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**SUMMER 2020**



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## The National Gardener

Summer 2020 | Vol. 91, No. 3

### National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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

**Gay L. Austin**, President  
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### THE COVER

"Everything's Coming Up Roses" at The Radler Rosarium in Greenfield, Wisconsin, which showcases the gardens by William Radler, creator of the Knock Out® Rose – the most widely sold rose in the world. Radler is one of three recipients of the NGC 2020 Award of Excellence. To read more about this year's winners, please visit the article starting on page 10. Photo by Sara Stathas.

*Clarification: A hoverfly is on the TNG spring 2020 cover. The National Gardener regrets the error.*

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**Gay L. Austin**

**2019-2021 NGC President**

## President's Message

**A**nother season of change is happening for our gardeners. Trees and shrubs have blossomed. Nature is providing us with many tints of green and other natural colors. With spring season almost behind us, we welcome summer, along with the anticipation, enjoyment, beauty and bounty of the annual vegetable and flower seeds that were planted.

These past few months, we have been required to maintain social isolation, which is somewhat disheartening and challenging, but let's not focus our energies on what is in the past. Let's look to the future for new ways of sharing our garden club stories as we continue to strengthen our state, region and national organizations. Through this trying time, we have gained a few benefits from this world health crisis, beginning with the bonus time that we enjoy in the oasis that is our home garden. So often our

hectic world of activities prevented us from simply slowing down and enjoying what is right in front of us. Our world is changing, but eventually, the traditional connections that we have with one another and our communities will return. Perhaps this experience will evolve into a far better

perspective on what is important in our volunteer garden club experiences. Susan Yoder, executive director of Seed Your Future, recently stated, "It's about PHYSICAL distancing, not SOCIAL isolation." Garden club members are creating ways for us to branch out into new methods of communication. NGC members may have had to postpone group activities, but they are determined to continue with meetings, programs and projects. They are taking advantage of audiovisual and digital methods to enjoy garden tours, meetings and other garden club activities. These efforts are

**“It's about PHYSICAL distancing, not SOCIAL isolation.”**

encouraging us to accept new methods of volunteering and to THINK FORWARD. Like many of you, I receive emails and publications daily from across the nation and internationally, that present the many communication options available. From simple teleconferences to audio and video group meetings and garden tours, we are adapting to the challenges ahead of us. Some recent efforts include:

- NGC has an extremely active and talented Social Media Committee that is developing new ideas to share our stories. The NGC Facebook page is gaining remarkable momentum. It highlights projects that our audience enjoys and inspires us to create our own stories to share with our garden club friends. It is simple to submit creative suggestions and share stories of success. What about you? What story do you wish to share? What makes your project relevant to our organization? No one understands the interests of our organization and audience better than our NGC members. You are our best ambassadors. Your stories impact our social media communities in a heartfelt manner and inspire us to create beauty.
- The NGC Schools Committees are evaluating, through careful thought and purpose, our traditional methods of continuing educational opportunities. "Good Standing" deadlines have been extended, plus there are ongoing discussions of future methods of educational opportunities through the practice of audiovisual classrooms.
- Good news! The new NGC website is nearing completion, with an anticipated "going live" date in late June. The Website Development Committee has worked tirelessly

to provide a user-friendly website that offers many new avenues of sharing and learning. Be sure to use our website as a useful tool when preparing projects for your garden club.

- NGC was proud to sponsor our first Virtual Flower Show in June. The "Perfect Vision 2020 Petite Horticulture Specialty Flower Show," originally was created for our members to exhibit their designs at NGC's 91st annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in May. Reluctantly, the difficult decision was made to not hold the NGC convention this year due to increased risks to public health – a responsibility shared by myriad organizations and companies who also canceled large events across the United States. Rather than walk away from a perfectly planned flower show event, it was decided to hold a national Virtual Flower Show, with some modifications to the original flower show schedule. Please check the NGC website at [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org) for an overview of the event and judging criteria. Winners will be announced in July on the NGC website and social media. Stay tuned for information on the possibility of additional Virtual Flower Shows. Please encourage your members to participate. It can be an incredibly rewarding experience!

Sharing our knowledge and working together will assure a strong future for NGC. I look forward to traveling to visit with our members soon, and wish all of you a safe, healthy future. ■

*Gay L. Austin*

# World Association of Floral Artists

## WAFA INDIA 2020

### 13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD FLOWER SHOW



A walkway at the Hotel Diggi Palace. ▲

The World Association of Floral Artists (WAFA), is a not for profit, non-partisan organization of international floral art societies. WAFA enhances the diversity of the floral art form by transcending international cultural barriers and bringing together fresh ideas, and encourages the art of flower

arrangement through workshops, seminars and flower shows. Founded in 1981 by a group of flower-arranging societies, WAFA has members in 31 countries.

The Grand Floral Affair – a World Flower Show and International Seminar – is WAFA’s tri-annual event. The five-

day flower fair, which was held this year in February, in Jaipur, India, offered an abundance of workshops, competitions, demonstrations and exhibitions.

The following insights into WAFA India 2020 are shared by attendee Roberta Saraceno DuBeshter, GCA WAFA Liaison, Floral Design Committee member and member of the Rochester Garden Club of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Inc.

#### “Hello from the Grand Floral Affair, the 13th World Flower Show!”

The soft chanting of men in devotional Hindu Morning Prayer can be heard at dawn. The humming cadence changes pitch, then crescendos. At sunrise, peacocks descend from their sleeping perches high in leafy trees. Their golden wings reflect the sun and tail feathers of vivid blues and greens shimmer brilliantly as they float softly to the ground.

WAFA India 2020 was held at the Hotel Diggi Palace and Fort in Jaipur. Jaipur, one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world, is known as “The Pink City,” a historic nod to the edict to paint every building in the city pink as a gesture of welcome and hospitality to Great Britain’s Queen Victoria and the Prince of Wales during their world tour in 1876.



▲ Kavita Poddar (center right) committee president, WAFA India 2020, is flanked by USFDS delegates (from left) Gay Austin, Kathy Powell, Ammy Taylor, Roberta DuBeshter and Peggy Moore.



Inspiring artwork greeted guests at the Hotel Diggi Palace. ▲

Our group was fortunate to stay at this historic hotel, which dates back to the 19th century. We were humbled by the serenity of the expansive and beautifully landscaped grounds that span over 18 acres, which feature interconnecting center courtyards, winding staircases and art that denotes the traditional architecture of India.

As we strolled through the grounds of WAFA India 2020, we encountered magnificently decorated pathways illuminated by dazzling lights and an abundance of colors and artwork inspired by floral artistry. Everything in sight offers great significance, and we are embraced by the friendship of women we have met at multiple WAFA World Flower Shows, as well as other international shows. At every WAFA event, we are grateful to renew old friendships, cultivate new ones and share the love of flowers and design.

#### Exhibits, seminars and competition

Preordered plant material was collected on the afternoon prior to competition, and competitors were ushered into the halls promptly at 6 a.m. Each exhibitor was allowed six hours to create her or his design, with the majority of designs created on site. Stewards monitored classes to ensure designers were following WAFA rules. The day after judging, exhibitors met with the international judging panel for an

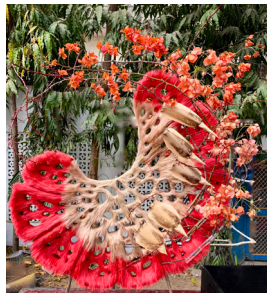
individual design critique. This experience was invaluable, as they provided comments based on the principles and elements of design. This interactive educational opportunity provided the opportunity to not only ask questions, but also offered the added benefit of listening to a critique on the majority of the designs in your class. With a ratio of 6-to-13 exhibitors per class, this was far less than the 20 entries per class at the 2014 WAFA Dublin World Show, but the critiques were most informative, with judges offering positive verbal feedback and educational critiques.

At the International Honorary Exhibits, Candace Morgenstern made us proud! Her design, "America the Beautiful," was inspired by the lyrics of the patriotic song and echoed the "purple mountain majesties" that are in abundance across the United States.

Each of the 25 countries in attendance provided one judge, with the host country supplying the remaining judges needed for panels. Peggy Moore, former WAFA liaison and GCA floral design judge, represented the United States. At the 2020 India WAFA seminar, she completed a workshop on international judging and also attended a six-hour judges' seminar. The following day, Moore enjoyed meeting with the competitors in the three classes she judged and was very pleased to collaborate with the international judges during the show. In some countries, it takes many years of classes, study and testing beyond judging certification to become an international judge. In Italy, for example, the process takes 20 years!

At each WAFA World Flower Show, a General Assembly meeting takes place. Delegates and observers from member countries attend to vote on proposals and approve the minutes and

financials of the prior WAFA World Show. WAFA is comprised of representatives from 31 countries and allows only one organization (per country) to represent that country. The Floral Design Study Group (FDSG) from GCA and the AFA from National Garden Clubs Inc. (NGC) merged to form the United States Floral Design Society (USFDS). Attendees at this meeting included delegates Gay Austin, president, National Garden Clubs Inc., and myself. Observers included Kathy Powell, the incoming GCA WAFA Liaison, Ammy Taylor, NGC Board Member and guest Peggy Moore, former GCA WAFA Liaison.



▲ A jute demonstration.

### Sights, scenes and incomparable experiences

A reunion of participants at the 2018 WAFA India seminar was held at the historic hotel, Taj Jai Mahal Palace, prior to the WAFA India 2020 show. Entertainment traditional to India was provided by musicians, dancers and performers. The show was most welcoming, the food delicious and the atmosphere full of laughter and camaraderie. What better way to start a world flower show than with those whom you have shared similar experiences?

The farewell gala was held at Taj Rambagh Palace, a grand hotel that was converted from the 19<sup>th</sup> century former residence of the last Maharaja of Jaipur, India. This historic property is owned by the Royal Family of India and offers magnificent vistas and exquisite gardens. During this celebratory finale, the torch was passed from the 2020 WAFA India

committee to the 2023 New Zealand committee.

I hope insights into the 2020 WAFA India World Show have piqued your interest to exhibit and also become immersed in the hundreds of designs from countries participating in upcoming WAFA 2023 World Show at Floral Aotearoa in Auckland, New Zealand, March 20-26, 2023. For more information visit: [wafanz.co.nz](http://wafanz.co.nz). ■

### Roberta Saraceno DuBeshter

GCA WAFA Liaison, Floral Design Committee  
USFDS Vice President  
Rochester Garden Club  
Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Inc.

### Exhibitors from the United States

#### (USFDS):

**Gay Austin**, president, National Garden Clubs Inc., member of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi Inc.

**Roberta Saraceno DuBeshter**, GCA WAFA Liaison, Floral Design Committee member and member of the Rochester Garden Club of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Inc.

**Shelley Galloway**, Kenilworth Garden Club, Zone XI, awarded a Second Place and a Commendation.

**Peggy Moore**, USFDS Judge, Fairfield Garden Club, Zone II.

**Candace Morgenstern**, USA Honorary International Designer, Newport Garden Club Zone II and NGC member, awarded (with Marie Françoise DePrez - FASG International Workshop Designer) a Third Place and the Special Award 'Best Staged Exhibit' in an Imposed (Challenge Class).

**Kathy Powell**, Peachtree Garden Club, Zone VIII, awarded a Second Place.

**Ammy Taylor**, NGC Sponsorship Committee, Deep South Region Horticulture Chairman, member of Louisiana Garden Club Federation.

**Liza Weihman**, Greenwich Garden Club, Zone II, received a Highly Commended award.

**Sarah Boynton**, Cohasset Garden Club, Zone I, and NGC member, was unable to attend the show.

 **Photos by Roberta Saraceno DuBeshter**

For more information visit [wafaindia.com](http://wafaindia.com)

Nearly 15 years ago, the World Association of Flower Arrangers (WAFA) contacted floral design groups in the United States, urging the various entities to join its worldwide floral group. WAFA, which consists of 31 different countries, allows only ONE member per country.

Rather than choose just one existing organization, National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Garden Clubs of America determined that it was in the best interests of both nonprofit organizations to create an umbrella group called United States Floral Design Society (USFDS). This group joined WAFA in 1996, with Renee Blaschke, 2009-2011 president of National Garden Clubs Inc. serving as the president. Since it was formed, NGC and GCA have continued a two-year rotation of officer positions, and have participated in each world flower show.

Since its inception, the United States Floral Design Society has participated in world competitive floral design, including serving as host to the WAFA Flower Show in Boston, Massachusetts, in 2011. Once every three years, WAFA sponsors a World Flower Show, with the 13th show being completed in Jaipur, India, in late February, 2020. This joint effort continues to allow garden club members to be engaged in floral design with a global perspective.

### Gay Austin

2019-2021 President  
National Garden Clubs Inc.

# NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC. 2020 award of excellence

**N**GC's Award of Excellence recognizes exceptional individuals, organizations or institutions that have made significant contributions to their communities in such areas as environmental and civic responsibility, conservation or community beautification through gardening projects.

The 2020 Award of Excellence recipients are slated to accept their awards at NGC's 92nd Annual Convention in East Rutherford, New Jersey, May 17-20, 2021.

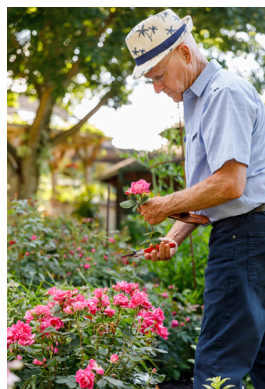
**“The Award of Excellence is our organization’s highest honor for non-members. By recognizing these deserving recipients from different parts of the nation, NGC hopes to educate and inspire others in communities coast-to-coast.”**

**GAY AUSTIN**

2019-2021 NGC President

**William Radler** is the creator of the Knock Out® family of roses, which revolutionized the rose-growing and gardening industries.

His successful journey began as a hobby involving the cultivation and



Radler at work (left) at The Radler Rosarium (right). Photos by Sara Stathas.



hybridization of roses in the basement of his home in Greenfield, Wisconsin. Introduced in 2000, the Knock Out Rose's self-pruning habits, generous blooms and disease-resistant qualities quickly became the industry standard. It is the most widely sold rose in the world, with more than 90 million and subsequent varieties sold at independent garden centers, big box stores and many online retailers throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and Japan.

As a growing testament to the many years devoted to research and testing, Radler created the Radler Rosarium on his two-acre property, which showcases a wide variety of roses in beautifully landscaped settings. In addition, he collaborates with the Greenfield

Beautification Committee to provide scheduled public tours.

For 26 years, Radler was the director of Milwaukee County Parks, headquartered in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, while serving 13 of those years as director of Boerner Botanical Gardens, a popular destination and part of the parks system. Radler holds a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Wisconsin in

Madison. He also is the author of "Rose Growing Simplified," and co-author of "Rose Gardening."

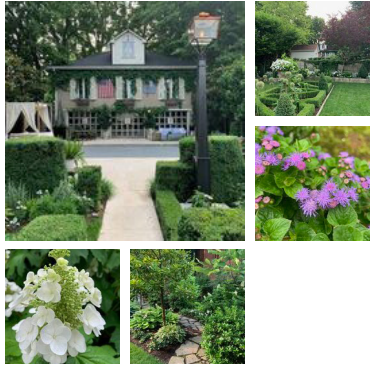
The commercial success of the Knock Out Rose gave root to Radler's philanthropic efforts locally and regionally. In 2002, he formed Rose Innovations LLC, which focuses on research, development, education and philanthropy. He also created a donor-advised fund for the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, with royalties received from the sales of Knock Out Roses in support of the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens. Donations to other organizations include the American Rose Society and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. In addition, he designed the Radler Terrace at the Greenfield Community Center and created a landscape design for a community park and children's playground in his neighborhood.

Radler was nominated for the 2020 NGC Award of Excellence by the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation.

**Jon Carloftis** is an award-winning landscape designer, author and popular lecturer, whose career in creating beautiful gardens spans more than 30 years.



▲ Photo courtesy of JonCarloftis.com.



In recent years, **Jon Carloftis**, a 10<sup>th</sup> generation Kentuckian, returned to his roots in Lexington to purchase and restore **Botherum**, one of the city's most historically and architecturally unique residences. Built in 1851, the complex, two-year project included the restoration of the home's interior and exterior, as well as landscaping and gardens. He and partner **Dale Fisher** were recognized for their work at **Botherum** with a 2014 **Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Award**, Kentucky's most distinguished award for historic preservation excellence.

Considered a pioneer in the industry for the design of rooftop and small-space gardens in New York City, Carloftis launched his career in the Big Apple in 1988, where his skills and talent for creating iconic gardens in small spaces captured the attention of noted celebrities, including **Julianne Moore**, **Edward Norton** and **Mike Myers**, as well as a number of renowned art collectors. In addition, Carloftis designed rooftop gardens for a number of corporate clients, including the New York City headquarters of **Google®** in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood.

He is owner of **Jon Carloftis Fine Gardens**, **Rockcastle River Trading Company**, [joncarloftis.com](http://joncarloftis.com), a unique retail shopping destination situated on 50 bucolic acres on the Carloftis family homestead in Lexington, Kentucky. The store offers luxury items and quality lines of products for the home, seasonal treasures and invites shoppers to explore the garden and landscaping vignettes that showcase garden tools, statuary, pottery, outdoor furniture and garden supplies.

A popular author in the garden industry, his books include "Beautiful Gardens of Kentucky," an introspective of 21 public gardens throughout the Bluegrass State, "Beyond the Windowsill: Add Style to Your Home with the Beauty of Indoor Plants," and "First a Garden," which he co-authored with **Susan Smith-Durisek**.

In addition, Carloftis crafted garden designs for institutions throughout the Bluegrass State, including the Kentucky Governor's mansion in Frankfort; Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond; University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg; Corbin Middle School in Corbin; and in 2016, the Baptist Health Lexington Cancer Center Garden, which was dedicated in memory of his mother, **Lucille Bowling Carloftis**. Ongoing

commercial and residential projects in Kentucky include the **Maker's Mark Distillery** in Loretto and the **Castle Key Distillery** in Frankfort, as well as rooftop gardens in Louisville and Lexington.

A longtime supporter of the mission of **National Garden Clubs Inc.**, he designed a custom pink ceramic birdhouse as part of his collection for **Louisville Stoneware** in support of **NGC's Plant It Pink** program, a national initiative that promotes breast cancer awareness. In 2019, he designed and implemented a plan for the refurbishment of the atrium garden at **NGC headquarters** in St. Louis, Missouri.

Carloftis holds a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where he cites his classes in business communications as the impetus for his entrepreneurial spirit. In addition, to foster his love of horticulture, he completed intensive courses of study at the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Carloftis was nominated for the 2020 **NGC Award of Excellence** by **The Garden Club of Kentucky Inc.**

▼ Photo by **Rachael Montejo**.



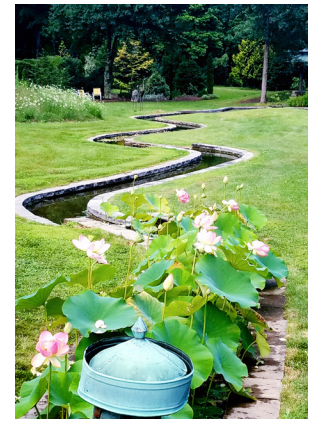
**John Forti**, an award-winning garden historian, ethnobotanist, garden writer and local foods advocate, is the executive director of **Bedrock Gardens**, a leading regional resource for horticultural education and agritourism, in Lee, New Hampshire. Under his leadership as

founder, director, Forti is guiding the transition of the 37-acre site from a historic farm and private garden to a public oasis of art, horticulture and inspiration.

Forti is a regional governor and biodiversity specialist for **Slow Food USA**, a national chapter of **Slow Food®**, a global organization and international grassroots movement that connects food producers and consumers to champion local agriculture, farmers' markets and traditional, regional cuisine.

He previously served as director of horticulture for the **Massachusetts Horticultural Society**, the oldest horticultural society in the United States, where he transitioned the society's grounds into a public garden, restored a beloved children's garden and spearheaded a statewide school garden collaboration.

During his tenure as curator and director of historic landscapes at **Strawbery Banke Museum** in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Forti created an ethnobotanical herb garden; an award-winning historic landscape app; a Victorian hothouse exhibit; a World War II victory garden restoration; and the first living history children's garden in the nation at the historical site. **Strawbery Banke Museum**, listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**, features 32 historic buildings, 12 original historic gardens ranging from the 17th to the 19th centuries and



▲ Photo by **John Forti**.

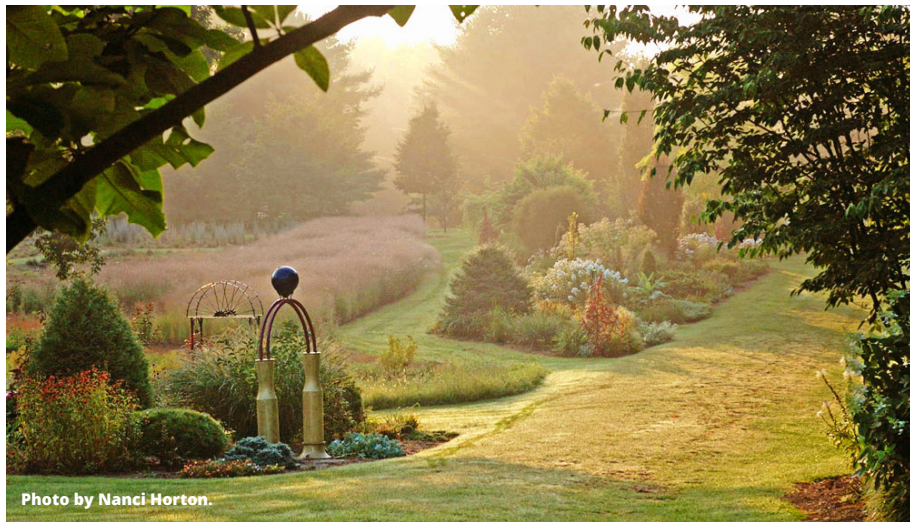


Photo by Nanci Horton.

diverse educational and preservation programs. In addition, he served for 12 years as director of horticulture at Plimoth Plantation Museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts, where he researched, designed and led on-site classes in the museum's Native American and colonial gardens and developed a historic seeds program that garnered international attention for the preservation of the Pilgrim and Wampanoag heirloom crops.

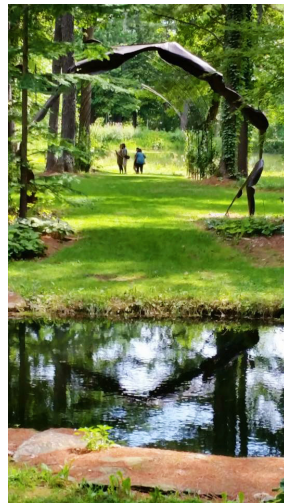
A celebrated author and frequent contributor to gardening, lifestyle and food publications, Forti is a regular media guest and popular lecturer nationally and internationally. He also hosts "The Heirloom Gardener – John Forti," a daily blog visited by more than 60,000 people around the world. His new

book with Timber Press is due out in spring 2021.

Forti was nominated for the 2020 NGC Award of Excellence by the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs Inc.

#### About Bedrock Gardens

A premier garden of New England, Bedrock Gardens [bedrockgardens.org](http://bedrockgardens.org), is an emerging public garden in Lee, New Hampshire, that integrates unusual botanical specimens and unique sculpture into an inspiring landscape journey. Situated on 37 acres on land that once served as the site of a historic dairy farm, Bedrock Gardens offers beautiful vistas that guide visitors along paths through distinct garden areas, which include an acre of native grasses designed like a painting;



▲ Photo by Peter Michaud.

an extensive espaliered Belgian fence; a serene Japanese teahouse garden; elegant lotus rill; rock garden; pinetum; apiary; wildlife ponds; pergolas; and two miles of garden and woodland trails, which visitors can explore and take inspiration from for their own home landscapes. ■

## LONE STAR STATE GARDEN CLUB dedicates blue star memorial highway marker

Members of Colleyville Garden Club in Colleyville, Texas, hosted a ceremony on Veterans Day in 2019, to honor local veterans and rededicate a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker. The marker, originally dedicated on May 22, 1992, had been removed during road construction. The ceremony included local dignitaries, United States veterans, community residents and



▲ Members of Colleyville Garden Club at the 2019 rededication.

officials from local law enforcement agencies. For more information, visit [ColleyvilleGardenClub.org](http://ColleyvilleGardenClub.org)

Founded in 1961, Colleyville Garden Club is a member of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.

Photos courtesy of Colleyville Garden Club



◀ Dedication of original Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker in 1992.

## NGC Calendar

### National Conventions

2021 East Rutherford, N.J.,  
May 17-20 (installation)  
2022 Orlando, Fla. Dates TBD

### Fall Board Meetings

2020 Fargo, N.D., Sept. 24-26  
2021 St. Louis, Mo., Dates TBD



# Tools to Transform Gardens and Communities

## 2020 AMES TOOL GRANT WINNERS

**N**ational Garden Club Inc. and The Ames Companies Inc., the largest manufacturer of garden tools in the United States, forged a collaboration in 2014. In 2020, The Ames Companies generously agreed to extend its in-kind grant program, and set aside a total of \$4,500 (retail value) of garden tools for local community gardening projects performed or supported by NGC local member clubs. The tool selection was expanded in 2018, to include tools for children and a group of lighter weight and mid-sized tools, which are more conducive for use in school or garden therapy projects. Garden clubs are eligible to apply for tools with a total retail value of no more than \$250.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Alaska</b><br>Wildflower Garden Club                                 | Stonington Garden Club<br>Suffield Garden Club      |
| <b>Alabama</b><br>Marion Garden Club                                    | <b>Georgia</b><br>Brooklet Garden Club              |
| <b>Arkansas</b><br>Lake and Plantation Garden Club                      | <b>Idaho</b><br>For the Love of Growing Garden Club |
| <b>California</b><br>Eureka Sequoia Garden Club<br>Petaluma Garden Club | <b>Illinois</b><br>Springfield Civic Garden Club    |
| <b>Colorado</b><br>Dig and Dream Garden Club                            | <b>Massachusetts</b><br>Falmouth Garden Club        |
| <b>Connecticut</b><br>Stafford Garden Club                              | <b>Michigan</b><br>Muskegon Garden Club             |

**2020 Ames Tool Grant Program**  
Twenty-six garden clubs in 22 U.S. states were recognized for a 2020 Ames Tool Grant, selected from over 100 applications across the nation. The tools received by garden club winners will be used to beautify communities; introduce youngsters to horticulture; work with those with disabilities; increase accessibility to fresh food; and other projects that enhance well-being and the environment.

**Diane Dawson**  
*Chairman*  
NGC Sponsorship Committee  
[DianeDawson@dawsonsales.com](mailto:DianeDawson@dawsonsales.com)  
**Visit [gardenclub.org/projects/ames-garden-tools](http://gardenclub.org/projects/ames-garden-tools)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Missouri</b><br>Lake Bloomers Garden Club<br>The 25 Gardeners | <b>Ohio</b><br>Highland Heights Garden Club                |
| <b>New Jersey</b><br>Green Thumb Garden Club of Cranford         | <b>Oklahoma</b><br>Tulsa Garden Club                       |
| <b>New Mexico</b><br>Valley Gardeners Garden Club                | <b>Pennsylvania</b><br>Upper Perkiomenville Garden Club    |
| <b>New York</b><br>Ogdensburg Youth Garden Club                  | <b>Tennessee</b><br>Lookout Mountain Beautiful Garden Club |
| <b>North Carolina</b><br>Two Green Thumbs Garden Club            | <b>Virginia</b><br>Ayr Hill Garden Club                    |
|  | <b>Vermont</b><br>Garden Club of Manchester                |

# AMES

EST. 1774®



## TOOL GRANT PROGRAM

AMES proudly sponsors the National Garden Clubs' Tools Grant Program since 2014. AMES provides tools for grant winners to support local community gardening projects.

**"WELLNESS GARDEN"**  
In collaboration with the James C. Kennedy Wellness Center.  
The Charleston Magnolia Garden Club, Mississippi

**"RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE GARDENS"**  
The Burlington Garden Club, Vermont



**"GARDEN BEAUTY"**  
The Wedowee Garden Club, Alabama



**"POLLINATOR FRIENDLY GARDEN"**  
The Ramblers Garden Club Louisville, Kentucky



# community project grants

## GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

The PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants Program is sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc. for new or existing club projects in their respective communities. Projects may be a joint venture with another organization/s. The scope of these projects may include but are not limited to:

- Beautification and/or restoration
- Community gardens
- Youth gardening
- Habitat for Humanity landscaping
- Community Landscaping projects
- Implementation of environmental practices
- A horticulture or environmental educational event for the public

The Plant America Community Projects Grants program will continue for 2021. Clubs will find the necessary information and the 2021 Guidelines and Application Form on the NGC website at [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is **October 15, 2020**.

### David Robson

Chairman  
Plant America Community Project Grants  
[drobson@illinois.edu](mailto:drobson@illinois.edu)

### Grant Amount:

Up to \$1,000.00 is available to be used for direct expenses of projects.

### Who May Apply:

- Individual garden clubs that are members of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
- **NOTE:** Recipients of previous PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants are NOT eligible to apply.

### How to Apply:

- Application is limited to a **TOTAL of two (2) pages**.
  - ONE (1) PAGE - Application Form
  - ONE (1) PAGE - Budget
- Applications of more than two pages will NOT be considered. No photos or drawings!

For information on submission check the NGC website: [www.gardenclubs.org](http://www.gardenclubs.org)

### Application Deadline:

**October 15, 2020**

- Recipients of grants will be notified, and all money will be awarded by **January 31, 2021**.
- Projects must be completed by **February 28, 2022**; final report forms due by **April 1, 2022**.

### Judging Criteria:

In evaluating grant applications, judging is based on the following Scale of Points:

Benefits and visibility in community	40
Impact and scope of project	25
Involvement & participation by club members	15
Collaboration with other community groups	15
Application form complete	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

### Funding Guidelines:

Grants will not be provided for:

- Projects in which club does not participate in some aspect
- Purchase of Blue and Gold Star Markers

### Final Report:

- Competitive Flower Shows
- Scout projects
- Salaries or benefits of personnel
- Political action programs
- Capital drives and fund building
- Scholarships and endowments
- Private gardens
- Lawsuits and litigation
- Overhead costs

1. **Deadline:** within two months after the completion of the project or by April 1, 2022.

2. **Email the following:**

- A short two-to-three pages report describing the project including photos
- A copy of the final financial report including all income and expenses
- A copy of any publicity

**NOTE:** Please indicate if permission has been given for use of photos by NGC in print, website and social media. A release form for adults and minors can be found on the NGC website: <http://www.gardenclub.org/about-us/press-room/minor-image-release.aspx>.

# GROW YOUR PROJECT!

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offers items to help your garden club create awareness of your **PLANT AMERICA community gardening project!**

Plant America Button

Magnetic Closure: Pack of 10: \$15



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Call 1-800-550-6007  
E-mail: [headquarters@gardenclub.org](mailto:headquarters@gardenclub.org)



**PERFECT VISION 2020**  
**'seeing is believing'**  
**NGC PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

**A**s part of the NGC Perfect Vision 2020 Flower Show, the botanical arts section called for photography exhibits. The competition, "Seeing is Believing," drew 143 entries from National Garden Club members in 27 states across the U.S., as well as from affiliate members in Peru, Venezuela and Mexico.

The competition was created to stimulate an interest in gardens and gardening, showcase photographic abilities and how these correlate to NGC goals, objectives and initiatives. The competition comprised the following categories:

- Class 1A, "Nearsighted," Close-up and Macro
- Class 1B, "Nearsighted," Close-up and Macro
- Class 2, "Farsighted," Landscapes, Seascapes, Dreamscapes
- Class 3, "Asigmatic," Depicting Motion
- Class 4, 'Colorblind,' Monochrome Image

As in years past, this year's NGC photo competition was widely popular, and the photo submissions were very high in quality. As a result of these competitions,



we have identified a core audience of more than 500 NGC members who enjoy entering the annual NGC photo competition.

The judges for the competition this year included internationally renowned photography experts from the Photographic Society of America, Australia, Brazil; and the Garden Club of America. They offered constructive comments on the photos of each semi-finalist and noted some entries for special commendation.

Congratulations to each of the exhibitors, and thank you for sharing your extraordinary talents with the members and affiliates of National Garden Clubs Inc. ■

**Arabella Dane**  
 NGC Flower Show Committee  
 arabellasd@aol.com

**David Robson**  
 NGC Flower Show instructor  
 Chairman, NGC Plant America  
 Community Project Grants  
 drobson@illinois.edu

**Charlie Burke**  
 President 2015-2017,  
 Photographic  
 Society of America  
 Photography Competition  
 Coordinators

Visit [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)



**CLASS 1A**  
**'Nearsighted'**

**LEFT:** Second Place, "Elegance" by Rochelle Darby, Sulphur Garden Club, LA **RIGHT:** Third Place, "Perfection" by Nancy Ann Binger, Dix Hills Garden Club, NY

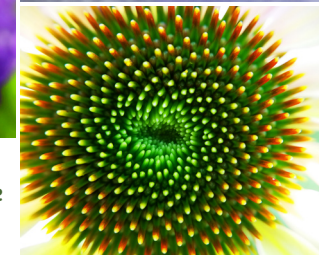
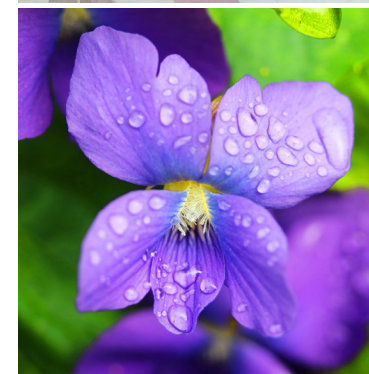


**TOP LEFT:** "Pastel Peony" by Kathleen Sybert, Hanover Garden Club, PA

**TOP RIGHT:** "He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not" by Linsey Duffy, Dell Rapids Area Garden Club, SD.



**BOTTOM LEFT:** Fourth Place, "Morning Violet after the Evening Rain" by Nancy Reid, Reading Garden Club, MA



**ABOVE:** "Hydrangea" by Loan Tran, Catonsville Garden Club, MD

**LEFT:** "Sunflower Swirl" by Linda Taft, Anniversary Garden Club, Greensboro, NC

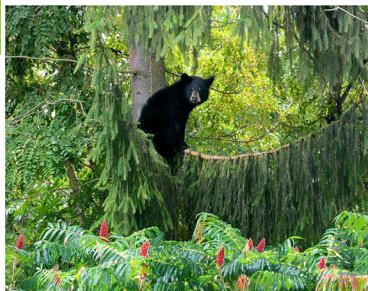
**NGC Botanical Arts Photography Award to the Highest-Scoring Blue Ribbon Winner**  
 First Place, "Within a Water Drop" by Dianne Roberts, Garden Club of Madison, CT

**CLASS 1B**  
**'Nearsighted'**

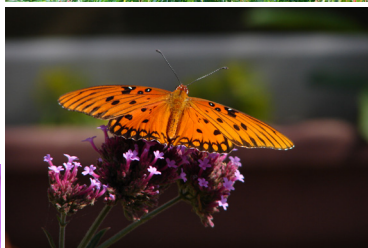
Runner-up to the Highest-Scoring Blue Ribbon Winner First Place, "Sunbathing Hawaiian Anole" by Deborah Wyght, Oakley Garden Club, Cincinnati, OH



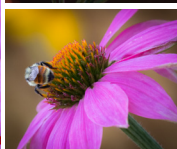
Third Place, "Hidden Future Butterfly" by Deana Dossey Schafer, Violet Crown and A&M Garden Club, Austin, TX



"Swinger" by Linda Herdering, Mountain Laurel Garden Club, Accident, MD

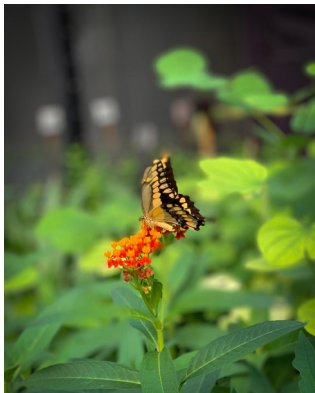


Second Place, "Sweet Nectar" by Debbie Shaver, Dayton Garden Club, TN



"Bumbling About" by Page Steed, Angel Fire Garden Club, MN

"Asclepias curassavica and Swallowtail Butterfly" by Carlota Maria Perez Fernandez, El Cenizo, Mexico



Fourth Place, "Large Flower Bee Foraging" by Larry Moyer, South Schuylkill Garden Club, Pottsville, PA



Commended for Best Composition "Butterfly and Orchid" by Sharon Bolingbroke, Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club, WI



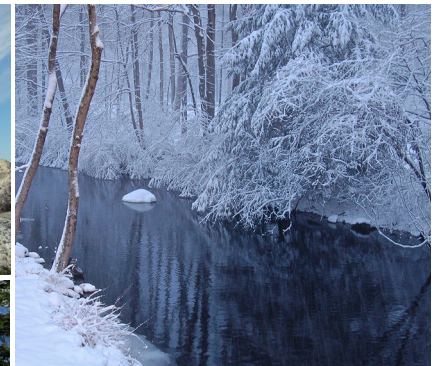
"Presby Iris Garden, Montclair, NJ" by Richard Pelikan, Rake and Hoe Garden Club, Westfield, NJ



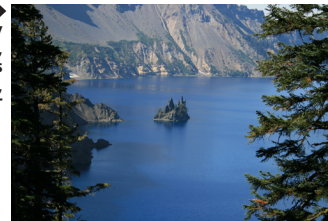
"Butterfly below Buttonbush" by Janeen Grohsmeyer, Franklin Garden Club, KY

**CLASS 2**  
**'Farsighted - Landscapes, Seascapes, Dreamscapes'**

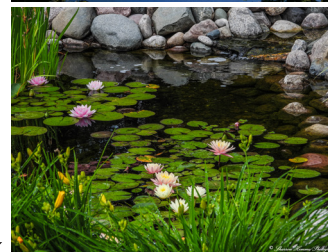
Second Place, "Peggy's Cove Light House" by Richard Pelikan, Rake and Hoe Garden Club, Westfield, NJ



"Crater Lake" by Susan Andrews, Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club, Bozeman, MT



"Hemme Gardens Lily Pond" by Sharron Hemme, Petoskey Area Garden Club Inc., MI



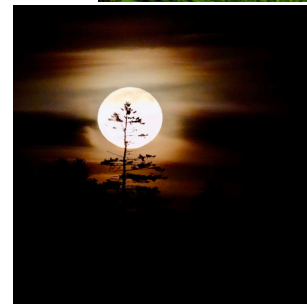
"Harvest Moon" by Anne Green, Greenwich Garden Club, CT and Mt. Desert Garden Club, ME



First Place, "Silvermine River" by Penelope Ross, Fairfield Garden Club, New Canaan, CT

Third Place, "The Sea" by Michelle Mensinger, Derry Garden Club, NH

"January Full Moon" by Christine Swanson, Mt. Airy Garden Club, MD



Commended for Most Creative/Artistic LEFT: "Framing a City" by Susanna Funk, Dix Hills Garden Club, Deer Park, NY MIDDLE: "Through the Looking Glass" by Grant Kniedler, Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club, WI RIGHT: Fourth Place, "Peace and Solitude" by Margot Partridge, Rake and Hoe Garden Club, Westfield, NJ

**CLASS 3**  
**'Astigmatic'**

First Place, "Hummingbird in Flight" by Loan Tran, Catonsville Garden Club, MD ▶



Third Place, "Hello, Buddy" by Grant Kniedler, Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club, WI

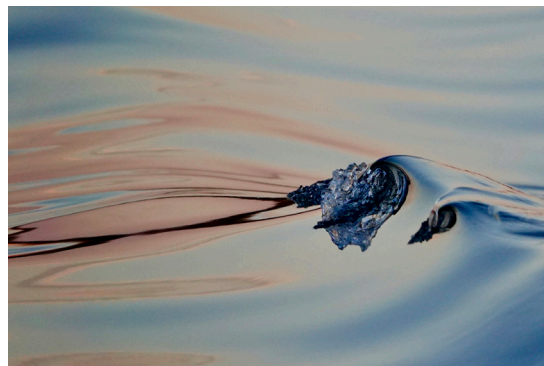
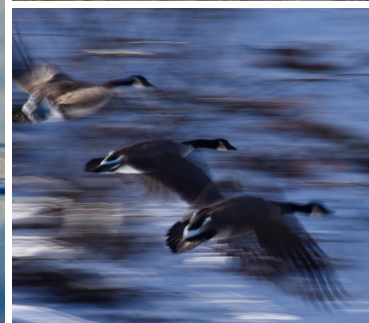


"Rushing Water" by Kathleen Marty, Boothbay Region Garden Clubs, Trevett, ME ▶

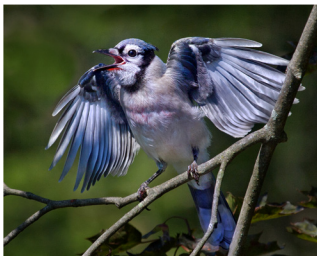
LEFT: "Waterfront Smokestacks" by Marie Mueller, Pleasant Hills Garden Club, Pittsburgh, PA



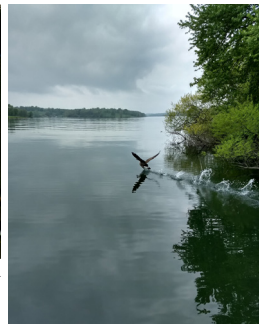
RIGHT: "Snowy Egret Fishing" by Deborah Wyght, Oakley Garden Club, Cincinnati, OH ▶



Commended for Most Distinctive "Cranberry Waters" by Anne Green, Greenwich Garden Club, CT and Mt. Desert Garden Club, ME



Fourth Place, "Squawking in the Morning" by Pien Nagy, Washington Valley Garden Club, Branchburg, NJ ▶



"Wild Geese Flying" by Mary Rogers, Berlin Heights Garden Club, Wakeman, OH

Second Place, "Taking Flight" by Kathleen Sybert, Hanover Garden Club, PA

**CLASS 4**  
**'Colorblind'**



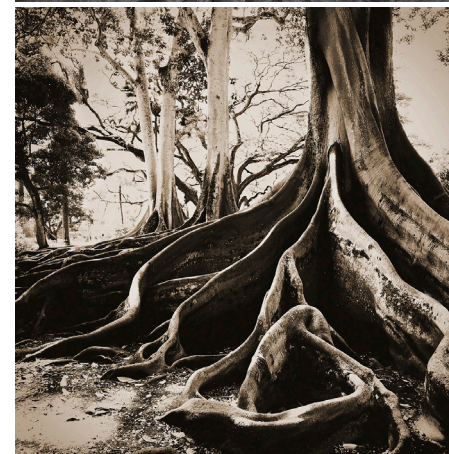
TOP LEFT: First Place, "Gerbera Daisy" by Dianne Roberts, Garden Club of Madison, CT ▶



TOP RIGHT: Second Place, "Curve Appeal" by Rochelle Darby, Sulphur Garden Club, LA ▶



Snow-covered Tree at Bradford Beach" by Ruby Kerr, Milwaukee Art Museum Garden Club, WI



MIDDLE LEFT: Fourth Place, "All Ears" by Lori Lucas, Community Garden Club of Hunterdon County, Whitehouse Station, NJ

Commended for Technical Achievement "Night Birch" by Barbara Spellmeyer, Rake and Hoe Garden Club, Plainfield, NJ

▲ The NGC President's Choice Award Third Place, "Allerton Garden, Kauai" by Penelope Ross, Fairfield Garden Club, New Canaan, CT

# 'show me state' garden club garners

## NGC 2020 PLANT AMERICA COMMUNITY PROJECT GRANT

*Rooted in community service, members of Clayton Garden Club further education, support at local organic farm school*

**A** National Garden Clubs Inc. 2020 Plant America Community Project Grant was awarded to Clayton Garden Club in Clayton, Missouri, for its support of the Seven Generations Garden at EarthDance Organic Farm School, which operates on the

site of the oldest-known organic farm west of the Mississippi River.

Clayton Garden Club, marking its 80th anniversary this year, was recognized for the award for its ongoing participation in educational programming and gardening activities

at EarthDance's Seven Generations Garden, which provides education and hands-on training for budding gardeners, beginning farmers, youth, and "agricurious" community members.

The nonprofit EarthDance Organic Farm School, situated



▲ Clayton Garden Club members at EarthDance Organic Farm School. Photo courtesy of Clayton Garden Club.



LEFT: EarthDance has two high tunnels to extend the growing season. BELOW: Seedlings are produced in a greenhouse on site. ▼



on 14 acres in the heart of Ferguson, Missouri in St. Louis County, teaches people of all ages where their food comes from, and how to grow it themselves. Through field trips, tours, volunteering, and a tuition-based Farm & Garden Apprenticeship program, the USDA-certified organic farm is committed to agricultural education.

### A Garden for Seven Generations

The small-scale Seven Generations Garden, which adjoins the commercial-scale organic farm, offers service learning and garden-based lessons to school groups, children in summer camps and homeschool students. The garden is a showcase for home-scale growing techniques and introduces young people to the science and wonder of natural systems, as well as

## About EarthDance A Permaculture Paradise in the Midwest

EarthDance Organic Farm School [earthdancefarms.org](http://earthdancefarms.org) is a teaching farm that shares the craft and science of organic farming, cultivates food leaders through hands-on education and provides a community model for sustainable food production. Founded in 2008 and situated on 14 acres, the farm operates on the site of the oldest-known organic farm west of the Mississippi River. Located in Ferguson, Missouri, the site has been a source of organic food production since 1883.

The mission of EarthDance is to grow abundant fresh produce through the sharing of hard work and instilling an appreciation of the land. Funding is provided through crop sales, apprenticeship tuition, private tours and classes, grants, fundraisers and individual and corporate donations.

- The farm site is designed with permaculture principles at its core. In 2019, EarthDance focused production on one acre under intensive no-till management.
- The ecosystem at the EarthDance farmscape attracts pollinators, beneficial insects and nesting songbirds, amidst fields of certified organic vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers.
- EarthDance grows vegetables year-round in two high tunnels that extend the growing season, as well as produces seedlings in a greenhouse.
- The organization's 250-tree mixed orchard features varieties of pears, apples, cherries, pawpaws and more, planted on water-harvesting berms and swales.
- While apprentices pay a tuition fee, they are "students" at the EarthDance Organic Farm School. In this role, they learn the valuable skills of organic agriculture from experienced farmers and gardeners through hands-on education in the fields. Apprentices are eligible to earn college credit through the University of Missouri-St. Louis. They also receive a share of the harvest each week.



▲ **TOP:** The farm and garden apprenticeship program provides hands-on education. **BOTTOM:** Matt Lebon is a former farm manager and now serves on the board of directors at EarthDance.

encourages healthy eating habits. Adults enrolled in the agricultural training program enjoy the opportunity to practice companion planting, forest gardening and seed saving.

The sustainable design of the model “kitchen garden,” is a nod to the ancient Iroquois concept of stewardship, which urges the current generation to “think seven generations ahead,” about how decisions made today will impact and benefit those in the future.

Funding provided by the NGC Plant America Community Project Grant will be used in the purchase of lumber to construct raised garden beds, with areas designating clearly marked paths for visitors and students, youth-sized gardening tools for garden-based lessons and the addition of educational signage for instruction and learning. In addition, members



▲ A large variety of produce is grown the organic farm school.

of Clayton Garden Club will provide ongoing support for the continuation of programming at the Seven Generations Garden, resulting in more local food being available for the next seven generations – and beyond.

### Growing Green – Gardening for Sustainability

Home gardening, agricultural education and access to fresh produce are as vital today as they were centuries ago. More recently, access to food has been hampered by COVID-19. EarthDance uses the land, farm school and other resources to provide fresh food to area families and donates produce to other nonprofit organizations that feed the vulnerable. On many Saturday mornings, EarthDance offers a pay-in-advance, “pay what you can,” drive-through farm stand to support families with limited access to fresh food.

### About Clayton Garden Club

Clayton Garden Club in Clayton, Missouri, is one of the oldest continuous garden clubs in the nation.

It promotes civic improvement, with members actively maintaining sensory gardens at a local city park and an early childhood center. Each year, club members plant native perennials to attract pollinators at public gardens on the grounds of the National Museum of Transportation in St. Louis County.

In addition, Clayton Garden Club recognizes businesses and organizations in the city that demonstrate the art of beautiful landscaping. The City of Clayton is an economic hub for government, serving as the

Hard at work in the EarthDance gardens are Ayla Hull, grants writing specialist (left), Gerald Neuhoff, 2019 apprentice (center) and Rae Liening, farm manager.



▲ Rae Liening, EarthDance farm manager (left) and Tiana Glass, youth educator.



▲ Rae Liening (left) and Jena Hood, assistant farm manager.

county seat of St. Louis County. Its downtown business district features fine restaurants, cafes with outdoor seating, art galleries and boutiques. The city annually hosts major cultural events such as the St. Louis Art Fair and Taste of Clayton food festival.

Clayton Garden Club is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri Inc. ■

**Diane Denney Rogers**  
Vice President  
Clayton Garden Club  
ddr931@aol.com

## What's Growing?

Dozens of varieties of fruits & vegetables are grown and harvested at EarthDance Organic Farm School, including red kitten spinach, Korean giant Asian pears and Cherokee purple tomatoes. To view a list of the extensive array of produce grown at the farm, visit [earthdancefarms.org/food/what-we-grow](http://earthdancefarms.org/food/what-we-grow).

The farm encourages area residents to schedule a visit to see what's available in season. Produce also is sold at two of the area's large, outdoor farmers markets, as well as to local chefs and grocers that promote locally sourced food.

The Ferguson-Florissant School District, a public school district that serves 11 municipalities in the Greater St. Louis area, regularly purchases vegetables from EarthDance to use in fresh produce “taste-tests,” at its elementary schools and for use in summer food preservation programs.

In addition, EarthDance donates produce to Operation Food Search Inc., a nonprofit that feeds 200,000 people each month and distributes food and necessities to 330 community partners in 31 Missouri and Illinois counties and the City of St. Louis, as well as to other area community organizations that help meet food insecurities.



All photos courtesy of EarthDance Organic Farm School.



Visit [earthdancefarms.org](http://earthdancefarms.org) for membership and additional information.

# environmental, gardening and landscape design

## SCHOOLS

In accordance with local, regional and national efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, National Garden Clubs Inc., temporarily postponed or canceled courses for NGC Environmental Schools, Gardening Schools, Landscape Design Schools and/or Refreshers. NGC's ES, GS and LDS chairmen offer the following updates and look forward to resuming activities when emergency restrictions to protect public health are curtailed.

### Extensions for Students and Consultants

Students who planned to attend an ES, GS or LD School to complete their fourth course to comply with the seven-year time restriction, or consultants (with a good standing date of December 31, 2020), who planned to attend an ES, GS

or LD School or Refresher to comply with the seven-year time restriction may apply for an extension with their state school chairman. Please use Extension Form 9-2019, which is available on the NGC website at [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org), Schools, Forms/zip download.

- The appropriate state school's chairman will sign and forward to the appropriate NGC accrediting chairman, and/or to the NGC ES, GS, or LD School chairman, who can then approve the one-year extension request.
- The NGC School chairman will notify the appropriate state school chairmen and Rebecka Flowers, NGC schools secretary.
- The state school chairman will notify the student or consultant of the

granted extension and maintain a record of the extension. For more information, please see page 17 in the NGC "Schools Handbook."

- Students and consultants unsure of their good standing date in a given NGC school should contact the appropriate state school chairman.

It is disappointing that many of the courses and/or refreshers for NGC's Environmental Schools, Gardening Schools and Landscape Design Schools have been postponed or canceled. We hope to reschedule these important events in the near future.

- As a "Plan B," California Garden Clubs Inc. has successfully held two virtual gardening courses. It should be noted that virtual ES, GS and LDS courses/refreshers are considered to be an optional Plan B. They DO NOT replace courses held in classroom settings.
- Guidelines for virtual courses to meet accreditation standards will be available soon.
- There is a virtual Tri-Refresher scheduled for June 4 and 5, 2020, sponsored by Michigan Garden

Clubs Inc. For more information and to register, visit the Michigan Garden Clubs website at [michigangardenclubs.org](http://michigangardenclubs.org)

- Please check the NGC website for corrections to the NGC "Schools Handbook" and forms.

In addition, it is recommended students and consultants review the pertinent information in the "Guide for Students and Consultants," on the NGC website, Schools page. ■

### Judy Newman

*Chairman, Environmental Schools  
Chairman, Schools Policy Committee  
Newman9641@aol.com*

### Barbara Hadsell

*Chairman, Gardening Schools  
BarbaraHadsell@cs.com*

### Greg Pokorski

*Chairman  
Landscape Design Schools  
GregPokorski@earthlink.net*



Please visit NGC Schools  
Course Calendars at  
[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

# flower show

## SCHOOLS

As many NGC FS Schools, Flower Shows, Symposiums and the April FSS Handbook Exam have been canceled due to COVID-19, the following policies have been implemented:

- Any FSS series that is currently in progress may reduce the number of months required between courses from four to three months until December 31, 2021.
- FSS students, Student Judges and all Accredited Judges who have been unable to further their education or accrue the required

Exhibiting and Judging Credits listed in the Handbook for Flower Shows (HB), Chapter 12, are granted an extension of one year to all FSS students and Judges whose timeframe or Good Standing date ends December 31, 2020.

The FSS Committee encourages all clubs to reschedule flower shows as soon as possible to stimulate the enjoyment of sharing our love of horticulture, design, education and creativity. Please check the NGC and state websites often for cancellations and rescheduled events.

The following updates include changes or clarifications in the "Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017" (HB).

Chapter 12 Clarification  
IV. B. 1. Judging Requirements HB page 115

The Student Judge must judge five (5) NGC Flower Shows (Small Standard, Standard or Specialty Show) with a minimum of 6 classes including at least one class in horticulture, one class in design and four classes in any of the five (5) divisions, except Photography. Effective July 1, 2020



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#### Chapter 1

III. D. 2. B. ii. Subdividing HB page 3  
There must be three (3) or more exhibits, botanically identical (variety, cultivar, series or trade-marked names), or similar in form, color, size or description to justify forming a subclass with the exception of petite horticulture specimen(s) that are never in competition with standard-sized specimens but are subdivided into their own class or subclass.  
(Additional reference HB page 61)

#### Chapter 12

III. Becoming a Student Judge HB pages 113 and 114

- Successful completion of three (3) Flower Show School courses. NGC recommends that a course series be taken in sequential order, but this is not required.
- Pass all Written Flower Show Procedure, Horticulture and Design exams and Written Point Score

exams with a minimum score of 70 for any three (3) courses.

C. Note: After successful completion of any two (2) courses the student is eligible to count exhibiting credits ...

IV. Becoming an Accredited Judge HB page 114-115

A. 2. Classroom Requirements ... minimum score of 70.

D.4. Schedule Writing ... minimum score of 70

E. 1. Handbook Examination... minimum score of 70

V. Becoming an Accredited Life Judge HB page 116-119

D. ... minimum score of 70  
Accredited Judge to Life Judge Requirements (Table on HB page 119)

3. ... minimum score of 70

VI. Becoming an Accredited Master Judge HB page 119-120

Accredited Life Judge to Accredited Master Judge Requirements (Table on HB page 119)

3. ... minimum score 70

For clarification, all references to passing exams listed in the "Handbook for Flower Shows, 2017," must state a minimum score of 70.

V. A. Judging Requirements for each Refresher HB pages 116-120  
ADD: 3. d. Serving on the evaluating panel of an NGC Flower Show.  
For clarification, this now includes all Accredited, Accredited Life and Accredited Master Judges. ■

#### Jan Warshauer

*Chairman, Flower Show Schools*  
jwarshauer@aol.com



Please visit NGC Schools  
Course Calendars at  
**www.gardenclub.org**

## NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS INC. 2020 scholarship recipients

National Garden Clubs Inc. is proud of its college scholarship program, which offers financial aid to students majoring in the fields of study related to horticulture and the environment.

NGC granted a total of 43 scholarships of \$4,000 each to the following students who are planning careers related to gardening, landscape design, environmental issues, floral design or horticulture. Congratulations to our winners and best wishes for your future education!

#### Lisa Robinson

*2019-2021 Chairman, NGC Scholarships*  
gardenlisava@gmail.com

For additional information, visit [gardenclub.org/scholarships](http://gardenclub.org/scholarships)

State	Applicant Name	Named Scholarship
Arizona	Paige Anthony	Barbara Barnette
Arkansas	Thomas McKeown	Mary B. Kittel
California	Borah Lim	Ellamae Fehrer
California	Natalie Rachel Fulton	Mary Louise Michie
Colorado	Alexandra Leigh VanTill	Helen S. Hull
Connecticut	Anastasia N Salisbury	Helen Hussey Champlin
Florida	Blaire Mallory Kleiman	Jessie M Conner
Georgia	Alana Scott Edwards	Deen Day Sanders
Georgia	Zia Valerie Williamson	Ellen Griffin
Idaho	Katherine Grace Woodhouse	Hubert Bond Owens
Illinois	Nora Grace Hardy	Violet Herich Dawson
Indiana	Tanner Jordan Prewitt	Thekla Neuner
Iowa	Caryn Lyn Dawson	Katherine Henby Hedley
Kansas	Karen Schneck	Junne Johnsrud
Kentucky	Rebecca Caldbeck	Sandra H. Robinson
Louisiana	Abbie Judice	Phyllis J. Wood
Maine	Jordan Thomas Daigle	Robert H Rucker
Maryland	Mia Quinto	Shirley Nicolai
Massachusetts	Emma Katherine Burke	Barbara D. May
Massachusetts	Angela B Luckey	Jean T. Ladson
Michigan	Haley Suzane Kuhnle	Osa Mae Barton
Minnesota	Brett Stolpestad	Kitty Larkin
Mississippi	Dane Christensen	Geraldine Dean
Missouri	Danielle Evilsizor	Lucile Mauntel
Montana	Chris Prange	Evelyn Mooney
Nevada	Cameron Nicole Yetta	Renee D Blaschke
New Jersey	Daniel Ilkow	May Duff Walters
New Mexico	Jonathan R Lewis	June P Wood
New York	Sarah Kirkpatrick	Eleanor R Crosby
North Carolina	Brian Schulker	Eleanor L Yates
North Dakota	Grace Dragseth	Miriam Anderson Steel
Ohio	Andrew Yates	Winifred Fink
Oklahoma	Phoebe Witten Austerman	Lorena Martin Spillers
Oregon	Kimberly May Ortiz	Linda G. Nelson Bentson
Pennsylvania	Kimberly Ferrara	Lois Dupre Shuster
Rhode Island	Sydney Pezza-Luther	Tempie Dahlgren
South Dakota	Mary Jo Nold	Cornelia H Kellogg
Tennessee	Anna Katherine Armour	Cordelia Brumby/Hazel Dillingham
Utah	Kali Jo Clarke	Jane Layman
Vermont	Jennifer Mallinson Mull	Hazel L. Knapp
Virginia	Amber Edwards	Nancy L. Hargroves
Washington	Stephanie Roh	Violet Gose
West Virginia	Russell Husted Ward IV	Martha Smith

# THE *Happy* GARDENER'S *Guide*

## **SHE'S BEAUTIFUL; BEWARE!**

One of my earliest floral memories is that of a clump of beautiful purple irises in my grandmother's yard. As a six-year-old, little did I know that farther down the road my own garden as an adult would become a rainbow of irises. There are so many color combinations to

choose from, that one can hardly resist collecting more than a few. And, in my case, living not too far from a huge iris farm, the temptation to add a few more never goes away.

My first visit to this nearby iris farm happened in early June, when the place was ablaze with dazzling color. What a sight – acres of gorgeous irises in every color (except red). I was smitten, and picked out a dozen or so of my

favorites. Every year for the next 10 years, I returned to the farm and came away with new treasures.

Eventually, I discovered that irises have but one fault: they multiply. They soon become like the proverbial litter of kittens, for which you need to find new

homes. After a while, your friends begin to refuse any more iris "kittens." So, you begin to think about other ways to part with your iris collection. Options may include the farmer's market in the heat of July, or a local store or church may allow a box of giveaways

to be set in a designated space. Although it isn't a deadly sin to toss the irises on a rubbish heap, my gardener's conscience is reluctant to take that route.



Where does my penchant for irises come from? Looking back, I was heavily influenced by noted garden writer Henry Mitchell, in his praise for irises in "One Man's Garden." He planted at least 500 varieties of irises at his suburban home. While this is an amazing feat, he also made it a point to step away from his professional duties for two weeks each year when the irises were in bloom to enjoy strolling through the beds, soaking up the beauty.

Alas, I pretty much do the same! When my irises are in bloom, I saunter among them every day and burn their beauty onto my retina. I breathe in the sweet aromas of some varieties of irises – some offer a distinct grape fragrance, like a popular flavored drink mix, while others evoke a citrus blend. At least one variety –

notably graceful in cream with burgundy frills – should carry a warning, as it bears a repugnant scent when brought indoors and arranged in a vase. This was brought to my attention by my husband as he entered the kitchen one summer morning and stated "have our cats had

an accident in here?" As we sniffed about, the culprit turned out to be the strikingly beautiful bouquet of irises on the kitchen table!

Irises, I must warn, are beautiful, affordable, collectible, growable charmers that will

capture your heart, and provide many adorable "kittens" in the years to come!

**Charlotte A. Swanson**  
Consultant, Gardening Schools  
swanson@daltontel.net

**“He planted at least 500 varieties of irises ...”**

## Cultivate our Garden Community

### WITH GARDENING TIPS, IDEAS AND PROJECTS

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

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



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

#### PLEASE SEND:

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

#### SEND TO:

**Patricia Binder, editor**  
The National Gardener  
patricia.b.binder@gmail.com

# cultivating success

## INDIANA GARDEN CLUB TAPS INTO CREATIVITY, RESOURCES IN RESPONSE TO NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

National Garden Clubs Inc. members across the nation are discovering new ways to navigate and conduct ongoing club business and fundraising events due to COVID-19.

Members of Hobart Garden Club in Hobart, Indiana, located southeast of Chicago, Illinois, held a curbside two-day plant sale in April. In keeping with proper social-distancing guidelines, gardening enthusiasts in more than 1,100 vehicles visited the large, open-air event to purchase plants on display. In addition, the club made it possible for people to order a variety of other plants for sale through an online photo gallery. Orders were available for pickup at the outdoor parking lot of the nearby Chamber of Commerce, and garden club members – fortified with protective gloves and masks – loaded the plants into waiting vehicles. The plant sale also included a guest appearance by the Easter Bunny, and families were excited to have the opportunity to capture a photo of their children standing at a safe distance from the iconic holiday visitor.

Proceeds from the plant sale were allocated toward the club's scholarship program, as well as for the planting of native trees in the state through NGC's partnership with Penny Pines, a program in conjunction with the U.S. Department

of Agriculture. In the spirit of giving, the garden club also collected donations for the American Red Cross disaster education program at the event.

In another project, and in conjunction with its



**AMES**  
EST. 1774

▲ In 2018, Hobart Garden Club was the recipient of an Ames Companies Tool Grant, in which the garden club received a new wheelbarrow, rake, hoe and shovel, and used the tools in five local projects. In addition, Hobart Garden Club members shared the items with other area garden clubs, which used the tools in 30 additional community projects. The projects allow people an opportunity to grow fresh flowers and produce – activities that are particularly critical as communities navigate local, regional and national restrictions during COVID-19. Visit [ames.com](https://www.ames.com) or [gardenclub.org/projects/ames-garden-tools](https://gardenclub.org/projects/ames-garden-tools)



▲ Hobart Garden Club held a curbside two-day plant sale to raise funds for club scholarships and the planting of native trees in the state.

ongoing work at the award-winning rooftop garden therapy program at a local military veteran's center, Hobart Garden Club members made individual vegetable container gardens for the veterans. Veterans were able to pick up and take the container gardens home, nurture the plants, and use the vegetables in nutritious meals.

During the new coronavirus pandemic, people are learning to adapt to the guidelines and constraints placed upon them. Members of Hobart Garden Club offer the following ideas for garden clubs:

- Hold a free web video conferencing meeting. Popular apps include Zoom, GoToMeeting, Pexip, TeamViewer, Cisco Webex, Skype, FaceTime, or schedule a group teleconference call.
- Social media is a critical tool to keep in touch with members. Encourage members to post gardening ideas, a garden joke of the day, or share photos of their gardens or latest projects, on your club's Facebook page.
- Offer to read "The Saved Seed"

or "The Frightened Frog," NGC children's books, on a local library's scheduled virtual story-time hour.

- Hold a "garden of the month" contest, with club members, maintaining social distancing, may walk or drive through neighborhoods to name awards for best front yard landscaping, best commercial or business landscaping, etc. Or, in a similar vein, start a contest via social media for area homeowners or businesses that demonstrate through flowers and plantings support for medical professionals, first responders and essential employees. Consult the NGC Flower Show Handbook for criteria on judging gardens or create your own categories on a score sheet. Share winners on social media.
- Consider participating in a fun NGC virtual flower show. NGC held its first virtual "Perfect Visions Flower Show," in June. Winning entries will be posted on NGC social media in July. For details, visit the NGC website at [gardenclub.org](https://gardenclub.org).
- Consider working with NGC

**“Veterans were able to pick up and take the container gardens home ...”**

to attend classes online. Visit [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org) to download gardening studies, horticulture lessons and lesson plans on basic floral design.

- Partner with leadership at local schools to explore ideas on how to promote your club's youth projects and contests virtually.

Thank you to all NGC members who

volunteer tirelessly to teach the next generations the love of gardening. Take care, and remember, "gardeners always know the best dirt." ■

**James Pavelka**  
Hobart Garden Club  
[jamespavelka@comcast.net](mailto:jamespavelka@comcast.net)

 Photos courtesy Hobart Garden Club



**Editor's note:** As profiled in the fall 2017 issue of "The National Gardener," Hobart Garden Club was the first garden club in the nation to be awarded an NGC Plant America Project Grant from the Espoma Company for its rooftop garden therapy project for military veterans. Espoma is a leader in providing natural and organic products for the lawn and garden industry. Visit [www.espoma.com](http://www.espoma.com) or [gardenclub.org/projects/espoma](http://gardenclub.org/projects/espoma)



## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB BOLSTERS LOCAL TREE-PLANTING EFFORTS WITH PLANT AMERICA WITH TREES:

# each one, plant one

**F**or more than 45 years, TreePeople has been changing urban environments through the simple act of planting trees. The nonprofit environmental organization works in city parks, schools, streets, urban forests and the Santa Monica Mountains of the

Greater Los Angeles area to promote and facilitate the planting of trees. In addition, the organization selects trees that likely will thrive in each planting site, as well as provides care for the trees for five years to ensure good growth and survival.

In conjunction with TreePeople's mission and NGC's Plant America with Trees: Each One Plant One initiative, Southern

◀ TreePeople's staff members, volunteers and members of the community participate in a community tree planting ceremony. TreePeople is an environmental nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire, engage and support people to take personal responsibility for the urban environment, making it safe, healthy, fun and sustainable and to share our process as a model for the world. Photo by Adam Corey Thomas.



California Garden Club made a donation in recognition of its 134 members to the tree dedication program of TreePeople. As a gesture of appreciation, TreePeople volunteers plan to plant a grove of 134 trees to honor Southern California Garden Club members.

Located at the 45-acre Coldwater Canyon Park in the heart of Los Angeles, TreePeople offers a wide range of environmental education programs to empower communities and policymakers to implement initiatives on healthy soil, clean water, the adoption of sustainable solutions and in the protection and support of the planting of trees.

Throughout the years, our garden club has helped to plant trees to offset the loss caused by natural disasters and intentional deforestation. These actions contribute to NGC's commitment to preserve natural areas in our communities and world. We challenge all NGC clubs to participate in Plant America with Trees: Each One Plant One.

What a difference we can make if we all participate!

**Greg Pokorski**  
President  
Southern California Garden Club  
[gregpokorski@earthlink.net](mailto:gregpokorski@earthlink.net)

Visit [treepeople.org](http://treepeople.org)

 Photo courtesy of TreePeople

## Grow our world and green our communities

### Will YOU plant a tree this year?

The Plant America with Trees: Each ONE Plant ONE initiative encourages members of garden clubs across the nation to collaborate with members and organizations in their communities to foster and facilitate the planting of at least one native tree, as well as coordinate a plan for the tree's ongoing care and maintenance.

With 50 state clubs, a National Capital area club, 5,000 member garden clubs, 330 international affiliated organizations around the globe and nearly 165,000 members, NGC is the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world.

If each ONE of our members plants just ONE tree, this translates to 165,000 trees planted each year!



**T**he new OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA of the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis is the first full-service public personal fitness facility of its kind in the nation to offer specialized programming and services tailored to U.S. military service members, veterans and their families. Services at the new OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA include a VA medical clinic on site that offers traditional clinical healthcare to more than 120,000 veterans locally as part of a full menu of YMCA programs.

The two story, 56,000-square-foot facility, located on the northwest side of Indianapolis, Indiana, in Pike Township, opened to the public in December, 2018.

Funding for the construction of the \$10 million facility was in part provided by the OrthoIndy Foundation, which was established in 2012 to improve mobility and function for residents of Central

**“...improve mobility and function for residents...”**

Indiana – with a particular emphasis on veterans and senior citizens to increase self-sufficiency, promote wellness and improve quality of life, especially for those impacted by orthopedic issues. The facility features an indoor pool, track, gymnasium, demonstration kitchen,

playing fields and other amenities.

**A garden project for pollinators takes wing**

In 2017, at the beginning of

construction on the new YMCA facility, members of Sages Garden Club in Indianapolis approached the organization with the idea of installing a pollinator garden near the front entrance to welcome YMCA members, visitors and veterans. In addition to benefiting the environment, the garden’s strategic location is located along the path to the Salute Sculpture, a towering memorial and place of peace and beauty for veterans and their families. Funding for the pollinator garden was received in the form of two grants – a 2017-2019 Pollinator Garden grant from The Garden Club of Indiana Inc. totaling \$250 and a \$1,000 2019 NGC Plant America Community Project Grant. The club also held several fundraisers to assist with any additional, unforeseen expenses. The scope of the project entailed:

- A 30-by-30-foot space initially filled with heavy, clay soil. After soil testing, a total of 8 cubic yards of compost was recommended to amend the soil before members could begin to plant.
- The space was tilled, which included the removal of large rocks by the YMCA staff. Several wheelbarrows of compost were added by garden club members and the facility’s staff.
- In mid-May, 11 garden club

members planted nearly 90 native, perennial plants in a one-hour period. Club members also added mulch and established a weekly watering schedule to maintain and care for the garden over the next five months, a span that included Indiana’s typical 90-degree days of summer.

- A garden dedication took place in September. Attendees included garden club members, YMCA board members and staff, local dignitaries,



▲ Members of Sages Garden Club in Indianapolis, Indiana, installed a pollinator garden at the new OrthoIndy Foundation YMCA. The garden club was awarded a 2018-2019 NGC Plant America Grant and a pollinator garden grant from The Garden Club of Indiana for the project.

## The National Gardener Schedule

### FALL

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

### WINTER

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

### SPRING

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

### SUMMER

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



▲ Native perennial plants were selected to entice pollinators.

area gardeners and media. Club information and educational materials about native plant and pollinator gardening were available at the event.

- In November, to complete work on the garden for the calendar year, garden club members planted over 150 spring-flowering bulbs, including daffodils and tulips, and performed a garden cleanup to prepare it for winter.
- The garden will serve as an ongoing community project for Sages Garden Club members, with additional plants and bulbs to be added in 2020.

The mission of Sages Garden Club, a member of The Garden Club of Indiana Inc., is to promote an interest in gardening and design, promote landscape improvements in the home and community and provide therapy through gardening. The project is an example of how an idea can become a reality. This vision brought beauty to the landscape and created a welcoming, peaceful space to greet visitors and veterans to the new Ortholndy Foundation YMCA. Other benefits are immeasurable – the garden enhances the

▲ A pollinator garden is primed for planting by members of Sages Garden Club. ▶



property, promotes community pride, helps to improve the environment and provides a food source and habitat for many pollinators.

**Cindy Martin**  
President  
Sages Garden Club  
Cmartin233@comcast.net

 **Photos by Cindy Martin**

Visit [indymca.org/orthoIndy-foundation](http://indymca.org/orthoIndy-foundation)

# Landscape DESIGN

## THE VIRAL VEGETABLE VICTORY GARDEN

BY: JOHN GARAVENTA

*“The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”*

THOMAS PAINE

I decided to deviate from my usual article on plants and write something which I hope is both timely and inspirational for the subscribers to our local publications. As in war, we are in the midst of a major battle for our survival. Victory Gardens were born out of the fear and uncertainty of World War I and continued during World War II. Our Republic encouraged citizens to become more self-sufficient for their produce.

The gardens provided our soldiers of the soil with a reliably good source of healthy food. They also contributed to a unified national optimism that withstood and defeated the perils of fascist totalitarianism and maintained our American way of life. As I write this article, we are being told by health professionals to limit our grocery shopping trips and practice social

distancing, a new terminology for most Americans. What better way to ensure a secure, uninterrupted supply of plant foods than having a Victory Vegetable Garden? You will enjoy a continuous supply of fresh vegetables; if you have an excess, why not preserve them or share them with family and friends.

There is no magic to having a vegetable garden. You will only need a supply of either seeds or a rooted plant, the choice is yours; however, planting with seeds is less expensive. If you don't already have a reservoir of seed packets or seedlings, make a quick visit to see Peter and Tonya at the The Rock Garden in Proberta. The seed varieties are practically limitless. What follows are some suggestions for you.

Beans are an excellent source of vitamins and protein. Bush varieties will lessen your workload since there would be no need for poles to train the beans onto. Some types that might be of some interest are Kentucky Wonder Bush, Romano Bush, Cherokee Wax Bush, Kentucky Blue Pole and Blue Lake Pole.

Tomatoes are everyone's favorite.

# YOUR VICTORY GARDEN *counts more than ever!*

Victory garden poster, World War II, 1945,

Artist: Morley; Publication: Washington, D.C. Agriculture Department. War Food Administration.

Printer: U.S. Government Printing Office. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.



entrees, they are colorful, high in Vitamin C and make a great garden border. They can be sweet or hot. Some pepper considerations are California Bell, Jalapeño, Sweet Banana, Pepperoncini and Habanero.

Onions, garlic, lettuce and Swiss chard can easily be added to your vegetable roster. Potatoes can also be grown but you need cuttings. If you have some “mature” potatoes in your pantry, use them for planting. Just cut them into pieces with at least one “eye” in each cutting. Plant them in friable, well-draining soil.

Squash is a fantastic vegetable but you must have the space to accommodate its long tentacles. Here are a few squash varieties: Zucchini, Yellow, Acorn, Butternut, Pink Banana and Spaghetti.

Herbs are a good addition to your Victory Garden. Sweet basil, sage, thyme, rosemary and mint are a few varieties. They will add flavor to your culinary cuisine. Basil is



I harken back to a different lifetime when, as a teenager, I grew and sold tomatoes, and other vegetables to help fund my education. I had over 300 tomato plants that generated fruit throughout the summer and well into the fall. In the latter part of the season, I picked them green, wrapped them in newspaper and stored them in a cool area where they could later ripen. Tomatoes can be grown with or without cages and either in-ground or

in containers. The quick and easy way is to plant right in Mother Earth without poles or baskets. Of course, cages and poles will make your plants more stable, prolific and overall better looking. Some popular varieties are: Celebrity, Beef Steak, Cherokee Purple, Better Boy, Early Girl, Yellow Pear Cherry Tomato, Cherries Jubilee Cherry Tomato and Honeybunch Cherry Tomato.

Peppers are not only good complements to salsa, salads and

## Are you looking to establish a vegetable/ Victory Garden, or renew an existing garden?

*NGC Landscape Design Schools (LDS) to the rescue!*

Many topics in the LDS curriculum have relevance for your project. For example:

- Course 1 topics include Space, Design and People; Principles and Elements of Landscape Design; Developing Your Garden Plan; and Design for the Environment.
- Course 2 topics add Designing for Pollinators (wouldn't you enjoy their help in growing food?); Plants in the Landscape; and Redesign of Areas.
- Course 3 offers Landscape Design with Maintenance in Mind; Suburban Design (including Alternatives to Lawn and a focus on gardening responsibility); and Creating Your Own Home Garden Landscaping Plan.

**“A kitchen garden may be said to be the most useful and consequential part of gardening.”**

**THOMAS MAWE AND JOHN ABERCROMBIE**

*18<sup>th</sup> century horticulturists “The Universal Gardener and Botanist: Or, A General Dictionary of Gardening.”*

Your kitchen garden or vegetable garden can be beautiful, as well as practical. Some insights include:

- Borrow design strategies from ornamental gardening.
- Mix colorful, attractive plants with edibles to create an overall eye-catching effect, which has roots in the design of French potager gardens (Development of Landscape Design – another LDS topic).
- Consider the importance of the vegetable garden at Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello, dating back two centuries. The kitchen garden at George Washington’s Mount Vernon is even older. The garden has been cultivated continuously for the

production of vegetables since 1760. Vegetable gardening has relevance in each of NGC’s Schools. Environmental Schools focus on sustainability and gardening in conjunction with nature; Gardening Schools provide information on basics like botany and soil and specifics on growing vegetables; Flower Show Schools show how to incorporate vegetables in floral design, such as adding varieties of peppers for color, or artichokes as architectural elements.

This extraordinary time presents opportunities. As we are being asked to stay safe at home due to COVID-19, we have the opportunity to use this time to develop or redesign a vegetable garden that serves as an integral and useful

component in a personal landscape design. In addition, an added benefit is the enjoyment of an edible bounty, and fewer trips standing in line to get into the local grocery store.

Many NGC Schools courses have been postponed due to the coronavirus restrictions. As these courses are rescheduled, perhaps they will foster ideas in which to look at vegetable gardens in a new way – particularly in landscaping.

**Greg Pokorski**  
*Chairman  
Landscape Design Schools  
GregPokorski@earthlink.net*



▲ John Garaventa. Photo by Dante Garaventa.

the key ingredient for pesto. All of us are probably eating more pasta than ever. Mangial!

Seed trays can be used to germinate the seeds. If you have some potting soil around, sprinkle some into the small individual containers. Make sure to follow the instructions for sowing each type of vegetable. Place the trays in an elevated, well sunlit area, and away from curious pets. It is important to water the seeds daily in order to have a good germination rate. Make the germination process a family activity, especially with your children and grandchildren. Make a game out of when the first plant will sprout. Guess when you will see the first tomatoes or peppers. It's a great lesson of life's wonders and its cyclical nature. After the plants reach viability, they can be thinned out and transplanted directly into the ground or containers. Adding a small measure of potting soil to your native soil can improve growth and productivity. If you can, apply

mulch around your vegetables. This will reduce weeds, preserve moisture and supply nutrients for your plants. Some sage advice, if weeds do crop up, it is easier to remove them while your plants are young. Then sit back, relax, water regularly, occasionally cultivate, let Mother Nature take over, and await the fruits of your labor.

While your garden can provide you with visual and fragrant enjoyment, it can also give you sustenance and help alleviate stress and anxiety during these trying times. ■

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**John Garaventa** is an avid, self-taught gardener and active member of the Red Bluff Garden Club in Red Bluff, California. The Red Bluff Garden Club is a member of Cascade District Garden Clubs, California Garden Clubs, Pacific Region Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs, Inc. [californiagardenclubs.com/Cascade](http://californiagardenclubs.com/Cascade)

He is a contributing writer of "Every Blooming Thing," an ongoing column on gardening in "The Appeal-Democrat/Corning Observer." In addition, Garaventa and other members of the Red Bluff Garden Club contribute a weekly gardening column in the "Red Bluff Daily News."

Garaventa holds a Juris Doctor from John F. Kennedy University-School of Law in Pleasant Hill, California, and a bachelor's degree from California State University in San Francisco. Dedicating his professional life to the legal field, he served as Superior Court Judge from 1998 to 2016 in Tehama County, California; a Presiding Judge of the Tehama County Superior Court, from 2013 to 2015; a Municipal Court Judge in Tehama County, California, in 1998; Deputy County Counsel for Tehama County, California, from 1992 to 1998; and practiced law at the Law Offices of John J. Garaventa, Civil Litigation, Concord, California, from 1978 to 1992. In 2016, Garaventa retired after serving nearly 19 years on the bench. He and wife Kathryn have been married for 40 years and reside in Red Bluff. They have four sons.



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