ESGC club members attended the **District 4 Meeting** hosted by the **Fall River Garden Club** in October. One of the speakers was **Kara McCurdy, Fire & Emergency Wildfire Mitigation Manager**. Her talk was highly informative, and our Program Director invited her to speak at our February meeting. We encouraged our members to bring guests and invite community members. Kara's talk was about the fire smart principles designed to mitigate a home's vulnerability by taking proactive action on our properties to reduce wildfire risks.

Our Speaker for March 11th was **Roslyn Duffus**, whose presentation was titled "**Plants for Rock Gardens**."

Our club is looking forward to spring and we have started planning our May 31st plant sale.



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Lunenburg & Area Garden Club

(South Shore District #6)

Submitted by Pauline Morehouse

The fall of 2024 was the culmination of an energetic time for the club. We were able to complete the main garden at **Fisherman's Memorial Hospital** with the assistance of **Heritage Landscaping**. Weeping hoses were laid and we enjoyed a summer eyeing the beautiful garden settle in. Our pollinator garden was bursting with colour and caterpillars. They certainly enjoyed the milkweed! The stair planting was just a mass of colourful blooms right into the chilly days of winter.

The Hospital hosted a reception to thank us for this project. **Deb Bowes-Lyon, NSAGC Chairperson, Emily Liot, Director, NSAGC District 6, Lunenburg Mayor Jamie Myers and Susan Corkum-Greek, MLA** were among those who attended. It was a lovely morning to peruse the gardens.

In November we planted over a hundred daffodil and allium bulbs at the back entrance. **Project 23** will remain our focus for the years to come.

During the summer we visited a number of home gardens including a spring visit to **Bay Port Rhododendrons**.

In March, **Dave Jarvis** showed a fabulous slide show on his gardening efforts throughout his travels. **Adrien Van Dyk**, owner of **Wiles Farm Market** presented a slide show on colours how when and where to plant. In May, we went to the market where Adrien gave us information on the new and popular flowers for the season. It is great fun to fill our planters and pots.

Our plant sale was the best - it did not rain, and it was not cold. In September, our guest was **Robert Murray** who is well versed in ticks; followed in October by **David Maxwell** a renowned Apple (fruit) aficionado; ending the year with our popular gift exchange with our Make and Take and Wine & Cheese.

February 1st, we held an **Ikebana (Japanese art of flower arranging)** workshop. Wonderful creations were to be seen.

Our plant sale is tentatively set for the end of May (TBC) with again our proceeds going towards our **Project 23**.



Thank you Reception .



Plant Sale

Upper Vaughan Garden Club

(Valley District #5)

Submitted by Mark Kehoe and Debbie Innes

The **Upper Vaughan Garden Club** held a joint fund raising event with the **Upper Vaughan Community Hall** on June 22, 2024. It was a busy day for both organizations with great attendance. The Garden Club realised over \$2,200 for our efforts to be used towards planned projects in the community.

Club meetings convene at the Upper Vaughan Community Hall on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm. Every second month we host a guest speaker followed by a business meeting.

In September, the club hosted the **NSAGC District 5 Director, Lori Reid**, who talked about **Winter Sowing**. Our club members were very enthusiastic with Lori's presentation that developed into a **Winter Sowing Workshop** in the New Year. In November, **Ken Byrka**, Owner/Operator of **Revival Seeds** located in the Annapolis Valley shared his dedication to ensuring the success and sustainability of every seed they plant. Along with his informative presentation he also sang to us having traveled all over the world with his band **Sleddogs**. At our Dessert Party in December, **Hughstin Grimshaw-Surette**, Terrestrial Project Coordinator from the **Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council** joined us. Club members learned from his informative presentation that plants/shrubs we have in our gardens may in fact be an invasive species.



Upper Vaughan Baptist Church

The club received a \$1,000 **Community Development Grant** from the **Municipality of the District of West Hants**. These funds helped to purchase soil, mulch, fertilizer for three community gardens. Our Civic Committee led our community garden

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GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Mount Denson Garden Club

(Valley District #5)

Submitted by Carla Scholten

With the daytime temperatures warming and the days getting longer, gardeners are anxious to get their hands dirty again. To satisfy this urge, many in our Club have begun **Winter Sowing**, introduced to us by **Lori Reid**. This provides natural cold stratification and is a perfect alternative to those with limited space indoors to start seeds.

Recently, the Club hosted a Potluck dinner and Seed Sharing. We are always grateful to those who take the time to harvest their own seeds to share and to



those who donate seeds to us. Vegetable seeds are available to groups or individuals growing to support those experiencing food insecurity.

The weather this interfered with a few of our meetings. Our October meeting hosted **Markus Kehoe, Accounts Manager, JC Bakker & Sons Ltd**, as well as, a member of our Club and **President, Upper Vaughan Garden Club**, who discussed the “**Ideal Landscape Conditions for Trees and Shrubs.**” Mark has a wealth of information to share, and we always appreciate his expertise. Some of our members got together to construct garden decor in the form of concrete orbs. We plan to do this again as more members are interested and want to join in the mess of these creations.

Tracey Martin graciously offered to lead the **Christmas Planter Workshop** for members and guests. This is an annual tradition we look forward to, providing us with our own creations for outside winter interest for the season. We celebrated our Christmas Party at **Walkers Restaurant** with the wonderful tunes of **Terry Jagger**. Donations were collected to support **Caremongers** for their work with the homeless in the community.

We are pleased to announce the recipient of the **2024 Norma Sweet Memorial Bursary** is **Brianna Hennigar**. We wish her well in her studies.

On April 12, 2025, our Club will be hosting the **NSAGC District 5 Meeting** at the **Brooklyn Civic Centre**. The theme this year is “**Growing with Climate Change**” featuring: **James Henderson - Pushing the Zones**, **Ron Neville**, Canadian Food Inspection Agency - **Invasive Insect Species**, and **Jamie Ellison, Xeriscaping**. The day will also include a catered buffet, silent auction, local vendors, door prizes, goody bags, and a 50/50 draw. It is sure to be a fun and informative day!

Bedford Horticultural Society

(Halifax District #4)

Submitted by Marlene Grigg

Here it is again, almost spring and although we are venturing out into our gardens in search of developing buds and snowdrops, we will surely see a few more snowflakes before winter is truly gone. That means there is still time to plan our gardens, buy seeds, and assemble what we need to get started. I'll soon be digging through my shed to find tools and seed starting trays, and wishing I was more organized last fall.

We at BHS (Bedford Horticultural Society) enjoyed a busy fall and winter with lots of opportunities for learning about subjects directly and not-so-directly related to gardening. Our **President, Donna Burris**, suggested a roundtable format for the September meeting and it was a success. Attendees responded to a set of prepared questions with enthusiasm. In fact, Donna soon had to referee according to time constraints. Discussions were lively and I'm certain that we all went home with new ideas on issues ranging from weed control to beneficial soil amendments to plants that we love and grow well in our Bedford gardens.

In October, **Dr. Claudia Schmieman of the Holistic Health Centre** in Lunenburg spoke on the topic of ordinary healing plants most of us have in our gardens and how to use them. She even shared samples of elixirs made from plants in her own garden.

In November, we held our annual **Christmas Potluck**, which everyone enjoys. The food was delicious and varied, as always, and the vibe was festive with games and guests. **Bonnie Conrad** and **Donna Burris** did an excellent job of orchestrating and directing the event.

In January, **Kara McCurdy, Fire & Emergency Wildfire Mitigation Manager**, spoke on the topic of living with wildfire in our gardens: a subject of great interest to all of us. She explained how to identify potential hazards on our own properties (e.g. mulch and plant growth against building foundations), appropriate mitigation procedures, and how to prioritize mitigation actions. Plus, she provided handouts with clear, easily understood instructions and diagrams. I might not be able to install a metal roof this year, but I have a clever idea of what practical and low-cost measures I can start on this spring!

Our February speaker, **Liz Edgely from Community Health Bedford**, talked to us about healthy living for seniors. Her presentation contained practical guidelines for general good health. Community Health hosts a variety of courses ranging in length from hours to multiple days. They are free any many available online.

We are now looking forward to future spring and summer BHS events. This is our **75th Anniversary** so we will celebrate at a spring social in May. There is sure to be great food and merriment.



Christmas Potluck

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Dartmouth Horticultural Society

(Halifax District #4)

Submitted by Jennifer McNeil

Blooming with Activity!

The Dartmouth Horticultural Society (DHS) has been keeping our green thumbs busy and staying connected. Let us look at what we have been up to and what is ahead!

Looking back at 2024 we hosted our seed exchange, where members helped themselves to the assortment of seeds and plants at our October monthly meeting. Fall is an exciting time for seed collection and supporting sustainability in our gardens.

Our guest speaker, **Anita Price**, presented *“How to Enjoy Your Weeds,”* offering a fresh perspective on those often-maligned plants. Anita shared how common weeds in Nova Scotia have long been used for a variety of purposes, from food and teas to herbal remedies and even dyes and fabrics. It was a fascinating look into plants that thrive where others struggle, and many members left with a new appreciation for their “weed” neighbors.

In November, we welcomed **Elizabeth Pierce** to talk about extending the growing season into the winter months. Members learned about cold-hardy crops and plants that provide sustenance for overwintering birds. It was the perfect way to keep our gardens productive, even when the frost is on the ground!

We then wrapped up the year with our delightful **Holiday Potluck**. Our volunteer coordinators **Ginny Clark-Druhan** and **Janet Holmes** organized a night of delicious food, festive cheer, and community spirit. Members



DHS Holiday Potluck

brought amazing home cooked food, some of which came directly from their gardens! We used this special occasion to present **Lifetime Membership Awards** to two long-standing members: **Frances Howard** and **Debra Coles**. These two individuals have shown dedication and passion for gardening and the DHS for many years. Congratulations to both!

DHS believes in supporting our community and used the Holiday Potluck event to collect food donations for **Feed Nova Scotia**. Furthermore, we are proud to make a financial contribution to the **North Grove** – a dynamic

community hub that brings people together with food and friendship. We made sure to maximise our donation by contributing on **“Giving Tuesday”** which allowed our donation to be matched and have an even greater impact. Finally, we proudly continue our annual \$500 bursary to a Dalhousie University student, supporting the next generation of horticulturalists.

DHS is starting the year with our greatest numbers yet! We have grown to **over 110 members** and continue to see new members at every meeting. As part of our commitment to transparency, DHS conducted an audit of our 2024 financials. Volunteers Tina Small and Betty Perkins assisted in this process. The audit was completed by March ensuring that our club’s finances are in great shape.

In January, we held a fantastic event where members answered garden related questions in small groups and shared their answers. Whether you are a new member or seasoned gardener, this interactive event was a terrific way to connect, meet new people, and learn from each other. We look forward to more engaging discussions in the months ahead!

Unfortunately, February brought us some terrible weather and we were not able to hold our regularly scheduled meeting for safety reasons, but we made up for it with an inspiring **Zoom presentation** by **Makayla Cole**. Makayla shared her experiences volunteering on an organic farm in San Rafael, Colombia. The pictures and knowledge she shared from her adventure were stunning. She inspired members to keep learning and exploring new opportunities in gardening and sustainability.

In March, we were thrilled to welcome **Catherine Morley** for a presentation on *“How to Grow a Cut Flower Garden.”* If you have ever wanted to grow your own fresh flowers for bouquets, Catherine shared valuable tips on how to get started on planning and planting your own cut flower plot. Members left with a better understanding of how to



Life Membership Recipient –Debra Coles



Life Membership Recipient—Frances Howard

(Continued on page 12)

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Dartmouth Horticultural Society

(Halifax District #4)

Submitted by Jennifer McNeil

(Continued from page 11)

enjoy fresh blooms all season!

We feel like we have already accomplished so much for 2025, but we are just getting started! Mark your calendars for our **2025 Plant Sale**, scheduled for **May 31, 2025**, at **Saint Vincent de Paul Church** (320 Flying Cloud Dr, Dartmouth). This annual event is always a highlight. Come and check out all the wonderful plants and garden goodies that will be available!

Upper Vaughan Garden Club

(Valley District #5)

Submitted by Mark Kehoe and Debbie Innes

(Continued from page 9)

project with work started in June with club members and other volunteers in cleaning up the existing garden at the **Upper Vaughan Baptist Church**. They then moved into July with restoring and expanding an old garden while



Upper Vaughan Community Hall



Outstanding Club Member for 2024 - Markus Kehoe

adding a new sidewalk garden at the **Upper Vaughan Community Hall**.

Our **Outstanding Club Member for 2024** was **Mark Kehoe, President**. He was instrumental in starting our garden club and always shares his knowledge and love of gardening at every meeting.

In September, we completed a **Public Lending Library** which will be maintained at the Upper Vaughan Community Hall. We have a great selection of gardening books which are being used continuously by club and community members.

Two of our club members attended the **District 4 Meeting** in October at the Waverly Legion and had a great time meeting members from other garden clubs as well as enjoying the informative presentations.

Club members served at a holiday dinner hosted by the **South West Hants Fire Society** and wore our popular red Club Aprons. The Society thanked the Club with a donation. Our club also participated in a local **Market** at the **South West Hants Fire Hall** in March. Two club member sold plants and tickets and had great fun interacting with all those in attendance.

Antigonish Garden Club

(Eastern District #2)

Submitted by Ruth MacEachern

The Antigonish Garden Club has been planning the year since January and started off 2025 with three successful activities in March.

Mini-hoop Workshop

On March 8, we welcomed over forty-five people to view **Niki Jabbour's** video, enjoy a pizza lunch, and catch up after what felt like a long winter. The feedback has been positive. The event attracted about 25% non-members, and several people joined the Club. We also had a number of people signing up to work at the June Convention and gathered suggestions from attendees on several topics of interest to the Club.

Seedy Sunday

The following day, March 9, was **Antigonish Seedy Sunday**, with a vastly different crowd comprised of younger people, many with families. We distributed nearly three hundred packages of seeds from the **NSAGC donation** and provided advice to new gardeners on how and when to start seeds. Several people took note of the flyer advertising the "**Winter Sowing Workshop**" and took flyers on the Club and how to join.



Winter Sowing Workshop

On March 24, our regular Club meeting was a hands-on event showing people how to create their mini greenhouses, the type of seeds suitable for **winter sowing**, and when to plant them. The event was very enjoyable with over forty people attending and attracted several non-members who were encouraged to join the Club.



Winter Sowing Workshop

Planning is well under way for the meetings in April (Perennials) and May (Growing Vegetables), as well as tours and other events around the Convention in June.

Seed donation

Like other clubs, we are busy distributing the seed donation throughout our area, led very efficiently by the tireless Sharon Bryson. In addition to Seedy Sunday, large numbers of packages are being distributed to the local Library, and to Club members. We have also made contact with the Community Garden, Community Fridge, Saint Francis Xavier University, and the Antigonish Food Bank. Distribution efforts will continue throughout spring.



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hello fellow Gardeners:

This is my first **Scotia Gardener Newsletter** as Editor. To be perfectly honest I am more of an expert with computer's than I am with gardening. Thus, the term "*backyard gardener*" applies to me but even at times I question this. I have plants in my gardens that I have no idea of what they are called and when asked, my responses are: "*Oh, that a Glenna flower.*" "*That's my ditch plant from East Dalhousie!*" "*Someone left that on my door-step plant!*" My all-time favourite response: "*It's a travelling plant that the birds dropped off!*"

Who does not love gardening – be it big, small, or in-between sized gardens. I do have a special affinity for my four raised beds that I built for growing herbs and vegetables. I am also into gardening in bags and more recently downloaded the plans for building a nine 5-gallon bucket garden stand. Gardening is unending – would you agree!

As a member of the Upper Vaughan Garden Club, I love hearing our members talk about their gardens – they use generic names and all you can hear me saying is what is the name of that plant that I can relate to – **LOL** (laugh-out-loud)? I am always chuckling to myself and thinking I will never get to their level but am I having fun – you can bet your bottom dollar I am! But let us not talk about money now, this is the Scotia Gardener Newsletter.

Your club submissions are all so interesting and overwhelming with your commitment and generosity to your community's well-being. Now more than ever we are seeing an increase in **creating sustainable community gardens** to ensure there is food on the table for everyone and **NSAGC** is helping to lead the way!

Spring is here, the birds are back, the plants are alive with new growth, the seeds are sown, and you have the first Scotia Gardener Newsletter for 2025. *I do hope that you like it.* For me it is a work in progress and will grow as a garden does. There will be changes but they will be constructive changes that get the news out to each and everyone of you.

Happy gardening and the deadline for July's issue is **June 15th**.

debbie

Editor, Scotia Gardener
newsletter@nsagc.com



Tim Geddes - 1st Overall Winner - 2024 Photo Contest

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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.

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