

80 YEARS OF HISTORY 1933-2013

The New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Organized May 23, 1933

Incorporated January 13, 1964



The object of the Federation shall be:

To coordinate the interests of the Garden Clubs of the State, to bring them into closer relations of mutual helpfulness by association, conference and correspondence.

To cooperate with other educational agencies furthering the interests of gardening, conservation and civic beautification.

(From the original by-laws)

IN THE BEGINNING.....

On a spring day, **Tuesday, the 23rd of May, 1933**, a group of ladies and at least one gentleman met in Concord. They had been invited to come as representatives of their garden clubs. Their purpose was to discuss their interest in creating a state federation of garden clubs. Prime instigators of this movement were Mrs. Harold Smith of the Portsmouth Garden Club, Mrs. Mattie C. B. Perkins of the Dover Federated Club, and Prof. Jesse Hepler of the Horticulture Department of the University of New Hampshire. Other attendees represented the Epping Garden Club, Durham Garden Club, Salmon Falls Community Garden Club and the Exeter Community Garden Club. They had felt that the wider dissemination of knowledge, standardization of criteria in flower show judging and broadening of contacts among clubs would create a better informed membership over a wider spectrum of subjects. By the close of this May meeting in 1933 it had been duly voted that New Hampshire garden clubs should have the opportunity to join a state federation. The original six clubs signed the charter establishing the NH Federation of Garden Clubs. Seven other clubs joined that year. New Hampton Pemigewasset Club, Center Ossipee Garden Club, Tilton-Northfield Garden Club, Haven Hill of Rochester, Barrington Garden Club, Newmarket Garden Club and Rye Garden Club.

Toward the close of **1933** the infant Federation had applied for membership in the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. which had been organized in 1929 in Washington, D.C. This organization had 26 member states and 70,000 members at that time. Early in 1934 our application was affirmed and the NHFGC was a full-fledged member of the national organization. Federation dues were set at \$0.15 per member (\$0.10 for Federation and \$0.05 for National). Thirty years would elapse before the Federation began the process of incorporation, where-by the tax exempt status as a non-profit, educational organization would be legally recognized. In **January 13, 1964** the NHFGC could add the abbreviation "Inc." to its title, with all attendant benefits. **May 26, 1967** the executive board of the Federation voted to establish a trust fund, to be known as the Scholarship Endowment Fund, and thereby the IRS rating as an educational organization was insured. Since that time over \$42,000 has been awarded in scholarships to UNH students from this fund. **On September 29, 1994** the NHFGC annual per capita dues per member were raised from \$2.00 to \$2.50 to cover the rising costs. NGC dues were \$0.50 per member.

UPON THE FRAME THE HOUSE IS BUILD.....

By **1939** the membership had grown to 47 clubs over a wide geographic area of the state and it seemed advisable to create six regions with a regional chairperson (later termed Director) whose duty was to promote the work of the Federation among the clubs of his/her Region. At this time they were designated as Lakes Region, Lake Sunapee-Hanover, Merrimack, Monadnock, North Country and Seacoast. Some of these names changed over time. In 1946 Lakes Region was given two chairpersons, East and West. In **1959** the National Garden Club suggested that the Advisory Board of the Federation recommend a change in name from "Region" to "District". It has been the practice to conform to National's model as closely as fitted the aims and needs of the State organization. With the change in nomenclature this is how we have progressed in structure to what it is today. On **September 25, 1996** the Districts were change from names to numbers 1-5. Today we have four Districts. Membership within Districts also changed as the roster of clubs changed. Always an effort has been made to keep the Districts as nearly equal in representation as possible considering the state's membership geographics.

In **July of 1933** at the second meeting of the new Federation, chairpersons of various committees were elected. Some committees over the years have been absorbed or combined with others to reduce overlapping concerns. New ones have been added as the scope of both the Federation and National Garden Club expanded. Interesting to note is that the foundations laid down so early for so many continue to the present. The focus has been and still is on Conservation, Horticulture, Environmental Issues, Flower Shows, Membership, Programs, Publicity and Public Gardens. **Our 2008** Mission Statement ...to provide education, resources and networking opportunities for our members to promote the love of gardening, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility provides the foundation for our committees.

A Handbook of Guidelines, Procedures, and General Information had its First Edition in **1965** and was dedicated to Mrs. William H. Champlin in appreciation of her guidance, aptitude and excellence as NHFGC President from 1937 – 1940. It has been revised in 1953, 1973, 1975, 1982, 1989, 2003 and recently in 2012. It is presented to all club presidents, state officers and committee chairmen. Recently, all pages were made available on the www.nhfgc.org website.

On **January 16, 1973** the Executive Board voted to establish a State Headquarters Fund for the purpose of having a NH permanent home. This was during Mrs. Justin Hartford's (Margaret) administration and they accepted the first contribution from her upon her retiring as President. When the fund increased sufficiently, the accrued interest was to be used to set up an office in a central location to give better service to the clubs and keep records centrally. The names of donors would be listed on a plaque with clubs \$1.00 per member, districts \$100, individuals \$50 and organizations, industries and businesses \$100 or more. Contributions would be accepted in any amount to honor a past president, a friend or make a memorial gift. This was presented to the membership on May 2, 1973. The next year a NH Life Membership honorary group was established during the administration of Mrs. Horace Shirley (Eva) at \$50 a contribution. One half of that contribution was deposited into the State Headquarters Fund with the other half going into the Scholarship Fund. Recently, the Executive Board voted to let the State Headquarter's half go into the general operating fund. To date \$34,300 has been collected in principal and there is \$10,000 of accrued interest available. Money is taken out of this fund to cover our monthly storage expense for our records.

In **September of 1993** NHFGC entered into a rental agreement with the Kimball-Jenkins Estate in Concord to establish a NHFGC Headquarters. Rent for the space of one room and basement storage was paid on a monthly basis of \$98 and an agreement to help re-landscape the grounds to the original landscape plan. New Management at the estate insisted on NHFGC signing a condominium type

agreement in 1995 which was unrealistic financially for the Federation. The records and properties were moved to a storage station on Loudon Road in Concord. In the records were moved to Plaistow to a smaller storage unit owned by J. Bresnahan Co., Inc.

During Diane McMillen's term **in 2011** the Executive Board agreed that it was time to insure ourselves against property and general liability. After researching the possibilities, the Executive Board contracted a policy for NHFGC which would be renewed annually.

A Tri-fold pamphlet describing all the aspects of the NHFGC was printed during Jane Goodwin's term as President in **2001** and revised ten years later during Virginia Urdi's term as President in **2012**. The pamphlet is distributed to Federation clubs and non-federated clubs to show the advantages of belonging to the NHFGC.

AS A SYMBOL AND A SIGN.....

New Hampshire has always had a love affair with the lilac so it was no surprise that the bloom should represent the largest gardening association of clubs in the State. On **March 28, 1919** the State Legislature had voted the lilac the State Flower. It never received due recognition until Governor Murphy, in the late 1930's, accepted the Federation's gift of six lilacs from the Wentworth Estate in Portsmouth, to be planted on the State House grounds.

The first logo of the Federation was the Garden Gate. During the summer of **1938** when the State of NH was celebrating its Sesquicentennial, the Federation contributed to the parade with a float representing the Garden Gate. In **1958** when the Federation celebrated its own Silver Anniversary at the Annual Meeting in Gilford, the theme was again "The Garden Gate." The NHFGC Seal was presented at this meeting; a lilac bloom in a circular frame inscribed New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs was on this first seal.

At the Annual Meeting, **May 24, 1967** the beautiful President's Pin was presented, a gift from Mrs. William Champlin, who had also presented the Federation with its first Seal. Both were a lilac design but the seal much more beautiful in composition. A new Seal was designed to replace the original Seal which had suffered from use and the element of time. Since then the Federation had become "Inc." so that was added to the new seal which is what we see today. The President's Pin depicts the Seal of NHFGC in a three dimensional design. There is now a diamond on the President's pin to honor both of New Hampshire's Past National Garden Club Presidents, Helen Hussey Champlin and Tempie Dahlgren.

The gavel is always the symbol of authority, but the original gavel of the Federation was very special as it was made from the wood of an apple tree (Coccoloba wood) which grew on Mrs. Lindsay Damon's property in Alton; she was the Federation's second President. Its significance comes from a charming little book called "A Sense of Humus." It was replaced in 2007, having been lost in the transition between Presidents. The original presentation was made by President Mrs. (Bertha) Lindsay on **April 29, 1936**.

During Jean L. Thompson's term she began the process of creating our first State Pin to be worn by all Federation members. It would be a lilac motif on a gold NH state outline placed in a white circle and surrounded by the words "New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc." After her untimely death this would come to fruition by her Vice President Joyce A. Kimball who followed her as President 2007-2009; members of NHFGC proudly purchased and wore their new NH State Pin. Our love affair with lilacs continues.

NHFGC WOMEN OF DISTINCTION SERVING NGC.....

1941-43 **Mrs. Helen Hussey Champlin** of Rochester served as the New England Region Director, 1943-45 Vice President of the National Council of State Garden Club Federations Inc. and 1945-47 served as President of National Council of State Club Federation and visited all 7 Regions of NGC.

1953-55 **Mrs. William B. Daniell** of Franklin served as New England Region Director.

1965-67 **Mrs. Carl A Dahlgren (Tempie)** of Concord served as New England Region Director and 1979-1981 served as President of National Council of State Garden Club Federation Inc.

1974-75 **Mrs. Myric Crane (Pauline)** of Tamworth served as New England Director.

1979-81 **Mrs. Francis Stone (Mary)** of Swanzey Center served as New England Director.

1989-91 **Mrs. Stafford E. Young (Paula)** of North Conway served as New England Director.

1999-2000 **Mrs. Louis GrandPre' (Ginny)** of Stoddard served as New England Director.

2011-2013 **Mrs. Joyce A. Kimball** of Bow served as New England Director.

CARRIER OF NEWS.....

The first official bulletin of the NHFGC was inaugurated in **February of 1935** bearing the title of "*The Garden Gate*." It was an informative little publication mailed to the membership and to those interested in gardening all over the country. It continued more or less irregularly until Vol. VIII, #3, 1942. At this point war conditions and restrictions forced its printing to cease.

During the war years Mrs. William Daniell, NHFGC President, maintained contact with the membership through a "*newsletter*" which was deeply appreciated and sorely needed in those troubled times. At the end of the war the National Council urged the establishment of a new official publication. In **December of 1947** the first issue of the "*Lilac Letter*" came from the press. It has continued to this day to be the voice of the Federation, albeit with varying time schedules, formats, editors, and financial stress all depending on the vagaries of the times. A new computerized booklet form for the *Lilac Letter* was instituted in November of 1993. In an effort to cut costs, mailings were done by District rotation. Club member lists (not sheets of labels by club as before) were sent to the Circulations Manager who produced the labels by zip code. District members took turns collating, folding, stapling, sealing and labeling the *Lilac Letter* for mailing.

In the **spring of 2011** the *Lilac Letter* went electronic reaching 80% of its membership and also going electronic all over the world to interested gardeners and floral designers. On **October 28, 2000** NHFGC set up their first ever state website with Frank Mulone of Derry as webmaster; www.nhfgc.org has kept up with the electronic world of the 21st century. The webpages are constantly updated so members can get the latest information.

FUNDRAISING.....

A fundraising cookbook "A Gardener's Cuisine" was compiled from recipes of members and edited by Morris Press of Nebraska. The first printing in **September of 1998** sold out in six weeks.

A "Trivia Night" was established in **August of 2002**. NHFGC began their newest fund raiser at the Atkinson Community Center. It was agreed that the game night would be scheduled throughout the year and target members of the general public to expose them to the garden clubs and to raise funds from outside sources other than just the NHFGC members.

During Virginia Urdi's term as president the idea of another cookbook came into being. Recipes were collected from NHFGC club members to include recipes for special diets as well as old favorites in everyone's recipe box. Hopefully this will come to fruition in **2013-2014**. For years the Federation has had a Ways and Means chairperson whose job is to buy items of interest at wholesale prices and resell at Annual and Semi-Annual meetings to members thus enabling the Federation to balance our budget. Ginny also instituted the idea of reselling our previously loved hats, scarfs and jewelry in an effort to increase our fundraising. She also introduced the idea of a Fall Conference instead of Semi-Annual Meeting with a more relaxing and casual day with a meeting, friends and good food all at a reasonable price. This became a great success.

AWARDS.....

The first Award came in **April of 1936** when Mrs. Damon presented a Silver Cup to be awarded by the Federation to the Club which had accomplished the most toward "Town improvements." i.e. Civic Beautification. With the exception of the war years, this cup was presented yearly until there was just no space left for engraving the recipient's name. It was retired and with thanks to the Milford Garden Club, replaced by the Daisy Stickney Bowl, which in due course was also retired. By that time awards and certificates of merit and Flower Show ribbons had multiplied to the point where it took two meetings to cover their presentations. Today we have an Awards Chairperson who handles all Federation, Regional and National Awards and their presentation at the Annual Meeting and Flower Show Awards at the Semi-Annual Meeting or Fall Conference.

In the spirit of cooperation the University of New Hampshire's Horticulture Department provided advisors of high caliber even as the Federation was first dreamed of, and under the more prestigious title of the Plant Science Department has continued to do so to the present. In **1941** in return, the Federation contributed to the Department, at first directly and then by the establishment of the Lilac Endowment Fund which was created to provide funds for research, scholarship grants and/or special equipment for the genetic development of new varieties of superior new lilacs. Men and women took advantage of the scholarship to study in the diversified fields of horticulture, environmental and conservation that the university offered. This was established as a "restricted fund" which allowed only the use of the interest accrued for the purposes so designated. In **1960** Dr. A.F. Yeager, a longtime advisor to the Federation, was recommended for the highest award the National Garden Club bestows, the National's Gold Seal. Dr. Yeager won over the competition and was presented with this award; he was internationally known for his work with fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals adaptable to northern and less hardy zones.

In **1966** the "Order of the Purple Finch" was established which is awarded in the odd-numbered years at the Annual Meeting by vote of the Executive Board, to an outstanding member of the Federation for "Continued Service."

On **October 18, 1967** The Helen A and Ernest S. Colprit Memorial Horticulture Award was presented to the NHFGC from the Pioneer Garden Club of Dover. It established a Trust Fund and the interest from this fund was to be used annually as an award or awards for meritorious horticultural exhibits or achievements by members of Junior Garden Clubs of NH. Since Junior Garden Clubs declined in NH, in **October, 1995** this award was changed "to be awarded each April to a graduate student who intends to further educate themselves in the pursuit of a career in Horticulture or related fields and is a member of the Future Farmers of America." A \$200 award is presented annually by the NHFGC President at the Annual Granite State Future Farmers of America Convention.

To encourage youth involvement “Take a Child by the Hand” was sponsored by Joanne Krause, NHFGC President **1991-1993**. It is an award given annually, if merited, to a club that has done the most to involve children in activities related to garden club goals, i.e. horticulture, flower arranging, garden therapy, conservation, etc.

May, 1994 the National Garden Club’s Tempie Dahlgren Scholarship of \$4,000 was given to Dean Frank Kennedy. Dean is the grandson of NHFGC Past President Evelyn Kennedy of Exeter.

2006 two new NHFGC Awards were established. #20 Community Star Award to an individual, non-profit organization of business at the community/club level for outstanding support of the club and #21 Debbi Nutter Landscape Award to the club who has created the highest scoring landscape project incorporating native plants.

The Nancy Surette Memorial Fund was established for two years **in March of 2000**. All members were invited to donate to the fund. All donations were forwarded to the newly developed Hillsborough Botanical Garden, a pet project for Nancy.

In **2007** NHFGC President Alice Jorda and her husband Karl donated the monies received from their 50th wedding anniversary to the NHFGC Scholarship Fund in lieu of gifts from friends and family. The total of \$1500 was to be award to UNH applicants in \$500 increments over the next three years. This scholarship continues to be awarded.

2011 President McMillen donated a silver Paul Revere bowl to be known as the Membership Award and awarded at NHFGC Annual Meeting to the club with the highest percentage of growth in total membership.

PROJECTS.....

Anti-litter, Roadside Beautification, Operation Wildflower, Blue Star Memorial Highway are all representations of the Roadside Council, whenever one existed. They had their roots in the early days of the Federation and grew and expanded as the Federation did. Today our Roadside Committee is chaired by Federation member Guy Giunta, Jr. who continues the tradition of working with the State Department of Highways and Public Works to keep our highways and byways beautified with native flowers through the NH Lilac Commission. Environmental Education, Habitat for Humanity, Historic Preservation, Horticulture and Water Quality are other committees today who concern themselves with our environment and who keep our membership educated and up-to-date with current issues. They all show the Federations concern for the State’s natural beauty and quality of life.

Over the years we have worked hand-in-hand with many outside organization such as the University of New Hampshire and the N.H. Dept. of Transportation. In **1973** a Wildflower Fund was started with the purpose of supplying material to the NH Dept. of Transportation for the planting of wildflowers along NH highways. In **1993** the Federation received a \$500 P.E.T.A.L.S. grant for the project “Roadside Rescue—It’s No Accident” to assist the NH DOT plant wildflowers along the highways and establish a “no mow” zones to allow the plants to reseed. In the **summer of 2001**, NHFGC won \$1,500 from the NGC and Shell Oil P.E.T.A.L.S. program. \$1,000 was set aside to be used as “seed” money for local garden clubs who may use the money to supplement the clubs fund-raising efforts for Habitat for Humanity projects.

In **1947** “Seeds of Peace”, a program from the Burpee Seed Company spread the work of world gardening throughout the globe. Many individuals and clubs supported this program with generous donations.

We have supported two conservation camps which have received scholarships through direct awards or through the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. The older of the two, for adults and especially teachers, began at Lost River in North Woodstock and is now at Cardigan Mountain State Park. The camp for high school age started in **1947** at Bear Brook State Park's Spruce Pond. In the 70's it moved to Interlochen in the Windsor area. In the interest of what may be termed the Conservation of Human Beings, the name of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs is inscribed among those of the Founders of the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield, N.H. By **1961** a total of \$8,882 was contributed to this project, mostly by the Wilton Garden Club.

Garden Therapy was started in the hospitals for men of the armed services during and after WWII. It was a commendable effort to bring cheer to those patients injured and to the extent they could participate, great therapeutic value. Today garden clubs continue to come up with ideas that improve the quality of life, facilitate fine motor skills, enhance visual appreciation of the world of color and form, stimulate creativity and provide socialization and fun for residents of various homes and facilities throughout our state. Awards are given for Garden Therapy efforts in honor of NHFGC President **1997-1999** Barbara Colp who was an advocate for bringing garden related activities into retirement facilities to serve our elderly and disabled.

May 24, 1983 NHFGC celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the Granite State Room, Memorial Union Building at the University of NH in Durham. A new cultivar of lilac was planted in the UNH Lilac Arboretum named for our 4th President Helen Champlin. Governor and Mrs. John Sununu were the special guests for the Anniversary Banquet which featured 24 designs to honor past NHFGC Presidents. Soon after this anniversary celebration the NH Lilac Commission was formed with a co-operation with Indian Head Banks (later Fleet Bank) to distribute lilac bushes at an affordable price every May in all the towns that had bank branches. Over 40,000 lilac bushes of various colors were sold for a nominal price. Eventually this commission expanded to include the study and planting of wildflowers along with lilacs on NH highways. Today under the guidance of Guy Giunta Jr. the commission sponsors a yearly Lilac Photo Contest. Our State Presidents have served as board members to this commission. The Federation has also participated in the NH Farm and Forest Show which happens every year in Manchester at the Radisson Center.

In **1991** NHFGC was one of only 13 state federations who had 100% participation in the National Friendship Garden Project. **October 16, 1992** NHFGC and the Shell Oil Energy Conference in New Orleans held a mini conference at Seabrook Nuclear Plant on September 4-8. Four speakers talked on various sources of energy and those realistic to New Hampshire.

During Virginia GrandPre's term as President, **1993-1995**, she sponsored "Take Pride in America" an award to be given annually, if merited, to a club for outstanding work in Conservation Awareness. An appropriate Rosette of red, white and blue ribbon plus a cash award is given.

NHFGC presented a check for \$7,500 taken from the Lilac Endowment Fund to the University of New Hampshire on **May 19, 2002** for research into slowing or eradicating the fungal disease known as Armillaria root disease, or black shoestring rot. This disease has attacked the oldest stand of lilacs in the United States at the Wentworth-Coolidge House in Portsmouth. A resurgence of wildflower plantings were done with the NH DOT, Master Gardeners and the NH Composting with a planting at the Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen on **May 2, 2002**. Two gardens were established and maintained during the summer. NHFGC members of Districts IV and V scattered wildflower seeds at the Salem Rest Area on Route 93 on **June 28, 2002**.

May 26, 2005 Jean L. Thompson was installed as President of the NHFGC. Unfortunately, she did not have time to see many of her ideas come to fruition and would be the first president to die in office, succumbing to cancer on August 25, 2006. Her Vice President Joyce A. Kimball would complete her term as Interim President and her own term through 2009. Jean was a strong supporter of NGC serving on many national boards and committees. She inspired our clubs to support NGC's project of planting trees in our communities during National Garden Club Week. Each club kept a tally of the trees members planted and New Hampshire did quite well in comparison to other states. Jean also formed a Strategic Planning Committee whose task was to create a new Mission Statement. This was finished during Joyce's term.

The Jean L. Thompson Scholarship Fund was established following her untimely death **in 2006**. Jean's family and garden club members generously contributed \$3750 to be distributed in scholarships over the next few years. Monies by clubs, family and friends continue to support this fund and each year since \$1,000 has been given to UNH students pursuing degrees in Environmental Education. In **2009** the Executive Board voted to rename the NHFGC Scholarships so that one scholarship \$500 would be named NHFGC, a second \$500 Karl and Alice G. Jorda and a third \$500 Jean L. Thompson, monies to be taken from the interest of the restricted Scholarship Fund. This would assure us that if the monies ran out of the unrestricted fund these two Presidents who ardently supported higher education in fields that encourage our mission would continue.

In 2008 President Kimball selected a state wide project "Plant Natives for Birds and Butterflies" where each club chose a different bird and butterfly to study; they researched their habitat requirements and created gardens based on this information utilizing native plants and documented their project with photos. All Federated clubs participated. The information went into a Power Point Program for clubs to share with their members, local schools and libraries to promote this awareness. At the Annual Meeting **in 2009** a CD of the presentation was given to each club as a gift from the Executive Board in recognition of their contribution. Joyce gave a synopsis of the project at the NER Annual Meeting and NER Director Sonia Cianchette was so impressed that she included it in her report to NGC. The project later received a commendation from NGC at the 2009 National Convention.

A "Pajama Program" was instituted on **September 19th, 2008** with members donating 125 sets of warm pajamas and nature related books to distribute to children in need throughout New Hampshire. This program is managed by New Hampton Garden Club's Junior Garden Club and Youth Chairperson Karen Downing. This program has continued through 2013 and each year more and more pajamas and books are collected for the needy.

During Diane McMillen's term as President **2009-2011** NHFGC planned and implemented a day-long event for Jr. Girl Scouts and Jr. Garden Club members with the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains. The high point was a visit from Smokey Bear to publicize NGC's Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster and Poetry contests. Girls were able to learn about Native versus Invasive Plants with a nature walk, were introduced to Endangered and Threatened Species through a fun game, planned and planted an Organic Vegetable Garden on the Camp Kettleford site, made tasty recipes using foods from the garden and participated in a segment entitled "Get the Word Out" where they made posters about what they had learned that day and also interviewed others about what they were learning in the programs using a Flip Camera. The results were placed on the scouts Facebook page. Approximately 100 attended; all received the NGC/GSA Native Species patch.

2009-2011 NHFGC participated in several NGC projects such as Golden Days during which 5000 daffodils were planted around the state. Vegetable gardens were planted with the scouts and Boys and Girls Clubs and "Plant it Pink" gardens were planted to support those affected by breast cancer.

FLOWER SHOWS AND SCHOOLS.....

Flower shows were presented by clubs long before the Federation was established. Under the leadership of Mrs. John Tonkin there were many flower shows the first year of the Federation. Mrs. Peckham from New York conducted the first Federation Judging School held in Portsmouth in **July 1934**. But it was only after National Garden Clubs set up standards in 1943 and refined them in 1945, that the schools offered nationally accepted series of courses. The New Hampshire Course I, Series 1 was offered in **July of 1946**. There have been four series of five courses each given in NH on record, the latest completed in **October of 1982**. A NH Judges' Council was established in September of 1952 and when the by-laws were revised in **September of 1953** they were recognized as a committee whose chairman was a member of NHFGC Advisory Board. The first State Flower Show was staged in **September of 1959** at the time as the Fall Meeting held at Bald Peak Colony Club.

As with Flower Show Schools, lectures and classes in Landscape Design preceded the establishment of nationally standardized courses. In **1958** National Council launched the first series of four courses leading to accreditation as a Landscape Design Critic. NH Series I was initiated in **April, 1977** and completed in **April, 1980**. In the summer of **1981** the New Hampshire Critics Council was organized.

April 16-17, 1985 a state flower show called "Bravo the Arts" was held at the Manchester Institute of Arts and Science in Manchester.

October 17, 1985 the NH Landscaping Association, the NH Plant Growers and the NHFGC signed incorporation papers under the name "Granite State Garden and Flower Shows, Inc. Each sponsoring organization appointed three representatives to the board and contributed \$1,000 each as seed money for the organization. For many years the NHFGC State Flower Show was part of the larger Spring Flower Show presented at the Manchester Armory. **March 19-23, 1986** the new organization would hold its first show at the UNH Field House in Durham. Since this was the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty "Freedom of Flowers" was chosen as the theme. After expenses the original seed money was returned to each participating partner of the GSGFS, Inc. Three more shows were held before the organization was dissolved in 1992 due to economic reasons.

Many flower show awards have been added over the years. **September 23, 1987** a new Flower Show Staging Award was given by the NH Judges Council to honor Mrs. Elmer Schramm (Lucy). The award was named the Lucy Schramm Staging Award and will be in the form of a brass lilac leaf pin. **November 18, 1987** the Susan S. Thomas Award was instituted. It may be given to a NHFGC exhibitor with a point score of 95+ in a class for small or miniature designs in a NH State or District flower show. **October 17-19, 1988** Flower Show School Course IV in conjunction with Vermont was held at Ascutney, Vt., Jolly Gardner was chairman; Betty Helme and Betty Belcher were instructors. **June 1, 1991** the Elizabeth Helme Flower School Scholarship was initiated. This scholarship was proposed by NH Judges Council and will be awarded to a NH student taking Flower Show courses.

November 13-14, 1992 NHFGC held a State Flower Show called "Holiday Fling" which was held at the Brookside Church in Manchester.

The Joanne L. Krause Award to be given annually to the chairman of the highest scoring Standard Flower Show in NH was accepted by NHFGC in **November, 2000**. The award is a pin in the free-form style of a hat to represent the many "hats" a Flower Show Chairman wears. The award is sponsored by the Atkinson Garden Club and named after Joanne who was NHFGC President from 1991-1993.

The New England Regional Symposium was held in Concord, **August 17-19, 2004**, hosted by the Federation it was a huge success with over 400 attendees from the region and elsewhere. Speakers were outstanding experts in their field. We were also proud of our close relationship with the Governor's Lilac Wildflower Commission.

Once again NHFGC hosted the New England Regional Symposium this time in Nashua, NH on **August 11-13, 2009**. Virginia GrandPre', Past President 1993-1995, chaired this event which was attended by 161 designers from all over New England, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

During President Diane McMillen's term NHFGC held a Standard Flower Show "This Place is a Zoo!" on **August 19-21, 2010**. This was the first show held in over 15 years and the NH Audubon Center in Concord was the perfect setting.

During **2012-2013** Floral Designers from NHFGC were asked to display period designs in each room at the newly renovated "Bridges House." This house was built in 1835 and is the NH Executive Residence, a gift from the family of former Governor Styles Bridges. Members also provided workshops for their open houses. This was done under the direction of President Virginia Urdi.

On January 1, 2013 The Mary Flynn Horticulturist of the Year Award was instituted. This will be awarded to a horticulture exhibit in a Standard Flower Show or Small Standard Flower Show entered by a member of a NHFGC club.

IN CONCLUSION.....

In this brief resume of eighty years it is impossible to give due credit to all those who have contributed so unselfishly of their time and talents to support the goals and ideals of the NHFGC. It has also been impossible to enumerate all the many projects and honors that have been done, received and awarded over the last eighty years. It is with regrets and apologies that I present this brief history without mentioning all the people that have made what we are today possible.

With eighty years of service to our communities by many clubs in our state and thousands of members, the accomplishments of the NHFGC have been immeasurable. I have tried to use the format of previous historians and also highlighted dates as was done for our 70th in an effort to write a complete eighty year history. To the club members who read this history, you are the Federation. Encourage your neighbors and other nonfederated garden clubs to join us so that together we can continue the goals and objectives of our founding gardeners.

Edited by Eleanor Morrison
May, 2013