



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**September 27, 2024, 6:30 pm**

**September 28, 2004, 10:00am**

**Zoom Meeting**

#	Item
1.	<p>Meeting called to order at 6:33pm. Deb Welcomed Geoff as the new Vice Chair and Alison as the new Newsletter Editor and Liz as the Membership Coordinator. Thank you to Melissa for updating manuals this past year</p> <p><b>Regrets:</b> Lori Reid Alison Vassallo</p> <p><b>In attendance Friday PM:</b> Melissa Weir Sharon Bryson Susan Hazelwood Deb Bowes-Lyon Emily Loit Liz Hill Glynis Thomas Pamela MacLean Kathryn Davidson Kathy d'Entremont Geoff MacDondald Brenda Grasser</p> <p><b>Review Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting – April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.</b> Kathryn Davidson moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Kathy d'Entremont.</p>
2.	<p>Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>NSAGC Bookmark</b> (Melissa) – They have been depleted, should they be reordered? Will be discussed later in agenda under planning.</li> <li>b. <b>Convention 2024 D7</b> (Kathryn) – overall went well. 193 in attendance. Passed feedback to district 2 from feedback forms. Biggest point mentioned was the food service issues. Suggested to D2 committee to offer alternate space for people to socialize if they are not interested in speaker. Pamela requested Convention report for the Historian Document.</li> <li>c. <b>NSAGC Planning</b> (Deb?) – Deb gave background on the NSAGC Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>#2.2 (Increase # of nurseries giving discounts.</b> <b>Contact orgs giving local discounts and ask to expand to NSAGC.)</b> – Reminder to directors to keep asking business for discounts. Susan requests that any information regarding new business offering a discount be sent to her to be added to the website. Kathryn</p>

	<p>reminds folks of using good etiquette when using the discount (not buying for neighbors)</p> <p><b>#3.3 Promotion of Provincial Gardening Week</b> – It was suggested that a small committee be formed to brainstorm options. Deb, Kathryn &amp; Pamela volunteered</p> <p><b>#2.7 Develop NSAGC Hand out materials</b> – Deb asked for volunteers, no offers, so it was decided to revisit this in April with the possibility of this item being revamped or dropped.</p> <p><b>#3.5 Create survey for clubs</b> – Discussion if this planning item as relevant or possibly premature to tackling other issues. Deb asked directors to share information with the board regarding what the clubs need or want from the NSAGC. Pamela suggested that it has been some time since there was a historian report, maybe now that they are being completed again, they may satisfy some of the clubs requests for information.</p> <p>d. <b>District Director Slide Show</b> – Deb asked if it had been used and if there was any feedback. Brenda used it at a meeting, felt it shared a lot of information about what goes on in the background, and opened communication to other topics. Brenda suggested directors use it as template to make it their own.</p> <p>e. <b>Fundraising</b> (Beatte/Brenda) – Brenda and Beatte discussed a few suggestions like making a calendar and it did not seem like it would work out logistically. Discussed selling tickets on a weekend away (NS Destination). Could be very profitable. Well received idea. Deb asked the treasurer for input. Susan wondered about logistics, costs, printing of tickets etc. Deb requested Brenda and Beatte draft an outline of what this would look like (costs, workload) by the end of October. Susan suggested it needs to be properly budgeted to ensure there is no chance of any money being lost. Deb is firm that fundraising only be done when there is a purpose for the money. Susan would like to see the savings account be boosted back up to \$10,000. This could cover the money the plant giveaway uses yearly, as well as materials (documents, cards, future projects). Lots of suggestions to tie this into provincial gardening week along with being profitable. Brenda requested folks send her ideas.</p>
3.	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p>a. <b>Convention 2025 D2</b> (Anne) Jenn Bethles (Pictou Club) is chair. Committee has been meeting regularly. Speakers are confirmed. Venue is St FX. Date: June 13<sup>th</sup>. Accommodations are on site. Theme “Growing for a better world”. Everything is in one location.</p> <p>b. <b>Roles of the District Director</b> (Deb) – Deb wondered if there was feedback regarding the job, reports, club issues. Brenda talked about how her district shares the director’s report she creates for board meetings with the whole district at their district council meetings so the clubs can see what each other is doing. Discussion regarding the director’s role in the planning of a district rally. Deb referred directors to the handbook section regarding district meetings to share with clubs. Liz suggested a district council is a great way to share information from the board to the clubs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>END OF FRIDAY MEETING 8:27pm</u></b></p>

**In attendance Saturday:**

Melissa Weir  
Beate Acker  
Liz Hill  
Sharon Bryson  
Deb Bowes-Lyon  
Susan Hazelwood  
Kathy d'Entremont  
Geoff MacDonald  
Kathryn Davidson  
Nancy MacCara  
Emily Loit  
Brenda Grasser  
Pamela MacLean  
Glynis Thomas  
Anne Gratton

**Regrets:**

Lori Reid  
Alison Vassallo

**Deb called the meeting to order at 10:03am.**

- c. **Invasive plant Facebook discussions** (Glynis) – Invasives have become a controversial topic on the NSAGC Fb page. Glynis thinks we should be educating gardeners in NS. Glynis would like to implement something saying we do not support or promote invasive species (discussion on page, for sale at plant sales). Specifically, the species that are highly likely to escape gardens and pose the biggest risks. Glynis would like to see information posted on the NSAGC website and FB page. Would like a guideline implemented on the Fb Page where if you post or promote invasives your post can be deleted without providing further reasoning. Glynis informs that the Invasive Species Council is eager to partner with the NSAGC. Deb cautions that we have always supported clubs, be mindful that could cause some ruffled feathers and an on going lists of things we are asked to support. Glynis will draft a new guideline for the Fb page regarding invasive species. Glynis will invite a representative from the Invasive Species Council to the April Meeting.

*Glynis makes a motion that the NSAGC will go forward with educating our members through our website and Facebook page on the invasive species in Nova Scotia.*

Motion Seconded by Kathryn Davidson.  
Motion passed with all in favor.

- d. **Sharing Speakers / Topics** (Susan) – Susan had been asked by a club about a list of speakers and topic lists. Has been discussed in the past and a running list doesn't really work. Susan advised this information can be found in historian reports on website. Susan suggested an email or post on Fb page be created to advise clubs where they can see what presentations and topics other clubs are covering. Melissa will send email to directors, to distribute to clubs.

	<p>e. <b>Photo Contest award presentation / award chair overlap</b> – Part of the issue is that the winners are often not at the convention. Susan propose that the winners be acknowledged by the awards chair and prizes be sent in the mail. Melissa will adjust all Job Descriptions and procedures to reflect this for the next board manual update.</p> <p>f. <b>Newsletter Software</b> (Alison) – Alison will use a full version of Canva that is being paid for by her employer with permission to use it for the NSAGC.</p> <p>g. <b>Community Garden/Affiliate club</b> (Beate) – Wondered if the community garden group which contains members of the original garden club could be set up as its own affiliate club for insurance reasons. Susan informed that intact does not cover work parties in the policy anyway. Additional coverage would likely need to be purchased if the NSAGC decided to welcome Community Gardens as affiliates.</p> <p>h. <b>Presidents Handbook</b> (Melissa) – Brenda had feedback that the handbook was too long. Melissa asked that directors ask presidents to hand the handbook on to their predecessors and let them know that a lot of the answers to questions being asked are in the handbook.</p>
4.	<p>Reports Highlights (circulated prior to meeting)</p> <p>a. <b>Treasurer (Susan)</b> – No comments on report as it has been circulated. Glynis wonders about funds available. Susan informed \$17,000. A bit more than last year due to no in person meeting last two September and all plants selling. Deb wondered about a budget for software. Susan says 125\$ is budgeted under incidentals.</p> <p><i>Susan makes a motion to appoint Geoff MacDonald and Melissa Weir as Auditors for the 2024/2025 Audit. All were in favor.</i></p> <p>Geoff will draft procedures for audit process.</p> <p>b. <b>Web Content Manager (Susan)</b>- Report as circulated. Deb reminded that Susan will visit clubs to talk about the website.</p> <p>c. <b>Newsletter (Alison)</b> – Report as circulated</p> <p>d. <b>Facebook (Deb)</b>- Beate wondered why posts cannot be shared from the Facebook page. Deb advised that this is because the group is private to its membership. 15,989 members as of today. Biggest issue ongoing is with Allan Banks and his want to advertise.</p> <p>e. <b>Plant Giveaway (Geoff)</b> – Choices for 2025 were narrowed down to 5 options as shared by Geoff in his report. It was decided extra plants would continue to be sold at 3\$. Geoff went over all 5 choices. Vote was taken and the majority was in of the Coreopsis Solanna Sunset Bright. Geoff will put order in right away to meet the Oct 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to get the 10% discount</p> <p>f. <b>Photo Contest (Sharon)</b>- There will be a couple of changes to rules and classes for the next photo contest. Changes will be put on the website and in the newsletter. New Judges will be appointed this year.</p> <p>g. <b>Historian (Pamela)</b>- Did not need to spend the money on software that had been approved in April. 2015-2019 Edition is ready for circulation. Deb wondered if there was criteria of the IN MEMORIAM section. Pamela offered to do talks at clubs</p>

	<p><b>h. Nominations (Kathy)</b> – Report as circulated. Full slate of officers, no vacancies.</p> <p><b>i. Awards (Kathy)</b> – Apologies for not having certificates signed by deb.</p> <p><b>j. Membership Coordinator (Liz)</b>- Renewals and forms have been sent in September to directors. Liz is hopeful that all renewals will be in before the February due date. In January Liz will send reminders in January to clubs that haven't renewed yet. Susan added that forms have been added to the website.</p> <p><b>k. District Directors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>D1 Glynis</b> – planning has started for 2026 convention.</li> <li>• <b>D2 Anne</b> – Membership numbers maintaining. Continuing to have problems filling exec positions. Planning the convention is bringing clubs together. Fall Rally is in Antigonish, Outstanding Members will be presented there.</li> <li>• <b>D3N Beate</b> – Some clubs struggling with membership numbers. Clubs are working on creating diversity in membership.</li> <li>• <b>D3S Brenda</b> – All clubs are active, Stewiack Garden Club had grand opening of community garden in July. Hants North Bloomers had 20-year anniversary.</li> <li>• <b>D4 Nancy</b> – 5 out of 7 clubs in the district have Facebook pages as well as websites. Bedford is looking for a President. Fall River is hosting a district meeting in October, around 75 registered. Nancy thinks HRM needs another garden club.</li> <li>• <b>D5 Lori</b> – Report as circulated.</li> <li>• <b>D6 Emily</b> – Club memberships are aging. Struggles in filling executive roles.</li> <li>• <b>D7 Kathryn</b> – Increasing membership all around. Dibgy Neck &amp; West Pubnico are struggling. Kathryn would like to build a district council and work on planning a rally.</li> </ul> <p>Motion made to accept all reports made by Kathryn, seconded by Glynis. All in favor motion passed.</p>
5.	Next Meeting – Saturday April 26 <sup>th</sup> 10:00am
6.	Adjournment – Anne made a motion to adjourn meeting at 1:03pm
7.	<p>Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathryn – Share convention reports with Pamela for Historian documents.</li> <li>• Beatte/Brenda – Create a draft outline and budge of “weekend away” fundraising raffle</li> <li>• Glynis – Draft new guideline for the NSAGC Facebook page regarding discussion of invasive species</li> <li>• Glynis – Invite representative from Invasive Species Council to the April board meeting to discuss possible partnership</li> <li>• Melissa – Send email to district directors outlining where to look for speaker ideas</li> <li>• Melissa – adjust Photo Contest/Awards Chair job descriptions and procedures</li> <li>• Geoff – Draft procedure for financial audit</li> <li>• Deb, Kathryn, Pamela – Brainstorm promoting Provincial Gardening Week</li> </ul>

--	--

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **For September 2024 Board Meeting**

#### **Membership Renewals**

I met with Liz Hill, the new Membership Coordinator, reviewed the job description and emailed relevant files. I will be accessible to Liz for any questions.

#### **Tags & Seals**

There were no orders for tags & seals placed between April 1 and August 31, 2024. I got 2 requests for ribbons which we do not stock.

#### **Financial Notes**

1. With Emily Walker's leaving the board we are down one signatory. I have decided to leave them as they are for now with myself, Nancy MacCara and Goeff Mac Donald as the signatories. With fewer cheques being written it is manageable for the time being.
2. I must be careful to check with recipients of e-transfers to ensure that they are able to accept their transfers. I had problems with one of the Photo Contest judges being out of the country and the Isle Madam Garden Club not checking their email. It is a process to get the money back from the bank and re-issue the e-transfer.

#### **Balance Sheet**

1. The balance sheet shows that we are in a healthy cash position.
2. Haliburton Garden Club has not cashed their cheque \$1000 from the \$2000 grant awarded by the Hants Municipality to 2 clubs in that district. This grant money is issued to NSAGC and we distribute it to the relevant clubs.
3. The increase in the chequing account balance is due to the membership fees of \$5.

#### **Profit and Loss**

1. There were more Sales of Surplus Plants before year end this year.
2. The Affiliated Garden Club dues are from the Daylily Society that rejoined in June.
3. Increase in bank fees is due to the cost of e-transfers.
4. Incidentals include a gift to an ill Board member.
5. Insurance was paid on time this year, before year end.
6. The web site cost includes the addition of functionality to enable printing of forms.

#### **Budget**

1. The Budget comparison is not particularly meaningful at this time of year but is included at the Board's request.
2. We will receive most of our revenue in the spring from the Sale of Surplus Plants and the Garden Club Dues.

**Auditors for 2024/2025**

Each year we ask 2 Board members to audit the books for the year. Ideally one of the auditors is from the previous year and one is new. Once again, we will need auditors to review the financials in April 2025, after our year end and before the April Board meeting.

*Motion to appoint auditors for 2024/2025.*

*Motion to approve the Treasurer's report.*

***Submitted by Susan Hazelwood***



# Balance Sheet

## April 1 - August 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Bank Accounts</b>		
Chequing	8764.96	5079.92
Savings	8686.95	8904.99
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<b>17451.91</b>	<b>13984.91</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Convention Loan Due from Host District	1000.00	0.00
Tags & Seals Inventory	672.70	676.49
<b>TOTAL Other Assets</b>	<b>1672.70</b>	<b>676.49</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>19124.61</b>	<b>14661.40</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Dues - Affiliates	0.00	0.00
Dues - Garden Clubs	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	19124.61	14661.40
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>19124.61</b>	<b>14661.40</b>

## Profit & Loss Statement

April 1 - August 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Income from Sales</b>		
Newsletter Advertising	50.00	50.00
Sales of Surplus Plants	1071.00	2656.00
Sales of Tags & Seals	0.00	53.23
<b>TOTAL Income from Sales</b>	<b>1121.00</b>	<b>2759.23</b>
<b>Income from Other Sources</b>		
Affiliated Garden Clubs Dues	50.00	0.00
Garden Clubs Dues	0.00	-50.00
Interest	87.59	79.28
<b>TOTAL Income from Other Sources</b>	<b>137.59</b>	<b>29.28</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1258.59</b>	<b>2788.51</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>General Expenses</b>		
Awards	75.00	150.00
Newsletter	0.00	0.00
Photo Contest	262.00	175.00
Plant Giveaway	0.00	27.80
<b>TOTAL General Expenses</b>	<b>337.00</b>	<b>352.80</b>
<b>Meeting Expenses</b>		
Board Meetings	757.40	1026.94
Board Members	853.68	634.80
<b>TOTAL Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>1611.08</b>	<b>1661.74</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Bank Fees	55.65	25.35
Incidentals (postal, printing, etc.)	78.72	0.00
Insurance	0.00	1349.00
Joint Stocks Membership	31.15	31.15
Web Site	655.50	575.00
<b>TOTAL Operating Expenses</b>	<b>821.02</b>	<b>1980.50</b>
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>2769.10</b>	<b>3995.04</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-1510.51</b>	<b>-1206.53</b>

## Budget 2024/2025

	2024/2025 Budget	August 31 Actuals
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Income from Sales</b>		
Newsletter Advertising	150.00	50.00
Sales of Surplus Plants	4000.00	1071.00
Sales of Tags & Seals	60.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL Income from Sales</b>	<b>4210.00</b>	<b>1121.00</b>
<b>Income from Other Sources</b>		
Affiliated Garden Clubs Dues	200.00	50.00
Garden Clubs Dues	8900.00	0.00
Interest	185.00	87.59
<b>TOTAL Income from Other Sources</b>	<b>9285.00</b>	<b>137.59</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>13495.00</b>	<b>1258.59</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>General Expenses</b>		
Awards	0.00	75.00
Newsletter	0.00	0.00
Photo Contest	175.00	262.00
Plant Giveaway	4200.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL General Expenses</b>	<b>4375.00</b>	<b>337.00</b>
<b>Meeting Expenses</b>		
Board Meetings	800.00	757.40
Board Members	800.00	853.68
<b>TOTAL Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>1600.00</b>	<b>1611.08</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Bank Fees	90.00	55.65
Incidentals (postal, printing, etc.)	125.00	78.72
Insurance	1400.00	0.00
Joint Stocks Membership	31.15	31.15
Web Site	1200.00	655.50
<b>TOTAL Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2846.15</b>	<b>821.02</b>
<b>TOTAL Expenses</b>	<b>8821.15</b>	<b>2769.10</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>4673.85</b>	<b>-1510.51</b>

**Plant Giveaway Committee Report**  
**September 28, 2024 NSAGC Board of Directors Meeting**

As of the last board meeting, all plants had fully sold out and there were no extras remaining. As noted in the previous report of April 2024, there was potential of another 150 to 200 plants being sold. The majority of the plants were picked up at the district meeting in Truro and some in the HRM area were collected a couple of days before the meeting. A few plants had to be picked up after the meeting and appropriate arrangements were made. As in previous years, the sorting and distribution was done with my home club, Hants North Late Bloomers. Club member Elizabeth Hill opened up her garage to help sort all the plants and get them ready. She also helped me transport them to Truro and made arrangements for pickup by local clubs in the area at her house. Elizabeth continues to be a huge asset to this program with the assistance she provides.

In total, 2,808 plants were ordered. 1,784 were allocated as giveaway plants, 1,021 were purchased at a cost of \$3.00 per plant. 1 plant had to be allocated to replace a dead plant in District 4 and 2 plants had to be allocated to replace dead plants in District 7. There was one other issue from the Parrsboro Garden Club about the condition of the plants they received and a complaint was put in to NSAGC. The plants they received were almost dead or dead. It was determined that the condition of the plants was the result of being left in a hot car for a lengthy period of time by someone picking these up for the club with no fault attributed to NSAGC. The club did accept responsibility for the condition of the plants in the end. I will send a reminder to District Directors next year that these plants can be very sensitive and it is recommended arrangements to get them to clubs are done quickly so they are not left in hot or dry environments.

There has again been a very positive response to this year's plant selection and to date, there has been no complaints outside of what is noted above. Of the members I have spoken to, they have indicated their plant has done very well.

There were no issues with the price of the plant this year – it may have resulted in some smaller numbers for some clubs, however, our quick sell out indicates this is a fair price point and I would recommend keeping it at this number for next year.

As with last year, there was an overall cost to the organization of \$816.26 to run this program. From a logistical perspective, this is an increase in overall costs due to an increase in overall membership, which decreased the plants we could sell and increased the plants we had to give away for free. In essence, we are able to provide our members 1,784 plants at a cost of \$816.26, which is very reasonable.

As with last year, the aftercare instructions sent to clubs were appreciated and given that we did not order tags this year, we shouldn't have to worry about ordering them in the future, since no clubs seemed to have an issue with not receiving tags with the plants this year.

As in past years, the e-mail address that was setup for this program ([giveaway@nsagc.com](mailto:giveaway@nsagc.com)) has been a very helpful tool as a one stop place for people to reach out with questions, place orders, or to make any follow ups. Generally, e-mails are very minimal outside of the time we are placing orders, however, I do keep an eye on it a couple of times per week in case any questions come in. I will be using the same order format as last year, where orders can be placed via online, through e-mail or regular mail. The online order option continues to be the most popular method with a big uptake in the e-transfer option.

A new catalogue was received from Jolly Farmer in August and I am currently soliciting NSAGC board members for plant selection choices for next year. I will prepare a final report for the board with five plants to chose from for the 2025 giveaway at the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff MacDonald  
NSAGC Plant Giveaway Chairperson  
September 15, 2024

**Echinacea - Magnus**

Unit Price	\$ 1.20
HST	\$ 0.18
Total Per Unit	\$ 1.38
Order total @2700 units	<b>\$ 3,722.90</b>
Early payment discount @ 3%	\$ 111.69
Grand Total	<b>\$ 3,611.21</b>
Potential NSAGC Cost	<b>\$ 661.21</b>

**Veronica Blue**

Unit Price	\$ 1.27
HST	\$ 0.19
Total Per Unit	\$ 1.46
Order total @2700 units	<b>\$ 3,930.93</b>
Early payment discount @ 3%	\$ 117.93
Grand Total	<b>\$ 3,813.00</b>
Potential NSAGC Cost	<b>\$ 863.00</b>

**Gaillardia - Arizona Red Shades**

Unit Price	\$ 1.14
HST	\$ 0.17
Total Per Unit	\$ 1.31
Order total @2700 units	<b>\$ 3,527.28</b>
Early payment discount @ 3%	\$ 105.82
Grand Total	<b>\$ 3,421.46</b>
Potential NSAGC Cost	<b>\$ 471.46</b>

**Coreopsis - Solanna Sunset Bright**

Unit Price	\$ 0.98
HST	\$ 0.15
Total Per Unit	\$ 1.13
Order total @2700 units	<b>\$ 3,049.11</b>
Early payment discount @ 3%	\$ 91.47
Grand Total	<b>\$ 2,957.64</b>
Potential NSAGC Cost	<b>\$ 7.64</b>

**Monarda - Sugar Buzz Cherry Pops**

Unit Price	\$ 1.07
HST	\$ 0.16
Total Per Unit	\$ 1.23
Order total @2700 units	<b>\$ 3,316.14</b>
Early payment discount @ 3%	\$ 99.48
Grand Total	<b>\$ 3,216.66</b>
Potential NSAGC Cost	<b>\$ 266.66</b>

## **NSAGC Newsletter Editor Report**

**September 2024**

With plans to publish the Summer Scotia Gardner Newsletter in the weeks to come a submission request has been sent to Directors with a deadline of Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The email has been set up using the Thunderbird account [newsletter@nsagc.ca](mailto:newsletter@nsagc.ca). Working on checking to see if anything has come to previous editor's email as a different email was used for the Spring 2024 edition, [newsletter.nsagc@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.nsagc@gmail.com). With tech support the forward to that email has been turned off so all emails should be coming to the proper one at this point.

Future dates to keep our newsletter on previous schedule will be April, July, October and January. I will be asking for submission requests on the fifteenth of March, June, September and December. I am a couple weeks behind trying to get everything sorted but we should be able to maintain that schedule.

At this time the plan is to continue with the Adobe InDesign Software.

Goal is to have the newsletter published and ready in the first week of November.

## **Photo Contest Report – Sept. 27-28, 2024 Board Meeting**

**Sharon Bryson**

The 2024 Photo Contest concluded with 32 contributors with 203 images.

There will be small changes to the Rules and Classes to include clarification on the size of submitted images. The judges commented that there were many images too small and therefore of poor quality.

There was better adherence to the image naming protocol than last year.

The exposure via the Scotia Gardener and the NSAGC Facebook page was quite a constant. Reminders were also sent to District Directors to be forwarded to their clubs.

The NSAGC website reflected a more direct link to The Photo Contest which was good.

Submissions in 2024 were slow with the seemingly “typical” last minute submissions.

All entries are organized on the NSAGC Google Documents site and are easily shared with the judges. Those files are also available for NSAGC website purposes.

Jeffrey Parker and Anne Louise MacDonald were judges for 2024. Jeff has indicated he might not be available another time, so I will investigate a new judging team.

The slideshow for the Contest was forwarded and used at the 2024 Convention. The winners were announced at Convention, but actual awards were mailed to the three overall winners. Susan Hazelwood sent me three cheques which I included in a card.

The images are displayed on the NSAGC website.



## MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2024

- I sent out the Membership Renewal Letters and the Membership Renewal Forms to the eight directors of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs on Wednesday September the 18<sup>th</sup> 2024.
- I have heard back from seven of the eight directors that they have received the letter and form. Some have already sent the letter and form off their respective clubs.
- I have not heard back from the director of Western District # 7. I do not have a phone number for her either.
- I strongly encourage clubs to renew their provincial memberships before they break for the winter if some clubs do that.
- Let's see if all of the clubs throughout the province can get their memberships renewed before the deadline of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 without having to be prompted to do so. If every club renewed before the deadline than we, as a whole, could hold bragging rights that says "Yes" we did it!

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hill

## NSAGC Awards Report

September 27, 2024

In 2024, the NSAGC Planning Committee decided that we should recognize Garden Club Milestones as well as Outstanding Members and Retiring Board Members.

With information supplied by District Directors, I prepared a spreadsheet identifying member clubs and their year of inception. A template was developed and certificates produced for those clubs to be recognized. Milestone Certificates were presented to the clubs at the Annual Convention in June.

Unfortunately, I missed a step! The certificates were meant to be signed by NSAGC Chairperson Deb Bowes-Lyon, and I forgot to have that done. As a result, the certificates needed to be recalled via Canada Post and signed by Deb, then returned to the clubs. If there are still incomplete certificates, please contact me and I will arrange to have them properly validated.

The Outstanding Member Award template was developed by Tim Dittmer and circulated to the District Directors along with instructions for how to add member information. If there are questions or concerns about this process, please reach out to me. I am here to help.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy d'Entremont

Past Chairperson, Awards Chair

## NSAGC Nomination Committee Report

September 27, 2024

During and following the NSAGC AGM on June 8, 2024 there have been changes made to the slate of officers.

Emily Liot, District 6 Director, and Beate Acker, District 3N Director were officially sworn in as Board Members after having been managing their districts in an “acting” capacity for nearly a full year already. Thank you both.

Emily Walker, Newsletter Editor, unexpectedly had to step down from her position and Alison Vassalo graciously accepted the nomination to carry on in her role. Alison needs some time to get up to speed as we await her first newsletter edition. I have no doubt that she will do a tremendous job. Thank you Alison.

Elizabeth Hill, member of the Hants North Late Bloomers GC and a dedicated NSAGC Board member, has accepted the nomination to manage the newest board position of Membership Coordinator. Thank you, Elizabeth.

In July, Ginny Blayney announced that she would be unable to fulfil her duties as Vice Chairperson due to other commitments. The Executive team approached Geoff MacDonald with the request that he consider stepping in to complete Ginny’s term and be next in line to be Chairperson. After careful consideration, he accepted the nomination and board members unanimously voted in favour. Geoff has also agreed to maintain his role as Plant Giveaway Coordinator unless he decides it is too taxing to do both jobs. Thank you Geoff.

At present, the slate of officers for the NSAGC Board reads as follows:

- Chairperson; Deb Bowes-Lyon
- Vice Chairperson; Geoff MacDonald
- Past Chairperson (Awards and Nominations); Kathy d’Entremont
- Secretary; Melissa Weir
- Treasurer; Susan Hazelwood

- Website Content Manager; Susan Hazelwood
- Historian; Pamela MacLean
- Scotia Gardener Newsletter; Alison Vassalo
- Photo Contest; Sharon Bryson
- Plant Giveaway; Geoff MacDonald
- Membership Coordinator; Elizabeth Hill

Directors:

- District 1, Cape Breton; Glynis Thomas
- District 2, Eastern; Anne Gratton
- District 3, Central North; Beate Acker
- District 3, Central South; Brenda Grasser
- District 4, Halifax; Nancy MacCara
- District 5, Valley; Lori Reid
- District 6, South Shore; Emily Liot
- District 7, Western; Kathryn Davidson

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy d'Entremont

Past Chairperson, Nomination Committee Chair

## **NSAGC.COM Web Site Report For September 27 & 28, 2024 Board Meeting**

The following updates have been made to the web site since April 2024.

- April 2024 Board minutes
- 2024 AGM minutes
- Photo Contest entries
- Ongoing updates to the Events Calendar
- Added new resources under Gardening Related Resources

I check the emails from the Contact Us page every 2 days. From April 1 to September 1, 2024 there were 40 emails on a wide variety of topics.

The Web Site Advisory Committee condensed the list of suggestions for the web site received since it went live 2 ½ years ago. The following were implemented:

- Added a print function to all online forms;
- Added a link to the Seeds of Diversity website to the list of Horticultural Associations & Organization under the Resources tab;
- Added the provincial seed companies to the Nurseries map; and
- Moved the tabs on the main menu to make navigation around the site easier

The following were not implanted for a variety of reasons:

- Online expense form
  - Not worth doing for 18 people, not all of whom will use it.
- Put documents such as the handbook and expense form online.
  - Not worth the expense. Melissa agreed to put the handbook into one PDF document, and compress it if it gets to be too large.
- Add a box for club significant anniversaries.
  - Going forward Past Chairs will present certificates at the AGM to clubs with significant anniversaries. This is more meaningful and less work than listing them on the web site.
- Provide an addition function on all forms.
  - It was decided that this is not financially feasible at this time. It applies mostly to the convention form, which is used by a small number of people once a year.

Eastern Shore Garden Club invited me to give a demo of the web site at their September meeting. They asked very relevant questions and made a few suggestions that I will follow up on. If any of your clubs would like a web site demo, please let me know.

If you see any errors or omissions on the web site or functions that you think could be added, please be in touch.

***Submitted by Susan Hazelwood***

## **District 3 North Director and Clubs Report – September 27, 2024**

I oversee 6 clubs and 1 affiliated club. We have a membership compliment for the 7 clubs of around 155 members. Each club holds regular meetings with healthy attendance, offer a plant sale as the main fund raiser, carries out community beautification projects, and is focused on interactive member engagement events like a Christmas dinner or annual gatherings.

The clubs seeing stronger membership numbers are more actively engaged and offer a greater variety of activities.

My interaction with each club is at least once per year or twice. These are either a visit or email interactions. Our combined district North and South hold by annual district meeting which is highly valued as a key factor to club health and growth via mutual supports of ideas and cross shared club invites of meetings. Added note 2 clubs joined to host the district annul fall event called the 'Fall Rally'.

Regards

Beate Acker

### **Parrsboro Garden Club**

The Parrsboro Garden Club currently has thirty-three members. We meet on the 1st Monday of each month (unless that falls on a bank holiday then it is moved to the second Monday) from 2-4 for eight months of the year.at the Fundy Geographical Museum in Parrsboro.

Our annual fund raiser was the plant sale held on May 25th at The Hall in Parrsboro and, once again, proved to be extremely popular. This is combined fund raiser with members of The Hall and, traditionally, they

have had the majority of plants to sell. However, this year they decided to cut back on the number of plants they were contributing allowing Garden Club members to step up and donate more plants from their own gardens. Happily, garden members accepted the challenge, and the sale was a great success.

In April, members participated in a slide show of plants they had seen whilst travelling plus those in their own gardens. We also had a seed share.

In our final meeting, on May 6<sup>th</sup>, before the break, events for the summer were discussed.

Our summer activities started off in June with a garden tour at Truro Botanical Gardens Rock Garden.

Then in July, and August, we had our annual summer Garden Tours, where we visited members' gardens.

Throughout the summer members have maintained the Fundy Geographical Museum Dino Garden and their two planters at the entrance. Plants which had to be divided, or lifted because they had grown too large, were sold at the plant sale. Additionally, we maintained the meadow at the museum.

The garden club has been active in developing the new wooded area beside the museum which is to become a refuge for wild bird life in our area.

Our September meeting saw an invitational walk around this locale to introduce the public to this new concept. This was led by our member Mary McPhee. The walk was followed by a meeting for members to discuss plans for the upcoming year.

Submitted by Lindsay Roberts

**Cobequid Garden Club – Bass River Area**

No Report Provided

### **Great Village Garden Club**

April 2024-September 2024

The Great Village Garden Club has a total of 36 members, 5 of whom are Honorary members. The average attendance at meetings is 16. Meetings have been held at Faith Baptist Church who kindly offer a large room with high tech equipment; this is particularly useful in attracting speakers. While there is no charge for this room, a donation is made to the church; last year this was designated to their Green Fund used to install solar plates. As of September, our meeting night is changing to the fourth Monday of the month at 7 pm in the same location

Regular meetings were held in April and May. A tour was held in early July with 9 members visiting Whistle berry Market and the Green Thumb Garden Center in Alma. After lunch at the Harbour House in Pictou, the Lavender Farm in Seafoam was visited. A lot of information on propagation, uses and varieties was gathered. This was followed up by a tour and talk on their special gardens to attract butterflies. Some the group dipped their toes in the waters of the Strait before leaving the area. There was no formal meeting in either June or August.

Programs were as follows: April- a tour of Lowland Gardens to see the behind the scene work necessary for start their plants, and to view their new energy efficient green boiler system. May-Brenda Theakston spoke of her work as a Ranger for the Butterfly Pathway project.

September- info not available

Our only fund raiser is our annual plant sale in May. An addition this year was planting station for children to create their own dish garden. Tended by two members and a grandchild of our president, it was a very successful addition to our sale.



In June our group coordinated the installation of two new large planters on the GV monument ground, and planted them with annuals. These worked very well and were very showy all summer long. Improvements were made to a fence on the property as well.

Back again in September with reports on members' successful gardens and to make plans for the season ahead.

Cheryl Cooke, President

Sybil Flemming, Secretary

### **Bible Hill Garden Club**

The Bible Hill Garden Club meets at the Bible Hill Fire Hall on the second Monday of each month except January, July and August. We average approximately 40 members attending per month. Regular posts are now being made on our Facebook account which has resulted in a number of new members joining the club.

Our activities were as follows:

April – Jane Blackburn spoke on growing succulents

May – We held our plant sale which is our main fundraising event. We gave a \$500.00 bursary to a Dalhousie University student. We also did our spring clean-up of the cemetery garden.

June – We had a plant auction for the members which also is a fundraiser for the club.

July – We went on a tour of 2 gardens and 1 nursery in the Truro area. This was followed by a pot-luck.

September – We made scarecrows for our gardens. A fall clean-up day is planned for later in the month to get the cemetery garden ready for the winter.

Respectfully submitted  
Marie MacNutt  
President  
Bible Hill Garden Club

**NS Rock Garden Club – Affiliated**

No Report provided.

This group maintains a beautiful rock garden located by the Dalhousie Agricultural Campus in Truro. Their 25 members are province wide and it is a regional chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society.

**Hilden Garden Club**

No report provided.

Only 5 members this club is working with the Brookfield Garden Club on the NSAGC District 3 Fall Rally. They hold a plant sale and take care of a community flower bed.

**Brookfield Garden Club**

The Brookfield Garden Club kept busy during the summer months.  
We plant and look after three gardens in the village  
A new "The Brookfield Garden Club welcomes you to Brookfield" sign erected.  
Garden Flags were distributed stating we are members of BGC  
We gave a bursary of \$300. to South Colchester Academy.  
We toured Branch and Blossom  
We learned how to bonsai, identify weeds, make a hanging seed birdfeeder.  
Toured members gardens.  
Respectfully Elsie Locke



## **2024 Zone 6 District Report**

Zone 6, on the South Shore of Nova Scotia is comprised of 6 Clubs with a total of 294 NSAGC members.

This past year, Chester and Bridgewater celebrated significant anniversaries with several events and teas. Queen's Garden club increased its membership from 21 members to 52, an increase of around 150%. Lunenberg Club worked very hard to create a new garden at the hospital which is very much appreciated by all entering the front door. Shelburne continues to maintain several gardens in the town and plans to expand its commitment.

Mahone Bay had a busy year with some members involvement in the Communities in Bloom Event. Unfortunately, the Zone meeting for September 15<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled because of low registration. Whether this was due to the time of year, the speakers or the cost will have to be investigated. I will be sending all the Clubs the file with every other Clubs' reports so that they can be aware of what their sister clubs were up to in 2024, something that they would have shared at the Zone meeting. Of greatest interest, I believe, is what speakers and activities other clubs had this past year.

For all the Clubs, the annual plant sale is their major fundraiser. The clubs were also very busy with tours, presentations, flower shows and socials.

Some clubs struggle with maintaining a full roster of executive, not in the least related to the fact that many members are aging and no longer wish to keep the responsibility. Queens has been very proactive with developing a nomination committee that has outlined a plan to entice members to take on a more active role. This will also be forwarded to all the clubs in the area as well.

I have enjoyed my role as Director, managing to be in attendance for several events. Thank you for all your work and effort in organizing and attending all the varied NSAGC activities. It has been a very productive year!

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Liot

## **DISTRICT 1 REPORT**

Handbook for the Garden Clubs & Horticultural Societies Presidents provided to all club presidents and secretary/treasurers, as well as the Memberships Renewal Letter and Form.

I attended meetings, and spoke/presented at, Isle Madame, Westmount and North Sydney Garden Clubs. Started the planning process for the 2026 AGM/Convention. Initiated Cape Breton Island Facebook Group (Needs to be expanded).

Interview: <https://www.climatestorynetwork.ca/a-backyard-balancing-act> (from a 20 minute conversation)

## **ABRIDGED PRESIDENTS REPORTS - Sept 2024**

### **District 1 – Cape Breton Island**

#### **Isle Madame Garden Club:**

-It was with deep regrets, that we accepted Claire Doyle's resignation as Chair of the Society due to health problems. It is with heavy hearts that we had to announce Claire passed away on Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. Her enthusiasm for gardening and love for her community was infectious.

- Claire had started a new project for a Waterfall Garden, which was in development under a grant from the Municipality of Richmond County. Rhonda LeBlanc and Janine Lacroix pursued the project. IMGCC fundraised 4 500\$ to meet the municipal matching grant expectations and benefitted from another grant of 2 000 \$. With the leadership of Gail and Bridget the waterfall took shape with rocks and the water feature being installed. Then lot of weeding and digging and planting. This perfectly compliments Anne's Memorial Garden.

We meet monthly all year.

- In May, free packs of seeds were distributed to participants in the "Garden Seed Program" of Strait Richmond Community Health Board.
- In June, a Plant swap allowed the members to exchange plants for their gardens.
- On July 7<sup>th</sup>, a special event featuring a potluck lunch was organised to recognize Claire Doyle, our president for the past 5 yrs. Glynis Thomas and Pamela MacLean presented A Certificate of Recognition by NSAGC to Claire. We also had a member, Joe, provide a presentation on indoor seeding methods.
- We are currently working on a new IMGCC logo along with a signage board for the gardens. We are finalizing the Waterfall garden project with some last requirements. We also plan a Grand Opening of the gardens for June or July 2025.

We are happy that Isle Madame Garden Club has been recognized by NSAGC as the Garden club with the highest membership increase. Since January, Isle Madame Garden Club counts 44 paid members. An important increase from the previous years. We wish to expand our membership onto all of Isle Madame territory. So, we hope that in the next months, we will spread our wings through the area and gather more interested members. (Vice-chair (and acting chair)Rhonda Leblanc)

#### **Inverness Garden Club:**

-Our annual fundraiser at the local Co-op was very well received. A Dogwood tree to plant at the Cabot grounds in memory of our founding member Marg Ryan, who is greatly missed by the club.

- For 15 year, we have hung flower baskets along Central Ave., 2 large containers at the Legion, the Welcome to Inverness sign and at the racetrack. We are fortunate to have a young man who takes great care of the baskets.
- Monday of the Gathering Days week, an annual celebration in Inverness, the club did garden tours of members gardens and a few friends of the garden club showed their gardens.
- A couple of our members took part in a very successful afternoon workshop, assisting seniors in learning and participating in making flower containers.
- Our plant sale was held June 8th, was also very successful. A friend of the garden club, who is no longer able to garden, offered the club all her perennials.
- We will be decorating the Visitors Information Centre at Christmas. We do a revolving tree in one window, it is a big hit. (Respective-fully submitted Betty Anne Cameron President Inverness Garden Club)

#### **North Sydney Garen Club**

NSGC has a small but dedicated group of members and they meet throughout the year and have speakers in and round table discussions. They had another successful plant sale and had a good turn out for the annual flower show and judging at the Cape Breton Exhibition. They maintain gardens beds in the community – including the entrances to North Sydney and the library. They are a very inviting group and looking to increase their numbers.

#### **Westmount Garden Club (31 members)**

WGC had another successful year and had member garden tours once again. Our annual plant sale was very successful and many plants were gone within the first hour, we raised over \$2000 for club activities.

WGC has a Hospice Volunteer group that maintains and provides plants for local flower beds and will also be helping out with flower arrangements for Celtic Colours.

WGC provided a monetary scholarship to a Riverview Highschool student attending the Dalhousie Agricultural Program.

WGC meets monthly and has talks from members - How to Start Peony Seeds, Beneficial and not-so-beneficial Insects as well as Round Table discussions on propagation, easy-care plants, gardening tips. The meeting minutes are provided to all members and provides a great overview of topics and discussions for all members,

**Director's Report**  
**Central South District # 3**  
**May 2024 – October 2024**

The clubs in Central South District 3 have remained active in their communities. Spring and summer are busy months, and many clubs do not have meetings during the summer but remain active with gardening and various summer projects. I hope I will get to visit the clubs again this fall. I have been busy with my own club since our President has stepped back due to work with her business.

**Stewiacke Garden Club**

This club has been extremely busy with their main project and focus building the Community Garden with monetary support from the town of Stewiacke & other sponsors. They held a Grand Opening Celebration July 13, 2024. It really was a spectacular project with a core group of enthusiastic gardeners. Their other main project was working with the Shriners running six games for the “Stewiacke Town Days. In May, Barb McLaughlin spoke on Birds in the Garden”. This September Anastasia Akesha-Kaur gave a demonstration on “Wild Fermentation”. Their club also supplies a Bursary for a student attending Dalhousie in Truro. They held a successful plant Sale. Their club had several tours. They toured the Rock Garden in Truro at Dalhousie and the garden of Kara McCurdy, a member of their club. A busy rewarding six months

**Stewiacke Valley Garden Club**

Our club had a busy spring and summer weeding and planting various gardens in the community. In May we had a workshop on making Fairy Doors. Seven club members attended the convention in June. The club continued with several fund-raising projects. Our club was able to donate a Bursary of \$500.00 to a Student at Dalhousie, and \$500.00 to the Colchester Food Bank. The Club also continued with setting up and running the Halifax County Vegetable Competition in August. We also sponsor the prizes for the Children's Vegetable Competition. A successful Garden Tour was held in August. We have a strong core group, with events planned for the fall. We will hold a Harvest Potluck in October.

**Musquodoboit Valley Weeders Garden Club**

This club held one meeting this year. They held a successful plant sale and sold tickets for a raffle at the Halifax County Exhibition. They continue to use funds for maintaining the Cornerstone Park in Middle Musquodoboit. The club also set up and ran the Flower show for the Halifax Exhibition. Several new members have joined their club, and hope they become more involved.

### **Country Garden Club (Elmsdale & Area)**

This club continues to be an active group in their community. The Club nominated Cathy Pryde as their Outstanding Member. I had the honour of presenting this award to Cathy as she was unable to attend the Convention in June. They continued with their work in the community garden called “Garden of Hope”. The club also held a successful plant sale in June. The club continues to award a \$300.00 Bursary to a student in horticulture at the Annapolis Valley Campus of the NSCC. They had four members take part in the Convention held in Yarmouth. In July Brenda Theakston spoke on the “Butterfly Way Project” at the home of Carol Morrison.

### **Hants North Late Bloomers**

The Hants North Late Bloomers were able to carry their schedule of regular meetings throughout the spring and summer of 2024. The spring was busy with a Mystery seedling and perennial exchange. They held a successful Plant and Bake Sale at the end of May. Many members attended the NSAGC Convention in Yarmouth. During the summer club members participated in several outings to greenhouses. They enjoyed touring some of their members gardens as well. Several members continue to plant and maintain a garden at the local senior's hall in Noel. They held their annual potluck summer party at the Noel New Horizons Center. This club will celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 19, 2024 at the Noel New Horizon Centre. Andrew Hebda the retired Curator of Zoology from the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History will speak on “Garden Bugs – Friend or Foe”. Members from District 3 have been invited. At the Fall Rally our club will honour member and club secretary Geoff MacDonald as their Outstanding Member.

### **The Village Garden Club Gore, Nova Scotia**

This club had a busy spring and summer with 35 members taking part in many activities. They held four meetings featuring a presentation from Holly Ross of Yoga Hen Yoga Adventures. Carol Colman of Tansy Lane spoke on planning an herb and perennial garden. There was a presentation by Veteran Farm Project, a non-profit farm and a plant exchange was held. In May they held a plant sale located in 3 locations, Upper Rawdon, Ashdale and West Gore. The club held a potluck in June and a Garden Tour in July. Their club is honouring Brenda Baily of Meander River Farm as Outstanding Member of the year. The Club tends two community gardens in West Gore and the Rawdon Gold Mines Seniors Centre. They also donate to the newly formed West Gore Hope Food Pantry Project. Cash donations were made to Hants North Rural High School for two Bursaries of \$500.00 each to be awarded to, two students there.



NSAGC District 5  
September Report

District 5 currently has 6 active clubs with another planning on joining by Spring. I received September reports from 4 of the clubs.

Charring Cross Garden Club has 10 members and 1 Honorary member, a small but active club, they continue to maintain 2 beds and provide hanging baskets in the village. A flower show is hosted at the New Ross Fair.

Forties Garden Club currently has 8 members. But even though they are small, are able to maintain gardens at 2 local churches. The club members continue to volunteer at the community suppers and are looking forward to their annual tradition of decorating the Community Hall Christmas tree.

Upper Vaughn Garden Club is our newest club to District 5 and have definitely hit the ground running with 39 very active members. Their first plant sale and ticket fundraiser were very successful and they were able to design, plant and care for 2 community garden bed projects. I was recently invited to give a presentation on Winter Sowing and was so pleased to see the positive energy of this group.

Valley Gardeners currently has 60 members, plus 9 life members. This club was our host for District 5 in April and has remained active since then with their annual Spring plant sale, and Guest speakers in April, June and September at meetings. With a grant from the Town of Kentville, their website was redesigned and completed this spring. Valley Gardeners provides Bursaries to NSCC and donations were made to Annapolis Royal Historic Garden and to Annapolis Valley Regional Library.

I was pleased to attend a Potluck lunch hosted by Charring Cross with Forties Garden Club as guests. They both are having difficulties attracting new younger members but are hopeful for new members in the future.

Respectfully submitted

Lori Reid  
District 5 Director

## District 2 Eastern Directors report from May to September, 2024

District 3 consists of 5 clubs: Antigonish and Area Garden Club, Lismore and Area Garden Club, Pictou and Area Garden Club, St Mary's Garden Club, and Westville and Area Gardening Club. We were not many in numbers at 2024 Convention in Yarmouth but are now excited to see host 2025 Convention and welcome all NSAGC clubs to Antigonish, the Highland heart of NS.

### Clubs reports:

Antigonish Garden Club report Sept 2024: The club meets the third Monday of the month in the John Paul Center, Antigonish. We currently have 62 members. We are trying to attract 3 new members to serve on executive; no chair or vice-chair at this time. Treasurer is Mary Campbell, Secretary/communications is Sharon Bryson. One new member joined this summer.

May meeting featured herbalist Kim Curry from Harbour Moon Botanicals. Our annual plant sale June 1 at John Paul Center was a great success. In lieu of June meeting members visited the Willow Garden for good display of rhododendrons & azaleas. The annual BBQ/potluck was held in July hosted by member Darlene Burton in beautiful Bayloch, Antigonish county. There was little summer activity perhaps due to lack of leadership & extremely hot weather. September meeting featured naming the new daylily hybridized by Cecil Dunlap; our club was invited to submit names. Cecil made divisions available of this plant.

Our Facebook group membership is nearing 300. The Antigonish club is hosting the District 2 fall rally for 2024, Sat Oct 19 at Arisaig Community Hall, theme "Feeding Our Community in Body & Soul". We are involved in planning the 2025 NSAGC Convention June 13-15 in Antigonish.

Submitted by Sharon Bryson

### St Mary's Garden Club Report, September 2024

The club meets the second Tuesday of the month. In April meeting, the club made big list of Garden hacks. At May meeting Parker Baird took in an assortment of house plants and explained lighting care (too strong, too little), root stimulating products to start new cuttings, and of course free plants. A well-informed gardener talked to children how to care for a plant. In June we finished our plan that all students at St Mary's Education Center Academy got a free plant. Club members gave 50 plants plus 75 extra donated; over 125 plants. In July the club did Monarch Butterfly watch, busy counting butterflies on our milkweeds. Parker rescued most when wind & rain hit NS as he had a screened area to put milkweed leaves and area to latch for chrysalis. When hatched Parker and his sisters set them free. The August meeting held at Cynthia Smith's farm. St Mary's club was recognized by the Municipality of Guysborough for work in Sherbrook area.

The club executive is Cynthia Smith, Elizabeth Jones, June M Tate, and Parker Baird.

Submitted by June Tate

### Westville and Area Gardening club report for September 2024

The club meets the third Tuesday each month. The club received funding from Trees Canada and planted fruit trees in the community garden, and purchased new raised gardens. Michelle Parsonage was chosen as Outstanding Member for fall rally presentation in October in Antigonish; Michelle spearheaded Prize winning float for Canada Day parade in Westville. Truro area Butterfly ranger Brenda Theakson spoke on pollinators at September meeting. Submitted by Clarrie MacKinnon

#### Pictou and Area Garden Club report Sept 2024

In May members June Hill & Andrea Haughan registered grade 2-5 students at local schools for Junior Gardeners annual program, in June provided them with nasturtium seeds, were judged in August, awards presented at September garden club meeting. The 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee hosted several promotions for 85<sup>th</sup>; Dianna Spurvey arranged a club member with presentation topics each Saturday morning at the Weekend Market(in curling club) during July, August. In July the club entered a float in the parade, winning a prize for celebrating 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary ! Tours of several gardens included Alexandria & Mark's in Wentworth, Joy Sinclair, Ruth MacKay's. An old fashioned afternoon teaparty was held Sun Aug 11 with theme "circa 1939" the year the club formed. Pictou North Colchester Exhibition entry items were created by the club winning many prizes and adding to the beauty of flowers and vegetables displays.

Lismore and Area club remain active in their area, with another successful plant sale. They work in the community gardens and provide an annual vegetarian dinner for the community. They are involved in planning 2025 convention, with Don Butler on the team.

# District 4 Fall Report

September 2024

**Bedford Horticultural Society** consists of 30 Members and are still under the auspices of an acting President - Donna Burris. They had their Plant sale in June at the Scott Manor House. Members of the Club went to Wolfville for a tour of the Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens along with tours in St. Margaret's Bay. They continue to plant and work on the Memorial Carpet Bed Community project at the Fish Hatchery Park and also continue to contribute \$500.00 bursary to a student studying at the NSCC. They had a good year of interesting speakers last year and hope to again this year.

**Dartmouth Horticultural Society** has a new President, Jennifer McNeil as of early this year and they had their plant sale in the first part of June, which was successful for their Club. They have a very engaged person - as their activities director, who has kept the members active with floral craft classes and ideas for their gardens and the Club continues to upkeep the Grounds of the Cole Harbour Heritage Museum in which they have tried the straw bale gardening technique. They have a knowledgeable group in their Club and their Club membership continues at a great level of 100.

**Eastern Shore Garden Club** continues with a good sized and engaged Club. Their newer President Stefanie Hazelden is doing well under the mentoring of the VP and past President. They also have an activities director that keeps the Club members busy throughout the summer when the regular meetings are put on hold with activities such as Pot Lucks, stepping stone making, and nursery and garden visits around the Province.. Their Plant sale was headed up by a new member and did exceptionally well. One thing I would like to point out on their Plant sale is that the past President takes the time at the beginning of the plant sale to remove aggressive plants and invasive plants from their donated plants for sale to ensure they are regarded as a trustworthy organization.

**Fall River Garden Club-** has a very engaged group of 45 members who take great pride in their Community. Their Club has a good group of men as members and a few couples as members. One gentleman brings transplanted flowers from his garden to each meeting and they draw door prizes for these at the end of their meeting. They also supply a Bursary to a student of the Dalhousie/Agricultural College each year. This years Plant sale was a very good one for them with a large amount of money raised - with over 2500 plants supplied, with no pricing - just a sign that stated "Generous Donation Only" along with donations from their local 3 levels of politicians including MP's, Counsellor and MLA's.

This year they have been very busy planning for the Fall District Meeting being held in Waverley on October 26th. They will also highlight the Butterfly Statute they had commissioned by Heavy Metal Heather that they donated to their local Park.

**Hammond Plains Area Garden Club** maintaining their membership at the 45 mark continues to do well. Their Club has had a good amount of great speakers this past year. They launch their summer break with a Closing Social and plant exchange with their Club members. They had a successful Plant sale in the first of June and all events are captured on their Clubs Website and Facebook page. They have great success with using their Website and their private Google Google Group for all of their correspondence amongst members and an awesome feature of the platform they use, allows their members to look back at a speaker and his topic and notes from past meetings along with retrieving the speakers website and contact info.

**Prospect Garden Club** remains a very informal Club that has grown in size from their onset. They have enjoyed their time as a group touring gardens and nurseries and having Club Socials. They host their Plant Sale in the first of June and utilize this time to promote their Garden Club. Their President Tara Moore remains has remained in her position and has helped with the doubling of their membership - Their Facebook group has 193 members

**St. Margaret's Bay Garden Club** continues to do quite well with their membership. They have increased a bit again this year with currently having 76 members. They have their Seed exchange early in March to start their growing season off. Their Plant sale is always the first Saturday in June and they have done exceptionally well this year and they also use this time to promote their Club. Albeit they have very few members that attend the NSAGC Convention because of the timing, They are fortunate that they have a selection of "hands on" members of their Club including their President Gerry Thibeau. The Club has a dedicated committee that keeps the Community's Crossroads Garden looking beautiful at the Peggy's Cove lights and many residents make their appreciation known.

Nancy MacCara

District 4