

New Hampshire has had a busy and productive summer filled with plant sales, parades, garden gatherings, and Semiquincentennial celebrations. Although many clubs do not meet regularly during the summer, our members continue to be active in their communities and in their gardens.

To celebrate our country's anniversary, we encouraged clubs to plant red, white, and blue flowers in the areas they maintain for community beautification. Many clubs participated enthusiastically, and some members carried the theme into their own gardens. Several clubs also incorporated patriotic themes into officer installations and participated in local parades.

Our Fourth Annual Fall Gathering was hosted by District 2 in the Manchester area. The beautiful venue, once a perennial garden resource, provided a lovely setting for members to enjoy lunch, a floral demonstration, and, most importantly, time together. The purpose of this gathering is to bring our nineteen clubs together to meet one another, share ideas, and strengthen friendships. Next year's gathering will be hosted by District 1 in the Lincoln area.

NHFGC was pleased to partner with the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester for our first *Art in Bloom*. The event generated interest in the federation from several non-federated clubs. We were delighted to welcome the Garden Club of Deerfield and have also visited other interested clubs to share information about the benefits of membership in NHFGC, NEGC, and NGC. We hope to continue growing our federation.

After many years of discussion, we changed the title "Life Member" to "Life Recognition Award," with the first awards presented at our Annual Meeting this spring. We felt the new title better reflects the purpose of recognizing members for their years of service and dedication.

The past two years have also brought many updates to our rules, award titles, and pins. As we move forward, we need to do a better job of explaining these changes and sharing the many opportunities available through NHFGC, NEGC, and NGC. We also need to preserve the traditions and history of our federation and help new members and club leaders understand how our organization works and why certain responsibilities are assigned.

Our goals for the coming year include reviewing our financial decisions, clarifying changes to our rules and procedures, improving communication, supporting new club leadership, and continuing to welcome new clubs to the federation.

As autumn begins, we are reminded how fortunate we are to enjoy four distinct seasons in New Hampshire. Many members are looking forward to the NEGC Meeting in Vermont in October and the opportunity to reconnect with friends and share ideas with fellow garden club members throughout New England.

And looking well ahead, please save May 2031 for the installation of our own Sue Miner as NGC President!

Thank you to all of our members for your continued enthusiasm, service, and support. There is much to look forward to as we continue working and growing together.