

THE NATIONAL

# gardener

SPRING 2017



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## The National Gardener

Spring 2017 | Vol. 88, No. 2

### National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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165,000 Garden Club Members  
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60 National Affiliate Member Organizations  
330 International Affiliate Member Organizations

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### The National Gardener

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### THE COVER

Honey bees on a passion flower (*Passiflora foetida*) in South Beach, Miami Beach, Florida. This particular passion vine is a native plant and one of the primary host plants of the Gulf fritillary butterfly. The plant has edible fruit encased in spiny bracts. Photo by Arabella Dane.

**Clarification:** On pages 16-17 of the winter 2017 print issue, the photos of Bryce H. Lane and Ian Prosser were transposed. The National Gardener regrets the error.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

***"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe." -Anatole France***

The long-awaited Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017 edition, was introduced during the instructors symposium held in Atlanta, Georgia. Garden clubs and floral designers are encouraged to stage flower shows with the four new designs, divisions, additional award opportunities and show types. The handbook, available through NGC Member Services, is a condensed, user-friendly resource for designers, gardeners and exhibitors to use when staging flower shows.

The Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. stages a standard flower show each year at the Colorado Garden and Home Show, the Rocky Mountain region's oldest, largest and most prestigious event. Fourteen designers participate and garden club members host the nine-day show. This long-standing relationship provides a quality experience, where visitors can find inspiration from the latest ideas and trends in landscaping, gardening and home improvement.

The event also showcases the many talents of garden club members and promotes the objectives of National Garden Clubs Inc.

When staging a flower show, engage the public. Some ideas may include:

- Encourage the public to enter the horticulture division of your show.
- Include fun and educational activities for youth.
- Offer exciting workshops or lectures.
- Utilize "make and take" workshops.

A popular workshop is "Mommy and Me," or "Daddy and Me," where parents and children can share a gardening activity together.

Creativity is the foundation of flower shows, limited only by our imaginations and green thumbs. Enjoy the creative process, while

sharing your love of gardening. Embrace the new Handbook for Flower Shows and explore the many possibilities.

A flower show offers the opportunity

***"Creativity is the foundation of flower shows..."***

to reach out to new homeowners, who may be looking for advice on how to select plants and care for their plantings, or how to create memorable designs for their foyer or dinner table. Many are learning the value of houseplants to brighten their homes, purify the air and provide a calm spot for relaxation. Dorthy Yard, chairman, NGC Flower Show Schools, recently presented a class on "Kokedama," a form of Japanese garden art that has become an Internet favorite. This class would be of interest to anyone who loves plants, gardening or design.

We grow as leaders, designers and gardeners as we participate in garden club and community activities. Invite others to join your club and reap the benefits of membership as we "Leap into Action."

*Sandra A. Robinson*



**National Garden Clubs Inc  
Annual Convention  
May 18-20, 2017  
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**Keynote Speaker  
P. Allen Smith**



**Visit [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) for details**

# youth garden offers benefits, rewards

## OF HANDS-ON LEARNING

“What’s kohlrabi?” “Purple cauliflower, can I taste it?” “Do blue potatoes taste like regular potatoes?” “What are leeks, and what do we do with them?” That’s just some of the chatter overheard at the Derry Garden Club youth garden in Derry, New Hampshire. The 30-by-60-foot edible garden is the inspiration of DGC member Blanche Garone. In 2009, through her efforts, a partnership was developed between DGC and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Derry. In addition, some initial funding to create the garden was received from a grant from the Harvard Pilgrim Healthy Food Fund. Our youth gardening season begins in early spring. The children make a list of what



Watering the nasturtiums. ▲

▼ Harvesting cabbage.



they would like to grow in the garden, a diagram is designed for a garden plot and seeds are ordered. The children fashion small pots out of newspaper to start seedlings under grow lights. As the weather becomes warmer, DGC members and several volunteers from the Derry Rotary Club help prepare the garden beds so the children can plant the

**“...children maintain the garden and harvest vegetables...”**

seeds and seedlings. Weekly meetings with our young gardeners include topics about basic gardening techniques, tools and tool safety and garden rules. Respect, listening and teamwork are



A few days' work results in an abundant harvest. ◀

emphasized. There’s something about bugs, worms and kids—some are fascinated, while others scream in disgust. No one said developing good gardeners and future stewards of the land would be clean—or quiet! Our garden is a “pesticide free” space, which also offers plenty of opportunities to identify good bugs versus bad bugs. As the growing season progresses, the children

maintain the garden and harvest vegetables with the assistance of

**“...children exposed to dirt may develop a stronger immune system.....”**

DGC members. One adult typically mentors four or five children.

We also introduce basic vegetable horticulture through a series of “mini-hort” lessons each week. Tasting freshly picked vegetables and trying something for the first time is always an adventure for the children. We discuss different ways to cook and prepare the vegetables, and encourage the children’s parents to help themselves to the free, collected produce that is available in the



▲ LEFT: The children designed creative garden stakes. CENTER: Garden helpers tote the vegetables they grew to the Boys & Girls Club for distribution to families. RIGHT: A garden helper demonstrating the sheer size of a cabbage plant.



Picking pea pods. ▲

Boys & Girls Club lobby. In addition to the gardening experience and learning about horticulture, there are other benefits. Studies have shown that children exposed to dirt may develop a stronger immune system and fewer

allergies. Significant improvement in school performance also has been observed in children who participate in outdoor gardening. Through our positive experience in gardening with youth, DGC encourages other garden clubs to develop youth gardens in their areas to foster education and community support. For many children, a garden is their first real experience with nature. We hope our efforts may leave a positive, lifelong impact. So, dig in with a kid! ■

**Jackie Dempsey & Blanche Garone**

*DGC Youth Garden Committee  
Derry, New Hampshire*



**Photos courtesy of  
Derry Garden Club**

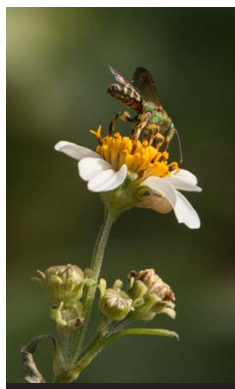


**National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
INTERNATIONAL  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
COMPETITION**

for NGC Members and Affiliates

*"Look deeper into Nature and you will understand everything." - Albert Einstein*

A MACRO or CLOSE-UP of something in nature that brings understanding about the web of life.



**FOR MORE INFO:**  
arabellas@aol.com

**The contest is open  
March 1-April 15, 2017**

- All submissions will be juried.
- The 24 highest scoring images will be displayed in Richmond, VA - May 16-21, 2017 at the NGC Convention

**Submit entries online. Login at: <http://cqburke.com/ngc/>**

This competition is open to members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. and its affiliated organizations.

**Fees:** There is no charge to enter. You may enter as many as three (3) images.

**Image Preparation**

**Guidelines:** All images must be submitted in "JPG" format.

**Image Resolution:**

Each image must have a minimum resolution of 300 pixels per inch.

**Dimension:** When the image resolution is 300, the maximum allowable dimension for an image is 14 inches (4200 pixels) on the long side and 11 inches (3300 pixels) on the short side. For images having a resolution greater than 300, a proportional increase in their dimension is allowed. As an example, for an image with a resolution of 350 pixels per inch, the long side dimension may be 4900 pixels and the short side may be 3850 pixels.

**File size:** Minimum 1.5 Megabytes

# Save the Date...

May 22, 2017 | 1:30 p.m.

You are cordially invited to attend the dedication of the four-year renovation by National Garden Clubs Inc. of

## the Friendship Garden

United States National Arboretum  
Washington D.C.

The Friendship Garden at the United States National Arboretum is often described as a garden that many homeowners can easily relate to and achieve. The original garden, opened in 1991, was an example of "The New American Garden," a movement that popularized the use of ornamental grasses in landscapes. Funding for the project was provided by the eight regions of NGC and benches commemorating those regions were placed throughout the garden.

In 2013, an extensive renovation was undertaken with an emphasis on 21st century design. Using the same principles and the philosophy of low maintenance, the new garden features native plants, including many cultivars that attract pollinators.

**Please plan to join members of National Capital Area Garden Clubs Inc. in celebrating this important milestone event.**

**The event is free.**

**Register today at:  
[babsm@erols.com](mailto:babsm@erols.com)  
RSVP by May 12, 2017**

**For more information, visit:**  
[http://www.ncagardenclubs.org/fs\\_garden1.html](http://www.ncagardenclubs.org/fs_garden1.html)  
<http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/collections/friend.html>  
<http://www.usna.usda.gov/>

# National Garden Week

## June 4-10, 2017

**N**ational Garden Week offers many possibilities to promote National Garden Clubs' objectives of beautification, gardening and environmental efforts. Many NGC members celebrate National Garden Week by providing gardening education and other services that foster a sense of pride in their communities. The week also is a wonderful opportunity to recruit new members, as well as encourage the general public to join in these efforts.

There are many ways you can promote National Garden Week. Make your plans now, so that your garden club can involve as many of your members as possible. NGC National Garden Week posters are beautiful, and may be displayed at any event or project. Download a poster at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org).

Here are some Ideas to consider:

- Plan an educational program at the public library and/or garden center.
- Plan a workshop at a public garden or garden center. This can be a hands-on workshop.
- Host a garden tour. This is a great time to share our gardens with our neighbors and community. Share your knowledge of growing, while sharing ideas. Provide handouts on your garden club to potential members.
- Plan an activity with a school classroom, or youth groups, such as the Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts. You might plan an activity to help a Girl

Scout troop earn the NGC Native Plants Patch.

- Plan a workday to beautify a new or existing area in your community. This would provide an opportunity to work with other groups.
- Provide a floral arrangement or plant, placed with a poster, at your local city hall, U.S. Post Office, nursing or assisted-living home, or other public facility.
- Plant container gardens at welcome centers, public buildings or a location where they will enhance an area. Make plans on how your garden club will provide ongoing maintenance.

National Garden Clubs landscape, environmental and gardening study consultants, as a council or individual, are encouraged to plan a program, workshop or activity to share their knowledge. Barbara Hadsell, chairman, Gardening Study Schools and Greg Pokorski, coordinator, Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design Schools, have some wonderful suggestions. Please see their articles supporting National Garden Week in this issue.

Publicity is a key factor in promoting National Garden Week. Download the National Garden Week Proclamation from the NGC website and invite your local mayor to sign it. This provides a wonderful photo opportunity for your local newspaper. Also, share National



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

### NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Gardeners have a passion for nurturing the beauty and resources of the earth through the planting of seeds, the care of all plants and the riches of their efforts; and

Whereas, Gardeners seek to add beauty, splendor, fragrance and nutrition to our lives through the growing of herbs, vegetables, foliage and flowers; and

Whereas, Gardeners work to preserve our country's traditional spirit of independence and initiative through innovation and hard work; and

Whereas, Gardeners advocate the importance of all creatures, large and small, that share our world and their roles in a balanced and productive ecology; and

Whereas, Gardening furnishes a challenging and productive activity for our citizens, for those just learning as well as those having years of experience; and

Whereas, Gardening promotes a healthy lifestyle that lasts a lifetime, helps reduce stress from other areas of our life, teaches that rewards can come from diligent efforts; and

Whereas, Gardening enables members of Garden Clubs across the nation and the world to make a world of difference in the communities where they reside and work;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that in an effort to acknowledge the importance of Gardening and the numerous contributions of Gardeners, National Garden Clubs, Inc. designates the week of June 4-10, 2017 as National Garden Week.

*Sandra A. Robinson*  
Sandra A. Robinson,  
2015-2017 President, NGC, Inc.



Garden Week photos of events and activities with your local media, as well as on the NGC Flickr® website. The more we become involved in our communities and share information, the more interest we generate in NGC.

“Leap into Action” and celebrate National Garden Week! ■

**Marsha Alexander**

Chairman, NGC National Garden Week  
[marshaalexander@charter.net](mailto:marshaalexander@charter.net)

# Planting the seeds for citizen of advocacy heritage landscapes

By Lucinda Brockway

Citizen science, or crowd-sourced science, asks us all to document, observe and report on the seasonal changes of nature. From migrating birds to changes in temperature variations, the Internet can harness a powerful mass of citizen-generated data that can be interpreted and utilized by climatologists, ecologists, conservationists and botanists.



▲ The view from Main Street Bridge of the Mousam River, Kennebunk, Maine.

National Garden Clubs Inc. members are often asked to participate in these efforts; their avid interest in the outdoors, and their observant zeal for seasonal changes, are natural audiences for citizen science. As powerful as this data collecting can be, there are aspects of our surroundings that we are losing, where gradual change and imperfect planning cannot be recognized by citizen scientists. There are no online sources for sharing this loss, even as we watch it happen.

The steady loss in heritage landscapes can be seen across the country. New highway interchanges spawn strip mall development and big-box stores that have little to do with regional architecture or community settlement patterns. Incremental changes in temperature, drought, floods and weather conditions cause significant, documentable changes in hardiness zones and plant viability for historic farms and gardens. Coastal erosion and extreme weather events seem impossible to counter, yet with some modeling, we can predict how this change will occur and what will potentially be lost or saved. Catastrophic events are easy to see and troubling to watch happen. The incremental is more insidious and intrepid—the change has happened before we see it coming.



▲ The entry road to Appleton Farms in Ipswich, Massachusetts, an example of the type of landscapes found in the Heritage Landscape Reconnaissance Reports, is eligible for the Heritage Atlas.

## The eye of the beholder

Our heritage landscapes are our regional identity. They distinguish the Northeast from the Northwest, the Chicago suburbs from

---

**“...each viewer's perspective was colored by his own personal experience, values and beliefs.”**

---

the commuter towns of Long Island. They are constantly changing and under scrutiny for what potential wealth they might

offer to contemporary entrepreneurs. In 1979, D.W. Meinig, an American geographer, wrote “The Beholding Eye,” an article that described his experiences when he asked a group of varied individuals to go to a viewing spot and describe the landscape in detail and provide some meaning or value as to the content of the scenery. For Meinig, it became quickly apparent that each viewer's perspective was colored by his own personal experiences, values and beliefs. In other words, what we see before us and what is in our heads combines to define our perceptions on what to save, what is beautiful, what is lost. For

example, for the real estate agent, the landscape represents untapped potential for wealth, sale and resale. For the ideologist, the landscape defines aspects of cultural values such as freedom, family, competition, power, romance and progress. For the mathematician, the landscape is viewed as a spatial arrangement of features with a geometrical relationship to each other. For the historian, the landscape is an artifact, a series of clues left behind that can be strung together to tell a story, or as a layer cake whose layers represent a series of changes laid down one upon the other. A travel writer or novelist sees the

landscape as a place, giving personality and distinctive regional setting for their writings. An artist sees the landscape as an aesthetic, a three-dimensional work of art or scenery. A scientist views a landscape as a system of geological, morphological, hydrological and meteorological dynamics that leave their physical impacts on the ground. Each viewer cares about the view before him, but in different ways and for different reasons. For the regional heritage landscape, whether it is a single site or an entire community, collective views require understanding, with any changes made in the least impactful way.

For our vernacular regional landscapes, they are most powerful if left to the common good, not fenced in and separated from the community like a historic site, but allowed to wend their way through streets, along rivers and over hillsides within and around the community itself. In communities where



the core values of these landscapes are understood and protected, often through a series of board reviews or zoning regulations, incremental changes can be guided within a fixed set of parameters. But for many communities that lack these restrictions, controversial and conflicting results may occur.

### The power of a citizen initiative

But what if the citizen science model was brought to the public eye? What if common values of heritage landscapes were documented and data driven, defining those aspects that are highly valued and those aspects that could withstand change, both incidental and significant? In Kennebunk, Maine, the local light and power company stopped generating electric power from a series of dams on the Mousam River. These dams created wide, meandering waterways that offered habitat to migrating birds, but limited the ability for migrating fish to ascend



▲ The fields of Westport Town Farm in Westport, Massachusetts also are eligible for the Heritage Atlas.

the river for spawning. The wide expanses of water created beautiful scenery for neighboring homes. The loss of the dams, which were expensive to maintain, was applauded by the ichthyologists, but bemoaned by real estate agents and river neighbors, who were concerned the loss of the scenic river view from the downtown bridges would impact real estate values and tourism. A citizen petition was launched that had little effect

**“The wide expanses of water created beautiful scenery for neighboring homes.”**

on the decision of the light and power company, but town officials held a series of community planning exercises to better understand the value of the dams as an aesthetic resource and taxable real estate amenity. The power of this citizen initiative may be able to save some of the dams at the cost of increased tax dollars, and the addition of fish ladders may help to gain the support of local ichthyologists. In this case, the citizen-led petition initiative was effective at voicing the value and potential loss of the dams

◀ The view from the upper dam of the Mousam River, Kennebunk, Maine.

for many. It forced a conversation about loss and change, bringing many voices to the table, though its final results are yet to be determined.

### Many voices, one landscape

In the Northwest, Native Americans who define their spiritual landscape over many acres, mountaintops and viewsheds, are working with power companies that provide solar and wind installations. Without compromising sacred tribal knowledge and cultural values, Native Americans seek to find ways to document and voice their perspectives on the impact of electric-generating installations across a broad landscape. This conversation is complicated and communication is challenging. Data on tribal migration patterns, oral histories and folklore that are links to the landscape is being collected and mapped, which may create useful information for regional planning.

### The identification of priority landscapes

From 2001 to 2009, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation launched a Heritage Landscape Inventory Program in communities across the state. A professional consulting team facilitated the process in which residents of each community were tasked to define special places of importance for priority landscapes and planning, as well as issues that could potentially impact those resources. In some cases, a view from a bridge or a scenic roadway was identified, in others, an old mill that had fueled the town's economic growth or a tiny historic house museum set along the side of the road. All of the priority landscapes were identified and mapped using geographic information systems technology. The result is the Heritage Landscape Atlas, which is designed to view these priority landscapes in the context of each



community's comprehensive planning and neighboring community changes. The database, atlas and support documents identify the protection options for both natural and cultural resources; analyze landscape types and frequencies across the state for unique, rare and endangered landscape types; and provide an interactive resource that can be updated with citizen and community input. When these resources are incorporated into community planning, they give voice to the considerations needed for heritage landscapes.

### Be a citizen advocate

What can National Garden Club members do as citizen advocates for heritage or cultural resources? Using the above examples as models, there is a great deal that members can do to gather community groups, identify priority heritage landscapes and map these special places

for community planners. By giving a reason and voice to these landscapes, you are protecting your regional identity and community character. Once these touchstones of the past are gone, they cannot be recovered. When combined with important ecological and conservation sites, club members can blend cultural and natural values that allow for appropriate change within data documented parameters and provide a forum for respectful discussion.

Support can take all forms – from community activism to buying a single share in a community supported agriculture program on a heritage farm. You can purchase a membership to your local cultural or heritage museum, or serve as a committee volunteer or on the board of your local historic district commission, historical society, conservation commission, or community planning board. You

can photograph your favorite heritage landscape and post it on social media sites. You can sign a citizen petition or write a letter when something that you care about is about to change. Change is a powerful agent. What we choose to save, and what we choose to let go defines our generation's historic values. What will you choose to defend, and what will you allow to disappear? How can you harness the power of citizen science to build a dataset that defines your community, your neighborhood, or your own backyard? If knowledge is power, then gathering information in this technology-driven age shares knowledge across boundaries and individuals, giving voice to your most treasured special places when change knocks on the doorstep. ■

 **Photos by Lucinda Brockway**

*Lucinda Brockway is program director for cultural resources of the Trustees of Reservations, which preserves and cares for some of the most treasured natural, scenic and historic sites for public use and enjoyment in Massachusetts. Founded in 1891, the organization is the world's first land preservation nonprofit and the commonwealth's largest conservation and preservation organization. Visit [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org).*

*References: D.W. Meinig, "The Beholding Eye" in the Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes, Geographical Essays, ed. D.W. Meinig (New York: Oxford University Press. 1979. 33-50) and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/cultural-resources/heritage-landscape-atlas.html><http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/cultural-resources/historic-landscape-preservation-initiative.html>*

## The National Gardener



### WINTER

January, February, March  
Articles due: November 1  
Advertising due: November 15



### SUMMER

July, August, September  
Articles due: May 1  
Advertising due: May 15



### SPRING

April, May, June  
Articles due: February 1  
Advertising due: February 15



### FALL

October, November, December  
Articles due: August 1  
Advertising due: August 15

## Cultivate our Garden Community

### WITH GARDENING TIPS, IDEAS AND PROJECTS

Members of National Garden Clubs are a wealth of knowledge and information on all things in the garden.

**Do you, or your club, have gardening tips, tricks, ideas or project successes to share?**



**The National Gardener would like to tap into your skills and talents, as well as showcase your favorite projects.**

#### PLEASE SEND:

- **A brief description** of your idea or how a unique project fostered success.
- **A photo or two** of your project is welcome. Photos must be high resolution 300 dpi with photo credit information provided.

#### SEND TO:

**Patricia Binder, editor**  
**The National Gardener**  
[patricia.b.binder@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.b.binder@gmail.com)



# Sarasota Garden Club Marks 90 Years

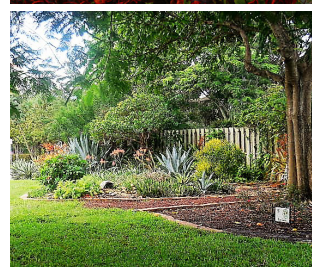
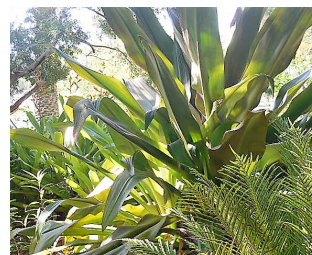
**S**arasota Garden Club in Sarasota, Florida, celebrates its 90th anniversary this year. The club was founded on May 6, 1927, by Mable Burton Ringling, wife of John Ringling of the Ringling Bros. circus empire. The garden club's center was built in 1959 on land leased from the City of Sarasota. The Midcentury Modern building is surrounded by lush, Florida-friendly horticulture.

In 2009, the building was placed on the city's historic register.

Sarasota Garden Club is situated on more than an acre of beautifully maintained grounds. It offers native and tropical plants, a butterfly garden that appeals to a large variety of butterflies and hummingbirds, as well

**“The garden club's center  
was built in 1959...”**

as 14 themed specimen tropical gardens. The grounds are open to the public free



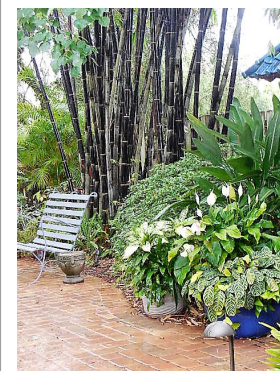
of charge. The center and parklike grounds also are available for weddings, corporate events and meetings. Approximately

**“The grounds  
are open to the  
public free of  
charge.”**

20,000 people visit or use the building annually.

The garden club's 178 members promote civic beautification and

community awareness in environmental concerns, as well as education of floral arts, gardening, conservation and preservation. The club works with like-minded



organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, as well as independent and assisted living organizations; community gardens; and children's organizations. ■

Sarasota Garden Club is a member of Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.

 **Photos courtesy of  
Sarasota Garden  
Club**

# planting it pink IN MICHIGAN

In spring 2015, Meridian Garden Club in Meridian Charter Township, the third largest municipality in the Lansing-East Lansing area of Michigan, was approached by city leaders to take on a community garden project. The task: a small piece of unattended ground situated at a high-traffic intersection at Meridian Historical Village, a picturesque destination for local residents, school children and tourists that features historic buildings restored in the 19th century style. Our club, which maintains a number of gardens in and near the Village, voted to convert the space into something meaningful, as well as beautiful. We chose to create a garden honoring Plant It Pink, a continuing project of National

Garden Clubs Inc. that promotes awareness of the fight against breast cancer. A committee was formed, the club committed funds to purchase benches for the new garden and an exciting, two-year journey was launched.

The committee designed a simple garden for the designated space. As the project unfolded, it grew in scope. A multi-year master plan for all recreational spaces in the Township was developed by landscape architects that altered the Township's original plan for the garden. The park commission helped to identify a new site. A two-phase project was implemented to meet the new timeline and budget. Sources of funding were identified. Fundraising efforts were buoyed by

the receipt of a grant for \$11,000 from the Capital Region Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization that serves the charitable needs and enhances the quality of life in the counties of mid-Michigan. This remarkable achievement was the result of our club's first effort in grant writing.

The result is a 720-square-foot Plant It Pink gar-

The Back Door Gardeners of Meridian Historical Village constructed a nearby vegetable garden in honor of the Plant It Pink project.



den that overlooks a pond in Meridian Historical Village. The garden is a respite that offers healing, meditative spaces for survivors of breast cancer and their

a single bench and two large rocks for additional seating. Memorial bricks that honor breast cancer survivors or those who have fallen from the disease will be offered for purchase to the community. The proceeds will be used to provide ongoing garden maintenance. A formal

**“The result is a 720-square-foot Plant It Pink garden...”**

families, as well as the members of the community. Plantings in the garden provide structure and dramatic visual interest during the winter. A focus on sustainability and native plants was in keeping with NGC's mission, including the use of deer-resistant plants that require little maintenance. The garden's hardscape features a semi-circular brick patio surrounded by an organic arrangement of trees, flowering shrubs and plants in various shades of pink that were selected for color, texture and scent through three seasons. Site preparation and the installation of hardscaping were provided by volunteers of the Capital Area Landscape and Nurseryman's Association (CALNA). Future plans include the installation of



▲ Scale sketch of the Plant It Pink garden.



▲ Creating community awareness for Plant It Pink at the public library. The garden club also planted annuals that promote the importance of reading.



▲ Meridian Garden Club member Merry Warner, a breast cancer survivor, planted flowers with her support group.



◀ Garden club members filling Plant It Pink seed packets for the Girl Scouts.

dedication of the garden will be held in October in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

### Create Community Awareness

We targeted four Plant It Pink initiatives to raise breast cancer awareness in our community. For more information, visit [www.meridiangardenclub.weebly.com](http://www.meridiangardenclub.weebly.com).

1. Pink zinnia seeds, individually packaged by members of the Plant It Pink committee, were distributed to 425 Girl Scouts in the Township to use in their own awareness projects.
2. Civic beautification groups, health clubs, libraries, beauty salons and health care facilities were contacted about the Plant It Pink project. The project entailed the display of pink annuals, donated and planted by garden club members, on each property for one month. Participants also displayed a Plant It Pink sign among the flowers. A test plot of pink annuals also was planted at

Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens.

3. To encourage the community to “Plant It Pink” for breast cancer awareness, our signs appeared at our largest and most popular local nurseries, as well as national home improvement retail outlets that sold plants. The response from the community was overwhelming, and we were limited only by the funds we had appropriated for this part of the project.
4. Our club planted a flat of pink annuals in each of the 10 gardens it maintains in the community.

I hope the insights from our journey may provide ideas on how you can Plant It Pink in your community. ■

### Sue Nieland

*Chairman, Plant It Pink  
Meridian Garden Club*

📷 Photos courtesy of Meridian Garden Club

▼ CALNA volunteers.



▼ Plant It Pink groundbreaking.



# garden club profile

## TRI-VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB

The Tri-Village Garden Club donated \$500 to We Grow Dreams, Inc., a not-for-profit organization in West Chicago that offers job-training and opportunities for people with disabilities at the We Grow Dreams Greenhouse & Garden Center, a wholesale and retail operation.

The organization provides a supportive, safe and caring environment to young adults with disabilities and assists them in the development of valuable work, communication and social skills that will facilitate their employment in the future—while producing and providing products and services to the community. Team members learn a variety of gardening tasks in the day-to-day operation,

such as deadheading plants; filling pots with soil for seeds/seedlings; transplanting plants; spacing plant materials; watering; stocking plants and supplies; as well as greeting and assisting customers; running the cash register; folding cartons; and clerical and maintenance tasks. In addition, a craft program produces greeting cards, hypertufa pots, personalized garden bricks and bird feeders for sale to the public. For more information, visit [www.wegrowdreams.org](http://www.wegrowdreams.org).

Tri-Village Garden Club was formed in 1997 and comprises the Villages of Bartlett, Hanover Park and Streamwood in Illinois. It is a member of The Garden Club of Illinois Inc. ■



◀ Flanked by participants in the We Grow Dreams Greenhouse & Garden Center program, Wally Groble, president, Tri-Village Garden Club, presents a check to Karen Pachyn, Master Gardener and volunteer. Sue Stocks, treasurer, Tri-Village Garden Club, is standing with the group of students. Photo courtesy of Tri-Village Garden Club.

# monarch waystations

“Just living isn’t enough,” said the butterfly. “One must also have sunshine, freedom and a little flower,” wrote Hans Christian Andersen in “The Complete Fairy Tales.” Andersen penned this long before we began to see a decline in butterflies and pollinators and the prairie became the Corn Belt, with 6,000 acres of native habitat lost to development each day.

Recently, we have seen an upturn of interest in our pollinating friends, as seed and plant catalogs show the benefits of gardening for pollinators. Garden magazines and newsletters cover our tables, as we read and dream about spring and planting. But what could be accomplished if we expand our imaginations by thinking outside the box or beyond the comfort of our own gardens?

In 2013, The Garden Club of Kentucky Inc. chose to take the road less traveled—



▲ Boonesboro State Park.

actually, roads that led to many of the 49 parks in the state. State parks in Kentucky offer 45,000 acres of protected native habitat, with thousands of people

visiting each year. Working in partnership with the commissioner and state naturalist at the Kentucky Department of Parks, a commitment was made to reach out to five of these parks to establish monarch waystations on each site. Three years, 16,000 miles and 28 parks later, the numbers of established monarch waystations are still growing, as well as enthusiasm for this project.

## Start small, plan big

What do our efforts have to do with the average gardener? Here are some ideas on how you can do wonders in your state by establishing monarch waystations:

- Develop a partnership with your state parks. Establish a point of contact and meet with your state park commissioner and state naturalist. Provide packets of materials on the monarch waystation program and ask if they would be willing to partner with your state garden clubs. If they are receptive, ask if they would send an email to each park manager describing the program and to let them know that you will contact them personally. Provide a list of your state garden clubs, with updated contact information. Ask if they will share their list of park managers, as well. If you plan to use your state park logo in your education efforts, please be sure to get their permis-



◀ Kentucky Dam State Park.

sion and a release form.

- Now, here is the fun part! Contact and meet with each park manager and/or naturalist. Provide an information packet that explains the monarch waystation process and reasons why this is an important project. Work with them to locate a suitable site on the park property that receives full sun, but also is highly visible to park visitors. Identify potential organizations that will assist in the project, such as garden clubs, friends groups, scouting organizations and more, and be prepared to meet with these groups to discuss the project. Provide information on local nursery and garden centers for the purchase of plants and seeds that have not been treated with chemicals. Ask the park manager to register his park’s monarch waystation site on

## “...declare September as Monarch Awareness Month.”

www.monarchwatch.org and encourage him to use his park name on the certificate.

- Follow up with each park manager. Recommend setting a date for a public dedication upon the completion of a monarch waystation. Champion the collaboration by inviting local dignitaries and state public officials, park personnel that were involved in the project, as well as members of your local news media to the event. Plan to attend the dedication and invite garden club and community members who volunteered their efforts in the project.
- Contact the governor of your state and ask him to declare September as “Monarch Awareness Month.” Request a meeting with his office to

...Continued on page 27

# a passion for gardening

**H**ave you ever wondered where gardeners get their passion for gardening?

My passion for gardening started with my love for “critters” of all kinds. Growing up in South Texas, all kinds of insects and birds were in abundance, and being a “tomboy,” I tended to spend my time outdoors. My mother’s garden featured a few lovely flowers and shrubs, but the many small creatures that occupied our yard sparked my interest. I loved to investigate the little holes made by antlions. These tiny insects made conical pits in the sand and lay hidden at the bottom of each pit. Any ants that had the bad fortune to walk by faced certain doom when they fell into the holes. I found it fascinating!

Our house was located on the edge of town, adjacent to a rice field. A few times each year, the owner would open flood gates to help the rice grow. I highly anticipated these events because many creatures, such as frogs, would emerge from the mud and hop into our yard. One day, Rusty, my childhood dog, was seen foaming at the mouth. Although I was certain he had contracted rabies, I learned he had snagged a frog and the froth was a toxin the frog used as a defense. Snakes would also leave their dens. One evening, my father stepped out the door and

his foot landed right on top of a water moccasin. It was a good thing that it scared them both—they quickly moved in opposite directions! Although I loved most creatures, I steered clear of bats and spiders. According to conventional wisdom, spiders would nest in ladies’ long, teased hair (readers may remember when that hairstyle was popular), and bats would swoop down and get caught. I found this idea frightening!

As I grew up, completed school and started a profession, I stumbled upon

**“...the many small creatures that occupied our yard sparked my interest.”**

a “garden club.” I quickly discovered new gardening friends and became passionate about planting. Being a member of a garden club expanded my world. I learned about the many benefits of insects and how to use my own plant material to interpret life. My outdoor world became alive with nature, which brought back fond memories of my childhood. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to protect our world so they can enjoy and learn to appreciate the same things we did.

Gardening and giving back is my passion. I feel I have made my world a safe haven for anything that chooses to enjoy it with me. I plant for wildlife, as well as for my own use and enjoyment. I hope my efforts inspire others to see their gardens through more tolerant eyes.



This federal initiative’s goal is for a **MILLION GARDENS** to include plants for pollinators across our great country. It’s not unreachable at all.

**NGC alone has almost 200,000 members.**

If each of you include pollinator plants in your garden, and through your passion to stop this decline cause just **four more people** to do the same, we’ve reached this goal all by ourselves!

Please Plant **NOW** for our pollinators and share the word!

**Becky Hassebroek**  
MPGC Liaison  
beckyhase@aol.com

Won't you join me? ■

**Becky Hassebroek**  
Environmental Concerns/Conservation Committee Chairman, Bee a Wildlife Action Hero, Garden for Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation Liaison Committee  
BeckyHase@aol.com



Continued from page 25...



▲ Jenny Wiley Park.

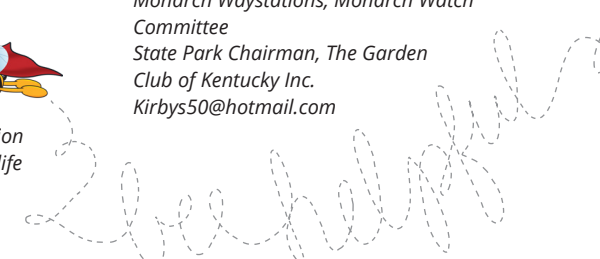
pick up the official declaration and have photos taken to commemorate the event.

- Educate garden club members in your state on monarch waystations and gardens for pollinators and ask for their support. Travel with extra brochures, flyers and handouts on monarch waystations. You will always be asked for these items and you can never have enough on hand.

A successful collaboration with your state parks on the development of monarch waystations may garner a whole new appreciation on how to help our pollinator friends. Have fun in the process, and remember,

**“A goal without a plan is just a wish.” – Antoine de Saint-Exupéry ■**

**Joanna Kirby**  
Monarch Waystations, Monarch Watch Committee  
State Park Chairman, The Garden Club of Kentucky Inc.  
Kirbys50@hotmail.com



# member profile

## KAY MACNEIL

**F**or 40 years, Kay MacNeil has been enticing monarchs and butterflies to her home garden in Frankfort, Illinois, a suburban area south of Chicago. MacNeil, chairman of the Milkweed for Monarchs program for The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc., always makes sure her gardens offer a plethora of milkweed plants, a vital source of food for monarch caterpillars, as well as nectar plants that attract adult butterflies. In 2015, she raised 64 monarchs from eggs or caterpillars. She saw a dramatic decline in 2016—a trend that has been echoed nationally and worldwide.

Bolstered by the plight of monarchs and other prolific pollinators, MacNeil hopes to stem the decline through education and awareness. She created informative, educational tutorials “From Milkweed to Monarchs with Kay Mac-

Neil,” on YouTube®, which are free of charge and may be used by any garden club or individual or group nationwide. She encourages garden clubs across the U.S. to distribute milkweed seeds at plant sales, parties, community and Earth Day events, National Garden Week activities and more. She also offers free educational literature and other materi-

**“...she raised 64 monarchs from eggs or caterpillars.”**

als, including the lifecycle of the monarch butterfly; step-by-step instructions on harvesting milkweed seed; and how to raise and release butterflies; as well as children’s monarch activity sheets and coloring pages.

In addition, MacNeil created a program to encourage the planting of milkweed along Illinois roads and highways. In conjunction with the Illinois Depart-



▲ Male Monarch



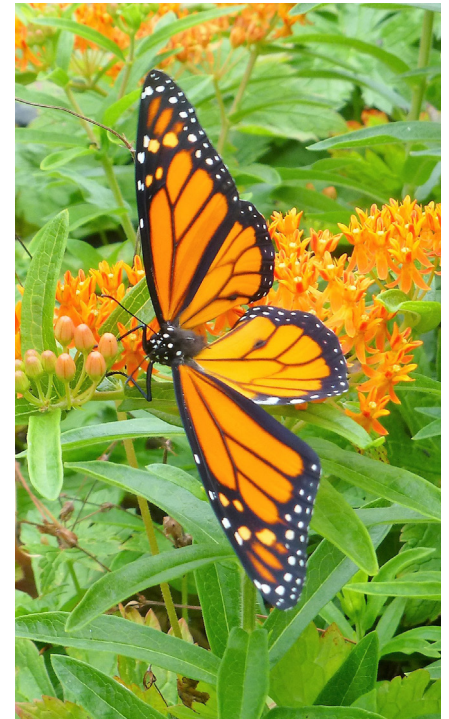
◀ Chrysalis with gold band



ment of Transportation, she and her “pollinator posse” of volunteers collect and place milkweed seeds and pods in construction-sized bags and the contents are distributed by workers in designated areas. As a token of her thanks to individuals who donate milkweed seeds, MacNeil sends a personal note on postcards that feature her own photos of monarchs. Also, included in the many free materials she offers to members or the public, there is information on how to order a monarch decal for Illinois license plates from the Illinois Environmental Council. Proceeds benefit milkweed roadside habitats.

For more information, contact MacNeil at [kaymac60423@yahoo.com](mailto:kaymac60423@yahoo.com). MacNeil also is chairman of Birds and Butterflies for The Garden Clubs of Illinois Inc.

 Photos by Kay MacNeil



# NEWS FROM ngc schools

**“The time I felt smartest was when...it dawned on me that no matter how much you know, there’s always more to learn.”**

**- ALLIE POSTOWSKIVICH**

**B**elonging to a garden club provides wonderful learning opportunities: monthly programs, bus tours, flower shows, a variety of newsletters, interaction with club members and speakers and the opportunity to attend and participate in events, such as NGC schools, refreshers and symposia and state, region and national conventions.

When you join a garden club, you see the world. My wife, Robin, recently attended the NGC Winter Executive Committee Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. As her travelling companion, I had the unique opportunity to see the Founders Memorial Garden on the University of Georgia campus. The garden was developed by The Garden Club of Georgia Inc. and the university’s Landscape Architecture Department. The garden is now administered by the College of Environment and Design. This collaboration illustrates a connection of disciplines, similar to our NGC schools.

A visit to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia at the University of Georgia, current home of The Garden Club of Georgia

Inc., also demonstrates the complementary nature of our schools. The purpose of this botanical garden is to explore, learn and conserve—much like we do in our schools. According to information on the wonderful signage in the garden, a major role of a modern botanical garden is to document, study, conserve and where necessary, perpetuate species through cultivation. Botanical gardens are one of the best hopes for preserving the world’s flora. The landscape design of the garden was evident and well-executed, with a focus on gardening practices. The many plants themselves were in keeping with the environment. Additional information about the garden included the many ways in which it effectively uses water, supports pollination and preserves species.

In the last issue of *The National Gardener*, Dorthy Yard, chairman of NGC Flower Show Schools wrote that the four NGC schools “are all different, yet complement each other. Together they make a stronger garden club member, increasing our role in maintaining our world. Graduates of a flower show school are encouraged to take advantage of what these other schools have to offer.” I heartily concur with her statements and also encourage the graduates of any of our schools to attend all of our other schools.

Please remember to observe **National Consultants Day** during National Garden Week, June 4-10. Celebrate achieving

consultant status. Share your knowledge with fellow garden club members and the public. Engage in activities using what you have learned to promote all levels of garden club and all our NGC schools. If you are planning an upcoming school or refresher, use this opportunity to tell the public about these events, and recruit students. These efforts can be accomplished by consultants individually, or working together at the club, district, council, state or region levels. What are you planning? Share your plans and results with NGC’s Schools Committees. Good luck and have fun!

We have received several requests for ideas on schools-related exhibits. The exhibits may be used at flower shows, conventions and for your National Consultants Day activities. Display Consultant pins for the various schools and/or official reading material or school handbooks/administrative guides for each school. Or, use photos/copies of the book covers on tri-fold boards. Use copies of *The National Gardener* and *Keeping in Touch* (as well as council, region and state publications) as display items or handouts. Offer brochures about upcoming schools and photos from schools or refreshers that show students engaged in class, teachers instructing, hands-on activities, gardens/landscapes visited on tours. The NGC Landscape Design newsletter, *Newscape*, is available on the NGC website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), as well as a new Gardening Consul-

tants newsletter. These publications can be posted on your display board or made available as handouts. Additional ideas may include:

- Information about councils and their activities, with photos of their events and meetings.
- Copies of award certificates given or information about school/council-related awards.
- Consultant cards or copies of them.
- Information about Multiple Refreshers.
- Information about Four Star and Five Star Member Certificates.

A reminder concerning all three (ES, GS and LD) schools: you may register your schools with NGC and your national accrediting chairmen, as well as listed on the NGC website and in *The National Gardener*, before you have all your instructors lined up. You do not have to list all instructors to register each course. Online and interactive forms for all schools are available on the NGC website. Please utilize this convenience. Doing so expedites processing time and virtually eliminates the need to make multiple copies and incur postage expenses.

Offer schools. Attend schools. Keep learning! ■

**Greg Pokorski**

*Coordinator, ES, GS and LD Schools*  
[GregPokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:GregPokorski@earthlink.net)



# landscape

## DESIGN SCHOOLS

**N**ational Garden Week is June 4-10. The Gardening Study and Landscape Design Schools committees of National Garden Clubs Inc. have suggested that consultant councils and individual consultants also observe National Consultants Day during that week. Ideas for LD councils and consultants may include:

- Hold an educational program open to the public.
- Offer a landscape workshop for consultants and members of state garden clubs.
- Present a program or provide plants and information to students and teachers at a local school.
- Volunteer at a Habitat for Humanity house to do some outdoor cleanup or planting.
- Present a program or workshop at a local library.
- Hold a workshop on the role of pollinators and how they benefit gardens and children.

As the 2015-2017 administration of NGC President Sandra Robinson comes to a close, the LDS committee wishes to thank the many state presidents, chairmen of Landscape Design Schools and Landscape Design Councils who have chosen to "Leap into Action." Since May 2015, more than 60 LDS courses have been held in 24 states. Alaska and Arizona introduced their very first courses, and in Maine, the program was reestablished. Courses were also held by International Affiliates.

LD Refreshers, Bi-Refreshers and Tri-Refreshers have taken consultants and garden club members to historic sites, well-planned gardens and parks. The courses offer the opportunity for attendees to have a better understanding of the landscape design process and make sound ecological and environmental decisions in their gardens and in their communities. In keeping with NGC bylaws, gardeners are able "to study and to advance the fine arts of gardening, landscape, floral design and horticulture." *Newscape*, the LDS newsletter, has shared information on the many activities of LD councils and garden clubs.

We request that current LDS state chairmen and LD council chairmen provide us with the name of your replacements if you are not continuing your position in 2017-2019. Please include your name, title, address, telephone and cell phone numbers and email address. Please send this information to Caroline Carbaugh, *Newscape* editor, at [CSCarbaugh@verizon.net](mailto:CSCarbaugh@verizon.net). The LDS directory will be updated following the NGC national convention in May in Richmond, Virginia.

"Leap into Action" and share the love of gardening. Our positive impact on the environment is crucial. My sincere appreciation goes to all of you. ■

### **Jane Bersch**

*Chairman, Landscape Design Schools*  
[janebersch@aol.com](mailto:janebersch@aol.com)

# gardening

## STUDY SCHOOLS

**C**ongratulations to Cheryl Lenert, chairman of Gardening Study Schools in Texas, who chaired her first school in January at Mercer Botanic Gardens in the Houston area. Bonni Dinneen, GSS accrediting chair, South Central region, presented a PowerPoint on "Reconciliation Ecology." The presentation is available to all garden clubs on the NGC website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) on the GSS page. The program kicked off with "Florida's Tropical Short Course" in January, which featured landscaping and designing with natives. The presentation is a free, educational tool for club members and programs. Thank you again to Marie Harrison and Mona Johnston, members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. for making this possible.

National Garden Week chairmen have begun making plans for activities with their local NGC Schools consultants for the observance of National Consultants Day. Here are some activities that may provide some ideas:

- We are planning to give presentations to elementary school children during youth story hour at our 16 local libraries. A script and PowerPoint presentation are being developed on pollinators in conjunction with the local native plant society and the National American Butterfly Association. This will be shared with our NGC consultants.
- The FFGC Tri-Council is considering funding a giveaway for each child that could include seeds, a craft or a native pollinator-friendly plant.

Please share your National Consultants Day plans and photos with Cathy Felton, editor of our new Gardening Study Schools Council newsletter, at [camafelton@comcast.net](mailto:camafelton@comcast.net). ■

### **Barbara Hadsell**

*Chairman, Gardening Study Schools*  
[barbarahadsell@cs.com](mailto:barbarahadsell@cs.com)

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# Flower Show

SCHOOLS NEWS

**“A garden should be in a constant state of fluid change, expansion, experiment, adventure; above all it should be an inquisitive, loving, but self-critical journey on the part of its owner.”**

**- H. E. BATES**

**W**ith the publication of the 2017 edition of the Handbook for Flower Shows, National Garden Clubs Inc. continues in its effort to keep members current.

By furnishing them with a clear, concise summary of flower show procedure, NGC encourages its judges and flower show personnel to maintain the high standards set by earlier publications, while exploring new concepts, incorporating the latest in design techniques and recognizing modern trends in growing horticulture. The new handbook will become effective July 1.

- Garden clubs now have the option of holding not only a standard flower show or small standard flower show that includes both horticulture and design, but also, a horticulture specialty show or a design specialty show.
- The scales of points have been

simplified using one design scale of points for all designs and one horticulture scale of points for all single horticulture specimens

and collections.

Combination plantings and displays have separate revised scales of points, recognizing the unique qualities of each. In an effort to better educate the viewer, every design must be accompanied by a plant material card, identifying the

plant material used.

- The new handbook offers greater flexibility in some areas, tighter restrictions in others. The number of top exhibitor awards offered is unlimited. A show may offer as many of each as will meet the needs of the sections written in the schedule. This will accommodate those areas of the country which have many categories of container grown plants, arboreals or cut

**“The new handbook offers greater flexibility in some areas, tighter restrictions in others.”**

specimens according to the season. Arboreals now include trees and shrubs as cut specimens or container grown. The schedule determines the maximum size of containers.

- A botanical arts division allows opportunities for incorporating unique horticulture exhibits and innovative designs. Here, exhibitors may offer previously unrecognized forms of plant material, including branches revered for their brilliant fall color, bare branches with winter interest and those of exceptional size. Dried and preserved specimens and manipulated plants now have a place to be exhibited. Landscapes in botanical arts division vary from large gardens to fairy gardens. Designers will find some of the familiar design types, including collage, plaque, hanging designs, pot-et-fleur and topiary moved to this division. In addition, a new category, exploration, allows for the freedom to explore the world of creativity with plant material and design. Artistic crafts and photography round out the botanical arts division, each with its own scale of points.
- To claim a judging credit, one must judge six classes in the show, three of horticulture and three of design. After passing the handbook exam, accredited judges may refresh once per year, provided they have earned the required number of exhibiting and judging credits. Master judges must enter shows and win ribbons, one in horticulture, one in design, and earn one judging credit each time they refresh.
- FSS chairmen must be careful to monitor a student's progress at every step. Beginning July 1,

students must begin the series with Course I. The other three courses may be taken in any order. Students must be careful to complete the series within the allotted time frame of seven years, complete the schedule writing assignment with a minimum score of 75, and present proof of all exhibiting and judging credits for approval. All of this must be done before submitting a request to take the handbook exam—at least eight weeks prior to the exam date. The correct forms, available on the NGC website at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org), must accompany each request.

These are only a few of the highlights of the 2017 Handbook for Flower Show Schools. Ordering information is provided below. Judges and other garden club members should study the manual, become familiar with the new policies and incorporate them into their flower shows. We encourage everyone to explore the opportunities and embrace the possibilities. Enjoy the adventure! ■

### **Dorothy Yard**

*Chairman, Flower Show Schools  
dotyard@verizon.net*

### **To order the 2017 Handbook for Flower Show Schools:**

National Garden Clubs Inc.  
4401 Magnolia Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63110-3492

**Web:**  
[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

**Call:**  
1-800-550-6007

**E-mail:**  
[headquarters@gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)

**Fax:**  
314-776-5108

# ESCUELA DE EXPOSICIONES *de Flores*

**“Un jardín debe estar en un estado constante de cambio fluido, expansión, experimento, aventura; Sobre todo debe ser un viaje inquisitivo, amoroso, pero autocrítico por parte de su dueño.”**

**- H. E. BATES**

Con la publicación del Manual de Exposiciones de Flores 2017, National Garden Clubs, Inc. continúa sus esfuerzos por mantener sus miembros al día. Al ofrecerles un resumen conciso y claro de los procedimientos para la exposición de flores, NGC invita a los jueces y personal EEF mantener los niveles impuestos por publicaciones anteriores, al tiempo que explora nuevos conceptos, incorporando las últimas técnicas de diseño, y reconociendo las nuevas tendencias en el cultivo de horticultura. El nuevo manual entra en vigencia el 1ro de Julio 2017. (EL MEF en español y portugués el 1ro de enero 2018).

- Ahora, los clubes de jardinería no solamente tienen la opción de organizar exposiciones estándar de flores o pequeñas exposiciones estándar de flores que incluyen horticultura y diseño juntos, sino también las exposiciones especializadas de horticultura, o exposiciones especializadas de diseño.
- Se simplificaron las escalas de puntos con una escala de puntos de

diseño para todos los diseños y una escala de puntos para horticultura para todos los especímenes individuales y colecciones. Las Plantaciones combinadas y los display tienen escalas de puntos separadas y revisadas, que reconocen las cualidades únicas de ambos. Y para que sea más educativo para el público, cada diseño debe llevar una tarjeta

del material vegetal, que identifique las plantas utilizadas.

- El nuevo manual, es más flexible en algunas áreas, y con más restricciones en otras. La cantidad de premios mayores al expositor que se ofrece es sin límite. Una ex-

posición ofrece tantos de cada uno como sea necesario para cubrir las secciones específicas del programa. Esto responde a aquellos lugares que tienen muchas categorías de plantas en recipientes, arbóreos o especímenes cortados de acuerdo a la temporada. Ya que mencionamos arbóreos, esto ahora incluye ramas de arbustos y árboles cortados o en

recipientes. El programa especifica el tamaño máximo de los recipientes.

- División de artes botánicas permite la oportunidad de incorporar muestras de horticultura únicas y diseños innovadores. Aquí los expositores tienen la oportunidad de exhibir formas de horticultura que no se permitían anteriormente, como ramas con su espectacular colorido de otoño, ramas desnudas mostrando su interés invernal, y aquellos de tamaño excepcional. Los especímenes secos y conservados y plantas manipuladas ahora tienen un lugar donde se pueden exhibir. En la división de artes botánicas ahora el paisajismo va desde jardines a jardines de hadas. Los diseñadores encuentran aquí algunos de los tipos de diseño conocidos, como collage, placa, diseños Colgantes, pot-et-fleur y topiarios que se mudaron a esta división. Además, una nueva categoría, exploración, permite la libertad de explorar el mundo de la creatividad con material vegetal y diseño. Las manualidades y la fotografía redondean la división de artes botánicas, cada una con su propia escala de puntos.
- Para conseguir un crédito de juzgar, ahora se debe juzgar seis clases en una exposición, tres de horticultura y tres de diseño. Después de aprobar el examen del manual, los jueces acreditados pueden renovar una vez por año, siempre que hayan conseguido la cantidad requerida de créditos de exhibir y de juzgar. Los jueces master deben participar en exposiciones y ganar cintas, una en horticultura, una en diseño, y conseguir un crédito de juzgar cada vez que renuevan.
- El director de la escuela de ex-

posiciones de flores debe controlar cuidadosamente el progreso del estudiante, paso por paso. Comenzando el 1ro de Julio 2017, (Afiliados Internacionales 1ro de Enero 2018) los estudiantes deben empezar la serie con el curso 1. Los otros tres cursos se pueden hacer en cualquier orden. Los estudiantes deben completar la serie dentro del período establecido de siete años, terminar de escribir un programa con la calificación de 75 puntos, y presentar pruebas de todos los créditos de exhibir y de juzgar para recibir la aprobación. Todo esto se debe hacer antes de solicitar rendir el examen del manual, por lo menos ocho semanas antes de la fecha del examen. El formulario correcto, disponible en el sitio web de NGC, debe acompañar cada solicitud.

Estos son apenas algunos de los puntos importantes del Manual 2017. Los jueces y otros miembros del club de jardinería deben estudiar el manual, familiarizarse con las nuevas políticas, e incorporarlas a sus exposiciones de flores. Invitamos a todos a explorar las oportunidades y adoptar las posibilidades. Los manuales en inglés están disponibles en NGC Headquarters. El manual en español estará en el sitio web de COMAAI prontamente, y el manual en portugués estará disponible en su club de jardinería.

Disfruten de la aventura! ■

## **Dorothy Yard**

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Translated by **Sylvia Wray**  
Chairman, Flower Show Schools  
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### COURSE IV

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## Tri-Refresher

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#### Shawnee, Pennsylvania April 23-25

Event Chairman: Judy Morley, 440-412-4310, jhmorley@yahoo.com

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#### Champaign-Urbana, Illinois Oct. 5-7

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#### COURSE II Port Angeles, Washington May 2-4

Registrar: Billie Fitch, 360-379-9242 johnfitch90@msn.com

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#### Midland, Michigan May 9-11

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Registrar: Daphne Ruxton, 360-856-1923, rdas-2duck@gmail.com

#### Olive Hill, Kentucky June 14-15

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#### Ontario, California June 26-27

Registrar: Shane Looper, 650-871-0172, slooper@sbcglobal.net

#### Athens, Georgia July 16-18

Registrar: Sally Holcombe, 770-436-9883, smholcombe@hotmail.com

#### Missoula, Montana July 21-22

Registrar: Ellen Darling, 208-290-1729, dahliadarling5@gmail.com

#### Birmingham, Alabama Aug. 9-10

Registrar: Mimi Potthoff, 256-536-1453, mimi-tomp@bellsouth.net

# THE *Happy* GARDENER'S *Guide*

## - COME SPRING CLEAN -

**T**he butler didn't do it. The plumber did it.

To correct a drainage problem in the basement, a number of perfectly good jam jars and other whatnots needed to be removed from the area. This sparked the necessity for some serious "weeding" in my section of the basement—affectionately dubbed "the dungeon." Like many gardeners, I save containers that I imagine will make perfect holders for my garden's floral bounty. But how often do they serve that purpose? Mmm—not so often. This elicited another question: Why clutter the basement with countless objects that hardly ever get used? Since I didn't have a decent rebuttal, I obeyed thoughts to "simplify," and did some moving and shaking in the basement. The result: boxes of useless items fit for the dumpster; boxes of useable items ready for the thrift store; and shelf space for the treasures worth keeping.

Now, I'm thinking about my garden space. Could it benefit from a purge? Are there plants that I've given more than three chances to perform, but still languish? Are there some sentimental strings that should be cut in favor of a more productive or suitable cultivar? Are there some specimens that simply take too much care and might look just as nice in a friend's garden, who

would welcome them? Am I keeping that expensive mistake—still trying to justify its purchase? Are there too many plants, period? Would some editing for style and function rejuvenate my garden space? What if paring down opened up some space for a few untried specimens that I've admired, but never had room to accommodate? The hardest question of all—am I willing to do the work of simplifying my garden?

Those who have made the plunge to edit their living spaces often remark on the satisfaction of surrounding oneself with only those things that spark joy. To keep only those plants in our gardens that bring a spark of joy seems reasonable. Will my current success in one corner of my dungeon spill over to my garden space? Spring is a fresh start and if I can strike while the iron is hot—sparks of joy could soon fly! ■

**Charlotte A. Swanson**

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# Landscape

DESIGN **THE HIGH LINE OF  
NEW YORK CITY**

## An urban relic above Manhattan becomes a model for sustainable landscape design

New York City is widely recognized as one of the most densely populated commercial, financial and cultural centers in the world. But, among the iconic skyscrapers, the city offers more than 1,700 parks, playgrounds and recreation facilities across five boroughs. It is the home of Central Park, the first landscaped public park in the United States. Situated in the middle of bustling Manhattan on 843 acres of green space, Central Park includes the popular Central Park Zoo and Wollman Rink, a public outdoor ice skating facility, as well as 21

playgrounds, 26 softball and baseball fields, fountains, monuments, sculptures, bridges and thousands of benches upon which millions of visitors sit and relax. In addition, the park is a haven for migratory birds each year.

In the early 1850s, the City of New York exercised eminent domain to acquire more than 750 acres of undeveloped swamp land in the center of Manhattan to establish a public park that would rival the beautiful landscaping of public grounds in major European cities. American landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted was appointed superintendent of the nascent park. In conjunction with celebrated British-American architect and landscape designer Calvert Vaux, the two

men created the Green-sward plan, the winning entry in the city's park design competition. Central Park was first opened to the public in 1858 and was expanded to its current size in 1873. Olmsted, through his work at many of our nation's first and oldest coordinated system of public parks, became known as the founder of American Landscape Architecture. He envisioned parks as places of harmony, where a wide range of recreational needs were provided and available to everyone. Americans were to benefit from his landscapes.

—  
*“...he envisioned parks as places of harmony...”*  
 —

### The rise and fall of the High Line

A century and a half later, the development of public parks in New York City continues. One of the more recent, unique parks is the High Line, located in the Chelsea neighborhood on the lower west side of Manhattan. The High Line, nearly 1.5 miles long, was converted from an out-of-use railroad trestle and forms a ribbon of plantings, landscapes and civic amenities from Gansevoort Street to 34th Street.



◀ Microclimates have been taken into consideration in the selection of plantings.

In New York City in the mid-1800s, more than a decade before the Civil War, freight trains chugged along 10th Avenue on rails built upon the same street used by pedestrians. The area soon became known as “Death Avenue,” due to the frequency of accidents. To safeguard the public and alert them of oncoming trains, men on horseback known as “West Side Cowboys” were hired by the railroad companies. In 1929, city and state officials began plans to develop a 13-mile elevated railway for the safety of all. The railway opened in 1934, which allowed for the transport of produce and daily supplies of milk, eggs, dressed poultry and manufactured goods. The elevated tracks ran from 34th Street to St. John’s Park Terminal at Spring Street, often passing through factories, meat-packing plants and other buildings in the industrial district.

By the 1950s, interstate trucking took over most of the transfer of goods, and usage of the elevated tracks was greatly diminished. The southernmost section was demolished in the 1960s. In 1980, the final train, reportedly carrying frozen turkeys, ran on the line. Wildflowers and weeds quickly took over the abandoned rails. While some property and business owners in the area lobbied to demolish the elevated tracks, Peter Obletz, a Chelsea resident, activist and railroad enthusiast, fought against these actions in court.

### A grassroots effort

In 1998, CSX Transportation acquired 42 percent of the assets of Conrail, the primary Class I railroad in the Northeastern U.S. between 1976 and 1999—including the 1.5 miles of the crumbling elevated railroad. The question was: what to do with this rubble? Many opinions voiced to tear it down, but CSX leaders



▲ The High Line Park, a public park transformed from a dormant, elevated freight rail line in Manhattan in New York City, combines natural and man-made environments.



▲ Drought tolerant plants are often used in landscaping.

believed the project would be a good candidate for “Rails to Trails,” a program of the federal government that allowed for the interim recreational use of out-of-use rail lines. A community study group was established. A possible solution, “rail banking,” was proposed, in which communities were granted a “right-of-way” for rail lines no longer in use. Local residents, Joshua David, a freelance writer, and Robert Hammond, an artist, liked the idea and formed the organization Friends of the High Line in 1999. Efforts to preserve the elevated derelict tracks and promote the idea of creating a park were bolstered by the works in 2000 of noted photographer Joel Sternfeld. His iconic images, capturing the beauty of long, narrow naturalized meadows of self-seeding wild flowers winding above the streets of the West Side, were widely reproduced. The photographs enabled the public to see what could be; something that was worth saving.

In 2002, Michael Bloomberg, the mayor of New York City and ardent supporter of the city’s cultural institutions, decided in

favor of the redevelopment of the High Line into a park. In 2003, Friends of the High Line launched an “ideas competition” for the development of the project. The competition yielded 720 entries from 36 countries. The winning collaboration included James Corner Field Operations, a landscape architecture firm, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, an architecture firm and Piet Oudolf, a planting designer. In 2005, CSX donated the High Line south of West 30th Street to the City of New York. That same year, the Museum of Modern Art in Midtown Manhattan featured an exhibition of the preliminary designs for the park.

In April 2006, construction of the first section of the park began at Gansevoort Street and up to West 20th Street, and opened to the public in June 2009. Visitors were drawn to the new park and it quickly became a popular destination for an urban stroll or to enjoy the views of Manhattan or the Hudson River. By early June 2011, the second section from West 20th Street to West 30th Street was completed. The final stretch of the High Line wraps around the rail yards up to West 34th Street, between 10th and 12th Avenues. The park offers an abundance of seating, including some quirky over-sized furniture, as well as picnic and play areas that beckon New Yorkers and tourists from all over the world.

### A dynamic landscape plan

Piet Oudolf, a Dutch planting designer, was an important partner in the High Line’s landscape plan. His plan, in keeping with the High Line’s abandoned landscape, included existing elements such as the massive steel viaduct that had been constructed to hold the weight of two freight trains. Some of the original train track rails were included in Oudolf’s design. Twenty-five years of inactivity along the High Line resulted in abundant natural growth, which varied in location along the tracks. Prairie grasses, wild flowers including Queen Anne’s lace,

sumac and some trees had taken over. The many microclimates had to be considered. Native, drought tolerant and low-maintenance species were important to the success of the space.

Maintenance and operations also were addressed in the design. A sustainable environment was important and planned. Drip irrigation on the High Line’s green roof system makes use of rainwater. Conserving water is important. Drought-tolerant plants require little supplemental watering, and any plantings that required extra moisture are watered by hand. On-site composting facilities reduce material entering the waste stream and return nutrients to the soils of the gardens. The carbon footprint is made smaller. Few pesticides and very little chemical fertilizer are used. An Integrated Pest Management (IPM)



▲ Plants are selected for their color and texture.

program was established, with healthy plants the result. Cleaning solutions and post-consumer paper products used are Green Seal-certified.

This urban public park, which combines both natural and man-made environments, is owned by the City of New York and is maintained, operated and programmed by Friends of the High Line in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Walkways were made of special concrete designed

to last a long time, reducing the cost of replacement. Multiple microclimates existing along the stretch of the High Line were taken into consideration. Tough, drought-resistant grasses and wild flowers were the result of prevailing winds from the Hudson River. Adjacent buildings to the High Line protected some areas of the park, which resulted in improved water retention and thicker vegetation. All of these naturally created plant communities influenced the planning of each microclimate. Native species, many produced by local growers, played a major role in the selection of plantings to help keep plant failure and replacement low. In addition, stress-tolerant plants were used. Native pollinators and many wildlife species have found food and shelter at the High Line. Nature has been incorporated into New York City.



◀ Pathways pass through buildings along the nearly 1.5-mile linear park.

How can gardeners duplicate the success of the High Line in their own gardens or cities? According to Alexa Hotz on the website Gardenista, consider revitalizing an abandoned post-industrial landscape; look for ways in which to use less water, including setting up a drip irrigation and timed watering system; design from big to smaller, more manageable landscapes; select plants for hardiness and purpose, especially native plants for their many benefits; create a pathless landscape; consider foliage and how it works, or doesn't work, in overgrown areas; select plantings for texture and variety of color and pattern; plant according to each space's microclimate; and learn to embrace the changes that occur naturally in a four-season garden.

The success of the High Line is the culmination of years of planning, community input, suggestions by creative architects and landscape designers, plus several more years of construction. The end result is a unique, engaging public landscape that combines exceptional architecture and plant design. ■

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📷 Photos by Mr. Francis Tan



▲ Grasses grow up through the tapered edges of walkways.



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