

# SCOTIA GARDENER

Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs

Spring 2023



## Message from the NSAGC Chair

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Greetings, gardening friends,

Summer is upon us and gardening season is getting into full swing. It is very encouraging to see clubs brimming with activities. Whatever kind of gardening you are engaged in—be it ornamentals, veggies or simply a pot on the deck, I encourage you to take the time to unwind and simply sit and enjoy the results of your labours.

The recent NSAGC convention hosted by the Halifax District clubs was a great success. I would like to extend congratulations to co-chairs Susan Hazelwood and Pamela MacLean and the organizing committee for a job very well done.

It's not too soon to mention that convention 2024 will be hosted by the Western District and will take place June 2024 in Yarmouth.

As the newly elected chairperson of the NSAGC, I am interested in hearing your ideas on improving benefits to members. During my tenure I plan to get out and meet as many of you as possible and look forward to doing so.

Don't forget to visit our website [www.nsagc.com](http://www.nsagc.com) where you can check the calendar for upcoming club events and find maps of garden club and vendor locations. Our 15,000-member-strong Facebook group is a great place to ask questions and to promote your club's activities.

Wishing you all a safe and plant-filled summer.

Deb Bowes-Lyon  
[chairperson@nsagc.com](mailto:chairperson@nsagc.com)



## NSAGC Convention 2023 in Photos



Gerald Gloade's popular keynote speech on Friday night was both interesting and informative.



Pamela MacLean's beautiful, whimsical arrangement was voted the favourite of all the floral arrangement entries.

## NSAGC Convention 2023 in Photos



Vendors outdid themselves with unique garden art, gorgeous plants, interesting edibles, natural fertilizers and many other tempting items.

NSAGC members enjoy a presentation in the auditorium at Mount St. Vincent University, a great venue for the 2023 convention.



## NSAGC Convention 2023 in Photos



Pamela MacLean presents Elizabeth Hill and Melissa Weir (left to right) with their photo contest prizes. There were 142 entries from 22 contributors. Judges were very impressed with the quality of the submissions. Melissa Weir (Haliburton Garden Club) received 1st overall; Tim Geddes (St. Margaret's Bay Gardening Club), 2nd overall; and Elizabeth Hill (North Hants Bloomers Garden Club), 3rd overall. All contest entries will be available soon for viewing on the NSAGC website. Photo by Tina Small



Neville MacKay presents a sample of his handiwork to Halifax district director, Nancy MacCara. Photo by Tina Small



The NSAGC in action: members of the NSAGC executive at the annual general meeting at the convention: (left to right) Kathy D'Entremont, outgoing chair; Ginny Blayney, secretary; Deb Bowes-Lyon, incoming chair; Susan Hazelton, treasurer and convention co-chair; Pamela MacLean, nomination, awards chair and convention co-chair. Photo by Emily Walker

## 2023 NSAGC 2023 Photo Contest Winners

### Class 1 Life in the Garden

- 1st Elizabeth Hill
- 2nd Frank Mosher
- 3rd Tim Geddes

### Class 2 Close Ups

- 1st Tim Geddes
- 2nd Bill Reader
- 3rd Cindy O'Leary

### Class 3 Foliage

- 1st Rena Nixon
- 2nd Tim Geddes
- 3rd Susan Stevenson

### Class 4 Water

- 1st Bill Reader
- 2nd Cindy O'Leary
- 3rd Elizabeth Hill

### Class 5 Vegetables or Fruit

- 1st Melissa Weir
- 2nd Emily Walker
- 3rd Mary Landry

### Class 6 Garden Art

- 1st Mary Landry
- 2nd Elizabeth Hill
- 3rd Tanya Emmons

### Class 7 Flowering Trees or Shrubs

- 1st Jennifer Hill
- 2nd Jen Bethell
- 3rd Florence Brown

### Class 8 Fall Scenes

- 1st Bill Reader
- 2nd Tim Geddes
- 3rd Rena Nixon

### Class 9 Landscapes

- 1st Melissa Weir
- 2nd Cindy O'Leary
- 3rd Mary Landry

### Class 10 Nature in Winter

- 1st Melissa Weir
- 2nd Mia Muise
- 3rd Jennifer Hill

### OVERALL WINNERS

- 1st Melissa Weir
- 2nd Tim Geddes
- 3rd Elizabeth Hill

## NSAGC Nomination Report as of June 3, 2023

by Pamela MacLean, Nomination Chair

Many thanks to those who stepped up to fill vacant NSAGC positions. Your contributions are much appreciated! For the coming year we have new members filling some vacant positions and also a few people changing positions as follows:

### New NSAGC Board members for 2023:

Chair: Deb Bowes-Lyon  
Vice Chair: Ginny Blayney  
Past Chair: Kathy d'Entremont  
Awards Chair and the  
Nomination Committee Chair  
Secretary: Melissa Weir  
Treasurer: Susan Hazelwood  
Historian: Pamela MacLean  
Photo Contest Committee: Sharon Bryson  
Plant Give Away: Geoff MacDonald  
Scotia Gardener Newsletter: Emily Walker  
Web Content Manager: Susan Hazelwood

### District Directors:

District One, Cape Breton: Glynis Thomas  
District Two, Eastern: Anne Gratton  
District Three, Central North: Elizabeth Hill  
District Three Central South: Brenda Grasser  
District Four, Halifax: Nancy MacCara  
District Five, Valley: Lori Reid  
District Six, South Shore: Michele Stevens  
District Seven: Kathryn Davidson

### NSAGC Outstanding Member Awards 2023

by Pamela MacLean, Awards Chair

Outstanding Member Award recipients were chosen by their garden clubs to celebrate members who have made outstanding contributions to their club and community. Activities include holding office, giving lectures or demonstrations at club meetings, helping with plant sales, flower shows, holding tours and being involved in club activities and on club committees.

Often these members hold office and attend district meetings, give lectures or demos at meetings, assist on the committees for convention, attend convention and/or be an NSAGC board member.

Congratulations to each one selected by their respective clubs. Volunteering is the best thing you can do for your club and for the NSAGC Board.

Ada Swift	Colleene Jackson	Bonie Moore	Tina Small
Holly MacNevin	Donna Jones	Bob MacDairmaid	Mary Trott
Krista Gill	Rose Lane	Bill Lane	Lori Reid
	Art Crowell	Jean Elliott	

## Bedford Horticultural Society Helps Beautify Bedford

by Donna Burris, President

The Bedford Horticultural Society began the year with an informative talk on noxious weeds. In February our speaker prepared us to watch for insects and diseases affecting the trees in our province. This was particularly important to us as the ash trees in DeWolf Park in Bedford had to be cut down last summer due to an infestation of emerald ash borers. In March our yearly bursary recipient spoke to us on turf management. With the arrival of spring and the anticipation of getting into our gardens, we learned how to attract pollinators into our gardens. Several members also gathered for a fun time to do rock painting.

Our meeting in May took the format of a Victorian tea. We enjoyed music, food and even dress of that era.

The first weekend of June a number of us were able to attend the NSAGC provincial convention held in Halifax.

The club hosted a successful plant sale at Scott Manor House on a cool and comfortable day. It was fun to meet our neighbours and offer planting advice and send the plants to good homes.

A few days later several members gathered at Fish Hatchery Park on a hot June day for a community project. Each spring we plant hundreds of plants in the memorial carpet bed. The garden projects a poppy made up of different colours and types of bedding plants. These intricate plantings were popular during Victorian times.



The Bedford club team at the Scott Manor House plant sale (top), preparing the Victorian tea buffet (middle), Donna Burris, Emily Walker and Cathy Holman beside the freshly planted memorial poppy garden in Fish Hatchery Park (bottom) (photos from Donna Burris)

## Chester Garden Club: Traditional Activities and Interesting Programs

by Jayne E. Campbell, past president

The Chester Garden Club resumed activities and meetings a little later this year. We have tried to reduce our administrative duties due to a shortage of executive members for 2023. That has not stopped us though from continuing with our traditional functions and providing interesting programs.

We kicked off the year with a workshop provided by Foraged Florals and a presentation by Jenny Sandison on New Zealand horticulture. This was a great visual presentation to start the season .

Most garden clubs have plant sales in the month of May and ours was held again this year at the Chester Train Station. We hosted several vendors who look forward to participating each year. It has become very much a community event. This year we were very lucky weatherwise with no rain. Everyone shared in the excitement and went home with a variety of healthy plants.

As a club we take care of two gardens: our Cove Garden and the community garden at the Parade

Square. These gardens have seen major renewals over the past few years with new walkways, rock walls, mulching and new plant materials and pruning. We love our volunteers as well as our local landscaping companies. As we age, we are finding

that the heavy work needs to be done by others.

The annual flower show will be held again this year in July. We no longer have the tea but have found that the participants and the public still look forward to the event and more young people are participating in the design entries as well as the specimens. This is an open show for anyone who wants to participate.

The schedule is available on our club website. (Also, see the poster on page 10.)

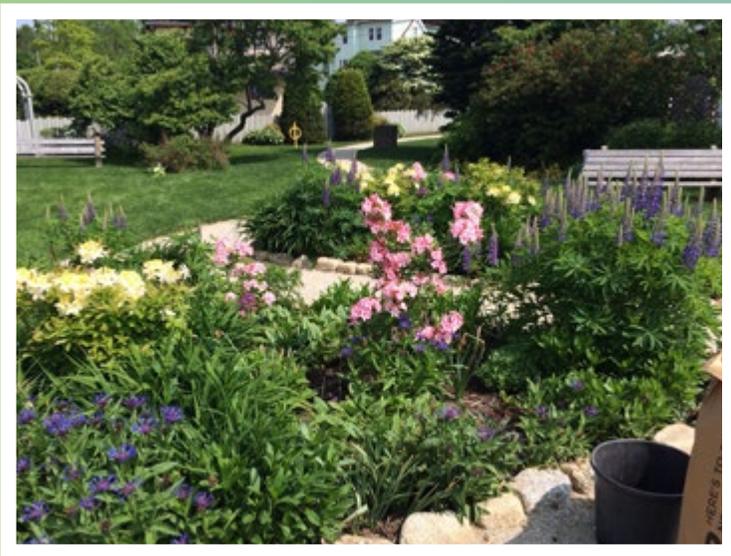
June is always a wonderful month to travel to other areas to view gardens. Our first garden tour this season will take us to the gardens of Jamie Ellison and Tim Amos in the Valley. We may even do a little plant shopping before returning home. So far, it has been a great year.

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Chester club members created clever and unusual arrangements in an assortment of containers. Photos provided by Jayne Campbell

# Chester Garden Club (continued from the previous page)

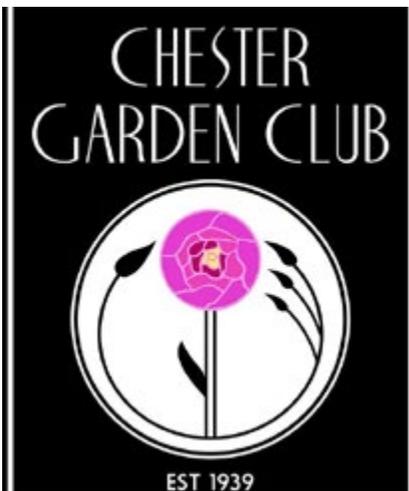


Photos provided by Jayne Campbell



# Flower Show 2023

## The Arts In Bloom



Exhibitors' Schedule  
Theme - The Arts In Bloom

Royal Canadian Legion  
14 Union Street  
Chester, NS

Thursday July 20th 2-4 pm  
Free Admission- Donations appreciated

## Haliburton Garden Club Hosts District Meeting

by Melissa Weir

Haliburton Garden Club has had another busy spring season. This spring it was Haliburton Garden Club's turn to host the district meeting. Planning had begun in the winter but picked up after January. A handful of hard working members stepped up to form a committee. On April 22 we welcomed around 65 district members to the Three Mile Plains Hall. Participants enjoyed four different speakers: Elizabeth Peirce, Veteran Farm Project, Green Field Hives and Revival Seeds, lots of shopping with the local vendors, and many, many door prizes. At lunch time a hot turkey dinner was served and OH THE PIES! Members from the district's clubs were also honored with the Outstanding Gardeners Award. We were pleased to present our club's award to Art Crowell, one of our most active members who is quick to volunteer whenever needed. It was a great day of education, entertainment and socializing.

In the new year, the club was the recipient of an Active Ageing grant from the West Hants Municipality. As a result of the grant, they have been putting on community workshops with the ageing population. The workshops have been well received and we plan to expand on them in the future.

In May the club held its annual plant sale at the Brooklyn Village Garden Center. Members donated plants from their garden and helped set up and run the sale. It was an extremely busy and successful day. We met lots of gardeners, chatted about plants and even recruited a few new members!

Even though our members have been extremely busy planning and executing these events, we made sure to make time to have educational speakers at a few of our meetings.

Catherine MacDonald, a very generous member of the Haliburton Garden Club, donated her time and materials to create a beautiful club banner. We had been without one for many years; so it was a treat to have a new banner to hang at both the district rally and the convention.

Five members from Haliburton Garden Club attended the convention. Everybody was very impressed with the whole experience and are looking forward to next year's convention. Our plans for the summer include our annual potluck garden party in June as well as a much anticipated bus trip to the Eastern Shore to tour gardens and nurseries.



Melissa Weir presents Art Crowell with an Outstanding Member award.



Haliburton plant sale



The new club banner, handcrafted by Catherine Macdonald. Photos provided by Melissa Weir

## Fall River Garden Club Has Highly Successful Honour-System Plant Sale

by Bob MacDiarmid

Spring for Fall River was no bed of roses. It consisted of beds of lots of perennials, residue from last year's annuals, leaves that were left from the fall, roses and hope that the extreme freeze would not have damaged our plants. Some plants were forced to take a year off from blooming but the hope is that they will have their most spectacular year ever next year. Some properties still had Fiona issues to deal with.

Fall River Garden Club membership has been increasing! And new members seem to fit in well.

Our plant sale is our only fundraiser. We had an unbelievable, perfect weather day. We had great support from the community. They started to line up shortly after 8 a.m. We were scheduled to open at 9! The signs we put up the previous Sunday worked. Facebook had notices on local sites. Plants had been set up on tables on Friday. Members had been encouraged to bring in healthy, well watered plants that had been potted some time prior to sale day. They all had popsicle sticks with plant names on them. Tables were arranged in a U shape so that people came in the entrance door, made choices from tables on either side of the U and proceeded to the exit door.

There was a single cash box for buyers to make their payment by donation. Some were very generous and others gave a more modest amount. In the past we priced everything which took a lot of time. The checkout was jammed as the prices needed to be added up. This year it was put your money in the box and go. In order to try to be fair, we placed a 15-plant limit per person just to prevent a commercial enterprise or KIJJI seller from purchasing large amounts. We did not observe anyone needing to be reminded of the rule. We sold out quickly.

The 73-year-old carryout boy was a bit tired as he pulled the garden wagons to the cars and ran back to the end of the line for more. The club does not ask for a quota per member. Just like school or sports, there are exceptional performers and we are blessed to have some. People come because we have some plants that no garden centre will have. We are grateful for the members who know how and hopefully enjoy starting special plants.

Plant knowledge is not required to work the sale as a member. A member of one day with no plant knowledge is just fine. Members are identified by a club apron with or without a silly hat. Some questions are asked that have no known answer. For most, the answer is known by another member.

The sale generated enough money to support the club with a \$1,000 bursary to Dal in Truro, \$500 to the Lions Christmas fund, three local gardens and speakers for the club.

We had a diverse group of speakers this year and they were all good.

In September we had Lloyd Mapplebeck from Hillendale Nurseries speak on edible native plants. In October we had Kara McCurdy from NS Natural Resources present on Wildfire Resistant Landscaping. In November we had Amy Hein speak on urban greening and her research on green roof diversity. Sean Haughian in January presented on identifying and eliminating invasive species in our gardens. Lloyd Mapplebeck was back in February to present on soils, growing mediums for gardens, incorporating vegetables into flower beds, plant nutrition and local seed suppliers. For March we had physiotherapist Kim Goulden. In April Shelly Juurlink presented on organic gardening for flowers and vegetables. For May we had Crystal Godfrey of Secret Gardens present on Food Gardens for Everywhere. (continued on the following page)

## Fall River Garden Club

(continued from previous page)



These photos show an impressive array of large and healthy plants. As the report on the previous page tells us, an honour system was used by attendees to pay for the plants they chose and it worked extremely well.

Photos submitted by Iris Hardy



## Mount Denson Garden Club's Fundraiser Has Something for Everyone

by Carla Scholten

The Mount Denson Garden Club is growing—now numbering over 50 members. We appreciated the pincushion flowers received from NSAGC and have also been gifted perennials from past members.

Attendance at our monthly meetings has increased with the lifting of Covid restrictions.

In April, Jeremy Parker, of Jeremy Parker Property Answers, spoke to our group about general horticulture practices. Here of some of his suggestions.

- Before planting, learn about aspects of your space: where does the sun shine and when, wind direction, slope, soil type, effect of hard surfaces and water demands of your plantings.
- Choose the right plant for the right place, considering environment, spacing, maintenance demands, annual or perennial.
- Maintenance can include weeding, thinning and pruning.
- Some plants require protection such as burlap, fencing and staking and mulch (bark, shavings, wood chips, sawdust, pea gravel).

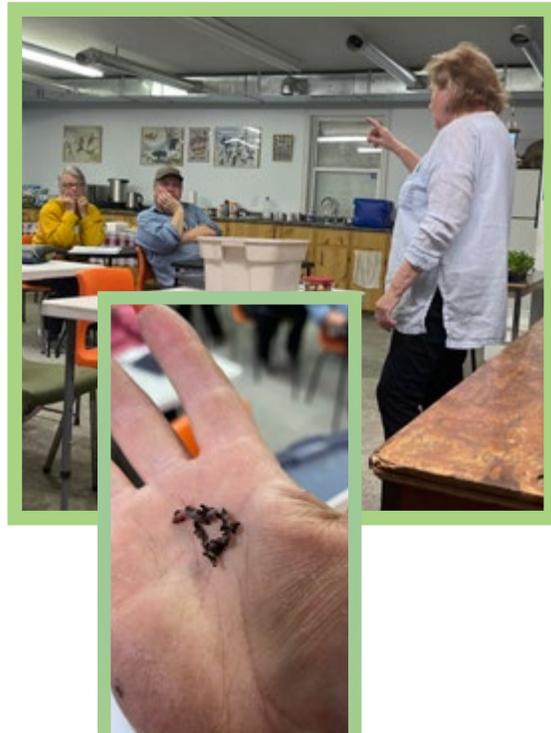
The speaker at the May meeting was a new member, Carole Coleman. Carole shared information and demonstrated how to start a worm bin to do vermicomposting at home. She suggested drilling holes in the bin; then, adding wet shredded newspaper, food scraps and red wiggler worms. Worm compost is a valuable soil amendment.

The District 5 Rally was hosted by the Haliburton Club. Ten of our members attended this full-day event. We celebrated our Outstanding Member, Lori Reid, for her active and positive impact on our club and community.

Nine of our members were able to attend the NSAGC convention. We wish to congratulate the organizing committees for hosting and organizing both these remarkable events. Good work!

Most recently, the club hosted our spring plant sale, fundraiser and children's workshop.

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The children's free butterfly planter workshop (above)  
Photo by Carla Scholten

Carole Coleman discusses vermicomposting; one of her red wiggler worms (top of page) Photos by Tracey Martin

## Mount Denson Garden Club (continued from previous page)



Photos show the spring plant sale and fundraiser held June 11. Club volunteers are decked out with club aprons surrounding the new club sign.



A patron purchasing plants and entering our draw for a free rose, to help celebrate our 40th anniversary. Photos by Carla Scholten

## Eastern Shore Garden Club Contributes to Convention

by Linda Disbrowe



Excitement builds as the Eastern Shore Garden Club plant sale volunteers get ready to welcome eager shoppers!  
Photo by Linda Disbrowe

While 2023 started off with challenging weather, forcing the cancellation of both our February and March meetings, the Eastern Shore Garden Club eagerly geared up for spring gardening and our annual plant sale.

In April, our members came out in full force for an enjoyable evening meeting of the club. After the customary greeting and approval of the January meeting minutes, our guest speaker Elizabeth Peirce was introduced. We listened and gained a good deal of information from our guest, as she is the author of numerous books, including three on gardening topics. At our meeting she spoke on *The Low-work Food Garden: Building Healthy Soil Using the lasagna method* as outlined in her book *Grow Hope* which is available on Amazon.

In the first part of her presentation, Elizabeth spoke extensively about soil, giving a clear definition on types of commercially available soils and how to determine our soil type. From these basics, she con-

tinued with slides and information on how form a new garden by the lasagna or layering method.

This layering consists of layering cardboard or newspaper over the grass as well as generally three layers on top which can be many things including dead leaves, grass clippings, sawdust and eel grass, just to name a few. While this can be done at any time, fall is preferred to give the layers time to decompose and work together for a good base to plant into in the spring.

In addition, she suggested crops that grow well in the lasagna garden you have created, in the first growing season. These include non-root crops such as green beans, peas, herbs and tomatoes. After the growing season, add more layers to revitalize the soil. Website: [www.elizabethpeirce.ca](http://www.elizabethpeirce.ca)

Starting at 7 a.m. on May 27, volunteers and other members who were also donating plants, brought them to our regular meeting hall, where tables

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## Eastern Shore Garden Club

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Lining up for the Eastern Shore Club plant sale!  
(above)



Diane Lucas and Darlene Hart at the NSAGC convention registration desk (above right)



Convention free plant table (right)  
Photos by Linda Disbrowe

were set up and waiting. The busy crew of club volunteers then had the exhausting job of pricing each plant and organizing them on tables in clearly marked groups. There was something for everyone with a wide variety of perennials, annuals, shrubs, herbs, veggies and even indoor plants. By the time 9 a.m. arrived, there was a long line of people eagerly waiting for the doors to open.

The sale tables were fully loaded with plants galore for the eager shoppers! Before long the cashiers were swamped with sales and the plants all went to new homes...all was said and done by 10:30!

Once the full sale info was in, it was determined that 841 plants were donated and most sold in less than an hour with a few plants that were left were taken to a local not-for-profit organization. Total sales were great and, overall, the sale was a great success!

The weekend of June 2 to 4 was the NSAGC Convention *Working with Nature* and as part of the hosting zone, the Eastern Shore Garden Club was responsible for the registration table, as well as the free plant table and plant exchange tables. Our co-presidents Diane Lucas and Darlene Hart and other members pitched in and did a fine job.

The second day of the convention began with the annual general meeting and was followed by guest speakers. The first speaker was our own Diane Lucas, who did an amazing job speaking on "Butterfly Way—Butterflies, Caterpillars and their Host Plants." Between her informative talk and lovely PowerPoint presentation, including her beautifully drawn illustrations, we learned a good deal about nature and the advantages of naturalization in our gardens.

## Bridgewater Garden Club Is Thriving

by Evelyn Snyder

Bridgewater Garden Club has a busy year ahead. We don't meet as a club in January and February because of weather conditions. We always participate in the Seedy Saturday and we usually sign up new members. This year we had 12 new members. We had cancelled the March meeting because of the weather but did host our first meeting in April. We have over 75 active members and over 700 Facebook followers.

We had our annual plant sale at the South Shore Exhibition grounds, and we were sold out by 11 a.m. There were lots of different varieties of plants, trees, shrubs and garden books.

We sent about five members from the club to the Annual Convention in Halifax and all had a

wonderful time. In June we have a workshop plan to get new members interested in entering the Annual Flower and Tea scheduled for July 29 at the Anglican Church Hall, 78 Alexandra Avenue, Bridgewater.

Our club is busy maintaining two gardens in Bridgewater: the Veterans Memorial Garden and the South Shore Exhibition Main Gate Garden.

We have monthly meetings and open garden tours and the Exhibition parade planned for July to November. We will be hosting the District Meeting this year in September.

Have a great summer, all district clubs. We hope to see you in September



Members at Seedy Saturday. Advocating for our club and making connections with like minded people. Signed up 12 new members. AWESOME!

Photo by Peter Wagner



Evelyn Snyder volunteering at the South Shore Exhibition Grounds Garden Photo provided by Evelyn Snyder

## Hants North Bloomer Holds a Splendid Fund Raiser

by Geoff MacDonald

On Saturday May 27, the Hants North Late Bloomers held their annual plant and bake sale at the New Horizons Centre in Noel. The sale had a wide selection of plants from the gardens of our members, a great assortment of baked goods and our members were able to provide shoppers with some great gardening advice and tips. The sale was very well attended and revenue was significantly higher than last year. In addition to plants and baked goods, we also sold tickets on a beautiful gardening basket, as well as—new this year—a great door prize! Our annual plant sale helps fund activities undertaken by the club and this year was another success! A great morning was had by all!



On February 7 the Hants North Late Bloomers Garden Club enjoyed a stone painting workshop in the afternoon.

Many members attended this workshop bringing their favorite stones to paint. The stones were different shapes, sizes and colors—the creativity was awesome.

The instructor was one of our very own club members, Christa Schmitt. This lady is very talented and very creative in many different mediums in the crafting world.

Some of us with very little imagination did ourselves proud on what we created with a stone, a paint brush and many different colors of paint. These pieces of garden art will look great in our gardens.

by Elizabeth Hill, Hants North Late Bloomers



The Hants North Bloomers plant, bake and treasure sale looks very inviting! (left)

Photos provided by Geoff MacDonald

## Shelburne County Garden: Practical Tips To Help Our Environment

by Candy Venning, Shelburne Garden Club

Climate change is here. A drought this spring, fluctuating temperatures and devastating forest fires can leave us feeling helpless but, as gardeners, I believe there are ways we can help our gardens and the wildlife that depend upon them, to thrive.

1) Learn about invasive species—old favourites like burning bush, periwinkle, privet, and not-so-favourites like Japanese knotweed, barberry and multiflora rose are taking over vast tracts of land we can't even see. A short hike along a trail in town or along the coast shows these aggressive invasives gaining ground over our native species. We should commit to at least controlling with a preference for outright removal of these biodiversity killers.

2) Commit to sharing knowledge in positive, helpful ways, for instance, I find many people love burning bush but once it's understood that it's from China and serves no ecological purpose here, I can offer examples of showier native shrubs that are actually

beneficial such as *Prunus Virginiana*. Refuse to share or sell known invasives at plant sales and swaps.

3) Keep your leaves and mulch—a great way to save money and build soil and ensure you know what's in that soil! (I see Japanese knotweed being transported in fill and popping up all over!)

4) If you have a lawn, mow your grass long to keep down the invasives like goutweed and hawkweed. As a bonus, longer grass is drought tolerant and a pleasure to walk on.

5) Learn about local native plants—trading hostas for ferns means less deer and rabbit damage. Learning what plants host butterflies, such as *Asclepias tuberosa*, is a fabulous family learning experience. Monarch caterpillars are easy to see and if they survive (birds are hungry too) to the first instar stage, wonderful to watch hatch. Native plants are also natural birdfeeders, not just the fruit from bayberry, winterberry, wild strawberry, but also the insects that feed on the plants, which in turn feed hatchlings (who cannot eat seed).

I find it hard to love a flower without also noticing the native bee or moth and then delighting in the acrobatics of a tree swallow at dusk or goldfinches feeding on the seeds. The insects co-evolved with the plants as did the birds. It's all connected. As gardeners we can be stewards to increase biodiversity and our own pleasure at seeing our efforts rewarded with more than just pretty.

Samples of native North American plants: Partridge berry (upper left); serviceberry (upper right); trout lily (*Erythronium*) (left)

Photos provided by Candy Venning



## St. Margarets Bay Gardening Club Hosts Seedy Saturday

by Paula Fredericks, Communications, SMBGC Executive

The St. Margarets Bay Gardening Club had a terrific 2022-2023 year. It was great to have in-person meetings at St. Luke's United Church in Upper Tantallon, where speaker highlights were a Zoom presentation with author Todd Boland, and a wonderful slide show and talk by Megan Andrus and Joe Hood of Sound Living Nova Scotia who wowed us with their sustainable living lifestyle. Their knowledge on "food forests," greenhouse and growing methods, capturing of rainwater and their use of solar energy were impressive and we'd highly recommend them as presenters! Their footprint on the earth, at their home in Middle Sackville, is inspiring.

Our members' holiday decorating workshop, an annual event, is highly anticipated each year and at the end of November 2022 Karen Llewellyn and Claudy Levy brought their many skills and a variety of materials to share with 20 participants. Everyone went home with attractive home accents for the season. There was lots of fresh, locally sourced greenery left for purchase by the community.

With three years to prepare (thanks to Covid!) the club attracted almost 500 enthusiastic attendees to the long-awaited Seedy Saturday/Get Growing event in March. Meeting four times a month all winter, an energetic team planned the six-hour event with precision. More than 15 interesting vendors and seven informative speakers shared a large variety of seeds, gardening items and growing knowledge with our visitors. The venue of St. Luke's (truly a community hub) was filled top to bottom and everyone left happy. Our volunteers from the executive, the membership and the public participants deserve three cheers! Feedback was positive from all involved and financial success bodes well for a repeat in 2024.

On May 28, our first ever Ikebana Workshop was a great success with a full contingent of flower arrangers learning this Japanese art form from instructor Chantal Tsai. We look forward to our final event of the season—our plant sale on June 17. One half of net proceeds are promised to a fire relief fund. Many of our members and their friends were displaced by the Tantallon wildfire.

As the needs become more apparent for those who need to rebuild gardens, we will be looking for ways to help where we can in 2023-2024.

Last but certainly not least, we are always proud of our Crossroads Garden in Upper Tantallon (corner of St. Margarets Bay Road and Sonny's Road at the Peggy's Cove traffic lights) where our team works diligently on this community gem, founded by our club three decades ago! It is looking especially lush this spring and we invite you to visit this summer.

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A very pretty arrangement to mark the holiday season  
Photo submitted by Paula Fredericks

## St. Margarets Bay Gardening Club (continued from previous page)



This attractive sign raises awareness to the St. Margarets Bay Gardening Club and the inviting Crossroads Garden in Upper Tantallon.

Photos submitted by Paula Fredericks

## Queens Garden Club: From Bees to Handmade Obelisks

by Krista Doody

On a stormy Thursday in March we were treated to a ZOOM presentation by Rosemary Lohnes of Helping Nature Heal in Bridgewater. She was scheduled to visit us in person on that evening but a freak snowstorm kept her at home. Rosemary has been CEO and President of her business since 2001. She started with a bucket, a trowel and pruners and has since won numerous prestigious awards. Her knowledge about gardening, the environment and seascapes is mind boggling.

The first point she shared with us was the difference between traditional gardening and ecological gardening. In rural Nova Scotia my sense is that we are more focussed on ecological gardening and keeping our shorelines and properties safe from erosion caused by heavy storm surges.

In her slide show Rosemary included photos of an oceanfront property she was working on in our area where a new build had removed many trees and left the property bare and in danger of erosion. Her team made the task of nurturing the landscape with pieces found on the property, such as tree limbs and rocks. My favourite photo was one where members of her team were propelling down a cliff in PEI in order to strategically place plants, soil and rocks so that the shore doesn't completely erode. I look at my own property a little differently now and will keep in mind what I learned as we plan for future landscaping projects!

April was a working meeting led by our very own Julie. An email was sent with a list of things we should bring, such as straight twigs, vines and an empty pot. In pairs we created a selection of various trellises in different shapes and sizes which we hoped to sell at our plant sale in May or keep for our own use. I think most of us were very unsure of how these trellises would work, but the smile on our faces when we were done proved it was a very worthwhile activity!

In May Queens Garden Club member Chris, of Tiddley Bees in Brooklyn, gave a very interesting presentation on bees and his journey to become a beekeeper. He is new to the area and is in the process of expanding his beehives. He has even offered to set up hives in neighbours' yards. We

learned that honeybees originate from South Asia and have been here since around 1620 AD. They are considered a superorganism, much like ants, because their jobs are embedded in their genetic code. Everyone has a job and they just go ahead and do it! Beesting therapy and the use of honey for medical purposes because of the microbial benefits, such as for burns and infections, was also discussed at some length.

Our spring fun concluded with an amazingly successful plant sale on a sunny and warm Saturday in front of the museum in Liverpool. Half an hour before opening for business, customers were lined up wanting to have first pick of the best plants for the 10:30 opening! We were sold out by noon and then stayed on for a bit to offer a few left-over hostas for a donation. Thoughts and plans are in progress for an even better sale next year and they just keep getting better! It really is a joy to share our plants and knowledge with our community who come out to support us.

Our director, Karin, let us know that she will be stepping down in September after 18 years. She will certainly have some big shoes to fill and we thank her for all of her hard work over the years. She did let us know that she is happy to help and maybe even interfere once in a while!

Happy gardening from all of us at the Queens Garden Club! (continued on next page)



Club members enjoyed a presentation by beekeeper Chris of Tiddley Bees in Brooklyn. Photo provided by Krista Doody

## Queens Garden Club (continued from previous page)



How charming are these rustic garden obelisks!.

Photo provided by Krista Doody

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## A Note from the Editor

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Hello, Scotia Gardener readers,

This spring our hearts go out to those Nova Scotians who were evacuated or even lost their homes due to the brutal wildfires that raged in our province. In an anxious time, it is reassuring to see the resilience, creativity and smart thinking of our garden club members. Here are just a few examples gleaned from this issue's club reports.

- St. Margarets Bay Garden Club, with members in the Upper Tantallon area which suffered terrible wildfire losses, is donating half its plant sale proceeds to a fire relief fund and is exploring ways of helping out those who will need to rebuild their gardens in the future. Big hearts and great ideas!
- At its plant sale, the Mount Denson Garden Club included an activity for children—creating a butterfly planter. How fun is that!
- The Fall River Garden Club employs a “pay-what-you-can-by-donation” method for their plant sale. It saves them the hassle of pricing, adding up sales, taking cash and making change. Their sale proceeds were indeed impressive which goes to show that community members are indeed generous!

A big shout out to all our clubs who are working together to make life better for their communities and who are actively protecting our environment through innovative garden choices and techniques. I cannot wait to hear your news from the upcoming summer months. Please mail your club news and photos for the next issue of the newsletter (deadline September 15) to: [newsletter@nsagc.com](mailto:newsletter@nsagc.com)

See you in September,  
Emily Walker



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## Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs Board Current Openings

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

The following position is currently available:

Director, District Six

Contact any Board member for details if you are interested in filling one of these positions or know of someone who is, please contact Kathy D'Entremont at: email: [secretary@nsagc.com](mailto:secretary@nsagc.com)

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## Scotia Gardener: Spring 2023 Issue (Volume 23, Number 2)

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.

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# Outstanding Natural Beauty

Photo by Hazel Lee,  
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