

## 2018 National Judge



**Dr. Cynthia Boyd**  
Folklorist, Lecturer and  
Garden Writer

St. John's, NL

Dr. Cynthia Boyd has been a gardener of small and medium garden spaces in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador for over twenty years. Receiving a PhD in Folklore in 2013, she teaches university courses on a part time basis at Memorial University of Newfoundland and copy edits for the Newfoundland Quarterly. Combining her practical horticultural skills with academic folklore research has led to an on-going fascination in the world of plants from both historic and cultural perspectives.

Gardening, garden writing and research have constantly intertwined in her life. She has published gardening articles for periodicals in Newfoundland and Labrador as well as in the United States and the United Kingdom. For four years, Cynthia edited Down to Earth, the monthly newsletter of the Newfoundland Horticultural Society, and she served as this Society's president, librarian, and recording secretary. In addition, she has co-chaired several flower and vegetable shows for the Newfoundland Horticultural Society. Currently, she serves as the Newfoundland Horticultural Society librarian and vice president. She has volunteered with the John Cabot Rose Society, Memorial University of Newfoundland Botanical Garden, and Landscape Newfoundland and Labrador. As an active member and demonstrator for the Floral Design Group in St. John's, she has acquired skills in recognizing the impact of floral pattern, colour, and symmetry as these attributes apply to both floral art and garden design.

She is always encouraged by individuals, and groups and communities, who invest themselves fully in the process of creating and then maintaining, a garden whether it is a large allotment or a postage stamp-sized paradise. During the many years she has been a gardener, writer and member of horticultural groups, Cynthia has observed how people identify themselves through their garden spaces, and there no better way to initiate and stimulate conversation than through the often, mysterious power of plants.