

SCOTIA GARDENER

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

Winter 2022



Message from the NSAGC Chair

Dear Gardening Friends,

March has arrived, bitter cold, but there are lots of exciting developments to brighten the gardening horizon, including plans to drop Covid-19 restrictions in NS. Although we are not totally out of the woods and safety measures still require our attention, it's encouraging enough to prompt us to poke our noses out after two long years of pandemic hibernation. Hopefully, garden clubs will begin scheduling events and we can mingle with our gardening friends once more.

The complimentary plants (balloon flower 'Fairy Snow') for registered NSAGC members have been ordered and are due to be distributed to clubs following our spring NSAGC Board Meeting. Scope out your garden for the perfect location to add this cheerful perennial. Clubs also have the option to order extra plants for a nominal fee.

The NSAGC Photo Contest is waiting for your entries. The 2022 categories and rules can be found in this newsletter and on the NSAGC website under the 'Garden Clubs' tab at the bottom of the screen. Instructions for submitting your photos are included, with the deadline being April 29, 2022. Results will be revealed at the convention in June.

The NSAGC Annual Convention, scheduled for the 10th and 11th of June in Truro, is an event that you will not want to miss. In compensation for the fact that we haven't held a convention since 2019, this year's enthusiastic Convention Committee has put together a program jam packed with captivating speakers, impressive garden tours and a magnificent banquet to wrap it all up. Register now, if you

haven't already, because I predict it will fill up fast. I hope to see you there!

And then, there is the fact that spring is right around the corner. Many eager gardeners have already started some of their seeds and have planting beds all mapped out. Stock is arriving at the garden centres and those of us who promised ourselves not to buy more will probably be the first in line when their doors open!

Last, but not least, remember that 2022 is Canada's Year of the Garden. I encourage you all to participate, either individually or as a group. Let's show Canada where all the best gardeners live!

Kathy d'Entremont



The Importance of Directors to the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

by Pamela MacLean

The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs (NSAGC) represents many garden clubs across the province. What does that mean? Back in 1954 a concerned group of gardeners came together and decided to make a difference in Nova Scotia. They put a call out for garden clubs to join the movement to beautify their communities. They asked each club to send a representative to meetings where discussions were held and decisions were made. The results of these meetings were brought back to each club by their representative and then the clubs initiated activities in their areas. Before long, these representatives chose one from among them to represent the clubs in their region. This was how district Directors came to be.

Your Director is an important part of your club and:

- is the link that helps you stay in touch with the NSAGC Board and the rest of the province
- shares your activities and events
- keeps you posted on what is happening with the NSAGC
- is there for you when you have questions and to keep you informed
- provides a President's handbook, a guide for district meetings or fall rallies, plant sale information, a guide on hosting a convention in your area, how to start a garden club and other useful information
- keeps the clubs in their area up to date on membership, insurance, convention, activities and changes. This is an important link for each district, particularly with the changes in our world today.

Being a Director is a rewarding opportunity to meet people, develop friendships, see how the Board works, and to get away twice a year for meetings in Truro with expenses paid. It takes very little time but the rewards are great. Once you join the Board, chances are you will love it and stay on as long as you can.

Many of our present Directors will complete their terms in June. The Board is happy to train and guide new Directors and would love to hear from anyone who can suggest a person or knows someone who would like to represent their area or is interested in being a Director themselves! Openings are coming up for this wonderful opportunity in all areas of our province: Cape Breton, Antigonish/New Glasgow, Truro, Halifax, Bridgewater and the Annapolis Valley. All offers or suggestions can be sent to our Nominations Chairperson, Pamela MacLean, at pamela.maclean@gmail.com or to your current Director or any Board member. Nominate someone today!



Parrsboro Garden Club Enjoys an Active Autumn

by Suzanne Gauthier

The Parrsboro Garden Club met in September for a garden tour of our president's gardens on a seven-acre property along the Farrell River before it empties into the Parrsboro Harbour.

Louanne Henwood describes her gardens as follows: "The gardens along the river bank are in their third year (over 100 feet in length) and, along the fence, in their second year. I have my dahlia bed, herb garden, blueberry patch, wildflower corner, gnome garden, river bank garden, as well as an assortment of vegetables planted in containers (tomatoes, cucumbers, spinach, Swiss chard, peppers, kale). In addition, many floral containers and baskets! There are annuals and perennials from A to Z ... astilbe, bee balm, black eyed Susan, butterfly bush, calendula, clematis, coneflowers, coral bells, coreopsis, cosmos, daylilies, dianthus, false sunflower, geranium, glads, hollyhocks, hosta, lady's mantle, lavender, liatrus, lily of the valley, lilies, monks cap, nasturtiums, ornamental grasses, pansies, peonies, phlox, poppies, sedum, shasta daisy, snapdragons, sunflowers, veronica and

zinnia. Trees and bushes include apple, maple, Japanese maple, burning bush, quince, boxwood, hydrangea, forsythia, weigela, lilac, dogwood." The garden club members were greatly impressed with the scope of Louanne's gardens and the health of all her plants.

Our next meeting was during the annual Ten Days in October Festival, a talk by horticulturist Leigh-Anne Douglas on Fall and Winter Care—winterizing plants and winter gardens. Leigh-Anne handed out an 11-page document to all the attendees, with a checklist chock full of valuable information for the months September to December. Topics included pruning, mulching, harvesting, dividing, fertilizing and protecting plants from critters—a wealth of facts that will benefit our gardens. She also discussed winter interest plants, tree planting how-tos and a reminder to care for our tools, a task often lacking in the busy gardener's life.

In December a well attended wreath making workshop by Lindsay closed our meetings for the year.



Parrsboro Garden Club members displaying their completed wreaths at their December workshop



Lindsay demonstrating wreath making

Pictou and Area Garden Club Keeps Busy

by Heather Mattie



Our guest speaker for November was Scott Ross from Pictou County Forest School. Scott's passion for the forest school was evident and we wish him and his not-for-profit school all the best. Many comments continued after the meeting about supporting children in such a wonderful endeavor. You can find out more information at <http://pictoucountyforestschool.com/> (continued on page 5)



The Pictou and Area Garden Club has been busy in these past months. In November we planted over 400 daffodil and tulip bulbs that were donated by Leslie Dunn of Abercrombie. These bulbs were planted throughout the Town of Pictou: Scammel Garden, Pictou Academy Monument, The McCulloch Education Center, Hector Centre, Entrance to the Town, Heritage Walk, Veterans Hospital. The work was done by Linda Morden, Anne Gratton, Heather Mattie and Dawn Westhaver.



The Christmas season had a few fun activities and Diana Palmer Survey held workshops for both artificial and natural centerpieces. Members were invited to show off their pieces on our Facebook page.

Photos contributed by Heather Mattie

Pictou and Area Garden Club Keeps Busy (continued from page 4)

To continue to show our spirit, we are had a Seasonal Planter Contest. We would like to thank Nancy Levo for judging these containers.

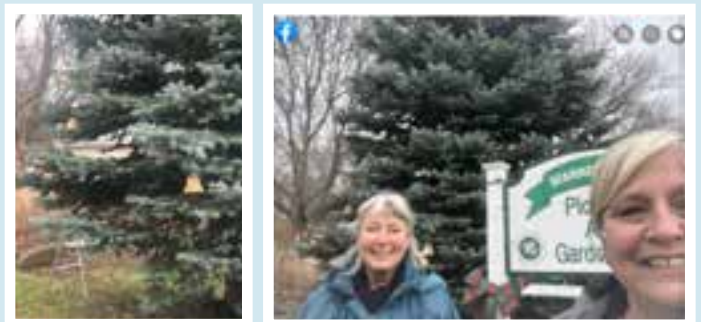
- First place—Karen Hicks: “Real nice shape, very nice bows, and light elements of greenery, the lights were the wow factor”
- Second place—June Littler Hill: “attractive, good scale and good use of colour and plants”
- Third place—Diane Hampton: “nice compact design with nice elements”
- Honourable mention—Beth Henderson: “Lovely arrangement and all natural material in her planter”



Planter Contest
First Place: Karen Hicks

We decorated our annual Bird Christmas Tree at Scammel Garden with tasty treats for our winged friends.

Photos contributed by Heather Mattie



January brought us inside and we contemplated on what our next growing season will bring us. A number of ideas have been shared online since Covid restrictions have made us cancel our winter meeting. In February we are having a Seedy Seed Exchange online where members can post seeds they have to give away. We hope to have our next meeting in March which will be our AGM.

The Eastern Shore Garden Club Experiments with Winter Sowing

By Linda Disbrowe

The Eastern shore Garden Club members have been keeping busy despite Covid regulations keeping us apart as 2021 came to a close and the New Year began. In addition to garden planning and other dreams for the future, many members have taken up winter sowing for their gardens and the Club's involvement in the Butterflyway Project.

Under the leadership of Diane Lucas who signed on to be a "Ranger" with this volunteer-led project started by the David Suzuki Foundation, many club members are busy planning to create habitats for pollinators, especially bees and butterflies. Last year Diane and her team grew local swamp milkweed and also planted little bluestem grass (shelter plant), tick trefoil (*Desmodium canadense*) and *Pentstemon digitalis* in areas of the Gaetz Brook Greenway. This spring they will be continuing in this area as well as starting a new garden at Bennett Park in Mineville. Currently there are approximately ten members involved in checking out native plants, where to source seeds and in stratifying seeds in their fridges and some winter sowing in containers outside.

Parks are just a small part of this overall project as the goal is to provide good habitats for pollinators of all sorts. Non-invasive plants not native, such as coneflowers, verbena, hollyhocks, sunflowers, etc., can be planted in our home gardens as part of the growing need to provide more food for pollinators. Whether annual or perennial plants—purchased or grown from seed—every little bit helps. For further information. see: <https://davidsuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/butterflyway>

Winter Sowing

At our last November meeting Diane Lucas gave us a great presentation on the increasingly popular winter-sowing techniques which are especially useful for stratification of many wildflower, vegetable and home garden regulars. As a new member to the Butterflyway Project, I decided to try my hand at swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and Joe Pyeweed (*Eutrochium maculatum*) in this container-driven, outside gardening practice.

There is a great deal of information on the internet, that covers seeds best winter sowed, soil types,

containers and techniques. No fancy equipment is needed, as plastic jugs and clean empty milk, water or even large pop bottles can be used to make what is basically a mini greenhouse. Plastic bottles are cut about three-quarters way around just about five to six inches from the bottom, forming a flap for easy interior access. With the caps off or a few vent holes cut in the top of larger containers and drainage holes in the bottom, potting or seed mix soil is then added to a depth of about four inches. After watering the soil thoroughly, seeds are then planted to the recommended depth, as found on packets or on-line sites, before labelling them and taping them up with transparent tape.

Then the containers are grouped together in a bright but sheltered spot, so they won't blow over



Photo of winter-sowed mini greenhouses—submitted by Linda Disbrowe

while we wait for mother nature to take charge. Once spring arrives and shoots start, we need to check the moisture inside and water sparingly if the containers are getting too dry.

Simply put, stratification is pre-treating seeds by chilling then warming seeds to simulate nature and help them break start the germination process. Outside winter sowing does this but it can also be done by placing the seeds in a refrigerator for 30-60 days before planting inside in pots. Stratification times, seed planting depths and light requirements vary, check seed packages or reference materials; especially if the seeds have been collected locally and it is the first time you will be germinating them.

The Eastern Shore Garden Club (continued from page 6)



Erika Clarke of Sow Local Seeds speaks about seed saving from our gardens which club members found most interesting.



Packets of Sow Local Seeds brings alive dreams of spring gardening.

Photos submitted by Linda Disbrowe

At our March meeting, guest speaker Erika Clarke gave us an interesting, fun and fact filled presentation on *Seed Saving in the Garden*. Erika, who is in fact a member of the Eastern Shore Garden Club, starting in 2021, formed her own seed saving company called Sow Local Seeds. From her farm in Head of Jeddore, Erika collects and processes her locally grown eco-friendly, organic heirloom flower, herb and vegetable seeds, which can be ordered on her online seed shop

“My long-term vision for the farm is to offer a variety of garden resources, educational programs and, of course, a specialty collection of seeds. I’m here to inspire you to start your dream garden!” states Erika on her website. In her opening remarks, she said that planting locally sourced seeds is not only cost effective but also produces consistent flavours, is good for biodiversity and food security, and a good way to support local businesses. After reminding us of the fun of seed planting, Erika went on to give a thorough, yet simple, explanation of basic seed and embryo terms backed up with good resource materials. In addition, hearing information on hybrid plants, strain variation and pollination was very interesting.

To end this great presentation, Erika gave solid information on seed collection times, and tips for drying and processing them. Lastly, she reinforced the importance of dry dark cool places when storing seeds to ensure good viability.

Erika is proud to be working with others in setting up a Free Seed Pantry in Musquodoboit Harbour that will open soon as they believe everyone should have access to good, secure food crops. She also provides interesting information on her website www.sowlocalseeds.ca

Seeds can be ordered there as well and are also currently for sale at Petitpaw-Designs Florist, 61 Stella Drive, Porter’s Lake, and Uprooted Market and Cafe in Musquodoboit Harbour.



Queens Garden Club Members Share Experiences from Beekeeping to Wreath Making

By Krista Doody

Happy spring greetings, everyone, from the Queens Garden Club! We have been extremely fortunate in that we have been able to meet regularly at the Thomas H. Raddall Library during these COVID times. Our trusty head librarian always makes sure that we are following restrictions and guidelines so we've had anywhere from five to twelve members at a meeting and we've even welcomed several new members in the last few years.

This past fall we've had some wonderful presentations from our own members. Deb gave a very interesting and informative presentation about her beekeeping hobby. It was evident how much she enjoys this pastime by the way her face lights up when she talks about her bees. She even brought a jar of her honey as a door prize.

We had a presentation by Nancy, who volunteered at the Queen's County hospital and then volunteered to remake one of the gardens. She brought before and after pictures to share and now everyone can enjoy the fruits of her labours.

Angela and her company did a complete makeover of the gardens by the hospital's main entrance. She brought pictures of the stages of progress and the plants she chose. It looks fantastic.

In November we held our annual wreath making work shop at Cosby's Garden Centre. Under the guidance of Judy, we created many unique and beautiful wreaths and centre pieces. Each piece reflected that gardener's individuality. While some wreaths were organized, symmetrical and structured; others were whimsical with a variety of greenery and foliage. Everyone brings greenery and then we all share!

We held our annual Christmas luncheon at White Point Resort in December. We had to cancel our original date due to bad weather which was unfortunate since 16 had committed to attending on the first date. The eight members that were in the end able to make it enjoyed a lovely lunch, conversation and some beautiful door prizes.

We're gearing up for a garden sale in the spring, which we haven't been able to hold since the spring of 2019. We did enjoy a plant swap at one of our

meetings and we all left with an interesting indoor or outdoor plant or two we would otherwise never have welcomed into our homes. We are certainly always busy and enjoy sharing our experiences.

For now we'll keep checking our gardens to see what has survived the winter and hope that any new plants we added in the fall will still be there!



This Queens Garden Club member is hidden by her huge and magnificent wreath. Photo provided by Krista Doody



Queens Garden Club members show off their gorgeous wreaths!
Photos provided by Krista Doody

2022: Year of the Garden

Excerpt from the Year of the Garden website: <https://livethegardenlife.gardenscanada.ca/>

The Canadian Garden Council is proud to proclaim 2022 as Canada's Year of the Garden in honour of the Centennial of the ornamental horticulture sector, marked by the 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association.

You're invited to join in the fun and "Live the Garden Life" during the Year of the Garden 2022, a celebration of everything garden and gardening related in Canada.

The Year of the Garden will publically launch on March 20, 2022, the first day of spring, and between now and then, members of Canada's Garden-Family—from growers to garden centres and retailers, designers, landscapers, the garden experience sector from public gardens, horticultural societies and garden clubs, to garden communicators, and educators—are all invited to engage with Canada's Year of the Garden 2022 activities.

Canadians, whether you already enjoy gardening, recently discovered the pleasure of spending time in a garden because of the pandemic or want to learn more about how gardens impact so much of life, there's something for everyone to commemorate our country's rich garden heritage and create important legacies for a sustainable future.

Discover the many ways you can celebrate today's vibrant garden culture at home, at work, in school, in your community and at public gardens across the country from the Planter's Moon in the spring of 2022, to the Frost Moon in the fall.



Get Involved—Live the Garden Life

Throughout the Year of the Garden 2022, there will be many ways to "Live the Garden Life" and make a difference. Canadians can get involved in one or many Year of the Garden 2022 programs, including:

- Plant red and show your Canadian garden pride.
- Sign up your garden as a 2022 Celebration Garden.
- Celebrate your municipal proclamation.
- Celebrate your garden heroes.

Garden Experiences

Places to go, things to see and do. The Year of the Garden 2022 will be an exciting time to experience and celebrate why Canada is known as a nation of gardeners and gardens.

- Garden Days June 11 to 19 and National Garden Day June 18, 2022
- Canada's Garden Route featuring Public Gardens, Parks Canada heritage gardens, Communities in Bloom/Fleurons du Québec municipalities, and Garden Network and Trails
- Participate in the numerous garden and gardening festivals, events and activities organized by members of the Garden-Family across the country.

A Salute to Seaweed

by Carla Allen, Yarmouth Garden Club

Winter storms generate lots of wave action in Outer False Harbour, Yarmouth County, even several days after each event. The surf charges shoreward with tremendous energy, carrying tons of seaweed ripped from shallow beds. For several months there's a giant bank of this treasure, taller than me, on the rocky berm in front of our cottage in Cape Forchu.

In February 2018 I wrestled 20 wheelbarrows full up over the rocks to make my first little vegetable garden. That spring I planted carrots, peas, potatoes and more, in a few inches of topsoil over a thick base of seaweed. Everything grew incredibly well that spring... until the deer took advantage of my "all-you-could-eat special"!

But there are other places to use this phenomenal soil amendment. Seaweed contains 60 trace minerals and ready-to-use nutrients including nitrogen, potassium, phosphate and magnesium. It also contains hormones to encourage plant growth. Under ideal conditions, seaweed itself can grow six inches daily in the ocean!

Several decades ago I became familiar with the benefits of seaweed when I started using a kelp meal concentrate at our nursery (closed in 2001). Kelp is a type of seaweed and the product I used was a powder that was mixed with water, then

further diluted and used as a spray. When used as a foliar spray on newly transplanted seedlings that sometimes failed to thrive, there was a 100 percent success rate. I used to refer to this elixir as a medicine for plants.

With fresh seaweed, I'm having the same results. Each year I surround the base of the seven young Mountbatten junipers growing by our lane with a thick mulch of fresh seaweed. I've even used it as one would use bark mulch, in my west bed behind the cottage. That might not be a good idea for everyone, however, as some might mind the odour while relaxing in the vicinity. I have anosmia—no sense of smell. (continued on page 12)



Creeping phlox is fertilized after blooming with decomposed seaweed brushed between leaves. Planting receives full brunt of ocean winds and spray about 300 feet away.



A huge pile of seaweed is deposited by the ocean, practically on the author's doorstep, each winter.

Creeping phlox closeup



Photos by Carla Allen

A Salute to Seaweed (continued from page 11)

My favourite stage of naturally composting seaweed on the shoreline lies beneath the top layer. If you can find some seaweed that has been in place for awhile on the shore, lift it up to see some reddish brown soupy “gunk” below and billions of shore flies. Use rubber gloves to collect. This is a terrific fertilizer to lightly brush into plants like ground-hugging thymes, creeping phloxes or heaths/heathers.

None of my seaside perennial plants receive winter-protection and I credit their hardiness to seaweed. One of the most often heard questions pertaining to seaweed is whether it's necessary to rinse salt off it before use. I never have and my plants thrive.

My most rewarding use of seaweed has been with five hydrangeas on the north side of our cottage. These have been grown from rooted divisions of a mature hydrangea on my Cliff Street, Yarmouth, property. They were planted with several large handfuls of fresh seaweed in each hole and topped with a thick mulch of seaweed each summer. The blooms on them after two years were incredible. Whenever I plant spring-blooming bulbs now, I always place a large handful of seaweed in the bottom of the hole

There's another reason why I love seaweed. We're fortunate to have a huge, healthy bed of it in front of our property. This fast growing plant attracts all kinds of wildlife and is a source of shelter and food for tiny creatures, which feed larger ones. In the summer, a flock of eider ducks bring their babies to a big cluster of rocks surrounded by the seaweed. The ducklings are fat and fuzzy and you can hear them as they approach along the coastline. Their whispery quacks are adorable. At low tide the mothers and the wee ones climb up on the large seaweed covered boulders and settle down for a siesta until the everchanging tide rises and dislodges them from their cozy beds. (more photos on page 7)

Tulipa praestans Unicom thriving with seaweed at its feet.

Photos by Carla Allen

More about harvesting seaweed:

Q: Is it legal in Nova Scotia to collect seaweed washed up on shore?

A: Department of Fisheries and Oceans regulations state that the harvest of loose drift material washed up on shore (wrack) is controlled by provincial regulations and a permit system specific to algal type and shore location. Harvesting small amounts for your garden (not truckloads) may be permissible in your area.

(Call: DFO at 1-800-565-2224)

Another alternative is to seek permission from someone who owns oceanfront property. It is permissible for them to collect seaweed above the high water mark. Another option is to purchase Storm-cast if carried by your local garden centre or nursery. This excellent product from Bear Cove Resources is a soil amendment produced through the controlled breakdown of stranded seaweeds and companion organisms mixed with shell and sand from wave action.



Spring-blooming bulbs like *Chionodoxa* also benefit from seaweed being placed in the planting hole.





Hydrangea divisions first year after being planted with lots of fresh seaweed in each hole and mulch of seaweed.



Hydrangea divisions second year after seaweed used as primary fertilizer.

Photos by Carla Allen

2022 NSAGC Convention Program

Friday, June 10, 2022

- 1:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Self-guided tours to local gardens and nurseries
12 noon–9:00 p.m. Vendors open
- 6:00 p.m. Floral Design Competition entries closed
- 6:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. Official Opening
Convention Chair: Cathy Newton
President NSAGC: Kathy d'Entremont
Announcements
- 7:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Speaker: Pam Ross
- 8:00 p.m. Entertainment and Cash Bar

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Saturday June 11, 2022

- 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Vendors Open
8:45 a.m.–9:45 a.m. NSAGC Annual General Meeting
- 9:45 a.m.–10:15 a.m. Nutrition Break
MC: Gail Wright
- 10:15 a.m.–11:00 a.m. Speaker: Cecil Dunlap, Pheasant Gardens Daylilies
11:05 a.m.–11:50 a.m. Speaker: Diane LeBlanc, President, Nova Scotia Bird Society
11:50 a.m. Announcements
- 12 noon–1:15 p.m. Lunch
MC: Elizabeth Hill, Central District Director
- 1:20 p.m.–2:00 p.m. Speaker: Savayda Jarone, Herbalist
2:05 p.m.–2:55 p.m. Speaker: Frank Cochrane, Cochrane Family Farm
2:55 p.m.–3:25 p.m. Nutrition Break
3:30 p.m.–4:15 p.m. Speaker: Lloyd Mapplebeck, Hillendale Nursery
4:15 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Announcements
- 6:30 p.m. Banquet
MC: Arthur Haskins, Convention Committee
Announcements
Banquet
Banquet Speaker: Michael van den Hoek, Lowland Gardens,
Great Village
Awards/Convention 2022 and Closing Remarks

Register today for the Year of the Garden Convention

June 10-11, 2022, in Truro, NS

Reserve your place now:

Either

Complete and submit the online form available at:

<https://nsagc.com/NSAGC-Convention-Registration-Form>

or

**Print off and fill in the form on page 17 of this
newsletter and mail it to:**

Elizabeth Hill, 8161 Hwy 215, Maitland, NS B0N 1T0



2022 NSAGC Convention Speakers

Pam Ross

Pam has been a favorite at past conventions held in Truro. Her philosophy on gardening using interesting and sometimes funny stories from her own life makes us think about how we affect our own environment.

Cecil Dunlap

Cecil owns and operates Pheasant Gardens in Salmon River just outside Truro, NS. He specializes in daylilies, some bearded iris and has some perennials as well. He has a huge selection to pick from, both bare-root and potted plants.

Diane LeBlanc

Diane never thought she would become a birder and tagged along with the others just for the exercise. In 2015, she spotted a field sparrow at Sandy Cove which sparked her interest. Since that chance encounter she has been enthralled with birding. With her background in work psychology, Diane is keenly interested in ways that birding enhances people skills such as collaboration, perseverance and patience. Diane served as Vice President of The Nova Scotia Bird Society for two years before becoming President in 2019.

Savayda Jarone

Savayda is a member of the NS Herbalist Society. She is a Nova Scotian herbalist who has been on the herbalist path for over 20 years. Her formative years as an herbalist were in Vancouver where she completed her training. She has been in clinical practice for 15 years and runs a clinic and dispensery in Halifax where she teaches several popular year-long herbal medicine courses for adults and children.

Frank Cochrane

Frank is the owner of Cochrane Family Farm which is located on 30 acres in Upper Stewiacke. The farm has been in operation since 2009 and is certified organic. The farm also operates a country store on the property, raising and selling local handmade organic products aimed at offering a wide variety of high quality, moderately priced, nutrient dense vegetables, herbs and seeds following a permaculture methodology.

Lloyd Mapplebeck

Lloyd and his wife Lauranne have operated Hillendale Perennials for almost 30 years. They produce a wide array of container-grown landscape perennials, potted herbs and salad greens, vegetable and flower patio pots, decorative Christmas products, outdoor cut flowers, rustic wooden garden animals and many other crops and products. They market via their retail nursery, the Truro Farmers' Market and perennial garden design jobs. They also sell perennials to landscapers, municipalities and other commercial customers. Lloyd is a retired Plant Science faculty member of NSAC/Dal AC.

Michael van den Hoek

Michael is continuing a gardening tradition in his family, having joined his parents operating Lowland Gardens in Great Village. Michael brings new ideas to the family business and ensures its popular support with gardeners in the future.



2022 NSAGC Convention Registration Form

Theme: *Year of the Garden*

Hosted by Central District 3

Held at the Inn on Prince, 437 Prince Street, Truro, NS

June 10–11, 2022

PLEASE NOTE: ALL ATTENDEES MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION AND MUST SHOW PROOF OF DOUBLE VACCINATION AND ID UPON ARRIVAL AT THE CONVENTION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

I am a member of the _____ Garden Club or Society.

Convention Registration (includes Friday evening reception, Saturday lunch, nutrition breaks)

NSAGC member(s) _____ x \$50.00 \$ _____

Non-member(s) _____ x \$55.00 \$ _____

Saturday Banquet Please choose:

_____ Roast Turkey with all the trimmings

Or

_____ Vegetarian Option Available

Number of people for Banquet: _____ x \$50.00 per person \$ _____

Total Amount Payable: _____ \$ _____

Registration is limited to 200 delegates. Please register early!

Registration closes April 30, 2022. Late registrations will incur an extra \$10 charge.

Please make payment out to NSAGC DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Send registration form with payment to: Elizabeth Hill, 8161 Hwy 215, Maitland, NS B0N 1T0

Accommodations at the Inn on Prince: A block of 40 rooms have been set aside at \$119 per night plus taxes.

These rooms are set aside until one month prior to the event.



2022 NSAGC Floral Art Competition

Theme: *Working with Nature*

One Category Only * Club Entries Only * People's Choice Voting

1. One entry per club.
2. One category only that allows a design in accordance with the theme *Working with Nature*.
3. All designs, including containers and accessories, must be in keeping with the theme.
4. Size of each entry cannot exceed 24 inches in any direction.
5. The majority of the entry must be fresh living plant material grown in Nova Scotia.
6. Winner and runner-up will be selected by people's choice voting.
7. Winner and runner-up prize-winning cheques will be made payable to the respective Garden Clubs.

Composition: *Working with Nature*

A composition created by two or more members of a Garden Club using any combination of flowers, including wildflower and native plant design, fruits and vegetables, herbs that can be grown in Nova Scotia and one or more accessories. Accessories are anything used to create the exhibit, beyond the plant material such as figurines, books, ornaments, seashells, etc.

Floral Competition Timelines

Friday, June 10, 1:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.: Entries will be placed in the designated display area.

Saturday, June 11, 8:00 a.m.–4:30p.m.: Floral Competition people's choice voting.

Saturday, June 11: Entries to be removed following the keynote speaker after the banquet.

Floral Competition Chair: Joan Salter joansalter@gmail.com

Outstanding Natural Beauty



A Visit with NSAGC Director Sue Gilmour

by Sue Gilmour, Director, District Six, South Shore

I love winter—even power failures as it's so quiet! We have a wood stove to warm up meals on and oil lamps for the evening. We have three and five gallon jugs of water drawn for these special occasions as we are on a well so no power means no water. We must be in a bad area this year as we have had three power failures between three and 12 hours in the last three storms. Also this winter has been particularly gorgeous out there with snow everywhere, wonderful protection for the plants. I love reading and have lots of gardening books for colourful pics!

I started getting the gardening bug early on in life when my mom and a neighbour both loved flowers. I didn't get my own garden till I retired so am making up for lost time. I did try to garden where I was posted but being in the military meant lots of moves and leaving gardens behind. I grow everything I can get my hands on and start lots from seed. I love to experiment. I have way too many gardens but they are so much fun. I have let Mother Nature in and don't clean up my gardens in the fall.

I live on the South Shore although I am 15 minutes away from the water so I don't have the sea to con-

tend with. We do have colder winters and warmer summers than the shore as well so have to protect plants from the weather and the deer. Living inland also brings the lovely black flies in April, May and June.

I always have gardening challenges as every year for the past 15 has brought strange weather to contend with. Last year was the best year ever, rain every week and no watering. I would like to order that every year. I grow plants that need special monitoring lily beetle and daylily thrip. I even had rose chafers for the first time last year—just did a little research and left them alone. They disappear after they defoliate the roses and the roses grow their leaves back; I still had lots of flowers! You can see why I have the daylily thrip, these ditch lilies were spread around the property when we had the basement dug out. This garden was only made for me in 2018 and didn't take long for them to grow up thru the rock ledge. My gardens are mostly wild things with lots of every kind of flowers I can squeeze in. I also leave some native “weeds” for the pollinators, including blue eyed grass, ox eye daisy, Queen Anne's lace and golden rod—beautiful plants really! We also

leave all weeds in the “grass” that is supposed to be a lawn—there are dandelions, hawkweed, plantain and violets.

Our “lawn” is only green for a day or so then they start to bloom again. Hubby doesn't mow very often and that's okay!

(continued on Page 21)



Photo provided by Sue Gilmour

A Visit with NSAGC Director Sue Gilmour

(continued from page 20)

Most of my gardens have shrubs along with perennials. When I first moved here I started planting berry bushes for the birds. I realized that as I grow older I might not have as much energy to look after all my gardens so the shrubs will take center stage then. Also I love watching the birds, I have had eight partridges right outside my computer room window where I planted viburnum and burning bush which they love, along with all the other birds in the area.

I like to do garden tours and try to get out to Historical Gardens and the Public Gardens in Halifax

at least once a year. Before COVID I also went to as many local garden tours as I could—that is what I liked best about joining the NSAGC. The convention also offers opportunity to see other members' gardens I might not ever have seen. Also, I retired to the South Shore and met lots of gardeners this way. Great to see them in the grocery store and have a quick chat!

I used to go on garden tours throughout the world as well but that is pretty much halted now.

The biggest advice I have for a new gardener is mulch, mulch, mulch! Fewer weeds, retains water, feeds the plants and protects them over winter. Win, win!



Sue on the trip of a lifetime—visiting the Taj Mahal, her last faraway garden tour in February 2020 just before the lockdown. Photo provided by Sue Gilmour

Exploring Our New Website

by Susan Hazelwood, Web Content Manager (acting)

I hope you have had a chance to look at the new NSAGC website: NSAGC.com

As mentioned in the email sent to NSAGC clubs at the time of the website launch in January, it has many new features and functions. Here are some examples:

- On the Home Page there is the Save the Date box highlighting the convention, including the convention forms that you can download.
- Under the Public tab there are maps of all garden clubs and garden centres in the province.
- Under the Garden Clubs tab you will find documents that have been brought over from the old site, as well as forms that you can download and forms that you can fill in and submit online, such as the convention registration, plant giveaway and membership assessment forms.

- The Resources section has links to gardening related organizations that gardeners will find handy as well as a listing of favourite public gardens within Nova Scotia.
- The Events Calendar (right side of screen) lists all club meeting dates and times (if we have that info), as well as important NSAGC dates.

The Events Calendar and Garden Clubs map will be updated as soon as we get the 2022 Membership Assessment forms from our clubs.

If your garden club has a website, please consider linking to the NSAGC site from your website to provide instant access to great information and valuable resources.

If you have any suggestions, please let us know by using the Contact Us button.



A screen shot of the new Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs website homepage

Meet the NSAGC Treasurer: Allison Magee

by Allison Magee

I have lived all of my life so far, on the farm Milkvale, part of a New England Planter grant in 1763, with the farm established and house built in 1805. Growing up on the farm I was surrounded by gardens, orchards and dairy cattle.

I specialize in growing heritage varieties, including the ancestors to the Concord grape and two cherry varieties brought here in the 1760s by New England Planters.

My first entry in a flower show was at the age of five with the help of a great aunt.

I am a charter member of the Valley Garden Club, first Nova Scotian and or Canadian member of various heritage rose organizations. I have had articles

published in their journals.

I am an instructor of the NSAGC Horticultural Judging and actually enjoy horticultural judging.

I am a past Chair of the NSAGC (president only occurred with a change in by-laws) and past president of various local, provincial and Atlantic organizations.

I am a presenter, giving talks in horticultural and historical fields.

I dabble in many different fields ranging from organist choir director in a church to being Parliamentarian for Provincial and Atlantic region organizations to curating exhibits in museums.



The garden in winter. Photo: Emily Walker

This and That

submitted by club members

Terrific Tomato Plants: Donna Burris says that she had the best tomato plants ever last year. She believes that adding egg shells to the soil made the difference. She washed out egg shells, dried them, placed them in a plastic bag and used a rolling pin to crush them. When she transplanted tomato seedlings into recycled paper cups, she stirred about a tablespoon of crushed egg shells into the good quality soil of each container. This resulted in plants that were healthy, vigorous and sturdy. They yielded bumper crops of tomatoes.



Looking Back...Laying the Groundwork for the NSAGC

The first convention of Nova Scotia garden club members was held in Truro in July 1954. At this meeting a committee was formed of:

- Mr. C. C. Ferguson, New Glasgow Horticultural Society
- Mr. Matthew Reid, Hillcrest Garden Club, Bible Hill
- Mr. R. E. Lemoine, Westmount Horticultural Society, Halifax
- Mrs. M. W. Fenton, Bedford Garden Club
- Mr. Hibbert N. Keddy, Forties Garden, Lunenburg Co.
- Mrs. Andrew Chambers, Brule Garden Club, Col. Co.
- Mr. N.V. Jankov, Landscape Advisor, NS Department of Agriculture and Marketing

The committee was asked to develop a provincial organization for members of garden clubs and horticultural societies throughout the province. The name chosen was, and remains to this day, the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs.

In 1955, 153 delegates attended another convention where it was decided that clubs would pay an annual fee to the Association of ten cents per member.

Two others issues were acted upon:

- The Association petitioned the Department of Highways to have the contractors they employed leave the areas where they had worked in a better condition than they were being left in currently.
- They sent a letter to the Nurserymen's Association urging them to improve the quality of their stock by keeping the plants they were selling free of weeds and other contaminants.



From Emily Walker: My favourite coffee shop owner has a green thumb! Here is her aloe plant just coming into bloom. It is about five feet tall! I have not seen an aloe in bloom before and wanted to share it with you.

Photos: Emily Walker

NSAGC 2022 Photo Competition Rules

by Lawrence Spencer, Chair of the Photo Contest Committee

Photo Contest Rules

Please note that these rules apply to the 2022 contest. Please do not use rules from previous years.

1. The contest is open to amateur photographers. (Photography cannot be your primary business.) The Chair of the contest and others closely associated with organizing the competition are not eligible. Questions of eligibility will be decided by the Chair.
2. Contestants must be members of a club, society or an affiliate that pays dues to the NSAGC.
3. Contestants may enter one photograph in each of the following classes:
 - **Class 1** Life in the Garden
 - **Class 2** Close-ups
 - **Class 3** Colour
 - **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
4. Any individual photo can only be submitted for one particular class; i.e., a photo cannot be submitted for more than one class.
5. The finished photograph must accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it originally appeared—i.e., no Photoshop-like editing except for cropping or brightness alterations.
6. You have two options for submitting photos. Please choose **ONLY** one, do **NOT** do both!

OPTION 1: Email your photos—PREFERRED METHOD

- Photos can be submitted digitally. Change the *File Name* to *Your Name and Class No.* For example: right click the mouse on the photo to change the file name and select *Rename* from the pop-up menu. Type *Adamsmith1* for your name (Adam Smith) and the class number one. Then save the photo using *Save as* in the original folder, or create a new folder for just these photos. Continue for any other photos, changing the class number of each.
- Image size is to be no smaller than 1500 pixels on the longest side (portrait or landscape orientation).
- Email your photos to: nsagcphotocontest@gmail.com or lspencer@jackknife.org
- Include in your email: your name, address, email address, phone number and the club or organization of

which you are a member.

- Photos are to be received by no later than April 29, 2022, to allow time for judging, as well as putting the presentation together for the convention.

OPTION 2: Mail your photos

- Printed photos will be "scanned in" to make them digital for inclusion in the judging and display during the convention.
 - Photos should be a minimum size of 5"x7" (preferred for scanning) and **NOT** mounted.
 - Print legibly contestant's name, email, address, class number and name and name of club or affiliate on a separate piece of paper or a sticky note and affix to the back of each printed photo.
 - Mail print submissions to: Lawrence Spencer, 38 Richardson Drive, Fall River NS B2T 1E7
 - Photos are to be received by no later than April 29, 2022, to allow time for scanning and judging, as well as putting the presentation together for the convention.
7. Photos will be judged on originality, composition, focus and exposure. Judging will be done by three people (the Chair and two others) with years of gardening/plant and/or art/photography backgrounds.
 8. Photos that have received a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place standing in any class of a previous NSAGC annual photographic contest cannot be resubmitted in subsequent years.
 9. All submitted printed photos must be claimed prior to the banquet on the Saturday of the convention. Contest participants are responsible for photo pick-up—or have someone else pick them up. The NSAGC will not be responsible for returning photos. If not claimed, they will be destroyed. All digitally submitted photos will be deleted, subject to choosing any for the purposes stated in section No. 11 below.
 10. Stickers will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd photo in each class. The judges have the discretion not to assign all the stickers in any given class. One 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize will be awarded for the three "Best Overall" photos.
 11. Display during convention: Since all photos will be in a digital format (printed photos scanned in), they will be put together in a video which will run on a TV in a loop during the entire convention so that all attending members will have to the opportunity to view them all. Each photo will have the contestant's name underneath, along with any award it received. The three Best Overall winners will be displayed at the end as well.

(continued on next page)

NSAGC 2022 Photo Contest (continued)

12. In submitting your photos, either digitally or in print form, you grant the NSAGC permission to display or reproduce them for the following purposes: to promote, inform or advertise the photo contest to members of the NSAGC; and/or for the NSAGC to use as promotional material. In all other matters the owners of the image(s) will retain their rights under copyright law. If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary release from the individual depicted.

Suggestions and Explanations for the Competition

The judges will accept any photo that is a reasonable interpretation of the title of the class concerned. This means that while the following comments are designed to help, they should not be used to exclude other reasonable interpretations of the class description. Remember, one of the four criteria of judging is originality.

Class 1 Life in the Garden Insects or Animals (e.g., birds, deer, squirrels, snakes, frogs, etc.) **no** humans or pets. Best if photo shows some botanical feature in addition.

Class 2 Close Ups Close-up or macro of any botanical feature (i.e., flower, leaf, etc.).

Class 3 Colour A colourful image, either a wonderful mixture or a single one; e.g., just the greenery, flowers of all one colour or a wonderful mixture of colours.

Class 4 Water in the Garden Any image depicting water somewhere, somehow in the garden, from a garden pond, fountain, rain (rain drops), stream rainbow, etc. This is a class where creativity can be expressed!

Class 5 Vegetables or Fruit Any type, singly or in groups, or a mixture, picked or still on the vegetation.

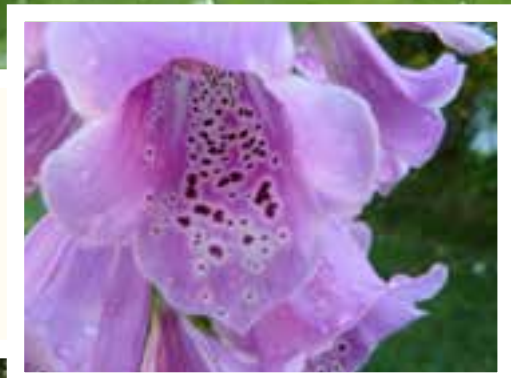
Class 6 Garden Art Any structure, sculpture or piece or art (any type) among the vegetation. Could involve such things as flower show arrangements, wreaths, topiary, creative flower beds, etc., that are part of a garden landscape (best shown among the vegetation or flowers).

Class 7 Flowering Trees or Shrubs One type or any mixture, either in the garden or as an arrangement. Can be shown alone or among the rest of the vegetation at time of flowering.

Class 8 Fall Scene A creative opportunity to capture the beauty or activities of the season, either the garden or a work of Mother Nature.

Class 9 Landscape Photo should capture the fun, beauty or creativity of a large portion of a garden or natural landscape, including aerial shots.

Class 10 Nature in Winter Views of gardens or plants in the winter season with snow, frost or vegetation shape or colour in this season.



A Note from the Editor

What a winter we have had—rain, wind, snow, sleet, ice, graupel and more! As we limited social activity, what was going on outside in the garden became more and more interesting. Which feathered friends were clustering around the birdfeeder was a frequent topic of conversation at the breakfast table.

As our thoughts turn to spring, have you remembered to register for the NSAGC convention in June? It's a great time to socialize, learn and have fun!

Have you checked out our wonderful new NSAGC website yet? It is not only a feast for the eyes but also contains a lot of useful information. Thanks to Susan Hazelwood who has been instrumental in coordinating this process. The website designer, Tim Dittmer, of True InSite, did an outstanding job!

Thanks to Carla Allen for sharing her informative article on seaweed. Nova Scotia has an abundance of shoreline—good to learn how seaweed is a valuable resource to enrich our gardens. She is most fortunate to have the ocean on her doorstep.

Page 24 contains a new *Looking Back* history corner. It is surprising how forward-looking the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs has been over the last seventy years! In future issues we will learn about their many and varied activities to improve and beautify our province.

I look forward to receiving club reports for the next issue of the *Scotia Gardener*. Please let us hear what you are doing! newsletter@nsagc.com

Emily Walker



Welcome visitors to my backyard

Photo: Emily Walker

2021-2022 NSAGC Executive



Chair, Kathy D'Entremont
email: secretary@nsagc.com

Past Chair, Pamela MacLean
email: secretary@nsagc.com

Vice Chair, Deb Bowes-Lyon
email: secretary@nsagc.com

Secretary, Ginny Blayney (acting)
email: secretary@nsagc.com

Treasurer, Allison Magee
email: treasurer@nsagc.com

Awards Committee, Pamela MacLean
email: secretary@nsagc.com

Historian, Dixie Cress
email: secretary@nsagc.com

Photo Contest Committee, Lawrence Spencer
nsagcphotocontest@gmail.com

Scotia Gardener Newsletter, Emily Walker
email: newsletter@nsagc.com

Plant Give Away, Geoff MacDonald
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Web Content Manager, Susan Hazelwood (acting)
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email: secretary@nsagc.com

District Two, Eastern, Sharon Bryson, Director
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District Three, Central North, Elizabeth Hill, Director
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District Three, Central South, Elizabeth Hill, Director
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District Four, Halifax, Pamela MacLean, Acting Director
email: secretary@nsagc.com

District Five, Valley, Sandi Carroll, Director
email: secretary@nsagc.com

District Six, South Shore, Susan Gilmour, Director
email: secretary@nsagc.com

District Seven, Western, Lisa Doucette, Director
email: secretary@nsagc.com

Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs Board Current Openings

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

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

Director, District 3, Central North
Director, District 3, Central South
Director, District 4, Halifax
Director, District 5, Valley

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

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Please contact the newsletter editor at newsletter@nsagc.com if you have questions.

Scotia Gardener: Winter 2022 Issue (Volume 22, Number 1)

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

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

Additional photo credits: Emily Walker—pages 1, 12, 13, 21

Take heart: spring is around the corner!

