

SCOTIA GARDENER



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Hello fellow gardeners:

Happy summer! I am excited to be stepping into the role of Chairperson this year! There has been a lot of momentum made over the past two years under the guidance of **Deb Bowes-Lyon**, and I plan to continue moving full steam ahead with our team! I thank Deb for all her hard work and am happy to have her continue as **Past-Chairperson** to provide support and guidance through my term. We have built a strong team, and I am excited about what we can accomplish over the next two years!

I would like to thank **District 2 - Eastern** for hosting an excellent convention in June. It was very well organized with a lot of interesting speakers and activities that were enjoyed by all! I would also like to thank those who stepped up at our annual general meeting to take on a role on the NSAGC board, we are excited to have you as part of our team and pleased to announce we have a full slate of officers elected to the board for this year!

On a business note, we will be holding a planning session later this summer with the executive to plot out the direction of our strategic planning over my two-year term. In addition to this, I would love to get out and meet your club to talk about the NSAGC – please do not hesitate to reach out!

I hope you are all enjoying the warmer summer weather and that you are able to spend some valuable time tending to your gardens!

Geoff MacDonald
NSAGC Chairperson
secretary@nsagc.com



THE NSAGC LOGO

Our logo features the trailing arbutus, more commonly known as the **Mayflower**. It is not only the provincial flower of Nova Scotia but a flower which is indigenous to our woodlands. It emerges just as the snows are receding from our forests in early spring. It has delicate white and pink blooms with a heady, sweet fragrance. (Source: [Welcome to the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs, providing support and resources for the public and garden clubs.](#))

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CANADA EH!

Submitted by Janice Schmidt

Welcome back to **PART 2** of growing Canadian roses. I assume that you have already bought a few rose bushes, found the perfect location, amended the soil, and have planted and initially watered the new plant.

Let us just quickly review that information. A location that provides your new rose with at least 6-8 hours of sunshine. The soil has been amended to the correct PH which is approximately 6.5 -6.8 and you have selected the correct rose bush for your gardening zone, planted and initially water the rose sufficiently.

WATERING

I would like to begin by telling you a short story which is one of my favorites that I like to share. Growing up in England I was very familiar with Travellers, they used to roam around and stay for days in the area and there was always one gentleman that sold magic elixirs. He had one that was guaranteed to produce multiple blooms on all your rose bushes. The elixir worked so well that villagers lined up to purchase this wonderful potion. All you had to do was place 1-2 tablespoons in a gallon of water a week and the magic would happen to your rose bushes.

It did happen, the roses produced an abundance of blooms, but it had nothing to do with the elixir but everything to do with the water.

Roses need lots of water. This can be provided by underground soaker systems for best and most efficient results if you have many rose bushes. I have many roses but just water with the hose first thing in the morning which allows the foliage to dry before sundown, to inhibit mildew infections. Under normal conditions water every five days and make sure bushes receive 5 cm (2") of water, which is equivalent to 1 to 2 gallons of water per bush depending on the size of the bush.



Tom Thompsons, Campfire rose, Morden Manitoba - a beautiful rose multicolored and continuous blooming.

FERTILIZING

Roses are also heavy feeders and like to be fed on a regular basis. As gardeners we are all familiar with fertilizers and the balance of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium. Just a quick review as Nitrogen is primarily for green leaf, stem growth and overall rose health. This is a crucial component of chlorophyll; this molecule converts sunlight into energy through photosynthesis which is vital for plant metabolism. Please remember about this for other plants in your garden and even house plants too that lack luster, growth, and overall health.

Next, is Phosphorus used to enhance root development and seed development again a key component in photosynthesis. Root growth is essential for plants to absorb water and nutrients.

Lastly, Potassium which helps move water and nutrients throughout the plant to where it is needed for growth and development to produce blooms. The ideal combination for roses is a balance of 10/10/10. Sometimes slightly higher phosphorus to encourage root development and strong blooms.

Hopefully, you have finished your first application of fertilizer as it is usually approximately two weeks after the leaves have come out. Then every two- three week after that until about mid August when you must stop fertilizing and pruning to allow the rose system to get the message, "winter is coming, and I must prepare to meet the challenge and go dormant."

Over the years I have tried every fertilizer from Alpaca manure, Chicken manure, Horse manure, the point is it does not matter what you use just use something. If the rose lack blooms try a higher amount of Potassium, if you lack green growth try higher amounts of Nitrogen. If you think about it, it is all about science.

My first application was chicken and my second application with be horse manure. I also strongly recommend banana peels as the roses love the Potassium, and I give them some Epsom salts as it helps produce very colorful blooms. One tablespoon of Epsom salts per gallon of water around the base of the plant. Please do this sparingly, I only do it once per season as it is enough and too much can harm your rose(s).

Continued on Page 3

CANADA EH!

Continued from Page 2

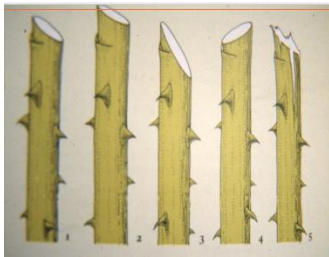
PRUNING

Pruning is done for several reasons:

- A. In the spring to clean the rose and remove dead canes.
- B. To enhance continued blooming.



The first flush of colour and number of blooms is the best but continued watering, fertilizing, and pruning will allow the rose to bloom throughout the growing season provided of course it is a rose that blooms more than once. Once the bloom is spent it should be removed with a sharp, clean set of secateurs or pruning shears. Typically remove the bloom back to the first set of five leaflets and make a 45-degree angle to remove the bloom.



1. The cut is the correct angle, and it should be facing away from an outward facing bud. This is important because as the bud grows it will have enough air circulation.
2. The cut is too high and not angled enough.
3. The cut is too slanted.
4. The cut is directly on top of the outward facing bud and when you prune any plant a small amount of liquid can ooze from the cut onto the bud and deform it.
5. The pruning shears need to be sharpened.

- C. A method of control.

One of my favorite Explorer roses is **William Baffin**. It is not classified as a climber, but its growth habit is that of a climber and can grow taller than 12 feet. To the right is a photo of four of them in my garden in Ontario.

I used to sell roses at the Farmers market and a lady wanted this one BUT said I don't have the space. I said then prune the rose to fit the space you have which is a method of control.



- D. Prune in the fall.

Roses like William Baffin might have a few canes that need to be cut back in the fall before winter and strong winds take them down and perhaps damage the plant. So, take a good look around the roses in the fall and prune some canes to a comfortable height but please do not prune to ground level. This is an opportunity for frost to enter the cane and travel down into the ground and kill the rose.

MULCH

If you like to mulch, use wood chips, old sawdust, compost, or untreated grass clippings (provided herbicides have not been used on the grass). Mulching inhibits growth of weeds, keeps soil cool and helps retain soil moisture.

SPRAYING

This part of rose horticultural practices has changed over years in Canada. Many regions do not allow the use of toxic harsh chemicals to be used for cosmetic purposes in home and public gardens. I don't believe in them either. One method to help with the removal of certain insects is Neem Oil. It is a natural pesticide, well known and it works by disrupting insect feeding and growth, rather than just killing them. It is also safe for lady bugs and bees.

If you have aphids try a soap solution which is one part soap and 40 parts water. Spider mites use an insecticidal soap, and the Japanese beetle hand pick them and place them in a bucket of soap solution.

Continued on Page 4

CANADA EH!

Continued from Page 3

Personally, my approach is either hand picking the insects or diversification of plant material in the garden. This thinking is relatively new as it used to be that roses should be in a garden all by themselves but over the years this has proven to have disastrous effects and now many well-known Rose gardens across Canada have been adding different types of plant material in with the roses. The thought process being it attracts beneficial pollinators and creates a more balanced and thriving ecosystem.

Other plants other insects and some that feed on the insects that love roses. A winning environmentally safe combination.

WINTER PROTECTION

If you are growing tender roses some form of winter protection is necessary.

I used to buy good bags of soil, here a few bags of Grampy's soil or straw and mound up the tender roses but no winter protection is required for any of my Canadian roses.

I hope you have had the opportunity to read part 1 and 2 of Canada Eh! And enjoyed learning more about our Canadian Hardy roses.

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

2026 NSAGC CONVENTION – JUNE 5TH – 6TH

Submitted by Glynis Thomas

DISTRICT 1 – CAPE BRETON ISLAND is pleased to announce they will be hosting the **2026 NSAGC Convention** at the beautiful **Inverary Inn Resort** in Baddeck on the shores of the Bras d'or Lakes.



The passing of the NSAGC Convention Banner from Anne Gratton, District 2 - Eastern to Glynis Thomas, District 1 - Cape Breton.

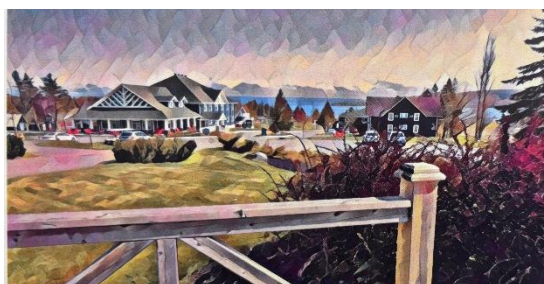
The **Inverary Inn** is a destination resort offering:

- Evening Bonfires on Inverary Property.
- Enjoy up to 20% savings on golf at Bell Bay Golf Club!
- Adventure Centre includes - kayaks, paddle boats, shuffleboard, washer toss and a pontoon boat.
- Indoor heated pool, sauna & hot tub as well as the addition of a new outdoor hot tub (*we cannot all fit in at once though!*)



The folks in 2017 set the bar high and we hope to exceed their efforts (plus a small number are here to guide us in 2026).

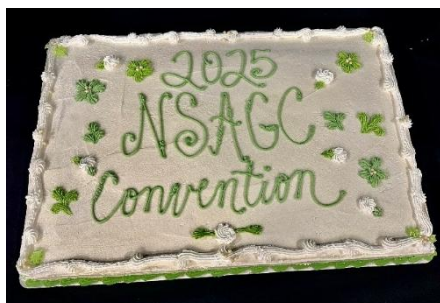
We will be putting out information on booking accommodations soon and you will find updates in the **Scotia Gardener**, at **NSAGC.com** “Save the Date” and our **Facebook** group.



Inverary Resort

Baddeck
Cape Breton Island

2025 NSAGC CONVENTION CAPTURED IN PICTURES



NSAGC CONVENTION 2025 CAPTURED IN PICTURES

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Pictures courtesy of:

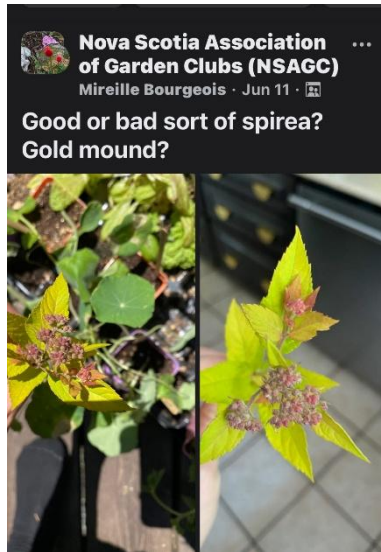
**Bliss FitzRandolph
Pauline Morehouse
April Stewart**



SPIREA: AN INVASIVE LESSON

Submitted by Glynis Thomas

What a great way to introduce the **NSAGC Facebook Group** to the Scotia Gardener newsletter than by sharing a question posted on **June 11th** and the subsequent answer provided by a **NSAGC volunteer**.



“Good or bad sort of spirea? Gold Mound?”

“This plant was growing in my gravel driveway; I don’t have any on my property...”

Excellent question – submitted by one of our 16,000+ FB group members.

Have I got a story for you ...

But first,

It really is worth knowing that when you ask about a plant there may be numerous species and numerous cultivars developed from them. So, you are going to get conflicting answers about “invasiveness.” It is a good reason for using botanical names over conflicting common names for plants.

I love spirea. I have native *Spiraea alba* - White Meadowsweet, it grows readily across NS, along with *S. tomentosa* - Steeplebush. I also have several cultivars that are well behaved, such as *S. × vanhouttei* and *S.*

prunifolia 'Plena,' and *Spiraea thunbergii* - these would be the bridal wreath, snow mound type cultivars (there are reports in a few select areas of the USA as spreading). I also have a lovely, variegated variety with interesting “crinkly” serrated leaves that is a cultivar of *S. japonica* that has never seeded.

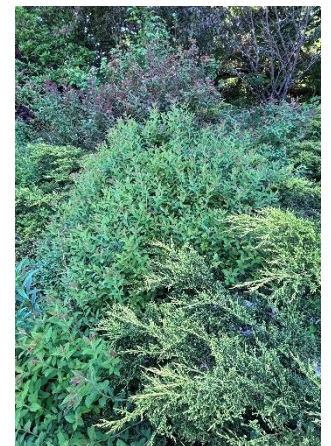
Here’s where things go south, there are a lot of *Spiraea japonica* cultivars. Put them



together like ‘gold mound,’ ‘little gem,’ ‘gold flame,’ ‘Frobelii’ (*S. × bumalda*, a cross between *S. albiflora* and *S. japonica*) and you are going to get a lesson in cross pollination and reversion. The cross pollination produces lots of demure looking little plants, most of which will have reverted to the traits of their original parentage. That reversion will produce a spirea that is very capable of producing a profusion of offspring and, before you know it, an unpleasant invasion of plants that are not the easiest to pull up. The same reversion happens with barberry cultivars, only they are far more invasive.

NOR will the reversions stay in your garden. Welcome to invasive species 101.¹

WORSE, little has been studied on cross pollination affecting native plant species. There is recent evidence of native and cultivated plants readily crossbreeding and outcompeting ALL the native species. Probably one of the best studied examples of damage to a native population, is the red mulberry (native to Ontario) being hybridized with the white mulberry (invasive) before anyone.



This is my story, my first lesson in how quickly reversion and cross pollination can occur. How quickly something so sweet as a spirea turns into a garden nightmare and then an ecological threat. I certainly did not want it to be my story. I am still trying to dig ones out between the evergreen shrubs.

SPIREA: AN INVASIVE LESSON

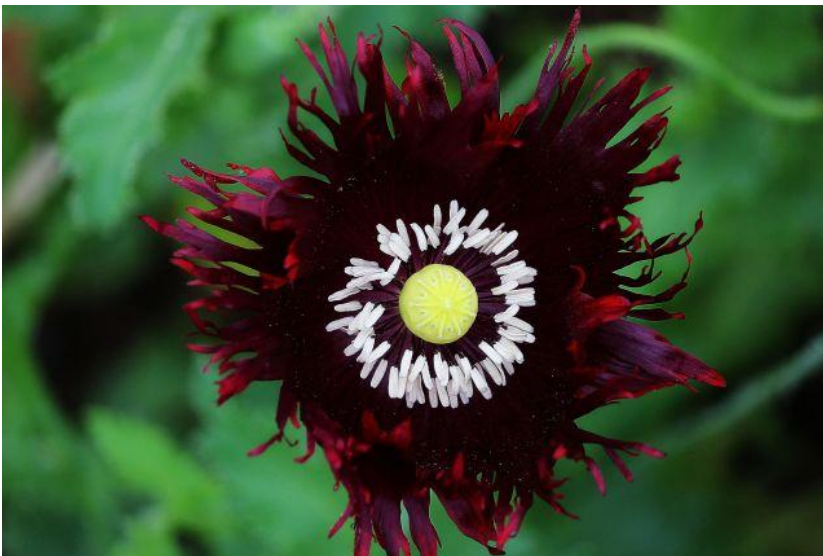
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My *S. japonica* 'gold mound' has produced far less viable seed and only one or two offspring with similar characteristics as most of the other *S. Japonica* have been removed. Hopefully, you have no close neighbours with another *S. japonica* cultivar or are willing to diligently remove the flower heads once spent. If you want to propagate it do so by vegetative cutting or layering (just remember some plants are now under copyright).

Endnotes:

- 1 <https://journals.ashs.org/hortsci/view/journals/hortsci/44/7/article-p2031.xml>
- 2 https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/OIPC_BMP_WhiteMulberry_June032020_WEB-1-J26.pdf
- 3 <https://www.torontomastergardeners.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/White-Mulberry.pdf>
- 4 <https://wildlifepreservation.ca/species/karner-blue-butterfly/>
- 5 https://nsinvasives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/NBISC_Invasive-Species_Guide-2022.pdf
- 6 <https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/blog/archive/support-local-biodiversity.html>

2025 NSAGC Photo Contest – Overall Winners



1ST PLACE OVERALL
JENNIFER HILL



2ND PLACE OVERALL
MARK KEHOE



3RD PLACE OVERALL
BILL READER

To view all the winner's, visit the NSAGC website at:
[Information for garden clubs in Nova Scotia, including how to join NSAGC, membership benefits, downloadable documents, hosting a district meeting and photo contest submissions.](#)

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

CHESTER GARDEN CLUB

District 7 – South Shore

Submitted by Jayne E. Campbell

The **Chester Garden Club** is presently in its **86th year**. Last year was such a banner year of celebrations, it is hard sometimes to realize that we accomplished as much as we did in such a short period of time.

We are all realizing that we are getting older and it is hard to entice new members and keep them unless you are including things in the programs that satisfy their needs and interests.

Our **regular meetings** for the year now **start in April** to avoid winter driving and the possibility of cancelled programs. Programs now are more hands-on workshops or demonstrations, gardening tips for new gardeners, supporting community gardening projects by spreading the word and encouraging younger involvement.



Chester Garden Club still maintains two gardens: our own garden at **The Cove** as well as the village garden at **The Parade Square**.

We will be going on a garden tour to **'The Meadows'** this month instead of a regular meeting. We will be stopping at **Garden Centre's** along the way as a social outing for members as well as supporting local businesses.

July is always a busy month in preparation for the **flower show**. Our program in July always places an emphasis on **flower arrangement** and **specimen preparation**. Our meetings and programs are open to the public and this year through additional promotion at the district level we believe the attendance of nonmembers has increased.

We take a break in August to celebrate our growing season and have a social gathering for the membership and friends.

Our fall programs are still in the planning stages, but we all look forward to a harvest program and ending our year with a club celebration.

A **special thank you** to our program coordinators this year for organizing a great lineup of new presentations and garden tours: **April 21st – Earth Day – Garden Clean Up**, April meeting – **Roslyn Duffus – 'Plants I Have Had Success With'**, May meeting – **Christina Caldwell – 'Growing Dahlias'**, **May 31st – Chester Gardeners' Sale**, **July 14th – Flower Arrangement Demonstration & Specimen Preparation**, and **July 17th – Flower Show, Chester Legion**.



Earth Day Clean-up

HANTS NORTH LATE BLOOMERS GARDEN CLUB

(District 3 – Central South)

Submitted by Geoff MacDonald

On Saturday, **May 24th** the **Hants North Late Bloomers** held their **annual plant sale** at the **New Horizons Hall** in Noel. We had a wide variety of plants from our gardens along with baked goods, a lovely gift basket and a door prize. We had a great attendance, and it was a wonderful opportunity for our club to talk about our garden club with our community.



The funds raised from the sale will help fund club activities that take place throughout the year.

As a **thank you** to the **New Horizons group** for being able to use their hall, our club assists them in managing the gardens that are on site each year with the club getting together to plant and weed their gardens.



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

CLEMENTS GARDEN CLUB

(District 7 – Western)

Submitted by Denise J. Rice

On **April 9th**, we had our first Club meeting of the year with two speakers from our club whose topic was **Winter Gardening**.

Doris Reffinghaus' presentation was on **growing seeds in large zip lock bags**. She fills each bag with about four inches of dirt, pokes holes in the bottom of the bag, plants her seeds, and zips the top of the bag partly shut, leaving an opening of about two inches for the bag to breathe and obtain the required moisture. Doris then placed the bags on a low wooden structure in a sunny location, the seeds sprouted in the bags, and you do not need to harden off the seedlings. Great idea!



**Scott Digweed, Treasurer,
Clements Garden Club**

The second speaker was **Scott Digweed**, our Treasurer, who experimented with **cold frames and hoop gardening**. He talked about a step-by-step process over several months of trial and errors of his winter gardens. The second year was more successful than the first, as in the first year he just housed the voles who had free accommodation for the winter. The number of nice greens: Tokyo Bekana, Miners Lettuce, Arugula, Beedy Kale, Sorrel, Spinach, which he had last winter was a great success. His Cilantro grew most of the winter only wilting in the cold snap we had.



Doris Reffinghaus

Scott is in the process of creating a **web page** for our garden group. We also have a **Facebook group**, please check us out and join or like our page.

In **March** we had five thousand seed packets donated to our group, oh the excitement of all those seeds.

In **April** we went to **Floreren Farms in Centrelea**, a nice organic farm, we are going back again soon. They grow many herbs and dry them for resale, lots of fruit trees and berry bushes as well. Then we zipped on up to **Summerland Nursery in Wilmot**, a must-see Nursery, beautiful grounds and so many perennials, annuals, baskets, shrubs trees & bushes to choose from.



Floreren Farms, Centrelea

In **May** our guest speaker was **Karen Auchenbach** who gave an excellent talk on Ferns. She is the **former Horticulturist** for the **Historic Gardens in Annapolis Royal**; she had been there for over 40 years.

We went on a field trip on **June 11**, to **Jim and Jenny Medill's in Lequille**. What an amazing property they have, words cannot explain it, so peaceful and tranquil, with a large pond on their property full of wildlife.

Gail Wilson and **Stephanie Tremblay** attended the **NSAGC Convention** in Antigonish in June. Interesting speakers and a wonderful location.

We are looking forward to the upcoming program including a field trip to **Brier Island** and a presentation on mushrooms. Have a wonderful summer!

2025 NSAGC Floral Arts Competition

*Pictures
courtesy of
Bliss
FitzRandolph*



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

MAHONE BAY GARDEN SOCIETY

(District 6 – South Shore)

Submitted by Jenny Sandison

Mahone Bay Garden Society had a wonderful **Christmas Party** in December of last year and then relaxed until February when we planned our **Annual Meeting** with a presenter who would talk on the **Urban Forest**. Alas, the weather that week was appalling with all the ice on the roads, and although we tried to hold the meeting the following week, we again had to cancel due to the road conditions. We enjoyed the meeting in **March** when **Naomi Crawford** talked about her experience in **Ontario** growing flowers for the commercial market. In **April**, **Hugh Grimshaw-Surette**, from the **Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council**, talked about **invasive species and their control**. We held our long delayed **Annual Meeting** at this time as well.



Container planting workshop at Wiles Lake Farm – May 8, 2025

In **May** we returned to **Wile's Lake Farm Market**, which has new owners, and enjoyed hearing about new annual varieties for pollinators from **Adrien Van Dyk** and planting up our containers.

The **Town of Mahone Bay** is currently under siege as a new sewer is being installed along the waterfront in front of the Three Churches. It's going to be a difficult summer with all the traffic disruptions. The plan calls for a new multi-purpose trail all along the waterfront here which, once installed will be a real asset, but has necessitated the removal of one of our flower beds. We have dug up the important plants and hope to re-

use them once the project is completed. Plants which were of less value were offered to the members of the Garden Society and were cleaned out by the end of the day.

Members of the Garden Society are also involved in the **Landscape Advisory Committee**, where, with the assistance of **Gordon Ratcliff**, a **Landscape Architect**, we are planning to conserve important trees in the area and plan for new plantings.



Town Garden Cleanup – April 2025

Members are also involved in the **Town Planter Program** selecting plants we hope the deer will leave alone. One of the problems of moving from hanging baskets to street level containers is that the plant material is in easy reach of the wildlife.

We held our **Annual Plant Sale** at the end of **May**. Weather this year was dismal, so we held the event in the **Anglican Church Hall**, and it worked so much better. Nothing blew away in the breeze and buyers could browse comfortably. As always, we sold out fast and late arrivals were sorely disappointed.

Now it's summer and as most of the work in our gardens is completed, we can look forward to our summer tours and admiring all our efforts.



Plant Sale – May 31, 2025



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

DARTMOUTH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

(District 4 - Halifax)

Submitted by Jennifer McNeil

As we move into the heart of the growing season, the **Dartmouth Horticultural Society (DHS)** is enjoying a wonderful blend of community spirit, educational opportunities, and hands-on gardening fun. With spring ending and summer fast approaching, our members have been active in every corner of the garden, from swapping seeds and sharing knowledge, to organizing field trips and pulling off a successful plant sale. Here is a look back at our recent activities and a preview of the months to come!

We were thrilled to announce **Makayla Cole** as the recipient of the **2024 Outstanding Member Award**! As Program Chair, Makayla coordinated speaker bookings, managed logistics, supported workshops, and contributed to executive planning. Her dedication has had a lasting impact on our Society, and we are incredibly grateful. Thank you, Makayla, and congratulations!

Our spring **Seed Exchange** was a hit and really got the season off to a great start! Members swapped their saved seeds at our **April** and **May** meetings. We all enjoyed the additional commercial donation of seeds and offered leftover packets as a free bonus at our May 31st Plant Sale.

In our **April** meeting, one of our wonderful members, **Yogi Gutz**, gave a practical and engaging talk on **garden tool care**, offering helpful maintenance tips that can extend the life of any gardener's toolkit.

We also heard from **cookbook author Elizabeth Bailey**, who shared inspiring ways to eat locally and seasonally using herbs and produce from our own backyards.

At our May meeting, **Jennifer Stotland** presented **food forestry and companion planting**. She guided members through designing sustainable, layered gardens that work well even in smaller urban spaces.

In late April, a group of adventurous DHS members took a field trip to the **Exotic Fruit Nursery in Lunenburg**. This special visit included a guided two-hour tour of the nursery's greenhouse and orchard, a dried fruit tasting, and the opportunity to shop for unique fruit-bearing plants. This unique experience offered insights into permaculture practices and fruit forest gardening, aligning beautifully with DHS's values of sustainability and garden innovation.



Inside the beautiful Exotic Nursery Greenhouse

Our **Annual Plant Sale** was held on **Saturday, May 31st** and was a blooming success! A big thank-you to our team of coordinators, as well as every volunteer who dug, potted, labeled, loaded, sold, and cleaned up. We had everything from perennials and veggie starts, to houseplants, garden décor, and books. There was something for every gardener! Members stood out in our bright yellow DHS T-shirts making us easy to identify and direct customers to the plants they needed. We are pleased to share that we also recruited several new members at the sale!

Our **June** meeting featured **Joan Dobbie**, who brought her passion and years of gardening wisdom to a lively presentation on **pollinator-friendly gardens**. Members left inspired to support our vital bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

We also welcomed **Alexe Indigo**, a Dalhousie PhD student, who shared her **Japanese Beetle Research Project** and invited DHS members to participate in this important citizen science initiative. Our members will be collecting Japanese Beetles from their own gardens to contribute to the research and support in finding a sustainable solution to this invasive garden pest. We cannot wait to hear about the findings from this interesting project!

In place of our regularly scheduled meetings, we hold a series of member **Garden Tours** throughout **July** and **August**. This is an opportunity to show off our gardening successes, get feedback from members, and become inspired for updates to our own gardens. We do not worry if they are not perfect, because gardens are always growing! The warmer weather is also an opportunity for our annual summer potluck. It is a great time to get together and have some laughs.

DHS continues to support the **Moir Garden at Sullivan's Pond** and the **Cole Harbour Farm Garden**. Our volunteers are in full swing and welcome extra hands for weeding, watering, and harvesting. No experience necessary, just enthusiasm!



DHS members enjoying a tasting at the Exotic Fruit Nursery

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

BEDFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

(District 4 - Halifax)

Submitted by Marlene Grigg

June, I think, is the most rewarding month for gardeners; Irises are still blooming, and the flowers of Peonies, Roses, and Lilacs perfume the air. Every day in the garden there is a delight of scents, colours, and surprises.

This is the **75th Anniversary** of the **Bedford Horticultural Society (BHS)**, an achievement to celebrate, and celebrate we did with a 'hybrid' potluck dinner (mains and dessert provided by BHS and sides prepared by members). Special guests included BHS past presidents, plus counsellor **Jean St. Armand**, and NSAGC district director, **Nancy MacCara**, who both delivered speeches that offered congratulations and talked about the importance of volunteers and community organizations, like ours. Outstanding volunteers including **Pamela MacLean** and **Donna Burris** were deservedly recognized, and **Emily Walker** regaled us with anecdotes gleaned from her review of BHS minutes dating back to the years when they were written in cursive. We were impressed by stories of the tenacity of members who did not give up when they identified a worthwhile cause, but we laughed about how times have changed. For example, years ago presenters at meetings might have received their honoraria in cigarettes.



Another highlight of our 75th year was the **annual plant sale** at the heritage site of **Scott Manor House**. The rain held off, the sale was well-attended, and we had the opportunity to discuss the art and science of planting with many new-to-gardening enthusiasts. It was a lovely morning, and the money raised will go to a **bursary** for a Dalhousie student at the horticultural program in Truro/Bible Hill.



As I write this, BHS members are busy planting the **cenotaph garden** at **Fish Hatchery Park** in Bedford. To mark our 75th anniversary, this year, thanks to the efforts of Jean St. Armand, **Halifax Regional Municipality** has installed a **plaque** at the garden. Please visit the garden this summer. It is a beautiful place to take in the beauty of



the park where the Sackville River runs into the Bedford Basin to rest awhile.

PARRSBORO GARDEN CLUB

(District 3 - North)

Submitted by Georgie Hebb

April - Talk on Soil Enrichment

One of our members, who has a degree in horticulture, was keen to share her knowledge of improving soil so that our vegetables and flowers have the best chance of success. She showed us how to use additives, such as manures plus perlite or vermiculite, to potting soil to create our own "black earth" at the fraction of the cost of purchasing bags from garden centres.

May - Plant Sale

On Saturday, **May 24th**, **The Hall** held the much-anticipated **Annual Plant Sale** in our lovely town of Parrsboro.

Every year, The Hall invites our Garden Club to participate in this event, and we had two tables full of plants and garden related items to sell. These included perennials, herbs, flowers, veggies and houseplants, as well as books and other well-liked items.

Many members took part and worked hard to make this event a success for our club. Indeed, everything was sold out long before the end of the sale.



Continued on Page 14

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

PARRSBORO GARDEN CLUB

Continued from Page 13

June - Tufa Workshops

On **June 2nd and 3rd**, we held **Tufa workshops** at a member's garden. She showed us how to mix the ingredients and use a form to create a planter, or stepping stones.

Lots of work went into the planning of this event by our instructor and her husband, and those who attended had a grand time "*playing in the mud*" as a participant put it, and all are very happy with the results. Everyone felt they would like to make more in the future.



EASTERN SHORE GARDEN CLUB

(District 4 - Halifax)

Submitted by Diane Lucas

The **Eastern Shore Garden Club (ESGC)** has been busy. In **March**, our guest speaker was **Roslyn Duffus**. She is a charter member and current president of the **Nova Scotia Rock Garden Club**, and a member of both the **North American and Ontario Rock Garden Societies**. Roslyn got us all interested in creating rock gardens. She recommended visiting the **rock gardens** at the **Dalhousie Agricultural College** in **Truro**. Peak flowering time at the rock garden would be May/early June but there is something in flower all season.

In **April** we were thrilled to have **Neville MacKay** as our speaker. Neville owns and operates '**My Mother's Bloomers**' and he is Halifax's best-known Florist. He has appeared on both local and national TV and radio many times. He has judged internationally, graced many weddings with his beautiful arrangements, and even provided floral arrangements for Paul McCartney, Rod Stewart and yes, the British Royals. Neville is a great entertainer and colourful personality; his lively banter while he works can keep an audience laughing as well as always watching. The ESGC invited the public to attend this event, and great fun was had by all.

In **May**, we made flower baskets at **Norwood Gardens**, for Mother's Day. We also toured **Harbour Breezes** nursery to see the beautiful spring bulbs, and club volunteers cleaned up our local Cenotaph.

Our speaker for our **May** meeting was **ESGC member** and **Butterflyway Ranger**, **Diane Lucas**. Diane gave a presentation on our **Butterflyway Project** gardens. One garden is on the **Gaetz Brook Greenway** and the other is in **Bennett Park, Mineville**. We have more planting to do in these native pollinator gardens this spring.

May ended with our **Annual Plant Sale**. **Diane Morrison**, our plant sales team leader, did an excellent job organizing our sale and making it an immense success. Our members donated over a thousand plants.

In **June**, our club members toured the fabulous **Captain Dick Steele's rhododendrons gardens** on Halls Road. It was perfect timing as the



Eastern Shore Garden Club Member at our Annual Garden Sale.

rhododendrons were in full bloom. Our gracious hosts and tour guides were **Ron Bulmer, Kathleen, and Debbie Hall**. Kathleen and Debbie are daughters of the founding Halls that built Halls Road.

Our club is now looking forward to summer garden tours.



Neville MacKay, My Mother's Bloomers, presenting a bouquet to our President, Jane Orton.



Club members enjoying the Captain Dick Steele rhododendrons gardens.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

FALL RIVER GARDEN CLUB

(District 4 - Halifax)

Submitted by Lawrence Spencer

So far, this year has been very successful for our Club. We've had four monthly meetings with an interesting guest speaker at each, the last being *via Zoom* by a lady who was the **President** of the **Rose Society of Ontario**, and who now lives in **Annapolis Royal** – the first rose presentation we've ever had.

Earlier we purchased **11 Bird Houses** and a **Bat House** which we installed in **Jamieson Park** – one of the three community gardens we maintain.

The huge packs of seeds we received through NSAGC were distributed to our members and public in the area, as well as local schools. The Coreopsis also from NSAGC was well received by the members, and we in fact ordered an additional 65 plants.

Member volunteers cleaned up **Jamieson Park** and the garden at the **LWF Hall** where we hold our meetings.

We held a Club information table at the Craft Sale that was held in Jamieson Park in **April** and provided packs of seeds to the public. The Crafters (27 this year) use the Park twice year and collect funds from each to give to our Club for providing a great venue for them (\$400 this time).

One of our Members, **Lawrence Spencer**, was presented with a **QEII Platinum Pin** for his many years of volunteer work with the Garden Club and other groups.

This year sufficient funds were available (from our one and only fund raising event, the **Plant Sale** at the end of May) to provide a **\$1,200 Bursary** to a graduate from **Lockview High School** who will be going on to some studies in Agriculture or related field. We also supplied a **\$1,000 Bursary** to Dalhousie's Department of Agriculture in Truro; **\$1000** each to **Beacon House** and **Souls Harbour**; and **\$500** to the local **Lions** for their food drive.

Our **Plant Sale** at the end of **May** was a roaring success this year, with an exceptional amount raised – where we simply ask the public for a *generous donation*. We had over **1,300 plants** this year, all donated as transplants or seedlings from members. and lots of members volunteering for the set up on the Friday and the sale on Saturday. People lined up an hour and a quarter before we opened at 9:00 am, and there was a continuous long lineup until we sold out at about 10:30 am!

This is the **25th** year of our Club! As such we held, on **June 10th** a celebration roast beef dinner prepared by volunteers at the LWF Hall. There were 35 of our members and their guests (spouses) who attended. There was a cake and flowers, and we presented a framed

Certificate to the three couples who started the Club and are still members!

We will not have meetings in July and August and look forward to the start of another great year in September.



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

QUEENS GARDEN CLUB

(District 6 – South Shore)

Submitted by Chris Radimer

With our new meeting place at the *relocated Thomas H. Raddall Library* not quite ready for us, the **Queens Garden Club** was welcomed into the **South Queens Middle School** for our February meeting where members were treated to a fascinating introduction to foraging by club member **Mary White**. Mary brought us decades of experience in gathering the many useful plants found in our area including a trove of wildflowers, and other plants, that can be eaten or used in tea. A couple of the notable surprises for many members was learning of a fungus (chaga) often mixed with coffee or tea and which grows only on birch trees. We were also introduced to a seaweed found on our shores that is said to taste like expensive white truffles. Mary provided club members with a tasting of several items found in the woodlands and shorelines of Queens, along with some door prizes. February's meeting concluded with an exciting distribution of seeds and a decision to establish a "seed bank" in the new library location this spring.

March brought us to the highly anticipated new **Thomas H. Raddall Library** with modern meeting rooms with much higher capacity than our old space. The new room was inaugurated with a presentation by clinical herbalist **Oren Hercz**, the co-director of the **Nova Scotia School of Holistic Herbalism**. Oren introduced the philosophy of herbalism and then focused on the many plants (including weeds) found in our gardens which have dietary and other benefits. The club left the meeting with a new view of many plants -particularly the pesky dandelions and plantain we often curse in our yards and garden plots.

At our **April** meeting we welcomed a presentation from **Little Tree Farm**, a family-run homestead located in **Wentzell Lake, NS**. Established in 2019, the farm specializes in nut trees, fruit trees, and edible shrubs grown from locally sourced seeds and nuts. Attendees learned how the farm develops their seedlings and how they are transitioning from air pruning beds to field planting.

With the weather improving far too slowly in our area this spring, the club had many anxious gardeners attending the **May** meeting where they enjoyed an inspirational presentation by **Lynn Brooks** on *flowering perennial gardens*. Lynn brought a huge number of ideas for "*using plants to create controlled chaos*" for a perennial garden that provides a show throughout the gardening season. She demonstrated ways that groups of different plants can be layered to allow them to essentially provide their own mulch effect and shade out weeds. Lynn was an informative and fun presenter with lots of practical advice to inspire our summer gardening efforts.



Mary White offers some tasty results of local foraging to the February meeting.

Late May was a busy time for club members. In addition to our regular meeting, our own **Mary White** provided a lecture on **propagation and planting-out** for many interested Queens residents at the Thomas H. Raddall Library. Club members **Julie Petrella**, **Lynn Cochrane** and **Chris Clarke** *opened their gardens* on May 12th for a *tour* opportunity that really showed off the amazing spring bloom found in these beautifully crafted gardens. With the magnolias and many spring bulbs still in full bloom, members were treated to colourful displays that really brightened up the weekend.



Julie Petrella's spring garden blooms brighten up the day in Liverpool.

May in Queens would not be complete without the club's **Annual Spring Plant Sale on May 31st**. The wind and rain were incredible, but so was the support of dozens of community members who descended on the **Queens County Museum grounds** to pick from the huge selection of decorative and edible plants collected for the event. Julie Petrella and her team of volunteers endured the weather to execute this very successful fundraising event.



Members who braved the wind and rain for our Annual Plant Sale.

May marked the end of our monthly formal meetings for the club's season, but members will be busy through the summer with several tours and visits, a perennial garden clean-up project, and events around a very special summer for the Queens County dogwoods.

June 2025 will mark the **25th anniversary** of the **Queens County dogwood project**. It is estimated that there are now over 1100 dogwood trees planted in the region and they will be celebrated this year with even further additions to their population through a North Queens fundraising event along with some other celebrations.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

UPPER VAUGHAN GARDEN CLUB

District 5 – Valley

Submitted by Mark Kehoe

At our regular meeting in **May**, our guest speaker, **Carole Coleman**, owner of 'Tansy Lane' and a member of the *Mount Denson Garden Club*, presentation highlighted her family background in foraging for wild and heritage plants and their benefits to our well being. Her wealth of information on tea blending was very informative and club members enjoyed sampling a variety of her teas with sweet treats provided by club members.



In **June**, we held our **Annual Plant Sale** along with the **Upper Vaughan Community Hall** fund raising **BBQ**. The weather was sunny; volunteers support was outstanding and the support for both organizations was amazing from our and surrounding communities. Funds raised by the Garden Club go towards the maintenance of our existing community gardens at the **Upper Vaughan Baptist Church** and the **Upper Vaughan Community Hall**. This year, our club has added two new community garden projects which are well underway at the **South West Hants Fire Hall** and the **United Baptist Church**.

Plans for August include garden tours of two club members followed by a potluck dinner at a club member's cottage, as well as a bus tour in the Annapolis Valley.

Have a great summer everyone and enjoy your gardens!



BRIDGEWATER GARDEN CLUB

District 6 – South Shore

Submitted by Heather Dominique

Spring and Summer are very busy times for gardeners and the **Bridgewater Garden Club** is especially active at this time of year, as we plan for our annual **Flower Show & Tea**. This year's event will be held on Saturday, **July 19th** at the **Dayspring Fire Hall**, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Our event is open to the public, tickets available at the door \$15 for adults, children under 14 are free.

Our upcoming **June** meeting will be a workshop led by **Sue Gilmour** to instruct children on how to make a tied bouquet, which will also be the *special category for children* in this year's **Flower Show**.

The *next children's event* we host is in **October**, when we gather to make mini-pumpkin arrangements.



In early **June**, we were delighted to go on a tour of one of our member's gardens, **Susan Venerables**. Susan has a special talent, and her plant aesthetic is beyond words. It was such a delight to be guided through the sequence of gardens that she has created, with special features in each area.

In **May**, we ventured out of doors to learn all about bees. The **Chicory Blue General Store in Blockhouse** has a few hives in their gardens. The morning, we attended was a little chilly, so there was not a lot of bee activity, however we did learn a lot about "hive-life" the role of drones, the queen, and why hives swarm. We



will be scheduling a follow-up visit to have a look inside the hives, once the weather warms up.

If you have not been, check out the General Store, on School House Lane just off exit 11. They have beautiful gardens and a lovely offering of coffee, tea, as well as sweet and savoury delights. If you follow them on **Facebook**, you will see the workshops and talks that they offer on a variety of gardening topics.

Our club plans to hit the road starting with the convention in a few short days, and then in the summer months continuing our tours of gardens and nurseries.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

LUNENBURG AND AREA GARDEN CLUB

District 6 – South Shore

Submitted by Pauline Morehouse

March: Our guest speaker **Judy Estey** showed us a fabulous PowerPoint presentation on many of her plants at various times of the year in her gardens. She then explained *the proper techniques to divide our garden plants*. We came away enthusiastic and eager to get into our own gardens.

April: **Rosemarie Lohnes** of *'Helping Nature Heal Inc.'* was our guest speaker who spoke about her education and years of various involvements in particular areas. Her crew works on landscaping home gardens as well as larger spaces. Her focus is now on ecological restoration.

She brought organic seeds and her fertilizer - *Abundance* - that we were able to purchase.

May: We had a beautiful Saturday, **May 3rd**, where some members had an awe-inspiring visit to our member's property on **Heckman's Island**. All had rave reviews. Another group was busy digging up plants for the plant sale while the owner (our member) kindly sharpened our tools. What a treat!

Mid May off we went to **Wiles Farm Market** to check out the latest seasonal offerings for our planters, window boxes and gardens. What to choose next....

May 31st was our huge by our standards **Plant Sale**. It was a success to say the least. We are all incredibly happy that for the first time the club held it indoors (*see picture on right*). It was a very cool and rainy day. We have ongoing projects at **Fisherman's**



Memorial Hospital which is our focus and commitment.



June: We were fortunate to have a two-hour tour of the late **Captain Steele's rhododendron acreage** in **Bayport** (*see picture on left*). Timing is all important with rhododendron. The new owners were so proud to show us this mesmerizing work in progress property. No matter which way you looked there were Rhodos to take your breath away with trees and shrubs filling the vista.

Local garden tours in Lunenburg cap off June.

It was a busy spring and with membership growing we now look forward to the lazy days of summer!

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I hope that you enjoy this issue of the **Scotia Gardener Newsletter**. I apologize for the delay which was caused by a major computer crash. I am back up and running and have been desperately trying to catch up on this as well as other projects on my desk.

I feel that I know you all through your submissions and perhaps in the future I will get to meet a few of you. It is so interesting reading what each of the **Garden Clubs** have done and what is being planned. **Deadline** for **submissions** for the **September Newsletter** is **August 15th**.

If you have any suggestions for future articles/interviews, etc. that you would like to see in the newsletter, please contact me at newsletter@nsage.com.

It's been a very long couple of weeks producing this issue due to the above but now I am ready to sit back and relax – LOL! Take care all, enjoy your gardens and have a wonderful summer.

Debbie
Editor, Scotia Gardener

NSAGC TEAM



EXECUTIVE

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Vice Chairperson -----	Lori Reid secretary@nsagc.com
Past Chairperson -----	Deb Bowes-Lyon secretary@nsagc.com
Secretary -----	Melissa Weir secretary@nsagc.com
Treasurer -----	Susan Hazelwood treasurer@nsagc.com

DIRECTORS

District 1 – Cape Breton -----	Glynis Thomas secretary@nsagc.com
District 2 – Eastern -----	Chuck Boyd secretary@nsagc.com
District 3 – Central North -----	Beate Acker secretary@nsagc.com
District 3 – Central South -----	Brenda Grasser secretary@nsagc.com
District 4 – Halifax -----	Bill Mercier secretary@nsagc.com
District 5 – Valley -----	Dale Kelly secretary@nsagc.com
District 6 – South Shore -----	Emily Liot secretary@nsagc.com
District 7 – Western -----	Kathryn Davidson secretary@nsagc.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Awards Chairperson -----	Deb Bowes-Lyon secretary@nsagc.com
Historian -----	Pamela MacLean secretary@nsagc.com
Membership Coordinator -----	Liz Hill secretary@nsagc.com
Newsletter Editor -----	Debbie Innes newsletter@nsagc.com
Photo Contest Chairperson -----	Sharon Bryson photos.nsagc@gmail.com
Plant Give Away Chairpersons -----	Janet Patterson Janet Rose giveaway@nsagc.com
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Fees:

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If you require more information, please contact the Newsletter Editor at newsletter@nsagc.com.

Scotia Gardener – Editor's Discretion

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 pictures in the newsletter are original. Pictures will be credited on the page where the photo appears.

OUR ADVERTISERS



GOT SLUGS?

Protect your garden from pesky slugs and snails safely and effectively with SnailStop!

FREE OF PESTICIDES
No harmful poisons or chemicals.

SAFE & HARMLESS
For kids, pets, and helpful critters.

SNAIL STOP
Electric Slug Fence

Learn more at SnailStop.ca

The advertisement features a green header with the text 'GOT SLUGS?' in large, bold, dark brown letters. Below the header, a light green background contains the text 'Protect your garden from pesky slugs and snails safely and effectively with SnailStop!'. The main body of the ad is divided into three sections by vertical lines. The left section has a light beige background and contains the text 'FREE OF PESTICIDES' in bold, followed by 'No harmful poisons or chemicals.' The middle section has a light beige background and features the 'SNAIL STOP' logo, which includes a stylized illustration of a slug fence and the text 'Electric Slug Fence'. The right section has a light beige background and contains the text 'SAFE & HARMLESS' in bold, followed by 'For kids, pets, and helpful critters.' At the bottom of the ad, a dark brown banner contains the text 'Learn more at SnailStop.ca'. Small illustrations of snails and slugs are scattered throughout the ad.



Sherry's Custom Sewing

902-799-9898

Hwy. 14 Mill Section 2957
Chester Road
sherryssewing@gmail.com

The advertisement for Sherry's Custom Sewing features a central illustration of a spool of red thread and a needle. The text 'Sherry's Custom Sewing' is written in a cursive font above a blue banner. Below the banner, the phone number '902-799-9898' is displayed. At the bottom, the address 'Hwy. 14 Mill Section 2957 Chester Road' and the email address 'sherryssewing@gmail.com' are listed. The ad is decorated with a blue banner and a blue polka-dot banner at the bottom.