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National
Gardener

Summer 2011

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The National Gardener

Summer 2011
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National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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49 National Affiliate Member Clubs
293 International Affiliate Member Clubs

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The Cover

Go Native!

Asclepias tuberosa is commonly known as Butterfly Weed because of the butterflies that are attracted to the plant by its color and its copious production of nectar. It is also the larval food plant of the Queen and Monarch butterflies.

Photograph: Darrin Duling



Photos: Julie Perdue

(Clockwise, upper left:) NGC President-elect and her Vice Presidents, from left: Fourth Vice President Nancy Hargroves; Third Vice President Sandra Robinson; Second Vice President Linda Nelson; and President-elect Shirley Nicolai. (Upper right:) Newly installed NGC President Shirley Nicolai and 2007-2009 NGC President Barbara May, who conducted the Installation of Officers. (At right:) 2011-2013 NGC President Shirley Nicolai.

(Lower right:) In the traditional "Passing of the Gavel," outgoing President Renee Blaschke turns over leadership to President Nicolai.

(Lower left:) 2009-2011 NGC President Renee Blaschke and members of the 2011-2013 Executive Committee; Patsy Ruth Miller, NGC Treasurer; Gay Austin, NGC Recording Secretary; Third Vice President Nancy Hargroves, Second Vice President Sandra Robinson, and First Vice President Linda Nelson.



Shirley S. Nicolai

Forty-Second President of National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Installation Acceptance Speech

Thank you, Barbara, for a lovely installation ceremony. Deen, Lois and Kitty, I appreciate your participation and friendship and respect each of you, along with Barbara and Renee, for the excellent leadership you've provided for National Garden Clubs. Renee, you've been most helpful, keeping me informed on important issues, providing many laughs and going out of your way to ensure a smooth transition. Unlike outgoing US Presidents, you will not leave Washington in a helicopter from the Capitol and head back to your Texas ranch, as you have graciously agreed to serve as Permanent Home and Endowment Director, and we are grateful.

With me this evening are eleven family members, whom I'd like you to meet. At the top of the list is my husband Frank, the smartest person I know and my best friend. Frank's sister Dorothy is here from Connecticut. Our daughter, Karen Baldwin, and her husband, Ed, traveled from Rhode Island with Haley and John. Our son, Keith, and his wife, Sara, have come from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, with Kevin, Heather and William.

Several fellow 1997-1999 NGC State Presidents are present, too: Debbie Hinchey (AK), Elva Davidson (DE); Sandra Ford (ID), Gerry Ford (IL), Jean Moran (MI); Barbara Mikkelson (MN), Lee Pearn (NV), Mary Ann Moreno (NM), Jeanne Nelson (NY), Phoebe Kirkman (NC), Judy Vehse, (PA) and Barbara Wesley (WI). At the conclusion of the 1997 Convention, State Presidents flew to Washington for the launching of Babs Barnette's and Deen's project, a Butterfly Garden within the National Garden at the U.S. Botanic Garden. Thank you, Deen,

and artist Lynwood Hall, for so beautifully portraying the Butterfly Garden as a backdrop for this convention.

As most of you know, the path that leads one to this position is a long one. I became a member of NGC's Executive Committee in 2001, representing the Central Atlantic Region as its Director. Ten years later, I stand here as your 42nd President, most appreciative of the honor and challenges you have bestowed upon me this evening. With your help, I look forward to a productive and enjoyable two years as we promote the theme *NGC: Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities*.

Just as the path to this position was a long one, so was the path to becoming a member of my local Tanta-Cove Garden Club. After several years on a waiting list, I was finally inducted, thanks to my sponsor Irene Robb, who gave up her garden club membership to pursue historic preservation and writing interests. Irene now lives in Delaware, but is with us tonight. Who knows—without her action, I might have become a low handicap golfer, rather than an NGC officer.

Over the years, membership in Tanta-Cove Garden Club has been a source of learning, friendships, pride and fun. I greatly appreciate the support of club members, especially Poss Tarpley, who ably produced a revised NGC 2011-2013 Directory, a feat which took many months and email address changes to complete. Members of Fergie's Gardeners, my newer, more casual evening garden club have been supportive too, as have bridge and Swinger (as in golf) friends. Members of Fergie's Gardeners all belong to the Alice Ferguson Foundation, which supports the concept of "No child Left Inside" with its unusual classroom—a working organic farm, wetlands, woodlands, gardens and the Potomac River.

The spark that ignited my venture beyond a local garden club came when a Landscape Design Consultant (then a Critic) from Tanta-Cove, invited me to help her judge the county's Beautification Contest. Hearing her apply the principles of design to gardens piqued my interest. That next

spring Landscape Design School was part of my agenda and the road to 5 star status was paved. Again, just one person reaching out to another had a lasting influence.

At the state level, National Capital Area Garden Clubs has given me leadership training, learning opportunities and life-long friends. I thank all of our members for their encouragement through the years. Although the concept of a 51st State Garden Club is confusing to many of you, there is a simple explanation for its existence. In the early fifties when what is now National Capital Area Garden Clubs was formed, a decision was made to base the boundary jurisdictions on the Washington, D.C. phone book. Back then, the surrounding suburbs were included in that phone book.

Two years ago in her acceptance speech, Renee noted that we live in difficult times. We still live in difficult times—and thus, the theme “NGC Serving our Members and Communities” has been chosen. If we are to succeed as an organization, our members must feel that we provide them with value in return for their dues and support. Regions without non-profit IRS status now file their 990 forms through National Garden Clubs. We will help State Garden Clubs facilitate IRS compliance for their local clubs. We will also continue to simplify and streamline the processes by which we maintain school records and apply for awards. Our website team will update educational material provided by our NGC committee members on a monthly basis. The new professionally produced PR video, available to local clubs, districts, states and regions, will showcase the merits of our organization. As always, our Executive Director Michelle Smith and Headquarters staff members Michelle Chapman, Katie Roth, Kathy Romine, Bill Trapp and Teri Virga will do their very best to serve our members.

A campaign will be relaunched to have *Keeping in Touch* electronically reach local garden club members; a buddy system will be encouraged at the local club level to keep those without email informed. Providing a means for local club members to see

and appreciate the big picture is a much needed service in our attempt to cultivate new leaders. *Keeping in Touch* will also be used to encourage subscriptions to our superb, information-packed periodical *The National Gardener*, edited by Susan Davidson, which NGC subsidizes for the benefit of its readers.

To have a viable existence, every garden club must serve its community in addition to serving its members. The 2011-2013 initiative **Plantings for Public and Special Places** is intentionally broad so that existing projects can be enlarged, past projects can be refurbished and new projects can be created. There are three suggested categories for participation, all of which can be suited to the preferences, financial resources and energy levels of club members. These categories are: **Gardens with Edibles; Container Gardens; and Trees and Shrubs**. All NGC clubs and International Affiliates are invited to participate and to document projects with a before and after digital photograph and the completion of an interactive form on our website.

Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems, our environmental emphasis this term, encourages U.S. and International Affiliate clubs at all levels to adopt and plan strategies to safeguard at least one area aquatic ecosystem. Participation can be through educational presentations for both adults and youth, partnering with other organizations to be more pro-active, sponsoring trash pickups, establishing rain gardens or creating buffer zones by planting trees and shrubs. Again, documentation will be through a simple interactive reporting form.

Your recent NGC Presidents and Vice-Presidents made a decision to work as a team to provide continuity from one administration to another. Thus, **Photo Archiving of Accomplishments** was launched during the second half of Renee's administration and will continue, enabling clubs and International Affiliates to establish visual records and sharing of their achievements through a flickr® account. The adage that a picture is worth a thousand words certainly applies



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to much of what we accomplish.

Our focus on youth will continue to be emphasized, as it is fond memories of childhood experiences that are responsible for many of us being so involved with National Garden Clubs today. My personal experiences include a lucid babbling brook, hundreds of pink lady slippers, as well as skunk cabbage each spring, and a father who hybridized rhododendrons as a hobby and spoke of plants with their Latin names. My husband's family, which was located in Queens, New York, had a 2 ½ acre "farm" in Greenlawn, 26 miles away. His memories include vegetable and fruit gardening and his mother's roses. Today, he is Farmer Frank—and prunes our rose bushes. Please make time to provide some fond childhood gardening memories for the next generation.

Our Smokey Bear/Woody Owl Poster Contest will continue, as will our High School Essay Contest and environmentally focused Youth Sculpture Contest. The Poetry Contest has a new category, which enables a grandparent to use her/his garden club as the sponsoring garden club for a grandchild's poem. For those of us with grandchildren living in faraway places, this is a welcome addition.

Difficult times also create opportunities for new ways of thinking, especially when it comes to membership. Many of today's potential new members have a different mindset concerning volunteer organizations because careers are, or have been, a priority. Those in the work force, who may be raising a family, too, are time-strapped. To attract them as members, we must make it easy for them to participate by having short education-packed meetings at convenient times. Perhaps we can also find a way to use the internet for interactive lunchtime meetings or provide CDs, which can be listened to during commutes. The 7,000-10,000 Baby Boomers retiring each day are potential assets to our organization and we need to reach out to them. These are talented, experienced people who can make a great contribution to their communities

as garden clubs provide them organized ways to do so. With the help of the NGC Membership Committee, I'm asking that each club, district, state and region adopt a multi-year plan with step-by-step actions and time-specific objectives for increasing our numbers. As we all know, "A goal without a plan is simply a wish."

Vita-Sackville-West stated that, "The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing better than they have ever done before." Please join me with this inspirational outlook as together we ***Proudly Serve our Members and Communities.***

Thank you.

Biography

Shirley S. Nicolai

Shirley Nicolai grew up in a then small coastal town south of Boston, Massachusetts. She graduated from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, with a major in psychology. Through summer graduate courses in education, she became a certified elementary school teacher and taught grades three, four and five in up-state New York and northern Virginia. She vividly remembers the year when she had a class of 27 boys and only 3 girls.

With her husband, Frank, traveling for business reasons, Shirley opted to be a stay-at-home mom for their two children, Keith and Karen. In addition to being a perpetual room mother for her children's classes and a Girl Scout leader, she became involved with the League of Women Voters and then a community club, where she served as Tennis Chairman and spent many hours playing team tennis in the Washington suburbs. A local hospital board, citizens' advisory committee and historic district involvement were among other pursuits. She

was also the project manager for a year and a half initial restoration of a historic home; during a later porch restoration she successfully met, without legal help, mitigation requirements of the then new Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Initiative.

A keen interest in horticulture and landscape design led to membership in a garden club. Within a few years, Shirley served as club President and began taking advantage of National Garden Clubs' Educational Study Programs. With master status in Landscape Design, Gardening Study, Environmental Studies and Flower Show School, she is a Five Star Member. Special satisfaction over the years has come from serving as President of her state's Landscape Design Council, chairing Standard Flower Shows, growing her own plant material for designs, judging county beautification contests and forming a new garden club with evening meetings. She was the recipient of the 2009 NCAGC Judges' Council Silver Trowel Horticulture Award for receiving the most blue ribbons in the horticulture division of Standard Flower Shows.

Involvement at the national level began in 1997 when Shirley was elected President of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. With a theme of "Come Grow with Us," her administration's project was a curriculum guide for teachers to use with students visiting the U.S. National Arboretum's Herb Garden. From 1999-2001, she served on the NGC board as Landscape Design Vice-Chairman. From 2001-2003, she served as Central Atlantic Regional Director (DE, MD, NCA, NJ, NY, OH and PA). In 2003, she was elected Fourth Vice President of National Garden Clubs. In this position she chaired a \$200,000 NGC/Principal Financial Group Historic Gardens grant program, which both showcased the extraordinary service our clubs provide to our communities and gave her insights into the diversity of our membership. Since then, assignments have included Organization Study, Award of Excellence, Finance, Membership and Liaison to State Presidents and Regional Directors.

Recent non-garden club responsibilities include serving on the boards of the Friends of the National Arboretum (FONA) and the Alice Ferguson Foundation, which provides environmental education along the Potomac River to thousands of school children annually. Shirley still serves on the board of the American Horticultural Society and is a member of the WAFA USA (World Association of Flower Arrangers) Management Committee, for which she chaired "Excursion Botanicus," a three city Seminar for international designers held in 2009.

Avocations include a three acre garden, bridge, too many cats and occasional golf. Very special people, in addition to Frank, Keith and his wife Sara, and Karen and her husband Ed, are grandchildren Kevin, Heather, Haley, John and William.

With a theme of *NGC: Proudly Serving our Members and Communities*, Shirley looks forward to simplifying some of our administrative tasks and encourages clubs to be visible, vocal and proud of their community service. At the same time, she challenges clubs to meet the needs of younger potential members by hosting quality programs at convenient and short meetings. People usually join a club to gain personal, needed information and to have fun in the process; the desire to serve others surfaces with the arrival of confidence.


NGC Mission Statement

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. provides education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

Going Native in Your Garden

Digging into the Magic and Myths

by Darrin Duling

 Gardeners are increasingly discovering the pleasure of growing native plants and wildflowers (hereafter referred to as "natives"). We welcome natives into our gardens for their beauty, diversity and ability to attract and support local fauna. We also plant them to help us recapture the memory and essence of that lost woodland, seashore or meadow that once teemed with life and is now a sterile building site.

Gardening with natives is a horticultural trend that is surging in popularity, not in small part due to its strong ties with ecological and conservation issues. As with many rapidly burgeoning trends with wide appeal the translation of information sometimes becomes blurred and exaggerated, causing confusion, which doesn't help the native plant movement. Speaking as a professional botanist and horticulturist, here some thoughts on this issue:

Myth #1: We should only plant natives in our gardens from now on—no more exotics.

Most gardeners don't like to be told what to plant, and many of our traditional favorites from other lands such as peonies, roses, flowering cherries, lilacs, hellebores, daffodils and tulips, not

to mention the majority of our cultivated food crops, are non-invasive and play well as garden companions to our natives. Native plant societies across the country recognize and award gardens for being "native" or "native-friendly" even if they only contain a maximum of 50% native specimens with no invasive exotics present. This middle-path approach encourages people to explore native gardening without laying on heavy constraints that could deter them from this pursuit. Why, then, are some people so adamant about excluding all exotic plants from our gardens? We need to look no further than our own neighborhoods: winged euonymus, Norway maple, oriental bittersweet, Russian olive, hydrilla, kudzu, popcorn tree, Japanese barberry, melaleuca, tamarix and pampas grass, to name but a few, were once considered to be beautiful and benign garden subjects but are now agents of environmental devastation in many regions. Keep these examples in mind if you notice that the new gorgeous thing from another part of the world that you've recently planted starts to show signs of seeding itself prolifically outside of your planted area—there is a good chance that it could escape into



Painted Trillium *Trillium undulatum*

the surrounding landscape and ultimately wreak havoc. As a conscientious lover of gardening and nature, it is your duty to remove it, destroy it and warn others about planting it. Don't let sentiment get in the way of doing the right thing—remember our Mother's old saying: "Pretty is as pretty does!"



Photographs: Dawn Duling

Thimbleberry Rubus odoratus

Myth #2: Native plants need no special soil preparation, watering or feeding to thrive.

Unfortunately, many novice gardeners and people who are planting natives for the first time heed this advice and are soured when their newly-planted specimens languish or die soon afterward. Yes, plants in their natural habitat do grow perfectly well without human intervention, but what holds true in nature does not hold true in the artificially-created environment of our gardens. Consider that plants found growing in sun-baked rocky crevices, in remote woodland, in sand dunes, or in wind-swept fields are each likely the only surviving progeny out of thousands of seeds that may have originally been dispersed. That sort of mortality rate is not acceptable or sustainable for gardeners. Native or not, virtually any newly-planted specimen needs some sort of attention and aftercare in order for it to become successfully established. Thoughtful placement, coupled with an establishment period of a few seasons (or a few years for trickier things), will give natives predisposed to your local climate the ability to grow well without coddling. One more thought: gardens are places that we build and maintain in order to improve upon conditions found in nature,

and quite often natives grow bigger and better under our care than they do out in the wild—isn't it our goal to see plants reach their greatest potential?

Myth #3: Native plants should never be trained and only be allowed to grow as they do in nature.

There is a school of thought that decrees natives can't or shouldn't be "tamed" by horticulture. Not surprisingly, native-based gardens managed under this ideology can tend toward a rather rangy look, which is not always appropriate to those who want to maintain a more traditional, manicured landscape. Let's remember that all garden plants started out as wildlings before being brought into cultivation and subjected to horticultural training techniques such as pruning, espalier, coppicing, pollarding, pleaching and containerization. While hedges, clipped specimens and parterres may not readily spring to mind when considering natives for your landscape, the only thing ridiculous about natives being trained this way is that it hasn't been more widely-practiced. Despite their formal appearance, they will still serve as sustainable food and shelter destinations for wild native fauna whereas most familiar exotics used in these ways will not.

Myth #4: We should only plant natives that are sourced from our immediate area. Cultivated varieties of natives are not desirable.

If you are undertaking a scientifically-guided habitat restoration then it is, indeed, essential to use plant material that holds as much genetic integrity matching the originally occurring flora as possible. However, this botanical integrity may not be desired or even possible to replicate in the average garden. To start with, there are native species that have disappeared completely from certain regions and/or have not been commercially cultivated. On rare occasions wild-source plants may be available through rescue missions organized by a professional organization that has permission to collect plants from property slated for development, but remember that the survivability rate of these specimens vs. nursery-grown is usually much lower. An additional note: when buying commercially, don't support the decimation of native flora via illegal collecting—buy only from nurseries that guarantee their plants are nursery propagated.

Cultivars (not hybrids, which are something else altogether) are selected by keen-eyed horticulturists for characteristics that may make them more garden-worthy and appealing than the straight species, e.g.: flower and fruit size and color, leaf shape, size and color, stature and disease-resistance. These special selections help to promote awareness of natives and get them into wider cultivation. It has yet to be determined if cultivars offer the same biological value to native fauna as do their regular brethren, but for now it could be argued that a cultivar of a native plant growing in a garden is more desirable than not growing a native at all.

In closing, horticulture is a field in which there have been, and always will be, wildly divergent opinions on how, and why, to grow things, but the best general rule of thumb that all agree upon is: "Right plant, right place." This applies doubly so to growing natives—by choosing to grow members of your regional flora, while paying attention to

how they grow in the wild, you have great chances for success. Your efforts in this endeavor will be rewarded with a beautiful garden that is a magnet for birds, butterflies and other fascinating wildlife—a home and habitat for all.

—**Darrin Duling** is the Director of The Native Plant Center, 75 Grasslands Road, Valhalla, New York. Ph: (914) 606-7870. www.nativeplantcenter.org

NGC Awards

Sponsors Needed

ATTENTION: Individual club members, State Presidents, State Awards Chairmen, District Directors, Regional Directors, Regional Awards Chairmen:

The NGC Awards Committee is in need of sponsors for some of our awards. Some of the previous sponsors are not able to continue sponsoring largely due to health issues. We do appreciate their dedication for all of their years of giving. Some of our wonderful awards do not have sponsors and therefore no monetary gifts are given for very worthy projects. I invite you to look over our Award Listings and if you, your district, your state, or your region would like to choose an award and sponsor it, please contact me. We can discuss your desires and I'm sure find the right level of sponsorship for you. International Affiliates, you are certainly invited to participate, also.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this matter, and I hope to hear from many of you.

—**Bobbie Verser**, NGC Awards
Chairman, 501-455-2488;
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Hitomi is a floral artist who creates designs that showcase the ephemeral beauty of flowers, to provide a visual experience unlike any other medium. They aptly represent her horticultural background and her love for the arts.

Hitomi has dedicated herself to expanding the horizons of the floral industry, bringing more creativity to the fold. She loves sharing her talent and progressive ideas toward a more forward thinking professional industry.

She is a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers and is one of only seven recipients of AIFD's prestigious Design Influence Award. She is a regular columnist for *flower* magazine, "Creative Edge."

In 2006, she was the recipient of the American Horticultural Society's Frances Poetker Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions as designer, author and lecturer to the art and science of American horticulture. In 2008, she won "Gold" & Best of Show" by invitation only international entry at Singapore Garden Festival. She has authored five books to date, the most recent titled "Creative Edge—A Floral Retrospective."

Breakfast & Design Program

September 25, 2011

NGC Fall Board Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri
St. Louis Airport Marriott

Event Schedule	Sunday September 25, 2011
Breakfast and Meeting	8:30 – 9:30AM
Design Presentation	9:30 – 10:30AM
Hands On Workshop	11:30AM – 2:30PM

Workshop includes container, flowers, supplies and light lunch (bring cutters)

Cost: Members \$100.00 Non-Members \$125.00

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Advanced Registration Only. Limited Seating. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

Registration for Design Breakfast and workshop, Sunday, September 25, St. Louis, MO

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Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems



More than 30 years after the Clean Water Act promised clean water, an overwhelming majority of Americans live within 10 miles of a polluted river, lake, or coastal water. These waterways are unsafe for fishing, swimming or aquatic life.

NGC President Shirley Nicolai has selected Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems as one of NGC's Special Projects for 2011-2013. This project recognizes that it is of utmost importance and urgency that members of National Garden Clubs, Inc., identify and address critical water issues at local, state, regional and national levels.

It is imperative that we become proactive in preserving our aquatic ecosystems by recognizing and initiating strategies for conservation, improvement and protection of our coastal waters, wetlands, aquifers, watersheds, lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, marshes, bogs, springs, floodplains and ponds; and by developing and implementing specific watershed management plans.

Garden clubs, districts, states and regions are encouraged to partner with other organizations (such as the Clean Water Network, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, etc.)

as aquatic ecosystem advocates in order to have a more effective voice with local, state and regional governments. Districts, states and regions should identify, adopt and plan strategies to safeguard at least one aquatic ecosystem in its area.

Garden clubs, districts and states are urged to create and promote educational hands-on programs for youth (classrooms, Scouts, 4-H, Junior Garden Clubs) and to sponsor seminars, workshops and community education events to foster awareness and strategies for protecting aquatic ecosystems.

Of all the water on earth only 2.5% is freshwater. Of that 2.5%: 60% is trapped in glaciers and icecaps; 10% is found in surface waters, including lakes and rivers; and 30% is found in groundwater, some of that is too deep and out of reach.

Of all the water we take out of rivers, lakes and the ground: 70% is used for agriculture; 22% is used for industrial purposes; 8% is pumped into cities and homes for drinking, watering and washing. The average American uses about 100 gallons of water a day—more than 15 times that used by many people in developing countries. The average daily requirement for freshwater in the United States is about 338 billion gallons.

Facts to consider: One gallon of gasoline can contaminate 750,000 gallons of water. Global extinction rates for freshwater species are four to six times higher than those for terrestrial or marine species. In the United States nearly half of the 573 animals on the threatened and endangered list are freshwater species. Sixty-nine percent of freshwater mussel species, which help to filter water, are at risk of extinction.

Humans can survive about three weeks without food, but only about 3 days without water. There's as much water in the world today as there was thousands of years ago—in fact, it is the same water. Water quality and accessibility are two major issues that we must address now if we are to avoid catastrophe in the future.

In 2008, NGC members adopted a water conservation platform that states:

National Garden Clubs, Inc. believes it is imperative that we support and undertake proactive initiatives for the protection, conservation and restoration of the quality of the Nation's coastal waters, wetlands, aquifers, watersheds, lakes, rivers and streams, through educational programs, conservation efforts, increased advocacy and partnerships with related government agencies, and state and national grassroots water coalitions.

With this special NGC project, Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems, every garden club member, garden club, district, state and region in National Garden Clubs, Inc., has the platform to address water issues—great and small—in local communities, states and regions. No person and no locale is untouched or unaffected. At some point in our lives, we will have to answer the question, "What did you do with what He gave you?" Two hundred thousand NGC members can leave many footprints in the garden of life as we work together protecting our aquatic ecosystems.

—**Mary Sue Colvin, 2011-2013**
Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems Chairman



**A break in the heat
away from the front
no thunder, no lightning,
just rain, warm rain
falling near dusk
falling on eager ground
steaming blacktop
hungry plants
thirsty
turning toward the clouds
cooling, soothing rain
splashing in sudden puddles
catching in open screens
that certain smell
of summer rain.**

~**Raymond A. Foss, Summer Rain**



Adenium obesum

Photographs: Pam Braun

The Wonderful World of Pachyforms

For those of you who might not be familiar with the term, a pachyform is defined as a plant that naturally develops proportionally thick perennial bodies or roots. They include caudiforms, which form a perennial caudex, a form of thickened stem (tuber) either underground or near ground level, or pachycauls, which form proportionately thick stems or trunks above ground. This thickening is a way for the plant to store moisture in areas of scarce rainfall or during dormancy. Though many are considered succulents, not all are because most possess thin foliage.

My first introduction to pachyforms was when I purchased an *Adenium obesum* (Desert Rose) at a nursery, in Florida, about five years ago. I had never seen one before. *Adenium* has only been cultivated for about

thirty years in America and was relatively rare until approximately ten years ago. It has become very popular, especially in the Orient, where it is considered a special gift for weddings or other occasions. During the active growing season, usually in warm weather, it produces lovely pink, red or white flowers—somewhat like a petunia in shape.

Currently, hybridizers are working to produce plants with more frequent flowering of different coloration. But even without flowers it produces an interesting thick trunk and grows like a small bush. In tropical climates it can be grown in the garden, but where frost occurs it must be moved indoors.

Until I joined the Cactus and Succulent Society of America and attended my first convention, in the spring of 2009, I had never even heard the term

"pachyform" or caudex. I had, however, grown some plants that would be considered pachyforms. For instance, *Crassula argentea*, the Jade Plant, is a "pachycaul" with its thickened stem. *Sinningia*, a gesneriad and relative of *Saintpaulia* (African Violet), produces a caudex (tuber). Seeing many other types of pachyforms at the convention opened up a whole new world of plant cultivation, and I was able to acquire other very unusual plants. For anyone interested in growing pachyforms, they may be purchased via mail order and/or internet vendors, but some can be acquired locally, most often sold as succulents. Besides *Adenium*, I have also purchased *Beaucarnea*

recurvata (Ponytail Palm) at a big box store. Typically the larger and rarer the specimen, the more expensive it is. But with patience, even growing from seed is desirable.

Cultivation is easy. Pachyforms usually require less watering and care than other plants. Potted plants should be grown in a loose, well-draining soil mix and be allowed to dry out between watering.

The major cause of death is rotting from overwatering. When in active growth, thorough watering once a week is usually adequate. During winter dormancy, light watering once a month or less is more than ample. Leaf droppage is normal during dormancy. Light requirements can be anywhere from hot sunshine to semi-shade. If you decide to grow them in bright sun, allow plants to gradually become accustomed in order



Dorstenia gigas

to prevent sunburn. Fertilize only during active growth. You may either allow them to grow very large and even use them as landscape plants in frost-free zones or choose to maintain them as small window sill plants by restricting pot size.

Pachyforms that produce caudex develop best on plants grown from seed. It is, however, faster to grow from rooted stem cuttings. A caudex should be allowed initially to form undergrown. When an appropriate-sized caudex has developed, the plant is repotted and the caudex is raised up to a partially exposed position on the soil surface. A pachycaul, with its thickened stem, also displays better with part of the upper roots

exposed. It then resembles a weathered plant in the wild.

I currently have several different *Adenium* species with different colored flowers, and species of *Dorstenia*, *Beaucarnea*, *Bursera*, *Fockea*, *Sinningia*, *Pachypodium*, *Crassula argentea* (Jade Plant), *Begonia dregei*, *Talinum paniculatum* (Jewels of Opar), *Ficus*, many different *Euphorbia* and others. My favorites are *Adenium obesum*, *Dorstenia gigans*, *Pachypodium saundersii*, *Fockea multiflora*, and the *Euphorbia*, all of which bloom well.

Should you wish to enter your specimens in a flower show, they are often entered as succulent container plants, foliage or flowering container plants, sometimes as trained plants, and as collections or displays. They are often grown in bonsai-style pots for artistic and cultural reasons, but they are not bonsai; they form thickened stems and roots only because of their genetic nature.

I have found the best book on the subject is *Pachyforms 2*:



Pachyforms at the Fairchild Botanical Gardens, Miami, Florida. The botanic garden is able to grow these interesting plants outside to a larger size.

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Bonsai Succulents by Phillippe de Vosjoli and Rudy Lime. Another book of interest is *Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance*. I encourage everyone interested in a very fascinating phenomenon of plant

growth to read about, grow and enjoy pachyforms.

— **P a m Braun**, is a N G C Horticulture Instructor, member of Leipers Fork Garden Club, Franklin, Tennessee, and board member of Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs and Tennessee District II.



From Ugly Duckling to Beautiful Swan

The students attending Course III, Series II of the Environmental Studies School in St. Louis toured a remarkable building on March 30, 2011. You might say it was a transformation of the ugly duckling into a beautiful swan! Alberici Corporation Headquarters, www.alberici.com, started with a circa 1950s brick office building and large metal fabrication shed, which they transformed into a "green" Class A office space and campus.

Alberici leaders determined that they would take a "green" approach to construction of their new corporate headquarters. After reviewing information from the U. S. Green Building Council's (USGBC)

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification process, they coordinated efforts on all levels to achieve Platinum, the highest level. This meant every aspect of the plan had to be carefully thought out and planned cooperatively, involving the owner, architects, contractors, engineers, and everyone in between from drywall and flooring to furniture and native plants and trees. What they learned is now put into practice throughout their contracting and designing construction company

Since Course III focuses on Air and Related Issues, students were especially interested in this aspect. They learned that the air they were breathing inside the beautiful, airy, light-filled building has no added urea formaldehyde and was virtually free of non-ozone depleting refrigerants (CFCs) or volatile organic compounds (VOCs), common to most work spaces.

Some of the steps taken to produce a healthier environment were: a smoke-free property (inside and out); monitoring for carbon dioxide with automatic addition of fresh air whenever levels exceed set standards; indoor pollutant control, such as isolating copying and printing operations into designated rooms that are separately ventilated;



Photograph: Linda Bolhofer

ESS Students tour Alberici's "green" office space with its large, airy windows.

restricting the materials used throughout the building to be low-emitting adhesives, sealants, paints, carpet, and composite woods used; huge windows throughout allow virtually 100% of employees a direct view of the new native landscapes with floral borders, prairies, trees, retention ponds, and more, while seated at their workstations; and enhanced ventilation by controlling floor vents located at each work station throughout the building's raised floor system.

Students also appreciated the water-saving efforts outdoors, including the native landscape that eliminated the need for any irrigation system. The land was re-sculpted to include retention ponds to catch and hold virtually all storm water. The rainwater catch

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system incorporated a cistern that captures rainwater from the garage roof, stores, and filters and then uses it for the flushing of toilets.

A windmill provides about 17% of their energy needs while solar panels provide about 90% of their domestic hot water heating needs. Low-e glass provides low solar heat gain and low visual transmitting abundant natural light while saving energy at the same time.

The positive results have been many. One very important result has been the significant decrease in sick time used. A study of occupants in 40 commercial buildings with high ventilation rates had 34% fewer short-term absences than workers in buildings with standard (to code) ventilation rates.

—Sue Reed, ESS Chairman, Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri

I used to visit and revisit it a dozen times a day, and stand in deep contemplation over my vegetable progeny with a love that nobody could share or conceive of who had never taken part in the process of creation. It was one of the most bewitching sights in the world to observe a hill of beans thrusting aside the soil, or a row of early peas just peeping forth sufficiently to trace a line of delicate green.

—Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mosses from an Old Manse

Photograph: Kari Haller, Alberici Facility Manager



The platinum LEED plaque sits at the entrance to the "green" office building.

Flower Show Schools

The FSS Schedule Correction Committee is pleased to announce that the Small Standard Flower Show (SSFS) Certificate of Achievement Award will be continued through the new administration. This project is for clubs that have never had a flower show or have not had one in the past five years. The theme for the flower show will reflect President Shirley Nicolai's theme, "NGC: Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities." Details for participating can be found in the Winter 2010 TNG or on the website.

Contrived—having an unnatural or false appearance.

Artificial—made or manufactured to imitate something natural or having natural appearance.

These two terms do not share a common meaning for design components. Some garden club members are creating beautiful flowers from dried plant materials. These flowers are replicas of real flowers that can be identified easily. This is not a contrived flower (no matter what it is named), but rather an artificial flower. Using these items is not allowed in any NGC exhibit.

Flatware or "silverware" is a component of a table setting. However, this component is rarely used on table settings in a flower show. Most tables pictured in books on the Required Reading list will not include "silverware." As with any design, numerous small pieces may cause a cluttered look, and, of course, fine silverware provides a security risk.

The table setting is a harmonious arrangement of components which can be accomplished more readily without the addition of "silverware."

In horticulture, uniformity is a term that is found only with collections in the Scale of

Points. There is no concern on any Scale that deals with the uniformity of water level in the containers. Horticulture specimens have a different capacity for absorbing water. It would be difficult to control the water line in the containers. Points should never be deducted for this trait.

What is a background panel? It is a two dimensional frame of reference that blocks out the area behind the design exhibit. Unless the schedule specifies dimensions, the background panel's height need only be in pleasing proportion to each design (*Handbook*, p. 31, top of page). In this case there are "No Height Requirements" for the background panel.

■ Question: I had to do a Creative Design with water showing using a background panel. Is there any reason that I could not use a mirror for my background panel?

Answer: The background panel provides the frame of reference for the design. If the mirror is sufficiently large to satisfy that requirement (or specified dimension in the schedule) then it may be used in that manner. The mirror may offer design problems, but it could certainly be used as a background panel.

■ Question: Our judges' council had a discussion about judging designs that are to be viewed from all sides such as those on a pedestal. Should these designs be judged from the front only, or should deficiencies and assets that are evident from other views be taken into consideration?

Answer: *Handbook*, p. 291

B.1. Lists Pedestal Designs as ones that are judged directly in center-front at least three feet from exhibit.

B.2. Indicates that a Pedestal Design may be free-standing, but it must be stated in the schedule. In that case, it is judged from all sides.

—Jean Ohlmann, NGC FSS Chairman

Escuela de Exposiciones de Flores

El Comité de Corrección del Programa EEF se complace en anunciar que el premio Certificado de Realización de una Pequeña Exposición de Flores se continuará durante la nueva administración. Este proyecto es para clubes que nunca han organizado una exposición de flores, o que no han tenido una en cinco años. El tema de la exposición reflejará el lema de la Presidente Shirley Nicolai "Servimos con orgullo a nuestros miembros y a nuestra Comunidad." La información para participar se encuentra en TNG – Invierno 2010, o en el sitio web.

Flores logradas—no tienen aspecto natural, parecen falsas.

Artificial—hechas o fabricadas imitando algo natural, o de aspecto natural.

Estos dos términos no comparten un significado común en cuanto a componentes de diseño. Algunos miembros de clubes de jardinería crean hermosas flores de material vegetal seco. Estas flores son replicas de flores verdaderas fáciles de identificar. Estas no son flores logradas (sin importar como se llamen), sino flores artificiales. No se permite utilizarlas en ninguna exhibición NGC.

Los cubiertos son componentes de una mesa. Sin embargo, rara vez se ven sobre las mesas en una exposición de flores. La mayoría de las fotos de mesas en los libros de la Lista de Lectura Requerida no incluyen los cubiertos. Como con los demás diseños varios componentes pequeños crean confusión, y ciertamente los cubiertos de plata significan un riesgo. Un diseño de mesa es un arreglo armonioso de componentes que se puede lograr fácilmente sin la inclusión de cubiertos de plata.

Dentro de la horticultura, la uniformidad es un término que se encuentra solamente en la Escala de Puntos de Colecciones. No existe en ninguna Escala un lugar donde se ve la uniformidad del nivel del agua en los recipientes. Los especímenes de horticultura tienen capacidades distintas de absorción del agua. Sería muy difícil controlar el nivel del agua en los recipientes. No se debe nunca deducir puntos por esto.

¿Qué es un panel de fondo? Es un marco de referencia bidimensional que tapa el área detrás del diseño. A menos que el programa especifique las medidas, el alto del panel de fondo debería estar en buena proporción a cada diseño (Manual pag. 30) En este caso no hay requisitos de altura para el panel de fondo.

■ **Pregunta:** Yo tenía que hacer un Diseño Creativo donde se viera agua, utilizando un panel de fondo. ¿Existe alguna razón por la cual no pueda usar un espejo como panel de fondo?

Respuesta: El panel de fondo provee el marco de referencia para el diseño. Si el espejo es lo suficientemente grande como para satisfacer ese requerimiento (o las medidas dadas en la programación), entonces puede ser utilizado. El espejo puede causar problemas en el diseño, pero ciertamente puede ser utilizado como un panel de fondo.

■ **Pregunta:** Nuestro consejo de jueces debatió el tema de diseños para verse de todos los ángulos, como aquellos sobre un pedestal. ¿Deberían estos diseños juzgarse de adelante solamente, o debería tomarse en consideración las deficiencias y aciertos que son evidentes desde todos los lados?

Respuesta: En el Manual p.248 B.1. los Diseños en Pedestal se mencionan como uno de aquellos que se juzgan directamente desde el centro, a un metro de distancia de la exhibición. B.2. indica que un Pedestal puede ser para verse de todo ángulo, pero debe ser especificado en el programa. En este caso, se juzga desde todos sus lados.
—Jean Ohlmann, NGC FSS Chairman

Book Reviews

Marilyn K. Alaimo, 2005-2011
NGC Book Review Chairman

Public and Private Gardens

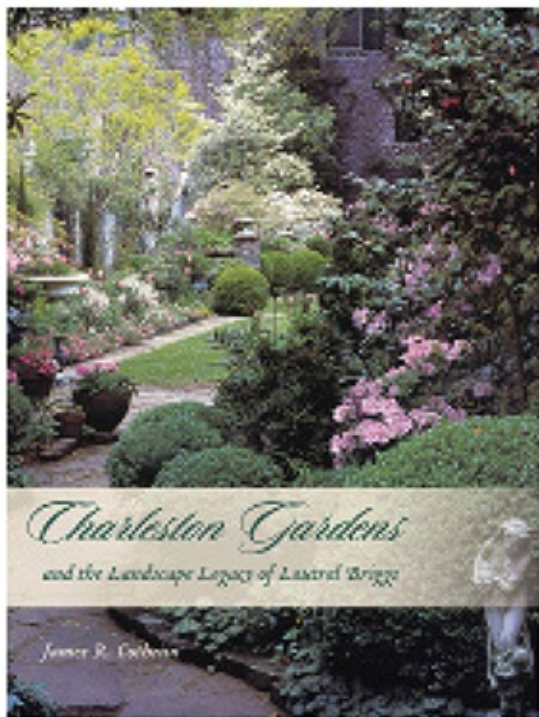
***Saratoga in Bloom: 150 Years of Glorious Gardens* by Janet Loughrey.** www.downtown.com Hardcover, 176 pp., ISBN 978-0-89272-798-8, \$35.00.

In this celebration of the city's floral displays, garden writer Janet Loughrey reveals its fascinating past. Located in the upper regions of New York State, the community became known for its healthful waters in the 18th century, and by the latter half of the 19th, it was an attractive resort, featuring the largest hotel at the time. There were beautiful stroll gardens in parks and palatial estates, as well as horse racing, still a prominent attraction. Tying these features and

activities together today are the extensive floral plantings in public and private gardens, in the business district, and at the racetrack. Illustrating the importance that gardening adds to the quality of life in a community, these beautiful landscapes revitalized the city and continue to attract visitors.

***New York City Gardens* by Veronicka Hofer and Betsy Pinover.** Munich, Germany: Hirmer Verlag, 2010. Hardcover, 240 pp., ISBN 978-3-7774-2751-5, \$49.90

Art historian and journalist Veronicka Hofer and photographer Betsy Pinover present a collection of photographs of thirty public and private gardens in New York City. The creativity of their garden designers is vastly challenged by urban living conditions, which include skyscraping structures adjacent to rooftop gardens and terraces. Despite these and other factors, designers have come up with some unique plans and plants that add enchantment to these restricted spaces. The accompanying text is a mine of information about the origins of each site, their owners, and designers.



***Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs* by James R. Cothran.** Columbia, SC: The University of South Carolina Press, 2010. Cloth, 211 pp., ISBN 978-1-57003-891-4, \$39.95.

Born in New York, landscape architect Loutrel Briggs (1893-1977) fell in love with the city of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1927, when he first experienced its spring beauty. This introduction to the Southern scenery impacted his life: he set up a seasonal office in Charleston and eventually became a permanent resident whose extensive public and private projects enhanced the character of the historic district and surrounding plantations. Author James Cothran, a practicing landscape architect and scholar in the field of historic gardens, recalls the influence of Briggs on the community through his works

and active role in historic preservation and urban planning. Heavily illustrated with gorgeous photographs of historic gardens and their plans, this account of Briggs' superior artistic skills reflects his abilities to develop gardens that are noted for their refinement within limited spaces. Extensive reference materials enhance the text.

***Gardens of Santa Fe* by Anne Hillerman.** Layton, UT: Gibbs Smith, 2010. Hardcover, 192 pp., ISBN 13: 978-1-4236-0331-3, ISBN 10: 1-4230331-1, \$30.00.

Journalist Ann Hillerman advises in the introduction, "gardening in Santa Fe is not for sissies, nor for the faint of heart." Based on the attractive photographs of public and private gardens that illustrate the informative text, gardeners have more than met its environmental challenges. The author divides the work into two sections, private versus public gardens; she capably relates the thoughts of each private garden's creator as well as the functions of public sites in the enlightening text. The chapters on private gardens are noted for a diversity of themes: Old Style Santa Fe, water-wise gardens, artists' gardens, patios and courtyards, etc. The section on public gardens



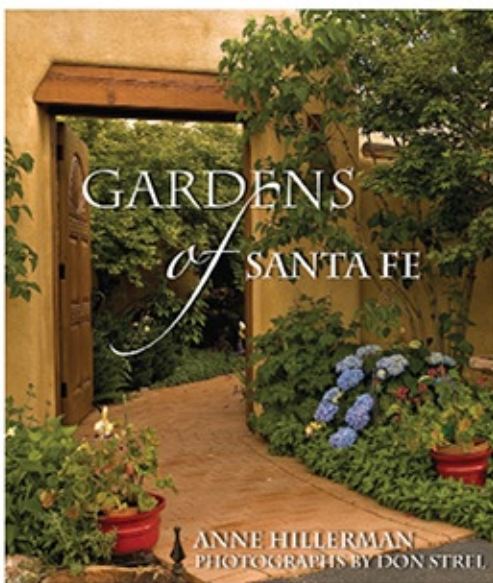
covers display gardens and preserves as well as business and corporate gardens where visitors are welcome. Hillerman includes in the appendix some wise advice from Santa Fe gardeners on how to deal with that environment.

***Private Gardens of Connecticut* by Jane Garmey.** New York: The Monacelli Press (Random House), 2010. Cloth, 231 pp., ISBN 978-1-58093-241-7, \$65.00.

Born in England, author Jane Garmey has chosen twenty-eight sites from across the state as examples of their beauty; some reflect the work of the most prominent landscape architects and designers of the period and others are the products of their owners' visions. The author's British background is apparent in her choices, as many gardens are in the formal style. The most spectacular photograph is of a woodland in its fall coloration, contrasting the magnificence of nature to man-made design.

In my garden there is a large place for sentiment. My garden of flowers is also my garden of thoughts and dreams. The thoughts grow as freely as the flowers, and the dreams are as beautiful.

~Abram L. Urban



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- # 5446 Khaki
- # 5447 White

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- ◆ If a garden club supplies the artwork file and Dorman Pacific digitizes the logo, there will be a one time fee of \$40.
- ◆ Embroidery charge per hat (add this to the cost of the hat) is \$2.75 each.
- ◆ Only one logo may be used on all the hats

◆ Various colors may be ordered, but must be ordered in sets of three, (3, 6, 9, etc.) per color.

◆ Price includes 6,000 stitches—up to 6 colors.

If you have any questions, please call Teri, Member Services Manager, at 1-800-550-6007. Teri will be delighted to assist you.

The Eco-Friendly Umbrella # 5449: The fabric used in this eco-friendly umbrella has been manufactured from recycled plastic bottles. The frame is recycled metal, and the handle is made of recycled wood chips mixed with resin. The umbrella is self opening and is approximately 11 1/2" long. NGC has selected a striking green leaf pattern with a black background. The umbrella is currently being manufactured and will be available for shipment this summer. The price is \$22 each, plus shipping and handling. (Turn to page 45 of this magazine to see color photos of the Scala Garden Hat and the Eco-Friendly Umbrella.)

The CobraHead Weeder and Cultivator #5448 is made in Wisconsin and is the best all-purpose small garden tool made. It weeds, cultivates, digs, plants, and transplants. The tool features a handle that is a mix of recycled plastic and agriculturally grown flax fiber, and has a unique "cobra-head" shape. It is the greenest tool on the market. It is super tough, and the steel is tempered so it cannot bend. It is very light, well balanced, and close to indestructible. Best of all, it will be the death knell for seemingly thousands of weeds. The Cobrahead Weeder and Cultivator weighs 9.2 oz. and is 13" long. Price is \$22, plus shipping and handling.

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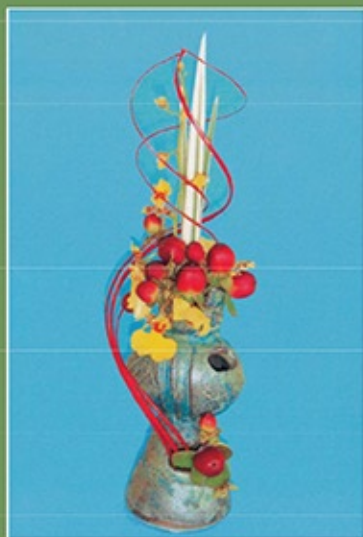
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In the coming year, Member Services will be steadily growing. We look forward to creating and bringing new products to our members. I want to thank everyone for your wonderful support of Member Services. We look forward to serving our members with all their garden club needs.

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Will be mailed April 1

Summer Issue - July-Aug-Sept

Will be mailed July 1

Fall Issue - Oct-Nov-Dec

Will be mailed October 1

Deadline

for the Fall Issue

Copy due by August 1, 2011

Invasive Pests

The Nature Conservancy encourages members of the public who notice an insect or tree disease they don't recognize to take a photo or obtain a specimen of it, and compare it to Web site photos of the suspected pest. Or, they can take the photo or specimen to a county agriculture extension office, local nursery, or a state agricultural office to obtain help with its identification. If they believe they have found a new outbreak of an invasive pest or pathogen, they should contact their state department of agriculture to find out where to send a sample of it and how it should be packaged to ensure nothing could potentially escape during shipment. For a listing of all the USDA-APHIS state plant health director offices, visit www.aphis.usda.gov and click on "Report a Pest or Disease" on the far right menu.

—www.nature.org

Forget Your Lawn, Water The Trees



In hot dry years, just let the lawn go dormant. Think of your lawn like a hibernating bear. Many lawns will turn completely brown. But most of the lawn grasses will survive four to six weeks without significant rainfall. In most cases, they'll green up again in late summer or early fall when the rain returns and the temperatures moderate.

Overwatering during hot weather does far more damage to a lawn than drought. Watering—particularly frequent light watering—encourages lawn diseases and weeds.

—**Frank Rossi**, *professor of horticulture, Cornell University*

Water The Trees

Don't give up on trees and shrubs that have shed their leaves. Go ahead and water them. It's better late than never. If they're still alive, they'll grow new leaves. And after two weeks of photosynthesizing they'll have made up for the extra effort it took them to re-leaf.

When it's really hot and dry, many trees and shrubs will shed their leaves—and some will just dry up. Drought is very stressful and can sometimes kill them outright.

Newly planted trees and shrubs are particularly vulnerable because their root systems aren't fully developed. They have a harder time foraging for moisture. Depending on the species, site and planting practices, that might mean keeping two- to five-year-old plantings carefully watered during dry periods, hopefully preventing drought-caused leaf damage or loss in the first place.

—**Nina Bassuk**, *professor of horticulture, Cornell University*

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Growing Roses in Minnesota or Arizona

There are many differences in growing roses in both cold climates and warmer regions. Roses that grow in Minnesota need winter protection. It is also important to control black spot and other fungus blights. Shrub roses should be tied to protect from winds and chicken wire or hardware cloth can be used to keep rabbits, voles and mice from eating these roses in the winter.

Tender roses, such as hybrid teas, floribundas, climbers and miniatures, need cane protection if the temperature is 20°F and colder. Mound up the soil (or use mulch) to 10-12 inches around the canes. Another alternative is to use rose cones filled with leaves. This will help to keep the soil from freezing and thawing. Some rose growers use construction blankets and leaves over their rose beds after the soil cools in fall. Bags of leaves are placed on top of the blankets to hold them in place. Many growers will lay the tied rose bush in a trench and then cover it with soil.

In Minnesota, roses are uncovered in the first half of April. The canes will be green and ready to bud out for pruning in May. Blooms should appear in about 45 days (June) for rose shows, garden tours and for your own enjoyment throughout the summer and fall. Fertilizing, spraying and cutting spent blooms is done all summer—approximately every 7 to 10

days. This helps to keep plants healthy and to prevent diseases.

Minnesota has beautiful rose gardens to visit. Some good examples are: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum; Lake Harriet Rose Garden, in Minneapolis; Clement Gardens, in St. Cloud; and Duluth Rose Garden, by Lake Superior, in Duluth.

In Arizona, it is quite the opposite. Arizona roses need protection from drought and heat. Surviving the heat in the Phoenix area is the challenge. Cloth shading is done to keep the leaves and blossoms from burning. Watering is most important. Increased watering and fertilizing begins after the heat of summer. Roses will bloom in November and December in Arizona. New roses are



Photographs: Catherine Felton



planted in late December, January or February. This is also the time for spring pruning. In warm climates roses do not go dormant. Pruning the bushes reduces the numbers of canes, which helps them to use their energy to produce new spring growth. The stored energy in the remaining canes will feed fewer bud eyes resulting in longer stems and larger blooms. If leaves are removed the shrub will direct more of its energy to producing new basal canes.

Arizona has a very large rose garden at Mesa Community College, in Mesa, Arizona (an American Rose Society test garden). Another garden to visit is the Scottsdale Rose Garden. Every state has a local rose society that will give you specific growing information for your area. For more information contact the American Rose Society, whose headquarters are in Shreveport, Louisiana. Enjoy the Rose. It is the National Flower!

—**Millie Hisey**, *NGC Organic Gardening Chairman*

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Invasive Pests That Can Devastate America's Trees

Everyday citizens can help detect forest pests and prevent their spread when they are observant of the trees and forests around their homes and nearby natural areas while they are gardening, hiking and performing other outdoor activities.

Imported trees and shrubs, as well as untreated crates and pallets, can have harmful hitchhikers, such as beetles buried in wood or tiny mites on the leaves of a flowering plant. These pests can kill trees in neighborhoods and parks, choke farmland, and devastate forests. Remarkably, new non-native plant pest introductions are detected at a rate of one every twelve days, adding to the burden of the more than 450 damaging tree pests already established in the United States.

The Nature Conservancy encourages members of the public to become familiar with the insects and diseases that are threats in their region by using the many online resources available, such as www.invasivepests.org or www.forestryimages.org. Following are some of the invasive insects and diseases that are currently threatening trees and other plants that live in forests and other ecosystems across the country. These pests can be contained or mitigated if new outbreaks are detected sufficiently early.

Non-Native Pests

Threatened Regions and Trees/Plants

Thousand cankers disease—Most of the East, from Pennsylvania south to Alabama and west to Iowa south to Texas: walnut trees

Sudden oak death—The entire Southeast: rhododendrons, camellias, viburnums, and oak and beech trees

Laurel wilt & ambrosia beetle—Coastal Southeast: redbay trees in coastal regions from North and South Carolina to Mississippi; Florida: avocado groves

Gold-spotted oak borer—Southern California: coast, live & black oaks

Asian longhorned beetle—New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes states: many deciduous trees, including maple and birch

Emerald ash borer—New England, Mid-Atlantic, Great Lakes, and Plains states: ash trees

South American cactus moth—The entire Southwest from Texas to California: flat-padded prickly pear cacti

Harrisia cactus mealybug—The entire Southwest from Texas to California: saguaro, barrel, & other columnar cacti

—**The Nature Conservancy**, www.nature.org

2011 NGC Award of Excellence Winners

Award of Excellence #23

Award of Excellence #23 is NGC's highest award presented to a non-member of NGC and sponsored by a State Garden Club. It may be awarded to an individual, organization or institution that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of goals and purposes of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, University of Arkansas System, is a not-for-profit organization, established to provide educational programs to the people of Arkansas to make their lives better and promote innovative ideas for the future. The parent company, Winrock International, helps the disadvantaged to increase economic opportunity, sustain natural resources, protect the environment by using innovative approaches in agriculture, forestry, clean energy, technology, education leadership training policy, which includes international, domestic, and rural development and natural resource management.

Patrick Chassé, ASLA, is Maine born and bred. He earned a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from Harvard Graduate School of Design, after a B.S. in biology, and graduate studies in botany. His contributions to civic projects illustrate his dedication to the field of historic landscapes. In Bar Harbor, Maine, Patrick led the effort to purchase and preserve Garland Farm, the last home and garden of Beatrix Farrand. He established a garden research library to document and restore the landscape.

As the historic landscape architect for the restoration of the Benenson Ornamental Conifer Collection, at the New York Botanical Garden, he received a Lucy S. Moses Preservation Award, in 2005. As the first curator of landscape at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, Massachusetts, he documented the evolution of the

courtyard garden and reinstated elements of its design, along with developing an educational program related to horticulture.

George Sanko is a native of South Carolina, but he has long lived in his adopted state of Georgia. He completed degrees in chemistry and biology at Clemson University and the University of Georgia. He taught for twenty-five years at Georgia Perimeter College. During those twenty-five years, with the help of an estimated 20,000 students and far-flung field trips, George developed a herbarium second in Georgia only to that at the University of Georgia, in Athens.

Following his retirement, Mr. Sanko established the Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) Botanical Garden. The garden provides a place for students to study native plants as part of their class work as well as a way to see the plants before going on field trips. This garden covers four acres and contains over 4,000 species of plants. In 2003, as part of the GPC Botanical Garden, the Ferns of the World Garden was established. The fern garden contains more species of ferns than any other garden in the country and perhaps the world.

Award of Excellence #24

Award of Excellence #24 is awarded to a State Garden Club for an outstanding project.

Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs

The Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs chose as its President's Project for 2009-2011 to construct a garden at Dover Air Force Base, in Dover, Delaware. This base has the heartbreaking distinction of being the only place in the United States designated to receive the bodies of those killed serving in the armed forces. When the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs contacted the base, in January 2010, they had just opened a building, the Center for Families of the Fallen, where parents, spouses, children, siblings and other relatives assemble before they are taken to the flight line for the body transfer. This building, while well appointed inside, desperately needed an enclosed

garden outside for families to use. This project encompasses members' belief that a garden can offer solace and peace and that the beauty of living plants can give hope to those who mourn and grieve.

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs

After hearing from NGC officers the idea that our local clubs, states, and national organization of NGC are suffering an identity crisis, Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs adopted a public relations effort to get their name out before the public.

Their first effort was to produce and sell a front license plate for cars. It proudly shows their state garden club seal (or logo) and the name of their state federation. This shows the community that the garden club is at work in the community.

Their project had a triple object: advertise our organization; encourage statewide interest in Blue Star Markers; and provide a fund-raising effort for our state organization.

The Garden Club of Georgia

In October 2005, The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. voted to use funding donated by Georgia Power Foundation to support community projects of individual clubs throughout the state. The GCG managed grant program is known as the "Community on My Mind Grant." This ongoing program will exist until all funds are exhausted, with project funding actively sought. Recognizing the need for beautifying, improving,

respecting, and protecting the environment, clubs are encouraged to participate in establishing programs that meet these aims in public areas civic improvement projects. The fund exists solely for civic improvement projects conducted by member clubs or garden club councils of GCG. Civic improvement projects are defined as any project which beautifies or conserves a community setting and benefits all community citizens.

Award of Excellence #25

Award of Excellence #25 is awarded for distinguished work in a region, not necessarily a unified project, in accordance with the programs and objectives of NGC in which all states in the region have participated.

Central Region

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin

Joan A. Hood, Regional Director

The Central Region Theme, "Helping Others Learn to Grow," has focused their member states and clubs in many directions with a variety of projects, including Habitat for Humanity, Beautify Blight, Golden Days, Adult Centers and School Gardens, and various workshops.

Photograph: Julie Perdue



From left: George Sanko; Kathy Edgerton, Director of Communications and Marketing, Winthrop Rockefeller Institute; NGC President Renee Blaschke; and Patrick Chassé.

I found a box in my attic with this poem inside. It must have belonged to my grandmother, who passed away in 1954; my Mother kept it. I didn't realize that in World War II if you had a person serving on active duty, there was a 'blue star' poster in your window. If the soldier was killed, the blue star was replaced by a gold one.

—Jeanne Schwaller, Capital Garden Club, Bittersweet Garden Club, Jefferson City, MO

They're Taking Down the Blue Star

They're taking down the blue star,
At the house across the way,
And putting up the gold one,
They just got word today.

This home that one time echoed,
With the shouts of happy boys,
Is stricken now with sadness,
Devoid of simple joys.
We remember warm summer days,
When he was a little lad
We would see him toddling proudly,
Going fishing with his dad.

And then on wintry Christmas nights,
Lighted candles used to gleam
From out that happy, modest home,
Filled with peace and joy supreme.
And now the shadow's fallen,
Sadly they must face,
The removal of that brave blue star,
And the gold one in its place.

What can we say to those kind folks?
Their aching hearts to save,
That valiant dad and mother,
The bravest of the brave.
Words seem to lose their meaning,
But there are things that we can do,
To ease the load of other boys
And help to see them through.

Buying Bonds will speed the weapons,
To bring victory in the fight,
And plasma from the blood bank,
Will keep lives from taking flight.
We can stop our petty grumbling,
About food and heat and cold,
This will keep more blue stars waving
And fewer of the gold.

—John P. Fahey

First Blue Star Memorial in the District of Columbia

National Garden Clubs, Inc., in cooperation with the historic Congressional Cemetery, dedicated the first Blue Star Memorial in the District of Columbia, on May 29. The memorial is to be installed near the intersection of 17th Street and Potomac Avenue SE on Capitol Hill. The Blue Star Memorial honors all service men and women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the armed forces of the United States.

National Garden Clubs, Inc., is the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world. Its Blue Star Memorial Program began, in 1944, when the New Jersey Council of Garden Clubs planted 8,000 dogwood trees as a living memorial to the veterans of World War II.

In 1945, the then-named National Council of State Garden Clubs adopted the program and began a Blue Star Highway system marked by large Blue Star Memorial Highway Markers over thousands of miles across the continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii. Since then the program has expanded to include Blue Star Memorial Markers and By-Way Markers at national cemeteries, parks, veterans' facilities, gardens and other locations.

The dedication took place during the annual convention of National Garden Clubs, Inc. For the first time, the convention was held in the District of Columbia.

Congressional Cemetery is the final resting place of many who have served in the armed forces of the United States from the Revolutionary War up to the War in Afghanistan. The cemetery was founded in 1807 and lies along the western bank of the Anacostia River. Though owned by Christ Church, the first Episcopal church in Washington Parish, the Washington Parish Burial Ground quickly became known as the "Congres-



At left: 2009-2011 NGC President Renee Blaschke and incoming NGC President Shirley Nicolai stand before the new Blue Star Memorial.

Below: 2005-2011 NGC Blue Star Memorial Chair Jimmie Meinhardt prepares to speak at the Dedication. The Honor Guard represents the District of Columbia National Guard.

sional burying ground" or "national burying ground" because of the many grand funeral processions of prominent national figures.

The cemetery was the first resting spot for many Washington notables, including three presidents and Dolley Madison, before being moved elsewhere for final burial. It is the final resting spot for a long list of luminaries, including Vice President Elbridge Gerry; the Choctaw Chief Push-Ma-Ta-Ha, who served with Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans; the first woman nominated for President, Belva Lockwood; the March King John Philip Sousa; and the first director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover.



The cemetery is operated by the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery.

—David Healy
District/Director, National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc.

Landscape Design Study Courses

Course I

Ludington, MI September 8-9
State Chairman: Terry Harding, 6287 Summit Court, Traverse City, MI 49686-1885;
231-947-0568; wsharding@chartermi.net

Colfax, CA September 9-11
State Chairman: Alexis Slafer, 6111 South Kings Road, Los Angeles, CA 90056-1630;
323-292-6657; aslafer@ca.rr.com

Course II

Colfax, CA October 8-9
State Chairman: Alexis Slafer, 6111 South Kings Road, Los Angeles, CA 90056-1630;
323-292-6657; aslafer@ca.rr.com

Normandy Park, WA October 25-27
State Chairman: JoAnn Goldman, 18811 51st NE, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155-3059;
206-362-3201; aljo2009@q.com

Weston, MA October 27-29
State Chairman: Jane E. O'Sullivan, 84 Old Meeting House Lane, Norwell, MA 02061-1436;
781-659-4423; jeosullivan@comcast.net

Course III

College Station, TX September 26-27
State Chairman: Janell H. Zeigler, 3190 C.R. 267, Oglesby, TX 76571-1527; 254-865-2904;
cnzeigler@aol.com

Colfax, CA October 15-16
State Chairman: Alexis Slafer, 6111 South Kings Road, Los Angeles, CA 90056-1630;
323-292-6657; aslafer@ca.rr.com

Course IV

Knoxville, TN August 29-31
State Chairman: Cae Radloff Daly, 305 Kanoonoo Trace, Loudon, TN 37774;
865-458-6856; caedaly@charter.net

Palos Verdes, CA September 22-23
State Chairman: Alexis Slafer, 6111 South Kings Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90056-1630;
323-292-6657; aslafer@ca.rr.com

Colfax, CA October 22-23
State Chairman: Alexis Slafer, 6111 South Kings Road, Los Angeles, CA 90056-1630;
323-292-6657; aslafer@ca.rr.com

Tri-Refreshers

Milton, FL August 11-12
Event Chairman: Ciny O'Donnell, 411 Bunker Hill Dr., Pensacola, FL 32506; 850-456-9740;
msodo@att.net

Grand Rapids, MI October 2
Event Chairman: Mrs. Jeanne Poll, 707 Aster Avenue, Holland, MI 49423-6866;
616-335-3585; cjp777@sbcglobal.net

Environmental Studies Schools

Course I

Denver, CO August 26-27
Registrar: Elfriede Goeben, 202 Pine Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80906; 719-578-9184;
ogoeben@msn.com

Course IV

Hull, MA November 12-13
School Chairman: Judy Dorner, 36 Edgewater Road, Hull, MA 02045; 781-826-8996;
kayayflower@verizon.net

Calendar

NGC Conventions

- 2012 Buffalo, New York
May 16-19
- 2013 Seattle, Washington
May 24-26 (Installation year)
- 2014 Oklahoma
- 2015 Kentucky

Fall Board Meetings

- 2011 St. Louis, Missouri
September 20-25
- 2012 Little Rock, Arkansas
September 25-29
- 2013 St. Louis, Missouri
- 2014 Des Moines, Iowa
- 2015 St. Louis, Missouri

Flower Show Symposiums

Knoxville, TN July 19-20

Registrar: Marion Bloomer, 10004 El Pinar Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922-4117; 865-966-3781; mrbloomer0@aol.com

Greensburg, PA July 26-27

Registrar: Barbara Lotito, 1428 O'Block Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15239-2520; 724-327-0501; bakiflowers@live.com

Festus, MO August 2-3

Registrar: Roni Pidgeon, 805 Pebblefield Terrace, Manchester, MO 63021; 636-227-4693; Sharpidg@netscape.com

Birmingham, AL August 17-18

Registrar: Betty B. Thompson; 316 Cliff Road, Gardendale, AL 35071; 205-631-3255; bettybt@bellsouth.net

Missoula, MT August 22-23

Registrar: Linda Sadler, 1220 Clements Road, Missoula, MT 59804-2908; 406-728-4743; sadlerjim@msn.com

Grand Rapids, MI August 23-24

Registrar: Mrs. Lauren Taylor, 2019 Laraway Lake Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546; 616-308-5802; jkart@altelco.net

Wausau, WI August 26-27

Registrar: Judy Pitcher, 1831 Rollingwood Rd., Rt. 6, Mosinee, WI 54455; 715-359-0291; judypitcher@charter.net

Ripley, WV August 26-28

Registrar: Norma Baker, 22 Willow Lane, Wheeling, WV 26003; 304-242-3071

Marshalltown, IA August 29-30

Registrar: Loretta Daisy, 123 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Lake City, IA 51449; 712-464-3606; ldaisy@lowatelecom.net

Silverdale, WA September 14-15

Registrar: Marie Ennaro 12771 E. State Rt. 106, Belfair, WA 98528-8545; 360-275-5763; m_ennaro@yahoo.com

Torreón, Coahuila, México . September 21-22

Contact: Pilar Medellin;
Email: pilarmedellin@hotmail.com

Chelmsford, MA October 18-20

Registrar: Maureen Christmas, 190 Pope Road, Acton, MA 01720; 978-263-0009; mchristmas@comcast.net

Towson, MD October 23-25

Registrar: Joyce Millberg, 635 Smokey Hill Road, Tionesta, PA 16353-5247; 814-755-7766; thomsmil@pennswoods.net

Altamonta Springs, FL October 23-25

Registrar: Helen Kuhn, 27305 Racquet Circle, Leesburg, FL 34748-7752; 352-787-1702; helenakuhn1@gmail.com

Raleigh, NC October 23-25

Registrar: Jinny Marino, 16104 Morehead, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8480; 919-969-0022; jinny1@nc.rr.com

Mount Stirling, OH November 7-8

Registrar: Mickie Marquis, P.O. Box 923, Lebanon, OH 45036; 513-850-1653; mickiem@cinci.rr.com

Williamsburg, VA November 10-12

Registrar: Judy B. Hodges, 24405 N. Madison Rd., New Canton, VA 23123-9739; 434-581-1547; judy.hodges14@yahoo.com

Landscape Design Refresher

Hilliard, OH August 4-5

Event Chairman: Joyce Roth, 211 Justo Lane, Seven Hills, OH 44131-3806; 216-901-9000; jmroth211@yahoo.com



If you like Peonies, you will love the new Itoh Peonies, named for Toichi Itoh, who, in 1948, was the first to successfully cross a tree Peony with a herbaceous or garden Peony. The result was a hybrid that features the colorful and exotic flowers of tree Peonies, with the perennial growing cycle of herbaceous Peonies.

—Monrovia

Flower Show Schools

Course I

Okemos, MI August 9-11
Registrar: Sue Kropschot, 915 Audubon, E.
Lansing, MI 48823-3005; 517-351-0464;
sueterrak@yahoo.com

Hammond, LA August 15-17
Registrar: Minnie Posey, 40643 Hwy 1056,
Franklinton, LA 70438; 985-515-3631;
Mposey24@aol.com

México City, México August 23-25
Contact person : Maria Alejandra Davila;
Email: maalejandravila@cablevision.net.mx

Happy Valley, OR September 13-15
Registrar: Sally Thompson, 29275 NE Putnam
Rd., Newberg, OR 97132-6458;
503-538-2774; mgtsat@comcast.net

Springfield, MO October 5-7
Registrar: Shirley McCarthy, 2124 Butterfly
Ave., Springfield, MO 65807; 417-881-4632;
shirmccrthy@sbcglobal.net

Tuscaloosa, AL October 11-13
Registrar: Elizabeth Kent, 1304 Claymont
Pkwy, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404; 205-553-2531;
elizabethkent@att.net

Course II

Tyler, TX July 19-21
Registrar: Charlene Mizener, 11453 CR 2246,
Tyler, TX 75707; 903-566-1019;
mizenerjc@prodigy.net

East Brunswick, NJ September 7-9
Registrar: Nancy L. Gahtan, 131 South Road,
Chester, NJ 07930-2740; 908-879-7991;
nlgahatan@msn.com

Tallahassee, FL October 3-5
Registrar: Jeanine Turner, 5142 Ile de France
Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32309; 850-877-1937;
gotjet@netally.com

Course III

Annandale, VA July 29-31
Registrar: Poss Tarpley, 1705 Belle Haven
Road, Alexandria, VA 22101-5337;
703-660-8661; posst@aol.com

Madrid, IA August 31-September 2
Registrar: Loretta Daisy, 123 S. Woodlawn
Ave., Lake City, IA 51449; 712-464-3606;
Ldaisy@iowatelecom.net

Richfield, MN September 12-14
Registrar: Barbara Mikkelson, 11528 River
Hills Dr., Burnsville, MN 55337-3277;
952-894-7580; mkklsnb@aol.com

Taunton, MA September 13-15
Registrar: Hila Lyman, PO Box 442, East
Falmouth, MA 02536; 508-548-0841;
hilajeanne@comcast.net

Course III

Monterrey, México September 20-22
Contact person: Bertha Martinez de Vazquez;
Email: drabmartinez@hotmail.com

Fort Worth, TX September 27-29
Registrar: Ellen Gibbon, 7728 Incline Terrace,
Ft. Worth, TX 76179; 817-236-1898;
robertgibbon@att.net

Naples, FL November 3-5
Registrar: Catherine Ware, 286 18th Ave S
Naples, FL 34102-7531; 239-263-2286;
catherinekware@aol.com

San Pedro Garza García, México . November 8-9
Contact person: Rosalba A. de Gutierrez
E-mail: rosalbaadame@enomex.com.mx

Course IV

Millen, GA August 15-17
Registrar: Jeanette Brantley, 844 Reynolds
Street, Millen, GA 30442; 478-982-4979;
pincejohanson@bellsouth.net

Albuquerque, NM August 27-28
Registrar: Maggie Rubino, 2E ABS Road,
Santa Fe, NM 87506-7906; 505-982-3770;
Maggier33@hotmail.com

Mt. Vernon, WA September 7-9
Registrar: Sharon Merrill, 18780 West Big Lake
Blvd., Mt. Vernon, WA 98274-8385;
360-422-6232; myps.sharonm@yahoo.com

Gainesville, FL September 26-28
Registrar: Nina Ring, 3505 NW 40th Street,
Gainesville, FL 32606-6195; 352-372-7522;
ninagville@bellsouth.net

Gardening Study School

Course III

Sarasota, FL November 17-18
*Local Chairman: Maida Atkins, 2103 Musko-
gee Tr., Nokomis, FL 34275; 941-408-3118;
maidaatkins2103@gmail.com

*State Chairman: Jean Schneider, 3065 Doc-
tor's Lake Dr., Orange Park, FL 32073; 904-
264-2664; jimnjan@comcast.net

For additional information on course list-
ings, including instructors, designers
and course topics, please see the NGC
website: www.gardenclub.org

Attention: State Treasurers, National Affiliates, & International Affiliates

Section 1. — DUES

a. Annual dues of each State Garden Club shall be fifty cents (\$.50) per capita on all categories of members, including NGC Life Members.

1) Annual dues for State Garden Club membership shall be paid to NGC Headquarters between June 1 and October 31 of that year.

2) Annual dues shall be delinquent after October 31. Notices of dues unpaid as of the Fall Board Meeting shall be given by the NGC Treasurer to the Regional Directors and State Garden Club Presidents at that meeting.

3) State Garden Clubs failing to remit dues by October 31 shall forfeit representation at the NGC Convention.

4) State Garden Clubs failing to remit dues by October 31 shall be excluded from any tabulations used to determine NGC Awards.

5) Additional dues payment for members not included in the original report may be remitted by a State Garden Club to NGC Headquarters prior to March 31 of the following year.

6) State Garden Clubs failing to remit dues prior to June 1 of the following year shall forfeit membership.

b. Dues of each Affiliate Member organization shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per annum payable to NGC Headquarters by October 31. Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues by October 31 shall be excluded from any tabulations used to determine NGC Awards and shall forfeit representation at the NGC Convention. Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues prior to June 1 of the following year shall forfeit membership.

c. Dues of each National Affiliate Member

organization shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per annum payable to NGC Headquarters by October 31. National Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues by October 31 shall be excluded from any tabulations used to determine NGC Awards and shall forfeit representation at the NGC Convention. Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues prior to June 1 of the following year shall forfeit membership.

d. Dues of each International Affiliate Member organization shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per annum payable to NGC Headquarters by October 31. International Affiliate Member organization failing to remit dues by October 31 shall be excluded from any tabulations used to determine NGC Awards and shall forfeit representation at the NGC Convention. International Affiliate Member organizations failing to remit dues prior to June 1 of the following year shall forfeit membership.

e. Youth Gardener groups shall pay no NGC individual dues.

Section 2. — FEES

One annual fee for all Youth Gardener groups within a State Garden Club or country shall be ten dollars (\$10.00 U.S.) per state or country payable by October 31.

Atención: International Affiliates

d. La cuota anual de cada organización Afiliada Internacional será de veinticinco dólares (\$ 25), a pagar en la Oficina Central NGC antes del 31 de Octubre. La organización Afiliada Internacional que no remite dicho pago antes del 31 de Octubre será excluida de cualquier tabulación utilizada para determinar los Premios NGC, y perderá representación en la Convención NGC. La organización Afiliada Internacional que no remita el pago de la cuota antes del 1ro de Junio del siguiente año, perderá su calidad de asociado.

Classified Advertising

Rates: One time - 78 cents a word, per insertion; 3 times - 66 cents a word, per insertion. Minimum ad: 20 words @\$15.60. Payment in full must accompany order unless credit has been established. If you are ordering more than one insertion, please remit full amount to qualify for insertion; please remit full amount to qualify for discount.

Ad copy should be typewritten or printed clearly. The National Gardener cannot be responsible for ads that are not submitted clearly/legibly or for key number changes. In case of publication error, however, responsibility is limited to one corrected insertion. Right is also reserved to refuse ads considered by The National Gardener to be in questionable taste or intent.

Please send ad copy, remittance, requests for additional information on classified or display advertising to: Susan Davidson, Advertising Representative, The National Gardener, 102 South Elm Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119; E-mail: susand102@charter.net

DVD PRICE REDUCTION

For limited time **ONLY** the price of our Ikebana DVD is **\$12**. (Free S/H USA) (AZ residents add \$1.12 tax). Quantity orders welcome! DVD teaches how to relax and relieve stress by creating eight beautiful Ikebana arrangements. Preview DVD: www.theikebanastudio.com. Order on line or send check/money order: Ikebana Studio, PO Box 10025, Scottsdale, AZ 85271.

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Member recipes, gardening tips, and planting schedule for the Southwest. Make check to **YGC**, 2739 West Julie Lane, Yuma, AZ 85365. \$15 plus \$4 shipping.

The dandelions and buttercups gild all the lawn: the drowsy bee stumbles among the clover tops, and summer sweetens all to me.

~James Russell Lowell



Create a Bird-friendly Habitat

Provide water year-round A simple birdbath is a great start. Change water every 2-3 days in summer and use a heater in the winter. Place the water container about 10 feet from dense shrubs or other cover that predators may use.

Install native plants Select a variety of native plants to offer year-round food in the form of seeds, berries, nuts, and nectar. Try to recreate the plant ecosystem native to your area. Evergreen trees and shrubs provide excellent cover through all seasons, if they are part of your local ecosystem. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has lists of recommended native plants by region and state. (www.wildflower.org/)

Eliminate insecticides in your yard Insects are the primary source of food for many bird species and are an important source of protein and fats for growing juvenile birds.

Keep dead trees Dead trees provide cavity-dwelling places for birds to raise young and as a source to collect insects for food. Many species will also seek shelter from bad weather inside these hollowed out trees.

Put out nesting boxes Make sure the boxes have ventilation holes at the top and drainage holes below.

Build a brush pile in a corner of your yard Start with larger logs and top with smaller branches. Some birds will hunt, roost or even nest in brush piles.

Remove invasive plants from your wildlife habitat Many invasive plants outcompete the native species favored by birds, insects and other wildlife.

Reduce your lawn area Lawns have little value to birds or other wildlife, and they require more energy for mowing, applying fertilizers and watering.

—National Wildlife Federation, nwf.org

The Modern Movement In Landscape Architecture

The California Style

Thomas Dolliver Church (1902-1978) was born in Boston. His parents separated when he was very young and his mother, a producer of radio dramas for NBC, moved him and his sister to the West Coast. At U.C. Berkeley he changed his major from pre-law to landscape architecture after taking a "Mickey Mouse" course on the History of Landscaping. He subsequently received a master's degree from the Harvard School of Design. After teaching a year at Ohio State and working on the East Coast in a city

planning office he moved back to the West Coast and, with architect William Wurster, developed Pasatiempo Estates, a golf community in Santa Cruz, California.

In 1932, Church opened his own practice, in San Francisco. This was an exciting time when landscapers were beginning to work with architects and dialogue was increasing between landscapers and clients.

On a trip to Europe, in 1937, he met Alvar Aalto whose work influenced Church to adopt a more relaxed and informal garden philosophy and to pay more attention to site planning. Subsequently, he replaced formal design (central axes) with emphasis on many vantage points (a Cubism idea), and the use of modern materials to achieve functions. In his book, "Gardens Are For People," he wrote: "A garden should have no beginning and no end and should be pleasing from any angle, not only from the house."

Four guiding principles informed his work:



© (1947-1948), 2011, Ronald Partridge

Above and opposite page: The beach property residence of Charles Martin, Aptos, California.

1) Unity: consideration of the entire site—both house and garden.

He replaced the separation of the house and garden areas with a blending of the two. Whereas gardens once were primarily a collection of plants, Church related the house and garden areas.

2) Function: the relation of the service areas to the needs of the

household, and the relation of decorative areas to the wishes of the clients.

Outdoor spaces are designed for specific purposes and the plans center around that use.

3) Simplicity: control of both the economic and aesthetic success of the design.

The focus of his designs is on the practical usage of all available space.

4) Scale: the pleasant relationship of one part to another.

This is the basis for the relaxed, outdoor lifestyle of California. Comfort and usability were paramount goals. The outdoor spaces were planned (and scaled) for use by families and their guests.

Although Church freely used the elements of line, form, and movement (a Modern concept), he adhered to the solid design



© (1947-1948), 2011, Rondaal Partridge

principles of the past (classical, formal). He was able to marry the seemingly opposite design principles as he designed outdoor living spaces often dividing them into separate 'rooms.' Nature can be appreciated without sacrificing comfort or everyday needs according to Church.

These four principles guided all of the 2000-plus residential designs from his studio, whether for bungalows or mansions. In this "do-it-yourself" era restricted plant palettes and detailed accessories were the hallmarks of his work. He raised curbs to become seating areas, used raised beds to define areas and modern materials to ensure privacy at the perimeters of a property.

He also realized at this time that the size of suburban lots was shrinking rapidly. He therefore designed for modest as well as large budgets with a goal of maximizing the use of the available space and through



careful planning to avoid mistakes and make full use of the site.

In the late 1940s, after the end of WW II, Church achieved true modernity and worldwide acclaim through the design and construction of two projects, one large and one small.

The smaller site was a beach property in Aptos, California, (near Santa Cruz), a vacation community. Here Church replaced what might have been a green lawn with a sand area which flowed seamlessly to the rocks and the Pacific Ocean beyond. A wooden deck overlooked the area from the U-shaped house and extended the interior living space. (See photos on website: Thomas Church + Aptos/Martin house.) Extensive ground cover.

The design was conceived within many constraints including the seasonal use of the property, the salt content of the air, the strong winds and frequently foggy weather, and a need for children's play space.

The zigzag bench outlining the deck and the biomorphic curve demonstrated the modernity of the design. However, the



Above and opposite page: The Donnell House, Sonoma, California

primary goal of the design was to provide human comfort, not modern concepts. (Biomorphic: a painted, drawn or sculptured free-form design suggestive in shape of an amoeba or protozoa. (Example: Joan Miro's paintings))

The second project at this time was the Donnell House, in Sonoma, California, on a hillside overlooking the northern end of San Francisco Bay. Interestingly, the garden was constructed before the house. The original program called for a pool, appropriate paved surfaces and a lanai. Church and Lawrence Halperin and the architect George Rockrise synthesized the design from the

unique qualities of the site; Live oak trees were spared and the pool was the focal point. The paved areas were extended over the descending hillside by wooden decks. A very large sculpture was placed in the middle of the pool. The pool appears as a free-form structure, but is actually a complex geometric design.

This garden received instantaneous recognition worldwide. It typified an indoor-outdoor lifestyle. To Church the garden did not represent modernity, but rather a means to live well.

Church did a great deal of remedial work on the Stanford University campus some 20 miles south of San Francisco. The Quonset huts and generous grants that followed WW II doubled the size of this campus and the need for more facilities. Over time, the Stanford campus, based on the 1888 plans of Frederick Law Olmsted, resulted in a mishmash of construction projects. Various periods of growth and taste resulted in a kind of pentimento—that is, the artistic process that permits the overpainting of one work by

another on the same canvas.

Church's job was to tie the various spaces together with Lomita Mall. He did this by converting an auto thoroughfare into a pedestrian area with winding paths, many vantage points, and seats built around vintage oaks. Lomita Mall has all but disappeared at present.

Two of his legacies that remain from this era are hidden pocket gardens and the White Plaza, which over the years has become an amalgamation of opposites—Church and Olmsted.

Examples of Church's work may still be seen at: Art Center, Des Moines, (IA); Claremont, (CA); U.C. Berkeley (CA); U.C. Santa Cruz, (CA); General Motors Research, 5 Detroit (MI); Mayo Clinic, Rochester (MN); Park Merced, San Francisco (CA); Woodner Apts, Washington, D.C. While many of us do not live in the lovely Mediterranean climate of California, we can still adapt many of Thomas Church's design principles in our own spaces.

—Marion Ryan, *NGC LD Chairman*



Charles A. Birnbaum, courtesy of The Cultural Landscape Foundation

What's the Point?

Yesterday, I stood on a hillside in the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, in Thousand Oaks, California. As I dug up weeds around young oak trees I reflected on what brought me to this moment. The answer was that being an NGC Gardening Consultant brought me here.

Many years ago, I attended an NGC Landscape Design (LD) School class with my wife, who was a garden club member. I initially thought of all of this as women's activities (which was not completely true in 1993 and is far less true today), but the class was incredibly interesting so I attended subsequent classes. Before I could complete my fourth LD course my wife's garden club launched a Gardening Study School. I helped with that and attended all the classes, which were also fascinating (I first learned that salvias have square stems), and by the time I was taking Course IV I joined the garden club so that I could be an accredited NGC Gardening Consultant.

So, being a Gardening Consultant led to being a garden club member and both led to becoming a Landscape Design Consultant, an Environmental Consultant, to becoming a member of the state, regional and national garden club boards, to becoming a parliamentarian and to travel. Since I still work full time, the required travel to state, regional and national meetings has created wonderful

opportunities to see many places I'd never been to, to experience new gardens, to continue learning (tours, workshops, refreshers), to meeting people with similar interests, to developing friendships all over the country, and to finding that I love peonies (which do not grow in Southern California).

Being a Gardening Consultant and the relationships that followed led to increased awareness of botanic gardens and the time and money needed to support them. When the opportunity presented itself to suggest community non-profits that could benefit from the assistance of my employer, I recommended the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden as a project for Community Service Day. This 33-acre oasis of unique terrain, not far from where I work, provides opportunities to study and enjoy collections of native plants, oak trees, water-conserving plants and an abundant population of indigenous wildlife. It is completely maintained by memberships, donations and volunteers. It has benefitted from the projects of three of our California Garden Clubs, Inc. presidents—all Gardening Consultants.

So here I stood working in this beautiful garden with 175 of my co-workers and their families who gave up four hours of their

Photographs: Beverly Brune



Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, Thousand Oaks, California.

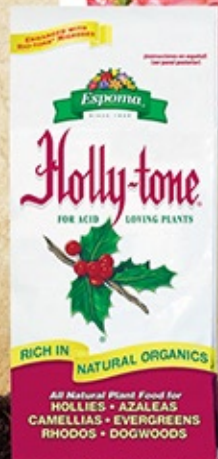


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The Desert Garden with cacti and California natives.

Saturday on this Community Service Day (benefitting the garden for the second year) to help improve the lives of the people we serve and the health of our communities. I first learned about this garden because of being a Gardening Consultant, and now I have helped call it to the attention of many others. Not a small accomplishment when you stop and think about it.

We all know the point of attending Flower Show School is to become a Judge, and we know that Flower Show Judges have a clear ongoing role to fulfill. There also needs to be a point to being a Gardening (or LD or ES) Consultant and we need to use this in promoting our schools. We need to identify and communicate this point, and probably more succinctly than described here, but as I have described, many activities and learning experiences are inter-

connected and produce many results. If we look at the big picture we can find significance in being a Gardening Consultant and many, and sometimes important, results.

One thing Gardening Consultants can do is to keep learning by refreshing their certificates at schools and refresher events, and helping support these schools and events with their registration fees, interest and attendance. Offer to assist the local chairmen

by serving as proctor or in any number of other ways. I learn something new at every school and refresher I attend. We never know how and when we will be able to use that knowledge to benefit our garden clubs and communities. Sometimes it will be in a big way. All are invited to learn with us at Gardening Study School and all are encouraged to share the knowledge you gain.

—**Greg Pokorski**, NGC GSS Chair,
GregPokorski@earthlink.net



The Trail of Trees is a recent development with 72 varieties of trees. California poppies, California's state flower, are used as ground cover.

Summer and Smoke

A Creative Design using split-leaf philodendron, lilies and decorative reed dried and contrived with balsa wood circles glued on.

The designer is Kris Urbanik,
Creative Arrangers of Connecticut.

Photograph: Peter Urbanik

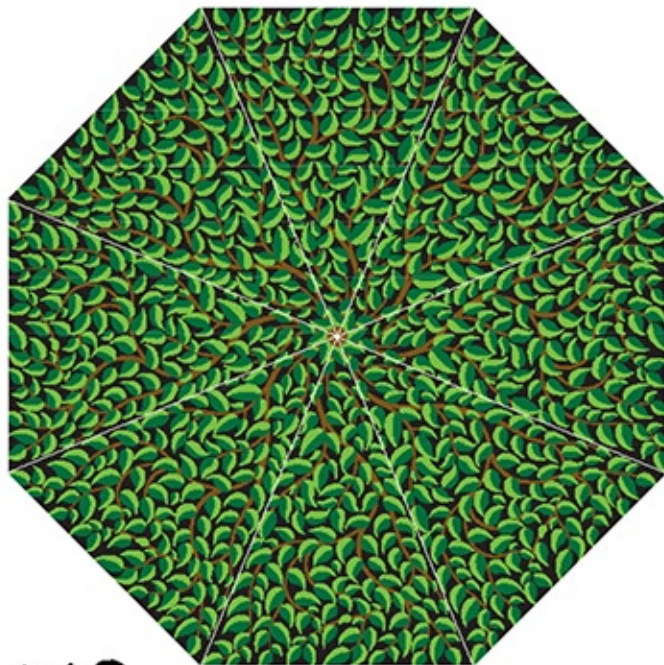




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