

SCOTIA GARDENER

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs



Winter 2024

Message from the NSAGC Chair

Greetings, gardening friends,

Spring is springing—a happy time for many gardeners as we see new life peeking out in our outdoor gardens, giving us hope for a better growing season than last year.

Spring also brings us National Volunteer Week, April 20–24. Dedicated volunteers are the heart of our clubs. Take a moment to recognize and thank your volunteers for all they do. Consider volunteering for your club or a community activity. You will be glad you did.

April 1 is the beginning of the new NSAGC membership year. Sadly, a few clubs have ceased operation but we also welcomed a newly formed Club, the Upper Vaughn Garden Club. I am very happy to report that the Association has 52 member clubs this year and an individual membership increase of about 11 percent over last year.

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

- NSAGC annual photo contest—submissions must be received no later than April 29. See details in this newsletter (page 31) and on our website: www.nsagc.com Winners will be announced at the annual convention.
- NSAGC annual convention, June 7–9, promises to be a lively event as we get “Back to Our Roots” in Yarmouth. Check this newsletter for program details and register on our website in the *Save the Date* box.
- Browse this newsletter and events calendar on our website for many more activities.

Wishing you all the joys of springtime,

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

Prospect Area Garden Club Makes Mini Gnomes

by Tara Moore

Over the past few months the Prospect Area Garden Club members enjoyed socializing. A highlight was a delicious holiday potluck buffet.

The club hosted several presentations and activities. These included: worm and backyard composting by HRM, hydroponic indoor garden by Marsha Robinson (photo to the left) and making mini gnomes workshop. Members also participated in a "show and tell" and a houseplant swap.

Marsha Robinson's presentation at the club's February meeting was entitled: *Whirr and Wonder: Plan a Pollinator Garden!*



Club members show off their cute mini gnomes!



The holiday buffet was a hit with all.
Photos provided by Tara Moore

Mahone Bay Garden Society News

by Ron Hall



Living shoreline along Mahone Bay waterfront

This past year we started off our monthly program by showing the video of the virtual house and garden tour that our local museum had put together. It was very enjoyable to see the vibrant summer colours of our town in the depths of the winter. Our AGM falls in February and after the business meeting Jordan Veinot gave a talk on the living shoreline being installed along our waterfront.

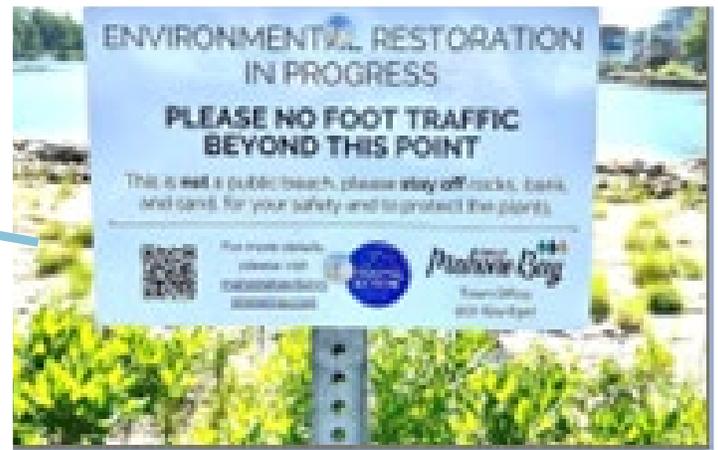
In March Chris Sanford of Yonder Hill Farm told us about her year growing and harvesting heritage seeds for commercial sale. In April Walter Downey from Pitcher Plant Greenhouses entertained us while talking about summer containers. In May we visited Oceanview Garden Centre in Chester Basin.

Our annual plant sale was held on May 27. We had had to innovate while Covid was on and some changes proved very useful and have endured. This is our major fundraising project and was very successful and fun.

In the summer we organize garden tours to visit local gardens and some further away. We especially enjoyed an outing to Liverpool at the peak of the Chinese Dogwood blossoms. We spent a day in the Valley with Jamie Ellison and the Ueffing Garden.

In the fall we start our monthly program with a plant swap. Members bring three plants, describe them and then take three others home. In October James Dunn demonstrated Bonsai techniques. In November Laura Besaw presented on dried flowers. The Christmas party in December is always a highlight with good company and great food.

(continued on the following page)



Members had fun learning about dried flower arranging, holding their plant sale, and relaxing at their Christmas party.

Photos provided by Ron Hall



Mahone Bay Garden Society News (continued from page 3)



As a club we help out the Town of Mahone Bay with maintaining some of their flower beds. We do a clean-up in the spring, a summer dead-head and weeding and a cut down in the fall. The mayor often acknowledges our efforts in his newsletter. With our monies we are able to assist in some of the beautification projects of the town. We sponsor two of the beautiful flower baskets hanging on lampposts around the town.

This year we were able to donate two benches: one in the Aquatic Garden memorializes the long-term service of Bev and Ron Myers and the other on the waterfront has a magnificent view down the harbour.

We have a Facebook page which our secretary updates and which highlights our activities.



The efforts of Mahone Bay Garden Society members are evident in flourishing gardens and the provision of benches. Citizens can enjoy the iconic views while taking a break from an invigorating walk around the town. The Society's contributions are much appreciated by the public and serve to strengthen the relationship between the club and the town. Both value the beautification of their neighbourhood.



Photos provided by Ron Hall

Important Information for Clubs Applying for Grants: Avoid Incurring Personal Income Taxes!

by Susan Hazelwood, NSAGC Treasurer

If your club is applying for a grant, you may be asked to supply a business number or a CRA number. Please read and heed the information in the blue box below.

CRA Number

Grants sometimes ask for a CRA number. This requires an organization to be registered as a not-for-profit with the CRA. NSAGC is **not** registered with CRA. This means that you cannot apply for a grant that requires this number unless your club is registered with CRA itself. **NOTE:** Never give your social insurance number in a grant application in place of a CRA number or for any other reason. If you do, a T4 will be issued in your name and you will have to pay personal income taxes on the amount of the grant.

Business Number

The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs is registered with Joint Stocks and, therefore, the member clubs are as well. Our registration number is 1282925 and it is publicly available on the Joint Stocks Web Site (<https://rjsc.novascotia.ca/home>). You are free to use the number when asked for it. If you are in need of a letter on NSAGC letterhead confirming that you are a member in good standing of NSAGC and/or your status with Joint Stocks, please send me an email at: treasurer@nsagc.com or give me a call at 902-469-3661. Whoever you are applying to will specify the information that they need to process your application.



Photo by Bill Reader, NSAGC Photo Contest 2023 Class "Nature in Winter"

Lunenburg and Area Garden Club: Busy and Productive

by Ellen Morrisey

Greetings, Nova Scotia gardeners, and Happy New Year. Fall 2023 was a busy and productive time for the Lunenburg and Area Garden Club.

We had our AGM in September, a visit from Annette Clarke of the Exotic Fruit Nursery in October, a visit from Emily Liot and gift exchange in November and Christmas arrangement-making followed by a wine and cheese gathering in December.

Earlier in 2023 we committed to restoring the landscaping at Fisherman's Memorial Hospital (Project 23). From July to December we worked at cleaning up and clearing the gardens which had been sadly neglected over the years. Our team was out in all kinds of weather from sweltering heat to freezing cold. We had help from a professional landscaper, Heritage Landscaping, for the very heavy work. By the end of the year all the foundational work was complete and we will begin planting in 2024.

Throughout the course of the project we have been touched and gratified by the enthusiastic support of the hospital staff, auxiliary, patients, visitors and neighbours.

Our priority for this year is the large front bed at the entrance to the hospital and we will begin planting in May. We are planning a pollinator garden in one of the smaller beds. We will be exploring fundraising opportunities in 2024 to support our work.

Dave Jarvis will be attending our March meeting to discuss garden preparation as well as his work providing fresh produce to the Lunenburg Food Bank. We will be holding our popular plant sale in May (8:30 to 11:00 a.m., Saturday May 25, Lawrence and King Street, Lunenburg) with sale proceeds for the hospital garden project. We are tentatively planning road trips to the gardens in Kentville and the Rare and Unusual Plant Sale in Annapolis Royal. We are also hoping to tour some local gardens.

Happy gardening, everyone!



Preparation is underway for a new garden at Fisherman's Memorial Hospital—the end result will be a wonderful addition to the Hospital grounds.

Photos provided by Ellen Morrisey

2024 Ushers in 85th Anniversary for Chester Garden Club



Happy 85th Anniversary CGC 1939- 2024
Chester Garden Club members and friends would like to share with the community our excitement surrounding the 85th Anniversary with a variety of open events during the month of June 2024.

Saturday May 25th - CGC - Gardeners' Sale

9am - noon Chester Train Station

Saturday June 1st - Social In The Cove Garden - 1-3 pm

Monday June 10th - Reception and Tea 2-4 pm

Lordly House Museum

CGC's Summer Exhibit - 85 years in review

Monday June 17th - An Independent Walking Tour
of a variety of village gardens- TBA - 10-4 pm

Thursday July 18th - CGC Annual Flower Show

Chester Legion 2-4 pm

Pictou and Area Garden Club Celebrates 85th Anniversary!

by Lauren Forbes



Pictou and Area Garden Club member Gerry treated members to a showing of his photographs. This one is particularly beautiful.

Photos provided by
Lauren Forbes

Stormy weather and power outages in the days leading up to Tuesday, December 12, left many of us wondering if the annual Christmas potluck and auction would be a go ahead this past holiday season. Fortunately we were able to gather and a good crowd of members, along with a few spouses, friends and family members in tow, were treated to a delicious sampling of many home cooked meals. Pat Westhaver and his assistant Vanna White (aka, member Margaret Langille) were exceptionally skilled auctioneers and led a very successful auction after the Christmas dinner was concluded. Members generously donated a variety of quality goods for the auction event. An amazing \$533 was raised and donated the very next day to the Pictou West Food Bank who were most appreciative.

On a cold rainy day, five members got together and decorated "Fat Albert" with food for the birds. On December 2 several members brought homemade hanging pinecones stuffed with peanut butter and seeds, round circles of cereal and bell-shaped store-bought decorations. Not only did we feed the birds but the hanging

pieces were also very pretty and decorated the tree quite nicely!

Our past treasurer, Linda Johnson, who recently retired from her role, was presented with a thank you card and gift bag shortly after the club's Christmas potluck in December. Linda sent a lovely thank you card back to the club and has asked that it be shared with the members. In it Linda writes, "To my fellow members of the Garden Club: I want to thank you for remembering me with get well wishes and season's greetings. It sure put a bright spot in my day. I enjoyed going through all the goodies and loved the chocolate treats especially. Sending wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy 2024. May the 85th anniversary events prove to be successful and fun filled. Will try to be back to the meetings soon. Thank you again! Linda J."



An avid, very talented gardener and an amazing photographer Gerry treated the club to a wonderful presentation of pictures from his garden. Over the past six years Gerry and his wife built several gardens on their property, starting from scratch.

(continued on next page)

Pictou and Area Garden Club (continued from previous page)



Anne Gratton teaching the Girl Guides



Lauren's great granddaughter Destry is a new garden club member. She turned eight in February. She's very keen and this month they did winter planting together. She chose to plant catnip for her kitty cat!



Congratulations to Heather Mattie who was voted by club members for the Town of Pictou 2024 Volunteer of the Year.



Photos provided by Lauren Forbes

From veggies to flowers and trees, this beautiful oasis is a testament to the hard work and dedication this couple has put into their new property. If pictures tell a thousand words, Gerry's photography certainly demonstrates his talents as a knowledgeable gardener and a photographer who has an eye for beauty, detail and the capture of a memorable moment.

The Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library is offering workshops with topics such as *Gardening on a Budget*, *Permaculture*, *Bird and Pollinator Gardens*, *Let's Get Growing Kids*, *Homemade Cleaners*, *Reusable Paper Products*, *T Shirt Bag* and *Worm Composting*. Contact Anne Gratton at annegratton@live.com or Bonnie at the Pictou Library.

We are so excited to be hosting in 2025 the annual convention held in Eastern District 2 which includes the Pictou and Area, Westville and Area, Lismore, St. Mary's, and Antigonish garden clubs. Planning has already started for what will be an exciting 2025 convention. Our theme is 'Growing for a Better World' and we hope to shed a whole new light on gardening and healthy food production, keeping it relevant and interactive for the backyard gardener.

The Pictou and Area Garden Club is celebrating its

85th anniversary in 2024 and intends to mark each month with celebrations. Heather Mattie is heading up a committee of members from the club to help with ways we can make this a special year.

Each year, the Town of Pictou calls for nominations from the community for a Volunteer of the Year. This award is given to a volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to the Town of Pictou. During National Volunteer Week (normally the third week in April), the town will host an awards event to celebrate all the volunteers. The purpose of the event is to 'thank and honour people who donate their time to help others by supporting the causes they believe in.' Last year, members from twenty-six local organizations attended the evening celebration held at the Pictou Legion, including several members from the Pictou and Area Garden Club. Congratulations to Heather Mattie who was voted by club members as our choice for the Town of Pictou 2024 Volunteer of the Year. Heather is our Communications Director and handles with ease all of our communications, technological and promotional activities including managing our busy Facebook page.

Welcome, Upper Vaughan Garden Club, to the Scotia Gardener!

by Mark Kehoe, President

The historic Little Red Schoolhouse in Upper Vaughan, Hants County, has received some new occupants this winter. The newly formed Upper Vaughan Garden Club consists of a diverse and energetic group of 38 members thirsty for sharing gardening knowledge and discussion.

The club has had a busy start with monthly meetings and fundraising. In January, Mark Kehoe was a guest speaker discussing nursery stock production. The club also enjoyed an informative pruning talk presented by Nancy Maxner at their March meeting.

Members have also been actively selling draw tickets for a Japanese Maple, David Austin Rose and a Rose of Sharon, which will take place at their Plant Sale scheduled for June 23. Proceeds from the ticket sales are for three community gardens the club is donating and maintaining for the Community Hall and two local cemeteries.

With Spring just around the corner, Upper Vaughan Garden Club members are ready to get their hands in the soil and enjoy the new club activities planned for 2024.



If these photos are anything to go by, Mark's garden must be spectacular! This collage graces the new Upper Vaughan Garden Club's Facebook page.
Photos by Mark Kehoe

Fall River Garden Club Focuses on Community Gardens

by Lawrence Spencer

Our Club has had a busy time since the last newsletter. We've had a guest speaker at each monthly meeting, except for the last one where we held a seed exchange among members—very successful! It provided seeds for members to grow both for themselves and to start seedlings for our plant sale.

Also at that meeting our president showed a slide presentation on the Monarch butterfly sculpture from concept to unveiling. This has been a wonderful addition to our community and has had a tremendous response on Facebook sites, etc. We have also gained several new members in the last month or so, which is always a good thing.

We are in the early stages of preparing for our plant sale at the end of May: making all the arrangements for setting up, etc. As usual, we will not have prices on any plants, but ask customers to donate generously—with signs telling them what the funds are used for. These include: Dalhousie Department of Agriculture bursary, Lions Christmas Fund and maintenance of our three community gardens.

We are also in the process of planning the yearly maintenance (plants, compost, mulch, etc.) of these gardens. We are also enlarging the garden around the Monarch sculpture with lots of milkweed and butterfly-helpful flowers. We will also be erecting the wonderful sign that Mersey-Tobiatic has prepared for us outlining the story of the Monarch.

A few of our members also attended a presentation on seed starting at the nearby Country Garden Club in Elmsdale. One of our members who is a Master Gardener was a presenter. A few of their club members also belong to our club and we often exchange information and ideas.

Some of our members have already arranged to attend the Annual NSAGC Convention in Yarmouth. We are looking at an active summer and hope to arrange a bus tour to one of the regions of the Province (perhaps the South Shore) to visit both gardens and nurseries.

It is our club's turn to host the District Four convention this year but, with all we have going on, we have decided to postpone it until the early fall when we will have a lot more time to organize and do a great job.

Eastern Shore Garden Club Grows Native Plants from Seed

by Diane Lucas

Our winter season began with our annual wreath-making workshop organized by Darlene Hart. We made wreaths, kissing balls and centrepieces. A local Christmas tree farm generously donated the greenery. Leftover greenery was used to make swags for our Christmas potluck. Our Christmas potluck was a great success, thanks to Stephanie Hazelden and her well organized potluck committee.

January and February are often difficult months to book guest speakers because of the likelihood of cancellations due to poor weather and dangerous driving conditions. We were fortunate with the weather in January. Still, instead of having a guest speaker, we showed a webinar by Butterflyway Ranger Dorte Windmuller, co-founder of The Cliff-crest Butterflyway in Ontario.

The webinar was entitled: *Growing Native Plants from Seed*. Link to webinar at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VhNOo2t-eJAVjxGa2t8TB6oUnN-fatXT/view>

Many Eastern Shore Garden Club members are growing native plants in their gardens to better support pollinators and wildlife. This webinar explained the importance of native plants, seed stratification and how to winter sow in pots. Stratifying our seeds and winter sowing is a garden-related activity we can do in the winter months.

In March we will have a guest speaker from the Orchid Society.



Members of the Eastern Shore Garden Club showing off their handmade holiday decorations. (See more photos on the following page.) Photo by Diane Lucas

Eastern Shore Garden Club (continued from previous page)



A festive centerpiece makes all the difference!
Photo by Diane Hart



Winter sowing
Photos by Diane Lucas



Club members enjoying themselves at their potluck.
Photo by Darlene Hart



Busy making wreaths!
Photo by Diane Lucas



Pretty centerpieces steal the show!
Photo by Darlene Hart

Bedford Horticultural Society Glad to be Back "Home"

by Marlene Grigg, Secretary



Bedford club members gather for a photo after enjoying a wonderful potluck to kick off the Christmas season.
Photo by Tina Small

Here we are in the transition season, when it snows one day, rains the next, and then, on the third day, the bright sun draws us out of hibernation to bask in the long-awaited warmth and into our gardens where, if we're lucky, we discover winter aconite and snow drops pushing up through the cold, wet earth. Well, our delight cannot be described in mere words so we share photos on-line and the pictures keep us all in good spirits through the next bout of nasty weather. Once the first flowers bloom, there is no going back. By the time this newsletter is published we will be well into the yearly avalanche of spring flowers and scrambling to pot vegetable and flowers seeds. Spring—the most exciting time of the year!

Bedford Horticultural Society members have been active during the cold winter months beginning with a Christmas potluck in December and continuing on with presentations at our general meetings in January and February. Because our usual venue was still closed for repairs following flooding last year, we weren't sure that we would be able to hold the annual potluck, an event that our members look forward to as an antidote to the darkest time of the year. Fortunately, our president, Donna Burris, was able to secure a suitable locale and attendees enjoyed a festive evening with great food, gardening-themed trivia games (and prizes) and Santa Claus. As usual, there was a Feed Nova Scotia donation box to which members generously contributed.

Roslyn Duffus, president of the NS Rock Garden Club and our first speaker in 2024, helped us celebrate our return to our usual home-base in the Bedford Leisure Centre with a presentation on "Rare

and Unusual Plants." She highlighted plants from her own garden with wonderful photos (drool-worthy!). There were lots of oohs and aahs from the audience. Roslyn provided practical guidance on seed germination, propagation and growing, much of which she learned herself through trial and error. Many people, including me, are daunted by Latin nomenclature. Roslyn kindly included common names for the plants she discussed and left us with a comprehensive list that includes Latin and common names.

In February, Clarence Stevens presented a lecture on native trees and shrubs. Clarence is an animated speaker and his passion for the topic was obvious. There were so many questions as he covered the section on shrubs that there wasn't enough time to give trees the same attention. We'll have to invite him back again! Clarence explained optimum growing conditions, how to differentiate between similar looking shrubs, which is important if one is poisonous or produces some other offensive quality, and other properties, such as fragrance, dimensions and suitability for pollinators.

Spring will be busy with presentations in March and April. In May we will travel to the Annapolis Valley to view the Ueffing Gardens and then enjoy lunch together at Halls Harbour Restaurant (renowned for its lobster). And then our annual plant sale will be held on June 1 (rain date June 2), from 9 a.m. to sell-out, at Scott Manor House. BHS members are looking forward to the annual NSAGC convention in June in Yarmouth. And then there are plans in the works for local garden tours in the summer. Whew! Happy Spring, everyone.

Parrsboro Garden Club Learns about Health, Wellness and Pruning Too!

by Suzanne Gauthier

Lynn Marie Mattie, from Arisma Holistic Herbals in Truro, gave a well-attended and animated talk on health and wellness on October 11 at the Fundy Geological Museum. Lynn Marie began by listing the four elements in nature that western medicine commonly refers to. She described ten wild plants that are easy to forage and their uses: coltsfoot, dandelion, yarrow, red clover, mullein, plantain, eyebright, horsetail, nettle and burdock.

Medicinal plants in many of our gardens include lady's mantle, garlic and echinacea, among others, such as Elecampane, which was new to some members. Lynn Marie welcomed questions from the audience and said that a gardening group is her favourite audience since they know the importance of plants and value them. Hawthorne and elderberry were helpful to birds as well as having medicinal properties.

She spoke about herbal remedies using infused vinegars, tinctures or herbal oils and offered to come back next year to conduct a workshop showing us how to create our own. One of her favourite recipes for a summer drink involves rose petals, plentiful in our area, and lemons. Ginger and rosemary is another recipe for a cool drink. She brought packets of tea, tinctures, dried herbs and an urn with a delicious tea for all to taste, a mixture of herbs with healing properties and anise hyssop for flavour.

The weather didn't permit the club to meet in December nor in February. Our March meeting featured Brendan Hewitt, a tree surgeon with 40 years' experience.

Some of the pruning tips Brendan shared were:

- Pruning can involve roots or branches or buds. He added that maple sap tapping is a form of pruning as it slows the growth of the tree.
- Prune in winter when trees/shrubs are dormant.
- When pruning diseased areas, be sure to clean the cutting implement in between cuts so as not spread the disease.
- General rule of thumb is to prune off less than a third of the tree/shrub.
- Prune in the middle so light can get to the inside area.
- Cut out rubbing branches to protect the bark.
- Research has now determined that wound treatment is not necessary and it is better for the tree to recover on its own.

Brendan also answered many questions from the club, not only about pruning but taking advantage of his expertise via a horticultural degree.

A wonderful break was enjoyed after the guest speaker talk. Margaret shared chagga tea and blueberry loaf. Members then went outdoors with Brendan to demonstrate pruning techniques.



Lynn Marie Mattie explored the important role of plants in health and wellness.



Brendan Hewitt provided helpful answers to the club's pruning questions
Photos by Suzanne Gauthier

Haliburton Garden Club Over Winters Geraniums

by Melissa Weir, Vice President

Haliburton Garden Club members are patiently awaiting the arrival of spring. The club found many ways to keep their love of gardening alive through the winter months.

In October members gathered for a hands-on workshop on how to take cuttings and over winter geraniums. Members learned how and when to take cuttings, pot them and how to care for them over the winter so they could be enjoyed again next summer. Each member went home with a geranium of their own to care for. At the club's February meeting, many members reported their geraniums had done well all winter.

Members enjoyed each others' company in November. The club was invited to tour Avon Valley Greenhouse with neighbouring Mount Denson Garden club where they enjoyed viewing tunnels filled with beautiful poinsettias ready to be shipped out for the Christmas season. Haliburton Garden Club also held their annual Christmas potluck in November. Members and their guests gathered at the Ardoise Hall for a wonderful spread of hot food, Christmas music and door prizes. Highlights of the meal were hot apple cider and a moose roast that a member's husband had harvested just months prior.

After a break for the holidays and a missed January meeting due to weather, the club met in February to kick start their year of planning new events and experiences. After plans were made for 2024, members enjoyed a timely presentation on seed starting.

Haliburton Garden club would like to wish all of the NSAGC Garden Clubs prosperous, plentiful and peaceful gardening season.



Garden club members with a backdrop of gorgeous red and cream poinsettias. The Avon Valley Greenhouse would soon be distributing these plants to local merchants.



If you do it right, they will make it through! Haliburton Garden Club members are learning how to overwinter geraniums—a very handy skill to acquire. Photos submitted by Melissa Weir

Dartmouth Garden Club Marks 65th Anniversary in 2023

by Jennifer McNeil, President

The Dartmouth Horticultural Society (DHS) ended its 65th year with a fabulous Christmas-themed potluck dinner, chaired by Debbie Monk and Helen Shedden. Over 45 members/guests attended, prizes were drawn, food bank donations were made and members received



a special 65th anniversary ornament made by Ted Monk. Award presentations concluded the evening with Outstanding Member presented to Tina Small and Life Member presented to Janet Quigg. The commitment, hard work and friendship from our members is what makes this society extraordinary.

We are just getting started with 2024 and have already done so much! Along with our gardens, DHS has continued to grow with the addition of new club members and two new executive team members: Jennifer McNeil and Makayla Cole. Welcome to the team! We are so happy to see the energy and new ideas all our members bring!

Our club meets monthly to share ideas, laugh and hopefully learn something new. Many of our members enjoy the variety of presentations we arrange, and so far, this year has been a delight. The breadth of knowledge and experience our speakers have shared cannot be overstated.

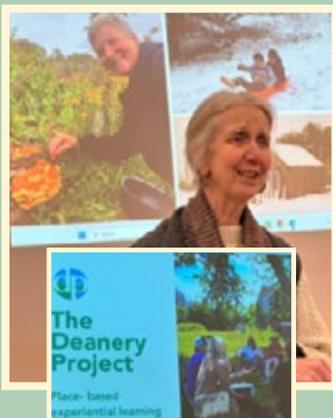
We have had the privilege of hearing from Kim Thompson, Executive Director of the Deanery Project, about the many wonderful things they are doing on the Eastern Shore. With a focus on the

environment, permaculture, and environmental arts and education, the center is a haven for those hoping to get involved in the community. Dartmouth Horticultural Society members are excited to explore how we might collaborate in the future.

We've also heard from Steph Hughes, Regional Program Manager for a national project called The Bauta Family Initiative on Canadian Seed Security, and explored where our seeds come from and the traits they carry that will help them thrive in our local environment. This was the perfect precursor to our very own club seed exchanges in March and April where our members brought in saved seeds from their own gardens to share with one another. What a perk to being a club member!

Most recently we learned about how to manage some of the workload involved with setting up new garden beds using the lasagna gardening technique from seasoned professional and established author Elizabeth Peirce. We explored the importance of understanding soil types and how to maximize production while minimizing effort. We're always ready to learn tips for making gardening easier.

Our members will be putting these lessons into practice as we start to prepare for our annual plant sale. This will be one of our biggest events where the public will be invited to purchase a variety of plants, with some very special varieties, to take home to their own gardens. The plant sale will take place on June 22, 2024, at the St. Vincent De Paul Church Hall in Dartmouth. Mark your calendars to save the date. We hope to see you there!



Rooted in Clare Garden Club Hosts Seedy Saturday

by Ilish Oliver



Members display the \$500 cheque they received from Caisse Populaire de Claire.
Photo by Ilish Oliver

The Rooted in Clare Garden Club was generously donated \$500 from Caisse Populaire de Claire. They are so grateful for the generous donation which will go towards beautifying Clare for the Congrès Mondial Acadien this Summer and the NSAGC Conference coming to our end of the province in June.

The club has planned an exciting Seedy Saturday event on April 13 and are hoping it will be well attended.

SEEDY SATURDAY

WITH **Rooted in Clare** GARDEN CLUB

Saturday April 13th 10am-2pm

Location: Rendez-Vous de la Baie
23 Lighthouse Rd, Church Point

All Are Welcome

Free Admission & Door Prizes

Guest Speakers

Gilberte Doelle
Wild Rose Farms
1030am

Peter Steiner
About Bees
1130am

Mike Bee
Propogating Nut Trees
1230pm

Vendors

OS Seeds
Hope Seeds
Waste Check
Wild Rose Farms
Nikian Gardens
Chocolaterie by-the-sea
Tri County Folk School
Le Petit Dersoué
Maison Meuse et Fils
Weymouth Community Garden
Isabelle's Plants & Activities
Mike Bee
...and more!





Queens Garden Club Enjoys Excellent Speakers

by Krista Doody



Queens Garden Club members are clearly enjoying a Christmas outing at White Point Lodge.

Photo provided by Krista Doody

Members of the Queens Garden Club and guests enjoyed an enthralling and informative presentation in November by Kathleen Stitt from the Queens County Museum on the topic of historical gardening in early Queens County. Referencing the diaries of Simeon Perkins and other historical documents, Kathleen took us through the development of gardening through the centuries.

As a new proprietor of the Township of Liverpool, Simeon set out to begin business in the fish and lumber industry, became a general merchant and created sound partnerships in trading with New England and the West Indies. Originally from Connecticut, he came to Liverpool in 1762 and is known for his intricate diaries that are still today used for research into the history of Queens County.

His house on Main Street in Liverpool is now a museum and gives us a glimpse into life during those years. In fact, our annual plant sale has been held in front of his house for the past two years!

Kathleen spoke of the changes in gardening over the centuries including trading practices, the role of Indigenous peoples and the creation and development of public gardens. In time, records became more detailed to include the varieties of crops planted, preservation techniques and methods of pest control, protecting gardens with, for example, willow fences.

In the late 1780s, gardening practices were referenced in newspapers, seed catalogues, and inspectors' reports.

(continued on the following page)

Queens Garden Club (continued from the previous page)

Sea captains brought exotic seeds and professional gardeners were introduced.

Victorian times saw a huge expansion of gardens and gardening with the availability of tools, planters and transportation. It was the custom in Connecticut to plant two elm trees to commemorate a marriage—the same as at the Perkins House on Main Street in Liverpool, planted in the early 1800s.

It makes me wonder how our own gardening practices will be referenced 100 years from now! Kathleen will be repeating the presentation at the Thomas H. Raddall Library in Liverpool in the spring which will be open to everyone.

On the last Saturday in November we met for our annual wreath and centrepiece making workshop at Cosby's in Brooklyn. We were pleased to have three new members join us for the very first time. They created beautiful wreaths with guidance from the very knowledgeable and talented Judy.

Our Christmas luncheon was held at White Point Resort in December. With 20 members in attendance and door prizes to be won, everyone enjoyed the festive setting, good food and good company.

We kicked off the new year with an interesting presentation by Matthew Roy from Coastal Grove Farm in Upper Port LaTour. He relocated here from New England in 2020 because of the area's similar climate. The Farm's motto is bringing all of nature together into agriculture and the focus is looking for a niche market in the midst of an ever-changing climate.

The farm is certified organic and strives to be carbon negative. Focus has been on harvesting tea, saffron (which is hand picked and hand sorted) and herbs which are mostly sold to high-end restaurants. They also grow regular veggie and fruit crops on their farm and are the only paprika grower in the province. Matt is a big believer in companion planting and the extensive use of seaweed fertilizer.

The ever-expanding farm in Upper Port LaTour uses geothermal for their greenhouses and they use only methods that don't harm the environment. Having farmed all his life, Matt shared his knowledge and wisdom with passion, enthusiasm and humour. The farm also offers workshops and tours and a promotional video can also be viewed on our Facebook site.

Luckily the storm in February did not affect our meeting and we were entertained by the young and enthusiastic Brendan Ervin from Long Cove Tree Care in Dublin Shore. A plumber turned arborist who studied in South Wales, Brendan brought along some of his favourite pruning and trimming tools including his "stilettos" which he straps on and uses to climb trees.

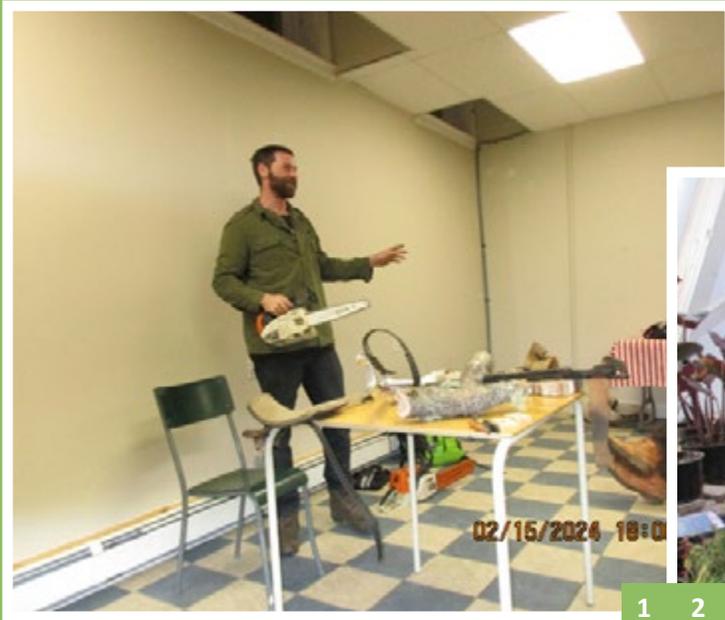
Brendan knows his trade and it is evident that being safe is important to him. He showed us the correct spots to trim limbs from trees and explained the functions of various layers of wood. If your apples trees did poorly last year, you are not alone. It's been bad years weatherwise and the apples were not happy. Many apple trees defoliated and didn't produce any apples.

Our amazing secretary, Deb, has posted a video on our Facebook site that shows Brendan wielding his favourite tools! He's an entertaining guy and we are hoping to have him back to ask him more questions.

Our programming committee has been very successful in bringing monthly presentations to us from local people who share a passion for gardening and the environment. We look forward to the next presenters.

(continued on the following page)

Queens Garden Club (continued from the previous page)



1 2



3 4



3 4



- 1. Brendan showing off his favourite tools
- 2. Judy helping Jaime with her very first wreath!
- 3. Nancy hiding behind her beautiful wreath
- 4. Matthew Roy from Coastal Grove Farms

Photos provided by Krista Doody

Mount Denson Garden Club Spreads Teacup Cheer to Seniors

by Carla Scholten

Spring is just around the corner! Like many of you, my anticipation for planting and growing is building. Several of our club members are giving winter sowing a try this year. It surely is a great way to satisfy the desire to dig in the soil when inside growing space or use of a greenhouse is not available. Some of our winter sowing products will be available at our June 2 plant sale in Windsor.

On November 23 Avon Valley Floral hosted a tour of their greenhouses full of poinsettias which served to ignite our Christmas spirit! There was such a variety of colours, not just the traditional red. The views were remarkable.

In December, our president Tracey Martin led members and guests in a workshop on how to design a holiday planter. Members brought in different types of greenery and decorative material to share. Projects are always more fun when working together with shared ideas.

Another annual highlight, our Christmas Party, was held December 6, 2023. A yummy roast beef dinner was catered and the mood was made even more joyous with entertainment by local talent Terry Jagger. In lieu of a gift exchange, members collected donations for Harvest House and Caremongers of Windsor and West Hants.

On December 10, several of our club members joined volunteers at the Hantsport Baptist Church to make 70 teacup bouquets. These were then delivered to elders in the community along with shortbread cookies to brighten up their season.

Our regular meetings were suspended in January and February. On March 3, we gathered for a good old-fashioned potluck lunch. It was a wonderful way to re-connect, get to know one another better and share gardening tips and resources. We get back into the swing of things March 13 when regular monthly meetings recommence. *(continued on next page)*

From production line to 70 beautiful teacup centrepieces—all delivered with a package of shortbread cookies to seniors in the community!

Photos by Tracey Martin



Mount Denson Garden Club (continued from previous page)



This spectacular arrangement really makes a statement.
Photo by Lori Reid



Someone's been baking and this cake is too pretty to eat!
Photo by Lori Reid



A glorious sea of poinsettias!
Photo by Bev Deschenes

NSAGC
2024 CONVENTION
Preliminary Programme

Friday June 7th, 2024

1-6pm	Registration
	Vendors
1-10pm	Raffle ticket sales, 50/50 ticket sales and Silent Auction
2-4pm	Self Guided Garden Tours <i>"locations as yet to be confirmed"</i>
2-4pm	Workshop #1 – Painting Workshop #2 – Garden Journal
2-4pm	Walking Tour of Yarmouth and Waterfront <i>Hosted by David Sollows</i>
6pm	Opening Ceremonies
6:30pm	Keynote Speaker: Alain Belliveau – Native Flora and Fauna for Nova Scotia
7:30-8pm	Garden Quiz Challenge and Stretch Break
8-10pm	The Yarmouth Shantymen <i>Nova Scotia renowned Acapella Group singing Traditional Songs of the Sea</i>

Light refreshments will be served with Cash Bar available between 8pm and 10pm

Silent Auction Items will be on display and open for bidding between 1pm and 10pm Friday

Saturday June 8th, 2024



8-10am	Registration
8am-5:00pm	Vendors
8am-3:30pm	Silent Auction Items for bidding Floral Arrangements on display for voting Raffle ticket sales, 50/50 ticket sales
8:30-9:30am	NSAGC Annual General Meeting
9:30-10:15am	Speaker #1 - Teri Chace "Seeing Seeds: A Journey into the World of Seedheads, Pods and Fruits"
10:15-10:45am	Announcements Nutrition Break
10:45-11:30am	Speaker #2 – Hughstin Grimshaw-Surette "Invasive Species and Gardening"
11:30am-1:00pm	Announcements Lunch
1-1:45pm	Speaker #3 – Keith Egger "Mycorrhiza – Fungus and Root Associations"
1:45-3:30pm	Networking Roundtable Workshop Hosted by NSAGC Chairperson Deb Bowes-Lyon
3:30pm	Floral Competition Ballots deadline
3:30-5pm	Walking Tour of Historic District of Yarmouth - <i>Hosted by David Sollows</i> Free-time (visit Convention Vendors, Walk Downtown Yarmouth, Walk along Yarmouth Waterfront, Take a short drive and visit Cape Forchu or just relax and get ready for the Banquet)
6pm	Banquet NSAGC Awards Presentation Announce winners of Silent Auction and Floral Competition Keynote Speaker: Tim Doucette – Deep Sky Eye Observatory "The Effects of Light Pollution"

Saturday June 8th, 2024 (Continued)

8:30pm Announce winners of Raffle items
Announce winners of 50/50 Draw
Announce winners of Table Centrepiece Arrangements
Closing Remarks
Passing of NSAGC Banner to District 2

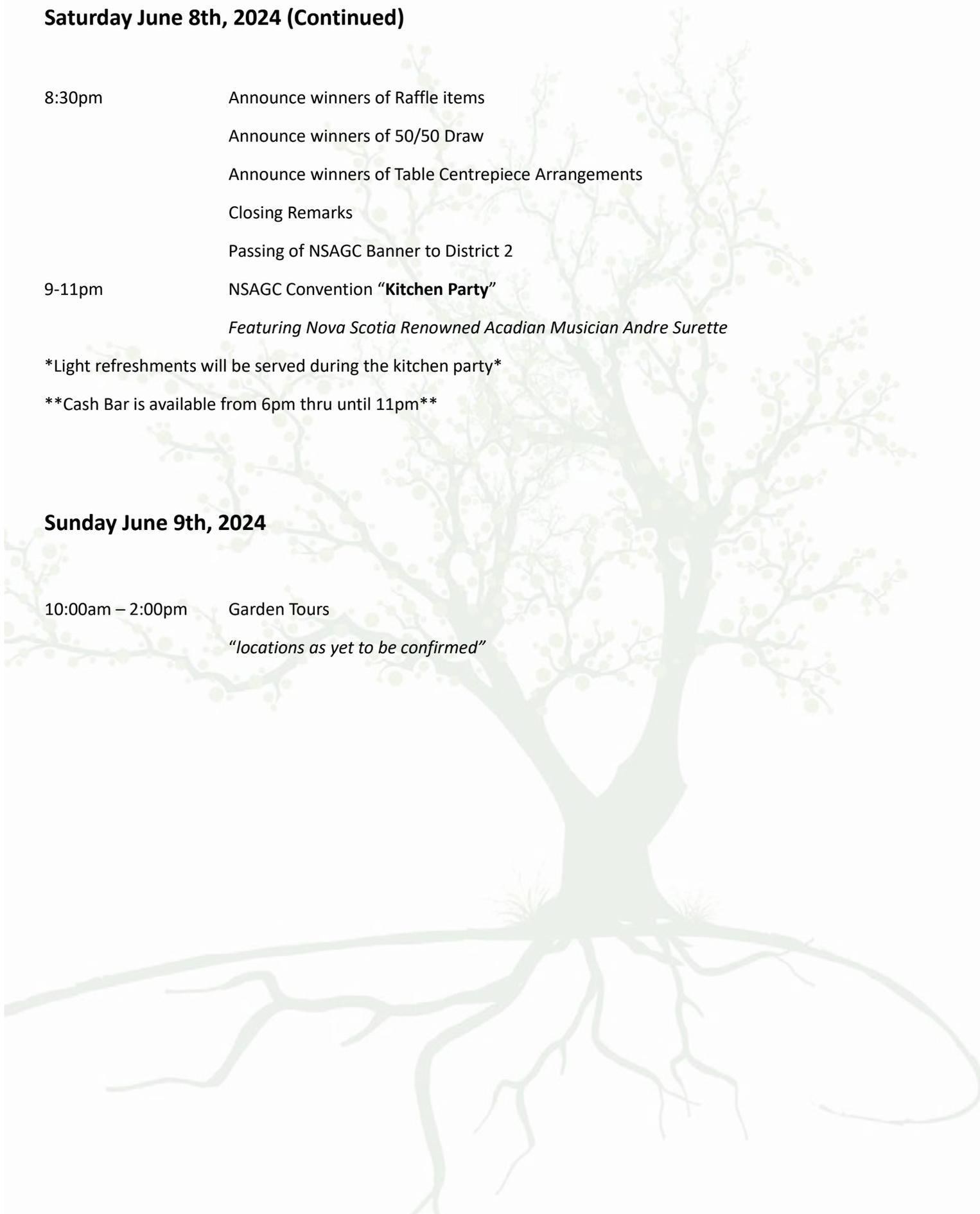
9-11pm NSAGC Convention **“Kitchen Party”**
Featuring Nova Scotia Renowned Acadian Musician Andre Surette

Light refreshments will be served during the kitchen party

Cash Bar is available from 6pm thru until 11pm

Sunday June 9th, 2024

10:00am – 2:00pm Garden Tours
“locations as yet to be confirmed”



NSAGC Western District

looks forward to welcoming everyone to the Rodd Grand
in Yarmouth, as we go

“Back to Our Roots”

June 7-9, 2024

at the 2024 NSAGC Annual Convention.

Due to inflation, the cost for the convention registration and banquet has increased from 2023. However, we PROMISE you a Fantastic and Fun-Filled Convention showcasing:

Yarmouth’s History, Acadian Culture, Fun and Frivolity, and opportunities to get “Back to Our Roots” with Conversation, Camaraderie, and Jam-Packed Activities!

Early Bird Registration Contest

See page 4 for details.

2024 NSAGC Convention Registration Form
Hosted by Western District 7
June 7-9, 2024
Rodd Grand Convention Centre, 417 Main St, Yarmouth, NS

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	\$ 70	\$ _____
Non-member	\$ 80	\$ _____
Late Registration Fee (after May 1, 2024) add	\$ 10	\$ _____

Saturday Evening Banquet (includes appetizer, main course, dessert, gratuities, taxes)

Number of main courses – Each \$ 60:
Chicken ___ or Salmon ___ or Vegetarian _____ \$ _____
Special food sensitivities _____
(please also mention food sensitivities to your server at the time of the meal)

Friday Workshops (2-4 pm; running simultaneously)

1. **Acrylic Painting** – See page 3 for details. \$ 25 \$ _____
- OR
2. **Garden Journal** – See page 3 for details. \$ 25 \$ _____

Event Unisex T-Shirts – Each \$ 25: S ___ or M ___ or L ___ or XL ___ \$ _____
(see page 4 for the exclusive T-shirt design)

Total Amount Payable \$ _____

Registration closes on May 15, 2024

Registration Options:

- a) Print and complete this form and mail to address below or email to convention@nsagc.com
- b) Complete online registration at www.nsagc.com/NSAGC-Convention-Registration-Form

Payment Options:

- a) Cheque payable to NSAGC District 7 (no post-dated cheques, please) and mail to address below.
- b) Send by e-transfer to NSAGC District 7, email nsagcdistrict7@gmail.com

Mailing Address: Convention 2024, 9360 Hwy 3, Pleasant Lake, NS B5A 5J9

For more information, e-mail convention@nsagc.com or phone/text (902) 740-2750

Conference Event Details

Rodd Grand Hotel Accommodations (Rodd Grand Hotel, 417 Main St, Yarmouth, NS)

A block of 80 rooms has been reserved for convention attendees (Friday and Saturday nights) at a rate of \$114 per night plus applicable taxes. Rooms are only guaranteed at this rate until May 8, 2024.

Call or book online: 1-800-565-7633 or reserve online at [Rodd Grand Hotel Booking Link](#)

Please specify the Rodd Grand Yarmouth as your destination and that you will be attending the NSAGC Convention on June 7-9, 2024, to insure you receive the preferred rate.

Itinerary Sneak Peak

Local Garden Tours (details and directions will be provided on arrival at convention)

Friday, 2 - 4 pm and Sunday, 10 am – 2 pm

Workshops: You may only choose one as they will be running concurrently.

1. **Acrylic Painting** – Max **25** participants. Join us for a 2-hour step-by-step plant themed acrylic painting on canvas in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. No experience required and all materials supplied.
2. **Garden Field Notes Journal** - Max **20** participants. Transform a plain hanging file folder into a beautiful, reusable 9 x 5 ½ inch garden journal. All materials supplied.
Sample photos: embellishments may vary.



Floral Competition Theme: “Back to Our Roots”...Participants will interpret the theme, limited only by their imagination and creativity! No size restrictions on your design. Entries will be judged by convention attendees.

Live Entertainment: *cost is included with registration fees*

Friday evening Meet & Greet: The Shantymen

Saturday evening following Banquet: Acadian Kitchen Party

Walking Tours: TBA - Information will be in your registration bag.

2024 Early Bird Registration Contest

To be eligible for this contest, paid registration for the NSAGC Convention must be received no later than **February 29, 2024**.

In March, two (2) names will be drawn at random, and these individuals will receive a refund of their registration fee (\$70 or \$80), to be presented when they register at convention. ***What a nice surprise!***

*If one or both initial winners cancel their registration a secondary draw will be made from the same list of eligible attendees. *

Exclusive Convention Event T-Shirt



T-Shirts \$25.00 each

Available in unisex sizes:
Small, Medium, Large, X-Large

Colour: light beige only

Orders must be received by May 1, 2024

Photo Contest Rules for the 2024 NSAGC Photo Competition

Please note that these rules apply to the 2024 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 per class** in each of the following classes: (maximum 10 photos)

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 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 as part of a garden setting at time of flowering.

Paid Advertisements

Dahlia Society of Nova Scotia

Annual Tuber Sale

When: Saturday May 4th
Time: 9 am until sold out
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



Ovest-Ville Perennials
1250 Argyle Sound Rd., West Pubnico
Spring hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5
Summer hours (May, June, July): Tuesday -Sunday 10-5

902-762-3198

Growing for 30 years 1994-2024

Follow us on Facebook for anniversary promotions.



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

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstHalifaxAVS>

A Note from the Editor

Hello, fellow gardeners,
From forcing bulbs inside to purusing seed catalogues to hanging out on nursery websites—all great activities to help us pass away a stormy winter day. Fortunately, garden clubs right across the province have found many other ways to enjoy themselves during a long winter. Being part of a garden club is more than just gardening. It is also about friendship, learning and helping brighten and beautify our communities.

Two NSAGC clubs are celebrating 85th anniversaries in 2024: the Pictou and Area Garden Club and the Chester Garden Club. Congratulations to both clubs on achieving this impressive milestone.

A warm welcome to the Upper Vaughan Garden Club, newly formed and contributing for the first time to the Scotia Gardener.

Please take a few moments to read page 5. It tells you how to avoid any unpleasant surprises if your club is applying for grants.

Note that there is a new position opening on the NSAGC Board—Membership Coordinator. If you are interested, please contact Kathy D'Entremont at: secretary@nsagc.com

Spring is in the air and with it all those great activities and events your club will be participating in. Please mail your news and photos for the next issue of the newsletter (deadline June 15) to: newsletter@nsagc.com

Happy spring to you all!
Emily Walker



NSAGC Executive

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

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

Vice Chair, Ginny Blayney
email: secretary@nsagc.com

Secretary, Melissa Weir
email: secretary@nsagc.com

Treasurer, Susan Hazelwood
email: treasurer@nsagc.com

Awards Committee and Nomination Committee
Kathy D'Entremont
email: secretary@nsagc.com

Historian, Pamela MacLean
email: secretary@nsagc.com

Photo Contest Committee, Sharon Bryson
photos.nsagc@gmail.com

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

Plant Give Away, Geoff MacDonald
email: giveaway@nsagc.com

Web Content Manager, Susan Hazelwood
susan.hazelwood@icloud.com

Directors

District One, Cape Breton, Glynis Thomas
email: secretary@nsagc.com

District Two, Eastern, Anne Gratton
email: secretary@nsagc.com

District Three, Central North, Beate Acker (acting)
email: secretary@nsagc.com

District Three, Central South, Brenda Grasser
email: secretary@nsagc.com

District Four, Halifax, Nancy MacCara
email: secretary@nsagc.com

District Five, Valley, Lori Reid
email: secretary@nsagc.com

District Six, South Shore, Emily Liot (acting)
email: secretary@nsagc.com

District Seven, Western, Kathryn Davidson
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.

Positions available:
Membership Coordinator

Contact any Board member for details about the NSAGC.

For information about NSAGC Board positions, please contact Kathy D'Entremont at: secretary@nsagc.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 if you have questions.**

Scotia Gardener: Winter 2024 Issue (Volume 24, 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 1, 33

A winter landscape featuring a large, dark tree trunk on the left, heavily laden with snow. The background is filled with a dense forest of snow-covered trees, with a bright sunburst effect breaking through the branches in the center-right. The ground is covered in a thick layer of snow, with long, soft shadows cast across it. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Outstanding Natural Beauty

Photo by Mia Muise, NSAGC Photo Contest 2023,
Second in Class "Nature in Winter"