



Lilac Letter

Fall 2023

VOLUME XXIX

NO. 2

President's Message

After raising a family and working for 40 years, I have developed an attitude of "If it's not **fun**, I do not want to do it!" I am having **fun** being your new President! Thank you for this incredible honor. Traveling to clubs is a wonderful **fun** experience. I have been meeting members and enjoying club activities that have ranged from formal installations to gathering informally in members' gardens. I also enjoy the beauty created by so many clubs as they complete community beautification projects, and it's **fun** to learn about clubs mentoring young gardeners in their youth gardens.

Another source of **fun** is the opportunity to help in the planning of NHFGC statewide gatherings. The trip to Tower Hill on the luxury coach in July could not have been nicer. The weather even cooperated for a lovely day!

We are now in the process of planning the Fall meeting at The Fells to celebrate a day together to build more friendships between clubs, as well as individual members. This historic home surrounded by beautiful gardens has been a pleasure to visit as we work to make the day a **fun** adventure for everyone. District III and the staff at this

beautiful estate have an active, **fun**-filled day planned for all who attend. You will be able to choose from activities that range from sitting on the porch and enjoying the view and quiet conversation, to taking docent-led tours, hiking, or going on a scavenger hunt of various "treasures" on the estate. I hope many of you take advantage of this **fun** opportunity.

NHFGC is part of the New England Garden Club, and we are all invited to attend the Annual Meeting of NEGC in October, to be held in Plymouth, MA. Our immediate Past President, Sue Miner, is now NEGC Regional Director and is working with her Board to create a **fun** day including a short business meeting, as well as a photo contest display, and interesting speakers. We hope you will form a carpool and come for a two-day adventure of **fun** in Plymouth. (Room accommodations at the Hotel 1620 have been arranged for our members at a special rate of \$179/per night if you would like to stay overnight.)

Everyone's idea of what constitutes **fun** is very different, and all of our clubs and communities are very different -- but we all join forces to make working, learning, and gardening together **fun**. The more you participate in the activities the more **fun** you will have! This issue of the *Lilac Letter* has all

President's Letter – cont.

the information you will need to join in the **fun** as you register for the different events. I look forward to meeting you at our NHFGC activities!

Winnie



Plant seeds of Friendship

NEGC NEWS

New England Garden Clubs Annual Meeting Plymouth, Massachusetts Sue Miner, NEGC President 2023-2025

You are all invited to join us in “America’s Hometown” as the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts hosts the Annual Meeting of the New England Garden Clubs on October 10-11 at the 1620 Hotel in Plymouth Harbor, MA. All garden club members are welcome to attend. Join us in honoring NEGC Region Director Susan Miner and welcoming NGC President Brenda Moore. Garden club members from all six New England states will have an opportunity to network and share information on activities, projects and just have fun.

Tuesday evening is a cocktail reception, dinner and presentation from Pollinator

Pathways of Cape Cod. Wednesday begins with a brief business meeting, design presentation, lunch and awards presentation. Great vendors will be on hand both days for your shopping pleasure. The amazing winning photographs from the NEGC photo contest will be on display.

A special nightly hotel room rate of \$179 (includes tourist destination fee) plus tax is available for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Use Online reservations code “Garden 2023” or by phone (Hotel # 508-747-4900) reservations “Garden Club of MA”. Room block is limited so book now!

The registration form is available on the NEGC website (newenglandgc.org) in the meetings tab and also on the NHFGC website home page – scroll to the bottom of the page. Registration deadline is October 5 (late fee applied after that date).

This location affords a great opportunity to explore the historic Plymouth area and enjoy the shops and restaurants in Plymouth Harbor in the autumn. I hope to see you there!



Plimoth Patuxet Plantation



Mayflower II

NHFGC News

NHFGC News

Fionna McKenna, 2nd VP

We want to thank Sue Miner for all her work and dedication over the past 4 years and getting us through Covid. It has been a smooth transition, however, to the new administration under the direction of our new president, Winnie Schmidt.

In June, the Manchester Garden Club hosted a Presidential Tea, inviting all NHFGC members to come and meet Winnie. The tea was a lot of fun. People were encouraged to wear hats as this is something for which Winnie is known. There was a bounty of fabulous food, so no one went home hungry. It was wonderful to see people from many different Federated garden clubs in attendance.



Winnie's Tea, L-R Diane Beaudry (DII Director), Winnie Schmidt (President), and Fiona McKenna (2nd VP) showing off their hats.

In July, 21 NHFGC members met at the Target in Bedford and boarded a luxury bus (with a bathroom!) and headed to Boylston, MA, to visit the New England Botanical Gardens at Tower Hill. We had a docent-led tour of the grounds and then were able to explore on our own and enjoy our lunches. There was so much to see, and the timing was perfect for peak bloom. Even the weather obliged with only a few brief sprinkles here and there.



New England Botanical Gardens at Tower Hill

NHFGC News – cont.

Hopefully, by now, you have signed up for the Fall Event. This is a new concept as we are trying to get away from the formal business meeting format for the Fall gathering. It is geared toward attendees interacting with each other and learning new things. We hope to make this a fun event as well because, as Winnie says, “If it’s not fun, I’m not doing it!” We are looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Opportunities For Youth of All Ages

Fern Doucette

Now is the time to plan and to contact our schools and youth groups about the wonderful projects, contests and grants available through National Garden Clubs, Inc. NGC provides many educational opportunities through competitions for the youth at the pre-school, elementary, middle, and high school levels. Contests for 2023-2024 include:

- Smokey Bear Poster Contest
- Poetry Contest
- High School Distinguished Service Project
- Youth Pollinator Gardens Grant
- Youth Sculpture Contest

Please consider one of these opportunities when working with the youth in your area. Information regarding each is listed below. These children are our future garden club members!

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Poster Contest! The 2024 Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest is dedicated to Smokey Bear’s 80th Birthday **so only posters with Smokey Bear will be accepted this year.**

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of wildfire prevention through original drawings of Smokey Bear.

Smokey bear says: Only you can prevent wildfires!



Smokey Bear is recognized nationally and internationally as the symbol for fire prevention. The original Smokey Bear appeared in 1944. Smokey’s message, “Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!” encourages

personal responsibility for fire prevention. Smokey teaches children and adults to be careful with campfires, barbecues, trash fires, and matches.

NH Club members are encouraged to support this very important Youth Project. In many instances this may be the only time this iconic message is heard. If you would like Smokey to attend an event for the children participating in this program, please let Fern know and she can arrange a visit through the Forest Service.

Fern Doucette has packets of material to help you get started and items to use as giveaways to the participants. She looks forward to hearing from you and helping with this project. Additional details can be found on the NGC website <http://gardenclub.org> in the “Youth and Scholarships” then “Contests and Activities” area.

NHFGC News – Youth opportunities - cont.

To apply for a grant, complete an NGC Grant Application, provide detailed information about the project, and submit your request to the NGC Youth Committee Chairman for approval. Details and full contest rules can be found on the NGC website <http://gardenclub.org> in the “Youth and Scholarships” then “Contests and Activities” area.

Plant America Grant Deadline October 15 Winnie Schmidt



PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants help enhance and beautify our public areas and

community gardens. Project grants to NGC member clubs help educate adults and children about the joys of gardening and create pride throughout the community. Grants may be used for physical landscaping or environmental projects, or for horticultural or educational opportunities for the community.

Grants have been awarded to NGC member clubs since 2017. More than 250 grants have been awarded, totaling more than \$225,000. Grants are awarded in amounts up to \$2,000 (an increase from past years).

The Plant America program allows clubs to apply for community grants to help with community beautification projects, community and/or school gardens, landscaping for Blue Star Memorials or Habitat for Humanity homes, or public horticultural or environmental programs or events. Club applications are **due October 15**, with funds awarded by January 31, 2024, and projects completed by February 28, 2025. Final reports are required. Applications are available online at

<https://www.gardenclub.org/plant-america-community-project-grants>

and the application is easy to fill out. Applications can then be submitted to the web-address on the form. Please remember to follow the form’s guidelines, especially with the description, timeline, and the judging criteria! **Note** that previous recipients are currently not eligible to apply.

PLANT AMERICA, FEED AMERICA



Are you participating in the NGC President's Project helping to feed the less fortunate in America? Get involved TODAY in the Plant America, Feed America Project by donating any extra produce you're growing in your own garden or in a community garden to a local organization that helps to feed the hungry in your community.

If you participate, **fill out this short donation form** found on the NGC's website. You'll find more information about this project and a link to the donation form in a story about the Plant America, Feed America project on the NGC's HOME page.

Get involved today to Feed America!!

www.gardenclub.org



FEATURES

Memorial Gardens and Tours: Lolly Fleming

Fall is creeping in the kitchen door with the proliferation of Mums and Asters and the occasional hint of wood stoves being fired up - so I pulled into FrizzHome Gardens in Bedford to hear what their plans are for the autumn season. Sereindipitously, while interviewing the owner Jeff Frizzell, Claire Vaillancourt from the Manchester Garden Club stopped in to pick up mums and get an education on air plants, so I snapped this picture.



Welcoming entrance to FrizzHome Gardens

Jeffrey Frizzell said the original Farm began as a dairy business with his grandfather, then passed to his dad, then to himself, evolving away from animal husbandry to gardening, with twelve greenhouses and one more under construction. There is a big focus on succulents and indoor house plants, along with pear, peach and even quince trees outside. A large portion of the property right now is filled with an

abundance of fall Mums and brother Scott was diligently tending them.



Scott Frizzell tending the Mums

My traveling companion, a/k/a daughter, is an avid gardener and loved the idea of deep tubs of vegetables that could be moved on a wagon or set on your deck if space was an issue.

In October a pumpkin coloring and carving contest for kids, and kids at heart, is planned with vendors to add to the excitement. If you like "tchotchkes", there is a table devoted to the unusual, and a few pieces of pottery mixed in. Children might find something to purchase here while you shop the aisles of plants.

Jeffrey closes the Farm in October, but occasionally opens in winter to sell houseplants. FrizzHome Garden is located on Back River Road in Bedford, NH.

CLUB NEWS

Ashland Garden Club

Amanda Loud

The Ashland Garden Club does not meet in July and August. This year we decided to keep our gardening community going through Pop-Up Gardens. Members send an all-club email with just a few days' notice that they are opening their garden for about 2 hours for all to enjoy the blooms- and each other. Pictured are members and friends at Amanda Loud's Pop-Up Garden held July 25, 10-12 noon. It was wonderful to see friends and to get such learned advice! What a wonderful two hours!



Neighbor Lynn discusses the plantings with AGC member Elizabeth



AGC member Phee (right) brought her gardening friend visiting from MA.



AGC members Nancy, Linda, and Liz enjoy the flowers and the conversation at the Pop-Up garden.

Atkinson Garden Club

Jeanne Vickery

So here we are, in the slightly hazy, **not** so lazy days of summer. As Rudyard Kipling opined, "Gardens are not made by singing, 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade." We, at the Atkinson Garden Club, like all area gardeners, are rising to the challenge of keeping all our town plantings well watered, weeded and fed, despite the wilting temperatures, dry spells or oppressive humidity, and even drenching rain! (It is New England, after all!) Kudos to our Civic Beautification Committee chairs, Nicole Cummings and Christine Leeds, and all club members who are participating into the fall.

The creativity and passion of Atkinson's local gardeners never ceases to amaze, as each of our Garden of the Month Award recipients continues to reveal their talents in unique and inspiring ways. Congratulations to June's recipient, Tom Pignatello, and Joanne Sanzo for July. Joanne also received recognition for her Pollinator Friendly yard and gardens. Thank you to GOM Committee Chair, Janet Snowdon and members, Holly Talbot and Sheri Turell.

Atkinson Garden Club – cont.



Tom Pignatello, June's Garden of the Month recipient



The pollinator friendly yard of Joanne Sanzo

Whether evoking Jack Frost or scenes from Disney's *Frozen* to help us beat the heat, our annual Christmas in July Meeting was a great success, thanks to coordinators Nina Gray, Marnie Finn, Pat Bennett and the many members who participated. Pinecones were wired, and bright and colorful pics were made ready for the wreaths, kissing ball centerpieces and holly trees to be created for our December Greens and Gift Sale.



From left, Judy Godden, Ann Reardon, Janet Snowdon, Geoffrey Wilhite, and Michael Hosker-Bouley wiring pinecones for our December Greens and Gifts Sale.

Showing our support for Atkinson's Conservation Commission's "Accessible to All" trail system, AGC members met with Paul Wainwright and John Fournier in the Slade Town Forest. Marnie Finn presented them with our donation of \$1,000 for this worthy project.



Marnie Finn presenting our gift of \$1000 to Paul Wainwright and John Fournier (joined by his canine companion, Cosmo.)

Our 2023 Scholarship recipient, Amelia Steele, joined us for our August Meeting. Attending UNH and majoring in Biochemistry, Amelia and her family are the proprietors of Soul Shine Farm and Apiary, raising chickens and tending to pollinator

Atkinson Garden Club – cont.

friendly vegetable and flower gardens. She is a future Garden Club Member!



(l-r) Judy Godden, Christine Leeds, 2023 AGC Scholarship recipient Amelia Steele, Sue Carter (Scholarship Chair) and Jane Kowalski.

Alison Hartung, Co-president of the Sandown Garden Club, was our engaging guest presenter at our August Meeting. Not only were we treated to a program on growing, preserving and cooking with herbs, we were also invited to sample her freshly made eggs with herbs, her chimichurri and made on site pesto.



Alison sharing her recipes

We also supported member, Michael Hosker-Bouley, in his food drive for a local Veteran's Shelter. Members donated many

bags and boxes brimming with food for the shelter's residents.

Our ongoing Daffodil Project has become a true legacy endeavor, reminding our citizens of how we have honored our history by beautifying our community. Chaired by Linda Jette and Jeanne Geisser, we now have our 2023 Daffodil Selections available (all named after Atkinson's founding mothers and fathers), as well as a large selection of Daffodil Notecards. Fall planting time will soon be upon us and we invite everyone to participate in our project. Please contact us at 603.489.8327 to purchase and plant these hearty bulbs for your home or community.

We are all looking forward to our Annual Autumn Social, and our September meeting will be held at Fuller Gardens. Our October 4 Open Meeting is fast approaching as well. Featured is Cindy Knight, Atkinson's designer extraordinaire. whose creations were featured in the MFA's "Art in Bloom" for many years. Venue is the Atkinson Community Center, 4 Main Street, 1 p.m. Come and have the opportunity to win one of her original designs!

Bow Garden Club Keryn Anderson

During the summer months the club continues to keep its 69 members informed with the monthly newsletter that includes articles, summer events, garden tour info and recipes.

The Town of Bow's Rotary Park and Gazebo gardens have each undergone a complete replanting over the last few months thanks to two new additions to our existing BGC

Bow Garden Club – cont.

Civic Beautification Committee. A pair of sisters joined our club recently and brought with them a wealth of knowledge and energy. The Civic Beautification Committee, as a whole, designed a summer-to-frost planting scheme for both gardens using native plants, late-blooming annuals, perennials, shrubs and ornamental grasses. More than 120 plants have been purchased or donated for each garden. One of the sisters has donated a myriad of plants from her own garden—many unusual, rarely seen natives and heirloom plants as well old-fashioned cottage garden plants and rare cannas.



Bow Gazebo Garden



Bow Rotary Park Garden

Garden maintenance runs from July to mid-October and leading up to the first required

week in July the club had shared an online roster for volunteers to “pair up and sign up” for a week of deadheading and weeding. Both the Rotary Park Garden and the Gazebo Garden have undergone massive renovations this year with the planting of over 120 new native and unique heirloom plants. The roster is supervised by the Civic Beautification Committee.

The Container Garden Project is thriving. Completed on Memorial Weekend the 17 container plants are glorious and thriving in the summer sun (and rain). Each container was purchased with the help of a sponsor and the outdoor engraved plates for sponsors were added to each container in July.



Container Garden Project



Sponsorship Engraved Plates

On July 10th the Bow Garden Club enjoyed a “field trip” to The John Hay Estate at The Fells for a private house and garden tour.

Bow Garden Club – cont.

Alas the weather did not cooperate resulting in a few last-minute cancellations; however, 15 members and their families braved the torrential rain for a private tour of the historical house and an educational presentation by the Head Gardener followed by a BYO lunch on the verandah overlooking the estate.



Our happy group at The Fells

The club had a social event on August 31st... a summer Garden Party held at a (friend of the club and) local resident's 1890's Victorian house in Concord. The weather was glorious, and 25 members and family met for two hours to enjoy good food and conversation as well as a tour of the house and garden.



Chatting and enjoying the Garden

The club's next meeting is on September 11th and is a joint venture with the Bow Baker Free Library. The presentation by Willa Coroka from the Magpie's Apprentice will be "Think Outside the Box: Container Gardening." The event is free and open to the public and registration is via the library's website.

Derry Garden Club

Carrie Dugan

Garden club members have been busy these past few months with social gatherings, trips, community service, and much more.



Members at the home of Allison and Jerry Kennerly for a summer gathering

Throughout the summer, Derry Garden Club has been a featured guest at the Derry Homegrown Farm and Artisan Market. At these events, our members educate the public on our happenings and provide opportunities to sign up for membership.

We are also pleased to announce that we awarded our annual scholarship to Caden Thomas, Londonderry High School '23. She plans to attend Clark University in

Derry Garden Club – cont.

Worcester, MA where she will major in environmental science and policy. She is proud to be a role model to her two younger siblings.



Scholarship Winner Caden Thomas with Kathy Lane, scholarship chair, and Diana Lowenthal, president

Members have been gathering socially in each other's gardens and have been taking trips across the state to experience all the beauty around us.



Members enjoying a poolside gathering

We held our July meeting at Prescott Park in Portsmouth. In August, we traveled to the Pleasant View Gardens in Loudon to see the show-stopping beauty of their Proven Winner varieties.



Members at Pleasant View Gardens in Loudon

Ongoing efforts for civic beautification continue in our public spaces with members signing up for volunteer days. Members also stay busy during growing season with The Boys and Girls Club children's garden by providing garden education and enrichment to the children attending summer camp. The tomatoes look wonderful, and the flowers are simply amazing thanks to the early season rain from Mother Nature.



The beautiful blooms at the Greater Derry Boys and Girls Club Children's Garden

As seasons change, so do we. We continue to enjoy "growing" with the flow. Our club is looking forward to resuming meetings in our regular meeting space, and we are looking forward to the exciting programs that our programming committee has planned.

Epping Garden Club

Eunice Miller

Two of us have kept the containers in Epping fed, with all this rain and like many we have seen less blooms.

We are looking forward to our Mum sale, we will begin to take orders in Aug. for a Sept. delivery.

Our personal gardens are stunning and producing - and with all the road construction going on here! This is where most of our efforts have been concentrated.

Enjoy your summer!

Fitzwilliam Garden Club

Theresa Robbits

The Fitzwilliam Garden Club does not meet in June and July, but we have been busy maintaining the planters on the Common, at the Safety Building and our garden on Route 12. The excessive heat and almost constant rain have created a perfect environment for weeds at the garden on Route 12. We have had to schedule at least four separate dates to remove the weeds so that we can purchase and apply mulch. The rain has kept the planters flowering at least.

We were all saddened in June when our Co-President Cathy Davis lost her battle with cancer. Cathy had been a member for many years and was extremely active in the Club. She published the yearbook for many years and became Co-President with me last year. Her enthusiasm for the activities of the club and its members was inspiring. Her

family asked that donations to the club be made in her name, and we hope to be able to use the funds for a visible and permanent tribute.

We have been happy to welcome several new members this year, and we hope to help them learn about gardening so that they can use this information at their own homes.

On August 10th we welcomed the Craft School at Mill Hollow Works to make Amish shaker boxes. These can be used for flowers and herbs and many other items.

Our Fall Plant and Bake sale was held on Saturday August 26th on the Town Common from 9 to 12. We sold perennials from our gardens, asters, mums, houseplants and baked goods and also had a raffle of items for a water garden.

We will have a potluck dinner on September 14th with a speaker on seed saving. New officers will be installed at our luncheon in October.

Fremont Garden Club

Leslie Milde

On July 14th the Fremont Garden Club enjoyed a short trip to Fiona McKenna's beautiful garden in Manchester. There is such an amazing combination of color and botanical interest on display. Afterwards members met at the historical Puritan Backroom for a delicious lunch and conversation.

Fremont Garden Club – cont.



Members enjoying Fiona's Garden



Colorful combination of Daylilies and Echinacea

Goffstown Garden Club Rosalind Spiller

Pam Smith of Pam's Plants in Hillsboro, NH was our speaker in July. Pam has been researching and planting, for sale, more Native plants as well as good pollinators. Pam was a great speaker and brought lots of potted plants for purchase. It was a very good presentation. Several of our

members have shopped at her front yard shop.



Pam Smith of Pam's Plants

In August, we had a presentation by one of our own members, Michelle Wunschel, on raising Monarch butterflies. She had a great slide show that showed the process, and wonderful information. On her first try last year, she raised four Monarchs to release to the wild.



Michelle Wunschel

Hooksett Garden Club Carolyn Taylor

As the weather started to warm up, the Hooksett Garden Club held its first 2023 summer garden party, "Cocktails in the Garden", at the home of member Karen Medeiros on June 22. This is Karen's second

Hooksett Garden Club – cont.

party but her first one was in August of 2021, so we were able to see a completely different garden in June. Karen's gardens include flowers, vegetables, fruit trees and interesting garden art.



The first HGC garden party of 2023 held at the home of Karen Medeiros

Our second party was held at the home of member Cindy Coburn and her husband, Christopher, on July 26. Several members, spouses and guests got to enjoy their huge yard, lots of wonderful food and drinks and good company. Cindy and Chris plant a large vegetable garden in a fenced-in area. We welcomed our fifth new member of 2023, Tara Colby, at this event.



Members and guest of the Hooksett Garden Club enjoying a garden party at the home of Cindy Coburn

Our third and final party for this year will be in August at the home of member Bonnie Pierce.

Fifteen HGC members enjoyed the Open House at Pleasant View Gardens in Loudon on August 3rd. Not only were the display gardens just incredible but lunch and breakfast were served as well – and there was an ice cream truck! We all appreciated that you could choose to attend lectures or tours or just browse the gardens .



Paula Harris (on left), Caragh Doyle and Susan St. Germain enjoy the gardens

Club members are busy taking care of the many beautification sites that the HGC has. Library Gardens Chairwoman, Aida Jacques, has done a wonderful job managing the watering and weeding of this garden and lots of flowers are in bloom. Our Bridge of Flowers, with the 52 flower boxes of pink and white petunias, looks wonderful despite the heavy rains and heat. Our newest project, large whiskey barrels in front of the entrance to the Lilac Bridge and in Veteran's Park are just what we envisioned them to be.



The Hooksett Memorial Bridge in August

Hooksett Garden Club – cont.

As summer winds down we look forward to again holding our meetings, preceded by a speaker, at the Hooksett Library. The September meeting will feature Bill Stockman who will present a program on “The Secret to Healthy Houseplants”, which is free and open to the public as well.

Littleton Garden Club Betsy Fraser

During June through August the Littleton Garden Club enjoyed visiting member and nonmember gardens.

Our June meeting was held at member Ellen Greaves’ home. Ellen and her husband tend many flower and vegetable gardens. Each summer they grow more than 350 heads of garlic!



LGC enjoyed an afternoon at Ellen’s home.

The July meeting was held at member Barbara Monahan’s home. Several years ago, the Monahan’s aging forest was devastated by windstorms. Barbara and her husband converted the downed trees, roots, and nearby river rocks into creative outdoor sculptures.



Barbara stands next to one of the sculptures she created from a felled tree and rocks.

In late June, members enjoyed visiting Summersweet Gardens at Perennial Pleasures in East Hardwick, Vermont. Summersweet features a nursery and grows more than 900 varieties of flowers, herbs, and shrubs. Visitors can stroll through beautiful gardens, visit the gift shop, and enjoy tea and scones in the garden, and of course purchase plants in the nursery. We had a wonderful time, lunch was delicious, and everyone went home with several new plants.



Members enjoyed tea and scones in the Tea House

Littleton Garden Club – cont.

In July, club members carpoled into the rural area of Landaff, New Hampshire which feels like you're entering a beautiful foreign country. We had a wonderful time visiting unique gardens at three different homes. The day was like a private garden tour!



Landaff gardens were unique and beautiful

The August meeting - a potluck luncheon featuring herbs, veggies, and flowers from our gardens.

Manchester Garden Club Fiona McKenna

The Manchester Garden Club does not hold regular meetings during the summer but that does not mean that we are not busy! We celebrated our 90th Anniversary on June 8th with a potluck luncheon provided by the MGC Executive Board. There were fun games and great prizes were raffled off.

On June 15th, we hosted the Presidential Tea introducing the newly inducted NHFGC President, Winnie Schmidt. It was well attended by NHFGC members from all over the state.

The Palace Theatre/MGC Garden Tour was held on July 15th. The tour was well attended by members and the community. Thank you to the MGC members who served on the committee to make this event happen.

Seven members of the MGC and two of their guests attended the NHFGC Bus Tour on July 21st to the NE Botanical Gardens at Tower Hill. It was a great trip with so much to see.



Nancy, Fiona and Irene standing in front of a vertical wall of annual plants set on a diagonal design at NEBT.

Over the summer months, planters were filled at the Granite YMCA adding beauty to the front of the building. Annuals were planted at the Gale Home, The Manchester Historic Society and in the planters at Girls at Work. Thank you to the Beautification Committee and MGC volunteers who assisted with these projects.



Manchester Garden Club members filling planters at Girls at Work with colorful annuals to greet the girls at work

Manchester Garden Club – cont.

During the months of July and August, our Garden Angels have been working hard to maintain the gardens at the Gale Home, pruning roses, deadheading, weeding and watering. Members have volunteered to take a week in the months of July and August. The gardens look beautiful, and the residents are enjoying their park-like setting.

Every Tuesday through the months of July and August four to six members of MGC have been volunteering at the Girls at Work Summer Camp. MGC members are teaching the girls container gardening and floral design, helping them create their own bouquets and container herb gardens. This is very rewarding work, and the members are having an impact on these young girls' lives. A big thank you to Nancy McGurn from the Beautification Committee who organized the schedule and has been there every week to assist MGC members/volunteers.

MGC members are looking forward to the NHFGC trip to the Fells in September. We are already planning for our first meeting after the summer break which will be on September 21st.

Mountain Garden Club

Sue Clark

Our big event in July was our Mountain Garden Club garden tours. This event was open to all of our members free of charge. It is an amazing two days of seeing so many beautiful and diverse gardens. Eight of our members and their docents were so generous in their time and tours of their gardens. There was a wide variety!!! From

first-year gardens to the complete package of vegetables and flowers to raised beds to legacy gardens cultivated over the years. A grand showing of what it means to be a member of our garden community. Sharing, educating and enjoying each other's gardens. This event couldn't have been possible without Wendy McVey's guidance and vision and her committee!! A very special thank you goes out to them.

June 22 found our club carpooled to the Bedrock Gardens in Lee, NH. Our vice president Joan Van Landingham organized the trip. She was a docent at the Bedrock Gardens and arranged our tour. She has since moved to the Valley, and we are so glad she did!! There were so many of us they broke us up into two groups. Words really can't describe the beauty of these gardens. This is an emerging public garden that integrates unusual botanical specimens and unique sculpture into a truly inspiring landscape journey. There is a cafe there, but we all enjoyed bringing our lunch and sharing with friends!!! This is a must see if you are in the area. A grand day enjoyed by all!

In August we will have our annual tour of the Storyland Gardens we planted June 6th and 7th. Talk about a team effort...47 volunteers planted 4,890 annuals supplied by the park. It is always wonderful to enjoy the fruits of our labors in an after-hours stroll in the park. DD Warren and John Bruni sponsor the event with wine, cheese and cold drinks all provided in the back of a golf cart!!! The Club receives a check of \$2,500.00 for our scholarship fund from the park.

We take a break in August and look forward to our first meeting September 18 at the beautiful Tin Mountain Conservation Center

Mountain Garden Club – cont.

in Albany, NH. We will be voting on our budget and John Bruni prepares and presents a year in pictures . . . taken at all our various events and meetings 2022-2023. It is always a great meeting, and our hospitality committee provides a spectacular spread of food!! This is a great launch for the new year!

New London Garden Club Suzanne Hammond

It has been a busy summer for us, even more so because of the rain. Our perennials in our pocket gardens love the rain. However, our annuals have not enjoyed this weather, so we have had to re-plant several times. But the weather makes gardening fun.

In June the owner of Mason Hollow Nursery, Sue Andersen, spoke on the world of hostas. She was most informative and a great teacher. She was willing to share her knowledge and passion about hostas. I would highly recommend her as a speaker.

In June Charlie Nardozi spoke. He is a charming and regular speaker at our club. In July, we had a wonderful program on bees. Our speaker Nick Dorian, an ecologist, educator and naturalist, was a crowd pleaser and no one wanted him to stop.

In the meantime, the New London Garden Club, as you all know, is in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. New London is a beautiful town and the Garden Club's primarily focus is to beautify the town, but our passion is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening and to aid in the

protection and perpetuation of desirable native plants and birds, maintain the quality of life and preserve the natural beauty of our region. Our members realize that the only way to keep our region special is to teach our children to respect their native environment.

For the past 5 years, we have been talking about doing a children's program, but could never come up with the right venue until one of our members, Sandy Schmid, took it upon herself with the aid of John Walsh (Wildflower expert), to start a Wildflower program at the Kearsarge Elementary School-New London. After getting school permission and support, three 8'x20' gardens were dug by the school maintenance crew behind the school.

Sandy then researched many science videos relating to plants, flowers, pollination, and picked two appropriate for third graders. The videos were shown during the children's "science time" prior to a classroom discussion block led by Sandy.



New London Garden Club – cont.

Following snack and discussion time, the children went outside where each separate class learned planting techniques and got to plant perennial wildflowers and annuals. At program end the first year, in addition to a pertinent information packet, each child took home their own specially designed wildflower seed packet with the school's and the garden club's names on them.



Since that first year the program has continued to grow. The same videos are used, but additional classroom discussion time has been added which has included introductions of local special places (our Olmsted-landscaped Tracy Library Garden and the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog) as well as how to read seed packets, some wildflower folklore, and more. Outside, the children always plant in teams and individually (one class even in the pouring rain) and some have had to find the real wildflowers of past plantings by using a laminated picture.



This year's take-home packet for each child included a word search of wildflowers, a page on the Tracy Library Garden, a page on the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog, a page of recommended books, how to plant wildflowers in a container or outside, information about Lady Bird Johnson, and their own wildflower seeds. Each year the program has expanded and been loved by the teachers and children who send thank you letters and pictures to our Club as well as the volunteers who helped.



Approximately 4-10 members assist Sandy in this project. The program is designed as a special classroom and outside workshop. The teachers step back, and the Garden Club members take over in reviewing and educating the children on what is a wildflower, what are the parts of a flower, how important it is to have bees, and then the hands-on experience of planting and growing flowers.

New London Garden Club – cont.

The success of the program was shown to us when at a town-wide event many of the 4th graders in town came to our table to get lupine seeds. They all were thrilled to take the seeds and sadly disappointed that we did not continue the wildflower program into the 4th grade.

Old Homestead Garden Club Christina Apgar

Once upon a time in southwestern NH, spring began like a fairy tale. On May 4th, 15 members enjoyed a fantastic multi-course lunch at Pickity Place in Mason, NH. If you didn't know, Pickity Place inspired the illustrations in the Golden Book story of Little Red Riding Hood. Our members enjoyed it so much they forgot to take pictures (except one photo of an exceptional Tulip). Later in the day they visited House by the Side of the Road, in Wilton, NH, one of the largest garden centers in our area. That was our fairy tale beginning to a season that turned out more like an epic tale.

Southwest NH was experiencing a moderate drought in May. Next, we had a freakish cold snap that damaged many trees and blossoms. That was followed by flooding, including damaging flash floods that took out roads and dams! It didn't seem like the rain would end. Unfortunately, the damage from the floods caused us to cancel several summer events.

Finally, on a day without rain, we were able to enjoy this year's new event, "Evenings in the Garden." Our hostesses were former President Dian Mathews and Treasurer Katie Delaney who live next to each other. We

had an enjoyable time visiting and touring their beautiful gardens that are an expression of their personalities. Our club hopes to have many more of these events in the future.



Judy and John Avery enjoying Evening in the Garden at Katie Delaney's and Dian Mathews' event.



Members and guests enjoying Dian Mathews' new pond in her backyard.

As I mentioned, it's been epic. In June we had our first big in-person and "off-site" Annual meeting since 2019! FOUR YEARS! It was so much fun. We had a full house with members and guests including Winnie Schmidt, NHFGC President, who was gracious enough to help install our new officers. She brightened things up with her humor and wit.



Installation of Officers at our Annual Meeting.

Old Homestead Garden Club- cont.

We are looking forward to the upcoming fiscal year filled with great programs, a flower show, and so many other events.

Happy Gardening! Here's hoping we have moderate weather for the remainder of the season.

Sandown Garden Club Audrey Vargish

For our summer meetings, the Sandown Garden Club has moved outside. The July meeting was "Wine in the Garden" held in the gardens of Audrey and George Vargish. Following a short business session, members enjoyed glasses of wine and a variety of savory and sweet snacks as they walked about exploring the different garden areas.



Wine in the Garden



Audrey's She Shed



Monarch Way Station sign

The August meeting was a second "Wine in the Garden" at the home of Halinka and Lee Vail. These gardens are different in style but have similar threads. Both Audrey and Halinka have Certified Monarch Waystations by MonarchWatch.org incorporated into their gardens. Each garden also has a garden structure built by their respective husbands. Audrey's Potting/She Shed and Halinka's Greenhouse are both built with recycled/repurposed materials.



Halinka's greenhouse

Sandown Garden Club - cont.

This year, the annual SGC Scholarship was awarded to Timberlane Regional High School senior Ben Winter. During high school, Ben was involved in several activities. He spent nine years volunteering at Sandown's Food Pantry and was chosen as Sandown's very first "Young Citizen of the Year." Ben is a member of the Boy Scouts and volunteers with them to do trail maintenance in the Town Forest. For his Eagle Scout Project, he constructed a 10' x 16' addition to the Food Pantry. He currently takes part in the Sandown Fire Department's emergency training. In his free time, Ben enjoys outdoor activities such as skiing, mountain biking, hunting and fishing. He will be attending Paul Smith's College in New York State pursuing a degree in Forestry Operations with a minor in Wildland Firefighting. The Sandown Garden Club is very happy to have Ben as this year's scholarship recipient.



SGC members present the annual Scholarship to Ben Winter

Windham Garden Club Deb Drake

On June 15th the Windham Garden Club (WGC) held its annual end of year Summer Solstice gathering at Searles School and Chapel. This event, attended by members

and guests, is a celebration of all that the club has accomplished over the past 2022 – 2023 membership year. Besides socializing and enjoying wonderful food, the evening's program included recognizing the contributions of club members for past membership year and installation of the 2023-2025 officers.



Pictured Left to Right 2023 – 25 WGC Officers: Julia Salafia – Treasurer, Cassandra Maki – Secretary, Joanne Dickie – Installation Officer, Laura Cousens – 2nd Vice President, Eileen Shea – First Vice President, Deb Drake - President

We kicked off the summer in June with our "Coffee/Cocktails in the Garden Series" with members inviting the club to informal gatherings at their homes to enjoy each other's company and their beautiful gardens. We have held several wonderful gatherings so far with a couple more scheduled before the end of August.



Plans are underway for the start of our membership year with our first meeting on Sept 21st. Enjoy the rest of the summer!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 12	Fun at The Fells Fall event
September 21	National Garden Club Board Meeting
October 7	Winter edition <i>Lilac Letter</i> Deadline
October 10-11	New England Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Meeting, Plymouth, MA
October 15	Plant America Community Grant Application due to NGC
October 25	NHFGC Board Meeting Bow Municipal Building Room B
December 1	NGC Awards applications due to NHFGC Awards Chair
January 10 -	Youth Contest club winners entries to Youth Chair (posters, poetry, sculptures)

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**. Email submissions to: tamargal2@aol.com or LEditor@nhfgc.org

The Winter 2023 edition will be published in early November 2023, **deadline Oct 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