

A monarch butterfly with its characteristic orange and black wings is perched on a stem of purple aster flowers. The butterfly is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing their intricate, spiky structure. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a garden setting.

THE NATIONAL GARDENER

Summer 2021
gardenclub.org



The National Gardener

Summer 2021, Volume 91, Number 3
PLANT AMERICA - Play Outdoors



In This Issue

Mary’s Musings4
 The Happy Gardener6
 Garden with Nature7
 Bring the Outdoors In10
 NGC Executive Committee12
 Healing Gardens.....15
 Make a Difference16
 Save the Past18
 Awards of Excellence 202122
 News from NGC25-31
 Let’s Cook32
 Go Virtual.....34
 International News35
 Life Membership37
 Mark Your Calendar38
 From the Editor.....39
 Book News.....40



Cassy Abel, Garden Club of Fair Haven

Cover Photo: Monarch on Liatris • Gerianne Holzman
Columbine on page 4 • Klickblick, Pixabay

About Us

National Garden Clubs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that aims to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility and we help coordinate the interests and activities of state and local garden clubs in the U.S. and abroad.

Contact Us

NGC Headquarters: Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:30pm CDT
4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110-3492
314-776-7574, headquarters@gardenclub.org

The National Gardener (ISSN:0027 9331) is published quarterly by National Garden Clubs, Inc. 4401 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110-3492. Subscribe for free: [The National Gardener.](#)

Follow us:
gardenclub.org





The National Gardener Staff

Editor [Gerianne Holzman](#)

Assistant Editor [Dawn Mozgawa](#)

Advertising/Marketing Manager [Pat Wolanski](#)

Copy Editor Joyce Bulington

Copy Editor Gerry St. Peters

Translation Editor Pampas Risso Patron

Feature Writers

Ana Calegari, IA Region III

Pat Greathead, Let's Cook

Robin Pokorski, Robin's Nest

Pilar Medellin, IA Region I

Blanca Nino Norton, IA Region II

Charlotte Swanson, Happy Gardener

Mary Warshauer, NGC President, Mary's Musings

Write for TNG:

We welcome ALL NGC members, garden writers, designers and outdoor enthusiasts to share their club, community or personal story. You do NOT have to be a professional author to submit an article. See the [TNG page](#) for submission information.

Deadline/Publication Dates:

- Fall Issue Sept. 1/Oct. 1
- Winter Issue Dec. 1/Jan. 1
- Spring Issue Mar. 1/Apr. 1
- Summer Issue Jun. 1/Jul. 1

Advertise in TNG:

- Full Page \$650
- Half Page \$350
- Quarter Page \$175

See the [TNG page](#) for more information on advertising.

Legal Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in *The National Gardener* are solely those of the original author(s) and other contributors. These views and opinions do not necessarily reflect those of National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). NGC reserves the right to edit or not publish any article for any reason or no reason in its sole discretion. Without limiting the foregoing, articles must not:

1. Contain any material, which is defamatory, obscene, indecent, abusive, offensive, harassing, violent, hateful, inflammatory or otherwise objectionable.
2. Promote sexually explicit or pornographic material, violence or discrimination based on race, sex, religion, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or age.
3. Infringe any patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright or other intellectual property or other rights of any other person.
4. Violate the legal rights (including the rights of publicity and privacy) of others or contain any material that could give rise to any civil or criminal liability under applicable laws or regulations or that otherwise may be in conflict with these Terms of Use and our Privacy Policy.
5. Be likely to deceive any person.
6. Promote any illegal activity, or advocate, promote or assist any unlawful act.
7. Cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety or be likely to upset, embarrass, alarm or annoy any other person.
8. Impersonate any person, or misrepresent your identity or affiliation with any person or organization.
9. Involve commercial activities or sales, such as contests, sweepstakes and other sales promotions, barter or advertising.
10. Give the impression that they emanate from or are endorsed by NGC or any other person or entity, if this is not the case.

Authors may submit previously published work and must notify *The National Gardener* editor of the location and date of prior publication. All material in *The National Gardener*, including design, text, images and logos are owned by The National Garden Clubs, Inc., unless otherwise indicated. All rights are reserved by NGC. Content may not be copied, reproduced, transmitted, distributed, downloaded or transferred in any form or by any means without NGC's prior written consent, and with express attribution to National Garden Clubs, Inc.



MARY'S MUSINGS

National Garden Clubs (NGC) continues to share the appreciation and connection to nature and the outdoors. Over the past year, NGC has seen an unparalleled commitment from our members. Resilient

and adaptable as always, we worked together to find new ways to connect during this physically distanced time.

Our theme, PLANT AMERICA, includes all aspects of gardening and horticulture, in addition to water and conservation concerns. We encourage a variety of programs: Blue/Gold Star Memorial plantings, community gardens, victory gardens, refresh waterways, town plantings - the possibilities are endless. Projects in local communities distinguish us from the work of other gardening organizations. Towns, cities, neighborhoods and roadsides across America are all beneficiaries of National Garden Clubs' programs. We continue to offer and award PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grants to new and continuing projects of our local garden clubs. These grants provide financial support to our member clubs and increase NGC's visibility in communities.

Our members and communication are keys to the success of our organization. Together, we forge new avenues for staying connected. Digital communication such as virtual platforms, email and social media provide the ability to learn from, communicate and grow with members from coast to coast. While connecting in person is ideal, virtual platforms prove to be an asset for NGC. The virtual resources that we discovered in the midst of adversity have become the new tools that allow our membership to thrive! The high level of participation confirms that virtual meetings, workshops and programming are effective and will enhance the future of garden clubs. These platforms have opened a threshold of opportunities to reach a wider audience, not only to engage with members that we may not have previously been able to reach but, also, to expand membership.

It is ironic that we are being called to embrace the virtual world, when the heart and soul of our work requires us to put down our devices, roll up our sleeves and embrace nature. Ultimately, as with any healthy garden, balance is the key. We all must think about the future of NGC, its goals and the best way to attain those goals. We must have the willingness to make the changes necessary to reach those goals. Embracing digital technology is one of them. Often, we hear "don't fix it if it's not broken." Well, we are not broken, but we have learned

that there are equally effective ways to bring us together, which we can and will do in tandem with our timeless traditions.

This is our time! Our members' work represents an immense dedication of time and effort in their commitment to the organization and the communities served. Our gardeners' strong love for nature and gardening support fellow NGC members in their endeavors to protect, preserve, and conserve natural resources and beautify environments. Each time our members share their knowledge and talents, NGC has the opportunity to create long-lasting relationships supporting our communities. Garden Clubs across the country work hard to protect and enhance the vitality of our great outdoors. In today's digital era, there are times we need to remind ourselves of the natural joys that are waiting for us right outside our doors. I invite you to "Play Outdoors!" Not work outdoors. Not toil outdoors. But play! Our gardens and outdoor spaces are not just chores to be tended; they are pleasurable gifts for all of us; they are our *Playground of Possibilities!* We often forget how important it is to engage in what makes us happy and to share that enjoyment.

The future of the planet is in the hands of those who care for it today. What better way to ensure the protection of our wonderful world than to begin sowing seeds to spark a child's curiosity. Can you remember your own youthful joy in discovering Roly-Poly bugs, colorful fallen leaves or the smell of freshly mown grass? Our senses reveal the splendor that nature has to offer. Teaching children about gardening and playing outdoors offers the opportunity to plant those little curious seeds that sprout into the excitement to learn and experience more of nature's bounty. As we look to the future, our success is only possible if we first honor our history. If the gardens of America are our legacy, then our history is the roots. Gardens' vibrant blooms represent the promise of the future, but ones we will only reap if we endeavor to sow their seeds together. This has always been the mission of NGC and the story of this great country that we are dedicated to keeping beautiful. Going forward, we will consider the future, set challenging goals, and have the determination to achieve them together. Our shared passion enhances the enjoyment of learning from and interacting with our world.

So, grab your gardening tools, pick up the kids and get to playing outdoors. Take your smartphone with you so that you can snap photos of you and your children playing in the garden and share them with all of us virtually. It is in this interest that I look forward to "playing outdoors" with all of you, as we continue to PLANT AMERICA, together. 🌱

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

Happy Gardener



“Someone” is in my Garden Charlotte Swanson

If there is a flower that makes one look like a successful gardener it has to be the lily. Available in a range of heights, the lily exudes a regal air. Pick a color and most likely a lily will be found wearing it. Scented or unscented, lilies come in each. As long as the earth beneath them is not prone towards soggy, they are happy garden performers.

My favorite lilies however, weren't chosen for their color, size, or smell. It was the name that drew me in. A perky maroon and orange one, sassy enough, named 'Forever Susan' had to be added to the garden because she had my sister's name - and some of her character. To welcome my first granddaughter I chose an appropriately named lily, 'Bonbini', a phrase used in Aruba to welcome people to the island. It dresses up an area of my garden with its frilly white and pink blossoms that bear a pleasant perfume. Years ago, when my daughter married in mid-July, there was a dreamy yellow, fully-scented 'Honeymoon' Orientpet lily ready to be included in the reception bouquets.

While all of these lilies have brought color, fragrance and beauty to my garden—there is one lily that outshines them all. Again, the name is to blame, 'Big Brother'. When my first grandson was expected, I happened upon this cultivar in a catalog. Although he was in birth order the second child, I suspected he would be a big brother to his petite older sister. Indeed, he has since surpassed her in height and weight. 'Big Brother' does live up to its name, with stout stems that require no support and huge 11-inch flowers that carry a bold floral scent. It increases modestly each year, yielding glorious stacks of creamy yellow petals atop 4-5 feet stems. Now that my grandson is old enough to identify some flowers, it gives me great pleasure to show him “his” lily and tell him the back story of its planting.

Occasionally, however, one may find the name of a lily to be a vote against its inclusion. For example, being named 'Centerfold' can have a negative appeal though the cultivar is gorgeous indeed! Yet it is a special find when a lily has just the right name that celebrates someone in one's life. Recently my grandson has become a big brother to his newly born brother. Do you suppose there's a lily out there that can celebrate baby Ben? There is pleasure in the hunt for it! 🌱

Charlotte Swanson is a NGC Gardening Consultant.

Lilium 'Big Brother' • Charlotte Swanson
Inset: Lilium 'Bonbini' • Charlotte Swanson



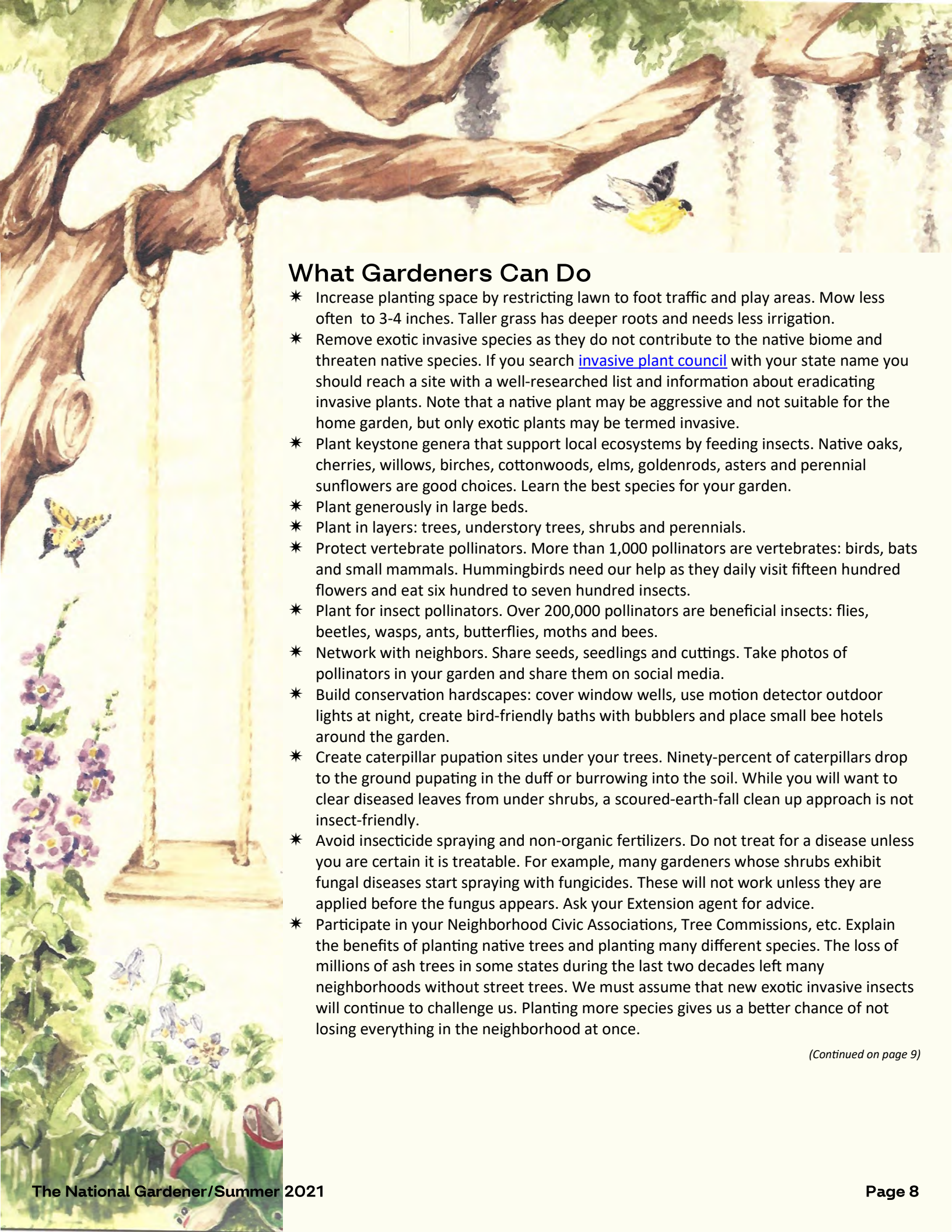
GARDEN WITH NATURE! A New NGC Program Victoria Bergesen

Garden with Nature addresses many concerns shared by garden club members. This initiative is designed for your home garden or gardens your club cares for in the community. We hope to protect our local ecosystems, plants and animals by Planting Smart, Planting More and Planting Natives.

The program is chaired by Horticulture Coordinator Bud Qualk and Environmental Concerns Coordinator Victoria Bergesen. We have the expertise of two large committees to create content and to address your questions. Our NGC Committee members are here to answer your questions relating to horticulture or environmental issues, to help you plan projects or suggest endeavors that might be right for your club, your area and your resources.

Garden with Nature promotes the planting of native plants as the base of the food chain that supports all wildlife, including pollinators, vital to our agriculture. The native ecosystems in the Western Hemisphere have developed independently for over 80 million years. Microorganisms in the soil, plants and animals evolved together to create a balanced system. The balance has long been disturbed by overdevelopment, pollution, insecticides, and the planting of lawns which require mowing, irrigation and chemical inputs.

(Continued on page 8)



What Gardeners Can Do

- * Increase planting space by restricting lawn to foot traffic and play areas. Mow less often to 3-4 inches. Taller grass has deeper roots and needs less irrigation.
- * Remove exotic invasive species as they do not contribute to the native biome and threaten native species. If you search [invasive plant council](#) with your state name you should reach a site with a well-researched list and information about eradicating invasive plants. Note that a native plant may be aggressive and not suitable for the home garden, but only exotic plants may be termed invasive.
- * Plant keystone genera that support local ecosystems by feeding insects. Native oaks, cherries, willows, birches, cottonwoods, elms, goldenrods, asters and perennial sunflowers are good choices. Learn the best species for your garden.
- * Plant generously in large beds.
- * Plant in layers: trees, understory trees, shrubs and perennials.
- * Protect vertebrate pollinators. More than 1,000 pollinators are vertebrates: birds, bats and small mammals. Hummingbirds need our help as they daily visit fifteen hundred flowers and eat six hundred to seven hundred insects.
- * Plant for insect pollinators. Over 200,000 pollinators are beneficial insects: flies, beetles, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths and bees.
- * Network with neighbors. Share seeds, seedlings and cuttings. Take photos of pollinators in your garden and share them on social media.
- * Build conservation hardscapes: cover window wells, use motion detector outdoor lights at night, create bird-friendly baths with bubblers and place small bee hotels around the garden.
- * Create caterpillar pupation sites under your trees. Ninety-percent of caterpillars drop to the ground pupating in the duff or burrowing into the soil. While you will want to clear diseased leaves from under shrubs, a scoured-earth-fall clean up approach is not insect-friendly.
- * Avoid insecticide spraying and non-organic fertilizers. Do not treat for a disease unless you are certain it is treatable. For example, many gardeners whose shrubs exhibit fungal diseases start spraying with fungicides. These will not work unless they are applied before the fungus appears. Ask your Extension agent for advice.
- * Participate in your Neighborhood Civic Associations, Tree Commissions, etc. Explain the benefits of planting native trees and planting many different species. The loss of millions of ash trees in some states during the last two decades left many neighborhoods without street trees. We must assume that new exotic invasive insects will continue to challenge us. Planting more species gives us a better chance of not losing everything in the neighborhood at once.

(Continued on page 9)

Garden Club's Role

You are not alone. Your garden club, state federation and NGC all provide resources to aid you. They can:

- * Provide programs on native plants, pollinators and related subjects. These may include virtual programs that enable you to hear speakers otherwise too busy or expensive for you to bring in person.
- * Include articles on websites and in publications.
- * Provide grants or awards for club projects such as pollinator gardens.
- * Provide state and NGC Chairmen who can provide information and resources.

We are here to help you. This program was inspired by *Nature's Best Hope* by Doug Tallamy. Contact us for a comprehensive list of resources. 🌱

Victoria Bergesen is co-chair of the Garden with Nature program. Contact [Victoria](#) for more information.



Read a Great Book Lately?

“Fun”, “Thoughtful”, “Addictive”, “Kept me up way past my bedtime”, “Intelligent”, “Horticultural”, and “Twisty-windy”. These are the way readers describe Neal Sanders’ 15 mysteries. They all feature strong, independent women – some of whom solve crimes, and others who commit them. Many of his books use garden club settings and ‘women of a certain age’ but these aren’t ‘cozies’: his plots involve everything from romance scams to ‘protect your assets’ schemes.

You can find his books in print and Kindle formats on Amazon. Go to www.TheHardingtonPress.com to explore his titles, read first chapters, and order directly from the author.

Neal is also one of the most entertaining speakers you’ll ever hear. ‘Gardening Is Murder’ is equal parts humor, psychology, and gardening wisdom; a husband’s point of view of what goes on in the garden. He has been a featured speaker at NGC events from Maine to Kentucky. Contact him at Neal02052@Gmail.com.



Bring the Outdoors In

Bring the Outdoors In: For Health Reina Snyder

As Americans spend more time indoors, it has become increasingly important to stay mindful of our physical and mental health. Over the past few years, bringing natural, outdoor elements inside has been a popular home décor trend. There's good reason. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the average American spends 93% of their life indoors with 6% of that total time being spent in a car. If we don't have time to go into nature, why not bring nature to us? There are a number of techniques that can aid us in doing just that. And recent scientific findings lead the way.

The Smell of the Forest Brings Health Benefits Qing Li, M.D., of Tokyo's Nippon Medical School, has developed a mindfulness technique called "shinrin-yoku," or "Forest Bathing," that promotes connecting with nature in the atmosphere of a forest through our senses of sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell. In his book, *Forest Bathing: How Trees Can Help You Find Health and Happiness*, Dr. Li documents many quantifiable health benefits accruing from the practice of forest bathing for people of all ages and backgrounds. One particularly interesting finding is that by diffusing the most prevalent smells of the forest indoors, people can improve their health—without leaving the house.

The air in a forest is full of natural oils produced by plants and these oils are part of the plant's natural defense system. Trees release these natural oils to protect themselves from bacteria, insects, and fungi. Evergreens such as pine, spruce and cedar produce the largest amount of natural oils and represent the most prevalent smell in temperate forests such as Japan's. These natural oils are often referred to commercially as essential oils and are readily available for purchase in health food shops and online.

Dr. Li demonstrates that exposure to forest essential oils elevates levels of natural killer cells which fight tumors and infections in the immune system, reduces stress levels and increases the hours of sleep. He also reports other findings that demonstrate forest essential oils stimulate a pleasant mood and significantly lower blood pressure and heart rate. For best results, Dr. Li found that exposure to forest essential oils while patients sleep has the most significant effects, possibly due to longer exposure times.

Other studies that report significant health benefits derived from exposure to essential oils include a study performed at the Department of Psychiatry, Mie University, Tsu, Mie Prefecture, Japan, citing that the citrus fragrance of D-limonene, commonly found in grapefruit, tangerine, orange and lemon and their essential oils, is more effective than antidepressants for lifting mood and ensuring emotional well-being, particularly in patients with mental-health disorders.

Another interesting study involved two nurses employed at the emergency department at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee, who discovered the power of essential oils in reducing stress. Nurses McBride and Sturges reported they and their co-workers often experienced very high levels of stress and fatigue. Both nurses used essential oils in their homes to manage stress and wondered if they could bring relief throughout the emergency department.

(Continued on page 11)



Reina Snyder

A wellness committee was set up to oversee the program and reported an enormous impact. Before the implementation of diffusing essential oils, 41% of the staff reported that they felt work-related stress very often. After the oils were diffused in the department, this dropped to 3%. Before the use of essential oils, 13% of the staff reported feeling well equipped to handle stressful situations at work. Afterwards, this rose to 58%. Perceived energy levels increased from 33% to 77%. At the end of the study, 84% of staff “strongly agreed” that diffusing essential oils contributed to a more positive work environment.

The wellness committee’s mission statement listed sixty-eight hospitals and other institutions throughout the US that already employed essential oils. They noted the Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital uses thirty-three different types of essential oils, dispensed by their own pharmacy.

Views of Nature Help Heal A young researcher in the early 1980s designed a study using rigorous scientific controls and strict quantification of data and discovered something quite surprising. Looking out at green, leafy trees promoted healing. This turned out to be a landmark study that would change the face of healthcare architecture and landscape.

Roger Ulrich, Ph.D., an environmental psychologist and co-founding director of the Center for Health Systems and Design at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, demonstrated gazing at a garden can lead to quicker healing from surgery, infections and other ailments. For example, he found that patients who underwent gallbladder surgery, on average, healed a day faster. Additionally, they needed significantly less pain medications and had decreased post-surgical complications when placed in a hospital room that had bedside windows with a view of leafy trees than patients who had a view of a brick wall. He also found that the patients with a view of a brick wall were more depressed.

At Uppsala University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden, Ulrich and his colleagues showed that even gazing at pictures of landscapes soothe. Just three to five minutes spent viewing scenes of trees, flowers, or water begins to reduce anger, anxiety and pain plus induces relaxation - as measured by physiological changes in blood pressure, muscle tension, heart and brain electrical activity.

Ulrich stated that something in his background inspired him to turn his attention to this line of inquiry. As a teenager, he had kidney disease and endured long periods of time spent in bed feeling quite bad. In his bedroom, he found himself often looking out the window at a big pine tree and he thinks that tree helped his emotional state. He also contrasted this with the often gloomy and sometimes brutal settings typically found in healthcare buildings at the time.

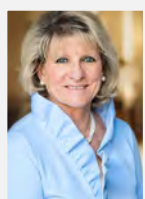
“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.” Prophetic words from Rachel Carson, 20th century marine biologist, author and conservationist whose book *Silent Spring* helped to bring about the Environmental Protection Agency. It also helped to institute a nationwide ban on pesticides particularly DDT, an insecticide that decimated native bird populations and inspired the global grassroots environmental movement.

The health benefits of nature can be immeasurable and even surprising. Infuse your home with the essential oils of the forest. Strategically display landscape photographs depicting trees, flowers or water in bedrooms or study areas. Design landscapes and gardens that feature these same elements that can be easily viewed from within the home. Combined, these not only bring nature inside but also increase the physical, mental and emotional well-being of yourself and your family. 🌿

Reina Snyder is a member of the Oleander Palm Beaches Garden Club in Florida and the immediate vice director of Plant America with Trees, District X. Contact [Reina](#) for her resources and background information for this article.

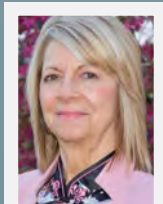
INTRODUCING

NGC Executive Committee 2021 - 2023



Mary Warshauer, President

- The Garden Club of Fair Haven, New Jersey
- Flower Show Judge
- Favorite flower: Oh my, hard question to answer, every time I see a magnolia, it is my favorite or a hydrangea, it is my favorite, then Iris is my favorite and of course peony is my favorite.
- In my free time, I walk or read a book.
- Mary's words: I want to see NGC continue to grow and branch out with new and exciting opportunities. Thanks to our dedicated and talented members who help NGC to flourish.



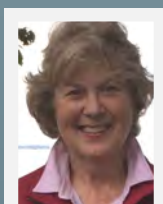
Donna Donnelly, 3rd Vice President

- Eloree Garden Club, South Carolina
- Flower Show Judge, Landscape Design Consultant
- Favorite flower: Lilac and Lily of the Valley
- In my free time, I love to work in the garden with my cats and dogs following along as I weed, prune, plant and enjoy. I love Sudoku, crossword puzzles, scrabble and card games.



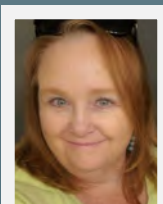
Brenda Moore, 1st Vice President

- Other duties: Liaison to State Presidents and Region Directors, *KIT* Editor, Finance, Audit
- Woodland Oaks Garden Club, West Virginia
- Environmental, Gardening, Landscape Design Consultants, Flower Show Judge, Four Star
- Favorite flower: That's like asking me to pick my favorite child. I love wildflowers and I'm thrilled when I stumble upon pink or yellow Lady Slippers in the springtime. I also love lavender—the color and the scent.
- In my free time, I spend time reading or pulling weeds - there is very little free time.
- Brenda's words: It's an honor to serve NGC as first Vice President and under Mary's guidance, a great leader and great friend.



Monica Hansen, Recording Secretary

- Other duties: Membership Committee
- Orchard Park Garden Club, New York
- Flower Show Judge
- Favorite flower: *Geranium* 'Johnson's Blue' and *Anemone* 'September Charm'
- In my free time, I play with our scruffy Yorkshire Terrier, Little Jack Hansen, II or I read my favorite genre of nice, polite British murders.
- Monica's words: I'm looking forward to working closely with and getting to know other garden club members.



Lynette Jeffres, Treasurer

- Other duties: Budget Committee Chair
- Riverton Garden Club, Wyoming
- Favorite flower: We have to pick? I love them all but if I have to choose - daisies.
- In my free time, in January through April I nap! Otherwise, I read a good book.
- Lynette's words: It's an honor and privilege to serve NGC and its members. My garden club friends are some of my best and favorite treasures! Thank you!



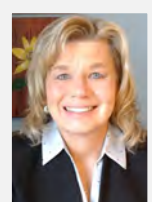
Donna Rouch, 2nd Vice President

- Other duties: Finance and Internal Audit Committee Chairs, Budget Committee
- Plattsmouth Garden Club, Nebraska
- Environmental, Gardening, Landscape Design Consultants, Flower Show Judge, Four Star
- Favorite flower: Daffodils and Grape Hyacinths combination, it puts a smile on my face and lets me know spring is here!
- In my free time, I do oil painting.
- Donna's words: I love to be creative in the garden.



INTRODUCING

NGC Executive Committee 2021 – 2023



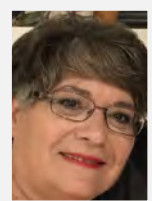
Gerianne Holzman, Corresponding Secretary

- Other duties: *The National Gardener* editor
- Sunset Garden Club, Wisconsin
- Environmental, Gardening, Landscape Design Consultants, Flower Show Judge, Five Star
- Favorite flower: It really depends on the time of year since I love so many. My most treasured flower is a 100+ year heritage peony that I got from my mother and she got from her mother. I have shared it with nieces and great-nieces.
- In my free time, I read, garden and spend time with my husband and pets.
- Gerianne's words: I look forward to new NGC adventures and cherish all my garden club friends at home and around the world.



Phyllis White, Historian

- Other duties: Media Coordinator
- Belgrade Bloomers Garden Club, Montana
- Flower Show Judge
- Favorite flower: *Epiphyllum*, I am passionate about growing succulents.
- In my free time, I stroll in my yard and observe the changes in nature during spring and summer. Because I live in Montana, the growing season is very short so I'm outside gardening, hiking, camping, or spending much time with my grandchildren.



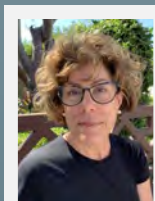
Patricia Arndt, Parliamentarian

- Berk-Mar Garden Club, West Virginia
- Favorite flower: lavender rose
- In my free time, I have 500+ square feet of raised vegetable beds and raise backyard hens for eggs. These are my passion.
- Patty's words: I am quite interested in Urban Homesteading and promoting "Victory" and container gardens.



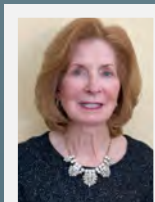
Gay Austin, PH&E Director

- Other duties: Finance Committee
- McComb Garden Club and Natchez Garden Club, Mississippi
- Provisional Environmental Consultant, Flower Show Judge and Instructor
- Favorite Flower: Whatever is blooming...right now the *Hydrangea* and *Gardenia* are fabulous!
- In my free time, I take an early morning walk in the woods - watching and listening as our world begins to awaken for the day.



Suzanne McCance, New England Region Director

- Reading Garden Club, Massachusetts
- Favorite flower: Peony
- In my free time, I pull a book from the "great pile" and sit with it for a bit.
- Suzanne's words: I look forward to working with the new NGC Administration and our "new world" way of doing things.



Betty Cookendorfer, Central Atlantic Region Director

- Shaker Farms Garden Club, Ohio
- Environmental, Gardening, Landscape Design Consultants, Flower Show Judge, Four Star
- Favorite flower: Peony
- In my free time, I enjoy planting flowers and herbs. I also spend free time pruning shrubs and keeping the garden and landscape looking good.
- Betty's words: I look forward to working with the Central Atlantic Region state members, as a team, to achieve the CAR-SGC and the National Garden Clubs goals and objectives. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

INTRODUCING

NGC Executive Committee 2021 – 2023



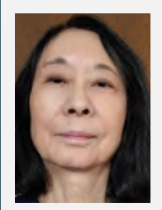
Marty Bowers, South Atlantic Region Director

- Other duties: Scholarship Committee
- Moneta Garden Club, Virginia
- Landscape Design Consultant
- Favorite flower: Peony
- In my free time, I love to read.



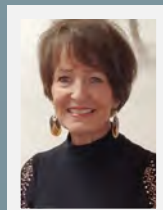
Carol Hall, Deep South Region Director

- Tallahassee Garden Club, Magnolia Circle, Florida
- Environmental Consultant, Flower Show Judge
- Favorite flower: There are LOTS, right now it is *Hydrangea*.
- In my free time, I am usually in the yard clipping, raking, planting or deadheading. I walk, read novels, watch tennis and other sports on TV. I love arranging flowers and talking on the phone with friends.
- Carol's words: My mother was a member of the FFGC and a District Director. As a child I went with her to meetings. I joined the West Palm Beach GC in 1985. After my mother died, I held several offices including State President and District Director. I have always felt that I should have joined Garden Club when she was alive. I know she would have been proud of me.



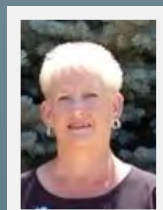
Carol Yee, Central Region Director

- Western Springs Garden Club, Suburban Garden Club, Illinois
- Environmental, Gardening, Landscape Design Consultants, Flower Show Judge, Four Star
- Favorite flower: I love anything blooming.
- In my free time, I enjoy reading and doing the daily puzzles in the newspaper.
- Carol's words: I'm originally from Kula, Maui and moved often for my husband's job: Kansas City, MO, Stockton, CA, Winston-Salem, NC and Western Springs, IL plus two years in Bangkok, Thailand.



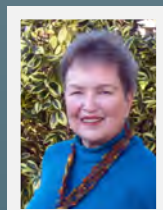
Rose Knight, South Central Region Director

- Little Rock Designers Study Club, Verna Garvan Design Study Club, Arkadelphia Primrose Garden Club, Arkansas
- Flower Show Judge
- Favorite flower: *Gardenia*
- In my free time, I walk outside, garden and plan designs.
- Rose's words: I am a third-generation garden club member. My grandmother, mother and I were members of my hometown club, Star City Garden Lovers Club. My grandmother was a charter member in 1938.



Margie Soileau, Rocky Mountain Region Director

- Cheyenne Mountain Garden Club, Colorado
- Favorite flower: Coneflower
- In my free time, in winter, I either read or make jewelry and in the summer, I camp with my husband or play in my yard and garden.



Lana Finegold, Pacific Region Director

- Sherwood Forest Garden Club, Washington
- Environmental, Gardening, Landscape Design Consultants, Flower Show Judge, Five Star
- Favorite flower: blue *Iris*
- In my free time, I garden or walk.
- Lana's words: I taught exercise for eight years and have a NordicTrack and use it for 30 minutes every other day. I also walk at least 5,000 steps each day. I love the education that NGC provides and I love the creativity that is tapped. When I was younger, I focused on creative design and love that flower shows challenge our creativity.

Executive Committee Members provided their own photos.



Healing Gardens

Lamprocapnos spectabilis • Gerianne Holzman

Time to Heal

Carcille C. Burchette

Here we are and summer is upon us! Many of us have been vaccinated, lending us a bit of confidence that we did not have. Mask wearing is still present as well as social distancing. BUT, just like dawn removes unwarranted fears and helps us think and deal with our troubles realistically, so do the long days of summer! We think we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel...COVID-19 no longer holds us in its grip. All our lives have been impacted by this virus in some way or another. And now is the time for healing to really begin!

Healing of both body and spirit is needed after these past many months. Planting a Healing Garden can be a wonderful way for garden club members to heal and provide a place for nonmembers to visit for help with their healing. Begin by looking around in the community for places such as hospitals, clinics, libraries, churches and even parks where a small Healing Garden can be planted. Choose a space away from heavy vehicle and human traffic - away from noisy places. Perennials and annuals, perhaps a tree with a bench beside it, would be a great start to a Healing Garden and can be enlarged later if desired. Add a simple water feature to provide a calming and peaceful presence. However, do not add statues as research indicates they can be upsetting to many people.

Garden club members experience the joy of being outside and digging in the soil while creating a place of quiet and peace for others. Those who come later to enjoy the garden will listen to the sounds of nature, watch butterflies, bees and birds plus hear the soft gurgle of water. Whether actively planting or passively sitting, healing can occur.

Please consider planting a Healing Garden somewhere in your community. You might brighten someone's day and provide respite from stress. Healing is needed now, more than ever. 🌱

Carcille C. Burchette is the immediate past NGC Healing Garden Chair and is the current President of the Garden Clubs of Kentucky.



Making a Difference Cheryl Brumbaugh

Norristown Garden Club has been a valuable partner here at *Variety* – the Children's Charity of the Delaware Valley. Our relationship with them supports their garden and greenhouse as well as the education of children to learn the importance and benefits of gardening. Through Norristown Garden Club's relationship with Burpee Seed Co., we have been able to obtain various types of seeds for vegetables and flowers. We utilize the seed in many ways through the various programs offered at *Variety* as well as to grow plants for our large onsite garden.

Variety serves children and young adults with disabilities (ages 5 - 24) in educational, recreational and vocational programming. The 77-acre campus hosts a 2-acre garden and two hoop houses that are instrumental in the vocational training programs. The gardens feature paved pathways, as well as raised garden beds, so individuals of all abilities are able to garden.

Variety's garden is a key part of *VarietyWorks*, an innovative workforce development model for individuals aged 14 - 24 with disabilities. *VarietyWorks* believes that when young adults with disabilities have access to choices and engage in individualized instruction and employment experiences, they will become confident, independent, and better prepared for life. Participants compost, plant, harvest and sell vegetables and flowers to community pop-up shops or at *Variety's* own Farm Stand. In *Variety's* industrial kitchen, participants utilize some of the produce (e.g., zucchini) to make baked goods they sell to the community. Weekly, the Philadelphia Zoo purchases leftover produce that serves as valuable nutrition for its animals.

Not only do *Variety's* gardens reflect the accessibility needs of our population, but also gardening has mental health benefits. According to the Michigan State University Extension, "Gardening is effective in providing therapy to those with disabilities." In addition to the gardens used for growing crops, our campus also features a sensory garden—a therapeutic space to utilize in times of stress or needed down time. The youth that come to *Variety* are encouraged to spend time in the garden, engage their senses and participate in hands-on gardening activities. We believe that our commitment to meet the individualized needs of participants while teaching them a valuable skill is what makes our gardening programs special and empowers youth to be active members of their community.

With the shutdown of schools during the COVID pandemic, we have been able to continue to cultivate the love of gardening through additional community-connected programs, offered outside on the campus at *Variety*, once per month. Stewart Middle School youth gardeners and local Girl Scouts meet at *Variety* to learn, hands-on, about growing plants, container gardening and design. They also work on entries for the Norristown Garden Club's Fall Flower Show. Norristown Garden Club has provided opportunities through the seed program to continue these educational programs. Some of these students have also been involved as mentors in a new Saturday program offered at *Variety* called "Young Gardeners." 🌱

Cheryl Brumbaugh is a Volunteer Mentor at *Variety* and Stewart Middle School and a Norristown Garden Club member.



Promise Trees

Tanja Swanson

The year 2020 was as difficult for Oregonians as it was for everyone else all across the globe. We were all trying to stay safe and stay home. Then on Labor Day high winds swept through our super dry state and it felt like all of Oregon was on fire. Everyone had a to-go bag ready to flee the flames. Many of our Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs (OSFGC) friends actually had to evacuate, some for weeks on end! The rest of us had to deal with smoke coming from all directions.

After the fires died down and most of us had helped with food, shelter and clothing needs, some of our members indicated that they wanted to do more; give trees to homeowners who were rebuilding. We call it "Promise Trees." We contacted our local state senator, who brought us in contact with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. All were enthusiastic about the idea. We decided to go with \$50 vouchers. With the help of OSFGC members, the Oregon Department of Forestry, Keep Oregon Green, Oregon Association of Nurseries, County Building Departments and Oregon Fire Marshals - we have a whole team working on this.

We received very generous donations from the National Garden Club Disaster Grant and from other State and National officers. We are now ready to print the vouchers and send 55 vouchers to each county that lost homes in the fires. I am so grateful for everyone's donations and empathy! It warms my heart that Garden Club members from all over the Nation found it in their heart to help with this big project. Thank you to everyone who helped! We still need many more dollars, so if you still want to donate that would be great. To send money, please make out check to:

OSFGC Promise Trees Project
C/o Margaret Taylor
PO Box 81
Hood River, OR 97031-0003

"Promise Trees" is not the only thing that our State has funded. After the fires, we challenged our members to collect enough pennies for Penny Pines to be able to pay for 100 plantations by May 31, 2021. We surpassed that way back in January and now have paid for 148 plantations, more than \$10,000! The difference is that Penny Pines pays for tiny trees that will grow into a forest over a period of 20 years. "Promise Trees" vouchers will help a homeowner buy a tree that will give shade and shelter in the next few years. Urban trees are just as important in a neighborhood as the forest is to the planet. Our goal is to give people who lost everything, their homes, their memories and their neighborhood, a sense of place again and trees play an important role. Thank you so much for donating to this worthwhile project. 🌱

Tanja Swanson is the immediate former president of the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs.



Preserving Garden Club Records

Joe Da Rold

What began out of concern to preserve our historical records from damage and loss reached fruition this year with an online portal of digitized documents. Hundreds of hours have been spent since 2017 tracking down and collecting records from the garages and basements of club members. This article is not about how to replicate our project, but about the issues every garden club should be discussing.

Part One: The start of the Archive Program by the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, NJ was the unexpected convergence of the new President being overwhelmed by a mountain of boxes...

“Oh my! I received the president's files the other day - 12 boxes/containers of stuff, some with noticeable high-water marks!” Pat Wilson, President, August 2017.

... and a concern by a new member, a former Archivist, that the club's records were at risk of loss and damage.

In deciding to write the history of the club's flower shows and house tours, the Archivist quickly discovered that records were not centralized. They were stored by previous past presidents and event chairs and lay forgotten in their garages and basements, where some became brittle and water-damaged. Other records vanished if members left the club.

Lesson Learned: Create and maintain an inventory.

An Ad Hoc Archive Committee was formed, and a call went out to members to learn who was storing what. Curiously, an early newsletter revealed that some 30 years ago, the club had a similar moment of awareness, reaching out to members to restore its complete collection of yearbooks.

(Continued on page 19)



Every yearbook was recovered. Records of major events, such as fundraisers, were the hardest to locate. Most were still at the homes of event chairs. Some had Books of Evidence (BOE) and

others had photo albums. Other members discovered they had kept miscellaneous memorabilia. They were all eager to transfer their old boxes of records to the Archivist.

Lesson Learned: Replace cardboard storage boxes with lidded see-through plastic tote boxes.

It was not long before the Archivist's dining room was overrun with boxes and boxes of files. So began the first step: weeding through files, discarding unnecessary duplicates of schedules and irrelevant papers. At one point there were five copies of the same yearbook. Two years into the project, 100 newsletters were found in the President's files, filling in gaps from the 1970s and 1990s.

Lesson Learned: Never stop looking: Archival work is not a closed-end activity.

Thanks to having these records available, a 20-page *History of the Club's Flower Shows and House Tours, 1954-2018* was published one year after we started. It included photos of many programs and schedules. Members now know not to throw anything club-related away.

"I found a program from 1986 and 1994. Also have bookmark, postcard, ticket and program from 2014. Also, a lot of old paperwork I haven't really looked at. Let me know if you want any of these."
Sharon S.

"I found a box of old Deck the Halls files in my closet. Rather than toss them, I thought I would drop them at your house for you to go through."
Betsy C.

Part Two: Now that the club's records were in one place, where would they be stored? The most logical suggestion seemed to be to rent a self-storage unit, but this was not a viable solution. Placing these records, the history of our club, into off-site storage would not preclude loss by fire or flood. For seventy years of operations, our newly condensed holdings include all yearbooks - one small box, six decades of monthly newsletters - two fat binders, BOEs and photo albums from 30 flower shows and house tours - seven tote boxes and miscellaneous publications.

Monthly storage-unit fees were a drawback to many and limited access to the materials was a stumbling block. As the club's newsletter editor, I can vouch for the importance of having the records close at hand for research. I am now able to write a monthly column on the club's history.

Could the files be microfilmed? Not practical for access. Digitization? Maybe, but who has the time, scanning equipment, and know-how to tackle a collection this large?

After months of intense discussion, outsourcing the scanning was agreed upon to be the best solution. A survey was done of companies who worked with small non-profits, such as libraries or historical societies, and had facilities in our state. (We were reluctant to ship to an out-of-state facility for fear of loss or damage.) How much would this cost us? Did we have the funds? One member strongly lobbied for machine-readable records, enabling keyword access.

Ironically, even though we have completed the bulk of the digitization, we are still faced with the original question: what do we do with the paper records?

There are a thousand good reasons for not throwing anything away, but nostalgia could not stand in the way. Meeting minutes, in particular, were fading and indecipherable. The committee bit the bullet with a quick decision to have the club's minutes scanned and destroyed. Decisions about other records have proven to be difficult. There is a sentimental attachment for keeping all of the yearbooks, but very likely we will consider "sampling" other items. We recognize that some items should be saved for display at garden club conferences and community events. COVID-19 has slowed the decision making since the committee could not meet in person to review the documents.

Lesson Learned: You need to be brutal, but there is room for indulgence.

Part Three: The issue of digitization was controversial. Members debated the need for having a digital archives site. *Who would look at it? What topics would anyone search for? Few of us look at the club's website, why would they look at this?* It was pointed out that the content of the archives site made it a different animal from the topical nature of the website. For all members to have searchable access, it was necessary to have a web portal.

Several members protested the huge cost. *It's a lot of money!* Fortunately, the club had sufficient capital reserve funds. Some felt that the funds should be spent on yet-unspecified community projects. Others argued that the club had been debating how to spend reserve money for years and never spent it.

(Continued on page 20)



Lesson Learned: There are ways to reduce the cost, primarily by scanning only designated records.

Once the project was approved by the Board and membership, parameters were set for selecting a vendor. Most important was that the computer records would always belong to the club. Quotes were nearly identical for our top two vendor choices. We selected **Innovative Document Imaging**, a New Jersey-based company with which two members were already familiar.

Cost broke down into three categories:

- One-time acquisition of their proprietary search engine at \$3,500.
- The cost of scanning (digitization) at \$5,000. Per unit prices are based on type of document, e.g. single page, scrapbook or photo album. We opted to scan yearbooks and newsletters first.
- Annual hosting fee at \$750. (Placed in the annual operating budget, not reserves.)

Our proposal to the Board to make this a multi-year project was what made it palatable to the cost-conscious. Also, when the bulk of the scanning is complete, the material produced annually will be digital, and there is no cost for posting electronically produced records, such as recent newsletters and yearbooks.

What have been the benefits of the project?

- The ability to learn about the club history.
- The ability to search primary materials (e.g. correspondence) for information on our community projects. (It came as a surprise that three of our signature service projects were all begun in the first year of our club.)
- The ability to find biographical information on past and present members for the purpose of awards and memorials.
- The ability to supply background information for press releases and brochures.
- The ability to create brochures on the history of our

club's community gardens.

- The Archivist uses the archive portal nearly daily.

Lesson Learned: "If you build it, they will come."

Comments from garden club members:

"Brought back many memories - Nice touch - all the cookbooks - Really shows the history of the Club - Easy to navigate, well organized." RP

"I have just accessed the Archives for the first time- fantastic! What an outstanding site, and the color-coded flowers for each heading is striking! It makes me want to return for more historical information." PK

Even our IDI representative was pleased: "Alec really liked the site as well and made me show it in our sales meeting, the entire team thought it was great." As you can see early in this article, archival work is not the passive activity most people assume. It is fascinating work, but you need someone to spearhead the project who is dedicated to it. Once the data was posted, the Architect checked every entry, an activity that has taken hundreds of hours - important and worthwhile hours. 🌱

Joe Da Rold is the Archives Committee Chair for the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, NJ. He has a Masters Degree in Library Science and is the Director of the Plainfield Public Library.

Click on the image below to check out the Rake and Hoe Garden Club's web portal.

Welcome to the Archives Portal



Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, NJ

[Click the Garden to Enter](#)

Get Organized...

through digitizing your archives

Preserve...

and gain access to your unique collections

Go Digital!

Discover how some of your **Garden Club** friends have begun transforming their physical archives into an interactive, text searchable digital **Web Portal!**

Click the link below to see for yourself!

[The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield NJ](#)



info@idiimage.com · 1-(800)-380-9058 · www.idiimage.com



NGC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2021

Hans Braxmeier, Pixabay



Bruce Crawford **Nominator: Garden Clubs of New Jersey**

After graduating from Bucknell University with a major in biology, Bruce Crawford studied Landscape Architecture/Horticulture at Cook College, Rutgers University. In 1983,

he launched his career by starting Garden Architecture, a landscape design business. Noticing that most landscaping consisted of evergreens and spring blooming shrubs, his business began integrating interesting and lesser-known plants that provide year-round interest and create a pallet of plant material that was distinctly fresh and low maintenance. Bruce began consulting on public garden venues. His talent caught the eye of local garden clubs in New Jersey and he began receiving requests to be a guest speaker at their meetings. His work was ultimately noticed by the Landscape Architecture Department of the Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers University, where he became a guest lecturer teaching courses in Herbaceous Plants and Public Gardens Management.

In 2005, Bruce became Director of Rutgers Gardens. It was here that he was able to develop an “outdoor classroom” where Rutgers students, gardeners, schoolchildren and the public could learn about plants, gardening and the environment. In 2020, Rutgers University created for Bruce, the new position of State of New Jersey Program Leader for Home and Public Horticulture.

By combining his innovative gardening ideas, knowledge of horticulture and advocacy for sustainability with his desire to share and educate, Bruce Crawford will make all who encounter him better gardeners who are aware of the impacts of their gardening decisions and their ability to create a more environmentally friendly world.



Nancy Vehrs **Nominator: National Capital Area Garden Clubs**

Nancy Vehrs is a conservation catalyst. Her mission is to inform people about the attributes and importance of native plants.

She uses social media to attract thousands of individuals, conservation coalitions, garden clubs and other green groups. Her boundless enthusiasm in her public presentations, online and in-person projects entice volunteers to join in her conservation movement.

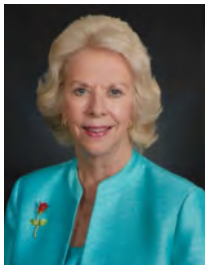
Nancy is founder and President of the Native Plant Society of Virginia, which has over two thousand members and twelve chapters. As a regional leader, Nancy’s mission is to promote, to educate, and to protect native plants and habitats. Her many projects include establishing pollinator-friendly roadside gardens at Virginia’s rest areas; recording weekly bird counts at Huntley Meadows in Alexandria, Virginia; and annual bird counts for the Audubon Society. Through her organizations, Nancy continues to mentor many by supporting green education for budding naturalists,

(Continued on page 23)

gardeners and especially youth centered programs and initiatives at schools.

She is involved in other conservation roles, including The Prince William Conservation Alliance, the Prince William Wildflower Society and NOVO Native Plant organization. Nancy commends National Garden Clubs, Inc. mission and the Plant America initiative.

Prince William Conservation Alliance honored Nancy Vehrs. The Native Plant Society has donated over \$50,000 to date to Virginia's Natural Resource department from the sale of the NOVA Native Plants booklet. Nancy first printed the booklet over eight years ago. Nancy Vehrs passionate work both online and in the community is a testament to her mission to educate and to protect native plants and habitats.



Pat Woodrum
Nominator: Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc.

After retiring as Executive Director of the Tulsa City County Library in 1996, Pat Woodrum became a Master Gardener. In 1999, she collaborated with other individuals to create a larger, world-class botanical garden. They visited other gardens in other parts of the country and met with local community leaders to gather vital information. In 2001, Oklahoma State University provided funding to hire a botanical planning firm, to help select a site and develop a master plan. The Garden's first legal address was the home of Pat and Clayton Woodrum. Pat became the Executive Director. In 2002, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were written. The four founders contributed money to open a bank account. In 2003, an area philanthropist contributed \$25,000 to the Garden, another contributed \$100,000 in stocks. In 2004, Persimmon Ridge, LLC donated 170 acres of land for the Garden site. In 2006, the Oklahoma Centennial Commission awarded grants totaling \$2.2 million to the Garden to begin construction on the site. In 2007, Pat invited John Red Eagle, Assistant Chief of the Osage Nation, to have a blessing of the Land Ceremony. Oklahoma Centennial Botanical Garden was born!

Pat Woodrum has held many positions over the years as the botanical garden grew: Executive Director, CEO, President and today as a member of the Board. Pat's extensive work and vision have helped create an excellent botanical garden, the Tulsa Botanic Garden!



Hans Braxmeier, Pixabay



New England Region
Nominator: Suzanne
Bushnell, Director

The New England Region Director's 2019-2021 theme of *Planting the New England Victory Garden* was a project that members in each of the six New

England states could easily participate in and made a difference in the Region of fighting food insecurity. She encouraged clubs who work with youth to have them grow vegetables to donate to their communities. The theme quickly caught on with the clubs. Many of them remembered the popular PBS TV program "*The Victory Garden*" which had its roots in New England. It was produced by a Boston PBS station and filmed in gardens in Massachusetts. With many ideas in mind, they launched their project in May 2019 to fight food insecurity in New England. No one, however, could foresee the pandemic that would hit the world early in 2020 and the effect it would have on food uncertainty. Suddenly, in 2020 the Region project took on new urgency as members worked in even more ways to help the ever-growing number of families and seniors with food needs. According to the group *Feeding America* (the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization) one in every six people in America suffer with not enough healthy food to eat. More than 1.5 million individuals in New England are going hungry every day according to *Feeding America*.

The Region leadership encouraged clubs, individuals and youth garden groups to focus their efforts on growing extra vegetables, herbs, fruits and any other crop suitable to the climate in New England. If members did not have their own gardens, they were asked to volunteer at community gardens, which would also help raise the visibility of their garden club in their community. All participants were to donate any excess crops to local food banks, soup kitchens, or any other organization that was fighting hunger in New England. When the pandemic hit, clubs with no gardens of their own, began fundraising to donate money to local organizations. They purchased CSA shares to help local farmers and donated to local soup kitchens, food banks and senior centers.

All six New England state federations participated in both years of the project! An astonishing 9 tons of produce (17,994 pounds) were grown and donated from the six state federations. This does not count a total of 1,810 "servings" of produce (an alternate way of reporting instead of by pounds). A total of \$11,461 was raised and donated by clubs to various organizations. 🌱

Awards of Excellence (AOE) article by Donna Rouch, Awards of Excellence Committee Chair 2019-2021. See following page for photos of the New England Region AOE project. AOE recipients provided their own photos.

Kids Garden • Derry Garden Club



Garden Veggies • Suzanne Bushnell



Working with Kids • Burlington Garden Club

Community Garden • Medfield Garden Club



NGC NEWS



Paeonia suffruticosa • Gerianne Holzman



VISION OF BEAUTY CALENDARS

Florence Lyessene, Chair

We invite all members affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc. to send in photos of your skill and artistry for the *Vision of Beauty* Calendar. Submission requirements are in the back of any copy of *Vision of Beauty*, please note the new contact information below. The calendar submission deadline is 8/1/2021. **MAIL** your 5" x 7" digital print, only vertical/ portrait layout, high resolution) along with the Entry Form to: Florence Lyessene, 61 Mountainview Drive, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 **AND** email your digital photo to: vobngc@gmail.com



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marge McGoff, Chair

The NGC 2021-2023 Nominating Committee will meet at the NGC Fall Board Meeting in St Louis. The purpose is to get acquainted and review responsibilities with the Manual. The meeting time and place will be announced in August. Wishing all members a good summer.



SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Peggy Riccio

A quick and easy way to share what is going on in your gardening world, club, or state, is by writing a blog article. Blog articles are short, 300 to 1500 words. New articles are posted weekly on the [NGC Website Blog](#) and all articles are available for viewing. Articles can be shared instantly to your Facebook account or to your local garden club, state or region website.

Recommended topics relate to NGC's goals and objectives, including nature, plants, gardening, environmental issues, floral design, landscape design, climate change and pollinators. This is a great way to promote club activities and increase awareness of NGC. Do not worry about your writing expertise; we have a team of copy editors who can polish your article. If you don't have photos, we can find suitable copyright free photos. To learn more, visit [Member Resources](#) on the NGC website and under "Blog Article Submissions" you can download the [blog guidelines](#) and submit blog articles online. Contact Peggy for more information at blog@gardenclub.org.



CORRECTION

Chris Hawthorne, Ingomar GC

The May/June issue of *Keeping in Touch* incorrectly listed the location of Essay Contest winner Liam Ellis' school. Liam's Aquinas Academy is located in Gibsonia, PA.



Community Gardens Joanne Gregory

The Lutherville Garden Club, a member of the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland – District III, is pleased to announce that they have won First Place – Community Service Projects: Community Gardens Award from the National Garden Clubs for their Monarch Waystation. The garden, in existence for four years on the site of College Manor Assisted Living, is on a well-used pathway visited by many Lutherville community members.

The garden has recently been expanded to add more milkweed, the host plant for Monarch caterpillars. Club members donated a plethora of native plants as high nectar sources for adult Monarch butterflies. Members included a water dish for the butterflies and bees plus a bee hotel constructed by one of the club members. The success of this garden has come about by the work of diligent and dedicated Lutherville Garden Club members, who are working to save the environment and support Monarch butterflies, bees and other species of butterflies attracted to the site. 🌱

Joanne Gregory is the Wildlife Habitat and Monarch Waystation Coordinator for the Lutherville Garden Club.

Shaler Garden Club Centennial Judy Schiffbauer

One hundred years ago, a seed was planted that is still growing in the Shaler Garden Club, celebrating its Centennial year. Herbert Hoover's wartime program of conserving food, promoting home gardens and canning was the impetus for a meeting sponsored by the Garden Club of Allegheny County, called at Braun School in September 1921. Mrs. W.L. Davis of Shaler attended and shortly thereafter invited the women in the community to meet in her home. Ten women attended and formed the Shaler Township branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association.

Since then, the club has been working in quiet, but in colorful, ways to beautify the Shaler community. The club's first civic project in 1922-24 was planting the grounds of the B&O Railroad Station. They endeavored to educate children in horticulture by helping them plant seeds on school grounds. A Flower Guild, begun in 1935, made flower bouquets to cheer the table trays of patients at Children's Hospital. This program continued at the Kane Regional

Center until 1994. Many trees and gardens, planted by members over the years, continue to beautify the area. They began planting and maintaining a hillside garden at the library in 1998 and now maintain most of the beds surrounding the perimeter. The hillside garden has been transformed into a certified pollinator garden.

The club held its first public plant sale in 1953 and raised \$67.59. This sale, now in its 67th year, continues as the club's main fundraiser, supporting club projects and more than a dozen charitable horticultural organizations. Thousands of evergreen trees have been distributed to Shaler kindergarteners, since 2000, for Arbor Day - a project which recently evolved to celebrate Earth Day with seed packets

The ten women who gathered at Mrs. Davis' home in 1921 may not have foreseen the club's survival through the wars, cultural and technological changes of the past century, but they would be proud of the work and bonds of friendship harvested from their seeds planted 100 years ago. 🌱

Judy Schiffbauer is the Shaler GC Publicity Chair.

Robin's Nest

Robin Pokorski

What a year-plus we have all experienced! I hear from garden clubbers across the country – “yikes, our membership took a hit during COVID.” Contrarily, leadership does not seem to be posing as much a challenge as usual. Many club officers are willing to take another year, since the last year was low-key. Now we need to buckle down and put together a membership drive.

Each club should develop a plan to retain members, attract new members and mentor potential leaders. That plan should include methods for everyone to participate in the recruitment of new members in some way. Do you have a member that does not get out much, then could he/she call new members, showing interest in them? Everyone in the club needs to take ownership of the necessity of enlisting people. Maybe your plan needs to let go of restrictive limitations for new members. Maybe your club should consider new and different methods of recruitment. Does your club have a flyer listing a contact name, where and when your club meets and the upcoming season's program?

Our leadership comes from having sufficient new people cycling through our clubs. New members need to feel so valuable that they fully commit to our clubs and eventually to taking a leadership role. That does not mean that we give them a huge job (the one no one else will take) – it means we listen to discern their interest and their assets and offer them something that will pique their interest. Maybe new member “Jane” was a computer specialist – so perhaps she would like to handle the social media or your club's website BUT



Gerianne Holzman

possibly she wants nothing more to remind her of her work – maybe hospitality chair or table design chair is something she wants to explore.

Be sure you are not assuming Jane's interest – ask Jane about herself – and then listen. You may be surprised at what you can learn when you listen carefully. Do not pigeonhole people, give them opportunities to grow and expand their horizons for then your club reaps the benefits of an active, engaged member and a potential future leader. 🌱

Robin's Nest is a continuing feature of TNG. Do you have questions on leadership? Send your questions for Robin's Nest to [Robin Pokorski](#).

Robin Pokorski has held many position within NGC and currently serves on the membership and organization studies committees.

Headquarters News



Bill Trapp

In May, longtime NGC Headquarters Executive Director (ED) Michelle Smith resigned her position. William Trapp, NGC Accountant, was appointed the Interim ED. The TNG staff recently checked in with Bill for a quick interview.

- * **What is your position and other duties?** Accountant and Interim Executive Director. NGC Headquarters is a very small office, so I perform a lot of duties. My main duties include finances, information technology and currently managing the grounds and building.
- * **What is your vision for NGC?** I see the future of National Garden Clubs focusing on program development.
- * **What is your favorite flower?** Difficult question, but I would go with a rose.
- * **When you have 30 minutes of free time, what are you doing?** During my free time you can always find me outside. Most of the time running or biking, but also working out in the yard.

We wish Bill all the best in his new position and wish Michelle farewell and thanks. 🌱

Flower Show School

We Are Back!

Jan Warshauer

Flower Show Schools and Symposiums are active again. Please check the NGC website FSS Page for the schedule of these events. Judges Councils and garden clubs are planning NGC Flower Shows across the country. We are "Blooming again and ready to Play in the Garden." Please check the NGC website regularly for postings and new ideas coming to the FSS Page.

Handbook for Flower Shows (2017) additions and changes

1. Horticulture entries: "Exhibitor may make more than one entry per class if each is a different species, variety, cultivar, type or color. Add to the HB page 25 at the end of 6.e. (General Rules)
2. Naturalistic will be changed to Natural in the Handbook for Flower Shows.
3. Horticulture, HB pages 59 III. Combination Plantings A. Delete Naturalistic and insert Natural (F. Troughs - naturalistic remains unchanged) and Botanical Arts 93, II. B. 1. b. Plaque, delete naturalistic and insert natural)
4. Artistic Crafts point values are changed in their distribution on the Point Score form.
5. (HB pages 112 and 131) Please see the Point Scoring Form for Artistic Crafts posted on the website FSS Resources page.
6. Accredited Judge to Life judge - Additional Exhibiting Credit (box) page 117, 1. Add Educational and One (1) Alternate Exhibiting Credit (box) page 118 delete 1. and renumber 2 and 3.
7. Horticulture Curriculum Course III and IV are revised as previously announced (HB pages 126 and 127) effective July 1. Please view those changes on the FSS Resources page on the NGC website under Curriculum.
8. Glossary
 - Staging Panel, add at the beginning of the definition, Two-dimensional or three-dimensional, Pg. 152
 - Natural, add definition- Existing or caused by nature, not made or caused by humankind. Pg. 148

Flower Show School Symposium

- Allied Topics at the Symposium level may be taught virtually, or in person, as decided by the State Symposium Chairman and the contracted Instructor or presenter.

Flower Show School Committee (FSSC)

- A new position has been added to the FSSC, State Credentials Chairman, Suzy Andrego.
- The committee list will be posted on the website. ●

Jan Warshauer is the NGC Flower Show School Committee Chair.

Website
Updates

TNG Ads

Wufoo™

Committees

TNG
Articles

Forms

Blogs

PDF Forms



Gerd Altman , Pixabay

Forms, forms, forms...

Poss Tarpley

NGC uses **fillable PDF forms** for registering various functions and sending information to chairs. The [Forms Library](#) houses all of the forms. (You may access the Forms Library using the link in the footer of every page of the website.) Select your desired form in the Library, download and save it to your computer. Different committees have different forms for their own use. You can fill them all out on your device and save to your personal files. After downloading and saving, you may open the form to complete it. The spaces for information may be blue or colorless on the form. Put your cursor next to the requested information and start typing. After completing the form, you must save it to your computer with a new name. You will then be able to send this completed form as an attachment to another person or to Headquarters on a Wufoo form.

Submit changes to text and pages on the NGC website, as well as forms to post on the website, to Headquarters using the online Wufoo form. (Wufoo is the company used by NGC to build online forms.) Only NGC chairs and officers may submit changes and/or additions to the NGC website.

All members of the Board of Directors have access to the board member restricted section of the website. At the top of that page, click on the link "2021-2023 Web Page Revision Request Form." When the Wufoo form appears, fill out your information (name, position, etc.) at the top of the form. You must include the URL of the page on the website where you want your information/changes to appear. A URL is the page's "address" on the website. When you open a page on the website, find the URL at the top of your device screen, it

starts with the letters "http or https." You need to type in the complete address or copy and paste the address on the Wufoo form, as this tells Headquarters staff the exact page of where to post the information.

Directions follow about text (changes and/or removal) on the page to update or change. If there is no change in the text on the page, put N/A for Not Applicable in the two boxes about text. Do not skip this step! Your Wufoo form will not be accepted unless you fill in all of the spaces on the form.

If you are submitting a form, document or image, upload it into one of the two boxes at the bottom of the form. You can send two new items at the same time if they are going to the same page. Click on the box and upload the form or document you have saved on your device. Note the file size limit, if your file is too large, it is not acceptable. You will need to reduce your file size or send as a .zip file.

There is a text box provided for "Additional Instructions." Here you may type in more information, such as where to place your form or text on the page. Once you complete all spaces and boxes, hit "send" at the bottom of the Wufoo form. You will immediately receive an acknowledgement if your request is successful. Wufoo also sends you an email thanking you for sending the form. Do not reply to this automated form.

The National Gardener subscriptions, articles, images and advertisements also use a Wufoo form for submission. Visit [The National Gardener](#) page and click on the appropriate links. [Blog article submissions](#), also, use a Wufoo form. 🌱

Poss Tarpley is the National Garden Clubs Webmaster.



ORGANIC

A natural in the garden since 1929.



ESPOMA ORGANIC AND NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS
WANT TO HELP YOUR CLUB

Plant America!



Your local garden projects and programs provide inspiring opportunities that bring neighbors, cultures and generations together to share the experience and joy of gardening. As recognition of the valuable resource that your club contributes to your community, up to 20 local garden clubs across America will be awarded grants. Recipients will earn up to \$250 of Espoma Organic Plant Foods & Potting Soils. So be inspired America! Join our effort to Plant America Together. Register your garden club today! Sign up at: www.espoma.com/garden-clubs.



Visit us at www.espoma.com and join our gardening community.



Photography

Gerd Altman, Pixabay



NGC Photographers

Carol English

NGC is thrilled to announce our new Photography program. The Photography program will educate and encourage members interested in improving their photography skills to help them capture the exquisite beauty of nature. You will look at your gardens and local landscapes from a new perspective. Searching for the perfect angle and light is an exceptionally fun and rewarding activity.

Get ready to pose in front of your computer for informative and fun workshops on how to develop your artistic and creative skills and snap the best photo! Do not blink or shutter your eyes - there will be lots of news about workshops and programs coming soon. So, grab your camera and come Play Outdoors. Mary Warshauer, NGC President

This program will include opportunities for online and in-person workshops by noted photographers. Look for educational information in NGC publications and on the website. In addition, watch for a special photography Facebook page, blog and newsletter. You will also have the opportunity to have images evaluated and judged.

You can look forward to some great instructional programs via Zoom from professional photography teachers as well as tips, suggestions and educational opportunities from our own NGC members. We will have a group page on Facebook called "NGC Photographers" and we invite you to join us. Our very own Lynn O'Shaughnessy, from Michigan, will show you many factors that affect your photos and you can see both successes and failures.

There will be some very informative photography blogs to browse through on the NGC website, including some great suggestions for improving your photographs. Margot Partridge from New Jersey will feature local club solutions to staging flower shows and their unique programs to get everyone involved. Please send your club photos directly to Margot. Look and see her club's project in our newsletter. To subscribe to the photography newsletter, contact Arabella

Dane who will be providing much exciting information. She will be sending out this great publication several times throughout the year. The Photography Committee members, Arabella Dane, Carol English, Margo Partridge and Lynn O'Shaughnessy, have extensive photography backgrounds. Learn about them in the next issue of *The National Gardener*. 🌱

Carol English is the Photography program committee chair and enjoys photographing birds and flowers in the Adirondacks.



MAGIC OF SNAPSEED

Introducing National Garden Clubs' first celebrity Zoom workshop with internationally renowned photographer

Rad A. Drew

Learn to process images on your smart phone with the powerful free app,

SnapSeed

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

5:00 - 6:30 PM EST

Zoom Online Workshop

Price: \$10.00

REGISTER HERE



Let's
COOK!



Rhubarb & Berry Crumble

Pat Greathead

This is an easy dish that many find tasty. It can be served for breakfast, dessert, packaged and sold at a club event, and may be served with or without whipped cream. At any temperature it is enjoyable.

Cook time: 45-55 minutes. Pre-heat oven to 350°.

Ingredients:

- ◆ 2.5 cups light brown sugar, firmly packed
- ◆ 2.5 cups flour
- ◆ 1.5 cups quick or rolled oats
- ◆ 2 tablespoons cinnamon
- ◆ 1 cup melted butter (I use unsalted)
- ◆ 4-5 stalks rhubarb, sliced to 0.75"
- ◆ 3-4 cups berries (I use raspberries or black caps) – frozen is fine

Preparation:

Combine the first four ingredients in a medium sized bowl. Add the melted butter, stirring until all the dry ingredients are incorporated and the mixture is crumbly.

Coat the bottom of a 13" x 9" baking dish with butter. Pour approximately one-third of the crumb mixture in the dish. Top with the rhubarb and then berries. Cover with remaining crumb mixture. Cook at 350° for 45 to 55 minutes. Top should be slightly browned. Remove and cool to desired temperature. ●

Pat Greathead loves to cook and grow vegetables. She shares her delicious recipes at many garden club events.



Celebrate Summer

Festival of Fountains Now–September 26

Our Gardens make a splash all summer long as hundreds of fountains jet to life in daily shows amid glorious gardens overflowing with blooming annuals and perennials. As evening falls, our famed Illuminated Fountain Performances set to music of your favorite genre create a spectacle unlike any other. Experience this unforgettable spectacle all summer long. On view now.



**LONGWOOD
GARDENS**

Nestled in the heart of the Brandywine Valley in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

longwoodgardens.org



Guiding You into the Virtual World

Cherie Lejeune

Our Virtual Resources Committee is dedicated to providing technical support to the NGC leaders, NGC committees, regions, states, districts and even local clubs. We can provide the following using the NGC ZOOM account: general meeting requests and special interest programs such as educational, recreational and business. We can help YOU reach your target audience.

We can help support state, district and clubs' individual ZOOM accounts with everything from tech proctoring to production, planning and support. We work with the NGC social media team who can easily promote, through messaging, certain virtual-based events. While Social Media cannot filter their audience, with any programs that are open to all, it will be of great value. We will take advantage of some programs in live stream mode to eliminate worrying about ZOOM, auditorium size, etc.

Leadership, clubs' activities and instructors will help us generate other programs on the Virtual Resource Platform. We are here to help our NGC community with the following:

- Training
 - ◇ Large groups or small groups, open to national, state, clubs and even one-on one
 - ◇ Digital device support
 - ◇ ZOOM - "how to" is always changing
 - ◇ Hybrid tools, cameras, tips and tricks
 - ◇ Production - PWPT, CANVA, GOGGLE TOOLS
- Workshops
 - ◇ We will build an inventory of programs that can be hosted digitally for all size audiences including clubs, states and national programs desired by executive leadership.
 - ◇ We will create an inventory of resources that exist online already. We will provide links to free and/or fee-based programs.
 - ◇ We will build list of speakers who are willing to do ZOOM presentations. We already have many instructors, from our online schools, who are waiting and willing to participate. 🌱

Cherie Lejeune is the chair of the Virtual Resources Committee, other members are Trish Bender, Laura Grainger and Pat Rupiper. Contact the [Virtual Team](#) for all of your virtual programming questions, assistance and guidance.



Welcome Affiliates! Idalia Aguilar

Gerianne Holzman, editor of *The National Gardener (TNG)*, is interested in broadening our new online publication and making it more inclusive. Her intent is to promote and reach into our membership to include the participation of our national and international audience.

The forthcoming editions of *TNG* will feature COMAAI News / Noticias COMAAI – Comité de Actividades de Afiliados Internacionales, a new segment in the publication to provide readers with a visual window into highlights of National Garden Clubs’ international outreach. We are pleased to feature three short articles with PowerPoint links in every issue throughout our coming year.

As International Affiliate (IA) Liaison, it is my pleasure to introduce the IA members who will be assisting Gerianne to post these articles in English and Spanish. Gracias! 🌿



Pampa Risso Patrón, the English/Spanish editing translator for this new endeavor is a member of the Garden Club Argentino - Hurlingham. We welcome Pampa, who is new to COMAAI.



Ana Calegari, our IA editor on horticulture, is a member of Salto Garden Club in Uruguay.



Pilar Medellín, NGC instructor and our design editor, is a member of Club de Jardinería Geranio in Torreón, Mexico.



Blanca Niño Norton, our conservation editor, is a member of Club Jardín Guatemala in Guatemala City.



Idalia Aguilar continues her many years of service as the NGC International Affiliates liaison.

C

O

M

A

A

I



Bienvenidos afiliados Idalia Aguilar

Gerianne Holzman, editora de *The National Gardener*, tiene como objetivo que nuestra nueva publicación virtual sea más inclusiva con la intención de promover e incluir la participación de nuestra membresía nacional e internacional.

Las próximas ediciones de *TNG* ofrecerán COMAAI News / Noticias COMAAI – Comité de Actividades de Afiliados Internacionales, un nuevo segmento en la publicación que brindará a nuestros lectores una ventana visual que destaca el alcance internacional de NGC. Nos enorgullese presentar tres artículos cortos con enlaces de PowerPoint en cada edición durante el próximo año

Como enlace de *Afiliadas Internacionales* (IA), es un placer para mí presentar a las socias de IA que apoyarán a Gerianne en la publicación de estos artículos en inglés y español. Gracias! 🌱



Pampa Riso Patrón, traductora y editora de los textos inglés/español en este nuevo emprendimiento es socia del Garden Club Argentino - Hurlingham. Le damos la bienvenida a Pampa, quien se une por primera vez al servicio de COMAAI.



Ana Calegari, editora IA de horticultura, es socia del Salto Garden Club en Uruguay.



Pilar Medellín, Instructora de NGC y editora IA de diseño, es socia del Club de Jardinería Geranio en Torreón, México. .



Blanca Niño Norton, editora IA de conservación, es socia del Club Jardín de Guatemala.



Idalia Aguilar, continúa brindándonos sus años de servicio como NGC Coordinadora de Afiliados Internacionales.

C

O

M

A

A

I



Help Build Our Garden

Gail Corle Manna

Something new and exciting is happening to NGC Life Membership. Your donation of \$200 continues to be evenly divided between two wonderful programs—the PLANT AMERICA Community Grants Fund and the Permanent Home and Endowment. Now, you will become part of a new virtual interactive garden, located on the Life Member page of the NGC website.

We are so excited about our new Garden. Existing NGC Life Members will be the corner stones and hardscape of the garden with our new 2021-2023 Life Members as the beautiful plants, flourishing and growing lush with each new membership. All will be able to see our virtual garden grow, bloom and come to life right before their eyes. **Do not miss your chance to participate!** Walk through our Garden Gate, become a new NGC Life Member or give a gift membership. You will be part of this wonderful interactive garden.

The Garden will take your breath away. Join today! Be part of this new virtual adventure. The [NGC Life Membership Applications](#) are on the website under Member Resources.

Life Member committee members, Margaret Woda and Cherie Lejeune, are constructing the Life Membership virtual garden as we speak. It will be blooming on the website in the very near future. 🌱

Gail Corle Manna is the NGC Life Membership Chair and a member of the Membership Committee. Contact [Gail](#) with any Life Memberships questions.



Mark Your Calendars



Anrita1705, PKaboy

President Mary's Travels

- ❖ July 20 - 22: The GC of Ohio, Twinsburg, OH
- ❖ August 27 - 29: Rocky Mountain Region Meeting, Lake Milford, KS
- ❖ September 11: Montana Virtual Convention
- ❖ September 21 - 25: NGC FBM, St. Louis, MO
- ❖ October 12 - 13: New England Region Meeting, Wells, ME
- ❖ November 1 - 2: Central Region Meeting, Middlebury, IN
- ❖ November 17, Delaware Federation of GC, Fall Meeting, location TBD

Coming Soon!

- ❖ July 14: Rad Drew Photography Workshop
- ❖ Sept 21 - 24: NGC Fall Board Meeting, St. Louis, MO
- ❖ July - October: [Environmental Schools](#)*
- ❖ July - March: [Flower Show Schools](#)*
- ❖ September: [Gardening School](#)*
- ❖ August - March: [Landscape Design School](#)*
- ❖ January: [Multiple Refreshers](#)*
- ❖ August - November: [Symposia](#)*
- ❖ [International Events](#)*
- ❖ May 15 - 21, 2022: NGC Annual Convention, Orlando, FL

*Clicking on the links takes you directly to the most up-to-date course listings and details on the NGC website.

New Publication - *On the Bright Side, Play Outside* Activity Log

The activity log is designed to help children record their outdoor activities and receive a certificate after 30 days of playing outdoors. Kids complete activities at their own pace. Click on the *On the Bright Side, Play Outside* image and scroll the publication page to download, free, from "Youth Publications."





Gerianne Holzman

Sitting on the Porch

Gerianne Holzman, Editor

As I sit on the porch and review our first edition of *The National Gardener*, I wonder how in the world did I get to this place? Recently, I heard someone give a presentation titled “Why Bother?” Her point was why should anyone bother to get involved with civil liberties, politics or their community. That same question of “Why Bother?” applies to pretty much anything we do with our lives. Back to how I got to this place...it “bothered” me way back in grade school when something, in my opinion, was not right. My mom said, “Stop whining about it and do something.” So, I did. Thus began this unexpected, adventurous and long journey of wanting to make a difference by doing, not just talking. Volunteer activities led me to community activism in saving and expanding a community garden space. My sister dying of pancreas cancer led me to chair an annual fundraising event to raise funds for research and patient support. Being talked into taking a floral design class led me down the road to becoming a Flower Show Judge, which then opened up the entire world of garden clubs. Why bother? Because it is fun, interesting, enlightening and you get to meet great people from all over the world.

When I was young, I thought I wanted to be an author. My lifelong career took me in a different direction to veterinary technology. However, writing was always a passion, culminating in many professional papers and presentations. Finally, co-authoring a textbook just before retirement. It seemed the end of using my writing skills.

Well, that only lasted until President Gay Austin asked me to take on *Keeping in Touch*. When President Mary Warshauer asked me to join her team as the editor of *The National Gardener*, I was shocked, to say the least. I am not a professional writer. Would I take on more than I can handle? Friends said, “Why bother? You already volunteer enough.” After much thought and deliberation, I decided to take on this opportunity and challenge to expand my horizons and to give back to an organization that has given me so much. The next time someone asks you to help with a project, volunteer or donate, instead of saying “Why Bother?” think of saying “Of Course!” You never know where that path will lead. 🌱

As we promised in our last issue of *Keeping in Touch*, *The National Gardener* is going through a metamorphosis. We appreciate your comments on our changes and hope you enjoy our special monarch images, representing our new look. Send comments and suggestions to [Gerianne Holzman](#), editor. Thank you!

NGC's NEW BOOK

On Sale TODAY in Our Store!

