

# SCOTIA GARDENER

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

## Winter 2023



### Message from the NSAGC Chair

This winter has been one for the books! In January and February, many were concerned because bulbs were sprouting and the buds on their shrubs were swelling with the unseasonable, and at times, record-breaking, warm temperatures. Then we were hit with a record-breaking low followed by lots of snow. By May it should be evident how severely our gardens were impacted by all that fluctuation. Unfortunately, some of our precious borderline-hardy plants may have succumbed.

To herald in spring, the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs (NSAGC) has some exciting events lined up:

- The NSAGC Photo Competition is underway and the deadline of April 29 for submissions is fast approaching. There are lots of great photographers among our members and I encourage you to participate. Categories and rules can be found on the website: <https://www.nsagc.com>
- The NSAGC Board meeting is scheduled for April 29. Please notify your District Director of any concerns your club has that we may be able to help with. Also, this is when we will be distributing free plants (*Scabiosa*, Flutter Deep Blue) to current members.
- On June 2 the annual NSAGC Convention kicks off at Mount St. Vincent University for a week-end of fun. As always, the planning committee has a full schedule of entertainment and information awaiting attendees. If you haven't yet signed up, there's no time like the present. Go to: <https://www.nsagc.com> and follow the links in the "Save the Date" box.



© Can Stock Photo / Ant

Most of you by now are fully into garden planning and seed starting. Will you be planting some new varieties of your favourite veggies or maybe trying something completely different? How about increasing the number of native and pollinator friendly flowers, shrubs, and trees in your landscape? Whether you are experimenting with plants or gardening techniques, please share your experience with the rest of us by posting on our NSAGC Facebook page or write about it in the Scotia Gardener.

Happy springtime, everyone!

Kathy d'Entremont

## Bedford Horticultural Society Learns from the Experts

by Marlene Grieg, Secretary, Bedford Horticultural Society

Although snow still covers the ground over much of Nova Scotia, gardeners are reporting the first snowdrops, winter aconites and even crocuses. Bouquets of forsythia brighten the homes of many and those of us who just can't wait have started seeds indoors and even outdoors in cold-frames and greenhouses. Spring is most definitely in the air. The excitement is building!

As COVID concerns diminish, BHS members are returning to organized activities in greater numbers and we have had two lively meetings so far in the new year.

At the first, in January, Dr. Sean Haughian, Curator of Botany at the Nova Scotia Museum, presented a talk: *Prevention and Control of Invasive Plant Species in Nova Scotia*. He explained not only how to identify the plants and either eradicate or control them; but also, how to do it safely and who to notify in specific cases.

The presenter at our February meeting was Constantine Liolis and his topic was *Pests and Diseases of Trees*. The program was limited to insects and target trees that most of us have seen in our own gardens, neighborhoods, and local and provincial parks, which made it even more relevant to those of us who were there. The physical examples of insects and the damage they do were of particular interest to attendees, who flocked around the display table, in no hurry to leave at the end of the program, looking at samples and asking questions.

Kelton Darroux, recipient of the 2023 BHS Bursary, will be our presenter at the March general meeting. Jaimee Morozoff will speak on the subject of pollinators at the April meeting and in May BHS will celebrate with a traditional Victorian Tea. Our annual plant sale will be held at Scott Manor House on June 10, from 9:00 a.m. to sell-out, rain or shine.

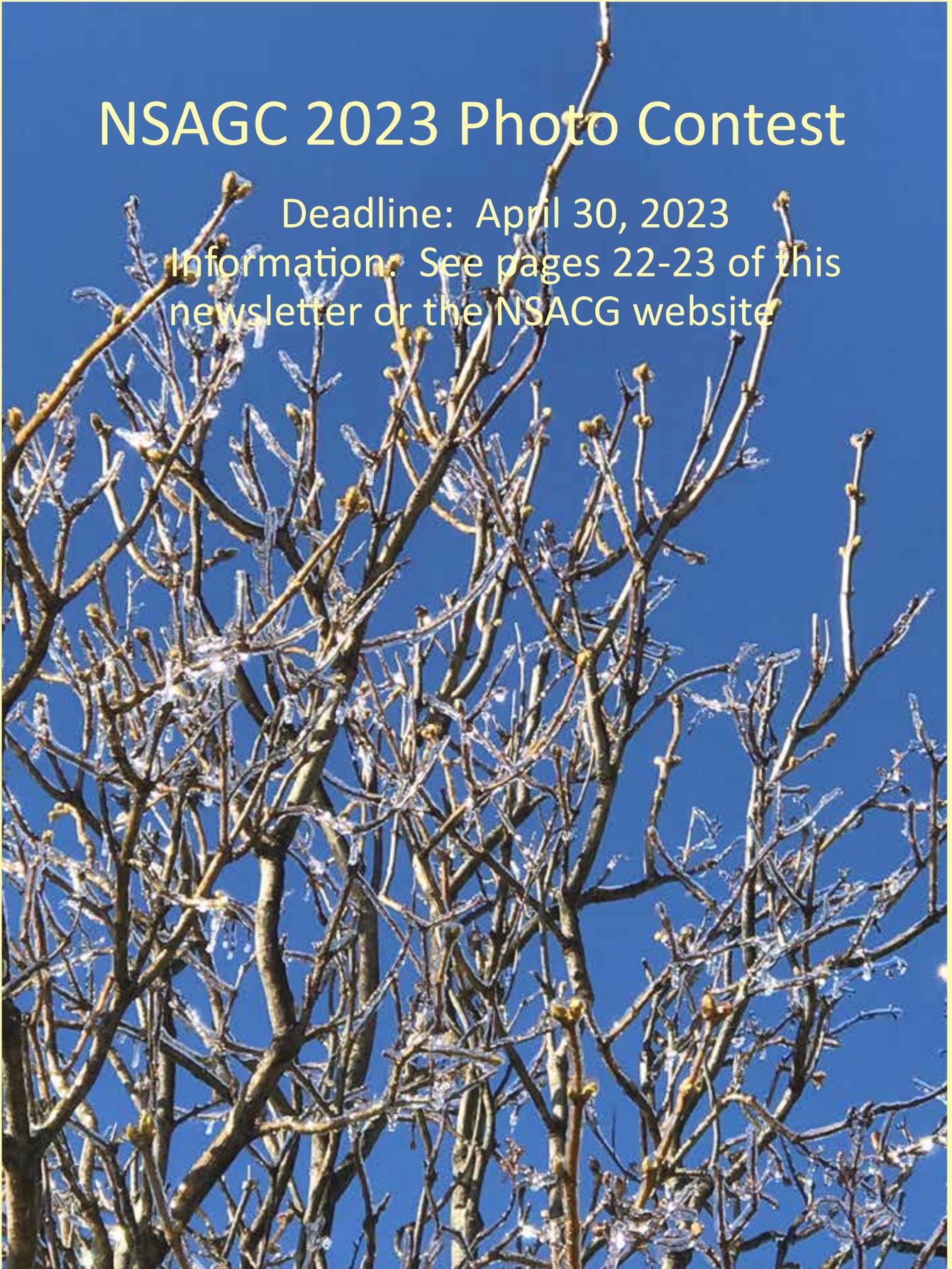


Sarah shows off her holiday centerpiece (top) and Santa drops by to check out the Christmas party. (bottom)  
Photos by Emily Walker

# NSAGC 2023 Photo Contest

Deadline: April 30, 2023

Information: See pages 22-23 of this newsletter or the NSACG website



## Mount Denson Garden Club Celebrates 40th Anniversary

by Carla Scholten

Our Club is excited to be celebrating! We have been growing since 1983. The Mount Denson Garden Club was first started by Ruth and Gerry Draper, who were well-known in the area as rose aficionados. This year we have over 50 members and two honorary members.

In celebration of our 40th Anniversary, the Club is planning several events including give-aways and workshops for the public. We are also acknowledging this milestone with A-Frame signs, embroidered aprons for events and plant sales with the motto: "Growing Since 1983".

Last year the club was successful in being awarded a municipality grant. This was used to purchase materials to more successfully source plant sales and host free workshops. Tracey Martin hosted two free public Christmas planter workshops and we had exceptional feedback.

The club is now accepting applications for a \$500 bursary to be awarded to a second-year plus student in horticulture or plant-related studies. For more information, contact us soon at [mtdensongardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:mtdensongardenclub@gmail.com).

Since November 2023 our club has been on our annual winter meeting hiatus. At our Christmas Party 2022 we were happily entertained by Terry Jagger and catered by Domenic Padula. Our generous members donated hats, mitts and cash to help support local persons in need.

During our first meeting of 2023 in March, our NSAGC District Rep, Melissa Weir, shared an orientation to the NSAGC website and information about the upcoming District Meeting and NSAGC Convention. We voted for two Convention Delegates and several others plan to attend. See you there! *(continued on next page)*



A free holiday planter workshop was held for members and the public.

Photos provided by Carla Scholten



Some of our members enjoying the Club Christmas party. Tracey Martin made our give-away centrepieces!

**Mount Denson Garden Club** (continued from the previous page)

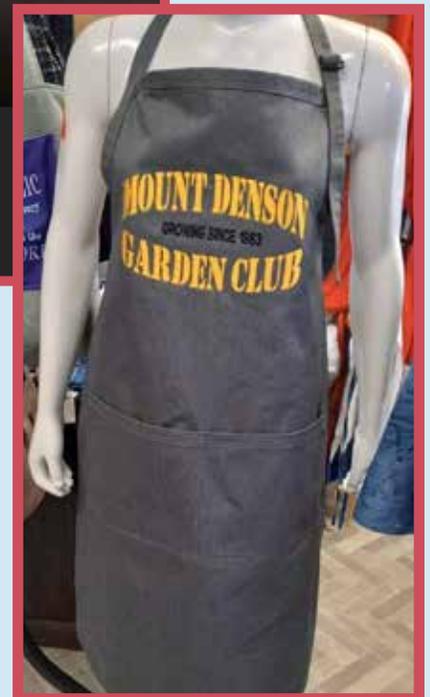


Many of our members participated in a group order of amaryllis. This beauty was grown by Lori Reid.



Rose-Marie and Sue take a break from our November 22 tidy at Riverbank Cemetery Memorial Gardens.

Photos provided by Carla Scholten



A model of our club apron celebrating 40 years of Mount Denson Garden Club.

# Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs Convention 2023

## Working with Nature

2023 Convention Committee

Spring is just around the corner and for gardeners, it is Convention time! June 2-4, 2023, at Mount St. Vincent University will be filled with gardening activities galore including garden tours on Friday and Sunday. A guided tour of the Gardens at the Mount takes place on Friday afternoon.

The weekend has a great line-up of speakers featuring artist and cultural educator Gerald Gloade on Friday evening and the one and only, highly talented retailer and floral designer "That Bloomin' Neville!" from My Mother's Bloomers on Saturday evening. Several other talented and knowledgeable speakers will be sure to keep your attention on Saturday.

Join qualified instructor and artist Miyako Ballesteros to create your very own Japanese flower arrangement to take home. Our Ikebana workshop takes place on Friday afternoon in the main auditorium. This workshop is limited to 25 people on a first-come basis, so get your registration in early. Our vendors will have a variety of plants and craft

items that you won't be able to pass up. There will be a quiz and a silent auction that will be sure to keep you entertained. Remember to bring your flower arrangement to enter in the flower show.

More than one arrangement per club is welcome this year. Winners from the photo contest will be announced and all photos will be on display. Year books will be displayed and club banners will be hung.

All registrants receive a free plant this year! Registration forms may be found within this newsletter and on our website [NSAGC.com](http://NSAGC.com) in the "Save the Date" box on the front page. The registration deadline is May 13 and numbers are limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment. Accommodations at the Mount are very reasonable and details may be found on the registration form.

We look forward to seeing you at the NSAGC Convention 2023!



## Calling on all Gardeners to be Vigilant

by Emily Walker, Editor, The Scotia Gardener

Gardeners can help protect and rid Nova Scotia of invasive plants that can squeeze out our own native plants and aggressively take over our gardens and push out native plants. Not only that, but some of them pose a threat to agricultural crops and can be very difficult to eradicate once they get a foot hold. They can threaten fruit, vegetable and grain crops and even farm animal grazing areas. Invasive insects can also wreak havoc with our forests and farm lands.

May 12 is the International Day of Plant Health. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is asking for help from all gardeners to prevent the planting and spread of invasive species of plants and the spread of invasive insects. The [CFIA](#) is an excellent source of information and resources. This website even has Plant Health Hero booklets to teach and encourage youngsters to learn the basics of what happens when we have invasive plant and insect species.

The Invasive Plants Field Guide [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2017/acia-cfia/A104-97-2017-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2017/acia-cfia/A104-97-2017-eng.pdf) has useful photos and in-depth descriptions that help you identify invasive plants.

Something gardeners can be vigilant about is where you buy seeds or plants online. You may unwittingly bring something unwanted into your garden. Tiny seeds you buy online can cause big trouble for Canada's environment. Just because certain seeds are available on a website doesn't mean that the plant species is safe for native plants and animals in Canada or is allowed to be imported. A person importing seeds into Canada must comply with Canada's [Seeds Act](#) and [Seeds Regulations](#), and other applicable legislation. Check to see if the species you are considering is a plant regulated as pest in Canada. This is one small way you can prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.

Here are two tips to keep in mind:

- Check your car, truck, RV, deck and equipment stored outside for egg masses or insects. Contact your local CFIA office if you find something suspicious or surprising.
- You can also report plant pests to the CFIA online.

Finally, check out the [Nova Scotia Invasive Species Council](#) website. There you will be able to examine photographs and descriptions of invasive species to be on the look for in our province.

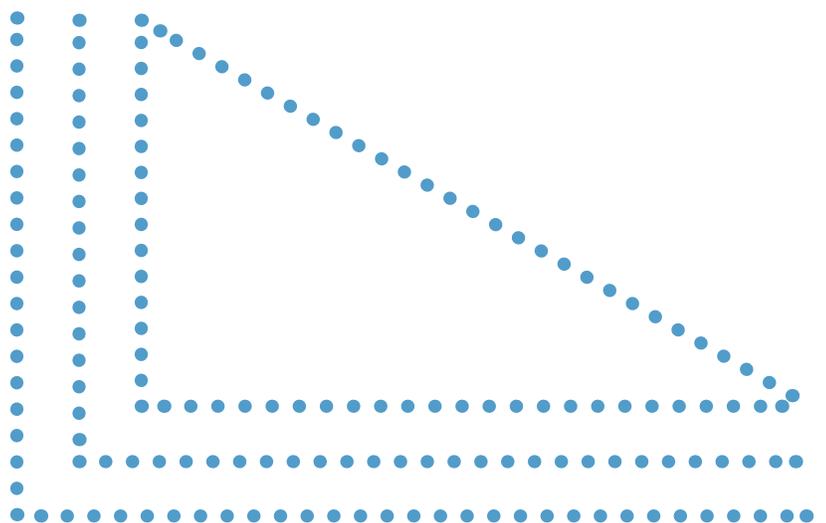
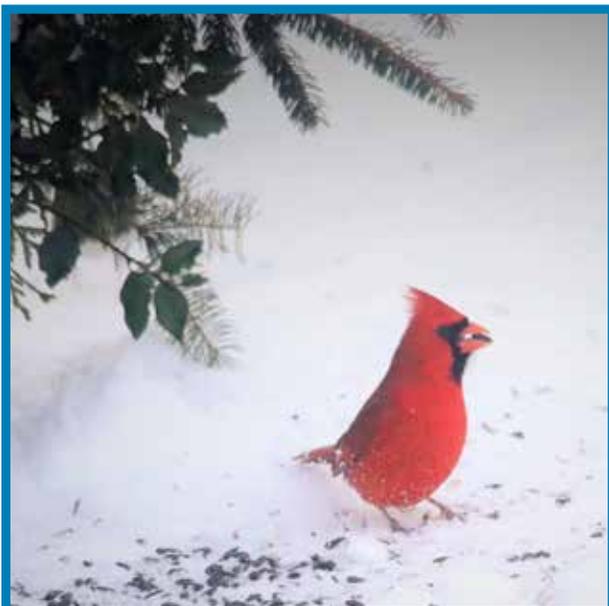


Photo by Susan Donkervoort, NSAGC Photo Contest 2022, third in Class "Nature in Winter"

## Bible Hill Learns about Herbs and Insects

by Eva Rifai, Bible Hill Garden Club

Our Bible Hill Garden Club enthusiastically started February 13 with the first meeting in 2023. Our speaker was Lynn Marie Matte from Arisma Holistic Herbal in Truro. She talked about herb gardens and the uses of many different herbs. She encouraged us to grow our own medicine cabinet! We are often walking in the garden or in nature and don't realize how fragrant plants and flowers affect every aspect of our daily life—mental, emotional and physical health. Herbs can be use dried, fresh or infused in oil or alcohol. A cup of herbal tea can refresh us after hard work in the garden! Herbal infused oils can help us relieve pain and headaches, soothe aching muscles and help us with coughs and colds.

Our second meeting was very interesting too. Professor Paul Manning from Dalhousie University talked about insects in Nova Scotia gardens. In any given time in our garden, there are 100 species of insects. He talked about how gardening is positive to our environment and that plants attract both good bugs and bad bugs. Insects are useful to humans and their environment. They are pollinators; they are good food for birds and humans; and they affect the microbiology of soil. The most important insects are the bees. Life without them would be almost impossible.



Photos provided by  
Eva Rifai



# Outstanding Natural Beauty

Photo by Melissa Weir,  
NSAGC Photo Contest  
2022, Class "Nature in  
Winter"

## Rooted in Clare Garden Club: An Asset to the Community

by Lisa Doucette

This winter has been relatively busy for our little garden club. We started the season with our usual potting party to pot up plants for the students of University Sainte Anne. This is the second year we have done this and the students love it. It's a collaborative effort between the garden club, the university and La Société Acadienne de Clare. The university supplies the soil and the pots, the Société provides little signs for each plant welcoming the students and giving the plant a name and we pot up the plants and then show up for the welcome day with a whole whack of plants! This year we gave away over 125 plants!

We have also had many wonderful speakers this winter. We had speakers talk about seed saving, greenhouses, grapevine health and something I never thought I'd say—growing marijuana. We also decorated Le P'tit Bois at Christmas time. It was very beautiful and people appreciate it. In case you're wondering what Le P'tit Bois is, it's a pathway behind the university. It's a beautiful walk where the birds and squirrels expect to be fed. In such a small area there is actually four different ecosystems!

We are all excited for our upcoming annual Seedy Saturday and plant sale. This is our first time since Covid putting on this event. It's all happening on April 1 with speakers, seed vendors and we will also have some food vendors because tending those tables can make you really hungry!



Photos provided by Lisa Doucette

## Queens Garden Club: How to “Vermiculture”

by Krista Doody

I remember a sunny day in late January, when the air and the sky made it look like a spring day. I was ready to start clearing away the leaves and tidy the perennials. Then I gave my head a shake and reminded myself that it was only the end of January and winter could still hit us.

Luckily our garden club meetings are not weather dependent and we've been able to continue the fun. The fall session kicked off with a very informative and entertaining presentation on vermiculture by our very own Emily. It's evident by the enthusiasm with which she speaks that Emily is not only extremely knowledgeable on the topic but also is truly excited about her worms.

She began by presenting the data around composting and explained the dos and don'ts. Good tips were to never throw coffee grinds into the garbage (they contain far too many nutrients to be thrown away) and to put eggshells in the blender, otherwise they don't break down.

Then, right before our very own eyes in a matter of minutes, she created a vermiculture box which she made look easy and fun. She used a plastic bin, lined it with shredded leaves and added cornmeal, oat bran, coffee grounds and eggshells. She explained to us that worms love watermelon to which of course we asked, "How do you know?!" If a worm loves something, there is only a film left within a

few days. William was the happy winner of the vermiculture bin. Emily uses hers all winter. I wonder how William's worms are doing.

November 26 was the kickoff to the Christmas season for many of us when we met at Cosby's in Liverpool for our annual wreath making/centre piece workshop. Not only is it an incredibly fun afternoon, but the coffee and treats always taste particularly yummy on that day. I'm always amazed at how different our creations look when we are basically using the same materials. As I'm writing this, my wreath is still proudly displayed between the garage doors.

On December 8 we had our annual Christmas lunch at Lane's Restaurant. We had our own private room which was nice because we didn't have to worry about bothering anyone with our excited chatter. Susan kindly made centre pieces for our tables and then they were raffled off.

January was trivia night this year and once again Greg entertained us with his well phrased questions and stumped a lot of us too!

It seems our club has recently grown so much that we will be looking for a new venue to hold our meetings. It will be sad to have to leave the library where we were always so warmly welcomed. It's also very exciting to see new faces and to have more people contribute to planning and ideas.



Vermiculture presentation



Christmas creations  
Photos provided by Krista Doody

## Dartmouth Horticultural Society Focuses on Planning Ahead

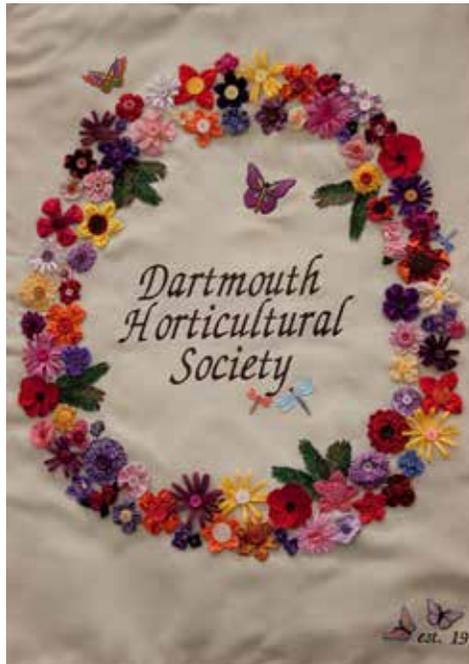
by Avis Faulkner, President

Members of Dartmouth Horticultural Society (DHS) ended a busy year by celebrating at our annual Potluck Supper on December 12, where more than 45 people enjoyed lovely and varied food and dessert options, carolling, door prizes, garden slides from several member and lots of conversation and laughs. Big thanks to Tina Small and committee, to Doreen Winsor for carolling books and hand made treats, and to Linda Mosher for coordinating the slide show.

We started 2023 by using the January meeting to get information from our members around priority directions and preferred programming. Organized by incoming President Avis Faulkner, and Program Chair Linda Connolly, members were asked to individually write down "What do you hope to experience from attending meetings and participating in activities with DHS?" Then we broke into groups by birthday months and members were given stickers to vote for their two preferences in seven categories which were posted on the walls with examples.

There was a lot of chatting and laughter while people re-connected and the Executive received a great deal of good information for planning and members later received the summary of the voting.

Our February meeting was cancelled by a snow-storm, but we fortunately were able to rebook our landscape design speaker for May. At our March meeting almost 50 people listened to Brenna Fraser, PhD, Curator of Zoology at the NS Museum of Natural Science, present: *The Lifecycle, Migration, and Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly*. Upcoming club member presentations include: *Starting Seeds and Growing Garlic, How Your Garden Contributes to Community Design, and The Developing Garden at Dartmouth Heritage Museum and how DHS Archives are Kept There*. We look forward to attending the 2023 Convention, working hard at our plant sale on June 17, to touring member gardens during the summer, and celebrating our 65th anniversary together as a club!



Dartmouth Horticultural Society celebrating the holiday in style. Photos submitted by Avis Faulkner



## Haliburton Garden Club Honours Canadian Garden Hero

by Melissa Weir

In September Haliburton Garden Club recognized club president Marie Harvey as a Canadian Garden Hero through the Canadian Garden Council and their Year of the Garden Programming. Marie was nominated for her commitment to increasing membership in the club when the club was close to folding with only four members. She also sits on multiple garden centre boards in her community. Marie is dedicated to sharing her love of gardening with anybody she meets. She is first to lend a hand in planning and participating in any garden related projects.

Marie's nomination included a certificate from the Canadian Garden Council and her name is listed on the Year of the Garden website.

<https://livethegardenlife.gardenscanada.ca/garden-heroes/>

Melissa Weir (left), Director of District 5, and Haliburton Club member, presenting Marie Harvey (right) with her award. (Photo provided by Melissa Weir)



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## Lismore and District Club Coasting Right Along

by Don Butler



Pictured above are members of the Lismore and District Club at their December meeting. In the spirit of the season, they each decorated a sleigh.  
Photo submitted by Don Butler

## Eastern Shore Garden Club Keeps Busy

by Linda Disbrowe

The Eastern Shore Garden Club celebrated another busy year by capping it off with their December Christmas potluck. No business new or old was on the agenda, as the evening was all about good company, good food and celebrating the holiday season.

The well-organized potluck committee run by Donna Jones, with the help Jane Orton, Holly Mac-Nevin and Kathy Pope took their roles very seriously, starting with decorating. The hall was festive with its evergreen swags and each guest table had a lovely evergreen flower arrangement. As gardeners usually love to eat as well as garden, the meeting was well attended with 38 members who all contributed to a great selection of food.

From appetizers to the main courses and through to an amazing variety of desserts with tea and coffee, there was more than enough for everyone. The food members brought was delicious and there were even options for vegans and gluten free buns, so everyone could eat their fill.

After a great meal, members had a lighthearted Christmas trivia game with prizes, in addition to those draws as door prizes. Items won included a garden tray and journal, free club membership, pewter ornament and a set of coasters. A large centerpiece was won and several smaller ones were sold along with swags, with the proceeds going to

the local food bank. What a great evening of food, fun, and fellowship...the perfect start to the holiday season!

Note: Sadly, the Eastern Shore Garden Club was informed shortly after this meeting, that Ina Beaver, one of the club's original founders passed away on December 23, 2023. Ina's passion for gardening was a driving factor in the club growing and thriving. Condolences were sent to her family from the club and so many friends she left behind.

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Christmas swag

Christmas party

Photos provided by Darlene Hart



## Eastern Shore Garden Club

(continued from previous page)

Our January meeting guest speaker was our own vice-president Diane Lucas, who spoke on *Monarchs, Milkweed and More*.

Diane began with a great deal of information on the monarch's life cycle, with accompanying slides. The material she shared was interesting, clear and her knowledge was the basis for us all to consider the impact we have on nature, not just the monarchs. Her talk also provided information on growing many native flowering plants, so necessary for all butterflies and pollinators.

The data she provided on the number of food stops, these insects need as they fly to Mexico and back gave us a clear understanding of the impact their reduced habitat has on their numbers. This population decline means they were classified threatened as of 2022. We also learned that milkweed is the single most important food plant for their survival, with a minimum of six plants needed to feed the hungry caterpillars.

Swamp milkweed can be grown here with minimal work, from fridge stratification to simple pots or winter sowing in plastic jugs. Diane's presentation covered growing suggestions and information for the milkweed and listed other native plants we can grow in our gardens such as the Joe Pye Weed, to form a beautiful butterfly garden of our own to help monarchs and other insects.

Lastly, her talk provided new information on the Butterfly Way Project she has been involved with since 2021 when she started recruiting volunteers. A butterfly garden was constructed along the trail in the Gaetz Brook Greenway, with the permission and help of Shore Active Transportation Association (SATA) which aims to do many things, including encouraging less car dependence in communities by creating and maintaining trails where people can walk and cycle to local destinations. Diane and her volunteers have planted a native butterfly garden on the Gaetz Brook trail with SATA providing funds for soil and other expenses. In addition, with fundraising help from four Gaetz Brook Junior high students, SATA member Jay Tofflemire enlisted Diane's help with an interpre-



Joe Pye Weed

Photo by Linda Disbrowe

tive sign for the garden. As a result, with Diane's lovely illustrations and information, Jay and other SATA members had a sign made and installed in the fall of 2022.

Armed with our newly gained information on Monarchs and learning that last spring Monarch caterpillars were seen in the Gaetz Brook Trail Garden, club members enthusiastically accepted swamp milkweed seeds to try their hand at growing these beauties of nature. This year's Butterfly Way Project under Diane and her committee will be expanding the gardens along the trail and in Bennett Park, in Mineville.

Diane Lucas will be a guest speaker at the upcoming NSAGC Convention in June.

[The Butterflyway Project - David Suzuki Foundation](#)

### [About SATA Trails](#)



Photo by Jay Tofflemire

## Bridgetown Area Garden Club

by Nicki McCarthy



All photos provided by Janine Brackett

The Bridgetown Area Garden Club kicked off our winter season with a presentation from the Clean Annapolis River Project: *How to Tuck Our Gardens in for Winter*, with tips and tricks on how to prepare our gardens for winter while helping some important creatures in our local eco-systems.

Christmas saw the return of our annual festive potluck and craft night, where we decorated tea cups and teapots (all generously donated by our own Ro Allen) with greenery and all kinds of prettiness. We also gave our famous flowering Canoe in Jubilee Park a seasonal refresh—cold but satisfying work!

In January we held our AGM and organised a “regift auction” which was great fun and raised money for our community projects. February included a presentation, *Smart Gardening*, from Will Neilly of Neilly’s Greenhouses with ideas to reduce the amount of work in the garden so more time can be spent enjoying it! This was an entertaining evening with lots of great practical tips. Deb Bowes-Lyon also hosted a tool sharpening workshop, so we are all ready for a busy gardening season ahead.



## Pictou and Area Garden Club Has a Busy Winter

by Jenn Bethell



Pictou and Area Garden Club was busy this fall with the October Meeting where they had the pleasure of having three members make presentations. Joy Sinclair: *Planting Garlic*; Dawn Westhaver: *Roots, Tubers and Slips—Overwintering your Annual Plants*; and Beth Henderson—*End-of-Season Gardening: Making the Most of your Fall Vegetable Harvest*. Photos submitted by Heather Mattie



Members also finished up the Veterans Wing at the Sutherland Harris Memorial Hospital by planting spring bulbs. Photos submitted by Heather Mattie

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## Pictou and Area Garden Club Has a Busy Winter

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The Pictou and Area Garden Club (PAGC) started the new year with two fantastic presentations. Jeremy LeClair, co-owner of busy Pictou County landscaping company Urban Roots, spoke about the care and health of and pruning/prepping trees and shrubbery. Jeremy, who recently became an ISA tree risk assessor, is an ISA Certified Arborist and has practiced his trade in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia before moving to Nova Scotia.

PAGC member Lloyd McLean followed suit with a fantastic lesson on raised bed gardening. Lloyd graduated in 1985 from the Landscape Horticulture program at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and has held a variety of managerial positions over the years including general manager of Sobey's Garden Centres for the Maritime provinces. Lloyd has had a 30-year career in horticulture and is an impressive resource of information.



Members of the PAGC stand with Andrew Marshall, Owner/Operator of North Shore Ballast and Concrete Works, who kindly donated the stones to which he mounted our new sign for the flower bed in front of the Sutherland Harris Memorial Hospital in Pictou.



The PAGC will welcome Lauren Forbes as our new Vice-President at our March 2023 AGM. Lauren joined us in March 2021, after moving here from Ontario where she was a member of the Haliburton Master Gardeners Club. Prior to that, she was a member of the Oro-Medonte Agricultural Society for six years where she was responsible for the monthly newsletter and annual publication. Following this she lived in Barrie where she was a member of the Barrie Garden Club for ten years. A certified floral designer, Lauren now resides in Trenton. Lauren loves to garden and we hope she will now have more time to further indulge her passion.

Landscape work began on this property in the mid to late 1990's when WWII veteran, John Palmer, an avid gardener and greenhouse operator, saw an opportunity to make a difference. He began the task of creating and caring for the flower beds in honor of the veterans living there and asked the local garden club if they would like to assist him deliver and plant his bedding plants 26 years ago. PAGC has been tending to the flower bed every year since, affectionately known as the Vets' Wing. In 2022 the bed was completely refurbished with new soil and plant materials under direction of club member Dawn Westhaver. This recent sign dedication was a wonderful final step to complete the project. Thank you to the many PAGC volunteers that attended the various gatherings at the Vets' Wing over the past year to transform this bed. We all look forward to watching it grow big and beautiful this summer.

We will continue promoting and growing the club this spring via placement of our new brochures in several local horticultural/greenhouse businesses. We have also started planning for another plant sale this coming May. This is our biggest annual fundraiser with last year being our most successful to date, raising just over \$3,200 for the club.

**Working with Nature Convention Program 2023**  
(draft—subject to change)

**Friday, June 2**

- 1–6 p.m.      **Registration**
- 1:30–4 p.m.    **Garden tours**  
Emily Walker, Bedford  
Roslyn Duffus, Bedford  
MSVU Garden, Jim Sharpe
- 2–4 p.m.      **Ikebana workshop**
- 6 p.m.        **Opening ceremonies**  
**Keynote speaker:**  
*Gerald Gloade*



**Saturday, June 3**

- 8:30–9:30 a.m.    **NSACG Annual General Meeting**
- 9:30–10:15 a.m. **Nutrition Break**
- Speakers**  
10:15 a.m.        *Diane Lucas*  
11:15 a.m.        *Lyn Brooks*
- 12:00–1:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- Speakers**  
1:15 p.m.         *Elizabeth Pierce*  
2:15 p.m.         *Sean Haughian*
- 3:15–3:30 p.m.    **Nutrition Break**
- 3:30 p.m.         *Paul Manning*
- 6 p.m.            **Banquet**  
**Keynote speaker:**  
*Neville MacKay*
- 8:30 p.m.         **Social**

**Sunday, June 4**

- 10–2 p.m.    **Garden Tours**  
Louise Baker LaPierre, Kingswood North  
Maureen Yeadon, Brookside  
Debra Hall, Kathleen Hall and John Brett,  
Hall's Rd. off Purcell's Cove Road  
Stephanie Young, Fall River  
Donna Evers, Kingswood



**Register today for the NSAGC  
Convention 2023**

**Working with Nature**

June 2-4, 2023

Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, NS

Registration closes on May 13, 2023!



*Working with Nature*

# 2023 NSAGC Convention Registration Form



Hosted by Halifax, District 4

June 2–4, 2023

Mount Saint Vincent University

Rosaria Student Centre, 131 Lumpkin Road, Halifax

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club or Society.

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

NSAGC member .....\$ 55

Non-member .....\$ 65

Late Registration Fee (after May 1, 2023) .....\$ 10

Saturday Evening Banquet

Number of people for Banquet: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 per person. .... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ or Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ or Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Special food requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Workshop (2:30 – 4:00)

Japanese Flower Arranging, The Ikebana Shop (limit 25 attendees) (Yes/No) \$ 41.00

Total Amount Payable \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Private Garden Tours (details and directions will be provided at registration)

Friday, 2:00–4:00 and Sunday, 10:00–2:00

**Registration closes on May 13, 2023!**

- You may pay by cheque payable to: NSAGC District 4 (no post-dated cheques, please) and mail to Convention 2023, 4 Cameron Street, Dartmouth B2Y 2G6 or e-transfer by emailing: [convention@nsagc.com](mailto:convention@nsagc.com).
- Registration form may be mailed to Convention 2023, 4 Cameron Street, Dartmouth B2Y 2G6, emailed to : [convention@nsagc.com](mailto:convention@nsagc.com) or completed on the NSAGC web site (nsagc.com) under the Save the Date box.
- For more information, e-mail [convention@nsagc.com](mailto:convention@nsagc.com) or phone 902-469-3661.

**You will receive a confirmation email once your registration form and payment have been received.**

## More Information about the NSAGC Convention 2023



### Floral Competition

Theme: Working with Nature

A map of the MSVU Campus may be found at

<https://www.msvu.ca/en/home/campus-life/campus-services/safety-security/campusmap.aspx>

### Accommodations

1. Please make reservations directly with MSVU by calling 902-457-6364 or emailing [reservations@msvu.ca](mailto:reservations@msvu.ca). Contact is Jill Hurlbert.
2. Rooms require a credit card to guarantee against damages.
3. Check in is after 3:00 p.m. on arrival date and check out is by 11:00 am on departure date.
4. After May 1, 2023, the rooms will be released from the NSAGC reservations so please make your reservation before May 1.
5. Accommodations at MSVU will be in the Westwood or Assisi Hall Residences. All prices include taxes.
  - Single room—\$76.25 each room. Five rooms share one bathroom.
  - 4 Bedroom apartment—\$145.45. Each apartment—4 rooms share 2 bathrooms. Apartment features single bedrooms with full kitchen which includes fridge, stove, microwave and kettle. Common living room features seating and smart TV.
  - 2 Bedroom units—\$111.44 each unit. Units feature two single bedrooms with kitchen, living room and shared bathroom.
  - 2 Bedroom suites—\$93.84 each suite. Suites have one shared bathroom.
6. Bedding and towels are included. Hair dryers are not.
7. It is recommended that guests bring their own toiletries. Included is one small bar of soap and one small shampoo.
8. Breakfast may be purchased in advance for \$9.50 + tax when you register.

## Photo Contest Rules for the 2023 NSAGC Photo Competition

Please note that these rules apply to the 2023 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

- Insects or Animals (e.g., birds, deer, squirrels, snakes, frogs, etc.) no humans or pets. Best if photo also shows some botanical feature.

### Class 2 Close-ups

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

### Class 3 Foliage

- Celebrate the beautiful diversity of foliage form, colour and texture featured in your garden plants.

### 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 of 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.

## Photo Contest Rules for the 2023 NSAGC Photo Competition (continued from previous page)

4. Any individual photo can only be submitted for one particular class.

5. The finished photograph must accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it originally appeared—i.e., no Photo-shop-like editing except for cropping or brightness alterations.

6. Photos will 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 the other photos you will be submitting, 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: [photos.nsagc@gmail.com](mailto:photos.nsagc@gmail.com)
- Very large files may need to be submitted in successive emails
- 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, 2023, to allow time for 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 two independent judges with years of gardening/plant and/or art/photography backgrounds and will be administered by the Chair.

The judges will accept any photo that is a reasonable interpretation of the title of the class concerned. Remember, one of the four criteria of judging is originality.

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. One 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prize will be awarded for the three "Best Overall" photos.

10. Display during convention: Since all photos will be in a digital format, they will be put together in a video which will run on a screen in a loop during the entire convention so that all attending members will have 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.

11. In submitting your photos, 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. All submitted photos may be eventually uploaded to the NSAGC website.

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.

***Paid Advertisements***

# Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia

## Annual Tuber Sale

**When:** Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 9 am to 2 pm  
**Location:** Bedford Leisure Hall (building behind Bedford Legion 1772 Bedford Hwy)

**Hundreds of different varieties to choose ranging from large to small flowering and various colors. All tubers are \$3**



### Interested in African Violets, Streps, etc.?

The First Halifax African Violet Society meets one Sunday afternoon each month to swap our plants and knowledge

All Welcome!

Contact Anne Brown: [thebrownsonthelake@gmail.com](mailto:thebrownsonthelake@gmail.com)

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### Cuba Garden/Culture Tours 2022/23

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All tour details at [www.cuba1tours.com](http://www.cuba1tours.com)

## A Note from the Editor

Winter 2023 was light on snow and generous with warm temperatures although it did sting us with a polar vortex which caused temperatures to plummet to -25 C. It makes us shiver to think of it—just the way we feel when we look at the splendid wintry photo on page 9!

The NSAGC Convention 2023 is coming up in June. It will be a fun event with:

- excellent speakers like Neville Mackay and Gerald Gloade
- vendors with neat stuff to sell
- gardeners from all over the province
- good food and venue

The convention is a dose of spring tonic for us all. We come away with new ideas, new acquaintances, and a renewed enthusiasm to go home and get gardening! For a convention of this quality, the fees are a real bargain. Please register now to reserve your place. (See details on page 20.)

As always it is a pleasure to include club member photos in the newsletter for everyone to appreciate. I am looking forward to a new batch of beautiful works of art from the 2023 photo contest!

Please mail your club news and photos for the next issue of the newsletter (deadline: June 15) to:  
[newsletter@nsagc.com](mailto:newsletter@nsagc.com)

Until June,  
Emily Walker



## 2021-2022 NSAGC Executive

**Chair**, Kathy D'Entremont  
email: [secretary@nsagc.com](mailto:secretary@nsagc.com)

**Past Chair**, Pamela MacLean  
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**Vice Chair**, Deb Bowes-Lyon  
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**Secretary**, Ginny Blayne  
email: [secretary@nsagc.com](mailto:secretary@nsagc.com)

**Treasurer**, Susan Hazelwood  
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**Awards Committee**, Pamela MacLean  
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**Historian**, Dixie Cress  
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**Photo Contest Committee**, Sharon Bryson  
[photos.nsagc@gmail.com](mailto:photos.nsagc@gmail.com)

**Scotia Gardener Newsletter**, Emily Walker  
email: [newsletter@nsagc.com](mailto:newsletter@nsagc.com)

**Plant Give Away**, Geoff MacDonald  
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**Web Content Manager**, Susan Hazelwood  
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**District Three**, Central North, Elizabeth Hill (acting)  
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**District Three**, Central South, Brenda Grasser (acting)  
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**District Five**, Valley, Melissa Weir  
email: [secretary@nsagc.com](mailto:secretary@nsagc.com)

**District Six**, South Shore, Michele Stevens  
email: [secretary@nsagc.com](mailto:secretary@nsagc.com)

**District Seven**, Western, vacant  
email: [secretary@nsagc.com](mailto: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 Three, Central North  
Director, District Seven

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

## Advertise Your Service or Product in the Scotia Gardener

### Fees:

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

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

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

## Scotia Gardener: Winter 2023 Issue (Volume 23, 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.

Photo credit: Emily Walker, pages 3 and 25



Photo by Judy Keating,  
NSAGC Photo Contest 2022,  
Class "Nature in Winter"