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Spring 2013

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The National Gardener

Spring 2013
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National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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The Cover

Take Me Out To The Ball Game

An Exhibition Table Type II design using nearly everything you would need for a day at the ball park including a "baseball" mum.

The designer is Kris Urbanik,
Creative Arrangers of Connecticut.

Photographer: Cheryl Collins

President's Message

NGC: Proudly Serving Our Members and Communities

As your President I have had the privilege of experiencing the vast array of volunteerism and educational pursuits undertaken by our members across the United States and beyond. Each state, region and country is unique, but everywhere a spirited, common bond exists—a bond that makes NGC so much more than the sum of its parts. Serving as your leader has been a distinct honor, garnished with lots of gratitude for your welcoming hospitality and support.

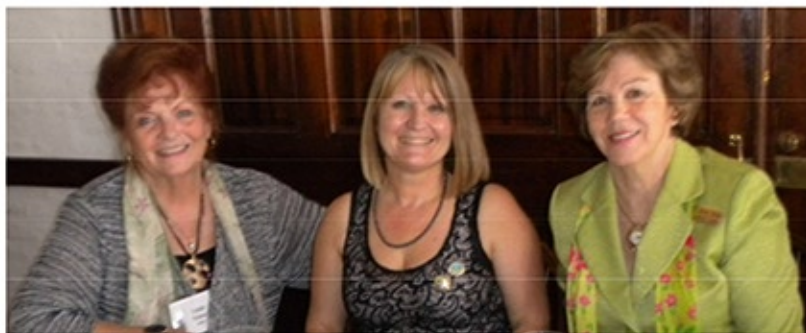
You have embraced the concept that, at all levels, **servicing our members** is a priority so that they feel valued. To promote worth at the national level, *The National Gardener* will still be available by paid subscription, but will also be available on the Members' Section of gardenclub.org. A new password will be provided to State Presidents and other 2013-2015 board members for distribution on May 27th, in Seattle. (NGC Life Members and current subscribers



will continue to receive hard copies unless they opt out; no refunds for current subscriptions will be granted; School Committees will determine their requirement policies; this issue can be viewed on the Members' Section by using the words **member** and **proud**.) *TNG*, a premier educational publication promoting our mission, is received by a relatively small portion of our members. Increasing readership, either by

subscription or online, is our goal.

You have also embraced the concept of **servicing our communities** by participating in Continuing or President's Projects, thereby providing visibility and purpose to our clubs. You realize that **Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems** is crucial to future generations. You've planted trees and shrubs, gardens with edibles and container



Thirty NGC members traveled to Argentina, in November, to experience spring, sightseeing and Standard Flower Shows in Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata. Pictured, from left: President Elect Linda Nelson; Dora Rocca, Presidente del Garden Club Argentino; and President Shirley Nicolai.



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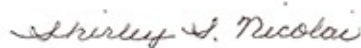
gardens for **Plantings for Public and Special Places**. More of you are documenting your projects through **Photo Archiving of Accomplishments** on our *flickr* site. Your involvement with these initiatives is much appreciated.

Thousands of you from the local, district, state, region and national levels assume leadership positions on behalf of NGC. In the process, you continually hone your skills, become mentors to those who will follow you and realize that having fun is essential to success. I applaud each of you for your efforts and trust that you will continue to be NGC ambassadors.

Applause is also warranted for our seven praiseworthy staff members in St. Louis. Helping regions with their financial reporting and upgrading the website are just 2 of the challenges they have faced during this term. Shopping online with a credit card is now a viable option.

Each administration depends on finding hosts for Conventions, Fall Board and Executive Committee Meetings. I wish to thank National Capital Area Garden Clubs, Inc. for my launch in Washington, D.C., Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, Inc. for the 2012 Buffalo Convention and Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs for the upcoming Seattle Convention. Thanks are also due to The Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri, Inc. and Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. for hosting Fall Board Meetings and to New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. for hosting Winter Executive Committee Meetings. The wonderful chairmen of these events put in countless hours; they, too, deserve homage.

As Gertrude Jekyll aptly stated, "The love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies." Please join me in sowing this special, shared love in the coming months and years.



NGC True or False Quiz

1. You may attend NGC Schools only in your own state.
2. Any NGC garden club member is welcome to attend Annual Conventions.
3. NGC dues are only 50 cents per member.
4. Most Member Service items can be purchased online using a credit card.
5. NGC Headquarters is located in Chicago.
6. A Standard Flower Show must have at least as many horticulture classes as design classes.
7. *The National Gardener* is published four times per year.
8. The Tri-Color Award may be given to a design using dried plant material.
9. National Garden Week takes place during the 1st full week of December.
10. Each State Garden Club may submit one NGC scholarship application; states with 10,000 or more members may submit two applications.

See page 39 for the answers.

NGC Mission Statement

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

If you wish to make anything grow, you must understand it, and understand it in a very real sense. 'Green fingers' are a fact, and a mystery only to the unpracticed. But green fingers are the extensions of a verdant heart.

—Russell Page, *The Education Of A Gardener*

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Welcome to Seattle

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs welcomes you to Seattle, the Emerald City, for the 2013 National Garden Clubs Convention in May. We are excited and pleased to share our Pacific Northwest cuisine, beautiful weather (think "RainShine"), and ambiance with you. Located on Puget Sound, Seattle is a great place as a home base or starting point for tours before and after the convention. The Seattle Sheraton Hotel is a lovely venue and is centrally located for "On Your Own" tours that are within walking distance. Bring your walking shoes; some of the hills in the city are steep and will give you a workout.

If it is rainy, you will appreciate a mini-folding umbrella; if it is sunny, you will appreciate a sunhat and sunglasses. Tote bags

are necessities. Bring your cameras; our gardeners are passionate about their gardens and the maritime weather, with many micro-climates, will give you memorable views. Members have been busy working to provide you with a beautiful experience.

Pre-Convention Tours A through H offer Tri-Refresher credit at stunningly beautiful gardens: Butchart Gardens (in Canada, bring passport); Bellevue Botanical Garden; Bloedel Reserve, on Bainbridge Island; Seattle Art Museum's Olympic Sculpture Park; four gardens and parks of Olmsted's legacy; Rhododendron Species Garden; Edgewood Garden; Seattle's Japanese Garden; plus areas of the University of Washington campus that are environmentally friendly; and finally Woodland Park Zoo, which has had a major landscape renovation.

Tours 1-3, Museum of Flight (Boeing), LeMay — America's Car Museum, and Future of Flight (Boeing factory) for spouses are state-of-the-art as well as "time traveling through the past."

Seminar speakers



At left: Judith Juno, WSGFC President, and Jeanette Pruin, Convention Chairman, on the right.

Mike Vowels, Marianne Binetti, Dave Hunter, Cass Turnbull, and Alison Kutz cover green living practices, and Joan H. Corbisiero will present parliamentary basics. All cover topics of interest to gardeners and club officers.

Featured speakers are Graham Kerr, from "The Galloping Gourmet to the Galloping Gardener," John Gaydos, of Proven Winners, and Rene van Rems, sharing "European High Style Design and Trends."

Go to gardenclub.org and click on 2013 Convention. Sign up. Come. Enjoy.

Convention 2013 Chairman Jeanette Pruin and her Vice-chairmen, Carolyn Erickson and Sally Priebe, are phenomenal women inspiring all our chairmen and members to enthusiastically present Seattle to you. We look forward to your visit.

—Judith Juno, WSFGC President

© Tim Thompson



Historic Pioneer Square is Seattle's oldest residential area, now a major visitor attraction with restaurants, galleries and lively clubs.



Environmental Studies School Curriculum-Updates

The NGC Executive Committee approved at the Winter Executive Committee Meeting, January 2013, the Updated Environmental Studies School Curriculum. The goals of the Environmental Studies School Committee were to:

- ◆ Expand, clarify and define content of course topics.
- ◆ Update course content to address current environmental issues.
- ◆ Focus on what consumers can do to achieve a sustainable environment.

Additions, with special emphasis to course topics, included:

- ◆ Focus on effects of human population and its impact on the environment.
- ◆ Recognize that consumers are not currently required to pay for full environmental costs.
- ◆ Acknowledge aspects of pollution, consumption, technology and economic factors of earth's resources.
- ◆ Explore the environmental, technological and economic aspects of non-renewable and renewable fuels and alternatives.
- ◆ Focus on "Green Energy," "Zero Energy," "Vampire Power," and conservation of "Wasted Energy."
- ◆ Discuss the management of renewable resources to achieve sustainability.
- ◆ Explore sustainable food production, modified genetics, and corporate farming.

◆ Identify techniques of pollution control applying the principles of sustainability.

◆ Examine aquaculture as associated with food production.

Copies of the approved updated curriculum to the Environmental Studies School Curriculum have been sent to the NGC Schools Committee and the State ESS Chairmen. The updated ESS Curriculum has been submitted to the Website Chairman. Updates and/or changes are underlined for easy identification. Copies of the *ESS Handbook*, with the updated curriculum, will be available from NGC Headquarters. Note: The updated curriculum is to be implemented by September 1, 2013.

—**Judy Newman**, NGC ESS Chairman



Sun and Shade

Most yards have a mix of full sun and some shade, so you should have plantings for both. If you are planning a vegetable garden it should get the prime sunny spot whenever possible. Even if the sun shines only on your deck or patio you can grow vegetables. Many can be successfully grown in containers, letting you “move” the garden into the sun.

Many people get discouraged over getting any color into shady areas. However, prudent planning can get color just about anywhere. There are a number of colorful plants that will do well in all but the deepest shade. Impatiens are outstanding for brightening up shady spots, as are coleus and begonias. These also have the advantage of a wide variety of colors for your overall theme. If the shady area also has the problem of poor soil conditions, a raised garden bed or different size pots and containers can overcome that problem without a lot of work. Baskets hung from tree limbs can draw attention to the beauty and position of the tree in the garden.

—**National Garden Bureau**, ngb.org

Wildflower Rewards

Is it better for the environment to limit lawn space? Possibly, it is. Many times our properties require excessive amounts of water and chemicals. Why not try to decrease this area by enlarging wildflower and/or native plant, tree, shrub, and fern beds that will need less water and create a healthy habitat. An added and much appreciated side effect will be an abundance of butterflies, bees and songbirds.

Native composites, which are wildflowers with daisy-shaped blooms, are the best champions at attracting insects; composites are usually bright in color with built-in landing pads for winged insects.

Different types of asters (*Asteraceae*) are found in all fifty states. These star-shaped flowers come in shades of blue, purple, and pink with yellow centers. The golden inflorescences of goldenrod (*Solidago*) made up of many tiny flowers, come under the composite category. Also, coneflowers (*Echinacea*) with their brown centers grow from coast to coast.

Alaska, Nevada, and Utah are the only states that cannot call *Coreopsis* (tickseed) native. These yellow blooms with notched tips are always stand-outs. Wild relatives of the cultivated sunflowers grow throughout the U.S. in shades of yellow, orange, chestnut and maroon, as well as combinations of these colors. Other bug-magnets that should be considered are the buckwheats (*Polygonaceae*) and the milkweeds (*Asclepiadaceae*).

When planting, select different flowering times so that something wild and beautiful will always be in bloom (the bugs will like this, too). Gardeners should keep a list of existing plants in their landscape and add plants in an ecological and sensible way. Buy only healthy, suitable plants that will thrive without irrigation, fertilizer or pesticides. It would be ideal to refuse any invasive exotic, no matter how beautiful.

The first week in May is National Wildflower Week. Plan a discovery walk with a child

or grandchild and marvel at the surprises found. Seeds and plants, dormant over the winter, burst forth with a new promise of spring renewal. Share this promise with a group, such as scouts or a classroom of children. The many examples easily noticed make for an interesting and informative meeting: a walk, a folklore story, a little scientific knowledge (culture, growth patterns, naming of the flowers, etc.). National Wildflower Week comes before Mother's Day, so each child could take someone special for a wildflower walk with some information for sharing, with hopes of this leading to a life-long appreciation.

As spring leads into summer and fall, little blooms may be snipped and pressed in pages of a non-glossy book. It takes about six weeks for petals and leaves to dry. Remove petals before pressing if flower centers are hard or elevated. Make sure blooms are free of insects and dry. Collect specimens late morning on dry days before they begin to droop from heat.

Jack Jennings



Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*

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There are many uses for pressed flowers, from botanical studies to decorating crafts. Glued to cards, these blooms will last, although colors may fade. Flower forms remain as well as leaf forms. Many blooms are similar, whereas the leaves make identification possible. A gardener's diary is important for future study of locations, blooming times, etc.

Seed collection is usually easy. With difficult seedheads, tie a small square of netting around the dying bloom. Seeds will drop into the little pouch rather than blow away.

Use these flowers to decorate stationery, photo mats, candles and paperweights. Pressed flowers glued to the outside of a clear Christmas ball make a beautiful decoration.

Remember: Take time to smell the flowers! Notice and enjoy our wildflowers and engage our young students with an appreciation that could last into their adult lives. Isn't this our challenge?

ENJOY!

—Dianne Hughes,
NGC Wildflower
Chairman



A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.

—Gertrude Jekyll

President's Project: Plantings for Public and Special Places

Trees and Shrubs

Troubled Trees

The unusual hot dry weather during the 2012 growing season has certainly affected trees across the United States from coast to coast! Trees can be stressed by many factors besides drought! Trees, like all living things, can adapt to certain conditions. They prefer a specific soil type, space and moisture to reach their full potential. When trees are stressed because they were taken from their growing environment and placed in small cramped sidewalk tree wells they will not be able to thrive. These trees are more susceptible to fungus, insects and disease. Insects that are minor problems in wooded areas become major problems in urban areas.

Trees such as lindens, elm and some oaks are known for their hardiness in urban landscapes because they are able to adjust to their new growing conditions. Compact soil around newly planted trees, nutrient poor soils, under and over watering all affect a tree's health. Root loss because of grade changes or even driving over roots can affect a tree's health. The reflected heat from surrounding buildings, asphalt and concrete can reflect upon newly planted trees and cause the soil to become hotter and drier.

Urban tree stress can be improved by the addition of mulch, removing any turf under trees and increasing soil aeration. If a tree is treated for boring insects when drought is the key problem, the fix will not provide a solution.

Typical symptoms of urban tree stress include leaf scorch, wilted leaves, stunted growth, early fall color change and early leaf drop. Minor stress can be helped by a little extra water. Mulch at least 2"-4" deep. If you find that all of the above does not solve



A drought-stressed tree

your tree's current problems, contacting a professional arborist may be a final solution. A healthy tree is safer, makes more shade, grows faster, and can tolerate heat waves and high winds. Contact the International Society of Arboriculture's website at isa-arbor.com to look for a certified arborist in your area.

—Phyllis Besch, Tree and Shrub Committee Member

For more information, see the May Issue of *Missouri Conservationist*.

Eastern Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis) despite its species name is native to the East and Midwest U.S. as well as eastern Canada. It is one of about 30 species of Columbine found in North America. Columbine is often found in a shady woodland setting though they have a deep taproot that enables them to grow in dry sites. The colorful red and yellow flowers that open in spring and summer are a favorite of hummingbirds. (Zones 3-9)

—National Garden Bureau

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Blue Star Memorial Marker

90 Year-Old West Side Garden Club Refurbishes 60 Year-Old Blue Star Memorial

In 1952, the West Side Garden Club, founded in 1922, was enjoying its 30th year and seeking additional ways to support civic projects, promote environmental interests, and to serve the Madison, Wisconsin, community. Following the lead of garden clubs across America, the members of WSGC chose to install a Blue Star Memorial highway marker to honor the men and women of the Armed Forces of America. In seeking an appropriate location, the club members selected Babcock County Park, which lies along Wisconsin State Highway 51, in the town of McFarland, about 10 miles southeast of Madison.

There, the Blue Star Memorial has stood for the past sixty years; and the West Side Garden Club has continued as well, and proudly celebrated its 90th birthday in 2012. How appropriate for this to be the year in which the garden club coordinated efforts to refurbish the aging memorial and to restore it to its original beauty. On October 16th, garden club members met to rededicate the marker and to recognize the contributions of all who took part in the restoration effort.

West Side Garden Club donated \$300, using funds raised through the annual plant sale held each May. These plant sale proceeds are used to fund scholarships and numerous donations to local organizations and projects dedicated to promoting horticultural interests and environmental awareness. Club members also designed and built a raised bed and planted "patriotic" hosta—Patriot, Pilgrim, Liberty, to name a few—to further enhance the site and to add to the attractiveness of the memorial over time. May this Blue Star Memorial continue to stand for another 60 years!

—Cindy Fillingame, *President, West Side Garden Club, Madison, Wisconsin*

Winter Dreaming of Spring Perfection

As I write this, the weather is cloudy and cold, and yet, January is the time of year I love best. The planting catalogs are arriving, the garden spaces have been prepped for the spring, and there are NO WEEDS in the forecast! I wish for all of you pleasant dreaming.

Most of you know that I am the edibles chairperson for the President's Project, Plantings for Public/Special Places. I've enjoyed receiving entries for edible plantings from all over America. People are seeking instruction and examples of vegetable gardens. The level of interest is somewhere near the Victory Garden era of WWII. Information abounds—whether in books, the web, or from knowledgeable friends and gardeners. Many communities have ready resources. You might check with your land grant universities; they have an agricultural focus. Most of the large catalog companies have some type of planting/care instructions available on their web sites.

I thought I might just remind you of some basic planting facts.

- Test your soil before planting! Remember, a traditional bed is not the only place to put those vegetables.
- Have a water source readily available.
- Line up your volunteers to help plant (fun), weed (not so fun), water, and HARVEST (more fun).
- Know the amount of sunlight available for your spot and how well the spot drains.
- Plan for: where the harvest will be used; some sort of learning experience for the community; some produce recipes you can share.

A special thank you to all the clubs that sent in entries to National Garden Clubs, Inc. for the *President's Project, Plantings for Public/Special Places*.

Last year, I received a total of 37 entries from all our districts. There is reward money for the top three winners. Winners will be announced in the Summer 2013 TNG.

Please continue to grow in your communities! People are interested and you might gain new members or start a new club.

—Pat Ruppier, *NGC Gardens with Edibles Chairman*

National Garden Bureau



Why We Need Insects

Even 'Pesky' Ones

At first blush, many people would probably love to get rid of insects, such as pesky mosquitoes, ants and roaches. But a new study indicates that getting rid of insects could trigger some unwelcome ecological consequences, such as the rapid loss of desired traits in plants, including their good taste and high yields.

Specifically, the study—described in the October 5, 2012, issue of the journal *Science* and funded by the National Science Foundation—showed that evening primroses grown in insecticide-treated plots quickly lost, through evolution, defensive traits that helped protect them from plant-eating moths. The protective traits lost included the production of insect-detering chemicals and later blooms that gave evening primroses temporal distance from plant-eating larvae that peak early in the growing season.

These results indicate that once the plants no longer needed their anti-insect defenses, they lost those defenses. What's more, they did so quickly—in only three or four generations.

Anurag Agrawal, the leader of the study and a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Cornell University, explains, "We demonstrated that when you take moths out of the environment, certain varieties of evening primrose were particularly successful. These successful varieties have genes that produce less defenses against moths."

In the absence of insects, the evening primroses apparently stopped investing energy in their anti-insect defenses, and



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so these defenses disappeared through natural selection. Agrawal says that he was "very surprised" by how quickly this process occurred, and that such surprises, "tell us something about the potential speed and complexities of evolution. In addition, experiments like ours that follow evolutionary change in real-time provide definitive evidence of evolution."

"This experimental demonstration of how rapid evolution can shape ecological interactions supports the idea that we need to understand feedbacks between evolutionary and ecological processes in order to be able to predict how communities and ecosystems will respond to change," said Alan Tessier, a program director in NSF's Directorate for Biological Sciences.

More information about this study is available at: www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Oct12/AgrawalEvolution.html and www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=125636&org=NSF&from=news

Polygonatum *odoratum* 'Variegatum'

 *Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum' is the Perennial Plant Association's 2013 Perennial Plant of the Year™. *Polygonatum odoratum* carries the common names of variegated Solomon's Seal, striped Solomon's Seal, fragrant Solomon's Seal and variegated fragrant Solomon's Seal. This all-season perennial has greenish-white flowers in late spring and variegated foliage throughout the growing season. The foliage turns yellow in the fall and grows well in moist soil in partial to full shade.

The genus *Polygonatum*, native to Europe, Asia, and North America, is a member of the Asparagaceae family. It was formerly found in the family Liliaceae. Regardless of its new location, members of *Polygonatum* are excellent perennials for the landscape. The genus botanical name (*Polygonatum*) comes from *poly* (many) and *gonu* (knee joints) and refers to the many-jointed rhizome from which the leaves arise. The common name Solomon's Seal has several proposed derivations. The first is that the scar that remains on the rootstock after the leaf stalks die off in the fall resembles the seal impressed on wax on documents in the past. The second source is John Gerard, the English botanist and herbalist, who suggested that the powdered roots were an excellent remedy for broken bones. He also felt that the plant had the capacity for "sealing wounds," which was why the perennial received the common name—Solomon's Seal.

Polygonatum odoratum 'Variegatum' grows 18 to 24 inches tall and will spread by rhizomes to form colonies. The oval-shaped leaves are carried on upright, arching, unbranched stems. The variegated leaves are light green with white tips and margins. Leaves

turn an attractive yellow in the autumn. Sweetly fragrant, small, bell-shaped white flowers with green tips, are borne on short pedicels from the leaf axils underneath the arching stems. Bluish-black berries are sometimes present in the autumn.

Variegated Solomon's Seal is a classic beauty for the shady woodland garden or the part-shade to full-shade border. It is a great companion plant to other shade lovers,



Photographs: Steven Still

including hostas, ferns and astilbes. The sweet fragrance will enhance that walk along a pathway on a spring morning. Flower arrangers will find the variegated foliage to be an attribute for spring floral arrangements. And finally, this all-season perennial offers yellow fall foliage color.

There are no serious insect or disease problems with variegated Solomon's Seal. Plants may be divided in the spring or fall. The white rhizomes should be planted just below the soil surface. *Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum' is a very easy perennial to grow and will enhance any shade garden, especially a more natural one.

—Perennial Plant Association

Landscape Design Schools

The 2012 Landscape Design Schools Operations Guide, with the required LDS Forms and the Documents for Reproduction, is available at NGC Headquarters. All State NGC LDS Chairmen are required to have this updated Operations Guide, as any Schools planned to begin with a new Series of Courses in the 2013-2015 NGC administration must follow procedures outlined in it.

The Operations Guide must also be used when a Refresher is to take place. The LDS Forms and Documents for Reproduction will be on the NGC web site, www.garden-club.org; most of the Forms are interactive. All State NGC LDS Series that are in progress as of the end of the 2011-2013 NGC administration are "grandfathered" to follow the curriculum for LDS Courses

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I through IV as outlined in the 2007 NGC Landscape Design Study Program Operations Guide. Use of the 2012 updated LDS forms is recommended for these Courses.

The NGC Landscape Design Schools Committee is always available for any questions. The dedication and support of the LDS program by all the state LDS chairmen, LDS students and LD Consultants is greatly appreciated by the Committee.

—Jane R. Bersch, NGC LDS Chairman



New Recommended Reading for Gardening Study Schools

At the Winter Executive Committee Meeting, in January, a Gardening Study School Committee recommendation to remove *Living With Plants* from the GSS required reading list and add the new textbook, *Botany for Gardeners* by Brian Capon, to the recommended reading (effective immediately) list was approved. *Living With Plants*, our long-term text, has not been updated for some time and is hard to find. It is no longer available in print and Member Services has only 16 copies in stock—so hurry and order a copy before they are all gone. It now moves to the recommended reading list.

Botany for Gardeners is a comprehensive biology text with good information and fine illustrations. The book is available in paperback and also as an on-line (Kindle/e-book) version. Copies may be purchased online (Amazon.com) and in book stores.

Botany for Gardeners offers a clear explanation of how plants grow. What happens inside a seed after it is planted? How are plants structured? How do plants adapt to their environment? How is water transported from soil to leaves? Why are minerals, air, and light important for healthy plant growth? How do plants reproduce? The answers to these and other questions about complex plant processes, written in everyday language, allow gardeners and horticulturists to understand plants "from the plant's point of view."

Thanks to Cathy Felton, GSS Vice Chairman, for all of her work in facilitating this change.

This Chairman just spent two days immersed in the world of Gardening Study Schools, serving as registrar and state GSS Chairman at a Course III sponsored by my own club, Southern California Garden Club, in Encino, California. This is one of nine courses so far scheduled for California this year. 48 attendees had so many questions about the world of gardening that we could have far exceeded the ten hours of instruction required for the course. One of our enterprising club members secured donations from Home Depot so that every student received a "door prize" of a pot or garden gloves. That same member donated a set of hand pruners (Course III includes the Pruning Techniques class). To be eligible to win these, you had to submit your registration check for Course IV. We therefore finished this course with 34 already registered for the next course.

We did find that scheduling this course so soon after the holidays presented some challenges and the elimination of time restrictions between courses that led to scheduling the next and final course less than two months after this one really keeps us on our toes so that we did not confuse our arrangements with the instructors for this course with what is in the works with the instructors for the next course. At this time we are thinking that we prefer the old requirement that courses had to be at least four months apart. Of course, we have the latitude so that next time around we can just build in greater separation between courses.

No matter how many of these courses I attend, I always learn something new and also come away with reinforcement and additional clarity about some of the things I did know. It is interesting to attend GSS in different locations because, although the required classes for each course are the same wherever the school is held, the things you learn vary according to the location of the school and its soil, climate, growing conditions and the plants that are grown in that area. Our Pruning Techniques instructor told us that the best disinfectant for pruning tools is Listerine. Recent University of Wisconsin



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At left: Students attend a Gardening Study course in Encino, California.

Below: Botany for Gardeners has been added to the GSS Recommended Reading List.

research determined that rubbing alcohol is insufficient to kill all diseases that may contaminate pruners. Listerine is as effective as a 10% bleach solution, while sparing your hands and clothes from the effects of the bleach.

How do you tell if a plant is valuable or a weed? Give it a yank — if it comes out easily it was valuable! For a never-ending supply of interesting information about the world of plants, come to Gardening Study School — and keep coming back for more.

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

"A combination of crisp, friendly writing and detailed, understandable illustrations yields a great book that will be a welcome addition to the reference shelf." —*Stonemary Review*



Botany for Gardeners

THIRD EDITION | Brian Capon



The most useful and accessible introduction to the science of plants

NGC Schools News



One of our NGC Schools Accrediting Chairmen recently advised after reviewing some State Garden Club websites that not all of them reference National Garden Clubs in their brochures, promotional materials or websites. NGC is a not-for-profit educational organization.

Our Mission Statement says, "National Garden Clubs, Inc. provides education, resources and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility." Our schools are a significant educational asset and benefit of membership in NGC. Our schools have been developed and maintained over many decades for the benefit of our member State



At left: A hands-on pruning exercise, in a Pruning Techniques class, in Encino, CA.

Below: Students learn about "Factors That Influence Plant Growth."

Greg Pokorski



Garden Clubs and their member clubs and as a service to the communities they serve. They are supported by the staff at NGC Headquarters and by our NGC volunteer committee members who devote countless hours to their administration. Accordingly, it is completely appropriate for all documentation about the schools, including brochures and registration forms, publicity, articles and any and all documentation to indicate that these are NGC Schools. All such documentation should generate name recognition for, and promote the existence of, NGC and our State Garden Clubs.

Club presidents, district directors, and state presidents are encouraged to know who the Consultants are in their clubs, districts and states, to recognize and acknowledge their accomplishments in attaining Consultant status, and to provide opportunities that utilize their knowledge and ability for the benefit of these clubs, districts and state garden clubs.

We hear that some clubs or club members in remote areas wish to attend and participate in our schools, but reside in areas where schools are not conducted and are precluded from travelling great distances to attend schools held elsewhere. One suggestion might be to hold schools as regional projects, drawing upon the work and participation of regional schools chairmen and club members in collaboration with state schools chairmen from one or more states to conduct and participate in schools.

Advertise, explain and promote NGC Schools in your events that celebrate Earth Day (April 22), National Arbor Day (April 26) and National Garden Week (June 2-8). Plan ahead to hold school courses at those times in observance of these special events. It is my hope, and that of your NGC Schools Committees, that our schools will be many in 2013 and that they will be well-attended. They provide useful and interesting information to garden club members and are open to the general public (who will hopefully decide, while attending class, that they too want to become garden club members). We invite you to attend and promote and

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learn from Environmental Studies Schools, Gardening Study Schools and Landscape Design Schools in 2013. You will be glad that you did.

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

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

A garden should make you feel you've entered privileged space—a place not just set apart but reverberant—and it seems to me that, to achieve this, the gardener must put some kind of twist on the existing landscape, turn its prose into something nearer poetry.
—Michael Pollan, *Second Nature: A Gardener's Education*



Plant Beauty, Not A Beast

Whenever you and your club are planning roadside beautification projects—be it a hedge to hide an eyesore, wildflowers to gladden the hearts of passersby, or a base planting to enhance a Blue Star marker or city limit sign—please be very aware of the impact of invasive species. Some of our most beloved ornamentals can (and do!) escape the boundaries of cultivation and cause great expense and effort trying to control them.

The same characteristics that make these grasses, herbs, shrubs and trees ideal for the roadside planting—tolerance of many soil types, quick adaptation and growth, drought resistance—have allowed their unchecked spread through areas of our country. The privet hedge (*Ligustrum sinense* Lour) you plant today to quickly hide that ugly junkyard can take over the forest understory in a few years, choking out na-

tive plants that sustain wildlife. The seeds of pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana* Shult. & Shult.) that looks so good on either side of the Welcome sign can rapidly germinate and spread in recently disturbed ground, causing fire hazards from its voluminous dry foliage and plumes.

Just as plantings and projects are all different, so, too, are the many invasive plants. Some need only a modicum of work to prevent them from spreading, and not all species are invasive in all areas of the country. For instance, the previously mentioned pampas grass is (so far) well-behaved in all but coastal California, and areas of Utah, Arizona and Colorado. Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica* L.) can be stoloniferous (spreading by roots), but does so slowly and a quick zap with a weedeater or chemicals once a year should easily keep it in check.

Native species can be considered to be invasive when they are found in places (such as Hawaii) where they could not have arrived by natural means. Moonflower (*Ipomoea alba* L.), Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera* (Raf.) Schneid.), gingerbush (*Pavonia spinifex* (L.) Cav.), and, despite

its name, European red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus* L.) are all native American plants that have been moved beyond their natural ranges, and whose populations are thriving to the detriment of local species.

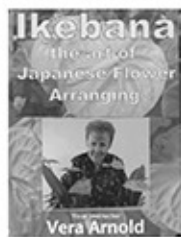
You cannot even take for granted that the wildflower seed mixes sold by some companies will not cause problems in a few years. Many of our beloved wildflowers—oxeye daisies (*Leucanthemum vulgare* Lam.), Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota* L.), chicory (*Cichorium intybus* L.) and violets (*Viola odorata* L.)—all began as imports that have now spread far beyond their intended sites.

So what's a conscientious garden clubber to do? Do a little research before you plan and plant. Every state has a noxious plant or invasive plant list. Check with your state's cooperative extension service for publications. Many are also listed on various websites. A good place to start is the U.S. National Arboretum at www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html, which has links to most states' invasive plants lists.

Another excellent reference site is www.invasiveplantatlas.org. There you can find pictures of many invasive plants, from

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seedlings to flowers to fruit, a description of where they can be found, plus maps showing distribution and states where they have been reported as invasive.

A bit of forethought can prevent your good works from turning to trouble.

—Carol Keefe, *NGC Roadside Beautification Chairman*; 334-687-5120; email: tkeefe4779@aol.com



*Opposite page: Privet (*Ligustrum sinense* Lour.) on the edge of an abandoned field.*

*At left: Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana* Shult. & Shult.) on a hillside in northern California.*

Priority: Pollinators

Providing patches of flowers is one thing we can do to improve the environment for pollinators.

—The Xerces Society

Honeybees have been disappearing in record numbers, and they are not the only pollinators that are imperiled.

Some butterflies and native bees have experienced significant population declines also, says Eric Mäder, Assistant Pollinator Program Director for the Xerces Society.

It was just a few years ago that homeowners were asking what they could plant that would not attract bees. Now, the question is more likely to be, "How can I attract bees and other pollinators to my garden?"

Pollinators are a diverse and fascinating group of invertebrates, and we have them to thank for beautiful blooming meadows, juicy summer berries, bountiful vegetable gardens, and colorful pumpkins and gourds.

The Home Garden Seed Association, inspired by the conservation work of the Xerces Society, encourages all home gardeners to help the cause of pollinator protection by planting more flowers, an important food resource for all kinds of bees and butterflies. Every flower border, bed, and windowbox helps!

Facts

- Flowers clustered in clumps of at least four feet in diameter are more attractive to pollinators than scattered individual flowers.
- A succession of flowering plants that lasts from spring through fall will support a range of bee species.
- Flowers of different shapes will attract different types of pollinators.
- Pesticides are a major threat to insect pollinators.
- The value, in dollars, of pollina-

tors' services to our food business is estimated to be upwards of \$4 billion—nothing to sneeze at!

Now is the time to plan for a bounty of pollen plants that will help pollinators in your region thrive from spring through fall.

Early spring: Where winters are cold, pollinators rely on blooming trees in spring, but early-blooming flowering plants provide additional resources.

Late spring through summer: Choices abound! Many pollinator favorites are annuals that can be easily, and inexpensively, grown from seed.

Late summer into fall: Sunflowers, agastache, herbs, and marigolds supplement late blooming perennials in sustaining pollinators into the fall.

—ezfromseed.org



Bees are the most effective insect pollinators.

Great Backyard Bird Count

From Antarctica to Afghanistan, bird watchers from 101 countries made history in the first global Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 15 to 18, 2013. In the largest worldwide bird count ever, bird watchers set new records, counting more than 25 million birds on 116,000 checklists in four days—and recording 3,138 species, nearly one-third of the world's total bird species.

Building on the success of the GBBC in the United States and Canada for the past 15 years, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon, and Bird Studies Canada opened the count to the world for the first time this year, powered by eBird, a system that enables people to report birds globally in real-time and explore the results online. Bird watchers are invited to keep counting every day of the year at www.eBird.org.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology director Dr. John Fitzpatrick says: "This is a milestone for citizen science in so many respects—number of species, diversity of countries involved, total participants, and number of individual birds recorded. We hope this is just the start of something far larger, engaging the whole world in creating a detailed annual snapshot of how all our planet's birds are faring as the years go by."

Audubon Chief Scientist Gary Langham: "People who care about birds can change the world. That's why this year's record-setting global participation is so exciting. Technology has made it possible for people everywhere to unite around a shared love of birds and a commitment to protecting them."

Other Key Preliminary Findings:

■ **Top Five Most Reported Species** (reported on highest number of checklists): Northern Cardinal; Dark-eyed Junco; Mourning Dove; Downy Woodpecker; House Finch.

■ **Top Five Most Common Birds** (most individuals reported): Snow Goose; Canada

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Goose; Red-winged Blackbird; European Starling; American Coot.

■ **Finch Invasion:** A massive number of northern finch species moved into the U.S., including the Common Redpoll, reported in a record 36 states. Scientists believe these periodic movements are related to natural fluctuations in crops of conifer cones and other seeds in Canada.

■ **Hurricane Sandy:** The weather system that caused Sandy's landfall also blew some European birds to North America, and evidence of this is still showing up in GBBC results. The colorful, crested Northern Lapwing was reported in Georgia, New Jersey, and Massachusetts during the GBBC.

■ **GBBC First:** A Red-flanked Bluetail has wintered at Queens Park, Vancouver, and was also reported for the GBBC's first record ever. This British Columbia bird has been drawing birdwatchers from all over the U.S. and Canada hoping to see this rarity. This little thrush is one of the only birds in the world with a striking blue tail and is native to Asia; the other GBBC report this year was from Japan.

For more information, visit: www.birdcount.org.

—Cornell
Lab of Ornithology



Red-flanked Bluetail

There's Always Enough To Share

Earlier in my gardening endeavors, I planted an orchard in Florida with husband Marv and my brother and sister-in-law. Converting from my minimal Alaska gardening knowledge at the time to big-time Florida—and a citrus and fruit and nut orchard besides—was quite challenging to say the least. These little trees were our “babies,” and we were extremely aware of our responsibility for keeping them healthy so they could grow into adult fruit-bearing trees. Every morning, for fun and relaxation, we took a walk around the orchard, but we’d only get a short way before we’d see a tree, seemingly in distress, covered with critters that we didn’t recognize! This discovery mandated that we run to the garden shed for the very expensive and very large Ortho book that we had been told to purchase, which would tell us exactly what we were supposed to do to those critters. We would then bring out the sprays and take care of them. With that mass murder accomplished, we would retreat to the house for our morning coffee and plan out the rest of the day.

But the very next day on our morning walk we would encounter a whole new set of unknown critters. This was not fun or relaxing. We felt like killers, and working with all of those chemicals certainly wasn’t a healthy atmosphere. In addition, we had feeders out for all of the birds and had planted special plants to lure the butterflies and ponds for the fish and other wildlife. How were we impacting those beautiful creatures? After a short time, we threw up our hands and decided the trees would just have to fend for themselves – we were no longer going to use those chemicals.

An amazing transformation took hold: When we kept the trees healthy with the proper fertilization and water care, and NO chemicals, the good bugs decided they liked to live in our orchard and they took care of any bad bugs! The trees flourished, we

were much the healthier, and we could feel good about all of the birds and other wildlife that ALSO loved our orchard. We learned how to garden for wildlife! Now, our plants may not be the most beautiful plants in the world—sometimes it’s hard to find a leaf that hasn’t been gnawed on a little and that makes finding that perfect specimen to enter in our flower show a bit difficult. But I know that our garden is healthy, and I’m thankful for all of those little critters that have decided to cohabit right along with me.

Gardening for wildlife is easy!

First, you need to provide water that is accessible. It can be as simple as a shallow bird bath. You need to be responsible for keeping the water and bird bath clean. If you have a fountain where the water is being re-used and stays longer, there are additives that you can purchase online or in your local gardening store that will keep down the algae growth for easier maintenance but are certified not to harm birds or fish. Make sure you read the labels completely. We had a drip irrigation system set up on a timer on our property. We placed simple bird baths on the different zones of the irrigation system with a line (with anti-siphon valve) that would put fresh water in the bird bath every time the system ran. Not only would that provide clean fresh water but we would quickly be able to tell if the irrigation system was turned on and working properly.

Next, you need to provide food. This can be in the form of feeders for the birds—you can contact your local cooperative extensive service or local feed stores to find out what birds are in your area and what they prefer to eat. You can hang nectar feeders for your hummingbirds, set out feeding stations for the butterflies, and plant the host plants for the caterpillars—you have opened up an entirely new direction for your garden. It’s not just ONLY about you and your plants anymore.

You need to provide protective cover for the birds and animals. Use native trees and shrubs in your landscape. You’ll find that they require a lot less fuss, are easier

to care for, require a lot less water, and always look good. This will provide natural food AND preferred protective cover from predators.

And, you need to provide a place for them to rear their young. You can buy or build birdhouses. Again, your local extension service or garden center can provide you with the requirements for the specific birds you are trying to attract. We pre-cut all of the pieces to make simple birdhouses and took them to a second-grade class where the students were allowed to put together their birdhouses and take them home. You should have seen those little tykes operating those electric screw guns with no problem at all. It was a great project that we did year after year. Leave a part of your yard natural. DON'T clean up that brush pile in the corner—it's a great place for a little animal to be protected.

Convert a corner of the yard into a wild-flower meadow. You'll find that very quickly your yard becomes a natural, healthy envi-

ronment for all! For your minimal efforts, you are greatly rewarded with the beauty of nature in its splendor all around you. You will think twice before squashing that caterpillar because you know that it will turn into a thing of beauty. You will automatically pick up the organic fertilizers rather than any chemicals. You will pick the grasshoppers from your plants rather than spray. You'll wash the aphids off with water. You'll be excited that a frog has chosen your yard to enjoy. You'll NEVER AGAIN use "weed and feed"—can you imagine your children, grandchildren, or pets rolling around on the grass after that treatment?

Welcome to the world of "Gardening for Wildlife." You have become a better person and a better steward of our much-coveted land. If you have that special specimen that you think would make a perfect entry in the flower show, it's so easy to protect it individually by covering it or putting it in a separate "special" area.

You'll also find that you want to share



A "moose muncher" helpfully "pruned" a lilac in the author's yard, then grazed on the spent delphiniums for just a moment, before hitting the Rose of Sharon quite hard, after which he ambled away looking for "greener" pastures!



that love of ALL nature has to offer with those around you. You can have your yard certified as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Visit their website at: www.nwf.org/Home/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife.aspx. It's an easy online experience and you will receive a nice certificate, ready to be framed with your yard's certification number, and you can obtain a nice plaque. Do you know that you'll be joining over 150,000 households that have pledged to protect their yard environments just as you have? I placed a plaque on the fence in front of my house so that people who drive or walk by can read it—hopefully they'll get the idea, too! One goal of Alaska Garden Clubs is to have every one of our members certify their yards with our own special State "Wildlife Habitat" program.

Now I'm back in Alaska full-time. We don't have quite the "bug" issues that Floridians are faced with, even though aphids are prolific and the bugs that we do have GROW BIG! Our State Bird is the mosquito, you know. We do have a few interesting wildlife challenges that most people in the rest of the country don't see very often, though. A resident beaver decided he liked

our broccoli—he wouldn't just take a little bite and leave the rest for us—he would uproot the entire plant and haul it away. We put up a short 2' high fence on the edge of the garden facing the river and that kept him out. When we harvest the broccoli at the end of the season, we always throw the remaining plants over the fence so he can enjoy.

Then, of course, we have natural pruners. In Alaska, you never prune your trees or shrubs in the fall as so many people are taught. We have avid "moose munchers" throughout the winter. They LOVE to nibble on the succulent branches of the lilac. Of course, lilacs bloom on last year's wood, so if you happened to prune some in the fall to shape them, and the moose ate others that he preferred, you might not have any blooms at all. Now, we give the moose first shot at the "pruning," and if we need to do anymore, we take care of it in the spring after they're finished. They rarely eat the whole thing, and what a joy it is to get the opportunity to see them up close when they decide they're ready for something to eat.

There's always enough to share. Happy Gardening!

—Becky Hassebroek, *President, Alaska Garden Clubs*



Year of the Wildflower

Wildflowers are one of Mother Nature's loveliest gifts. Their changing panorama of colors, shapes, sizes and heights provides delight throughout the seasons. Wildflowers can be used anywhere. In the home landscape they are ideal for creating colorful beds and borders, as well as offering a lower-maintenance alternative for large areas or replacing turf grass. Wildflowers can be planted to cover large, open areas or assist in the recovery of a landscape that has been damaged or destroyed by the actions of people, a natural disaster, or the spread of invasive plants.

What Is A Wildflower?

Wildflower is not an exact term that is well defined. Some people say a wildflower is a plant that was not intentionally seeded or planted and grows without cultivation. Others classify a wildflower as any plant growing without the help of man regardless of the plant's country of origin. Still others define a wildflower as a plant found in a specific geographic area that was grown from seed or plants also from that area.

Wildflowers and other plants that were growing before European settlement in what we now call the United States, Canada and Mexico are called native plants or indigenous species. Other plants, often referred to as exotics or aliens, were originally brought here from another part of the world. Many exotic species, including flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs, are among our favorite garden plants. A few, including some wildflowers, have escaped and become established as part of a local environment or naturalized. Some exotic species have even become invasive and are considered noxious weeds that need to be eradicated.

History Of Wildflowers

Many of our favorite wildflowers have



Butterfly Weed, Asclepias tuberosa

been growing in European gardens for centuries. Even some of our native wildflowers enjoyed more popularity in Europe than in the U.S. where they went unnoticed by gardeners. When early explorers came to North America, they discovered the bounty of plants growing in the New World. They eagerly brought many of these plants back to Europe where they were sought after by gardeners wanting something new and different for their gardens.

During colonial times ornamental flowers were often grown in the Pleasure Garden or Pleasure-Ground, the designation for the flower garden. President George Washington had flower gardens at his home but most of his written notes were about the trees and shrubs he planted at Mt. Vernon. One native wildflower that Washington did plant and record was Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*). He probably grew many foreign or exotic flowers since Washington avidly collected and traded plants with correspondents in Europe.

President Thomas Jefferson, an avid horticulturist, plant collector and seed saver, grew wildflowers in his garden. He also noted planting Cardinal Flower after

it was recommended by his nurseryman friend, Bernard McMahon, who included it in his 1806 book, *The American Gardener's Calendar*, the first horticultural reference for American gardeners. While Cardinal Flower may have been one of the first trendy plants in the New World, it's interesting that this North American native wildflower was introduced in Britain in 1626, more than 150 years before being mentioned in American references. McMahon noted, "Here we cultivate many foreign trifles and neglect the profusion of beauties so bountifully bestowed upon us by the hand of nature."

Other plants in Jefferson's garden may have been from the 290 native plants described and collected by Meriwether Lewis during the Lewis and Clark Voyage of Discovery in the early 1800s. More than half of the plants were new discoveries to white people, including Lewis Flax (*Linum lewisii*) (one of many plant species named after either Lewis or Clark). They also described Blanketflower (*Gaillardia aristata*) and Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*).

Informal and wildflower gardens became fashionable with the publication of *The Wild Garden*, in 1870, by England's William Robinson, who described them as "a delightful feature of a place." This style of garden contrasted with the highly manicured and formal designs that had been popular in American and Europe. Wild gardens featured hardy, herbaceous plants, including both native and exotic species. They were designed and placed where they would thrive with little additional care.

The cottage and old-fashioned gardens of the 1800s also included a few native perennial wildflowers but mostly focused on designs that included peonies, hollyhocks, phlox, roses, violets, and other European favorites. By the end of the 1800s many landscape designers began to emphasize hardy herbaceous plants in recognition of their lower maintenance. Noted horticulturist and botanist Liberty Hyde Bailey wrote, "The interest in native plants has never been so great as now."

—National Garden Bureau

Member Services

Candace Morgenstern
Member Services Chairman

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Spring is here, and with that freshness in the air we have new growth, new gardens, new officers, new club activities and, of course, new fashion. The good news is Member Services is prepared for all—plus we offer discounts.

Some reminders of what is offered to all NGC members:



◆Partnerships with Gardener's Supply, Oasis Floral Products, Bloomin' Bucks (Brent & Becky's Bulbs) and *flower* magazine. Information is listed on the NGC homepage under News & Events ~ click on Shopping Partners.

Please note: The correct website for subscribing to *flower* magazine is: www.flowermag.com/subscribe; the phone number is 877-400-3074.

◆2014 Vision of Beauty Calendar (pictured on the back cover) offers ample room to record all your meetings and appointments, plus enjoy exquisite photos.

◆NGC Official pins at affordable prices to present as gifts for outgoing and incoming officers, new judges and all others in between.

◆Custom Magnetic Name Badges ~ name, state, title, or any combination you desire.

◆Books ~ some required for the NGC schools, others just enjoyable to read and dream of gardens and designs.

◆Educational tools ~ DVDs, study plans, lesson plans—especially helpful for new presidents or program chairs.

◆Certificates to honor those members who deserve special recognition for making your club so special ~ also Emeritus certificates for Flower Show Instructors and Judges.

◆Flower Show Ribbons ~ official ribbons that can be customized to your club's celebration of a special flower show, award stick-on seals, entry cards, identification ribbons or mini ribbons.

◆Hellebore Collection ~ with a special hellebore honoring our NGC President, 'Shirley's Snow,' which is gorgeous!

◆NGC Silk Scarf ~ (photo on opposite page) designed after the carpet at NGC Headquarters. The 100% silk georgette scarf contains all the logos of each state, NGC & International Affiliate logos with the columbine running through it ~ just stunning! The scarf measures 22" wide x 67" long, so can be worn in a variety of ways.

◆Special gifts ~ fashion pins, weeders, official WFAF umbrella, plus much more.

NGC Roster Changes

2011-2013 Board of Directors

Chairmen

Environmental Concerns/Legislation

Environmental Concerns/ Legislation Committee, **Carol L. Hall**, [7614 White Fence Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32311-9201; CLinnHall@mindspring.com](mailto:CLinnHall@mindspring.com)

Flower Show Schools Committee

FSS Handbook Exam Committee (SC, C) **Claudia Chopp**, [1600 W. Marion #223 \(Sept-May\), Punta Gorda, FL 33950 \(June-August\), 2325 South Lake Michigan Dr., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235-8346](mailto:1600.W.Marion#223)

Gardening Study Schools

GSS Accrediting Committee (NE, P), **Inger Jones**, [2112 44th Street](mailto:2112.44th.Street), Lighthouse Point, FL 33064-9010; mjinger@att.net

Golden Circle

Golden Circle Member, **Lou Riddle**, [The Palmettos of Parklane, 7811 Parklane Road, Columbia, SC 29223-5620](mailto:The.Palmettos.of.Parklane)

Infrastructure Committee

Member Services Chairman, **Candace Morgenstern**, candancemorgenstern@gmail.com

Tours Vice Chairman, **Guyneth Priem** (DELETE) deceased (no replacement at this time)

International Affiliates Activities Committee

IA Garden Therapy Chairman, **Clementina Garcia de Gonzales**, clemendegzsb@hotmail.com

Membership

Membership Committee, **Mary Owen**, P.O. Box 206, Fork Union, VA 23055-0206

Membership Committee Mentor, **Eunice Antosik** (DELETE – deceased)

Projects: Trees & Shrubs

Committee Member, **Phyllis Besch**, pdbesch@aol.com

Underline denotes change

Escuela de Exposiciones de Flores

El nuevo suplemento (del Manual en Inglés) "Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging" está listo para que ustedes lo pidan en Member Services. Esta promesa ha tardado mucho en hacerse realidad... la búsqueda de la información y su verificación ha sido una tarea monumental, pero el producto final es un tesoro valioso que todo juez y expositor puede aprovechar. Casi 200 páginas describen las plantas que generalmente encontramos en nuestras exposiciones de flores, diez de las cuales están en fotos a color identificando cualidades positivas y negativas. Este libro ha sido agregado a la lista de Lectura Requerida para aquellos que aspiran a ser jueces de exposiciones de flores.

Conformidad al Tipo de Diseño—¿qué significa esto? El Manual en Inglés y su suplemento de diseño "Designing by Types" describen estos tipos y los requisitos específicos. Son precisamente estos requisitos que presentan el desafío para los expositores, y aumentan el interés de nuestras exposiciones. Cuando se pide un tipo específico en el programa, debe ser obvio al observador que las condiciones requeridas estén presentes en suficiente cantidad para lograr identificar el tipo pedido. Si no es así, los diez puntos que vale esta característica deben ser deducidos, para que la exhibición no pueda llevarse la cinta azul. Para poder juzgar o exponer, uno debe estar familiarizado con los aspectos de cada tipo de diseño, como así también comprenderlos. Algunos son simples, algunos son más complicados. Es justamente este desafío continuo que eleva nuestro interés y nuestro propósito.

Los diseños pequeños y miniatura, como así también la horticultura enana y miniatura, son clases populares en las exposiciones de flores. Estos diseños nunca entran en competencia con diseños de tamaño nor-

mal para un premio de sección. No es lo mismo en la División Horticultura. Con tal que las exhibiciones pequeñas/enanas de horticultura estén en una clase separada del material vegetal de tamaño habitual pero juzgadas con la misma escala de puntos que las exhibiciones más grandes, podrán competir por el premio de sección.

Tanto las exhibiciones de horticultura como las de diseño en estas clases pueden optar por el Premio de División.

Este año, en el Simposio de Instructores (que se organiza cada dos años) se convocó al personal de EEF del Estado, para que la información pertinente sea actualizada. Estas personas representan las rutas de comunicación hacia sus estados. Es importante que la información se comparta dentro del estado.

Todas las escalas de puntos para horticultura y para diseño han sido revisadas. Hay dos escalas para diseño y diez para horticultura. Están disponibles en la web.

■Pregunta: Estábamos juzgando un Mesa Exhibición Tipo II. La copa estaba parada. Se cuestionó, diciendo que no conforma. ¿Es correcto?

Respuesta: No existe nada en la descripción de la Mesa Tipo II que mencione la ubicación de los componentes. Solamente requiere que no se incluya una unidad decorativa, y que debe haber algo de material vegetal. Lo que Ud. describe no afecta la conformidad.

■Pregunta: ¿Solamente los Jueces Master pueden servir en el Panel Master de Cursos o Simposios?

Respuesta: No. Manual pág. 207.2) El Panel Master se forma con el instructor del tema en cuestión con dos Jueces Acreditados.

Dado que esta administración cierra, mi mandato termina. Todo comentario y pregunta en el futuro debe ser dirigido a la nueva Directora de EEF, Dorthy Yard, a partir de la instalación de la nueva presidente en Mayo.

Good growing all ways,
—Jean Ohlmann, NGC FSS Chairman

Flower Show Schools

The new horticulture supplement (to the *Handbook*), *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging*, is on the shelves and waiting for your request from Member Services. This promise has been a long time in the making. Researching, gleaning and proofing information have been monumental tasks, but the final product is a worthy treasure that every judge and exhibitor will relish. Almost two hundred pages describe plants that are usually encountered in our flower shows, ten of which are colored pictures identifying positive as well as negative qualities. This book has been added to the Required Reading List for anyone aspiring to be a flower show judge.

Conformance to Design Type—what does that mean? The *Handbook* and its design supplement, *Designing By Types*, describe these types and their specific requirements. It is these requirements that impose the challenge for the designer as well as expand the scope of our flower shows. When a type has been specified, it must be obvious to the viewer that the required conditions are present in sufficient quantity to characterize the type. If not, the full ten points allowed for this quality must be deducted so that the exhibit does not warrant a blue ribbon. In order to judge or exhibit, one must be familiar with, as well as understand, the limiting traits of each design type. Some are simple, some are complicated. It is this ongoing challenge that elevates our interest and our purpose.

Miniature and small designs, as well as dwarf and miniature horticulture, are popular items for flower show classes. These designs are never in competition with full-size designs for a section award. The same criteria does not hold true in the Horticulture Division. As long as the small/dwarf horticulture is in a class separate from the standard-sized material and is judged on the same scale of points as the full-sized exhibits, the exhibit is eligible to compete for a section award. Both horticulture and

design exhibits in these classes may be eligible for the Division Award.

The Instructors' Symposium (held every two years) was expanded to include State Flower Show Schools personnel so that information pertinent to their position would be current. These people represent the communication highways back to their states. It is important that information be shared and passed on within the state.

All point scoring forms for horticulture and design have been revised. There are two forms for design and ten for horticulture. These are available on the website.

■ Question: We were judging an Exhibition Table Type II. The glass was in an upright position. It was argued that this did not conform. Correct?

Answer: There is nothing in the description of the Type II Table that describes the placement of the components. It only requires that a decorative unit is not included and that some plant material must be present.

This is not a conformance issue.

■ Question: Must only Master Judges serve on the Master Panels for a course/symposium?

Answer: No. *Handbook*, p.241. 2) Master Panel is made up of the subject's instructor and two Accredited Judges.

Since this administration is coming to a close, my term of office is completed. All future questions and comments should be directed to the new FSS Chairman, Dorthy Yard, effective with the May installation.

Good growing all ways,
—Jean Ohlmann, NGC FSS Chairman

To create a garden with beauty and balance, begin with planning, not digging. A way to start a plan is by drawing a sketch of all garden areas. This sketch will help identify all of the outside areas to be decorated with flowers or vegetables. Adding a color theme to your garden will help unify it. To record successful plans, or even failures, keep a simple 'cookbook' of plants and their performance. This "Cookbook" can be the start of next year's garden.

—National Garden Bureau

NGC Calendar

Conventions

- 2013 Seattle, Washington
May 24-26 (Installation year)
- 2014 Norman, Oklahoma
April 30-May 3
- 2015 Kentucky
- 2017 Virginia

Fall Board Meetings

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



The National Gardener

Winter Issue - Jan-Feb-Mar

Will be mailed January 1

Spring Issue - Apr-May-June

Will be mailed April 1

Summer Issue - July-Aug-Sept

Will be mailed July 1

Fall Issue - Oct-Nov-Dec

Will be mailed October 1

Deadline

for the Summer Issue
Copy due by May 1, 2013

Attention: State Treasurers, National Affiliates, & International Affiliates

Section 1. — DUES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

c. Dues of each National Affiliate Member

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

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

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

Section 2. — FEES

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

Atención: International Affiliates

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

Gardening Study Schools

Course I

Luther, IA April 4-5
Local Chairman: Gretchen Triplett, 1824 Fern-
dale, Ames, IA 50010; 515-232-8300

Course II

Niles, MI April 22-23
Registrar: Bobbie Quick, 2442 Dick Street,
Niles, MI 49120-9362; 269-684-7772;
bquick50@gmail.com

Weldon Springs, MO April 23-25
State Chairman: Pat Schnarr, 943 Hemingway
Lane, Weldon Springs, MO 63304;
314-488-5316; wpwpat@yahoo.com

Course III

Eureka, CA April 5-6
Registrar: Mary Lou Goodwin, 1312 Gates
Street, Eureka, CA 95501;
mgoodwin@northcoast.com

Elmhurst, IL April 10-11
*Co-Chairman: Mary Ann Brucher, 3821 Flor-
ence Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515;
630-969-4078; brucher7@aol.com

*Co-Chairman: Jane Johnson, 947 Sycamore
Lane, Bartlett, IL 60103-5660; 630-830-0013;
janejohnson1941@gmail.com

Niles, MI October 21-22
Registrar: Bobbie Quick, 2442 Dick Street,
Niles, MI 49120-9362; 269-684-7772;
bquick50@gmail.com

Course IV

Boylston, MA April 4-5
State Chairman: Caroline Nijenberg, 781-862-
4465

Landscape Design Refreshers

King of Prussia, PA April 21-24
State Chairman: Sharon Brown, 2755 Carn-
wright Mountain Road, Troy, PA 16947-8479;
570-297-3613; gardensb@hotmail.com

Fort Collins, CO June 7
"Exploring Public Spaces For People"
State Chairman: Audrey Coyle, 15778 Open
Sky Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80908;
719-495-3880; afloris@q.com

Flower Show Symposia

Woodworth, LA April 30-May 2

Local Registrar: Carrie Martin, 123 W. 19th Avenue, Covington, LA, 70433; 985-893-3285; mart3285@bellsouth.net

South San Francisco, CA May 5-7

Local Registrar: Shane Looper, 213 Carmello Lane, South San Francisco, CA 94080-2204; 650-871-0172; slooper@sbcglobal.net

Memphis, TN May 7-8

Local Registrar: Amelia Wilkes, 1712 Westlake Avenue, Dyersburg, TN 38024; 731-285-7877; wilkesja@cableone.net

Little Rock, AR May 30-31

Local Registrar: Jo Krallman, 4714 Pine Drive, Benton, AR 72019-9196; 501-847-9171; krallman@sbcglobal.net

Columbia, MO June 12-13

Local Registrar: Carol Van Vranken, 2037 Tower Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109; 573-635-5017; merrywidowcvv@centurylink.net

Curtis, NE June 17-19

Local Registrar: LaVerna Wescoat, 707 Dillon Court, North Platte, NE 69101; 308-534-5849; lwescoat@hotmail.com

Tyler, TX June 19-21

Local Registrar: Virginia Wallace, 14 Rim Road, Kilgore, TX 75662-2252; 903-983-2834; jclaudwall@aol.com

Ann Arbor, MI June 26-27

Local Registrar: Gretchen Pugsley, 22564 Peppermill Court, Novi, MI 48375-4349; 248-349-3555; kpugsley@ameritech.net

Frankfurt, KY June 26-27

Local Registrar: Elaine Thornton, 110 Cherry Hill Drive, Georgetown, KY 40324; 502-863-0810; elainevt@roadrunner.com

Athens, GA July 14-16

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

Harrisburg, PA July 15-17

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

Vancouver, WA July 16-17

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

Mayfield Village, OH July 23-24

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

Birmingham AL August 14-15

Local Registrar: Sybil Ingram, 154 Sugar Drive, Pelham, AL 35124-1579; 205-733-9536; Sybil40@charter.net

Nashville, TN August 19-20

Local Registrar: Kathy Rychen, 3353 Earhart Road, Mount Juliet, TN 37122-3727; 615-939-1074; kathyrychen@comcast.net

Greenville, SC October 3-4

Local Registrar: Jerry Weise, 1507 Lorenzo Street, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464; 843-884-8998; jerrywbobw@juno.com

Westbrook, CT October 15-17

Local Registrar: Kris Urbanik, 44 Sachem Drive, Glastonbury, CT 06033; 860-659-1811; krisurb@cox.net

Bethesda, MD October 27-29

Local Registrar: Poss Tarpley, 1705 Belle Haven Road, Alexandria, VA 22307; 703-660-8661; post@aol.com

Environmental Studies Schools

Course II

Denver, CO April 12-13

School Chairman: Gary L. Belew, 1540 Chesham Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80907; 719-266-6246; gbelew7@gmail.com

Course III

York, PA June 5-6

Registrar: Sheila Croushore, 652 Indiantown Rd., Somerset, PA 15501; 814-233-6764

Course IV

Warrenville, IL April 2-3

Registrar: Bobby Nicholson; 773-609-8820

Troy, PA June 26-27

(Mt. Pisgah State Park Nature Education Center)
Registrar: Sheila Croushore, 652 Indiantown Rd., Somerset, PA 15501; 814-233-6769; sheshore@ymail.com

Tri-Refreshers

Seattle, WA May 24-26

Event Chairman: Mary Dahlgren, 4514 143rd Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006; 425-747-9335; mldahlgren@comcast.net

Gainesville, FL June 18-20

Event Chairman: Claudia Bates, 1511 NW 6th Street, Gainesville, FL 32601; 352-317-2831; cbates727@msn.com or cbates727@gmail.com

Flower Show Schools

Course I

Great River, NY May 14-16
Registrar: Marion Romeo; 516-785-7851;
marionfromeo@aol.com

Glenview, IL May 16-18
Registrar: Laurel DeBoer; 847-526-8320;
crzygrma@sbcglobal.net

Canton, OH September 4-6
Registrar: Shirley Wigginton; 330-453-7056;
swigginton@neo.rr.com

Livermore, CA September 18-20
Registrar: Mona Dunlop; 925-828-3006;
ndunlop@pacbell.net

Course II

Tacoma, WA April 3-5
Registrar: Patricia Grimes; 360-769-0202;
patricia15grimes@gmail.com

Acapulco, México April 9-11
Contact: Esther P. de Salinas, Risco #254,
Pedregal de San Angel, México D.F. 01900,
México; 52-55-5568-8521; estherp@todito.com

Roswell, NM June 21-23
Registrar: Rene McCoy; 575-973-0226

Course III

Oak Hill, WV August 15-17
Registrar: Kay Allen; 304-574-6090;
kaycallen@hotmail.com

Acapulco, México October 1-3
Contact: Esther P. de Salinas, Risco #254,
Pedregal de San Angel, México D.F. 01900,
México; 52-55-5568-8521; estherp@todito.com

Course IV

Derby, CT April 3-5
Registrar: Liz Stanley; 860-668-5304

Springfield, MO April 17-19
Registrar: Shirley McCarthy; 417-881-4632;
shirmccrthy@sbcglobal.net

Grants Pass, OR May 8-10
Registrar: Roi Pietrzak; 541-479-3859;
RJZcolonial@ccountry.net

Okemos, MI May 14-16
Registrar: Sue Krompschot; 517-351-0464;
sueterrak@yahoo.com

East Brunswick, NJ May 15-17
Registrar: Nancy L. Gahtan; 908-879-7991;
nlgahtan@msn.com

Milwaukee, WI August 23-25
Registrar: Judy Miller; 920-734-0615;
jmi64911@aol.com

Landscape Design Schools

Course I

East Brunswick, NJ April 16-19
State Chairman: Nancy Schmaltz, 62 Beech
Tree Lane, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702;
732-741-1943; nan234@gmail.com

Auburn, AL May 1-2
State Chairman: K.T. Owens, 42 Longleaf
Circle, Monroeville, AL 36460-1521;
251-743-3846

Ann Arbor, MI October 1-2
State Chairman: Terry Harding, 6287 Summit
Ct., Traverse City, MI 49686-1885;
231-947-0568; wsharding@chartermi.net

Columbia, MO October 29-31
State Chairman: Linda Houston, 4525 Sun
Meadow, Fulton, MO 65251-5191; 573-642-
9419; unity_4_every1@yahoo.com

Course II

Bowling Green, KY May 1-3
State Chairman: Martha Morgan, 1909 Harvey
Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104; 270-781-
5695; marthamorgan@insightbb.com

Course III

Morgantown, WV May 15-17
Registrar: Betty Harler, P.O. Box 48, Kincaid,
WV 25111; 304-465-0769;
bettyharler@frontier.com

Helena, MT May 17-19
State Chairman: Mary J. Olsen, 15 Doe Lane,
Townsend, MT 59644-9652; 406-266-5695;
wilmolsen@mt.net

Course IV

Mason, OH April 11-13
State Chairman: Barbara Shepard; 614-890-
4627

Ludington, MI May 9-10
State Chairman: Terry Harding, 6287 Summit
Ct., Traverse City, MI 49686-1885;
231-947-0568; wsharding@chartermi.net

Wellesley, MA October 31-November 2
State Chairman: Jane O'Sullivan, 84 Old
Meeting House Lane, Norwell, MA 02061-
1436; 781-659-4423; jeosullivan@comcast.net

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

Book Reviews

Linda Jean Smith
NGC Book Review Chairman

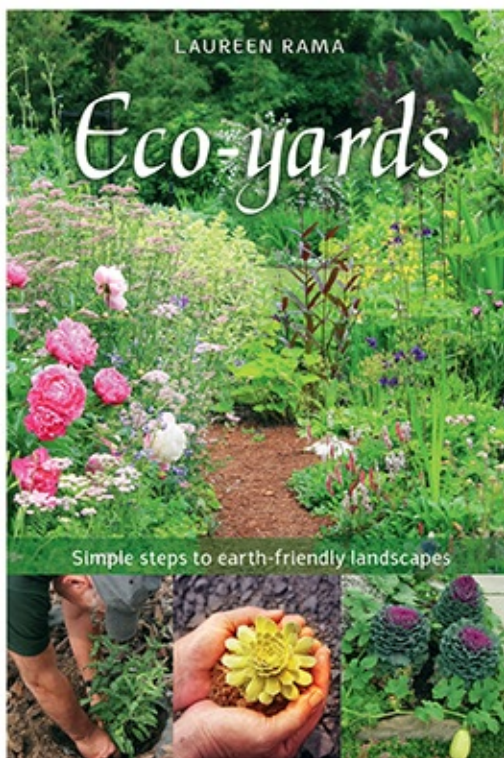
◆ *Eco-yards, Simple steps to earth-friendly landscapes* by Laureen Rama, British Columbia: New Society Publishers, 2011. paperback, 240 pp., ISBN 978-0865716827, \$19.95.

Laureen Rama is a landscape designer living in Alberta, Canada. She worked as an international development educator, public involvement consultant, and a management consultant specializing in creativity. However, an allergy to chemicals led her to her new career in landscaping, with a passion for beautifying landscapes in ways that enhance the natural environment.

The book is divided into twelve chapters "to provide both inspiration for and information on gardening in an eco-friendly way." Ms. Rama suggests reading Chapters one to three, Chapter eight and the Overview for a solid grounding in eco-yards, with the rest of the book providing practical information on lawns, compost, water, designing an eco-yard and growing vegetables. Photographs and drawings provide assistance to the information.

The book is easy to read, and Ms. Rama has a nice style to her writing. Each chapter starts with her concept or thought, goes into the explanation and ends with a summary and notes on other reading material. Although she lives and landscapes in Alberta, Canada, the book is good for any region. In many instances she refers to parts of the United States, and if something is mentioned specific to her area, she clearly explains how it can work in other areas or information to help the reader adjust.

Ms. Rama is very passionate about her philosophy and does not see killing weeds and pests as the way a gardener should garden. "Make love not war in your eco-yard," is Ms. Rama mantra. It is this warlike approach that has been destroying the health of our soil—the basis of its fertility. Many of the points she brings up, most of



us have already heard, but her approach and enthusiasm, which come through in her writing, will make you think again about your approach to gardening. To summarize; "Eco-yards support the vision of a healthy, abundant planet in which beautiful, richly varied urban yards contribute to restoring the natural ecosystem."

◆ *Propagation Techniques*, author Mitchell Beazley, Octopus Publishing Group Ltd., London 2011, hardcover, 192 pp., ISBN 978-1845336424, \$19.99.

This was published by Britain's Royal Horticultural Society, in 2011. Geoff Hodge and Rosemary Ward, two of their experts, are the main authors. The U.S. distribution was in 2012, and Mitchell Beazley is listed as the author for this print.

The book is divided into nine sections. A short section on why propagate plants begins the book. The second section dis-

cusses the basics of tools and items that will be needed to begin propagation, and includes containers, composts, hygiene and diseases. The next five sections explain the different types of propagation: cuttings, divisions, layering, seeds, and grafting. The eighth section features a propagation directory; the ninth includes a glossary of terms and an index.

The book has many photographs and drawings that make understanding the instructions very easy. It is a smaller hardcover, which makes taking it with you, or using it on a potting bench, easy. The authors show you the way to perform some 20 of the most popular techniques in propagation and examine the simplest routes for success. The book is not straight text. For example, under "Composts," there is a highlighted section that gives four different types of compost that can be used: for seed sowing, for cuttings, for young plant potting, and a loam-free potting one. Each propagating technique section works the same way. Under "Tuberous Root Cuttings," there is an explanation of what a tuberous root is;

information about their hardness; why do cuttings instead of divisions; and how to go about it. In addition to the text there is another section with drawings that visually show in four steps what to do. The "Seeds" section talks about stratification, breaking seed dormancy, collecting seeds, and has a seed sowing troubleshooter table, as well.

One of the best sections in the book is the "Propagation Directory." This is divided into four sections: "Annuals, biennials and bedding plants"; "Perennials"; "Woody plants"; and finally "Indoor plants." Each section lists plants in that category and gives you the plant name, plant type and propagation method for the plant. The directory contains techniques for more than 525 selected varieties.

If you propagate plants at all, this is a very useful book. The one drawback to the book is the fact that the directory uses botanical names and not common ones, which makes it a little harder to find plants if you tend to use the common name. Although some of the explanations deal with cold weather and what to do, the techniques for propagation will work no matter what region you live in. I may have just gotten the book a short time ago, but it is already starting to look worn from use. Although I am a book lover and buy way too many books, there are few that I would say are must have books, but this would be one of the exceptions.



PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES

◆ *What's Wrong With My Plant? (And How Do I Fix It?)* by David Deardorff & Kathryn Wadsworth, Timber Press, Portland, London, 2009. Large paperback, 452 pp., ISBN 13 978-0881929614, \$24.95.

Author David Deardorff is a research biologist, botanist and expert plant pathologist. He has lived and gardened in many environments from the desert southwest, maritime northwest and the tropics. He coordinated plant pathology research at the University of Hawaii and served as faculty advisor to the Master Gardener Program at Washington State University. He cofounded



Plants of the Southwest, in Santa Fe, one of the first native plant nurseries in the country. He also opened an orchid nursery and tissue culture laboratory with co-author Kathryn Wadsworth. Kathryn Wadsworth is a writer, photographer and naturalist. She leads eco-tours around the world.

The book comes in a hardcover and paperback version. The book has three main parts. The first part shows the problems in drawings and in easy-to-follow charts, organized by where on the plant the symptoms appear. The second part offers organic ways to fix the problem. The last part shows photographs and drawings of stressed, damaged, and diseased plants for an accurate comparison. To use the book, the reader would look in part one for their specific plant problem, looking under where the problem exists such as roots, stems, flowers or leaves. Once you have found the drawing of your problem, the book refers you to part two, where solutions to the problem can be found. Part one also refers you to part three, where a photograph of the problem can be used for comparison. The photos in part three also refer you to the page with the solutions.

To use the book you do not need to know the Latin or common name of the plant,

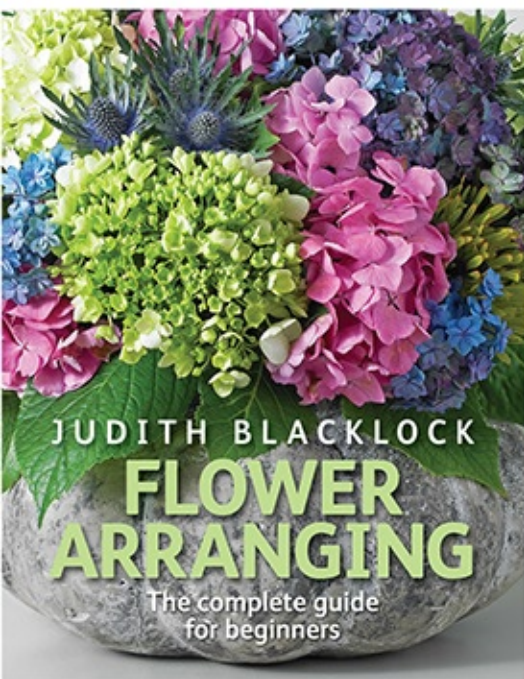
just where the problem is. The book covers both insects and disease problems and also covers flowers, shrubs, vegetables, bulbs, houseplants, trees, fruits, lawns and seedlings. The pictures and drawings are clear and accurate and make it easy to match the problem. However, this is an organic manual and if you want to use chemicals to treat a problem, this would not be of help. The other problem is that finding something is rather circuitous. Once you have been referred to a solution page, it is not always easy to find the solution on the page as there could be several other solutions on the page, as well.

I bought the book for my husband, who loves to garden, but is forever asking me what's wrong with a plant. We have used the book to find out problems with some of our plants. One of my garden club members also tried using the book to find the solution to a problem. She had difficulty finding the solution, and when she did find the solution, it was more a generalization. I think with time and usage of the book some of the difficulties would become easier.

◆ ***Flower Arranging: The complete guide for beginners* by Judith Blacklock, Bournemouth, England: The Flower Press Ltd, hardcover, 280 pp, ISBN 978-0955239175, \$49.95**

Judith Blacklock is a floral designer, lecturer, demonstrator and teacher. She is the author of many books and is the editor of the floral magazine "The Flower Arranger." She is director of Savile Rose, which has brought design to the UK and is the principal of The Judith Blacklock Flower School, in London. Those attending the NGC Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, were fortunate enough to see her design program.

This is a beautifully illustrated book and could easily just be a "coffee table" book for its floral pictures. As stated in the title this is a guide for beginners, and that is exactly what it proceeds to do—teach beginners. There are seven chapters. Chapter one shows flowers from A – Z that are available in the market. It lets you know when they



are available, their form, and gives you hints what to look for when buying the flower. She also notes whether or not it might be easy to grow the flower in your garden. Included in this first chapter is information on conditioning flowers, ways to make them last longer, and even how to revive a wilted flower. Chapter two gets into mechanics and goes through what, as a floral designer, you would need to have on hand. Both pictures and drawings are used to illustrate not only the material, but in some cases how to use it properly, such as soaking your foam or using chicken wire.

My favorite chapter is chapter three on "The Elements and Principals of Design." This chapter goes through each element and principal individually. It explains what it is and then uses pictures of actual floral designs to illustrate what she means. From flower show school, to flower shows and judging, I have seen nothing that makes understanding these elements and principals clearer than what is in this chapter. Chapter four, five and six, "Flowers in a Vase and Hand-tieds," "Classic Design," and

"Contemporary Design," get into actual designs. These chapters not only explain the design, but there is also a step-by-step section that shows and tells how to make a pictured design, so the beginning designer can try the design. The step-by-step process shows the design using one type of flower, but the directions suggest various plant material that could be used. The one negative I found in this was she tended to use Latin names and as a beginner that is not something that is usually known. It would have been nice to have both the Latin and common name. The contemporary section, while it doesn't cover all the contemporary designs, does cover newer designs such as tapestry and spirals and also covers leaf manipulation. One nice feature in the contemporary section was the step-by-step sections on some floral crafts such as floral handbags and floral cupcakes.

The final chapter is "Wedding Flowers," and although not many beginners do wedding flowers, it is certainly an interesting section. Again, there are some step-by-step sections. A few of the designs used for decoration, from a topiary to some small floral favors, would be nice to use at any party. This really is a good design book to have in your library, from getting ideas, to clarifying ideas, or just for its beautiful pictures. If you are a beginner and want to learn floral design, this book is a great place to start.

Answers

*To the True and False NGC Quiz
from page four*

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. True
5. False (St. Louis)
6. True
7. True
8. False (only fresh plant material)
9. False (June)
10. True

Butchart Gardens

The National Garden Clubs Convention, in May, will be in Seattle and will provide those planning to attend with the opportunity to visit one of the most magnificent display gardens, the world-renowned Butchart Gardens. Designated in 2006 as a National Historic Site of Canada, The Gardens have provided visitors with pleasure throughout the seasons for over a hundred years.

The manufacturing of Portland cement became an important business in the late 1800s. Robert Pim Butchart was one of the pioneers in this industry. The West Coast of Canada was a rich source of limestone, necessary in cement production. In 1904, Mr. Butchart decided to build a cement factory at Tod Inlet, on Vancouver Island, and moved his family there. Limestone

was removed from the quarries and the limestone in the quarry near to their home shortly became exhausted. His wife, Jennie, decided to create a garden in this barren quarry site and had tons of top soil brought in to line it. Rocks were used to outline the beds. Gradually, a beautiful garden was created, which became the spectacular Sunken Garden, styled according to the early 20th century beautification movement. Plantings change with the season. Today, the remaining tallest chimney of the Vancouver Portland Cement company can be seen from the lookout at the Sunken Garden.

The Butcharts traveled extensively, visiting gardens in many countries in Europe. Returning home, in 1906, from Japan, Jennie and Isaburo Kishida designed the Japanese Garden on the seaside. In 1910, Lombardy Poplars were planted to hide the cement plant from view from the Sunken Garden. By 1921, the Sunken Garden was completed. People came to visit the gardens, some coming by boat. Over 50,000 visitors arrived yearly. The family named their estate "Benvenuto," Italian for "Welcome"



The Ross Fountain

Photographs: Butchart Gardens

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and planted flowering cherry trees along Benvenuto Avenue leading up to the entrance to The Gardens. Branching out, the Benvenuto Seed Company was established and plants were grown for seed, collected, packaged and sold

by catalogue. In 1922, the Conservatory and a private garden were added to the home. The following year, the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens sent seed of the rare Tibetan blue poppy, which germinated and was introduced into the plantings. Today, the poppy still blooms in May.

Additions and changes to The Gardens continued. Distinct gardens were created to correspond to the style of grand estates of the period. The Dolphin and Girl statue was added; the tennis courts became the Italian Garden; a Rose Garden, designed by Butler Sturtevant, of Seattle, replaced the vegetable and kitchen garden; and a Wishing Well was added to the Rose Garden. In the mid-1930s, the Sequoias (*Sequoia sempervirens*) were planted.

Late in the 1930s, Robert and Jennie Butchart gave The Gardens to their grandson, Ian Ross, and moved to Victoria for health reasons. During World War II, the depleted staff took care of the gardens, and after the war, Ian returned to the management. The Gardens were a popular site, and a Concert Stage was built to provide summer entertainment. In celebration of the 60th anniversary of The Gardens, the Ross Fountain was installed in 1964. Three years later, a single jet fountain was situated in the largest of the four reservoirs.



Spring flowers greet visitors as they enter the gardens along the Top Walk.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross also traveled to Europe. In 1973, while in Florence, they purchased a bronze casting of a wild boar. "Tacca" welcomes visitors to the Piazza at the front of the former Butchart residence, now the Dining Room Restaurant, offices and rooms, which are available for parties. The bronze casting is a reproduction of a marble statue by the artist Pietro Tacca, created in 1620, and displayed at the Uffizi Gallery, in Florence. Traditionally, visitors rub the snout of "Tacca" for good luck. The Sturgeon Fountain, by Sirio Tofanari, a notable animal sculptor, was placed in the Japanese Garden two years later. Fireworks, similar to those of the 18th Century in France, were added to the summer attractions.



"Tacca," the wild boar, welcomes visitors to the Piazza at Butchart Gardens.

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THE BOTANIC GARDEN
OF NORTHWEST MICHIGAN





The Rose Bower

The Gardens remained in the Ross family and, in 1999, Robin Clark became manager. Under her direction, two new gardens were constructed—the Mediterranean Garden and the Bog Garden. In 2004, two thirty-foot Totem Poles, carved by First Nations members, joined The Gardens.

Over the years, the family has stayed true to the original design of The Gardens. The Victorian traditions of seasonally changing the plantings continue. Climate changes have had to be considered. An irrigation system was established. A series of reservoirs and wells have made The Gardens self-sufficient. Run-off from the parking areas adds to the water reserve.

An extensive recycling program exists, of glass, paper, beverage contain-

ers, printer cartridges, and much more. The water in the waterfall and in streams in the Sunken Garden is recycled water. Mulching of the flower beds throughout the seasons protects the plants. Composting is extensively done. Branches and leaves all become compost. All green wastes become usable growing media. Enough compost is created to meet requirements of the twenty-six greenhouses.

Delphiniums provide a colorful backdrop to hundreds of varieties of roses in the Rose Garden.





The Italian Garden

have had an Integrated Pest management program in the greenhouses and in the gardens. Regular soil testing, amending of soils and the use of specific fertilizers, primarily organic, has resulted in improved growing conditions. Plants more susceptible to disease and pests have been removed. "Compost tea" has recently been found to help the plantings. Biological control, that is, using natural enemies to control pests and diseases, has included the use of aphid-eating ladybugs and predatory mites for control of spider mites, thrips and whitefly. Dormant oil controls over-wintering pests and diseases on shrubs and trees. Rather than using herbicides, weeds are pulled manually.



Professional arborists on the staff work to keep the forested areas in prime condition. Several ancient trees add to the beauty of The Gardens. A rare conifer, *Cathaya argyrophyllas*, is one of two located in Canada. It is planted in a raised bed on the Concert Lawn. It has long, wide needles with a silver underneath. Also on the grounds are

two *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, Dawn Redwood, planted in early 1950 by the Ross family.

Spring is beautiful in The Gardens. In May, depending on the weather, many of the shrubs will be in bloom, including vivid pink azaleas, white blossomed Philadelphia, fragrant lilacs, wisteria, and drooping Spiraea. *Cornus kousa* will be out. The flower beds will blossom with alyssum, digitalis, iris, lupin, pansies, tulips and peonies. One might see the rare Tibetan blue poppy (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*). The Gardens promise a rich gardening experience.

—Jane R. Bersch, NGC LDS Chairman



Above: The rare Tibetan blue poppy (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*).

At left: A view of the Rose Garden.



2014

Vision of Beauty