A still life arrangement of various plants in a rustic, woven basket. The basket is made of brown, intertwined twigs and holds several bright yellow daisy-like flowers, some with green centers. There are also large green leaves and a few brown, dried leaves. The arrangement is set against a solid blue background.

The
National
Gardener

Summer 2013

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The National Gardener

Summer 2013
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The Cover

Summer Tango

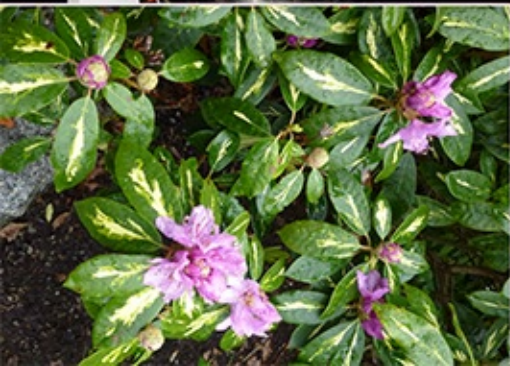
A Creative Design using hosta, flax, and sea grape leaves. Tangled wisteria vine surrounds rudebeckia 'Prairie Sun.'

The designer is Mary Lyons, of Glastonbury, Connecticut, a member of Creative Arrangers of Connecticut.

Photographer: Cheryl Collins

Seattle 2013

Clockwise, from top right: NGC Presidents, past and present; Butchart Gardens, ©Arabella S. Dane; a rhododendron at Weyerhaeuser Garden, ©Arabella S. Dane; Floral designer René van Rems works his magic at the Design Banquet; a finished design from the Design Banquet.





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Making A World Of Difference Choices Matter

Thank you all very much. Before I go any further, I want to thank each of the great women here on the stage with me who have stood where I am now standing. Lois, Kitty, Barbara, Renee, and Shirley—you have been my mentors, my examples, my teachers, and I am most grateful for all the coaching you have given me to prepare for the task and honor ahead. I will do my best to make you all glad you voted yes. Through these years we have become the kind of friends we can rely upon and that is my great fortune.

But I have a couple of other fortunes in my life—most of all, my family. They have supported me throughout my journey. I want all of you to meet these wonderful people!

First my sons and their families: Mitchell, and his wife Paula, and my grandchildren Zachary, Mackenzie, and Ashlyn, from Vancouver Washington; Mark, and his wife Sheila, and my grandson Jacob, from Pleasanton, California; Christopher, and his wife Suzie, and my granddaughter Allie, from Arlington, Washington.

My brothers: Larry Dent, from Anacortes, Washington; Jim Dent, and his wife Carolyn, from Snohomish, Washington; my sisters-in-law Peggy Dent, from San Jose, California, and Mindy Dent, from Red Bluff, California—wives of my other two brothers; you can see who really loves me!

Two other very important people in my life: My good friend Michael O'Loughlin, who for 18 years has helped

me develop my skills in staging shows and has introduced me to many horticulture and environmental programs and concepts. His creative mind is a joy. And Cliff Bentson—Many of you have heard me talk about him and have wondered if you would ever meet him. Well, look fast because he thinks we are a different breed—especially after he was involved in helping me stage flower shows! He is my "tote and load and can you make this" guy, and he does it with a smile.

I also want to thank all my Oregon garden club friends who came to cheer me on and prepare this lovely event tonight: Char Mutschler, who is in my garden club and my designer's guild, and who oversaw this evening's table designs; Jan Iseli, my traveling companion for 20 years, and many times my "park and ride" to the airport; Peggy Olin, for



Outgoing NGC President Shirley Nicolai passes the gavel to 2013-2015 NGC President Linda Nelson.

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these cute little candy boxes and the parasols. And all the rest of you guys who have been there working in the trenches. I am honored that you are here tonight. You all have made a world of difference in my life!

During these next two years, we will be showing everyone that garden clubs are **MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE**—and that Choices Matter. Gardeners have been making a difference in a multitude of ways for years. Garden clubs were at the forefront of recycling and now everybody's doing it! My Pacific Region has been calculating the time and the monetary value of the time their members have spent this past year in service to their communities. The value of the donated time in dollars was well over ten million—yes, million. This is not the dollars we have donated nationwide to Penny Pines, or to Green the Gulf, Running Waters, the Fallen Hero Memorial, Katrina,

or the latest devastation the east coast sustained. No, this is the value of the **time** we give. Now times that by eight regions and that is a staggering amount that we garden club members donate to our communities. Gardeners are the kind of people we want and need in our communities. We have created tapestries of beauty, we have planted native, we have beautified blight, and we continue to serve our communities and each other, sharing "a hug a day, the garden club way." We make a world of difference because we care. We show it not just by giving money or giving our time, but we demonstrate we care in our search for understanding our impact in, and on, our environment.

Our Conservation Pledge states: "I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become better caretakers of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife."

We sometimes unwittingly do harmful things to our natural resources. I do not believe that any gardener would intentionally do things to harm our earth. None of us would say, "I really don't care how my practices affect the water—or air—or the forest." But we might say, "Show me, or prove to me," that what I do harms the earth. That is the education part: "promise to promote education so we may become caretakers." We cannot take care of something if we don't know whether our practices harm it or help it. I believe we want to use good judgment in choosing how we care for this earth, and you know where good judgment comes from—experience—and experience comes from, well, bad judgment! If we have used bad judgment in some of our gardening practices, I believe we want to know that, and I also believe that when we know better, we will do better. For instance, are we willing to investigate whether there is a difference between what we commonly call organic fertilizers—fertilizers that are composed of once-living, natural matter that slowly release their nutrients as they decompose into the soil—and the fertilizers

that we commonly call chemical—ones made in the laboratory, which usually get quick results but also wash through the soil quickly. Do they affect our soil and our plants differently? Does it matter which one I use? I am asking that each state provide and promote educational activities, seminars, workshops, written articles, internet links to informational sites to help their members gain the knowledge they need to guide them in making responsible choices, as they select plant material, as they prepare the soil, as they determine the ongoing care. KNOWING what the consequences of our choices might be helps us in making these decisions. Help or harm? If harm, what alternate choices do we have? Not all choices are the same for each person; often societal or economic pressure come to bear in making the decision. But most of us are small, home gardeners. However, we are like the majority—we kind of like it the fast and easy, with-immediate-results way. But in choosing fast and easy are we being poor caretakers? These are the questions I am hoping we will ask, and will seek the answers to, seeking solutions that will both work for us and protect and preserve our natural resources. States may apply for an award in the **Does It Matter, Education for Responsible Choices**. Awards will be offered in four membership-size categories, with first- and second-place awards in each membership-size class.

Our clubs can build on existing projects or establish new projects. They can build on their projects started during the past administration of protecting our water. We can continue our **Civic Plantings of Special Places**, our **Plant It Pink Gardens**, our **Edible Gardens**. But in doing so, we want to consider how we can do it in keeping with our Conservation Pledge. We might consider using muscle power when we can and not automatically reach for small motor power; we can research the right plant for the right spot; we can car pool to our projects, maybe even our meetings; if we don't compost, maybe we will be moved to give it a try; we can be diligent in how much we

need to water; perhaps we can stop washing our driveways off; or washing our cars in the driveway with the hose running. We can learn which chemicals damage our wildlife habitats. We can develop or restore wildlife habitats, especially for our pollinators. We are partnering with **Crown Bees** to learn more about mason bees and how we can encourage them in our gardens. They are non-aggressive and excellent pollinators. If we do not have pollinators, we may not have much food in the future!

All the projects that are so dear to us, and are the hallmark of garden clubs, can be done in a way that maintains the integrity of our air, water, land, forests, and wildlife. This is what I am hoping the clubs will do—develop projects that demonstrate our care for the natural resources of planet Earth. Did you know that we use seven billion gallons of water every day to water our lawns and plants? And did you know that a 100 foot tall tree with 200,000 leaves can take 11,000 gallons of water from the soil and "breath" it into the air? Moisture in the air means rain, and we need rain. When we more fully realize how interconnected our natural resources are, we will do our part. I have confidence in garden club members! We can foster awareness in our communities and their choices will make a world of difference. Club projects can apply for monetary awards in all five categories listed in the Conservation Pledge, with Making a Difference—Protecting and Conserving our Natural Resources projects. There is a class for every size club, and first and second places will be awarded. Our International Affiliates are also excited about participating in these projects. We all share this planet and its resources, and it will take all of us working in concert to sustain it. All together approximately \$9,000 will be awarded in these two-year projects. Information will soon be available on the web.

We continue to fine tune our new, completely updated website. Soon, yes—we have faith—we will be able to register and pay for NGC national conventions online! And Fall Board meetings, too. Our Member

Services shopping cart offers our new logo silk scarf, which now comes in spring's favorite color—blue; and the new 2014 Vision of Beauty Calendar is on sale. Crown Bees will be added to our partnerships, along with Brent and Becky's Bulbs and Gardener's Supply. More and more of our information is being posted on our website. Our goal is to make our website the "go to" place for our members and the public. www.gardenclub.org is the place. The password is *world*, and in the morning our new board will learn their password to get their information. However, lots of information is on the public page. We hope you are making your way there and are finding useful information. If you still can't find what you want, let us know; we want to serve you and give you what you need.

Our International Affiliates have also revamped their website, which they use as their major source of information and communication. I would like to acknowledge their effort in communicating our goals with their members: Cheryl Obediente and Sandy Mangels, former chairman and vice-chairman of International Activities; Sara Lambarri and Lupeta Quiroga, incoming chairmen and vice-chairman; and Carmenchu Vitel, COMAAI web master, who also generously maintains the website.

We all are coming to understand what a world of difference rapid communication can make and just how forward thinking is the choice to use the wonderful world of the web. Perhaps you will consider joining us on one of our two tours planned to Costa Rica, this November, or to Ireland, next June. Both offer Flower Show and refreshing opportunities. Infor-

mation is on the web, of course—and from Mary Ann Bryant, new Tours Chairman.

There is a story of old Desert Pete, who left a note in his deserted cabin: "If you need water, go to the big rock 30 feet west of the cabin. Dig under the rock and you will find a canteen of water. Don't drink any of the water; if you do there will not be enough to prime the pump. The pump is close to the house. Use the water to prime the pump, then pump like crazy and you will get water. After you've had your fill of water, fill the canteen up again and go bury it under the rock so as the next fella' will have water to prime the pump." Chrisbel Dafeamekpor is quoted as saying, "For you to do what you need to do, you must first come to terms with the fact that you need to do what you need to do!" Through education we can uncover the facts and we will come to see what it is we need to do. I agree with Tim Lester, who says, "You can't change the past but you can improve the future." I invite you all to join with me on this journey of learning and changing what we do. Working together, MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE, we can improve the future with informed choices, and see just what it is we need to do because our choices matter if we want to prime the pump.



Newly installed NGC President Linda Nelson and her family.



Biography

Linda G. Nelson

Linda has been a garden club member since 1973. She and her mother, Allyne, joined a "federated" garden club so they could go to Flower Show School and learn the "secret rules" the judges used to judge the designs at the state fair. They liked what they learned and both became judges. Linda is a Master Judge. She and her mother were sought after for many years for their design programs. Linda was the Coordinator of the Hall of Flowers at the Oregon State Fair for ten years. She also chaired the national award-winning Standard Flower Show that Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs presented at the Portland Home and Garden Show for ten years.

She was married to David for 42 years until his death in 2001. Their three sons

are grown and have given her five wonderful grandchildren. Before she met Dave, she attended Abilene Christian University, but when they decided to marry she opted to go to Beauty School so she could complete a trade that would allow her to work while Dave finished college. She owned and operated a beauty shop for seven years until her sons started playing Saturday youth sports—she could not miss those games! Several years later she and her mother formed a floral wedding business, The Flower Cellar, which they operated for 20 years. Linda was named Merchant of the Year, in 1972, for her volunteer work with in the Keizer Merchants Association. She was the association Secretary for five years and chaired the Miss Keizer Pageant. Linda was the fundraiser chairman at her son's elementary school, the High School Booster Club President for three years and chaired the city-wide March of Dimes Drive. Linda has been a volunteer all her life, in both city, church, and her club and state. She was the Director of Pacific Region before she was nominated for 4th Vice President.

Linda is anxious to meet each of our members when she visits—each of you makes a world of difference in your corner of this world. Be sure to say "Hi."

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.

Protecting Our Aquatic Ecosystems— A District Environmental Education Project

In 2008, National Garden Clubs adopted a Water Conservation Program followed, in 2010, by FFGC's Position Statement supporting "Clean Water." Further encouragement to take action came from the NGC's 2011-13 President's Project, "Protecting our Aquatic Ecosystems." So, District X took the initiative to begin a series of educational activities to involve members in personal education, as well as projects to involve our youth, teachers, legislators, and the general public.

To support our educational endeavors we moved the District X-sponsored NGC Environmental Studies School, Course IV, on Water, from March 2012 to November 2011. Members from 14 garden clubs participated in field trips, lectures and hands-on identification of invasive and non-invasive aquatic plants. A most enlightening session in Effective Citizenship concluded the two days of study and testing. All the students participated in composing effective emails to key government officials concerning water-quality issues. These methods of communication were then taken back and used by the Environmental Studies group to not only educate legislators and other government officials but also to share with members of their clubs and members of the FFGC Tri-Council. Issues on

water quality needing attention are regularly received from the Florida Conservation Coalition. FFGC became a member, in January 2012, with the enthusiastic support of our "educated" District X members. And a District Chairman for this project was appointed at the spring District meeting.

Following the conclusion of this course, host clubs for the 2012 spring and fall District meetings contacted speakers to present on topics revolving around our local aquatic ecosystems. In April, Alyssa Dodd, member of the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative, implemented by the Palm Beach County Dept. of Environmental Resources Management, gave the keynote address at the spring District meeting. Three clubs have representatives serving on the Public Outreach Working Group with Ms. Dodd. As a result of information received there, two additional projects involved club members this sum-



Barbara Hadsell getting out the message to Palm Beach County science teachers.

mer. In August, the Palm Beach County science teachers attended a symposium and vendor exhibit where our District had a booth/display on NGC Youth Contests, with the theme "Protecting Our Aquatic Ecosystems." Our junior poster contest, with Woodsy Owl and Water Conservation themes, the Sculpture, Poetry and High School Essay contest rules were explained and given out. And a similar day, with 4-H parents attending, also had our display and garden club members on hand. Between the two days over 100 contact names of interested parents and teachers were gathered. Entries are still coming in at this date. This Public Outreach Working Group also afforded us an invitation to participate in the International Coastal Cleanup, where two clubs and members of the public worked and enjoyed a gourmet picnic on the beach afterwards. Karen Benz, the landscape architect of two of our most favorite wetlands, gave an update to a record number at the fall District meeting.

Our Junior club members, teachers, 4-H parents and students, and garden club members from all clubs have been educated and many have participated in the above events and, at a minimum, have helped with emails on critical issues. Individual clubs have started projects to support these activities.

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Expenses have been absorbed by individual clubs and by the Environmental Studies School students via their individual tuition payments. The District helped fund the District meeting speaker's expenses. Individual clubs are recognizing contest winners in a variety of ways and providing environmental scholarships.

District X's current and on-going project is an active campaign to get thousands of petitions signed to enable the Florida Constitutional Amendment on Water and Land to be placed on the 2014 state ballot.

—Barbara Hadsell, 2011-13 District X Director Florida Federation of Garden Clubs



Wellington Garden Club members help with the International Coastal Cleanup.

Memorial Garden at Dover Air Force Base

Much has happened since May 2011 when the Delaware Federation of Garden Clubs (DFGC) held the dedication for the Memorial Garden at the Center for Families of the Fallen (CFF) on Dover Air Force Base.

So many of you, our sister clubs and individual members of National Garden Clubs, Inc., were so tremendously supportive of this project, we thought it time to provide an update. You will be gratified to learn that this lovely, serene, and private outdoor space has provided a great solace for the families who come to Dover to receive the remains of their loved ones.

You may recall that we had some discussions with the Base about entering into a "phase II" at a new Chapel built to serve as

overflow space for families when several casualties arrived at the same time. The Base decided to install simpler landscaping at the Chapel, and our support was not needed for that. This decision proved to be most fortunate for the Memorial Garden.

In the intervening two years since the installation, two things occurred that had considerable effect on the garden. The first is that the façade for the CFF had to be replaced, in 2012. The Memorial Garden abuts the CFF on two sides and a stone wall completes the garden perimeter for maximum privacy. The garden has paved walk ways, an irrigation system, path-lighting and plantings, all of which were affected by the façade work. We were able to arrange with the Base to work with the building contractor during the process to do as little damage to the garden as possible. Once the façade work was done, we were allowed to have the installing landscape contractor restore the garden to its original pristine condition for the families who need it.

Second, while Base officials assured us they would maintain the Memorial Garden after we installed it, it became apparent



Photograph: Amy Roe

The Memorial Garden on the day of the Dedication.

this was not an ideal arrangement for the garden. Based on federal regulations, Base officials are required to offer the landscape contract to a company that wasn't really equipped to care for this type of garden.

The Base has undergone a major restructuring since the garden was installed. We were able to meet with the new Commanders and offer to the Base the "gift of maintenance" of the Memorial Garden. The Colonels could not have been more gracious, more complimentary, or expressed more appreciation for what we have done to date. They were eager to work with us to secure this arrangement. It means DFGC can choose the landscape contractor and pay them directly. In this scenario, we will be able to keep the garden looking its best, for the families who need it, for years to come. This would not have been possible without your support.

It has been an honor to work on this project, and based on the enormous outpouring of support this garden project received, we know it has touched the hearts of many. Again, we are deeply indebted to you for your support of this very important project.

If you would like more information about the Memorial Garden, please contact **Joy Ericson** at jeericson@aol.com or 302-457-1777; or **Donna Curtis** at donnacurtis@comcast.net or 302-242-7671.

Anthropocentric as [the gardener] may be, he recognizes that he is dependent for his health and survival on many other forms of life, so he is careful to take their interests into account in whatever he does. He is in fact a wilderness advocate of a certain kind. It is when he respects and nurtures the wilderness of his soil and his plants that his garden seems to flourish most. Wilderness, he has found, resides not only out there, but right here: in his soil, in his plants, even in himself...

But wilderness is more a quality than a place, and though humans can't manufacture it, they can nourish and husband it...

The gardener cultivates wilderness, but he does so carefully and respectfully, in full recognition of its mystery.

— **Michael Pollan, Second Nature: A Gardener's Education**

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- 2017 Virginia
- 2018 Madison, Wisconsin

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- 2013 St. Louis, Missouri
September 24-28
- 2014 Des Moines, Iowa
September 24-28
- 2015 St. Louis, Missouri
- 2016 Portland, Maine

Ways We Can Protect Aquatic Ecosystems

by Alex Elliott

Many of the aquatic ecosystems in the United States are in desperate need of help. One of the best examples of this is the Chesapeake Bay, which runs through Maryland, New York, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. The Chesapeake Bay is huge—the largest of the 130 estuaries in the US—and accommodates over 3000 species of plants, fish, and animals. Unfortunately, crab and fish populations are dwindling due to pollution and decreasing dissolved oxygen levels in the waters. In addition, this shrinking number of aquatic wildlife is severely hurting those in the fishing industry.

Huge areas of very low dissolved oxygen are present in the bay, resulting in massive fish kills. These "dead zones" often occur in the summer when the water temperature is high, causing the water to hold less oxygen. These low oxygen levels are caused by many different things, but no factors are larger than nutrient overload, much of which is caused by agricultural runoff. When water runs off of lawns, roads, or feedlots, it eventually ends up in the bay. The nutrients used in fertilizer facilitate the excessive growth of plant life, resulting in algae blooms. This large increase of algae blocks the sun from the plants on the bay's floor. When these plants, called submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), fail to get sunlight, they die. Since it is the SAVs that add oxygen to the water during photosynthesis, when they die, the oxygen levels drop. Then, adding to the problem, the decomposition of the SAVs also uses up a huge amount of oxygen. In

addition, the aquatic vegetation helps to prevent shoreline erosion, which is an additional source of pollution to the bay. Sediment from erosion travels to the bottom of the Bay and smothers the bottom-dwelling life, such as oysters. The oysters are incredibly important because they filter out the troublesome algae blooms.

To prevent the Chesapeake Bay's problems, one must make a conscious effort. Fertilizer use must be limited because, when it rains, the fertilizer always will end up in the water. This will negatively affect nutrient levels (especially nitrogen and phosphate). In addition, farms—such as the chicken farms that proliferate the Eastern Shore of Maryland—should be pushed to be environmentally conscious. All the waste from the animals ends up in the bay if not properly disposed. This organic waste consumes incredible amounts of oxygen during decomposition.

Fortunately, new and natural techniques are being pioneered to prevent pollution from entering water bodies. Nature has its own way of cleaning up aquatic ecosystems. Plants absorb pollutants, removing them from water and soil, and microscopic organisms decompose organic waste. Taking advantage of this, scientists have developed a technique called phytoremediation to control pollutants. Wetlands are constructed around a body of water in order to buffer it and keep the ecosystem free of toxic waste. In the case of the Chesapeake Bay, constructing wetlands in the area surrounding the main body of water could help to filter out nutrients and other pollutants. It is important to note that water pollution also becomes an issue when it comes to finding safe drinking water. There are many different water treatment methods that have been utilized, but constructed wetlands have proven to be an effective, cheap, and natural alternative to clean drinking water. This is why phytoremediation has found wide application in several developing countries.

Unfortunately, many of the natural wetlands around the bay are being destroyed

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due to expanding housing developments. This both displaces the birds, fish, and other animals living in the areas around the bay and prevents nature from cleansing itself. Large-scale change can only occur when people make a conscious effort to lessen their effect on aquatic ecosystems. Also, being vocal when it comes to environmental issues can make a huge difference. Often, and sadly, environmental issues become political. In this case, speaking out to local politicians can make a huge difference, as they often have the power to create regulations or actualize positive environmental programs, such as the addition of con-

structed wetlands to areas around bodies of water. Most of the aquatic environmental issues that put our bodies of water—and our livelihoods—at risk, can be solved through a collaborative effort.

—Alex Elliott, of Arnold, Maryland, is a senior at Broadneck High School, Annapolis, Maryland.

Man's health, his well-being, and even life itself, all hang on the delicate thread of growing green plants.

—Dr. David M. Gates, Director, Missouri Botanical Garden, May 1969

NGC Schools News

New NGC President Linda Nelson's president's theme is "MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE: Choices Matter," and her President's Special Project has the purpose of highlighting, through state programs and garden club projects, the basics stated in the NGC Conservation Pledge. You will be hearing much about this during this two-year administration. The pledge incorporates themes (protecting and conserving the natural resources of the planet Earth, promoting education, making us caretakers of our air, water, forest, land and wildlife) that tie in with the purpose of and subjects included in our NGC Environmental Studies, Gardening Study and Landscape Design Schools programs.

All of us involved in the national, regional, state and local administration of these school programs should be looking for ways to promote Linda's theme and project and show in our promotion of our schools and in the instruction in our schools how various classes specifically address these subjects.

Look also to your regional and state themes and projects to see how they can promote NGC schools and how NGC schools can promote them. In many cases, these themes and projects may tie in with Linda's. For example, the 2013-2015 theme of my Pacific Region is "Expand Horizons – A Conservation Rainbow," with emphasis on education (educate yourself, your garden club, your community) and communication. This links directly to the Conservation Pledge and to the work of our NGC Schools. Our Director's Project is "It's Our World! It's Our Responsibility! Plant Seeds of Knowledge and Stewardship." What better place to plant such seeds than in our schools?

Your Joint Schools Committee invites and encourages you to offer our schools, to promote these themes to our members and to the public and to make a world of difference in our communities.

Our schools chairmen continue their positions in this new term:

- Environmental Studies Schools – **Judy Newman**, Chairman
- Landscape Design Schools – **Jane Beresch**, Chairman
- Gardening Study Schools – **Greg Pokorski**, Chairman
- **Cathy Felton**, **Libby Coffey**, **Idalia Aguilar**, and **Julie Schoenike** continue with the committee, and we welcome new members **Lana Finegold** and **Julie West**.

Please contact any of our NGC Schools Committees Chairmen if you have questions and for assistance in conducting schools. Thanks for your participation in, and support of, our schools—a major benefit of membership in NGC.

—**Greg Pokorski**, *ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator*, gregpokorski@earthlink.net



The National Gardener

Winter Issue - Jan-Feb-Mar

Will be mailed January 1

Spring Issue - Apr-May-June

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, 2013

Blue Star Memorial Dedication

The Texas sky was a beautiful clear blue and filled with sunshine as the Edgecliff Village Garden Club gathered with guests and community members to proudly unveil and dedicate our Blue Star Memorial Marker. The date was chosen to coincide with Veteran's Day. The joyful and patriotic event culminated after a process of fundraising by our club to purchase the marker. The members' money-raising projects included a garage sale, spaghetti supper and a cake walk at our village's Halloween Carnival. Our volunteer Park and Recreation Board, along with garden club members, planned and oversaw the installation of a large memorial garden that includes drip irrigation. The new garden's 'Knock Out' roses and red yuccas surround and beautify the Blue Star Memorial Marker site in our Edgecliff Village Bird Sanctuary Park.

The ceremony began with garden club President Sheri Joplin welcoming those in attendance. Mary Matl, Blue Star Memorial

Chair, gave the history of the marker and led the moving military tribute that called members of each military branch forward while their service branch's anthem was played. The servicemen and women were applauded and presented with flags. President Joplin read the dedication after Mayor Tony Dauphinot accepted the marker for our village and thanked and congratulated club members for their generous gift. A large floral wreath was placed at the base of the marker by a veteran followed by a benediction, the singing of "God Bless America" and the playing of "Taps" by a volunteer from Buglers Across America. The event concluded with the firing salute of two Civil War Mountain Howitzer cannons loaned by Ms. Joplin. Guests then adjourned to a reception at city hall funded by our village and hosted by club members.

Our club members are grateful to Gayle Wilson, Texas Garden Club Blue Star Memorial Chair, for attending our event and her leadership on this worthy project. Our garden club has been affiliated with National Garden Clubs and Texas Garden Club for 58 years. Our Edgecliff Village Garden Club members take great pride in our Blue

Star Memorial Marker that serves as our loving and lasting legacy in Edgecliff Village.

—Mary Matl,
Edgecliff Village Garden Club's Blue Star Memorial Chair



President's Project:

Plantings for Public and Special Places



arden Club members in the United States and our International Affiliates have responded tirelessly promoting the work of NGC through their **Plantings for Public and Special Places**. The diversity and scope of the club projects are remarkable.

All eight Regions of National Garden Clubs participated in this project, demonstrating that garden club service is alive and well. It was a pleasure to receive forms from International Affiliates this year. A special salute goes to the members of District IV, National Capital Area Garden Clubs, whose 26 clubs ALL participated!

Thank you to all participating garden clubs. Committee members were faced with difficult decisions when judging began. Below is a brief summary of the 2013 monetary winners:

Garden Edibles: Chairman, Pat Rupiper – arupiper@bright.net

FIRST PLACE AWARD: \$300 Spirit of the Woods Garden Club—Manistee, Michigan

The garden club worked to help create 2 of the 46 raised beds that feed the needs of the Manistee Community Kitchen. Residents are able to rent beds for their own use or donate to the Kitchen. There is an herb garden, flower garden, and a small greenhouse for use. Hands-on educational classes are provided twice monthly. Garden club Gardening Consultants are available to the community's gardeners in 2013. Wonderful classes, including "Eat Your Rainbow," "Grilling and Chillin' in the Garden," and "Eat Your Weeds and Flowers," plus classes on-site to teach patrons how to start, transplant, grow, harvest, and save seeds occurred throughout the growing

season. Members partnered with junior and senior high schools, Casman Academy, and the SEEDS program to provide educational opportunities for area students.

SECOND PLACE AWARD: \$200 Manitou Springs Garden Club—Manitou Springs, Colorado

From dilapidated tennis courts and overgrown weedy beds, to beautiful edible/floral community Potage gardens, the Mansions Gardens, behind Manitou City Hall, have evolved under the care and direction of the Manitou Springs Garden Club. Originally funded by donations and grant awards, two fenced gem-shaped beds are divided into trapezoidal plots divided by perennial chives. Volunteers receive two opposing plots and are asked to plant a combination of vegetables and flowers in geometric patterns—the two plots mirroring each other. Centers are planted with tall sunflowers, dahlias, lilies, bee balm, and asparagus and are maintained by the garden club. The perimeter is an accessible strip of assorted herbs, including sage, lavender, and dill, along with roses and nasturtiums. Sugar snap peas grow along the fence in the spring, followed by morning glories in the summer. Participants are encouraged to check out seeds from the new Manitou Springs Seed Library. Watered by drip irrigation and fenced from dogs and marauding deer, the beds are a treasure for residents. The gardens serve as a focal point in a park used for weddings, yoga, elder care, and visits from tourists and locals alike. **The organic maintenance of the gardens spearheaded organic lawn care for the entire city.** Participants and observers are educated as to the plants that grow well in the area, organic pest control and food preparation after harvests. Mansions Gardens is a three-dimensional, dynamic, interactive, living piece of art in the center of a very eclectic community.

THIRD PLACE AWARD: \$100 Charleston's Magnolia Garden Club, Charleston, Mississippi

Charleston's Magnolia Garden Club partnered with another civic organization to design and build Charleston's first community garden. The club received a \$5000 grant via the Regional Health Council and the Community Foundation of NW Mississippi to supply seed money for the project. The goal of the project includes growing a garden with edibles that are a healthy alternative to fast foods. The land was donated to the community by a club member. The garden was divided into 8' x 8' plots and leased to interested gardeners, including club members, who then mentor families and children on the how-to's of gardening. A local Boy Scout troop joined the project planting corn and peas for a cash crop to continue funding the needs of the garden. The Scouts also donated tomatoes to the local nursing home. Community support was gained by selling sponsorships for sections of fence in exchange for a memorial or honorarium sign. The fence was fully funded by this program. At the end of the season, a video slideshow was posted on YouTube depicting the timeline and story of the garden's progress. The garden will be expanded this year to include more gardeners and plots.

Trees and Shrubs: Chairman, Lissa Williamson – erw510@aol.com

FIRST PLACE AWARD: \$300 Fox Chapel Garden Club, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The garden club planned and planted the garden at the Fritz Mitnick Library's Welcome Center. Privately funded, the garden was in honor of a former librarian who was a member of the garden club. Working with a horticultural professional, the club president and members made plant choices for a four-season approach to the design. Specimen tree, *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, was chosen as the focal point, incorporating additional plant material of *Pinus mugo*, dwarf *Acer palmatum*, *Cornus stolonifera* 'Arctic Fire,' native iron wood and evergreens. The bulk of the garden was designed with an eye toward "lower" maintenance by concentrating on trees, shrubs, and ground covers.

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Educational materials are provided to library patrons so they can borrow ideas for their own gardens.

SECOND PLACE AWARD: \$200 Ocean Ridge Garden Club, Ocean Ridge, Florida

The goal of this club was to install a garden of beauty and resilience at the entrance of the Ocean Ridge Town Hall. Determined to make a landscape contribution of the preservation and restoration of Florida "natives," the club made choices with this as a priority. The challenge in planting the garden was to select plants that could thrive in harsh coastal conditions, suitable for coastal soil and those that were wind, salt and drought tolerant. Using the state tree of Florida, two 14 ft. curved Sabal palms were chosen as the focal point. Adding seven Thatch palms completed the centerpiece design. Additionally, non-natives completed the enclosure: Oleanders, Golden Creeper, Cord Grass, Koonties, Dwarf Schilling Hollies and Simpson Stopper. In this warm climate, this garden has continuing interest and is enjoyed by all visitors to the Town Hall.

THIRD PLACE AWARD: \$100 The Looking Glass Garden Club, Grand Ledge, Michigan

Due to development and simply aging out of species, The Looking Glass watershed, particularly the river corridor, had lost a large portion of its tree cover. The natural replacement process has been hampered by excessive deer population eating saplings and seedlings. The Looking Glass Garden Club partnered with the Friends of the Looking Glass and the Clinton Con-

ervation District to hold a special sale for a tree-planting project, **The Reforestation of the Looking Glass Corridor**. A total of 514 trees were sold, 90 of which were planted along the river banks by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The remainder were sold to 30 families, who planted along their river bank property. In 2013, a special tree sale will occur, followed by an Arbor Day delivery and planting. To add to the trees planted, the garden club continues to host a "native-plant" sale to encourage plantings along the river bottom. With 500 trees added the first year, the garden club plans include continuation of this reforestation project.

Container Gardens: Chairman, Sue Robinson – rerob@mac.com

FIRST PLACE AWARD: \$300 Thomas Jefferson Garden Club, Richmond, Virginia

This rooftop garden at the McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center (Polytrauma Unit) was revitalized by the Thomas Jefferson Garden Club. They worked hand-in-hand with Master Gardeners, Daughters of the American Revolution, local landscape designers, garden centers, and a Boy Scout troop to make this garden visible from many vantage points in the hospital unit. Their mission statement is **"To create a peaceful haven that encourages healing and comfort for veterans, families, friends and hospital staff."** This is an extensive garden with many different containers for flowers, shrubs and small trees, as well as an interesting design of those planters, which seem to form flower rooms! This project was truly embraced by the community. A standing committee continues to enhance and maintain the area and is checked regularly by a garden club member.

SECOND PLACE AWARD: \$200 Twilight Garden Club, Joelton, Tennessee

Wanting to share their pride in their town legacy with the public in the small town of Whites Creek, Tennessee, this garden club erected a two-sided "Welcome to Historic White Creek" sign at the entryway of the town. The large, stone planter/container

holding the sign is flanked by three different containers. Ease of upkeep and aesthetic value were the consideration in the horticulture selections. Knockout roses, dwarf Alberta spruce, boxwood, and miniature juniper, surrounded by vines, ferns and seasonal, colorful plants, were chosen, inviting a second look by passersby. To the garden club alone, this project was cost prohibitive. However, through their fundraising efforts of plant/yard/bake sales and by partnering with Masons, Eastern Star, Community Club St. Andrew Church and local youth, the task was completed. This project shows a sense of beautification, pride and volunteerism and has brought the community together in a cohesive and philanthropic way.

THIRD PLACE AWARD: \$100 Hooksett Garden Club, Hooksett, New Hampshire

Following a dream of several Hooksett Garden Club members, this garden club spent two years planning and working with the Town Administrator, the town Parks and Recreation Department and the New Hampshire Dept. of Transportation, to create a bridge of flowers over the Merrimack River in Hooksett. Because this is a major road over the river, commuter traffic was an issue. The types of hardware used to hold the planters had to be acceptable to the state. These were approved, then manufactured by a local company and donated to the project. The garden club funded the project through fundraisers and donations. All 26 members (100%) of the club gathered to plant 40 boxes to enhance the bridge. The Parks and Recreation Department delivered the boxes by flatbed truck and they were affixed to the bridge. All of this was just in time for the Memorial Day Parade! Living color and natural beauty now greet motorists, bikers, and walkers as they cross this beautiful **"Bridge of Flowers!"**

—**Betsy L. Steele**, *Plantings for Public and Special Places Coordinator*

Where flowers bloom, so does hope.
—**Lady Bird Johnson**



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Environmental Consultants Council

Making a World of Difference - Choices Matter. Linda Nelson has really come up with exciting challenges for each and every one of us. She has offered so many choices for action to make a difference. With projects involving Air, Water, Forest, Land, and Wildlife, each garden club member will be able to meet a variety of these challenges.

Environmental Studies Schools and Environmental Consultants Councils have a responsibility to become involved, as do the individual Consultants.

If your state hasn't started an Environmental Studies School, then plan to do it. If your Consultants haven't formed a Council, please let me help you form one. And let me know the great projects you are working

on. I'd like to start a newsletter where you can share your ideas and projects. We are already doing so much environmentally as garden clubs across the nation. Let's continue to **Make A Difference.**

—Helen Pritchard, *ESS Consultants' Councils*



*Summer Love
Dreaming*

*I danced in the warm summer sun
on soft grass
under green leaves
being kissed by the wind.*

—©Lenore Arnow
Asheville, NC

All Gardening Study Schools, All the Time

As this is being written, we are about to transition from one administration to another and it seems to be all Gardening Study Schools (GSS) all the time. In California, we just completed one school series in the south, in March, are about to conclude another series in the north, in July, and are getting ready to begin yet another series in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, in July.

One of the convention inspirations included this quote from William Bryant Logan: "Hospitality is the fundamental virtue of the soil. It makes room. It shares. It neutralizes poisons. And so it heals." We study Soils in Course I.

Convention tours featured varied gardens that reinforced numerous GSS themes. The Ferrari-Carano Winery dazzled us with five acres of lush gardens, transformed from an old prune orchard ("Techniques for Growing Outdoor Flowers" is studied in Course III). The gardens at Quivira Vineyards demonstrated biodynamic farming, agricultural practices that follow the lead of nature and create biodiversity, essential to sustainability. Many plants were seen going



Above: Quivira Vineyards – Biodynamic Farming; at right: GSS exhibit and banner.

We just returned from our Pacific Region Convention, in Santa Rosa (Sonoma wine country), California, where the GSS display and banner were featured in the exhibit room among the displays promoting all of our NGC schools. Our Regional GSS Chairman (Sally Priebe, also a member of the NGC GSS Committee) reported and challenged those states that do not hold schools to start schools. This is an achievable goal!



to seed. Seed to seed gives vitality to the garden and the earth (Plant Propagation and Specialized Styles of Gardening are studied in Courses I and IV). Quarryhill Botanical Garden is a research botanical garden housing one of the largest scientifically documented wild-source collections of temperate Asian plants in North America, demonstrating why botanical gardens are important today—conserving plants (Teaching Tour of a Botanical Garden takes place in Course II). Luther Burbank's Home and Gardens include the remnants (1.6 acres) of his 4-acre garden that was the outdoor laboratory where he carried out his horticultural experiments. His objective was to improve the quality of plants and increase the world's food supply. He introduced more than 800 new varieties of plants, including over 200 varieties of fruits and many vegetables. His birthday (March 7) is celebrated as Arbor Day, in California, and trees are planted in his memory (How New Plants are Developed and Evaluated and Techniques for Growing Vegetables—Course II—and Techniques for Growing Fruit—Course IV—are more GSS classes).

If you attend GSS for the first, second or

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third time, you, too, may see daily reminders of the subjects you studied. Your NGC GSS Committee is here to help. Last term's Accrediting Chairmen (**Bonni Dinneen/C, SC**; **Inger Jones/NE, P**; **Judy Pitcher/DS, RM**; **Sally Priebe/CA, SA**); Vice Chairman **Cathy Felton** and I continue in the same roles for 2013-2015. We welcome **Nancy Stark** and **Patricia de Nasrallah** to our committee as Consultants Councils and International Affiliates Chairmen. Include GSS in your plans for the next garden club year.


—**Greg Pokorski**, *Gardening Study Schools Chairman and ES, GS and LD Schools Coordinator*



Luther Burbank Home and Gardens



What Can You Do To Make A Difference Environmentally?

 Our NGC Conservation Pledge states: "I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become better caretakers of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife." Each Environmental Studies School Course and Symposium offers resources, challenges and opportunities to become connected with environmental groups and organizations in your local community. I encourage garden club members to become aware of organizations within their communities with goals and activities that parallel, or are very similar to, those of NGC. If possible, join—attend their meetings, seminars and conferences; become actively involved. Share your enthusiasm about being a member of the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world. Invite them to attend our schools and attend local club meetings.

Possible Environmentally Friendly Ideas:

- Join "Green Team" in churches.
- Work with community groups planting victory and community gardens.
- Volunteer to work at Sustainability Conferences; listen to speakers from around the world discussing what their companies are doing to reduce, recycle, reuse, and the economic issues focusing on informing college students environmentally related degrees and careers.

- Join a native plant organization. Wild Ones (wildones.org), in the Midwest, is a wonderful opportunity to learn and share.

- Work with other organizations, such as South East Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium, to plan a seminar, "Where Ecology meets Economy—Forum for Green Industry Professionals" (nurserymen and land managers), dealing with the challenges of invasive plant species.

- Seek out and share opportunities to recycle medicines, electronics, metals, some of the plastics.

- Purchase items made from recycled materials.

- Shop at sites that sell used clothing, furniture, etc., such as Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity.

- Buy locally grown food.

- Select plants that are disease resistant; consider water requirements of plants.

- Car pool or use public transportation.

- Seek out ways to reduce energy use in home, i.e. vampire energy.

- Select products with less packaging; bring cloth bags to stores for purchases.

- Seek out organizations and businesses in your community that focus on cleaning the air, managing the resources, waste management, and economic issues.

- Create displays to educate others about making "Environmentally Friendly Choices" for libraries, schools, and events.

- Write articles for newspapers and newsletters.

- Compost yard and raw vegetables from your kitchen.

The choices you make really matter. The above list is a sampling of possible **environmentally friendly choices** everyone can make with increased awareness. There are many more examples. I would love to know what creative **environmentally friendly choices** you are making. Contact me to share your activities at newman9641@aol.com so that I can pass them on to others. It is time for you to get involved.

—**Judy Newman**, NGC Environmental Studies School Chairman

NGC Award of Excellence for State Garden Clubs #24

b. Membership from 1000-3999
Rhode Island Federation of
Garden Clubs, Inc.
Garden Time Prison Project

Having read that declining state and prison budgets made it necessary to look for and develop cost saving measures, growing crops to feed prisoners and community food banks became a priority with the Rhode Island State Government and the Rhode Island Department of Corrections.

Former State President Vera Bowen proposed that the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs (RIFGC) start a garden in a prison. What better way to further the goals and objectives of NGC and the Rhode Island Federation. With the backing of RIFGC Vice Presidents, work started on what was to be a long road to bring this program into being. Little did they know that this project would take on such a "life of its own." The Project became known as **Garden Time!**

The **Garden Time** program was initially designed for incarcerated men in the Rhode Island Department of Corrections. The purpose of the project is to foster education, inspiration and empowerment and to teach inmates to grow their own food for economic and personal self-reliance. Through the process of gardening, designing, planting and maintaining, the inmates develop a stewardship ethic and a sense of community.

The first phase of the project began in 2011. Working with eleven inmates from the Men's Maximum Security Facility, the inmates were involved in the design and planning of the 6000 sq. ft. garden. They decided on the layout of the garden and what to grow. Vegetables, fruit, flowers and herbs, with an emphasis on native plants, were grown. The yield the first year was over

2,100 pounds of produce. By year two, over 3,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables had been produced.

The beneficiaries of the Garden Time Prison Project are the original eleven inmates enrolled in the program. The enthusiasm and dedication shown is inspiring. The inmates are able to leave their 5.5 ft. by 8 ft. cells both physically and mentally during class, traveling well beyond the confines of their cells. The remaining 450 prisoners in Maximum Security prison benefit from this project when the fresh produce is served at mealtime. A substantial portion of the prison's food supply has come from these modest beginnings. The program is expected to expand even more within the next year or so, fulfilling the bulk of organic food needs of the entire prison. In order to do this, extending the growing season will be the new emphasis. Eventually, should the capacity exceed the needs of the prison, the Rhode Island State Mental Hospitals will become the beneficiaries of any surplus food. The long-term plan is to reduce the food budget by 30%. The present food budget of the Maximum Security prison is approximately \$3/inmate/day times 450 inmates times 365 days (no holidays) = \$492,750/year. A reduction of 30% will save over \$147 K/year.

The next phase has included an expansion to the Women's Minimum Security Facility. This plan includes: garden beds for vegetables, fruit, herbs and flowers; a gathering space for visitation and outdoor classes; smaller spaces and paths for meditation and quiet reflection; and a garden and playground space for children and their families. A major focus of the Department of Corrections and the Federal Government is to foster better relationships with the families of the incarcerated. With this in mind, we have already purchased and installed playground equipment to enhance family time, which helps reduce repeat-offender rates.

Starting in February 2013, the RIFGC goal is to offer credentialed vocational training opportunities related to gardening in collaboration with the Rhode Island Horticultural Society and the University of

Rhode Island. Ultimately, the hope is to help facilitate placement by identifying landscaping opportunities and other programs that could serve the Garden Time participants once they are released.

c. Membership from 4000-7999
Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs
Blue Gloves for Blue Stars

Virginia has some of the oldest Blue Star Memorial Markers in the U.S. with the first one in Virginia dedicated on August 24, 1949. Since 1949, the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, as well as its districts and clubs, have placed over 50 Blue Star Markers along the highways and byways of Virginia and at national cemeteries, parks, veteran's facilities and gardens.

The oldest of Virginia's Blue Star Memorial markers have weathered along the roadsides for over 50 years and were in need of some "tender loving care."

The "blue stars" on some of the memorials were missing or faded and some of the signs were cracked and discolored.

A new program, "Blue Gloves for Blue Stars," was initiated to increase awareness of the Blue Star Memorial program and to raise funds to refurbish those markers placed before 1960, as well as any others in need of repair. Members were encouraged to attend their district meetings, make a minimum donation of \$10 to the Blue Star Memorial Fund and receive a pair of "blue" gardening gloves.

The scope of this project included implementing an easy-to-remember tag line to promote the program, "Blue Gloves for Blue Stars," as well as designing a logo for all printed material. The project was promoted in state publications and the website, plus a promotional display traveled across the state to each fall and spring district meeting.

The program started in October 2011. By May 2012, \$4455 was raised, plus additional donations of over \$400, enough to cover the initial cost of the gloves and

refurbish five markers. The markers were refurbished at a cost of \$750 per marker, plus associated crating charges, etc. for shipment to Sewah.

The time frame for the initial phase of this project was intentionally short—to show garden club members in Virginia that funds raised for a specific project yielded tangible results in a timely manner.

Virginia garden club members supported this project with enthusiasm by donating and wearing their "blue gloves" proudly as they helped to make the Blue Stars in Virginia shine brightly again.

d. Membership over 8000
California Garden Clubs
Project Mission Blue

This project aims to combat the alarming decline of Mission blue butterflies by addressing the loss of this butterfly's host plant. Over the past decade, ecologists have recorded significant decline in the butterfly's host plant, silver lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*), due to a fungal pathogen. By planting and increasing the numbers of two other host plants that are resistant to this pathogen, we hope to stabilize and increase habitat for these butterfly populations.

Discovered in San Francisco, in 1937, the Mission blue butterfly was one of the first insects added to the Federal Endangered Species list, in 1976. Today, it fights for survival in remaining fragments of its native Bay Area grasslands with a population



of fewer than 25,000. Historically, the loss of Bay Area grasslands to development was an enormous threat to mission blues' survival. Now the habitat that remains is fragmented, leaving Mission blue populations isolated and vulnerable to random events. To enhance public awareness, in 2011, the Mission blue butterfly was named the Species of the Year by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

In May 2011, California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI) members approved a resolution to fund a new long-term project for a period of five years, in partnership with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, to propagate lupines to preserve Mission blue habitat. Project Mission Blue is a collaborative effort between Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy (GGNPC), the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Garden Clubs, Inc. to not only save this endangered butterfly, but also to meet the secondary goals of fostering interest in gardening and plant nurseries, and promoting environmental awareness and community engagement. Project Mission Blue is a progressive plan using adaptive management practices to combat the continual decline of mission blue butterflies due to the loss of lupine patches and the decrease of lupine diversity. By propagating, planting and increasing the numbers of the two other host plants that are resistant to the anthracnose pathogen, summer lupine (*Lupinus formosus*) and varied lupine (*Lupinus variicolor*), the goal is to increase the lupine diversity used as habitat for these endangered butterfly populations in addition to increasing their overall population.

The Mission blue butterfly is in need of financial support for its species to survive, and CGCI members agreed to raise funds with a goal of annual contributions of \$3,000. CGCI donations are used for propagation materials, planting and scientific experiments for pathogen-resistant summer lupine and varied lupine. As an incentive, a special Mission blue butterfly pin was designed for those clubs, districts and individuals who

donate in increments of \$100. As of December 10, 2012, Project Mission Blue has generated \$8,959 in donations in less than two years (including 51 pins), exceeding the \$3,000 annual goal set in the original resolution approved.

There are several advantages to partnering with GGNPC in this project, which include the following:

- Both high school youth from the Park Stewardship's summer youth programs and college-age volunteers are utilized in seed collection, germination, propagation and planting both in the field and at park nurseries, which keep costs low.

- Opportunities are developed to engage and educate the community about propagation techniques and habitat restoration.

- Colorful printed brochures are available to CGCI for promotion of Project Mission Blue among members and the general public.

- Monitoring protocol is in place to track the success or failure of each lupine planting, marked by GPS and a flag to check annually, in March, for survivorship of plantings. Cardboard is used in some areas to prevent competition of invasive grass to help the newly planted lupines survive.

- Scientists, including botanists and lepidopterists, are employed by both NPS and USFWS who monitor the mission blue butterfly population.

USFWS granted permission to initiate Project Mission Blue at two prime locations in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Wolfback Ridge, in Marin Headlands; and Milagra Ridge, in Pacifica. With documented successful recovery, it is our hope that these practices will be repeated in other locations across Golden Gate National Park.

*That beautiful season the Summer!
Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical
light;
and the landscape
Lay as if new created in all the freshness of
childhood.
~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

NGC Award of Excellence for Non-Members #23

William McNamara

Sponsored by California Garden Clubs

William McNamara is a plant explorer, dedicated botanist, talented horticulturist and certified nurseryman with an educational background in English and Conservation Biology. These experiences culminated at Quarryhill Botanical Garden by working with the garden founder, Jane Johnson, where Bill has been involved since the beginning.

While working in a variety of roles at Quarryhill Botanical Garden, Bill has completed more than 20 expeditions to China, six to Japan, one each to India, Nepal and Taiwan to conserve and document valuable and endangered flora. Expeditions

are concerned with loss of habitat so the objective is to collect wild-origin seed and plant specimens (with appropriate collecting permits secured) — trying to get many endangered and threatened species into cultivation before they are lost.

The results of Bill's cooperative endeavors, with the Royal Botanic Gardens, in Kew, and the Howick Arboretum, have expanded to include additional organizations. Plant material from the expeditions has been utilized in scientific research at institutions worldwide. These expeditions are widely recognized as an important contribution to the understanding and conservation of the temperate flora of Asia. Robert Turner, Jr., editor of *Pacific Horticulture*, describes Bill as "one of the foremost American ambassadors to Asia. He has partnered with other gardens in the United Kingdom and the United States, strengthening international relationships while furthering the pursuit of botany, natural history and the conservation of biodiversity." Bill's endeavors have



NGC Award of Excellence winners (from left): William Cullina; William McNamara; and Tom Underwood, AHS Executive Director.

helped bridge plant conservation efforts between the United States and China, in addition to making significant progress in preserving Asian forests and tree species facing extinction. Along with the California Academy of Sciences, Mr. McNamara has developed a database of Asian plants in cultivation, which has become an invaluable resource to botanists throughout the world.

In 2007, Bill was appointed Executive Director of Quarryhill Botanical Garden. Through Mr. McNamara's leadership, 25 year-old Quarryhill Botanical Garden, in Glen Ellen, California, has become a significant contemporary botanical garden of global significance. Dr. Peter Del Tredici, from Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, describes the 22-acre preserve as a "wonderful, eclectic collection of temperate Asian plants, planted to create a habitat; it is not something you are used to seeing in a dry Mediterranean climate." Why a collection of temperate Asian plants in a Mediterranean climate? The opportunity to preserve the genetic material from the plants of temperate Asia, in an environment where the plants could flourish (without posing any significant risk of invasiveness), is a perfect match for Quarryhill. The garden consists of 1,500 species and 25,000 plants, one of the largest collections of scientifically documented wild-source Asian plants in North America and Europe. Every single tree, bush and flower started from a seed planted in a 4-inch pot because all the plants in the garden have been brought here as seeds gathered from the annual expeditions.

Because all of Quarryhill's plants are wild-sourced and fully documented, many universities and research institutions from around the world regularly request plant material—leaves, bark, berries, fruit or roots of plant species—on which they are conducting investigations.

Mr. McNamara's feelings for the garden are profound and emotional. He comes out to talk personally to groups that visit the garden, including the April 2007 field trip for Course III of NGC's Gardening Study

School. The garden's mission is to: "Conserve, Educate and Cultivate"; and with Bill McNamara as Executive Director, the events and activities of Quarryhill Botanical Garden achieve these goals, which also reflect the similar goals and objectives of NGC.

William Cullina
*Sponsored by Garden Club
Federation of Maine*

William Cullina is widely recognized as a leader in horticulture and in botanical garden design and management. He is also an effective teacher and committed environmentalist.

As Executive Director of Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, from 2011 to the present, Bill has been a driving force behind the creation and success of Maine's first and only botanical garden, which is sited on 250 shore-front acres, in Boothbay, with 100,000 visitors each year.

Bill is a staunch advocate for organic practices and integrated pest-management techniques throughout the gardens and grounds and puts that commitment into practice. His planting plans focus on species and varieties that are suited to this unique site, and thus require less maintenance and have a natural resistance to pests and diseases.

His expertise was used for the design of the education center and its water-conserving, native-plant gardens, which opened in 2011. This Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building demonstrates environmental sustainability and provides a good example for visitors.

Bill was Nursery Director and Head Propagator for New England Wildflower Society from 1995-2006. During that time he developed the largest native plant nursery in New England, with two sites producing 75,000 woody and herbaceous plants annually for garden and restoration use. He has conducted germination and propagation experiments on over 400 species of North American native plants in order to develop protocols for commercial production. Breeding work continues to develop worthy new

cultivars of North American native plants for introduction into the nursery trade. His plant introductions in the current nursery trade are numerous.

As a freelance author, teacher, lecturer, photographer and consultant, from 1999-present, Bill is a popular lecturer and teacher for garden, conservation and professional horticultural groups in the U.S. and Canada. Bill is a regular contributor to *Horticulture*, *Fine Gardening* and *Garden Design* magazines and professional journals on native plants, orchids, and other subjects of interest to gardeners, horticulturalists and botanists. He has written five acclaimed horticultural references and specializes in the photography of North American native plants for use in print and online.

Bill has received numerous awards for his books and his work in horticulture. He has most recently been awarded, in 2012, both the Perennial Plant Association Award of Merit, the highest honor that international organization bestows, and the Scott Medal and Award, presented by the Scott Arboretum, of Swarthmore College, given for outstanding national contribution to the science and the art of gardening.

American Horticultural Society
Sponsored by National Capital
Area Garden Clubs

The American Horticultural Society (AHS) is a non-profit membership based organization that promotes excellence in American horticulture. They are one of the oldest national gardening organizations in the country having opened their doors in 1922. Their goal is to share high quality gardening and horticultural information to their members and the general public. Their mission blends education, social responsibility, and environmental stewardship with the art and science of horticulture in order to inspire people of all ages to become successful gardeners.

The society's home office is in Alexandria, Virginia, on land once owned by George Washington. In 1973, a generous gift made

it possible for AHS to purchase 25 acres of this property on the Potomac River; it's named River Farm in honor of George Washington. The property includes some trees that are 200 years old, gardens and meadows that contain thousands of named specimens of horticulture, orchards and a children's garden. Year-round interest makes these gardens a show place for the gardening public. In 2004, the American Society for Horticultural Science designated these gardens as a horticultural landmark. It is estimated that there are 25,000 to 30,000 visitors per year.

While the society maintains River Farm as a testament to its commitment to American Horticulture, its organization, programs and activities are designed to enhance the love of gardening, floral and landscape design, as well as civic and environmental responsibilities.

AHS provides networking opportunities to the general public, as well as National Garden Clubs and National Capital Area Garden Clubs. River Farm is the "home" of NCA District II Flower Shows, floral design programs, and has served as host for a dinner to help NGC raise funds for the NGC Butterfly Garden at the U. S. Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C.

For the home gardener, AHS partners with public gardens and other horticultural organizations across the country to hold educational symposiums and hands-on workshops to teach planting and gardening techniques. Lectures are held to instruct on everything from flower arranging to rain gardens.

AHS serves as a conduit between home gardeners and the gardening industry by monitoring research and trends and sharing this information with both groups. Their website offers links to gardening societies across the nation to foster exchange of ideas and ideals. Our first President's legacy of horticulture innovation, practical experimentation and conservation continues today with the stewardship of the American Horticultural Society.



- Powerscourt Estate, an 18th-century manor house and gardens having one of the most majestic views in Ireland
- Killruddery House, which has one of the most extensive early formal gardens surviving in Ireland today
- Mount Usher Gardens with trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants that have been introduced from all parts of the globe

*NGC Irish Discovery Tour
Plus the 11th World
Flower Show and
Tri-Refresher
June 17-26, 2014*

Join us for the 11th World Flower Show in Dublin, Ireland, and a tour of some of Ireland's most stunning private and public gardens, stately homes, castles, historic sights, and breathtaking rural and coastal scenery.

This exciting tour begins with a four-night stay in Dublin where we will view the 11th World Flower Show before the crowds arrive on public opening day and be the first to witness the excitement as the prize winners are announced. While in Dublin, we will continue to enjoy the World Flower Show with its numerous seminars, demonstrations, and lectures, and we will have a panoramic tour of Dublin. We will also visit numerous gardens, stately homes, and other sights, including:

- Helen Dillon's famous garden
- The National Botanic Garden
- The Neolithic monument of Newgrange, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Malahide Castle & Gardens, set on 250 acres of parkland in a pretty seaside town
- Farmleigh, a 78-acre estate with a refurbished house and 19th-century walled garden

As we continue to discover the treasures of Ireland, we will enjoy an overnight stay in Kilkenny, two nights in Killarney, and a final night at the Carton House Hotel near Dublin. Our journey will take us to the Irish National Stud Farm and Japanese Gardens; Castletown House, the largest and most significant Palladian-style country house in Ireland; Kilkenny Castle and gardens; the Rock of Cashel; Muckross House, and its elegant surrounding gardens (pictured above); the Ring of Kerry with its stunning coastal scenery and quaint villages; and Lismore Castle, which features seven acres of gardens within 17th-century walls. Along the way, we will pause to enjoy a ride in a horse-drawn jaunting cart, a fascinating demonstration using sheep dogs to bring in the sheep on farms, demonstrations of traditional trades, such as bookbinding, weaving, and pottery, and shopping for beautiful handcrafted Irish treasures.

The price for this eight-night tour is \$3,650, including a \$100 donation to NGC. Airfare and trip insurance are offered as optional items. **Early registration is essential as this trip will sell out quickly.**

Special arrangements will be made to accommodate flower show entrants who wish to participate in this tour. Tri-refresher credit is offered to tour participants.

For more information, please contact **Mary Ann Bryant**, National Tour Chairman, at maryannbryant1@gmail.com or 770-893-1570.

International NGC Refreshers

Two Wonderful International Travel Opportunities For NGC School Consultants to Refresh

President Linda Nelson will be delighting all by offering two tours for NGC members during the first year of her administration.

In her theme, ***Making A World of Difference—Choices Matter***, she states: "It is my hope that the committees will find that this theme will work for their projects. We will stress the basics of our Conservation Pledge in our daily life decisions: 'I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become better caretakers of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife.' I firmly believe that education is the key to responsible decisions."

As the NGC Education Chair, I affirm and support her statement and would suggest "a key to responsible decisions" would begin with our NGC schools.

This November, a seven-day trip to the tropical paradise of Costa Rica. A Bi-Refresher will be offered in the field of Environmental Study and Gardening Study. Consultants, be fascinated by the visit to Poas Volcano and La Paz Waterfalls, enjoy an Aerial Tram Tour and a visit to Braulio Carrillo National Park. We will visit the Sarchi Village a UNESCO/World Heritage site, and the San Carlos Flower Show. El Silencio de los Angeles guided tour will be presented for those attendees not judging the San Carlos Flower Show. The tours are arranged by our Affiliate Members of the San Carlos Garden Clubs. This is a just a nibble of the many sites, flora and fauna we will see!

In June 2014, a rare experience to enjoy an incredible ten-day trip to Ireland, incorporating the World Association of Floral Arrangers (WAFA) Event, with an opportunity

to Tri-Refresh in all three schools, plus the excitement of WAFA.

Even if you have been to Ireland in the past, this trip to the Emerald Isle will delight and open new educational vistas for your enjoyment.

We will arrive in Dublin and begin by enjoying the WAFA Grand Opening and Preview Party. The trip will include entrance tickets to WAFA on Thursday and Friday. Our four-day hotel stay in Dublin city will include a visit to Trinity College, viewing the Book of Kells, Dillon's Garden, and the Brú na Bóinne Visitor Centre, with tour of Newgrange, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Consultants will also enjoy visits to Farmleigh Estate, the National Botanical Gardens, Killruddery House & Gardens, Mount Usher Gardens and Powerscourt Estate, the National Stud & Japanese Gardens, Castletown House, Kilkenny Castle, and a jaunting cart ride at Muckross Estate.

After our four days in Dublin faire city and daily motor coach rides to various sites, we will leave Dublin and tour the Ring of Kerry. The Ring of Kerry will bring days of impressive sites, including a sheepdog demonstration and overview of a working sheep farm (pack your wellies!). I am sure this tri-refresher will fascinate and add to your tri-refresher experience. Pack casually, and for weather, as we will be out and about, traveling the highway and byways of the Emerald Isle.

Complete information on the two tours and the Refreshers were included in the members' packets at the NGC Convention, in Seattle. Complete travel information and itinerary details are now posted on the NGC Website—www.gardenclub.org—under News & Events 'more news'! It is not too early to register.

Looking forward for all to experience these two international events.

—**Bonni L. Dinneen**, *NGC Education Chair/Tour Refresher Chair*
bonni.dinneen@gmail.com

For questions involving the tour package, contact: **Mary Ann Bryant**, Tour Chair,
maryannbryant@gmail.com

Book Reviews

Linda Jean Smith

NGC Book Review Chairman

1001 Gardens You Must See Before You Die, author Rae Spencer-Jones, Barron's Educational Series, New York, 2012, hardcover, 960 pp., ISBN 978-0764165719, \$35.00.

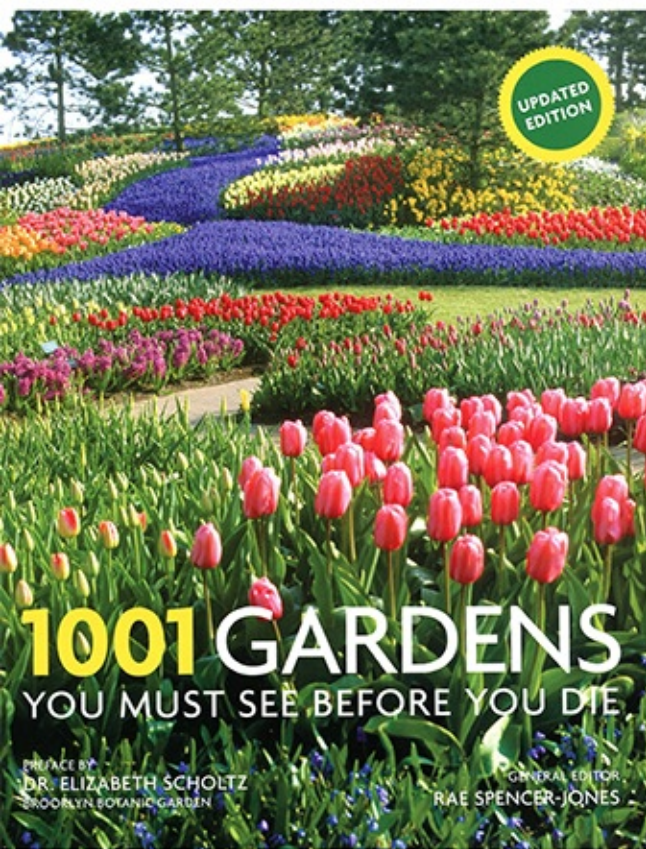
Rae Spencer-Jones studied horticulture and began her career working on the magazine "Gardens Illustrated." She is now the Publisher of Books at the Royal Horticultural Society, in England. She is also a freelance horticultural journalist and author who has written for a wide range of publications.

This is the second edition of a book first printed in 2007. As the author states, "The

chapters have been organized geographically from west to east and north to south, beginning with North America. The chapters are grouped to reflect each area's separate gardening tradition and history. The book traces the lines of latitude across the world map from left to right." The chapters cover North America, Europe, Asia, Central and South America, Africa, Australia and New Zealand and, lastly, Islands, with additional sections on Climate Classification Systems, Useful Addresses and a Garden Directory sorted by country.

There are beautiful colored photos of many, but not all, of the gardens. There is nothing definite on how the gardens were selected for the book. The gardens vary from very large private gardens and botanical gardens to small gardens, such as the courtyard garden at Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. For each garden, a key, which includes the designers, owner, garden style, size, climate and location, is given. There is then a short write-up on the garden, giving some of the highlights and history. This is a garden directory/reference book, and certainly, if someone was going to be traveling, this book would be wonderful to have on hand to look up what gardens are in the area before going. The book is not yet in a Kindle or Nook edition, which would make it easy to take with you.

All that being said, it is a fascinating book, if you love gardens. My husband caught me putting a sticky note on the cover saying, "Linda's Bucket List," and stated, "Don't even think about it." Little does he know, I've already checked off the ones we've seen and am making notes of the ones in areas we are going to this year.



Escuela de Exposiciones de Flores

"Sé lo que eres, y conviértete en lo que eres capaz de ser."

R.L. Stevenson

La temporada de verano está a pleno, y los miembros de los clubes de jardinería desearían mostrar los frutos de sus tareas en las exposiciones de flores y ferias locales. Cuando un club de jardinería trabaja junto con los organizadores de una feria, la exposición comunitaria puede conformar con los requisitos de una Exposición Estándar, muchas veces con tal solo algunos pequeños ajustes. Es una situación donde todos ganan: los organizadores de la feria ganan con la experiencia de los miembros del club de jardinería, y el club de jardinería tiene la oportunidad de patrocinar una Exposición Estándar de Flores en un lugar público, promocionando los objetivos del NGC. Para que la exposición pueda optar por el Premio NGC a la Realización de una Exposición Estándar, debe igualmente conformar con todas las políticas y normas NGC.

■**Pregunta:** Cuando el género de una planta figura en el programa ¿es necesario escribirlo nuevamente en la tarjeta de expositor? ¿Se puede indicar el género utilizando la primera letra, seguida de la especie?

Respuesta: Vea el Manual, pág. 81. En concordancia con el objetivo de educar al público, se debe incluir el género completo en todas las tarjetas de expositor, salvo cuando seguidamente se enumera especímenes de una colección o display. Si el espécimen que se exhibe es una variedad cultivada, ese nombre, entre comillas simples, debe seguirle al binomio. Las marcas registradas son aceptables en vez del nombre de la variedad cultivada, pero no entre comillas simples. (TNG Otoño 2012). El nuevo libro "Exhibiendo y Juzgando Hor-

ticultura", disponible en Headquarters, trae un capítulo con información adicional de cómo escribir correctamente los nombres.

■**Pregunta:** Para una Pequeña Exposición Estándar de Flores el Manual en su página 6, limita la cantidad de diseños a un mínimo de tres clases, con 12 – 19 exhibiciones en la División. ¿Hay un límite a la cantidad de exhibiciones y clases permitidas en División Horticultura?

Respuesta: El Manual fija un mínimo de cinco clases con veinte exhibiciones en la División Horticultura, pero no limita la cantidad máxima. La persona que escribe el programa debe tener cuidado de no disminuir el impacto contenido de la división diseño, con una división de horticultura exuberante. Dos o tres secciones de la horticultura de la temporada, cuidadosamente seleccionada, con por lo menos tres clases en cada una, es un número razonable para incluir, y mantendrá un buen equilibrio con la División Diseño.

■**Pregunta:** En la División de Exhibiciones Especiales ¿hay un número mínimo o máximo de plantas o de tamaños que debe haber para constituir un jardín? ¿Podría dos grandes macetas conformar con los requerimientos?

Respuesta: El Manual, pág. 198, dice que los jardines pueden ser permanentes o provisionales. Dependiendo de cómo se estipula en el programa, el "jardín" podría ser temporario, construido en el sitio de la exposición, y podría comprender solamente plantas en recipientes. Al otro extremo, un jardín permanente podría ser de grandes proporciones. El programa debe especificar los límites de la clase. En el caso de jardines mantenidos por los miembros de diferentes clubes, se puede ofrecer un Premio Competencia entre Clubes. Ver Manual, pág. 45.

■**Pregunta:** ¿Puede el material vegetal abstractado ser usado de alguna manera en el diseño tradicional?

Respuesta: Sí. Manual pág. 154. I.B.2.3.g. Los Diseños Tradicionales NGC se caracterizan por la ubicación natural del material vegetal en un solo patrón establecido de forma geométrica, con poco o nada

de abstracción. Pero, siga leyendo: Manual pág. 157. Hay grados de abstracción. B.1.a. Los Diseños Tradicionales y Creativos pueden no tener abstracción. B.1.b. Los Diseños Tradicionales y Creativos pueden tener abstracción menor. Por lo tanto, no es la presencia del material abstractado que caracteriza un Diseño Tradicional o Creativo, sino que el factor determinante es la organización del material de manera natural.

■**Pregunta:** ¿Cuál es la autoridad: Designing by Types o el Manual de Exposiciones de Flores?

■**Respuesta:** Manual, pág. 1, C1. El Manual es la autoridad máxima.

■**Pregunta:** Con el cambio reciente al Manual, TNG Invierno 2013, pág. 31, donde dice que todas las clases en una sección que opta por un Premio Mayor al Expositor NGC (PME) deben ser juzgadas con la misma Escala de Puntos, se ha vuelto limitante el tipo de clases que se puede incluir en una sección. Por ejemplo, que sucede si la programadora quisiera componer una sección de horticultura para perennes de primavera que incluye clases de tulipanes, hostas, iris y peonías; o una sección de diseño compuesto de clases de Bandejas, Mesas Exhibición tipo I y Mesas Exhibición Tipo II?

■**Respuesta:** Es cierto que para estos dos ejemplos, un PME NGC no podría ofrecerse, pero esto no significa que no se puede ofrecer otro prestigioso premio. El club puede crear cualquier premio de sección, estableciendo los requisitos que elija. El premio puede honrar una persona en especial, reconocer un logro o conmemorar una ocasión. Manual, pág. 47 VII. El Premio debe conformar con la política NGC de estar especificado en el programa. Para optar por el PME de División, sea o no en una sección que opte por un PME NGC de Sección, la exhibición necesita ser ganadora de la cinta azul con 95+, y conformar con los demás requisitos de la División.

—Dorothy Yard, Directora EEF NGC

Flower Show Schools

"Be what you are and become what you are capable of becoming."

R. L. Stevenson

 With the summer growing season in full swing, garden club members are eager to show off the bounty gleaned from their labors at flower shows and local fairs. When a garden club works with the fair board, the community show can be made to conform to that of a Standard Flower Show, usually with only minor adjustments. It is a win/win situation: the fair board gains the garden club members' expertise and the garden club has an opportunity to sponsor a Standard Flower Show in a very public venue, promoting NGC's objectives. To be eligible for the NGC Flower Show Achievement Award, the show must still conform to all NGC policies and standards.

■**Question:** When the genus name is written in the schedule, is it necessary to write it again on the entry card? May the genus be indicated by using only the first letter followed by the species name?

■**Response:** Refer to HB, pp. 96-97. Keeping in mind the goal of educating the public, the entire genus must be included on all entry tags, except when listing subsequent specimens in a collection or display. If the specimen being exhibited is a cultivar, that name, enclosed in single quotes, should follow the binomial. A trademarked™ or registered trademarked name® is acceptable in place of cultivar name, but is not enclosed in single quotes. TNG, Fall, 2012. The new *Exhibiting and Judging Horticulture* book, available from NGC Headquarters, has a chapter with additional information on writing names correctly.

■**Question:** For a Small Standard Flower Show, SSFS, the HB, p.7, limits the number of designs to a minimum of three classes, with 12-19 exhibits in the Division. Is there

a limit on the number of exhibits and classes permitted in the Horticulture Division?

Response: The HB sets a minimum of five classes with twenty exhibits in the Horticulture Division, but does not limit the maximum number. The schedule writer must be careful not to overshadow the restrained impact of the design division with a burgeoning horticulture division. Two or three sections of carefully selected seasonal horticulture with at least three classes each is a reasonable number to include and will balance the Design Division quite well.

■ **Question:** In the Special Exhibits Division, is there a minimum or maximum number of plants or sizes that constitutes a "garden?" Could two large pots fulfill the requirements?

Response: The HB, pp. 230-231, says that gardens may be temporary or permanent. Depending on how it is stated in the Schedule, the "garden" could possibly be a temporary one, constructed on site at the flower show and could conceivably be comprised of only container-grown plants. At the other extreme, a permanent garden may stretch for hundreds of feet. Again, the Schedule must be written to define the limits for the class. In the case of gardens maintained by members of different clubs, a Club Competition Award may be offered. See HB, pp. 52-53.

■ **Question:** May abstracted plant material ever be used in a traditional design?

Response: Yes; HB, P. 181. I. B. 2, 3.g NGC Traditional Design is characterized by naturalistic placement of plant material in a single "set pattern" of geometric form, with little or no abstraction. But read on: HB, p. 185 There are degrees of abstraction. B. 1a. Traditional and Creative designs may have no abstraction. B. 1b. Traditional and Creative Designs may have minor abstraction. Therefore, it is not the presence of the abstracted material that characterizes a Traditional or Creative Design, but rather, it is the organization of the material in a naturalistic manner that is the determining factor.

■ **Question:** Which is the authority:

Designing by Types or the *Handbook for Flower Shows*?

Response: HB, p 1, C 1. The *Handbook* is the ultimate authority.

■ **Question:** With the recent change to the *Handbook*, TNG, Winter, 2013, p. 31, which states that all classes in a section eligible for a NGC Top Exhibitor Award (TEA) must be judged by the same Scale of Points, it becomes very restrictive as to the types of classes that may be included in a section. For instance, what if the schedule writer wanted to compose a section of horticulture for spring perennials that included classes for tulips, hostas, irises and peonies; or a section of design composed of classes for Trays, Exhibition Type I and Exhibition Type II table designs?

Response: It is true that for those two examples, an NGC TEA may not be offered, but that doesn't mean that another prestigious award can't be offered instead. The club can create any section award, setting any requirements that it chooses. The award can honor a special person, recognize an achievement or commemorate an occasion. HB, p. 55, VII. The award must conform to the NGC policy of being listed in the schedule. To be eligible for a Division TEA, whether or not in a section eligible for a Section NGC TEA, the exhibit need only be a blue-ribbon winner, score 95+, and meet other Division requirements.

—Dorothy Yard, NGC FSS Chairman

Vision of Beauty Calendar

2015 Entry Deadline:
August 1, 2013



Char Mutschler, Salem, Oregon, was chosen by President Linda Nelson as the designer for the cover of the 2014 Vision of Beauty Calendar. It is an honor to be selected by the President during her installation year, and we congratulate Char.

The Requirements and the Entry Form

for the 2015 edition of the Calendar are on the NGC website, www.gardenclub.org. Log in on the member side. At the left, click on Publications, then click on Vision of Beauty Calendar, then click on Requirements and Entry Form, which are highlighted in red. This information is also in the 2014 edition of the calendar.

The Entry Form is interactive, which means the form can be filled out on the computer, printed and mailed to the Chairman with the photograph of the design.

Please read the revised Requirements carefully, noting that the titled photograph must also be sent to the Chairman by email ngcvob@gmail.com. This DOES NOT take the place of sending an actual photograph, as requested above.

Individuals are limited to five entries, with only one background per entry.

The Requirements and Entry Form have been translated into Spanish and are available to our International Affiliates.

Thank you for your participation and purchase of the calendar.

—Jan Warshauer, *NGC Calendar Chairman*

Flower Show Schools

Course I

Canton, OH September 4-6

Registrar: Shirley Wigginton; 330-453-7056;
swigginton@neo.rr.com

Knoxville, TN September 17-19

Registrar: Marion R. Bloomer; 865-966-3781;
mrbloomer0@aol.com

Livermore, CA September 18-20

Registrar: Mona Dunlop; 925-828-3006;
ndunlop@pacbell.net

Course II

Staunton, VA September 9-12

Registrar: Glynis Hopkins; 540-586-9655;
ghopkins13@msn.com

Dallas, TX October 15-17

Registrar: Peggy Consolver; 972-424-1830;
pconsolver@verizon.net

Course III

Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA . . . August 12-14

Registrar: Gloria Aminian; 661-833-8176;
gaminian@bak.it.com

Course III

Oak Hill, WV August 15-17

Registrar: Kay Allen; 304-574-6090;
kaycallen@hotmail.com

Jacksonville Beach, FL August 26-28

Registrar: Rosemary Anthony; 904-246-9737;
Stephanie@solids.net

Acapulco, México October 1-3

Contact: Esther P. de Salinas, Risco #254,
Pedregal de San Angel, México D.F. 01900,
México; 52-55-5568-8521; estherp@todito.com

Course IV

Monroe, GA August 5-7

Registrar: Betty McKissick; 706-647-3280;
flowergirl921@charter.net

Winter Park, FL August 13-15

Registrar: Helen Kuhn; 352-787-1702;
helenakuhn1@gmail.com

Milwaukee, WI August 23-25

Registrar: Judy Miller; 920-734-0615;
jmi64911@aol.com

Gardening Study Schools

Course II

Luther, IA September 12-13

Local/State Chairman: Gretchen Triplett, 1824
Ferndale Avenue, Ames, IA 50010;
515-460-8304; Gretchen.triplett@gmail.com

Course III

St. Louis, MO August 27-29

State Chairman: Pat Schnarr, 943 Hemingway
Lane, Weldon Springs, MO 63304;
314-488-5316; wpwpat@yahoo.com

Niles, MI October 21-22

Registrar: Bobbie Quick, 2442 Dick Street,
Niles, MI 49120-9362; 269-684-7772;
bquick50@gmail.com

Course IV

Derby, CT September 24-26

Local/State Co-Chairman: Cheryl Basztura,
41 Cardinal Circle, Trumbull, CT 06611-3216;
203-261-5851; baszses@aol.com

Elmhurst, IL October 9-10

Local Chairman: Mary Ann Brucher, 3821
Florence Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515;
630-969-4078; brucher7@aol.com

Hazleton, PA October 15-16

Local/State Chairman: Barbara Dempsey,
3109 Parkway Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104;
610-776-1911; firefly3@ptd.net

Flower Show Symposiums

Athens, GA July 14-16

Local Registrar: Sally Holcombe, 3115 Brandy Station, Atlanta, GA 30339-4407; 770-436-9883; smholcombe@hotmail.com

Harrisburg, PA July 15-17

Local Registrar: Nancy Cartwright, 600 Yale Street, # 1405, Harrisburg, PA 17111-2555; 717-972-0286; nlbc52@yahoo.com

Staunton, VA July 15-17

Local Registrar: Judy Hodges, 24405 N. James Madison Road, New Canton, VA 23123-9739; 434-361-1859; judy.hodges14@yahoo.com

Vancouver, WA July 16-17

Local Registrar: Mary Lou Waitz, 15 E. Bachelor Rock Drive, Port Angeles, WA 98363-8539; 360-928-3728; marylou94@hotmail.com

Mayfield Village, OH July 23-24

Local Registrar: Judy Guinn, 7009 Crestview Drive, Brecksville, OH 44141-2724; 440-526-6871; flower-fairy@att.net

Richfield, MN July 29-30

Local Registrar: Sue Neuhart, 6309 Colony Way, Edina, MN 55435; 952-924-0669; sueneuhart@comcast.net

Birmingham, AL August 14-15

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Landscape Design Schools

Course I

Ann Arbor, MI October 1-2

State Chairman: Terry Harding, 6287 Summit Ct., Traverse City, MI 49686-1885; 231-947-0568; wsharding@chartermi.net

Columbia, MO October 29-31

State Chairman: Linda Houston, 4525 Sun Meadow, Fulton, MO 65251-5191; 573-642-9419; unity_4_every1@yahoo.com

Course III

College Station, TX September 23-24

State Co-Chairman: Merlene Schumacher, 303 N. Baylor, Brenham, TX 77833; 979-836-0612; outofbounds@sbcglobal.net

South Barrington, IL October 22-23

State Chairman: Dolores K. Lederer, 16 Wescott Drive, South Barrington, IL 60010-9526; 847-381-5828; hleder@clickoncps.com

Course IV

Wellesley, MA October 31-November 2

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

Tri-Refresher

ESS, GSS, LDS

Milton, FL August 8-9

Event Chairman: Tina Tuttle, 6755 Hwy. 99, Molino, FL 32577; 850-587-2361; ttuttle1954@gmail.com

Bi-Refresher

ESS & GSS

San Jose, Costa Rica November 4-10

Event Chairman: Bonni Dinneen, 279 Wentworth Avenue, Lowell, MA 01852; 978-455-0875; bonni.dinneen@gmail.com

Landscape Gardeners and Landscape Designers

The creation of attractive outdoor areas using trees, shrubs, and plants has taken place for hundreds of years, be they for estates, castles, home gardens, parks, office buildings, college campuses, golf courses or playgrounds. In all instances, the site is studied—its soil type, climate, drainage, slope, topography and existing planting. A plan is then created to work with the existing structures. Plant hardiness and appearance are a consideration, as well as the client's budget. Any local, city, state, or federal regulations are addressed. Today, computers are used. Creativity is involved and an appreciation of nature is an influence.

Those who created these designs were first referred to as landscape gardeners and landscape designers. Landscape architect is a recent title, which is more American than European. Many notable men and women have served in this role and their projects still enhance the landscape.

André Le Notre (1613-1700) was born in Paris into a family of gardeners. It is thought that his grandfather was involved with the gardens at Palais de Tuileries, in 1572. His father was the gardener for the Tuileries gardens under Louis XIII, thus exposing André to practical and theoretical knowledge of gardens. Following studies of classical art and perspective at Palais du Louvre, André became the head gardener at the Tuileries, in 1637. From 1645 to 1646, he modernized the gardens of Chateau de Fontainebleau. All the royal gardens of France soon came under his care. His first major garden design was done at Chateau de Vaux-le-Vicomte, in 1657. The design involved changing levels across the site, pools, a symmetrical arrangement of parterres and gravel walkways. In 1661, Louis XIV asked him to enhance the garden and parks of Versailles. His radiating city plan for Versailles later influenced Pierre Charles L'Enfant in his master plan for Washington, D.C. When the



The gardens at Chateau de Vaux-le-Vicomte

gardens at the Tuileries were being rebuilt in the mid 1660s, he extended the main axis of the gardens westward, thus creating the avenue that became the Champs Elysées. André's designs reflect the best qualities of French formal garden style. He also designed the Greenwich Park, in London, for Charles II of England.

"Capability" Brown (1716-1783), christened Launcelot Brown, was born in Kirkharle, Northumberland, England. He

learned landscape design principles while serving as a gardener's boy at Kirkharle Hall and, in 1741, under William Kent, one of the founders of the new English style of landscape gardening. He became a strong advocate of the new English style and, by 1751, was highly acclaimed. In 1764, he became Master Gardener at Hampton Court Palace. His landscapes still exist at Blenheim Palace, Milton Abbey, Warwick Castle, Stourhead, the Broadlands and in some

areas at Kew Gardens. He designed English country homes, but he was known more for his designs of landscapes. He used smooth undulating grass up to the house, groupings of trees, serpentine lakes, all informally placed. His popularity declined at his death, with some saying his landscapes were "feeble imitation of wild nature."

Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852), born in Newburgh, New



(Above): Capability Brown replaced the formal gardens at Longleat House, Wiltshire, with a landscaped park and dramatic drives and entrance roads. (Right): At Blenheim, Brown dammed the River Glyme creating a series of dramatic cascades, designed to heighten the visual impact of the river.



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York, was a horticulturist and writer, as well as a landscape designer. Working in his father's nursery resulted in an interest in landscape gardening and architecture. He studied and wrote on botany and landscape gardening. His first book, "A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, Adapted to North America," was most successful and was the first such publication of its kind in United States. Many other books followed, often a strong influence on garden design. He felt that outdoor space should be both functional and pretty. He was an advocate of the Gothic Revival Style in America and some feel he was "The Father of American Landscape Architecture." In 1846, he was appointed editor of "The Horticulturist" magazine and "Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste." Horticulture, botany and landscape gardening were the primary topics. In his writings, he suggested a park in New York dedicated to the public welfare. Through his writings, readers were educated about architecture and landscape design. In 1850, during

his travels to Europe and England, he met Calvert Vaux, whose landscape watercolors he admired. He convinced Vaux to move to America and together they planned designs for the grounds of the White House and the Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C. The design by Downing for Lafayette Square, across from the White House, still exists. Under the presidency of Millard Fillmore, they created a plan to improve the condition of The Mall, in Washington, D.C. Departing from the design of Pierre Charles L'Enfant for a grand avenue, they suggested four individual parks with connecting curvilinear walks and drives lined with different types of trees, forming a national park. The style was naturalistic. However, Congress found the plan too expensive to complete and only the landscaping around the 1846 Smithsonian building was created. When Downing designed homes, his plans included garden designs, sometimes with suggested plantings. He is credited with popularizing the front porch, which he felt connected the house to nature. Both Vaux



Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. designed the winding three-mile Approach Road to Biltmore House to provide a pleasant and relaxing drive through a naturalistic woodland landscape. He used a variety of plants indigenous to the Blue Ridge and supplemented them with exotic ones.

and Frederick Law Olmsted were strongly influenced by Downing.

Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. (1822-1903) was born in Hartford, Connecticut. His father's love of nature was passed on to Frederick Law and his younger brother, John Hull. He began as a journalist, and following a tour to England, in 1850, to visit public gardens, he worked for the New York *Daily Times*, today the New York *Times*. He traveled to the South and Texas and sent dispatches back to the *Times*. Upon his return north, Andrew Jackson Downing introduced him to Calvert Vaux. Following Downing's early death in a steamboat explosion on the Hudson, Olmsted and Vaux became partners. They decided to enter the Central Park design competition, though Olmsted had never designed or executed a landscape design. Their design was the winner, in 1858. It included expanses of green, many new views, subtle use of plants throughout, some rocky, broken terrain with shrubs, sunken roadways for the cars, but winding paths for the people—a very naturalistic design. Olmsted drew inspiration from the English landscapes and gardens that he had visited and believed in using any naturally occurring features in a landscape to produce a pastoral or picturesque effect. Prospect Park, in Brooklyn, was also their design. Olmsted served as New York Parks Commissioner and promoted the public having a common green space available for their enjoyment. In 1863, he went to California and was involved with the preservation of Yosemite Valley. Olmsted Point, near Tenaya Lake, is named after him. He was responsible for the designs for several parks in Chicago, including Marquette and Jackson Parks; for the public parks and pathways in Buffalo, New York; for the oldest state park, the Niagara Reservation, in Niagara Falls, New York; for one of the first planned communities in the U.S., Riverside, Illinois; for Presque Isle Park, Marquette, Michigan; for the master plan at U. C. Berkeley and Stanford, in California; and for much of the landscape design at the U.S. Capitol building, in Washington, D.C.

He is considered the "Father of Landscape Architecture."

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. (1870-1957), born in Staten Island, New York, served as apprentice to his father and, in 1895, became a partner in his father's firm, in Brookline, Massachusetts. Upon his father's retirement, he and his half-brother took over the firm. In 1900, he was teaching at Harvard and established the first formal training program in landscape architecture. He was appointed, in 1901, by President Theodore Roosevelt to the McMillan Commission, the Senate Park Improvement Commission of Washington, D.C. Their objective was to restore and complete L'Enfant's plans for the city. The National Park Service Organic Act, preserving and safeguarding many natural areas of America, was passed. As a result, Olmsted, Jr. is best known for his wildlife conservation effort and for projects involving the Everglades, Acadia, and Olmsted Island, at Great Falls, on the Potomac River, in Maryland. Additional design projects for which the brothers were responsible include: the main campus of American University, Washington, D.C.; campuses at Auburn University, Alabama; Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri; and St. Albans School, Washington, D.C.; Cushing Island, Maine; and gardens at the Biltmore Estate, Asheville, North Carolina.

Thomas Dolliver Church (1902-1978) was born in Boston, and grew up in Ojai and Berkeley, California. Following receipt of a Master's degree from Harvard Graduate School of Design, he travelled to Italy and Spain. In 1933, he opened an office in San Francisco. At that time, the neoclassical movement was popular. Due to his travels and studies, Church had a strong sense of the classical forms. His "California style" moved landscape architecture towards a more modern approach. He had four primary principles that guided his designs: unity, function, simplicity and scale. His designs were unique and often combined opposite design principles. Separate "rooms" were included in some of his landscapes. His

field was primarily in residential projects and included: the Donnell Gardens, in Sonoma City, California; the master plan of University of California, at Berkeley; the grounds of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, New York; and the Des Moines Art Center. He combined design principles of the past with modern ideas of freedom of elements of line, form, and movement. He is thought of as the founding father of modern residential landscape in California and, to a degree, in the United States.

Two women are prominent figures in landscape design: Gertrude Jekyll and Beatrix Farrand. Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) was born in Mayfair, London, and spent her youth in Bramley House, Surrey. She was a horticulturist, garden designer, artist, and writer, and was responsible for the design of over four hundred gardens, in England, Europe, and the United States. She was a prolific writer for several garden magazines and is felt to have been the "premier influence in garden design" by both the English and Americans. Her partnership with Sir Edwin Lutyens resulted in many garden designs. She used cool and warm-colored flowers

in the gardens and considered the textures of plants. J. M. W. Turner's paintings influenced her use of color, as did Impressionism and the color wheel. Her book, "Colour in the Flower Garden," was well received. Designing glass flower vases was another talent. In 1907, landscape design plans were drawn for the "Gertrude Jekyll Garden," an early 20th-century garden located at Manor House, Upton Grey, in Hampshire. The garden represents all the features typically found in a garden planned by Jekyll: a wild garden with drifts of daffodils; a formal garden with herbaceous borders of cool to hot to cool-colored plants, edged with yew hedges; an orchard, kitchen garden, and cottage beds. The garden has been restored, in 1986, to Jekyll's plan and selection of plants. Bois des Moutiers, in Varengeville-sur-Mer, France, is a thirty-acre landscape of azaleas, rhododendrons, and magnolias, designed by Lutyens and Jekyll.

Beatrix Farrand (1872-1959), born in New York City, considered herself a landscape gardener. She was also an architect and designed over a hundred gardens for private residences, estates, country homes, college



Hestercombe Gardens, in Somerset, was designed by Gertrude Jekyll.

campuses, as well as some of the White House gardens and public gardens. Few of her designed spaces survive. Noteworthy is Dumbarton Oaks, in Georgetown, Washington, D.C., created for Mildred and Robert Woods Bliss, with its neo-classical design and terraced gardens down a steep slope. Additionally, the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden, and the campuses of Princeton University and Yale are her work. She is the only woman of the eleven founders of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In 1893, she moved to Brookline, Massachusetts, to study with Charles Sprague Sargent, founding director of Arnold Arboretum, Boston. She studied landscape gardening, botany and land planning. Later, at Columbia School of Mines, Columbia University, New York, she learned drafting to scale, surveying elevation rendering and engineering. Tours of European gardens were to influence her designs. Study of the Italian Renaissance gardens and villas resulted in her "garden rooms" in the landscape. Summers spent at the family summer home, at

Reef Point, Maine, brought a love of native plants. In 1895, she began a practice in New York. Because women were excluded from public projects, residential gardens for Bar Harbor residents were her first projects. She had commissions on the East Coast, in California, and England. She designed the initial site and planting plan for the National Cathedral, in Washington, D.C., in 1899. In 1913, the first Mrs. Wilson asked her to design the East Colonial Garden for the White House, now the redesigned Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, and the West Garden, now the Rose Garden. In 1928, her husband became the first Director of the Huntington Library in California. Farrand found few projects in California as there were already several established landscape architects in the Los Angeles area. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was one of her projects. Her final garden was created at Garland Farm, the home of friends with whom she spent the last three years of her life.

—**Jane R. Bersch**, *NGC Landscape Design Schools Chairman*



The central meadow region of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, looking north. The Garden was founded in 1926 and designed by Beatrix Farrand.

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