



Lilac Letter

Winter 2023

VOLUME XXIX

NO. 3

President's Message

As a retired educator and strong advocate of life-long learning, I would like to share information with you concerning topics of which I have become aware in my travels around the state - visiting clubs and attending various committee meetings. The mission statement of the National Garden Club states that "NGC provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility".

Many of our clubs are very active with civic beautification and "digging in the dirt" activities and have little experience with floral design. I had the opportunity to attend Judges' Council meetings in September and October. This is a small group of NGC accredited floral-design judges who are members of various NHFGC clubs. To become a judge, you must attend NGC Flower Show School and Flower Show Judges' School and maintain your skills by attending symposia and also by judging flower shows. Our Judges Council meets monthly, and members are asked to create a floral design assigned by the group. Pictures of many of their designs have been in issues of the *Lilac Letter*. Before Covid, members

of Judges' Council supported a group called Design Guild that met six times a year, and different floral designs were assigned to those attending. This is not part of Judges' Council but a volunteer activity of the group to interest club members in floral design, with the hope of recruiting more members to become judges. Many of us make informal floral arrangements for our homes because of our love of flowers. This group takes design to a different level, teaching various skills in design. Please see pictures on p. 4.

We are working to bring this Design Guild opportunity back to our club members. More information will be available as planning progresses. I hope many of our club members will take advantage of this opportunity! Flower Show School and Flower Judges School, as well as the NGC schools for the environment, landscape design, and gardening, are held in different locations around the area and can also be taken online. The information concerning this is found on the National Garden Club website, just put that in the search line. It is very easy to find. Know that there is financial assistance available for members who complete the Floral Design School successfully.

President's Message – cont.

I cannot end this message without saying thank you for this wonderful opportunity to be your President! I am having fun meeting so many members as I visit clubs. I tell everyone this is giving me a great opportunity to travel to nice places and meet nice people!

Learning is fun!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Winnie



Plant seeds of Friendship

NHFGC NEWS

Photos from the NEGC Meeting Susan Miner. NEGC Director



Winnie Schmidt accepting NEGC awards on behalf of NHFGC



Susan, Blanche, Fiona, and Dian at the meeting



Eight members from NHFGC attended the meeting: L-R Arabella Dane, Sue Miner, Michelle Mensinger, Winnie Schmidt, Dian Mathews, Fiona McKenna, Blanche Garone and Susan Daviis



Susan Miner, NEGC Director, presenting Ashland Garden Club member Arabella Dane with a Certificate of Commendation for her leadership promoting photography in the region.

2023 NEGC Award Winners

Susan Miner

NHFGC Awards Chair

The New England Garden Clubs, Inc., awards were presented at the NEGC Annual Meeting on October 11 in Plymouth, MA. The following were received by NH clubs.

Derry Garden Club received the Virginia Thurston Landscape Design Award and \$100.00 for their project to create a pollinator garden at their library. Working with the Library Director and the Children's Room Director, a site walk was conducted in April to find an area conducive to pollinator plants and visible to library patrons. The garden was completed with the help of the children and their parents.

New London Garden Club won the Pamela Hebert Garden of Youth Award and \$50.00 for their Wildflower program at Kearsarge Elementary School of New London. Three 8'x20' gardens were installed, and third grade students planted perennial wildflowers and annuals. Club members conducted wildflower and pollinator education in the classroom.

Bow Garden Club received the Joyce A. Kimball Container Gardening Award for their major Civic Beautification project to remove a heavily weeded, overgrown garden bed and converted it into a container Garden with 17 high quality, self-watering containers sitting on a bed of natural river rock.

Old Homestead Garden Club won the Yearbook Award for club size 30-44 members.

Mountain Garden Club received the Yearbook Award for club size 100-299 members.

Congratulations to the NHFGC clubs that won awards!

NEGC Photography Contest Winners

Arabella Dane, NEGC
Photography Chair

The New England Garden Club photography group, led by Arabella Dane, enjoyed a photo contest at the region meeting in Plymouth, MA. The recent group newsletter has information about the finalists in that contest. You can see all their entries by copying and pasting this link in your browser:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Congratulations-to-all-our-amazing-photographers--Enjoy-their-work--.html?soid=1116099262909&aid=W6cyQfB8J6Q>

Four NHFGC members were finalists:



Class 1: Michelle Mensinger, Derry GC

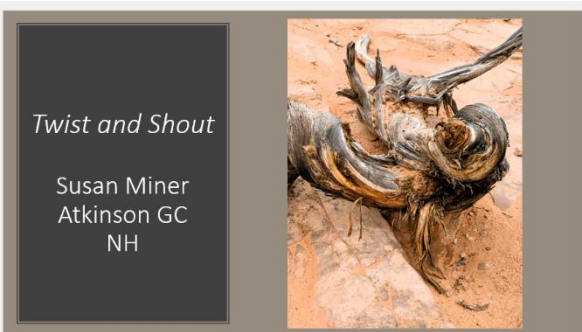
NEGC Photography Contest Winners – cont.



Class 2: Robin Turnbaugh -NHFGC Member at Large



Class 3: Lisa Richards - Bow GC



Class 4: Susan Miner - Atkinson GC

Congratulations to all on this beautiful photography!

Please contact Arabella if you would like to have the group newsletters delivered directly to your inbox. Her email is arabellasd@aol.com.

Judges Council Blanche Garone

The following photos are of some of the designs by the Judges in attendance at the last Judges Council meeting.



Underwater design, Arabella Dane

*Multi Rhythmic Design,
Michelle Mensinger*



Botanical Arts Hanging Design



An emerging public garden for New Hampshire, and a 37-acre Oasis of Art, Horticulture & Inspiration!

YOU HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT!

Join us in 2023 – Open mid-May (10AM-4PM) Tuesday-Friday and 1st & 3rd weekends monthly through October 9, 2023. Ample parking and rest rooms.

GARDEN CLUB - PRIVATE TOURS!
Led by John Forti, Executive Director.
For tour details and arranging your Club's outing, go to:

www.bedrockgardens.org/tours.html

To book, email:

programs@bedrockgardens.org



ZOOM PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

'Bedrock Gardens - An Oasis of Art, Horticulture, and inspiration'

An illustrated talk about the past, present and future of this plant and art collectors' paradise!

Presenter: John Forti, Executive Director

Learn more at:

www.bedrockgardens.org/talks.html

or contact John at jforti@bedrockgardens.org



- Explore our **Garden Shop & Rare Plant Nursery**
- Enjoy a group-picnic after your tour by ordering **boxed lunches...**
- Check out our **Full-Season Program Calendar** for daily activities and special hands-on workshops. **Go to:** www.bedrockgardens.org/schedule.html
- **To call:** 603-659-2993 (in-season)
- **To mail:** 45 High Rd. Lee, NH 03861
- **To visit:** set your **GPS to 19 High Rd. Lee, NH 03861**



NHFGC's Fall Meeting 2023 at The Fells

Dian Mathews. District III
Director

On September 12, 90 NHFGC members gathered at The Fells in Newport, NH, for a CASUAL meeting. Our special guests were

Susan Hinkel, Past VT State President, and Past New England Regional President, who drove over from Vermont for the day; and Sue Miner, NHFGC Past President and now the New England Regional Director. Our hosts were the Clubs of District III: Terri Robbitts, President of Fitzwilliam; Suzanne Hammond, President of New London; and Christina Apgar, President of Old Homestead.

We came dressed for the weather and pour it did. But it was only for about an hour at the very beginning of our day. The Fells Events staff keeps a giant basket full of umbrellas. First we ate our fill of home baked goodies - baked by the NHFGC Board. Then UP the umbrellas went and out into the rain we went!

We divided into groups to tour the John Hay Estate house and/or the gardens and some of us had "Free Time" on the porch of the estate. Since the Park was officially closed, our tours were led by Nick Schue, Landscape Designer and Simon Parsons, Education Director, and a docent. I noticed that, as the day went on, the tours became longer and longer - we were really enjoying ourselves! The house is full of history and authentic antiques. The gardens are teeming with natives and unusual plants, many of which were grown from cuttings right on the

grounds. (TIP: You can buy their plants if you visit on an OPEN day.) Those on the porch were joining in a scavenger hunt or other porch-type activities. And eating cookies. AND THEN THE SUN CAME OUT! Umbrellas were put away and coats came off. The afternoon was WARM.

Our Memorial Service was held in the pavilion. Eleven white roses were given out in memory of those who we lost this past year.

The box lunch was prepared by Applesseed Restaurant/Catering in Bradford, NH. The pesto/mozzarella wrap seemed to win the day - and the cookies. We proudly recycled the boxes.

Prizes for the drawings were supplied by the NHFGC Board and hosting clubs. Twenty lucky ladies took home 20 beautiful items.

In the afternoon, we switched and went on the tours we hadn't gone on in the morning - or we sat and chatted on the long porch in the shade. And ate more cookies. All of us had a wonderful time. We wish those of you who weren't there could have come. We hope you do next time. It was a great time for meeting and talking to members of other clubs in our amazing Federation. I should mention that we invited two NH Garden Clubs who are not in the Federation: Campton and Meredith. Pictures of our wonderful day can be found on the NHFGC website under "Events".

Dian Mathews, District III Representative, thanks the NHFGC Board for its help in putting on this show. The staff at The Fells was amazing to work with. A special thanks

NHFGC's Fall Meeting 2023 at The Fells – cont.

to Ron Trexler for handling all the registration duties.



*Ann Wallace, Peg Birch, Terri Roberts, Dian Mathews,
Winnie Schmidt at The Fells*

Remembrance Ceremony at The Fells Johanna “Holly” Talbot

We began the Remembrance Ceremony at The Fells Fall Event with the reading of the following poem entitled, “The Golden Chain of Friendship.”

Friendship is a golden chain,
The links are friends so dear,
And like a rare and precious jewel
It's treasured more each year.
It's clasped together firmly
With a love that's deep and true,
And it's rich with happy memories
And fond recollections, too.
Time can't destroy its beauty
For, as long as memory lives,
Years can't erase the pleasure
That the joy of friendship gives.
For the golden chain of friendship
Is a strong and blessed tie
Binding kindred hearts together
As the years go passing by.

Author Unknown

We were reminded that the love, joy, and wisdom that these women shared with their club members and communities could not be lost, as it always remains in our hearts and minds. To pay tribute to each of these club members, their name was called and one of their fellow club members came up to receive a rose from Lynne Merrill, former District III Director, and then they proceeded to place the rose in the vase on the table with the photographs of the women. The single roses together in the vase blended into a beautiful bouquet symbolizing their lifework and contributions to their communities and the world.

Remembrance Ceremony – cont.

The following are remembrances of the women submitted by their club members.

DOROTHY “DOT” COLE – Atkinson Garden Club

Dot, her husband Frank, and their ten children were world travelers all the while she was an ardent gardener, landscape designer, and floral designer. In Hong Kong, Dot specialized in Ikebana floral design. Back in the states, Dot became a National Garden Club (NGC) Master Flower Show Judge, an NGC Landscape design consultant, and a New Hampshire Master Gardener.

Dot was an exceptional hostess for the Atkinson Garden Club meetings, as well as our larger social events like the Autumn Social. Our club enjoyed good friends, gentle breezes, and extensive views of the Atlantic Ocean from the open porch of her home in North Hampton.

Even as Dot was in an Assisted Living Facility, the director told us how she was instrumental in making window boxes for the residents. After that, she organized a group to create a pollinator garden. She will be missed by all those that knew her for her extraordinary life.

MELISSA PAQUETTE -- Bow Garden Club

Melissa was a new member to the Bow Garden Club, joining the Club in 2022 to help focus on nature and the community surrounding her. She was a masterful gardener, a voracious reader, and a wonderful cook. She noticed and appreciated beauty every day. Melissa fiercely battled breast cancer, and whenever her treatment and energy would allow, she would join us at meetings and events, and we always appreciated her beautiful smile and her honest

and open spirit. Melissa was a giver, a helper, and an inspiration for all who knew her.

PRISCILLA DALRYMPLE -- Derry Garden Club

Derry Garden Club submitted a poem written by Lolly Fleming (DGC member) to pay tribute to their beloved member Priscilla Dalrymple.

“Ode to Priscilla Dalrymple”

Member since 1992

Priscilla was like the willow tree,
Graceful and strong, swaying in the breeze.
Her heart was as pure as the Easter Lily,
Reverent, kind, and sometimes silly
We all will remember her warmth and
charm,

And that she never caused anyone harm.

Priscilla was like her favorite Iris,
A beautiful lady in her garden, to inspire us.

On a personal note, Priscilla had a warm and engaging smile and there was always a twinkle in her eye. She was young at heart and never acted her 90 years, and she was always surprising us with her lovely sense of humor and her creative floral designs in our “Ladybugs” group. She is sorely missed by all of us.

CATHERINE HARDING DAVIS -- Fitzwilliam Garden Club

The Fitzwilliam Garden Club lost our co-president, Catherine Davis, on June 6th. She is greatly missed!

Her life was characterized by service, faith, and love, which she shared liberally in small and simple ways, without fanfare, throughout her entire life. She lived her faith by developing an ability to see the

Remembrance Ceremony – cont.

needs of others and ministering to them in practical ways.

She was a woman with a plan, always busy with an "energizer-bunny-vibe" with places to go, things to do, and people to see. After ten years at home raising her kids, she felt she had more love to give so she spent the next 25 years as an exceptional kindergarten teacher. While she never sought formal or public recognition for anything she did, she received the "Teacher of the Year Award" from the state of Connecticut in 2005.

Cathy left this world rich in family, friends, and community, the very things in which she invested her life, her time, her talents, her boundless energy and, most importantly, her love.

SHIRLEY GIRARD -- Hooksett Garden Club

Shirley Girard was a member of the Hooksett Garden Club from 2000-2021. Shirley was an active member and contributed many hours to the club's various projects. She will be fondly remembered by many of us as the one who served the much-needed warm coffee and refreshments on our wreath pick-up day.

ELIZABETH (Betty) LORIMER CHIDSEY -- New London Garden Club

Betty, 94, who had a warm and welcoming personality and a ready laugh, majored in mathematics and religion at Cornell University. She was an avid gardener, and as a member of the New London Garden Club, she helped maintain the gazebo flowers for many years with her dear friend Bobbie

Hambley. She was a mother and grandmother and was also known for her culinary skills and hospitality. Betty's smile, sunny personality, and laugh will be missed by all who knew her.

ANNE "SUSIE" SKINNER GRAY -- New London Garden Club

Susie, 97, was a mother of five and grandmother of 14, and a respected and beloved member of the New London Garden Club. She graduated from Skidmore College with a B.A. in jewelry design and, after college, was hired by Tiffany & Company as their first female window dresser. She went on to design windows for Lord & Taylor, also in New York City.

After she married and relocated to Washington, D.C., her love for the arts continued to flourish. She founded the now nationally renowned Smithsonian Craft Show and became its first Chairperson in 1971. She also sat on the board of the American Crafts Council for many years, and worked diligently to educate the public, and to promote the fine crafts community in DC and New London, NH. In her 50s she pursued another degree in interior design at American University, and subsequently established her own firm, Susie Gray Interiors.

When she and her husband, Bob retired to New London, she became actively involved in the New London Garden Club, as well as the New Hampshire League of Craftsmen, and she continued her work in interior design. As an avid gardener, Susie used her artistry to transform their homestead into a pastoral landscape each spring, winning the garden club award many times over the years.

Remembrance Ceremony – cont.

Susie will be remembered as a trailblazer for women and a visionary with a witty sense of humor and a smile that could light up a room. She will be missed by all.

CHRISTINE ANN MARBACK KELLETT -- New London Garden Club

Christine graduated from the College of New Rochelle with a B.A. in History, a master's degree in history from the College of St. Rose, and a law degree from Albany Law School. She spent her entire professional life and legal career dedicated to public service and government work.

In 2014, she and her husband, Mark, retired to New London where they enthusiastically volunteered in the New London Garden Club, the Historical Society, and the Adventures in Learning program. Her top priority was always her family – her husband, children, and grandchildren -- but she also loved gardening, cooking, crafting, and reading. Christine was a person of deep and abiding faith and reveled in studying theology and scripture in order to deepen her knowledge of her own faith traditions, as well as those of others. She was passionate about gardening and filled her home with seasonal arrangements of flowers throughout the year. She used her homegrown produce to make jams and jellies and for canning. As a member of the Garden Club, she held leadership roles and widely shared her energy, knowledge, skills, and creativity with her community.

PAULINE "POLLY" ROOS -- New London Garden Club

Polly, 97, was a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She attended the

University of Massachusetts and was a draftsman at MIT Radiation Laboratory before moving to New London in 1961.

She enjoyed painting, quilting, braiding rugs, and especially gardening. Polly was an active member of the New London Garden Club, the New London Historical Society, and her church, as well as a volunteer at the New London Hospital for many years.

SUSAN ZIMMERMAN -- Old Homestead Garden Club

Susan Zimmerman was a beloved member of Old Homestead Garden Club since 1981, holding several offices including club President. Susan loved flowers and loved people. When Susan first joined the club, she was still working as an ER nurse but found time for the "important things". Of her many contributions to our club, she was one of the original members who helped renovate our local Ashuelot River Park from a messy, weedy lot into the beautiful park we see today. Susan and her sister Martha Zimmerman organized our club's first Greens Sale that has been our major fundraiser for our scholarship fund ever since and our primary annual fundraiser. We all miss Susan.

With gratitude we celebrate the lives of these women who inspire us and underscore the import of their contributions and leadership to their garden clubs, their communities, and the world. It's not only education, conservation, and civic beautification; as important as those are – it's cultivating that much-needed friendship, kindness, and peace throughout the world.

Remembrance Ceremony – cont.



Holly Talbot conducting the Remembrance Ceremony

NHFGC Annual Meeting Fiona McKenna

"SAVE THE DATE!"

District 2 invites you to the next NHFGC Annual Meeting being held on May 29, 2024. Mark your calendars now and watch for more details to follow.

NGC Award Submissions Due Susan Miner, NHFGC Awards Chair

Just a quick reminder that NGC award applications are due to me by December 1st. Application and details are on the NCG website <https://gardenclub.org/ngc-awards>. These awards are for projects (new or on-going) during the period of Jan 1 – Dec 31. With all the wonderful programs and projects your clubs are doing, there should be a potential award for everyone! Remember that if your project fits into more than one category, your application must be different – different photos, description wording, publicity, etc. Electronic submission to fmotion@aol.com is preferred. However, if you need to send

paper copies, you can mail to Susan Miner, 19 Town Village Dr, Salem, NH 03079.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need assistance. Best of luck to all applicants.

FEATURES

Memorial Gardens and Tours Lolly Fleming

Visiting The Life Forest in Hillsboro, NH, this month brought a whole new meaning to "Memorial Gardens". This lovely, serene area is a natural habitat of native trees and shrubs under which you may bury your loved one's ashes or remains that have been composted.

The first plot and the entry to The Life Forest, is the Pollinator Garden which has been created for single burial use. Ferns, black-eyed Susans, hosta and flowering shrubs are dotted around a softly sculptured garden. Small white disk-shaped plaques with QR codes and names are discretely placed in the earth. Using your smart phone with the QR code will bring up the person's information. On the outside of this garden is the main burial area with trees in different growth stages, and plaques beneath. These would be family burial sites. And, yes, even the beloved family pet is allowed.

Along the handicapped accessible gravel path to the Arched Burial plot are picnic benches, woodlands, birds, dragon flies and bees with a few mosquitoes mixed in. Arriving at The Arched Burial plot, you pass under two birch trees intertwined entering a more private area for those who wish to be

Memorial Gardens and Tours – cont.

interred in a less open area. Fruit trees are welcome in this plot.

Leaving The Arched Garden, continue into deeper woodland to a humongous glacial rock and further along Shedd Brook flows by. This Evergreen Area is open for burials and tree plantings.



Returning along the now green, grassy path, there is a private corner named “Phone of the Wind” holding a stool, a non-working dial up phone and a letterbox. A charming place for children to “call or connect” with a special someone.

Walking back to the entrance you will encounter a Free Library attached to a tree and benches for sitting and reading.



The Life Forest has obtained Arboretum status with more than 25 named species of trees and all graves are registered with the NH Office of Public Guardianship to offer deed recorded burials.

If you go, The Life Forest is off Rte 202 in Hillsboro. Wear your walking shoes and expect the occasional insect. This IS a woodland! Dogs are allowed. After our tour, my walking cohort Wanda and I enjoyed a memorable lunch at the Duston Golf Course clubhouse just down the road apiece in Hopkinton.

Next tour article will be on a selection of greenhouses and their seasonal offerings just for the holidays.

CLUB NEWS

Ashland Garden Club

Amanda Loud

The Ashland Garden Club enjoyed two more Open Gardens during July. We began our fall meeting schedule with a trip to Plymouth Soapworks, a woman-owned business in Plymouth, NH, that produces botanical soaps. We had a wonderful tour of the business as well as a great lesson about soap-making and the botanical products it involves. The best part was having our private shopping time after hours!

Our next fall meeting will be a program on birds by our local bird enthusiast and photographer, Sue Francesco. Her programs are not to be missed, and she is back by popular demand!

Atkinson Garden Club Jeanne Vickery

As a perfect springboard to the brisk, crisp, and cozy fall season, our club members and guests were delighted to participate in our annual tradition of giving thanks and enjoying each other's company at our 2023 Autumn Social. Kudos and an enormous thank you to Estelle Halchak and Jake Lord for graciously hosting our event this year! The afternoon was overflowing with inspired conversation, exceptionally prepared dishes, and a perfectly relaxing ambiance!



Estelle Halchak and Jake Lord, hosts of this year's AGC Autumn Social.

But there was much to accomplish, as well. Autumn always finds us busy with our garden housekeeping tasks, emptying barrels and planters, cleaning up town areas where summer colors bloomed in their full glory, soon to be replaced with festive holiday greens and berries, and bright red bows! Many thanks to our Civic Beatification Chairs, Nicole Cummings and Christine Leeds, the Committee Members and all club members who participated.

As we peruse Atkinson's neighborhoods in search of potential Garden of the Month possibilities, we are always amazed at how many outstanding gardens present themselves as contenders each season. Congratulations to Joe and Kathy Barbone, chosen as August's Garden of the Month:



August Garden of the Month Recipients, Joe and Kathy Barbone.

- and to Daphne and David Lovely, September's recipients.



Daphne and (not in photo) David Lovely, chosen as September Garden of the Month.

Atkinson Garden Club – cont.

Janet Snowdon, Holly Talbot, and Sheri Turell and club members are to be commended for their choices.

Hedi Shikes and our Senior Outreach Committee outdid themselves, ensuring that the brightly colored mum centerpieces adorning the tables at our Senior's Fall Luncheon were accessorized with perky and festive, autumn-themed bows. Inspired in part by this gathering, our V.P., Christine Leeds, is now offering a bow-making class so more club members can perfect the fine art!



Senior Outreach Committee members preparing centerpieces for Fall Senior Luncheon. L-R Front, Judy Godden, Christine Leeds; Rear, Hedi Shikes (chair), Jeanne Vickery (and photographer Kay Galloway).

We were honored to feature one of our own at our October Open Meeting. Cindy Knight, a member of the Atkinson Garden Club since 1985, provided us with a retrospective of her 26 years as a premier designer in the MFA's show, *Art in Bloom*! Her humorous, animated, and inspiring presentation included a PowerPoint presentation, photos, three long tables covered in flowers, plant material, vases, and creative containers, (such as a huge root resembling a human brain), with still room enough to recreate

many of the designs she had done for *Art in Bloom* over the years!



Designer Cindy Knight, recreating one of her Art in Bloom masterpieces.

Many thanks to Jeanne Geisser, her Refreshment Committee, and all who contributed in so many ways to ensure a successful event! Donations for Emmaus House were also collected at this meeting.



Open Meeting Hostess Committee, l-r Jo Ann Benoit, Kay Galloway, Jeanne Geisser (chair), Janet Snowdon.

Atkinson Garden Club – cont.



Banquet for our Open Meeting guests!

Our September Meeting was a lovely field trip to Fuller Gardens in North Hampton and several of our members enjoyed the NHFGC event at the Fells in Newbury. Our November meeting features Jim Parks from New England Birds of Prey.



AGC's field trip to Fuller Gardens in N. Hampton. From l-r, Sue Miner, JoAnn Benoit, Hedi Shikes, Joanne Roy, Tanya Tsentlovich, Cathy Bastek, Kathy Sadkowski, Holly Talbot.

We participated in Atkinson's Fall Artisan Market, where our wares for our Greens and Gift Sale were showcased and pre-orders

amassed. As December approaches, we will once again be gathering greens, creating our Kissing Balls, Holly Trees, Centerpieces, Wreathes, Bows, one-of-a-kind designs, and more. The theme of this year's opportunity basket, artfully composed by Sheri Turell, is *Walking in a Winter Wonderland*. Friday, Dec. 1 and Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 AM – 3 PM are this year's dates for our time-honored Greens and Gifts Sale, held at the Atkinson Community Center. We extend a warm invitation to everyone for some holiday shopping and catching up with friends. A Good and Happy New Year to all!!

Bow Garden Club Keryn Anderson

As we head into fall, the club continues to keep its 68 members informed with the monthly newsletter that includes articles, events, and community issues.

The Bow Community Building Container Garden Project continues to thrive! During the first week of September Club Volunteers, Erika Flewelling, Lisa Richards, Sue Smith, Debra Wayne, and Patricia MacNeil, met to swap out some of the Container Garden's summer plants for fall varieties. This included purple and pink aster, golden, red, and white mums, ornamental peppers, purple fountain grass... and a few cabbages.



Fall flowers in the Container Garden

Bow Garden Club - cont.

The Club met on September 11th to hear “Think Outside the Box: Container Gardening” by Willa Coroka, from the Magpie’s Apprentice. This was a joint venture with the Bow Baker Free Library and was well attended by 32 BGC members and the local community, who met at the library to hear innovative ways of container gardening as well as sourcing and caring for appropriate container plants.



“Container Gardening” Presentation

In preparation for the annual *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk* in October, Club volunteers participated in the 14th planting of the Garden of Hope. Many thanks to Pat McNeil, Joyce Kimball, Lisa Richards, Erika Flewelling, and Debra Wayne for cleaning up the garden and re-planting it with 80 pots of large “Arluno Dark Pink” chrysanthemums on September 25th. Concord Parks & Rec Department’s Memorial Field staffer, Justin, prepped the area thanks to the use of the Flewelling’s Rototiller, but Erika spent many hours removing the weeds and debris. The mums were donated by Pleasant View Gardens and this year’s mums are larger and more vibrant and were a fabulous display for the walkers who met at Memorial Field in

Concord on Sunday, October 15th – another year and another spectacular Garden of Hope.



Garden of Hope

Also, during September, BGC Vice President, Lisa Richards, coordinated a team to participate in the *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk* to honor the recent passing of our club member Melissa Paquette (Oct 1st, 1971 - Aug 20th, 2023), who lost her battle with cancer. Eleven participants joined the BGC Team and, with club member contributions, raised more than \$1,600.



BGC Making Strides Team

On October 16th, the Club welcomed Kevin Gardner to the member meeting to present “Discovering New England Stone Walls”. This event was well attended by 43 club members and the local community. This terrific presentation was sponsored, with appreciation, by NH Humanities.

Bow Garden Club - cont.



Discovering NE Stone Walls

The month of October begins the club's major fundraiser with the pre-ordering of Poinsettias for delivery in December. We ask members to secure poinsettia pre orders from businesses, families and friends and the public. Orders are available for pickup during our festive Greens Workshop at Bow Community Building on Saturday, December 2nd. Orders can be placed by visiting www.bowgardenclub.org and clicking "Our Fundraising Events" from the menu.

The club's final presentation of the year will be "Mindfulness with Nature: Making Terrariums" with Kelly Dwyer at the November 13th Member Meeting at the Old Town Hall.

Derry Garden Club Carrie Dugan

We have enjoyed wonderful programs with topics ranging from food as medicine to houseplant care. This past September, we

also added another candle to the cake to celebrate 87 years of the Derry Garden Club. With the year coming to an end, Derry Garden Club members are looking forward to our holiday greens workshop, a favorite club program.

The children's garden at The Greater Derry Boys and Girls Club will soon be frosted and snowed over, but the fun didn't stop after the last harvest. Members worked with the children to create a spudcrow, Derry's version of a fall scarecrow. Children stuffed and filled the clothing and had fun with this special project. The spudcrow, named Marigold, was placed outside near the garden.



DGC members (Sally Bertrand, Christine Carr, Norma Bursaw, Kathy Lane, Beverly Dyckman, Meredith Hatch) with Marigold, the spudcrow

In our community, members partnered with The Derry Rail Trail and Next Charter School for fall cleanup of the rail trail trailhead. Bittersweet was removed, weeds were pulled, and mums were planted.

Derry Garden Club – cont.



DGC Members and Next Charter School posing for a photo after tackling weeds and bittersweet

At the final Derry Homegrown Farm and Artisan Market, members gave away seed packets from seeds harvested from member's gardens.



Mary Lea Daily, Sylvia Roberts, and Pat Malone chat with community members at the farmer's market

With the close of another year, we are thankful that our membership continues blooming and look forward to those holiday gatherings celebrating our friends, family, and each other.



Members display their festive creations from last year's greens workshop

Epping Garden Club Eunice Miller

Epping Garden Club members continue to do our best here in our town. Our mums look amazing!

Unlike many other clubs, we do not have the DPW on our side. We also have very few members but do the best we can to add touches of color and beauty to this ever-growing town.

Scarecrows have been popping up nicely with just one gentle reminder, which is also a nice tradition for those in town who enjoy them.

Happy Holidays to you all!

Fitzwilliam Garden Club Theresa Robbits

The Fitzwilliam Garden Club is winding down its season as we do not meet again until February of 2024.

Our plant and bake sale took place on the Fitzwilliam Common on August 26th at the same time as the library book sale. It was a success, and we enjoyed seeing so many people participate. Especially popular was the children's table which involved giving away tree seedlings and having the children

Fitzwilliam Garden Club – cont.

participate in garden-related activities. We were able to raffle a water garden that was donated to the club.



Our Plant and Bake Sale

We had a potluck dinner on September 14th at the Fitzwilliam Community Church. Many of our members and their guests attended. The food was delicious, and the speaker, Master Gardener Donna Lussier, taught us how to save and propagate seeds from our plants to be used in the future.



Donna Lussier discussing Seed Saving

We will have a luncheon at the Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, on October 12th at noon. We will review all the things we have done this year, and new officers for 2024 will be installed by NHFGC President Winnie Schmidt. The new officers will be: Co-Presidents Linda Brummer and Marilyn Griska; First VP Leisa Perrota; Second VP

Laura Kelsey; Treasurer Anna Goettle; Assistant Treasurer Marilyn Reinacher; Recording Secretary Carole Beckwith; and Corresponding Secretary Marilyn Griska.

Club member, Barbara Young, presented a class on *Growing Succulents* at the Fitzwilliam Community Church on October 19th. She discussed how to water succulents, their light requirements and how to propagate them. Participants made their own succulent garden and care instructions were provided along with the names of each succulent chosen.



Photo from our previous Succulent Workshop

It has been a busy year, and we have been able to continue with our beautification efforts and programs in spite of the weather and challenges. We hope that next year will be another great year to participate in garden club activities and continue our mission together.

Fremont Garden Club Leslie Milde

The Fremont Garden Club held its first meeting of the 2023-2024 year at the Fremont Library on September 19th. It was a planning and catch-up on-the-news gathering. Refreshments and local gardening tidbits were enjoyed by all.

Fremont Garden Club – cont.

On September 23 the Fremont Library hosted its annual Scarecrow Cookout. Our treasurer, Paula Rand, manned an information table and passed out milkweed seed. She also signed up several new members. We are looking forward to meeting them in October.



Fremont Town Garden Giant Milkweed

Goffstown Garden Club Rosalind Spiller

We awarded our two Scholarship winners their checks at our August meeting - two very qualified young men who stayed for our entire meeting.



Our Scholarship Recipients

Our own member, Michelle Wunschel, presented her experience of raising monarch butterflies. She and her two sons successfully released four Monarchs.



Michelle Wunschel

Our September meeting was our display at the Hillsborough County Fair. Our display highlighted the use of Native Plantings and Pollinators in our gardens to benefit the Birds, Bees, and Butterflies. We received a Red Ribbon.



Our display at the fair

Our October Meeting was a "make it and take it" meeting. We each created a fall

Goffstown Garden Club – cont.

themed grapevine wreath. The creative juices were flowing. They are all different and lovely.



Our lovely variety of Fall wreaths

Hooksett Garden Club Carolyn Taylor

The year for the Hooksett Garden Club is almost at an end, as we meet February through October. We are, however, still keeping busy.

Our third and final garden party was held in August, at the home of member Bonnie Pierce and her husband Jed. Bonnie has a beautiful yard with flowers, vegetables, and lots of interesting yard art and trellises. She provided the members, spouses, and guests with lots of wonderful food and drinks.

At the end of the night, a plant swap was held with members being able to swap up to three plants. Ron Trexler brought some of his house plants to raffle off and among those were plumeria trees that he had propagated from a large tree given to him by another member, Bill Kirmes. He also gave a tutorial on how to propagate and care for these beautiful tropical plants. It was a fun night and a great ending to our summer parties.



Bonnie Pierce, with a plumeria tree she was given by Ron Trexler in appreciation of her hosting the September garden party.

Eleven HGC members enjoyed the NHFGC Fall meeting at the Fells in early September.



HGC members enjoy the NHFGC meeting at the Fells - Bottom row L-R: Aida Jacques, Susan Carvalho, Ron Trexler Back row: Cindy Coburn, Irene Gould, June Childs, Diana Proulx, Paula Harris, Doreen DeRose, Rachel Sweeney, and Carolyn Taylor

On September 27 we resumed our indoor meetings at the library. Bill Stockman, former owner of Spider Web Greenhouses in Tuftonboro, NH, presented a program on “Caring for Houseplants”. Bill is now retired and lives for half the year in Montserrat, in the Caribbean. He entertained the group with his stories of how large everything grows on the volcanic island, and gave tips for growing houseplants in NH, especially tropical ones. At this meeting, order forms

Hooksett Garden Club – cont.

were distributed for our annual Holiday Wreath Sale.

Our final meeting in October featured Harry Vogel, Senior Biologist/Executive Director of the Loon Preservation Committee talking about issues affecting loons and other wildlife in the northeast. At this meeting members brought donations of warm pajamas and books for kids from toddlers to teens to donate to Kiwanis Kids Klostet.

Although our club meetings are over, we will still be putting the library gardens to bed, holding our wreath pick up day the weekend of Thanksgiving, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, and perhaps having a holiday party before our few months of winter break.



A beautiful fall display at Exit 9 in Hooksett, one of the HGC's many beautification sites.

The newest HGC project is having whiskey barrels filled with plants at each end of the walking Lilac Bridge in Hooksett. They were just switched out from the plants that were there all summer.



Littleton Garden Club Betsy Fraser

In August we had a feast! Members brought a dish to share at a Potluck Luncheon. Each dish featured something from our gardens. From the Rhubarb Liqueur aperitif, through appetizers, main courses and desserts, there was a wealth of delicious and creative food made with different vegetables, herbs, and berries. Nasturtiums accented our plates and added a spicy nip. And yes, everyone wanted the recipe for the Rhubarb Liqueur!

The club was invited to a special program, "Returning North with Spring," supported by New Hampshire Humanities. Presenter John Harris retraced a journey originally made in 1947 by naturalist Edwin Way Teale. The four-month trip explored wild places starting in the Everglades and concluding on the summit of Mount Washington. Harris retraced the journey in 2012 and his presentation compares and contrasts the "then" and "now" of the wild places visited. The program is optimistic as many of the wild places have thrived (and often improved) under the guidance of the state Fish and Wildlife organizations.

Littleton Garden Club – cont.

The Littleton Garden Club's September program featured Floral Design by member Phyllis Alexander. Phyllis demonstrated making a spectacular arrangement with flowers from Tarnation Flower Farm in Sugar Hill. Following the demonstration, all attendees made their own arrangement with mason jar vases and flowers that Phyllis provided. Everyone went home with a beautiful arrangement and tips from an expert floral designer.



Member Phyllis Alexander demonstrates floral design.

Our club was well-represented at The Fells meeting - nine members attended NHFGC's Fun at The Fells!

Club members participated in "flower cutting events." Member Susan Retz organized visits to a private flower farm to cut flowers in the fields. The owner grows the flowers as a hobby and wished to have as many people enjoy them as possible. The flowers were delivered by the bucketful to area senior centers, assisted living and nursing home facilities. The recipients of the

beautiful flowers set them up in vases for enjoyment of their many participants and residents. Fresh flowers were even included in the Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Two granite benches were installed on the lawn of the Littleton Community Center in honor of former Club President Rita McAvoy. Rita was the President from 1960-1962 and was an accomplished woman having served in both Federal and New Hampshire governments as well as a leader in our Town. We appreciate that her daughter provided the funds to remember Rita and also celebrate the Club's 85th Anniversary. The benches are in a popular location along Main Street and will provide a respite place for many visitors.



One of two new granite benches added to the garden at the Littleton Community Center honoring Rita C McAvoy, Club President from 1960-1962, and celebrating LGC's 85th Anniversary.

Littleton Garden Club partnered with All Saint's Church and the Littleton Community Center to host a Pie Festival fundraiser during the September 30th Littleton Art Show. Whole pies and pieces of pie were sold. The event was packed, and we sold out of more than 65 pies before the event concluded. Our lesson learnedmake more pies next year!

Littleton Garden Club – cont.

We're getting ready for the Club's Photography Show and Contest scheduled in October. There are a number of categories and many members have submitted entries. The photos will be set up in a PowerPoint program for viewing at our meeting. The best photos in each category and the best in show will be selected. We have a talented group of photographers!



Janet - Garden Scene

Our November meeting will feature holiday wreath making, and the December meeting is our ever-popular Potluck Luncheon and raffle.

Manchester Garden Club

Fiona McKenna

Autumn is always a busy time for the Manchester Garden Club. Our members were hard at work cleaning up our beautification gardens throughout the city as well as decorating them for fall. We tend the

gardens at the city library, the Historic Association, the Gale Home, Pulaski Park, and the Cashin Senior Center.



In September, 19 of our members attended the first NHFGC Fall Event, Fun at the Fells, where we enjoyed private tours of the John Jay estate house and gardens. It was truly a fun day!



Fun at the Fells!

September marks our first meeting after our summer break. We met at Brookside Church where we had a joint meeting with the UNH Co-Operative Extension fall Master Gardener Class. Ron Trexler, Advanced Master Gardener, gave a timely presentation on "Putting the Garden to Bed".

Manchester Garden Club – cont.

Our October meeting featured our own Jean Stefanik, who gave a presentation on “Orchids All Around Us”. Jean is a lifetime member of the NH Orchid Society and an American Orchid Society Judge with more than 10 years of training.



Jean Stefanik

Our members have been saving seeds in anticipation of a Seed-Swap Day in support of the Manchester City Library’s new Seed Library program. On January 25th, we will gather at the library to help divide, package and label seeds to be placed in the Seed Library as well as have an opportunity to do some swapping at that time. The Seed Library will be open to the public next spring.

Our November meeting will be a hands-on workshop where members will create a floral, multi-tiered arrangement designed by member, Suzanne Cleveland.

Mountain Garden Club

Sue Clark

September 18 we had our spectacular first meeting of the year at the beautiful Tin Mountain Conservation Center in Albany, NH. September is the first meeting of our fiscal year, and it is always well attended. It is a great opportunity for our membership to revisit our activities, goals from last year, and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

John Bruni presented a wonderful slideshow of pictures of our members from last year’s activities and achievements. Who doesn’t love seeing their picture on the big screen! It is amazing to see how the club grew and as gardeners how we contributed to our community and environment.

The budget was presented and approved. The board was introduced, including two new members, Wendy Ann Smith, Hospitality, and Peaco Todd, Publicity. They are a wonderful addition!!

Grace Keeler and Jen Hohenboken presented their Horticultural Minute on pollinators. And we thought it was “just” bees! With Grace narrating and Jen’s remarkable photographs, we learned all about unknown wee beasts that frequent our gardens!

Hospitality truly outdid themselves with a wide array of fall treats. It was a beautifully set table and always appreciated!

We have an amazing year planned....with Lunch and Learn in October, guest speakers, Christmas Holiday boutique, and plant sales...it is setting up to be a grand year! Plus see Inf. on Book signing event in April 2024 on Calendar of events, P. 28.

New London Garden Club Suzanne Hammond

Catching up on our summer programs, we covered quite a variety of topics: Our June meeting was a Hosta program, the speaker was from Mason Hollow Nursery. In July, our program was on wild bees with Nick Dorian. In August, Eric Milligan, founder of NH Mushroom Company in Tamworth, NH, was the speaker. More recently, on October 10, Henry Homeyer spoke on fall gardening. For those clubs looking for speakers, these are all highly recommended. All caught up.

To state it's been an extremely busy Fall is an understatement for the New London Garden Club! Early in October we held a Boxwood Tree Ornament Workshop. The following week we had our Pumpkin People Workshop. That same week we held our Civic Beauty Digger Day (fall cleanup).

Our plans for the coming months include our Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Refinery where we will elect our new slate of officers. Also in November, we'll hold a "learn how to make wreaths" workshop. Our last get together for November will be a Christmas Greens Service Project. In early December, we have our Boxwood Trees Fundraiser and our final event - NLGC's Christmas Party.

Old Homestead Garden Club- Christina Apgar

Here's the long and short of it. Mostly long. It may be fall outside, but we're getting rejuvenated at Old Homestead Garden Club. Our first meeting of the new fiscal year, September 13th, began very busy with many

new members and visitors. As we look forward to the upcoming 90th year in our community, we are growing strong! We were so happy to see our long-time members returning, members that we hadn't seen in a while, and several new members.

We started our year with a presentation from long-time member Mary Ellen Sienkiewicz, to help the club prepare for our upcoming Flower Show, June 27th through 29th, 2024. It's been a long time since our club has had a flower show.

Janice Parker chaired our very successful fall plant sale with mums, house plants and perennials.



*The hard-working and generous crew at our
2023 Fall Plant Sale*

Old Homestead Garden Club – cont. -

Several of our members enjoyed the NHFGC fall meeting at The Fells where we paid tribute to our former member Susan Zimmerman, who passed away last winter.



Gathering with Martha Zimmerman, friends, and club members at the NHFGC Fall Meeting to remember Susan Zimmerman and her many contributions to our club.

Another group of volunteers pitched in and did some late summer work in the areas where we maintain public plantings.



Members Taking a much-needed break after weeding and cleaning near the stone wall in Swanzey, NH on a VERY HOT day.

Up next, is our biggest fundraiser of the year, our Annual Greens Sale, December 1st, at the Swanzey Community Center, Swanzey, NH. We sell wreaths, centerpieces,

traditional New England berry bowls and more. This year's chair, Cynthia Rodier, is adding to our usual traditions to give it the atmosphere of a "Winter Market." All these events and projects are the heart and soul of our club.

The last couple of years have seemed long, but they are behind us. Now we are charging forward into the future. All our members who have been with us a long time, or just a short time, are all here with the same purpose. We stand on the shoulders of the members before us. Each member brings their own skills and talents which, together, make us Old Homestead Garden Club.

Happy Gardening, !

Sandown Garden Club

Audrey Vargish

Summer has passed and its flowers faded. We now look forward to the crisp air and bright foliage colors of autumn. In the final days of August, the Sandown Garden Club once again participated in the Sandown Old Home Day celebration. The club sponsored a booth where information about club activities and membership was made available, plus free raffle prizes offered. The first raffle winner went home with a glass birdbath; the second received a bird feeder; and the third got an assortment of children's garden tools. The club also handed out bubbles and baubles to the children that stopped by.

Our September meeting featured a program on creating fall centerpieces by Heidi Corson of the "Down to Earth Garden Shop", in Kingston. She demonstrated how to prepare a container and how to place greenery,

Sandown Garden Club - cont.

flowers and fillers to make a colorful autumn themed arrangement. A lucky raffle recipient went home with the finished design.



Heidi Corson and fall container



Fall centerpiece by Heidi Corson

September is also the month that club members clear roadside trash from a section of Main Street (121A). This biannual year activity has earned the club a highway sign.



For the October meeting, Ron Trexler gave an informative presentation on "Composting," which covered the best way to compost successfully, different methods for constructing a compost pile, and how to resolve any issues that might arise.

Windham Garden Club Deb Drake

The Windham Garden Club's first meeting of the 2023-2024 membership year was held on Thursday, September 15th at 7 PM. Following a short business meeting, the featured speaker was Ron Trexler who spoke on "Putting the Garden to Bed." An excellent presentation by Ron featured how to finish off annual and vegetable beds, prepare perennial beds to reduce pests and disease, overwinter non-hardy plants, and to ready ornamental shrubs and evergreens to survive various winter conditions. He also spoke about tending to tools and supplies.



Ron Trexler

We are doing some fall digs in members' yards where perennials need to be separated. We will be participating as usual in Windham's annual Harvest Fest, hosting pumpkin decorating for the children. This year our Conservation Committee, seeking to find some new things to do, will be leading a walk on the fairly new Windham

Windham Garden Club – cont.

High School Cross County Team trail. The trail is very wide, gently rolling and well maintained, and meanders through a hardwood forest. By late Oct most of the leaves will be off, providing a good view of the landscape and with any luck maybe a critter or two.

speaking on “*Holiday Cacti and Winter Needs for House Plants.*”

We are preparing for our October meeting featuring Nichole Keyes, Greenhouse Manager at Lake Street Garden Center,



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 Oct- May 31, 2024 | Espoma Award applications due via NGC website |
| Dec. 1 | NGC Award applications due to NHFGC Awards Chair, Sue Miner |
| Dec 1 & 2 | Atkinson GC Greens and Gift Sale, 10-3 at Atkinson Comm. Center, 4 Main St. Atkinson |
| Dec. 2 | Old Homestead GC Green Sale, 8-1, Community Center, 18 Old Richmond Rd., Swanzey |
| Dec. 13 | NHFGC Executive Board meeting |
| 2024 | |
| Jan. 1-Mar. 1 | Ames Tool Grant applications due via NGC website |
| Jan. 11 | Smokey Bear Posters ONLY due to NHFGC Youth Chair, Fern Doucette |
| Jan. 11 | Youth Sculpture and Poetry club winners due to NHFGC Youth Chair, Fern Doucette |
| Feb. 1 | NGC Scholarship applications due to NHFGC Scholarship Chair |
| Feb. 28 | NHFGC Executive Board Meeting |
| March 7 | Spring <i>Lilac Letter</i> articles due |
| March 22-23 | Atkinson GC “Petals and Palettes” Art & Floral Show, Atkinson Resort & Country Club, 85 Country Club Dr., Atkinson |
| April 14 | Book signing by Mary Ann Esposito (PBS Ciao Italia) hosted by Mountain Garden Club, Majestic Theatre, Conway. Tickets \$35. For more information contact Neysa Packard, Co-Chair Programming, Mountain Garden Club (neysapackard@gmail.com) cell 617-816-4242 home 603-323-6169 |
| May 3-4 | NH Farm, Forest and Garden Expo, Deerfield Fairgrounds |
| May 29 | NHFGC Annual Meeting, Puritan Conference Center, Manchester NH |
| June 2-5 | NGC Convention, Denver, CO |

Editor's Notes:

We hope you enjoy this edition of *The Lilac Letter*. Articles are subject to minor editing. The **preferred font** is Calibri 12, single spaced. Use either a Word program or .rtf (rich text format). Alternatively, please paste or type your article into your email. Please make sure you **include the first and last name of the author**. If you plan to submit your file in Adobe format it should be in two-column layout, otherwise it will not insert properly into the *Lilac Letter* file.

Email submissions to TAMARGAL2@aol.com or LEditor@nhfgc.org

The Spring 2024 edition will be published in early April 2024. **Deadline to submit articles: Mar 7.**

Please email photos – **do not insert them into your text**. **Include photo captions either in your article or in your email clearly matching them to your photos**. Sponsorship materials should be submitted in .jpg format.

Most important of all, please ensure Club Name and Lilac Letter appear in the subject line of your e-mail to avoid classification as spam which is deleted without being opened.

THE LILAC LETTER

Official publication of the **New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.** (<http://www.nhfgc.org>)
Member, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Winnie Schmidt, President

Brenda Moore, President, National Garden Clubs, Inc.,

Susan Miner Director, New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

The *Lilac Letter* is published the first week of April, July, September, and November.

Deadlines for submission of articles for publication are the 7th of
March, June, August, and October.

Editor: Sylvia Swartz

4030 SW 9th Place, Cape Coral, FL 33914

Tel 239-339-3778 e-mail: TAMARGAL2@aol.com or LEditor@nhfgc.org

Circulation Editor:

Winnie Schmidt

winnieschmidt@comcast.net

Sponsorship rates	One seasonal issue	Full year – 4 issues
Full page	\$100	\$300
Half page	\$60	\$200
Quarter page	\$40	\$150